OFFICE	CANDIDATE	POSITION TOWARD PUBLIC ED	ENDORSEMENTS	CURRENT YEAR	HISTORY
Governor	**Greg Abbott**	Unfriendly	2018 - Texas Homeschool Coalition	Suing school districts who put into place a mask mandate. Said one of his goals with the first special session was another bill aimed at Critical Race Theory, as the first (HB3979) did not go far enough. Vetoed SB1109 (Relating to requiring public schools to provide instruction and materials and adopt policies relating to the prevention of child abuse, family violence, and dating violence). From campaign website: "Greg Abbott has pursued stricter oversight of public pension funds in order to protect retirees and taxpayers. He urged pension boards to prohibit fund trustees and managers from working for companies doing business with the boards, require registration of pension fund actuaries, and recommended pension boards to have at least one member with investment expertise. Greg Abbott believes that sound public pension funds are necessary in order to avoid taxpayer bailouts." "Greg Abbott knows that the minds that will power America's future are being educated in Texas today. Since Greg Abbott took office as Governor, more Texas students are graduating from high school and college. Texas now has the third highest high school graduation rate in America. Of the top 100 public high schools in America, more are located in Texas than any other state, and Texas doubled the number of tier one universities. Governor Abbott passed education initiatives that: Fund optional, quality, accountable Pre-K, Fund Math and Literacy Academies, Fund "Read to Learn" programs, Greg Abbott wants to recruit and retain the best and brightest teachers and create a pathway for the very best teachers to earn the most in the nation. Governor Abbott knows that when it comes to education, not all kids are the same. A one-size-fits-all approach simply doesn't work. That's why we need to empower parents to choose the school that's best for their child." Link to Abbott's "Educating Texans Plan - Pre-K to 3rd Grade": https://townhall254.gregabbott.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/EducatingTexansPreKThird.pdf, Link to Abbott's "Educating Texans: Local Control" plan: https://www.gregabbott.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Greg-Abbotts-Educating-Texans-Plan-Governance.pdf, Link to Abbott's "Educating Texans: Digital Learning" plan: https://www.gregabbott.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Phase-3-Greg-Abbotts-DigitalPlan.pdf, On January 20, 2022, introduced a "Parent's Bill of Rights", found here: https://twitter.com/texasdad8/status/1484312953399917571, including things like forcing schools to advertise charter options on their websites and publish curriculum at the beginning of the semester. From Twitter, 11/10, "Texas children being exposed to pornographic material in our public schools is appalling. We will ensure no Texas student is exposed to pornography. @teainfo is investigating & these instances will be prosecuted to the fullest extent." 3/6/22, said on Twitter he was planning to form a study to look into why teachers are leaving the profession.	Signed bill in 2015 to allow seniors who hadn't passed all 5 STAAR tests to graduate with provisions (IGC). During campaign, said that local districts should be given control over how to evaluate and pay teachers. Said that the most important factor in determining teacher pay should be "effectiveness in the classroom." Supports Governor's University Research Initiative - to bring results from academic research universities. Supports additional funding for Pre-K (proposed was de-funded by House). Anti Common Core. In 2011 as Attorney General, fought lawsuit aimed at fixing school funding. Abbott lost, judge found 4 areas in which the state had violated the Constitution. Case was dismissed by TX Supreme Court. Education isn't even listed as an issue on his web site. 2017 Special session: suggested teacher pay increases (unfunded). Supported administrative flexibility in teacher hiring and retention practices. Supported a school finance reform commission. Supported school choice for special needs students. Supported prohibition of taxpayer dollars to collect union dues. Calls school choice a "civil rights issue." Issued edict that he was "making a list" of anyone who did not fall in line with Dan Patrick and that they would be punished. Labeled House as dysfunctional for not supporting PubEd. Tweet on 1/3/19 called for state takeover of HISD board, calling them self-centered and inept. Current plan for property taxes would create a statewide cap of 2.5%, which will take millions from public education unless more funding is added by the state.
	Beto O'Rourke	Neutral		Former US representative for US Senate in 2018 and was a candidate for President in 2020. Other schools are a complicated issue for the Texas Tribune. "We want our children to be safe in school." From the article, he proposes school choice and said: "We won't allow our public tax dollars to be taken from our classrooms and sent to private schools." From the article: "Where O'Rourke stands on charter schools is a question growing increasingly louder among many Democratic groups, with some hackles raised in particular over O'Rourke's wife, Amy, who started a charter school in El Paso 13 years ago and now works for an organization that backs the expansion of charter schools in the region." Met with special ed teachers in Galveston, 12/8/21, regarding the TRS system and need for reform. Met with trustee from Port Arthur ISD, 12/9/21, about needs of school boards. Met with Houston teachers in a roundtable, 12/7/21, to discuss their needs. On 12/3/21, during a stump speech, addressed the fact that teachers spend their own money in their classrooms and that they pay teachers enough that they spend no longer need to work second jobs to pay their bills. On 12/3/21, hosted a roundtable with administrators from Clear Creek ISD regarding teacher recruitment and retention, as well as student mental health and famer, more effective testing. On 12/3/21, hosted a roundtable with administrators from Ft. Worth ISD regarding recovery from COVID. Led campaign in late August 2021 to get school boards to enforce mask mandates in classrooms. From FB 12/3/21: "Texas ranks 46th in the nation for student reading proficiency. It shouldn't surprise us that 70% of 4th graders can't read at grade level when we rank in the bottom half of states for school funding, behind the national average by $4000 per student. It's time to invest in our kids." SURVEY RESPONSES: WHAT IS BROKEN? Public education in Texas is grossly underfunded. Texas ranks in the bottom 10 states for per-student funding — spending $4,000 less per student than the national average. Texas teachers are doing the most they can with the limited resources they have, but they're burnt out, helping to explain why one-fifth leave the profession by their fifth year. They're underpaid by about $10,000 compared to those in other states, and educators who retired prior to 2004 haven't received a single cost of living adjustment since their retirement. Teachers are also exasperated by their increased workload throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. PRECINCT PUBLIC EDUCATION: I will prioritize education by fully funding public schools and increasing investments in community colleges, four-year colleges, and trade programs. We will pay teachers what they are worth dramatically increasing pay. I will hold charter schools accountable to the same fiduciary standards as public schools and veto any privatization schemes. I will also eliminate the STAAR test, saving millions of dollars in testing costs and establishing a system of assessment that truly measures student achievement. Finally, I make sure that local communities have the autonomy to make policy that is best for their communities and not impose ideological curricula or mandates. ROLE OF OFFICE IN PUBLIC EDUCATION: Local control is the top priority. We must increase the state share of school funding and pay teachers their true value to make sure every Texan can secure a high-pay, high-value job upon graduation. ENSURING FUNDING: I will fully fund public education, reducing the amount of local property taxes recaptured by the state, and ensuring that every student in Texas has the resources they need to reach their full potential. I will make the necessary investment to expand full-day pre-K, and funding for emergent bilingual programs that serve 20% of Texas students. AREAS OF CONCERN: Funding — Increase funding for public schools and reject any effort to use public tax dollars to fund private education. Paying Our Educators - Recruit and retain the best and brightest teachers by raising their pay, exploring loan forgiveness programs, and strengthening health care and retirement benefits so that educators no longer have to work two or three jobs just to make ends meet. Standardized Testing - Reduce Texas' overreliance on high-stakes standardized tests and focus on assessment measures that better inform instruction, address student learning gaps, and provide appropriate feedback to educators. REPRESENTING ALL CONSTITUENTS: Our state and country are deeply divided, and if we're going to overcome those divisions we need a governor who will set politics aside and work with anyone, regardless of party affiliation, to achieve real solutions on the big things that really matter. As a member of Congress, I worked across party lines to improve access to mental health care to our veterans, and by setting politics aside I was able to work with Republicans and Democrats alike to expand the VA in El Paso. I forged bipartisan coalitions to pass policies and ordinances that had real impact on the communities I served. I have spent hundreds of hours listening to Texans in every single county in our state. I have had meetings every week to listen to their concerns and ideas about how to make progress on everything from economic development, health care, education, voting access, criminal justice, and beyond. I spent my entire career in Congress in the minority, but I didn't let that stop me from working with my Republican colleagues every single day. I'm proud that I was able to pass a bill to help our veterans that was signed into law by a Republican president. RESOURCES FOR INFORMATION ON PUBLIC EDUCATION: We have to listen to teachers. When I talk to teachers across the state, they tell me they lack the resources and flexibility they need to fully unleash a passion and lifelong love of learning in the students in their classroom. Our teachers are highly trained, and we need to trust them. We also need to trust that locally-elected school boards know what's best for their communities and that they will work with other local entities—such as local public health authorities—to help the kids in their district thrive. And finally we must listen to parents (and students) who are interacting with the system everyday and have as much invested as anyone. WHERE DO YOU SEE TEXAS PUBLIC EDUCATION IN 25 YEARS? Texas has the potential to lead the way in education. If we fully fund our public schools and invest in our teachers, we can get back to providing our public schools with a world-class education. We can have an education system that prepares students for the best jobs in the future. But if we avoid the world-class public education in the state of Texas, set our children up for success, and make sure we leave the world in a better place than we found it, we need to ensure our schools teach the full and complete history of our state and our country. That includes America's role in the enslavement of African Americans, voter suppression against Black and Brown communities, and other systemic injustices in our country's history. BOLSTERING FUNDING TO NATIONAL AVERAGE: When I'm Governor the state will save billions by expanding Medicaid and generate new revenue via marijuana legalization. We can invest these savings into our schools to turn Texas into a state leader in education funding. We have no greater resource than our kids. USING OFFICE TO IMPROVE PUBLIC EDUCATION: As governor, I will: 1. Increase funding for public schools and reject any effort to use public tax dollars to fund private education 2. Recruit and retain the best and brightest teachers by raising their pay, providing loan forgiveness programs, and strengthening health care and retirement benefits so that educators no longer have to work two or three jobs just to make ends meet 3. Reduce Texas' overreliance on high-stakes standardized tests and focus on assessment measures that better inform instruction, address student learning gaps, and provide appropriate feedback to educators. ROLE OF TESTING IN PROMOTION/GRADUATION: It's time to get rid of the STAAR test. Testing is one tool, but not the end all. Ultimately educators are in the best position to assess whether students are learning at the appropriate levels and testing should be a resource but not the only measure. It isn't working in terms of improving student achievement. ROLE OF TESTING IN SCHOOL/TEACHER EVALUATION: The STAAR test has fed the hands of students, forcing them to teach to a test instead of teaching to the children in front of them. We should eliminate and devise a new system that measures student growth from the beginning of a term to the end. ROLE OF CHARTERS: I support great schools. The majority of students in Texas are enrolled in traditional public schools; therefore we must ensure they have the means to provide the highest quality education. Charter schools were founded to foster locally developed, innovative approaches to educating children, and if they are to further that goal, accountability and oversight is critical. To that end, I would strengthen the Texas Education Agency's ability to step in with cases of malfeasance and revoke the charters of low performing schools, while ensuring the kids in those schools have a high-quality alternative. Any decisions around charter school expansion must guarantee public input and spending efficiency. OTHER COMMENTS: I am running for Governor of Texas because our neighbors deserve a governor that will fight for a vision for the state that is bold enough for all of us, and for too long the extreme policies and political posturing of Greg Abbott have hurt Texas. Abbott's extremism and incompetence are dividing Texans and preventing us from coming together and working toward big solutions that would create better jobs, build stronger schools or expand Medicaid to help millions of Texans get access to the health care they desperately need. Made a campaign promise to appoint a current classroom teacher as TEA commissioner if elected.
	Dierdre Gilbert	Neutral		Website doesn't outline education policy. From FB, 4/15/21: "I spent over 26 years working in the Houston, Aldine, and Fort Bend School Districts. As a retired educator, education reform is at the forefront of my campaign." From campaign photo that lists education platform: "Texas must provide the opportunity for all its children to be educated in a safe environment, make sure each child is afforded a solid, basic education, and ensure equal opportunities for all its citizens. Although testing must remain as part of the educational curriculum, Texas should abolish standardized testing for the sole purpose of advancement. Texas must ensure the adoption of a textbook committee that will encourage a diverse education system detailing contributions by all demographics. We should create more day pre-k schools."	
	Mark Tippets	Unfriendly		From website: "I will seek to eliminate truancy laws and other barriers to school choice, and support competition in education, in accordance with community standards. I believe that parents/guardians should have the authority to decide where and how their children are educated. I support measures to restore decision-making regarding education to parents, guardians, teachers, and/or local education boards. I reject any involvement of the federal government in our local school systems, including funding. The Department of Education should be abolished. I support a nonpartisan education funding policy that would provide equitable use of funds to eliminate waste and decrease bureaucracy. Standards in Education: I will seek to repeal all federal mandates on public education, eliminating the need for federal funding and any strings that come with it. Standards and objectives for education should be determined by individuals in the free market. Survey responses: PROTECTING PUBLIC EDUCATION: Education funding should follow the student, whether that's to public or private schools. Having more school choice and competition from private schools will lead to higher quality public education overall. ROLE OF OFFICE: The office of Governor sets budget priorities and has the power to sign or veto budgets and other bills related to education and budget. FUNDING: The Texas Constitution requires public education funding. I'll follow the Constitution, but with an eye towards reducing education spending while improving quality by facilitating more competition. AREAS OF CONCERN: Rich people can afford private schools or can afford to move to neighborhoods with quality schools or schools that match their values. I want to increase public school choice as well as provide vouchers or tax credits for private schools to make it easier for middle and lower-income families to send their children to quality schools that match their values. REPRESENTING ALL CONSTITUENTS: Parents vs. teachers, school not only for people. REPRESENTING ALL CONSTITUENTS: Parents over creationism, evolution, sex education, same-sex marriage discussions, testing methods, family values, old math versus new math, Common Core and more. I don't want our entire state to have schools with programs designed by one political persuasion. I want school choice so we'll truly have a diverse set of education options for all children. RESOURCES FOR INFORMATION ON PUBLIC EDUCATION: Parents, students, teachers, and administrators are all experts on public education. We can learn from all of them as well as from the many organizations like yours that do research and advocacy to promote better education. IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL CONTROL: Here's a quote from my platform on my website markforgov.com: "I support measures to restore decision-making regarding education to parents, guardians, teachers, and/or local education boards. I reject any involvement of the federal government in our local school systems, including funding. The U.S. Department of Education should be abolished." WHERE DO YOU SEE PUBLIC EDUCATION IN 25 YEARS? If I'm elected, you'll see dramatic improvements in education quality and satisfaction due to more options and greater competition for student dollars as well as lower per-pupil funding by taxpayers. Individuals will be free to supplement their education funding. If the same old Republicans and Democrats are elected, I think you'll see the same old arguments over budgets, curriculum, and control that you see today. BOLSTERING FUNDING TO TX TO NATIONWIDE AVERAGE: Texas ranks in the bottom half of states for per student funding, behind the national average by $4000 per student. It's time to invest in our kids." SURVEY RESPONSES: WHAT IS BROKEN? Public education in Texas is grossly underfunded. 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OTHER COMMENTS: I am running for Governor of Texas because our neighbors deserve a governor that will fight for a vision for the state that is bold enough for all of us, and for too long the extreme policies and political posturing of Greg Abbott have hurt Texas. Abbott's extremism and incompetence are dividing Texans and preventing us from coming together and working toward big solutions that would create better jobs, build stronger schools or expand Medicaid to help millions of Texans get access to the health care they desperately need. Made a campaign promise to appoint a current classroom teacher as TEA commissioner if elected.
Lt. Gov	**Dan Patrick**	Unfriendly	2022 - Texans for Lawsuit Reform, Texas Right to Life 2018 - Texans for Fiscal Responsibility/Empower Texans, Texas Homeschool Coalition 2014 - Texans for Fiscal Responsibility/Empower Texans	Supports Governor Abbott's "parents bill of rights" as well as increased school choice options. In early April 2022, declared intent to pass a bill similar to the "Don't Say Gay" bill in Florida, saying he would make it a "top priority" in the 88th session. Regular attendee and speaker at the annual School Choice rally at the Capitol. Required testing for COVID to enter Capitol, but no testing for schools. On 8/30, during the second special session, Dan Patrick refused to move forward with restoration of legislative funding unless Texas House Public Education committee voted to move Critical Race Theory legislation and the bill on transgender youth in sports. Supported SB28/HB3279, which would have eliminated the authority of the SBOE to veto charter applications, giving the sole authority to Commissioner Morath to approve/disapprove new charters. From Twitter, 12/6/21: "Last week, Fort Worth ISD admitted teachers are both being trained in CRT even through we banned it in Texas. Now a school board member is doxing parents and making outrageous expletive calls to them. (Name redacted) needs to resign today." (RESEARCH NOTE: The person he was calling on to resign is not a school board member. He did not correct the record even after followers pointed this out to him). From Twitter, 11/24/21 "Texas parents are against teaching CRT and we passed a law banning it. Now Fort Worth ISD is trying to sneak it in. (Name redacted) pushed boys and girls sharing bathrooms and boys playing girls sports. It's time for him to move to a blue state." (RESEARCH NOTE: Fort Worth ISD is not teaching CRT, nor is any Texas school). On 9/24/21, congratulated Texas National Blue Ribbon Schools via Twitter. On 9/2/21, in an email at the end of the second special session, called Texas "the most conservative state in the nation." On 8/14/21, via Twitter, posted regarding a book about the Alamo, "This is why we don't want critical race theory taught in our schools. It needs false narratives about our history, just like several 'woke' writers did with their book about the Alamo." Statement on August 11, regarding passage of SB3 (CRT bill): "Texans reject 'woke' philosophies that espouse that one race or sex is better than another and that someone by virtue of their race or sex, is innately racist, oppressive or sexist. Senate Bill 3 will make certain that critical race philosophies, including the debunked 1619 founding myth, are removed from our school curriculums statewide. Texas parents do not want their students to learn how to think critically, not be indoctrinated by the racist Marxist ideology of Critical Race Theory." (RESEARCH NOTE: The racist leftist narrative that America was founded on is false. Statement on 8/9/21, regarding passage of SB7 (13th check for retirees): "When I became Lt. Governor, I made it my priority to make the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS) actuarially sound and I am very proud that we have accomplished that goal. We provided a 13th check for retired teachers in 2019 and I am proud that we can provide this check today. I will not stop fighting for our retired teachers and I'm proud that the Texas Senate has stood up for them again. Other than a parent, no person is more important to the development of a child than a teacher. Providing a 13th check for our retired teachers is yet another way we can honor their commitment to our children and to the future of Texas." On 5/28/21, via Twitter, "Senate saved Critical Race Theory ban after TXHouse pulled it off the table. #HB3979 Tune in on glide path to @gregabbott office to sign SB3!" Supported bills to ban trans girls in school sports (SB29) and end taxpayer funded lobbying (SB10). Per retweet of Senator Bettancourt on 4/18/21, supported SB28 (charter schools bill). On 3/2/21, released top 31 legislative priorities for 87th legge. These included "charter schools equity act," "fair sports for women and girls," "Stop taxpayer funded lobbying," "Expanding virtual learning options."	PRO-VOUCHER: Jan, 2016 per Texas Tribune "vowed to pass a bigger and better tax credit scholarship program — and possibly other school choice legislation — out of the Senate in 2017, saying school choice remains his top policy priority aside from 'protecting life'...As a former state senator and chairman of the Senate Education Committee...(he) unsuccessfully pushed for a private school voucher program." PROHIBIT DUES DEDUCTIONS FROM TEACHERS' CHECKS: Teach the Vote reports Lt. Gov. Patrick pushed SB7 through the Senate. This bill, which would "eliminate educators' right to utilize payroll deduction to pay voluntary professional association dues, has been a priority of the Lt. Gov. and Texas Senate for years now." FUNDING: In 2014 Lt. Gov. race, Patrick received $768 K from Empower Texans and $675,426 from Texans for Education Reform (pro-privatization group). ADDITIONAL MONEY FOR TEACHERS: Texas Observer reports June 23, 2017 that before the special session began, Patrick proposed to give "teachers bonuses and increase their retirement benefits, with plans to pay for both long-term using money from the Texas lottery. Patrick's plan, in part, would provide $600 to $1,000 bonuses to long-term and retired teachers, inject $200 million into the Teacher Retirement System, give $150 million to struggling small, rural districts, and provide $60 million for new facilities for fast-growth school districts and charter schools...BUT...Over the next two years, Patrick said, $700 million to pay for the plan would come from a deferral of funds to managed care organizations. Over the long-term, $700 million would be directly allocated from the Texas Lottery if voters approved an amendment to the Texas Constitution to ensure that transfer of funds continues indefinitely. Currently, about $1.3 billion annually, or 27 percent of lottery funds, go to public schools. Patrick is currently proposing taking the $700 million from that $1.3 billion rather than reallocating additional lottery revenue." AND, he called the House plan a "Ponzi scheme." Endorsed by Patriot Texas, Conservative Activists.
DEMOCRATIC RUNOFF - VOTER'S CHOICE	**Mike Collier**	Friendly	2022 - Rep. Gene Wu, Rep. James Talarico, Rep. John Bucy	Ran for the seat in 2020, research in the "history" column. Fully fund our schools is a main part of his platform. From website: "Fund our public schools and pay our educators so that every child can have aspirations as big as Texas. And that means fully funding our public schools—not vouchers or charters. I will just as soon take the budget dollars from our children of an education and be a champion for teachers, including a cost of living adjustment." From FB, 1/20: "Greg Abbott in 2019: We will never force our schools from the bottom up with a path based on genuine local control without mandates from Washington or Austin." Greg Abbott today: schools will "prohibit," "create," "direct," "lose," and "determine." Those sound like mandates to me..." From FB, 11/16: "I first got into politics because of public education. There is no responsibility more sacred, no obligation more important than educating our children. Texas needs a Lt. Governor who will fight for our public schools—not against them." From FB, 8/12: "I first entered politics because of public education. For years, Texas has been operations based and top down. Our public schools, but never could I imagine that the state would come to demand that they actually teach our children their lives." From FB, 6/26: "Vouchers are a bad idea. Period. Whether it be vouchers or charters, I'm against any effort, by Democrats or Republicans, to send our taxpayer dollars to private institutions. We should be investing every last penny into our public schools." From FB, 6/26: "I first got into politics because of public education. I promise you this, I will always fight for our public schools and our educators, active and retired, with everything I've got." From FB, 5/27/21, "I have ALWAYS been suspicious of charters. As Lt. Governor, I can assure you Texas is going to crack down hard on charters that abuse our public schools. Period." From FB, 12/21: "If the TEA overpowers Houston, open the door for a takeover of HISD. Operate the district in Houston, you can bet that I'm going to hold the operators, and continues to hold them, accountable. Or, if the TEA can't or won't, then I will fight both entities tooth and nail to finally give our retired teachers a cost-of-living-adjustment." From FB, 1/31/21: "I don't care how, when or where, we do it in Texas, is a bad idea, and requiring it during a pandemic is extra so. Teachers, parents, students, education professors, employers and many more know standardized stifles learning and critical thinking. We must suspend the STAAR--especially during a pandemic."	CPA. In conversation with him, he described a specific plan to fund schools at a higher rate. Stated that his analysis have found that a loophole in the property tax code has been allowing commercial interests to fail to pay 8 billion dollars per year, placing undue burdens on private taxpayers. States that closing the loophole would provide more money for education and reduce the burden on local property tax payers. Webpage states the following about teacher retirement: Earlier this year, Dan Patrick and Republican leadership snatched millions of dollars in benefits from retired teachers, claiming that they couldn't afford to pay for the benefits they'd promised. That's a rotten move. They can't afford to not keep their promises. Fear the public school teachers. Fear the public school teachers. Fear the public school teachers

REPUBLICAN RUNOFF	**Dawn Buckingham**	Unfriendly	2022 - Dan Patrick, Greg Abbott 2020 - Greg Abbott 2016 - Texans for Fiscal Responsibility/Empower Texans	**Current Senator, SD 24.** Co-authored: SB215 (Relating to the creation of the office of inspector general at the Texas Education Agency to investigate the administration of public education.). SB28 (Relating to the approval of open-enrollment charter schools and the applicability of certain state and local laws to open enrollment charter schools). SB29 (Relating to requiring public school students to compete in interscholastic athletic competitions based on sex and a study conducted by the University Interscholastic League on the effects of allowing a student to participate in an athletic competition designed for the sex opposite to the student's sex). Joint authored: SB1776 (Relating to the inclusion of an elective course on the founding principles of the United States in the curriculum for public high school students and the posting of the founding documents of the United States in public school buildings). Co-sponsored: HB147 (Allows students enlisting in TX national guard to be counted in college/career/military readiness). Co-Sponsored: HB1603 (Ends sunset dates for IGCs). Sponsored: HB2681 (Elective courses on the study of the Bible offered to public school students). Co-Sponsored: HB4509 (Relating to instruction on informed American patriotism in public schools and study of the Founding documents of Texas and the United States). Co-sponsored: HB542 (Relating to the inclusion of students enrolled in a dropout recovery school as students at risk of dropping out of school for purposes of compensatory, intensive, and accelerated instruction and to a study by the Texas Education Agency on competency-based educational programs). Voted yes - HB1080 (participation in UIL for students who receive mental health services). Voted yes - HB1133 (Relating to an election to revoke a county equalization tax imposed in certain counties). Voted yes - HB1147 (Allows students enlisting in TX national guard to be counted in college/career/military readiness). Voted yes - HB1252 (Related to the limitation period for filing a complaint and requesting a special education impartial due process hearing). Voted yes - HB1468 (Public school remote learning programs). Voted yes - HB1525 (HB3 cleanup bill). Voted yes - HB159 (Training for all educators on how to better serve disabled students). Voted yes - HB1603 (Ends sunset dates for IGCs). Voted yes - HB2287 (Relating to data collection and receipt of certain reports by and consultation with the Collaborative Task Force on Public School Mental Health Services). Voted yes - HB2519 (Composition of SBEC, issuance of sanctions by the board, requiring a school district to notify a teacher regardless the submission of complaints to SBEC). Voted yes - HB2681 (Elective courses on the study of the Bible offered to public school students). Voted yes - HB2721 (Prohibiting a student from participating in future extracurricular activities for certain conduct involving the assault of an extracurricular activity official). Voted yes - HB3261 (Electronic administration of tests, measures to support internet connectivity for purposes of the test, the adoption and administration of optional interim tests, the review and use of the instructional materials and technology allotment, and requests for production of instructional materials). Voted yes - HB3456 (Inclusion of funds received by certain educational institutions or programs in foundation school program funds for purposes of certain budget reductions). Voted yes - HB3489 (Development of guidelines for the use of digital devices in public schools and a school district or open enrollment charter school policy for the effective integration of those devices). Voted yes - HB3597 (Relating to policies, procedures, and measures for school safety in public schools). Voted yes - HB 3932 (Relating to the establishment of the State Advisory Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children). Voted yes - HB3979 (critical race theory bill #1). Voted yes - HB41 (Relating to class size limits for prekindergarten classes provided by or on behalf of public schools). Voted yes - HB4124 (Relating to student enrollment in certain special-purpose districts and the allotment under the public school finance system for those districts). Voted yes - HB4509 (Relating to instruction on informed American patriotism in public schools and study of the Founding documents of Texas and the United States). Voted yes - HB4545 (Relating to the assessment of public school students, the establishment of a strong Foundations grant program, and providing accelerated instruction for students who fail to achieve satisfactory performance on certain assessment instruments. (Bill used to include increasing commissioner powers, now just is about tutoring). Voted yes - HB547 (Would allow homeschool students to participate in UIL activities on public school campuses). Voted yes - HB572 (Relating to the inclusion of students enrolled in a dropout recovery school as students at risk of dropping out of school for purposes of compensatory, intensive, and accelerated instruction and to a study by the Texas Education Agency on competency-based educational programs). Voted yes - HB690 (Relating to training requirements for a member of the board of trustees of an independent school district). Voted yes - HB699 (Relating to public school attendance requirements for students diagnosed with or undergoing related treatment for severe or life-threatening illnesses). Voted yes - HB725 (Relating to the eligibility of certain children who are or were in foster care for free prekindergarten programs in public schools). Voted yes - HB750 (Relating to requiring a school district to post the district's employment policy on the district's Internet website). Voted yes - HB773 (Includes CTE students as a student achievement subpop for accountability). Voted yes - HB785 (Relating to behavior improvement plans and behavioral intervention plans for certain public school students and notification and documentation requirements regarding certain behavior management techniques). Voted yes - SB1063 (Relating to courses in personal financial literacy & economics for high school students in public schools). Voted yes - SB1095 (Relating to notice regarding the availability to public school students of college credit and work-based education programs and subsidies for fees paid to take certain advanced placement tests. (Let students know these programs exist)). Voted yes - SB1109 (Relating to requiring public schools to provide instruction and materials and adopt policies relating to the prevention of child abuse, family violence, and dating violence). Voted yes - SB123 (Relating to instruction in positive character traits and personal skills in public schools). Voted yes - SB1267 (Relating to continuing education and training requirements for educators and other school district personnel). Voted yes - SB1351 (Relating to the donation of food by public school campuses). Voted yes - SB1356 (Relating to the participation by members of nonprofit teacher organizations in a tutoring program for public school students and related retirement benefits for certain tutors participating in the program). Voted yes - SB1365 (Relating to public school organization, accountability, and fiscal management (HISD takeover bill). Voted yes - SB1590 (Relating to rules by the State Board for Educator Certification regarding virtual observation options for field-based experiences and internships required for educator certification). Voted no - SB168 (Relating to emergency school drills and exercises conducted by public schools). Voted yes - SB1696 (Relating to establishing a system for the sharing of information regarding cyber attacks or other cybersecurity incidents occuring in schools in this state). Voted yes - SB1697 (Relating to allowing parents and guardians to elect for a student to repeat or retake a course or grade). Voted yes - SB1716 (Relating to a supplemental special education services and instructional materials program for certain public school students receiving special education services). Voted no - SB179 (Relating to the use of public school counselors' work time). Voted yes - SB1851 (Relating to the permitted transfer of ownership of a minor, and prostitution and to the dissemination of certain information, including the required printing of certain signs, regarding human trafficking, increasing criminal penalties, providing a civil penalty). Voted yes - SB1955 (Relating to exempting learning pods from certain local government regulations). Voted yes - SB2026 (Relating to instruction on informed American patriotism in public schools). Voted yes - SB2050 (Relating to bullying and cyberbullying in public schools). Voted yes - SB2066 (Relating to emergent bilingual students in public schools). Voted no - SB2081 (Relating to class size limits for prekindergarten classes provided by or on behalf of public schools). Voted yes - SB2084 (Companion bill to HB4545, the HISD takeover bill. 4545 was passed with the tutoring component only). Voted yes - SB215 (Relating to the creation of the office of inspector general at the Texas Education Agency to investigate the administration of public education). Voted yes - SB226 (Relating to instruction in educator training programs regarding digital learning, virtual learning, and virtual instruction). Voted yes - SB279 (Relating to the inclusion of suicide prevention information on certain student ID cards issued by a public school or public institution of higher education). Voted yes - SB28 (Relating to the approval of open-enrollment charter schools and the applicability of certain state and local laws to open enrollment charter schools). Voted yes - SB289 (Relating to excused absences from public school for certain students to obtain a driver's license or learner license). Voted yes - SB29 (Relating to requiring public school students to compete in interscholastic athletic competitions based on sex and a study conducted by the University Interscholastic League on the effects of allowing a student to participate in an athletic competition designed for the sex opposite to the student's sex). Voted yes - SB338 (Relating to the adoption of uniform general conditions for building construction projects entered into by school districts and the composition of the committee that reviews uniform general conditions). Voted yes - SB348 (Related to parent access to public school virtual instruction and instructional materials for virtual and remote learning). Voted yes - SB369 (Requiring students to submit a FAFSA application as a condition for graduation). Voted yes - SB462 (Relating to funding under the transportation allotment for transporting meals and instructional materials to students during a declared disaster). Voted yes - SB461 (Relating to the transfer of certain public school students to a school district offering in person instruction). Voted yes - SB560 (Relating to developing a strategic plan for the improvement and expansion of high-quality bilingual education.). Voted yes - SB746 (Relating to requiring the parent of a student enrolled in a school district to provide and update a parent's contact information). Voted yes - SB776 (Relating to the creation of an inclusive sports program by the University Interscholastic League to provide students with intellectual disabilities access to team sports). Voted yes - SB797 (Relating to the display of the national motto in public schools and institutes of higher education). Voted yes - SB801 (Relating to the development of an agriculture education program for public elementary schools). Voted yes - SB1776 (Relating to the inclusion of an elective course on the founding principles of the United States in the curriculum for public high school students and the posting of the founding documents of the United States in public school buildings). SPECIAL SESSION 1: Voted yes - SB3 (CRT bill). Voted yes - SB12 (Relating to the reduction of the amount of a limitation on the total amount of ad valorem taxes that may be imposed by a school district on the residence homestead of an individual who is elderly or disabled to reflect any reduction from the preceding tax year in the district's maximum compressed rate). Voted yes - SB2 (Relating to requiring public school and public institution of higher education students to compete in interscholastic athletic competitions based on biological sex). Voted yes - SB8 (Relating to the authority of a person who acquires a residence homestead to receive an ad valorem tax exemption for the homestead in the year in which the property is acquired, and the protection of school districts against the resulting loss in revenue). Voted yes - SB72 (Relating to requiring public schools to provide instruction and materials and adopt policies relating to the prevention of child abuse, family violence, and dating violence). Voted yes - SB32 (Relating to requiring public school students to compete in interscholastic athletic competitions based on biological sex). Voted yes - SJR4 (Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for the reduction of the amount of a limitation on the total amount of ad valorem taxes that may be imposed by general elementary and secondary public school purposes on the residence homestead of a person who is elderly or disabled to reflect any statutory reduction from the preceding tax year in the maximum compressed rate of the maintenance and operations taxes imposed for those purposes on the homestead). Voted yes - SB7 (Relating to a one-time supplemental payment of benefits under the Teacher Retirement System of Texas). SPECIAL SESSION 2: Voted yes - SB3 (Relating to civics training programs for certain public school social studies teachers and principals, parental access to certain learning management systems, and certain curriculum in public schools, including certain instructional requirements and prohibitions). Voted yes - SB12 (Relating to the reduction of the amount of a limitation on the total amount of ad valorem taxes that may be imposed by a school district on the residence homestead of an individual who is elderly or disabled to reflect any reduction from the preceding tax year in the district's maximum compressed rate). Voted yes - SB8 (Relating to the authority of a person who acquires a residence homestead to receive an ad valorem tax exemption for the homestead in the year in which the property is acquired, and the protection of school districts against the resulting loss in revenue). Voted yes - SB7 (Relating to a one-time supplemental payment of benefits under the Teacher Retirement System of Texas). Voted yes - SB91 (Relating to a temporary reduction in the maximum compressed tax rate of a school district and the form of the ballot proposition to be used in an election to approve a tax rate adopted by a school district that exceeds the district's voter-approval tax rate; making an appropriation). Voted yes - SB2 (Relating to requiring public school and public institution of higher education students to compete in interscholastic athletic competitions based on biological sex). Voted yes - SJR2 (Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for the reduction of the amount of a limitation on the total amount of ad valorem taxes that may be imposed for general elementary and secondary public school purposes on the residence homestead of a person who is elderly or disabled to reflect any statutory reduction from the preceding tax year in the maximum compressed rate of the maintenance and operations taxes imposed for those purposes on the homestead). SPECIAL SESSION 3: Voted yes - SJR2 (Proposing a constitutional amendment increasing the amount of the residence homestead exemption from ad valorem taxation for public school purposes). Voted yes - SB3 (Relating to requiring public school students to compete in interscholastic athletic competitions based on biological sex). From campaign website: "Dr. Buckingham has always said that educating our children is the single most important thing we can do as leaders. Having pursued and served in public education system in Texas is pivotal in ensuring that Texas continues to lead the nation with a strong and educated workforce. Dr. Buckingham served as a Lake Travis ISD school board member prior to her time in the Texas Senate.In 2019, Dr. Buckingham voted for and passed HB 3, the single largest investment in our public education system. In 2021, she kept this funding promise to our education system and our educators, despite a $1 billion deficit to the Texas budget."		Information: First elected to Senate in 2016. Up for re-election in 2020. Oculoplastic and reconstructive surgeon. Former board member. in Lake Travis ISD. Appointed to SBEC by Governor Perry where she served as Vice Chair. Talks about percentage of spending on the classroom, so she doesn't understand how school finance works. Talks about teacher unions holding schools back. Voting Record: 2017 Update: Voted for SB3 ESAs (vouchers).; Voted for extending IGCs. Voted for SB 13 (payroll deductions)Voted for SB 2 (Tax Credit Vouchers)Voted for SB 16(commission to make recommendations on school finance by appointment of Gov/Lt. Gov/Speaker) . 2019 session: Authored legislation: SB296 - abolish the termination or nonrenewal of professional licenses for default or breach of student loan repayment.Voted for SB3 - unanimous vote.Co-sponsor SB12 (TRS contributions). HB3 Amendment 6 to keep outcome-based funding-voted No; Amendment 8 to remove merit pay-voted No; Amendment 8 to increase bilingual ed-voted NO; Amendment 29 to add counselors to $5K pay raise-voted NO; Amendment 30 to add other professionals to $5K raise-voted NO; Amendment 43 to eliminate extra STAAR writing tests-voted NO; Amendment 66 temporary suspension of STAAR penalties-voted NO. Voted NO - SB2 FA3 (remove school districts from property tax bill). Voted YES - SB29 (taxpayer funded lobbying). Voted NO SB1455 (virtual school vouchers). Grade from Project Educo: F.
	Tim Westley - RUNOFF BLOCK VOTE	Neutral		From website: "As a former public school teacher, Dr. Westley has seen the challenge public schools face up close and personal. One of the responsibilities of the Texas Land Commissioner is to serve as the Chairman of the School Land Board (SLB) which manages the sale and mineral leasing of Permanent School Fund (PSF) lands. The PSF is now a $48.3 billion endowment designated for the benefit of public schools, funding classrooms, technology, instructional materials, etc. Texas public schools consistently rank in the bottom half of the nation. Using these vast resources wisely can change this horrible trend and help Texas schoolchildren and ultimately Texas!"		
DEMOCRATIC RUNOFF - VOTER'S CHOICE	**Jay Kleberg**	Neutral		From website - "FUND OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE AND SUPPORT OUR VETERANS: The Texas General Land Office manages Texas' 13 million acres of public lands to provide funding to serve Texas schoolchildren and veterans. While royalties from oil and gas leases are a critical revenue stream, the General Land Office must champion a diversified portfolio of income producing assets, such as geothermal, wind, solar and offshore hydrogen production. A diversified portfolio will reposition the General Land Office to keep its promise to Texas veterans and their families for the long term." Survey responses: WHAT IS BROKEN? Generally, I would hesitate to use the term "broken." That said, it is clear that our public schools need more resources. Our children are the future of our state, and a quality education begins with proper, long-term funding and resources. I am supportive of policies that promote teacher retention, rework the state-mandated testing regime, and provide our children and our teachers the resources they need to ensure our children are getting the best education possible. By supporting and fully funding our public education systems, we are ultimately ensuring the best future for generations to come. PROTECTING PUBLIC EDUCATION: In recent years, this office and its contribution to the Texas Permanent School Fund have been used as a political chess piece. I have no intention of doing that. The Permanent School Fund has sent less money to public schools than it did a decade ago, depriving our public schools of $720M of funding they would have received in 2018 alone. In that same year, the GLO chose to send $0 to the Permanent School Fund, bypassing the fund managed by the State Board of Education and cutting roughly $300 million meant for public schools to spend on textbooks. I would push not only to allocate the full amount according to the Permanent School Fund, but explore legislative options to increase the limit on how much the GLO could contribute annually. ROLE OF OFFICE IN PUBLIC EDUCATION: While the GLO does not impact education policy, it can contribute up to $600M annually to the Texas Permanent School Fund, which funds public elementary and secondary education in the state. If elected, I will fight to allocate the full $600M annually to the Permanent School Fund to ensure adequate funding for our already strained public education system. The GLO can also serve as a platform to engage parents, schoolchildren and the public about the importance of conservation and responsible land use. I'd work to continue promoting environmental education resources through the GLO to ensure that future generations have the necessary tools to think about our land and the threat of climate change to our state. ENSURING FUNDING: I would advocate to diversify the General Land Office's energy portfolio. This would not only reduce the state's carbon footprint and strengthen our energy grid, but would also provide a long-term, reliable source of revenue for the GLO, which would provide the necessary funding to contribute the entire $600M annually to the Permanent School Fund for years to come. AREAS OF CONCERN: A primary concern that I have heard from many parents, and one that I share, is getting our children back to school in a safe way. The patchwork of public health policies and mandates, unclear actions by our state leaders have created a situation where schools are incapable of returning to full, in-person operations safely. While this is not an issue directly under the purview of the GLO, I would encourage state leaders to follow the science, rather than playing politics with our children's safety. Another concern is teacher shortages. Between the handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, low pay, and burdensome state interference, we have seen a mass exodus of experienced teachers and a decline in new teachers entering the workforce. Again, this issue is not under the purview of the GLO, but it is another critical issue facing our public education. Additionally, while the Texas Legislature took dramatic steps in public school finance reform in the 86th Session, there is still work to be done. I am supportive of exploring possible reconfiguration of the funding formula for our public schools to ensure equitable spending per pupil across the state and consistent educational outcomes for all Texas children. REPRESENTING ALL CONSTITUENTS: From my upbringing on a working ranch in south Texas to my career in land conservation, I have worked with Texans from all walks of life, and I will continue to do so if elected. I welcome input from all constituents or potential future constituents. The way I see it, if I am representing you in public office, I want to hear your thoughts and concerns, whether we agree or disagree. IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL CONTROL: Too often today, we see that school board elections become overly politicized to the point that they lose sight of their initial purpose – to determine who best can serve our children and our schools. I believe the most important resources in public education are non-partisan resources that fairly portray the current state of our public education system without biases. I am a firm believer in the importance of local control. Growing up in Texas and traveling to all corners of this state, I know that folks in different communities have different concerns. We know that policies enacted by local leaders have a much more direct impact on these issues than everything else. WHERE DO YOU SEE TEXAS PUBLIC EDUCATION IN 25 YEARS? I hope to see Texas as a leader in public education in 25 years. But we can only achieve this if we make a priority and figure out a way together." Survey Responses: WHAT IS BROKEN? I believe if there is any real notion that our public education is broken It would have to be the number of students per class that an educator has to manage, and with our teacher population thinning down due to covid, we will have to make higher pay incentives to keep more educators employed. USING OFFICE TO PROTECT PUBLIC EDUCATION: The GLO will always look to manage the Permanent School Fund responsible. ROLE OF OFFICE: The Texas Land Commissioner oversees the GLO, and the decisions made there are influenced by each Boards findings and recommendations. ENSURING FUNDING: The State Board oversees the Permanent School Fund. The commission can only make decisions with the information but looking at grant initiatives to support projects would be something we should look into and prepared if into community outreach initiatives. 2-3 AREAS OF CONCERN: The number of students in a class for our educators, we need to hire more educators, or expand the management of a classroom size with teachers aids. We need to support our teachers concerns more seriously during this unpredictable pandemic, and equipped them with the necessary tools to teach remotely when their health and welfare are in jeopardy, and we need to support the staff with mental health counselors, that can provide the proper emotional guidance for our students who are developing emotionally. REPRESENTING ALL CONSTITUENTS: I am not concerned with party affiliations or special interest groups. Our children are the purpose for problem solving the best solutions to a problem. IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL CONTROL: Locally elected school board members are key for understanding the real boots on the ground, grass roots knowledge. WHERE DO YOU SEE PUBLIC EDUCATION IN 25 YEARS? I think the tech industry will have more interactive resources, virtual reality, and augmented reality. Where students can engage with learning in real 3-dimensional space. BOLSTERING FUNDING TO NATIONAL AVERAGE: As the population in Texas keeps growing exponentially, this will be a problem that will need to be addressed soon out of necessity. USING POWERS OF EDUCATION: I would use Attorney General Opinion's and litigation to advance the purposes of first class public education. ROLE OF TESTING: Standardized testing is fine in lower school grades, but once a student reaches middle school there needs to be an orientation to non-standardized testing and learning. In High school students should be writing essays and papers. TESTING TIED TO EVALUATION: Very little role. ROLE OF CHARTERS: I'm not a fan of bleeding public education to give generous contracts to charter school leadership. Personally, I'd like to see existing Charters refolded into local public schools and best practices from both encouraged. OTHER COMMENTS: When I was mayor of Galveston I regularly spoke to the students at Ball High School and the Island's various middle and elementary schools. I presented the keynote speech at the National Honor Society membership induction ceremony. I enjoyed a close relationship with Superintendent Larry Nichols. I created the partnership between "Ser y Hacer", a non profit organization dedicated to teaching green card holders to apply for and obtain U.S. citizenship. The organization needed a better place to hold their meetings (Ser y Hacer met at a poorly lit Church), and I was able to forge a partnership with the Galveston Independent School District so that the nonprofit held their meetings at Alamo School in Galveston. This caused membership to grow. Ser y Hacer caused hundreds of green card holders to earn their U.S. Citizenship. The program continues to this day. I am an annual guest lecturer on Watergate, Leon Jaworski's service as Special Prosecutor and the Nixon Presidency to students at Galveston Ball High's American History lecture series. As Texas Attorney General I will closely work with Principals (public, private, charter and religious schools) to ensure all seniors are offered registration twice a year. I'll be a friend and frequent visitor to public school campuses all around Texas.		
	Sandragrace Martinez	Neutral		From website: "The funding for our children's education is a priority that we cannot undervalue. The desire for every parent is for their children to acquire a strong educational foundation, so that our children can compete effectively as they enter the corporate world. It is not impossible to provide our children with the necessary funding to develop a comprehensive approach to learning. We can do better at funding our Texas schoolchildren, because we can do better at funding our schools.Let's make this a priority and figure out a way together." Survey Responses: WHAT IS BROKEN? I believe if there is any real notion that our public education is broken It would have to be the number of students per class that an educator has to manage, and with our teacher population thinning down due to covid, we will have to make higher pay incentives to keep more educators employed. USING OFFICE TO PROTECT PUBLIC EDUCATION: The GLO will always look to manage the Permanent School Fund responsible. ROLE OF OFFICE: The Texas Land Commissioner oversees the GLO, and the decisions made there are influenced by each Boards findings and recommendations. ENSURING FUNDING: The State Board oversees the Permanent School Fund. The commission can only make decisions with the information but looking at grant initiatives to support projects would be something we should look into and prepared if into community outreach initiatives. 2-3 AREAS OF CONCERN: The number of students in a class for our educators, we need to hire more educators, or expand the management of a classroom size with teachers aids. We need to support our teachers concerns more seriously during this unpredictable pandemic, and equipped them with the necessary tools to teach remotely when their health and welfare are in jeopardy, and we need to support the staff with mental health counselors, that can provide the proper emotional guidance for our students who are developing emotionally. REPRESENTING ALL CONSTITUENTS: I am not concerned with party affiliations or special interest groups. Our children are the purpose for problem solving the best solutions to a problem. IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL CONTROL: Locally elected school board members are key for understanding the real boots on the ground, grass roots knowledge. WHERE DO YOU SEE PUBLIC EDUCATION IN 25 YEARS? I think the tech industry will have more interactive resources, virtual reality, and augmented reality. Where students can engage with learning in real 3-dimensional space. BOLSTERING FUNDING TO NATIONAL AVERAGE: As the population in Texas keeps growing exponentially, this will be a problem that will need to be addressed soon out of necessity. USING POWERS OF EDUCATION: I would use Attorney General Opinion's and litigation to advance the purposes of first class public education. ROLE OF TESTING: Standardized testing plays a role in giving us a knowledge baseline of where our children are scholastically. It's difficult to test the creative qualities of our children which does them a disservice, but standardized testing is always a good measurement to start with, and the development of their improvements should scale up appropriately. ROLE OF TESTING IN SCHOOL/TEACHER EVALUATIONS: I think standardized testing is a good measurement, but I understand that every child learns differently, and a one- size fits- all template for assessment learning is not a very fair way to evaluate teachers, it does give us a better sense of where our children's developments need to improve. ROLE OF CHARTERS: I think it's difficult to get a general handle on whether Charters schools should continue as is due to the complexities in designing studies that can fairly compare with the district standards, but I think standardized testing is really the only was to have a base sense of where our children are as a whole. OTHER COMMENTS: Your questions bring up aspects about teaching that are obviously concerns of yours. I am always interested in learning more about people's perspectives on the issues that concern their everyday life. The aspects of funding our schools and how standards are applied are threaded by various boards that somewhat act like checks and balances, so across the board changes are very difficult to promise, as so many variables are involved, but I am committed to doing what I can, when I can, to serve our children education with the best financial support I'm allowed.		
Attorney General					
REPUBLICAN RUNOFF - UNDERVOTE (LEAVE BLANK)	**Ken Paxton**	Unfriendly		Did not respond to T4PE survey. Nothing on website about education. Suing school districts who put into place a mask mandate. From FB, 2/8/14: "Parents - NOT government bureaucrats - should have the final say in a child's education!" From FB, 12/13/21, "Targeting parents for voicing their concerns about their kids' schools is un-American. I stand by these patriots (names redacted) in their fight against retaliation by their board member colleagues...I will always defend the Texas Open Meetings Act. No rogue school board can change that!" From FB, 2/22/18: "Schools should encourage voting; they should not encourage you who to vote for. When they cross that line, as some schools have done, they undermine the very foundation of what makes voting worthwhile." From FB, 5/21/21: "Critical Race Theory, 1619 Project, & all their Marxist cousins are racist & totally un-American. I'm proud to join my state AG colleagues in one letter, with TPPF & A1Policy in another expressing our disgust with Biden's plan to indoctrinate our kids with this left-wing propaganda." In 2013, as a Senator, sponsored a school voucher bill.		
	George P. Bush	Unfriendly		Current Land Commissioner. Did not respond to T4PE survey. Nothing on website about education. On 8/23/21, liked a tweet by Republican chair Matt Rinaldi, which said: "I get a lot of emails from fed up conservatives asking what they can do to help the movement. Here are 3 things: 1. Run for school board. 2. Run for school board. 3. Volunteer to help your conservative friend who decided to run for school board." From FB, 8/9/21: "Injoyed family time this weekend before the boys go back to school. As a former history teacher, I know the value of good curriculum and effective teacher evaluations. That's why I advocate for school choice legislation that lets families to take their children's education dollars elsewhere if their local public school isn't meeting their needs. School choice helps students from all backgrounds succeed regardless of their parent's economic situation." From FB, 1/27/21: "This week, we celebrate School Choice Week. School choice is one of the most valuable gifts we can give our children. It allows each child the opportunity to receive the best education possible, one that meets their unique, individual needs. Whether it's students with special needs, high-achieving students, students with behavioral issues, or even students zoned to low-performance schools, school choice allows each child to shine in their own way, without limits. The data for student success in areas with school choice is encouraging. The percentage of charter school students enroll in college than traditional public school students. In many school choice programs, graduation rates are higher for students attending public charter schools than those enrolled in traditional public schools. School choice is also a more fiscally effective means of funding education. A recent study showed that public charter schools are 8% to 42% more cost-effective than traditional public schools. Rather than spending all of our education dollars on schools that do not benefit all of our children, we should show this funding to follow the child to the school that best suits their unique educational needs. We should be funding students, not institutions. I've seen firsthand how children in school choice programs thrive. One of my favorite traditions is attending the annual School Choice Rally on the steps of the Texas Capitol. This photo was taken at one of those rallies, and each student I spoke to could tell you how much of a difference the ability to attend a school of their choosing has made in their life. It's telling how excited they are each year to celebrate their education, and encourage our leaders to help more students like themselves. Our next generation's education should not be a one-size-fits-all approach. When we give parents a choice, we give students a chance." From FB, 1/28/21: "When we give parents a choice, we give students a chance. This week, we celebrate school choice and the immense opportunities to succeed that it gives our schoolchildren. We must continue fighting to give our kids the best education possible." From FB, 12/14/21: "As a former public school teacher, I know there is nothing that worries me more than to see our children taught what to think instead of how to think here in our Texas schools. With the introduction of CRT, our children are taught that they are inherently different than their classmates based on the color of their skin - that they each have different potential, limited or magnified based on an unchanging feature. This is not education - and this is not beneficial to any of our children. I'm grateful to see parents across the country standing up against this blatant form of racism." From FB, 12/3/21: "We cannot afford to be ambivalent to our children's education and what they are taught in schools today. Texas needs an Attorney General to ensure that our constitutional freedoms are upheld in our schools." From FB, 8/12/21: "As a fellow parent and former school teacher, I'm concerned about fringe theories like CRT being taught in schools. As your next AG, I'll fight for school choice so parents can choose the best school regardless of zip code." From FB, 10/5/21: "As a former public high school teacher, I know firsthand how hard teachers work. Thank you all of our teachers for inspiring the next generation of Texans." From FB, 5/4/21: "Today we celebrate the incredible individuals who mold our next generation. These men and women change so many lives for the better. To our teachers: thank you for your dedication and commitment. Our state and our future is brighter because of you." On 1/17/20, wrote an opinion piece in the Dallas Morning News advocating for school choice. https://www.dallasnews.com/opinion/commentary/2020/01/17/george-p-bush-better-education-in-texas-means-flexibility-and-teaching-critical-thinking/		
INOFF	**Joe Jaworski - RUNOFF BLOCK VOTE**	Friendly		Survey responses: WHAT IS BROKEN? I'll argue for adequate funding for public education as required under the Texas Constitution. I will regularly visit public school campuses to stoke interest in civics among our youth. USING OFFICE FOR EDUCATION: I'll write AG opinions that support public education. I'll take positions in court that favor funding of public education. ROLE OF AG: As Texas's top lawyer, the Texas AG must ensure that the Texas Legislature suitably provides support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools. HOW TO ENSURE FUNDING? AG holding the Legislature to their constitutional duties - in court, if necessary. AREAS OF CONCERN: I believe public school students should follow Elections code Title 13 046(d) which not requires each principal to offer voter registration twice a year to every senior turning 18. I will enforce that law by sending every principal a pleasant reminder letter every August requiring that she confirm receipt and identify calendar dates for both registration opportunities on campus. Every 18 year old will be registered. Also, students have to take citizenship seriously. I will attend campuses around the state periodically to speak with the students and enliven their sense of service to state and country. REPRESENTING ALL CONSTITUENTS: I will ensure broad representation by traveling all regions of Texas and holding coffees and other "meet the AG" events. WHERE DO YOU SEE EDUCATION IN 25 YEARS? The most important resources in planning for the future are information and full public access to information. Attendance with the Texas Public Information Act. As a former mayor of Galveston, I take local control and honoring local decision-making authority seriously. Local government is the best government because it is the most responsive government. I pledge to exercise a healthy bias as AG in favor of cities, counties and school boards. That's federalism, and honoring it is the way our system of government operates best. WHERE DO YOU SEE EDUCATION IN 25 YEARS? I see Texas public education fully funded and broadened to include four year college. HOW TO INCREASE FUNDING TO NATIONAL AVERAGE? Texas needs to get serious about raising revenues from cannabis legalization, gaming, development fees and other use taxes. Corporate tax abatements in the name of encouraging development need to be reigned in, and those taxes need to remain in public education to properly compensate educators and build first class physical facilities for all students. USING POWERS FOR EDUCATION: I would use Attorney General Opinion's and litigation to advance the purposes of first class public education. ROLE OF TESTING: Standardized testing is fine in lower school grades, but once a student reaches middle school there needs to be an orientation to non-standardized testing and learning. In High school students should be writing essays and papers. TESTING TIED TO EVALUATION: Very little role. ROLE OF CHARTERS: I'm not a fan of bleeding public education to give generous contracts to charter school leadership. Personally, I'd like to see existing Charters refolded into local public schools and best practices from both encouraged. OTHER COMMENTS: When I was mayor of Galveston I regularly spoke to the students at Ball High School and the Island's various middle and elementary schools. I presented the keynote speech at the National Honor Society membership induction ceremony. I enjoyed a close relationship with Superintendent Larry Nichols. I created the partnership between "Ser y Hacer", a non profit organization dedicated to teaching green card holders to apply for and obtain U.S. citizenship. The organization needed a better place to hold their meetings (Ser y Hacer met at a poorly lit Church), and I was able to forge a partnership with the Galveston Independent School District so that the nonprofit held their meetings at Alamo School in Galveston. This caused membership to grow. Ser y Hacer caused hundreds of green card holders to earn their U.S. Citizenship. The program continues to this day. I am an annual guest lecturer on Watergate, Leon Jaworski's service as Special Prosecutor and the Nixon Presidency to students at Galveston Ball High's American History lecture series. As Texas Attorney General I will closely work with Principals (public, private, charter and religious schools) to ensure all seniors are offered registration twice a year. I'll be a friend and frequent visitor to public school campuses all around Texas.		

DEMOCRATIC RU	**Rochelle Garza**	Neutral	2022 - Sen. Carol Alvarado, Rep. Vikki Goodwin, Rep. Victoria Neave	Nothing on website about education. Survey responses: WHAT IS BROKEN? I would argue that: support structures for public education to thrive are broken. Our state and many others across the country have been putting in place that undermine public education. In Texas, we've seen this in the form of tax abatements for corporations that force school districts to lose precious dollars, constant pushes for "school choice" and expansion of charter schools, and low-pay and resistance to increasing retirement for our public school educators and staff. What is broken is our GOP-led state leadership's continual disinvesting in our public schools. Because of that, our public schools face many challenges and disparities especially in communities of color, rural communities and communities with high rates of poverty. I'm the daughter of two public school teachers and a product of a public high school magnet program in the Rio Grande Valley. I value and support public education, and will continue to do so as the next Texas Attorney General. PRIORITIES: As the Texas Attorney General, I will always support our public school systems. Every child deserves an excellent education, based on facts and science, no matter where they live or their socioeconomic status. We need to support educators and support staff and ensure that they are getting the resources they need both before and after retirement. And we need to have proper infrastructure for students — reliable transportation, access to the internet, and school buildings that aren't falling down. For example, the Office of the Attorney General has the ability to investigate and litigate any wrongdoings by corporate actors that may be fraudulently or falsely taking advantage of tax abatements that negatively impact school districts. As AG, I would ensure our school districts aren't forced to close by using the office to hold bad actors accountable. ROLE OF OFFICE IN PUBLIC EDUCATION: The Texas Attorney General is the people's attorney. It is a role that is intended to protect the laws and interests of the people of Texas, and that includes using the full powers of the office – opinions on state law, investigations, litigation, etc. – to ensure our public education system is supported. As AG, I will be an active defender of our public schools and will stand up for our students and teachers whenever needed. This includes standing up against discriminatory laws targeting any of our students or teachers and be an advocate for more public school funding. ENSURING FUNDING: The Office of Attorney General is responsible for protecting Texas consumers. In the context of education, this includes protecting charter school consumers (students, parents, employees) and ensuring that charter schools are held accountable for any wrongdoing and remain transparent on how they use our tax dollars in educating our students. As AG, I would also ensure that there is accountability in tax abatements for corporate actors when it comes to our public school districts. AREAS OF CONCERN: School funding is number one. We need to reverse the trend of disinvesting in our public schools and give our students and teachers the resources they need to be successful. We need to hold charter schools to the same standards of accountability that we do for our public schools and integrate them into public oversight. We need to address the school to prison pipeline and create safe environments in our schools that do not criminalize our students from such a young age. Doing away with 'zero tolerance' policies and strictly limiting the role of police officers on campus will be a starting point. REPRESENTING ALL CONSTITUENTS: I will be the attorney for all Texans. I'm running for this position to support Texas families, not harm them like we've seen with our current AG Ken Paxton who has chosen politics over people by filing lawsuits against the federal government solely based on his partisan agenda. I will focus on issues that will make Texas families healthier and safer, including supporting our public education systems, retirement systems and declining to further politicize masks and vaccines. We need to get back to basics, give children a fighting chance to grow up in a clean, healthy environment and ensure that they are learning facts, science and critical thinking in our schools. This is very personal to me because I am expecting my first child in April and I want to ensure that she has all the opportunities that all Texas children deserve. IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL CONTROL: Locally-elected school boards play a critical role in the success of our students. I will stand with local leadership and that includes not suing them for trying to keep their students and teachers safe in the middle of a pandemic. I will follow the science and trust in our local ISD boards to do their jobs in putting our children's safety first. WHERE DO YOU SEE TEXAS PUBLIC EDUCATION IN 25 YEARS? My hope is that we prioritize our public education system in Texas today in order to have a much brighter future. We need to provide the opportunities and support systems to our students and teachers that they deserve. That includes early childhood education, rethinking the way we fund our public schools, holding charter schools accountable, ensuring good pay and retirement for public educators and staff, supporting students of color, LGBTQ+ students, and any at-risk student. We need to also expand magnet programs in public high schools that help prepare students for a career in fields that may not always require going to college or university. BOLSTERING FUNDING TO NATIONAL AVERAGE: We need the state legislature to bolster and bring more equity to school funding. Texas currently lags behind most of the country in funding for public education, which has resulted in huge disparities in communities of color, rural communities, and those experiencing poverty. We need to take a hard look at how we distribute state funds to districts with high poverty rates, put more resources where they are needed, and roll back programs/close loopholes that force school districts to pay out to corporations at the expense of our students and teachers. USING OFFICE TO IMPROVE PUBLIC EDUCATION: I will use the powers of the Texas Attorney General to support local leadership, stand with public school teachers, staff and retirees, and hold charter schools accountable. I will also be a loud advocate for more equitable funding of our public schools. ROLE OF TESTING IN PROMOTION/GRADUATION: Standardized testing can give insight into a student's progress in understanding their courses. However, standardized testing should not be used as the sole metric for grading schools, principals, and teachers or worse – use testing as an excuse to take away funding for public schools. ROLE OF TESTING IN SCHOOL/TEACHER EVALUATIONS: Standardized testing should be used to measure how well students are understanding concepts being taught. It should not play a factor in evaluating a teacher's performance. Performance in tests depends on many factors outside of the effectiveness of teachers – poverty, degree of parental involvement, difficulties in the home, lack of access to resources, including broadband, and high student to teacher ratios all play a role in students' test performances. We shouldn't punish students, teachers, schools or districts for a lack of resources or support structures in or outside the classroom. ROLE OF CHARTERS: Charter schools should be held to the same standards that public schools are and they should have democratic supervision under their respective ISD districts. Taking public funding away from public schools to subsidize charter schools is not something I support. OTHER COMMENTS: I am running for Texas Attorney General to support Texas families. I have been fighting for civil rights for all of my career - as an immigration attorney for children seeking asylum, as a partner in a small firm as a family and criminal defense attorney, and as a civil rights attorney working on class actions at the ACLU. I know what it's like to fight for individuals in Texas courts and also how to build a case that reinforces civil rights across the country. My work has had broad impacts, like the "Garza Notice," a requirement that teens in immigration detention have a right to access abortion care free of federal obstruction or retaliation, and also meaningful individual impacts, like helping Trans clients acquire name and gender marker changes on their documentation to not only affirm who they are but to live a life of safety. I understand that a threat to civil rights anywhere is a threat to civil rights everywhere. As an expecting mother, I want to ensure that my daughter grows up with the freedom to determine her own course in life, to marry who she loves, to decide if, when or how to become a parent, and to grow up in a clean, safe environment. And I know that if I don't step up at this moment to run for an office that has such deep impacts on the lives of Texans, we won't have another opportunity to roll back the harm Ken Paxton has done. We need someone in the AG's office that understands Texas families and what they need, that reflects the lived experiences of Texans and knows what's at stake. As a woman and a Latina from the border, I recognize we continue to get laws that are harmful to women, people of color, LGBTQ+, impoverished and rural communities because we don't have representation that reflects our communities. That's what I want to change as the next Attorney General of Texas. From FB, 12/30: "We have to protect Texas from nonsense lawsuits - like banning masks in schools - which ultimately got shot down by the courts for putting kids with disabilities at greater risk. When I'm AG I'll advocate for our schools & students - not meaningless lawsuits or partisan games."	
	Mark Ash	NR			