



TSTA NEWS

TEXAS STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ELECTION COMMENTS

Rita C. Haecker, President, Texas State Teachers Association

Obama Victory

“On behalf of the 65,000 members of the Texas State Teachers Association, including so many of us who voted for him, I want to congratulate President-elect Obama for winning this historic election. We look forward to having a true friend – a committed partner – of public schools in the White House. He recognizes just how important quality public schools are to the nation’s future, and he is committed to improving our schools. During his campaign, the president-elect listened and responded to the nation's educators by addressing the needs of schools, students and educators. We in the National Education Association family look forward to working with him and our allies in Congress to reform the No Child Left Behind Act and to eliminate the unfair penalty the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision impose on too many retired educators. Again, congratulation, President-elect Obama.”

Texas Legislature

“On behalf of the 65,000 members of the Texas State Teachers Association, including all of our members who vote for candidates from both major parties, I want to congratulate all of TSTA’s allies who won election to the 81st Texas Legislature. We look forward to working with them. Our public schools and our lawmakers face major challenges. We need a new system of funding public schools that is sufficient to meet the needs of the 21st century and flexible enough to keep pace with the changes our state is experiencing. We need a new accountability system that focuses on overall growth in student performance, that nurtures, rather than punishes, both students and educators, that encourages success rather than instills fear. We need a Teacher Retirement System that is solvent for the long term, that ensures retired educators will have the means to live in the dignity they deserve. TSTA members will be actively involved in helping ensure that lawmakers make the needs of our public schools, students and educators their top priority when the Legislature convenes in January.”

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