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Texas State Teachers Association President Noel Candelaria released the following statement:

Yesterday, voters in competitive Texas House districts rejected candidates who voted to drastically cut public education funding and load down students and teachers with high stakes tests that deprive children of time for real teaching and learning. Support for educators and neighborhood public schools was a key factor in victories by Mary Ann Perez, Victoria Neave and Philip Cortez.

In this year's Republican and Democratic primaries and the general election, candidates who supported public schools consistently defeated candidates who supported vouchers and privatization schemes, a message from voters that Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick should heed.

The Texas State Teachers Association supported pro-public education candidates from both political parties, and we look forward to working with a bipartisan coalition to provide desperately needed state funding for local schools, put an end to high stakes testing and meet the needs of every child, not just the few who might attend private schools.

When it comes to education, one thing is clear. Texas taxpayers cannot afford to pay for two separate school systems, one public and one private. The voters are saying it's time to invest, not test.