



# TSTA NEWS

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## **Educators endorse Beto O'Rourke for the U.S. Senate**

The National Education Association, supporting the recommendation of its Texas affiliate, the Texas State Teachers Association, today announced its endorsement of Beto O'Rourke for the U.S. Senate.

"Beto O'Rourke is the only candidate in the race committed to giving all Texas school children an opportunity to succeed," said TSTA President Noel Candelaria. "In the Senate, Beto will continue working to assure that teachers have the resources and the professional freedom they need to teach to the child and not to the test."

"We can count on Beto to fight against high-stakes testing, oppose vouchers and work to provide a more secure future for retired educators and a more affordable college education that won't leave young people and their families burdened with debt," Candelaria added.

"By contrast, Beto's opponent has turned his back on Texans by engineering a costly government shutdown in 2013 and undermining public schools by collaborating with Betsy DeVos to create a costly voucher scheme aimed primarily at a privileged few."

O'Rourke's education priorities include:

- # Restore control of classrooms to teachers by reducing the emphasis on standardized testing.
- # Repeal the federal Windfall Elimination Provision in order to help thousands of former Texas teachers secure their retirements.
- # Increase funding for Pell Grant scholarships and the Perkins Loan program to make college more affordable and allow students who commit to working in under-served communities and professions the chance to graduate debt-free.
- # Prohibit the use of tax dollars for private schools.
- # Use the federal government's leverage through its grants, loans and research spending to demand affordability from universities.
- # Improve access to community colleges, trade schools and nanodegrees.
- # Strike down legislation and regulations that discriminate against students based on sexual orientation or gender identify.

"As a member of Congress from Texas, Beto O'Rourke has consistently received an 'A' rating on issues important to students, educators and retirees, and we look forward to his leadership in the Senate," Candelaria concluded.