



TSTA NEWS

TEXAS STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TSTA Endorses Wendy Davis, the Education Candidate for Governor

The Texas State Teachers Association today announced its endorsement of Wendy Davis for governor.

“TSTA is proud to endorse Senator Wendy Davis for governor because she has worked tirelessly in the Senate on behalf of students, parents and teachers to give every Texas child the opportunity to succeed,” said TSTA President Rita Haecker. “Too many candidates give education lip service, but when others defended cuts that harmed our neighborhood schools, Wendy Davis fought successfully to restore funding for our schools.”

Haecker noted that this week Davis’ opponent, Attorney General Greg Abbott, sent his assistants back to a courtroom to defend an unconstitutional school finance system from which the legislative majority cut \$5.4 billion in 2011. Abbott supports so-called education “reforms” hatched by “experts” who haven’t set foot in a classroom for years, while the school cuts continue to have serious consequences. Teachers now spend an average of \$700 a year out of pocket to pay for classroom supplies, and 44 percent must take a second job during the school year, according to a study commissioned by TSTA and conducted by Sam Houston State University.

“Wendy Davis’ first education policy plank recognized that we must invest in great teachers to meet the challenges facing Texas today,” Haecker said. “Our public schools are essential to our Texas communities, and Wendy Davis will work with us to keep Texas proud and strong.”

The Davis Record

The Education Candidate for Governor:

- Filibustered against the \$5.4 billion in school budget cuts in 2011.
- Led the effort in the Senate in 2013 to restore about 80 percent of the formula funding cut in 2011.
- Worked to reduce the number of standardized tests, giving teachers more time to teach and students more time to learn.

- Found money in the state budget in 2013 to provide about two-thirds of retired teachers with their first cost-of-living increase in more than a decade.
- Worked to give the Texas Education Agency the tools to make charter schools more accountable.
- Ensured quality control standards and course-load limits for virtual school operators.