

Legend: ● - Good , ● - Questionable, ● - Bad

Texas House District 56

Includes most of McLennan County except for East Waco and some communities in the eastern part of the county. Precincts:

1,3,4,7,8,11,16,19,23,25,26,28,29,30,31,32,33,34,35,36,37,38,39,40,41,42,44,45,46,47,48,49,50,51,52,53,54,55,56,58,59,60,61,62,63,64,65,66,67,73,74,75,76,77,78,79,80,81,82,83,91

	<u>Erin Shank (✓)</u>	<u>Pat Curry</u>
What are they saying/doing regarding funding?	<p>Our Texas public schools are molding our next generation. Ninety five percent of the youth in McLennan County are educated in our public schools. Yet Texas, with all its great wealth and prosperity, ranks 45th in the nation in school funding and teacher pay. We must fully fund our public school districts so they can provide teachers with much overdue and needed pay raises, be able to fully staff their schools, purchase the equipment and technology they need, provide special education support to our students with disabilities, and so much more. Our children are relying on us to get this right and we cannot let them down... (From her Website: Erin Shank for Texas House)</p> <p>As your representative, I will author and vote for legislation that supports our public schools, students and teachers. I will fight to fund our schools and provide our teachers with a permanent pay raise. (Facebook post, Erin Shank for Texas, July 13, 2024)</p>	<p>A strong public education system is critical to the success of our state and country. A product of local public schools, Pat will fight to improve public education, increase teacher pay, and take care of our retired educators. Pat is an ardent supporter of teachers and the public school system and helping students realize their highest potential in their chosen field. He is committed to working with our 17 school districts to strengthen their ties to family and business and work together with TSTC and Baylor to help every parent and student in the community, rather than a few. (From his website: Pat Curry Republican for Texas House - Pat Curry)</p> <p>...Curry also said he is in favor of more funding for public schools. (From: Pat Curry takes Republican nomination for House District 56 (wacotrib.com, 3/6/24))</p>
What are they saying/doing regarding vouchers?	<p>...Shank said she is against Abbott’s school voucher proposal and would push hard to advocate for teacher pay raises and public school funding. (From: Pat Curry takes Republican nomination for House District 56 (wacotrib.com, 3/6/24))</p> <p>I am firmly against vouchers because I understand that public dollars should stay in public schools, which educate 95% of Texas children. We must prioritize investing in our public education system to ensure every child has access to quality education. (From “School Vouchers - Abbott Claim Wrong,” blog post by Erin Shank last updated May 18, 2024)</p>	<p>...Even [Abbott’s] “five-star recruit” for an open House seat in Waco, local businessman Pat Curry, failed to bring up vouchers on the stump last week. Abbott, following Curry onstage, assured voters his chosen candidate would support the policy if elected... (From: Abbott turns to school culture wars to boost support for vouchers (houstonchronicle.com,1/17/24))</p> <p>...Curry also said he supports Abbott’s plans for school vouchers but wants to see a pilot version of the program to make sure it will work before it is widely implemented(From: Pat Curry takes Republican nomination for House District 56 (wacotrib.com, 3/6/24))</p> <p>Curry is endorsed by Greg Abbott. He will probably vote YES on vouchers.</p>
Do they focus on real concerns or scare tactics?	<p>Our Texas public schools are really hurting... According to a survey conducted by the Charles Butt Foundation, 77% of teachers have seriously considered leaving the profession ... (From an article on Texas Public Schools, Waco Trib, 10/9/22)</p>	<p>(No examples)</p>

What is Vote for ALL Kids all about?

Public schools in Texas serve ALL kids. They are funded and regulated by the Texas legislature. If we want high quality public education for ALL kids in Texas, we must elect legislators who will prioritize public schools.

The Plan

- 1. Evaluate.** – Evaluate the candidates regarding their support for public school.
- 2. Identify and connect.** - Find potential voters in McLennan County who want to vote to prioritize Public Schools. Get their contact information.
- 3. Inform.** - Get the voters information they need to vote for candidates who will prioritize public schools.
- 4. Get out the vote!** - Remind the voters when it is time to vote. Make sure they know when and where they can vote.
- 5. Keep watch.** – Keep an eye on our legislators once they are elected and report back to the voters.

How can you help?

- Join us! Scan the QR Code and click the big blue “join us” button to enter your contact information on the voteforallkids.org website.
- Spread the word – encourage other people to join us.
- Read our emails and posts. Take advantage of opportunities to learn about issues affecting public schools, and how our legislators are responding.
- Help us get out the vote when election time comes.
- Vote!

**VOTE FOR
ALL KIDS**



VOTEFORALLKIDS.ORG

What are we looking for in a candidate?

What are they saying and doing regarding funding? - Texas is in the bottom 10 states for public school funding. We would have to increase our annual per student funding by \$3,000 just to be average. Teachers and public school employees have been stretching insufficient dollars for years – really decades. Texas has a terrific economy. We could have the best public schools in the country, but we need adequate funding to move forward. Texas had a \$32 billion budget surplus last session and none of it went to fund public schools. So now, instead of moving forward, districts are making cuts to already tight budgets. Let’s vote for candidates who will prioritize funding for public schools.

What are they saying and doing regarding vouchers? - School vouchers, also called “school choice” or “educational savings accounts,” give tax money to parents to pay to put their kids in private schools. Voucher supporters say vouchers help low-income kids get a chance at a better education, but we know from programs in other states that they are mainly used by people who can already afford to have their kids in private schools. Governor Greg Abbott is determined to pass a voucher plan, but, so far, enough Republican and Democrat legislators have voted against it that he has failed. People from both parties understand that vouchers benefit only a few students at best. We don’t need vouchers; we need to fund public schools adequately to provide a great education for all kids. Vouchers are a distraction at best. At worst they drain funds and support from the public schools that serve the vast majority of our kids. Let’s vote for candidates who will vote NO on vouchers, at least until we have fully funded public schools.

Do they focus on real concerns or scare tactics? - Think about the educators you know. Chances are, they are working extremely hard to help their students learn the subject matter at hand, to develop critical thinking skills, to find their place in the world, and to grow into good citizens and good people. They are not “indoctrinating children into radical, leftist ideology” or “hyper-sexualizing” them. This kind of talk is a scare tactic and an insult to teachers. In almost every case it is simply not true. Public schools face some serious challenges, no doubt. Finding enough qualified teachers, supporting vulnerable students, managing behavior challenges – these are real concerns. Let’s vote for candidates who are talking about real concerns -- not candidates who are using scary words to stir up unfounded controversy and undermine trust in teachers.