

Texas Classroom
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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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The Texas Classroom Teachers Association supports Austin ISD's Proposition 1

(AUSTIN) – Today, the Texas Classroom Teachers Association (TCTA) announced its support for Austin Independent School District Proposition 1, which recommends an increased tax rate to pay for a three percent salary increase for Austin public school teachers. TCTA is working with the Austin Chamber of Commerce, Austin Council of PTAs, Austin Labor Council, League of Women Voters, and the Association of Texas Professional Educators in supporting the local proposition that would increase the tax rate by 3.9 cents per \$100 property valuation. The coalition has developed the [Support Austin Teachers](#) web site to help answer voter questions and provide detailed information about the November ballot issue.

“School districts, including Austin ISD, are being asked to attain ever-increasing goals for student achievement without commensurate increases in resources,” said Lindsay Gustafson, Director of Public Affairs for TCTA. “Under our current school finance system we must come to local voters to ask that they continue to support their school and educator salaries, ensuring teacher stability within Austin schools.”

(more)

(TCTA news release, continued)

Legislation passed during the 2006 special legislative session effectively froze education funding at the 2005-06 per student dollar amount, and does not provide for inflation or cost-of-living adjustments. In order to address the per-pupil spending problem, more than 200 school districts across the state have asked or will ask for voter-approved school tax increases, ranging from 2 to 13 cents per \$100 property valuation. The increased tax rate suggested by Austin ISD's Proposition 1 will cost the average Austin homeowner an additional \$8 per month.

Early voting begins Oct. 20. A list of voter locations may be found at www.supportaustinteachers.com, along with information for those who may want to volunteer their time or resources.

Founded in 1927, TCTA is based in Austin and is the only statewide teacher association that limits active-level membership to those directly involved in classroom teaching or teaching support. TCTA serves more than 50,000 members across the state, and includes a local chapter, the Austin Classroom Teachers Association. For more information about TCTA, visit us at www.tcta.org.