



# VOTE!

Voting is your sacred right and responsibility as an American citizen. Only 1 out of every 3 eligible Texans voted in the 2010 and 2014 midterm elections.\*1 We must do better in 2018! Your vote does make a difference and your vote does count. We encourage all TRTA members to be an informed electorate. We encourage all TRTA members to be a voting electorate.

## **ELECTION DATES YOU SHOULD REMEMBER**

**October 9:** Last day to register to vote. To register to vote in Texas, you must be a U. S. citizen, 18 years old on Election Day, mentally sound, and not a convicted felon.

**October 26:** Last day to ask for a mail-in ballot. If you are going out of town on Election Day, or if you are at least 65 years old, or disabled, you may ask for a mail-in ballot.

**October 22-November 2:** Early Voting. You must have a photo id in order to vote.

**November 6:** Election Day is from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

## **WHAT ARE OUR TRTA ISSUES?**

1. Keep Texas defined benefit retirement program
2. Save TRTA Health Insurance and campaign against escalating costs
3. Keep TRS pension fund solvent
4. Repeal the unfair Windfall Provisions Act (WEP) that penalizes Texas educators

## **HOW CAN I BECOME AN INFORMED VOTER?**

1. Review the candidates' positions on the issues. Do they support TRTA positions? Did they respond to a survey or fail to answer?
2. Engage in a dialogue with candidates at town hall meetings and candidate forums. Read their position statements.
3. Examine a candidate's record if they have previously held office. If they have not, see 2 above.
4. Once a candidate is elected to public office, hold them accountable. If they do not follow through with their pledged commitments then consider not supporting them in future elections.



## **INTERESTING FACTS** **ABOUT THE 2016 GENERAL ELECTION**

- **Texas voter turnout 11-8-16:** 46.2% (8,929,462)
- **Registered, but did not vote:** 40.9% (6,176,344)
- **Did not register to vote:** 11.8% (4,206,2680) \*2
- **Texas ranked 47th in registered voter turnout out of the 50 states and the District of Columbia.\*3**  
**47th!** Can you believe it? No more excuses. Texans must vote on November 6. It is time to let our voices be heard.

***“I am only one, but I am still one; I cannot do everything, but I can do something.  
And I should not fail to do that something I can do.”---Edward Everett Hale***

*\*1 Houston Chronicle, September 24, 2018, article written by Mustafa Talmeez.*

*\*2 Voter turnout statistics came from the Coryell County Democratic Party website and from the Secretary of State’s Office.*

*\*3 UT News, February 14, 2018.*

*This newsletter was sent to you by the Informative and Protective Services Committee: Earl Wall, Chair; Dr. Amy Jo Baker, Sander Barber, Petty Chapman and Alicia Smith.*