



# TSTA NEWS

TEXAS STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

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## TSTA: Clear contrast on education in governor and lieutenant governor races

Dan Patrick's nomination as the Republican candidate for lieutenant governor completes a GOP top-of-the-ballot ticket that is hostile to public schools, a clear contrast with the strong pro-education records of Wendy Davis and Leticia Van de Putte, the Democratic nominees for governor and lieutenant governor.

"It is crystal clear that Wendy Davis and Leticia Van de Putte are the real education candidates for governor and lieutenant governor," said Texas State Teachers Association President Rita Haecker.

"Wendy Davis and Leticia Van de Putte will continue working with parents and educators to give every child an opportunity to succeed, while Greg Abbott and Dan Patrick will divert tax dollars from neighborhood schools to experiment with unproven privatization schemes for a select few children," Haecker added.

Here are the differences on key education issues between Davis-Van de Putte and Abbott-Patrick:

- Davis and Van de Putte fought against \$5.4 billion in school budget cuts in 2011 and led the effort in the Senate in 2013 to restore most of the funding. Patrick voted for the \$5.4 billion in cuts, and Abbott continues to defend them and the remainder of the state's inadequate, inequitable school funding system.
- Davis and Van de Putte support strong neighborhood schools, including pre-kindergarten programs, for all children. Patrick is a long-time proponent of wasting tax dollars on unproven school privatization schemes, including corporate-run charters and private school vouchers. Abbott has proposed an exclusive pre-K program for a select few children, saying pre-K for all is a "waste" of tax dollars.
- Davis and Van de Putte oppose teaching-to-the-test. Abbott has suggested high-stakes standardized testing for 4-year-olds.