



# TSTA NEWS

TEXAS STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

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## TSTA: Van de Putte advocates for schools; Patrick poses a disaster

Leticia Van de Putte reaffirmed her position as the real education candidate during tonight's lieutenant governor's debate, while Dan Patrick emerged from hiding long enough to try to mislead Texans about his miserable education voting record and the real danger he poses for public schools.

"Dan Patrick, in tonight's debate, continued to falsely portray himself as a champion of education, when, in fact, he would be a disaster for public schools as lieutenant governor," said TSTA President Noel Candelaria. "Patrick voted for \$5.4 billion in school budget cuts in 2011, he voted against the entire state budget – including all education funding – in 2013 and, if given the chance, he will continue to steal tax dollars from Texas students for more testing and private school vouchers."

"Leticia Van de Putte is a genuine advocate for students and educators. She will reduce testing and tap into billions in available state revenue to increase our investment in strong neighborhood schools, including expanded early childhood education and other programs critical to our state's future," Candelaria added.

The state comptroller's office recently reported that sales tax revenue grew by 5.5 percent last fiscal year and is expected to increase by about that much this year, thanks to a strong economy. The Rainy Day Fund balance has reached \$8.4 billion and is projected to reach double digits soon because of increased oil and gas production.