



TSTA NEWS

TEXAS STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION 8716 N. Mopac Expressway, Austin, TX 78759 • 877-ASK-TSTA • www.tsta.org • Fax 512-486-7049

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Contact: Clay Robison

ClayR@tsta.org

cell: 512.535.8994

TSTA poll shows overwhelming support among Texas voters for teacher priority for COVID vaccines

Texas voters overwhelmingly across demographic and partisan groups think that Texas should designate public school teachers as essential workers and give them priority for vaccinations against COVID-19, a bipartisan poll commissioned by the Texas State Teachers Association shows.

Eighty-one percent of respondents to the telephone survey, conducted Feb. 9-15 by LRP and The Tarrance Group, agreed teachers were essential and should be moved toward the front of the vaccine line so that schools can open safely. Only 15 percent disagreed, saying other qualifications, such as age and health status, should be determining factors.

The poll of 700 likely 2022 Texas voters included an oversample of 200 likely Republican primary voters.

“We are not surprised by these findings,” said TSTA President Ovidia Molina. “We know that all school employees are essential workers and have been performing heroically during this health crisis. We again call on Gov. Greg Abbott to grant our request for teachers and all other school employees to be given priority for vaccines. He should direct local health authorities to set aside enough vaccines to be offered exclusively to them.”

“Vaccinations of educators will make our schools safer places in which to learn and work and will help speed up the reopening of the Texas economy,” she added.

The widespread support for teacher vaccinations extends across demographic groups, including party identification, gender, age and race.

Support from various groups was:

Self-identified Democrats, 88 percent; self-identified independents, 77 percent; self-identified Republicans, 77 percent; Republican primary voters, 79 percent; women, 84 percent; men, 78 percent; younger than age 55, 82 percent; age 55 or older, 81 percent; Anglos, 80 percent; Blacks, 86 percent; Latinos, 85 percent.

The margin for error was plus or minus 3.7 percent and larger for subgroups.