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Two TSTA members, one former member elected to Legislature in critical election for public education

As part of the most transformational election for public education in Texas in decades, two Texas State Teachers Association members and one former member were elected to the Texas House Tuesday.

Adrian Reyna, a TSTA member and U.S. history teacher in San Antonio ISD, won the open District 125 House seat in San Antonio. Reyna also is executive vice president of the San Antonio Alliance, TSTA's local union affiliate in the district.

Michelle Williams, a TSTA member and former president of the Houston Education Association, TSTA's affiliate in Houston ISD, unseated Republican incumbent Charles Cunningham in House District 127.

Montserrat Garibay, a former bilingual pre-K teacher in Austin ISD and former vice president of Education Austin, TSTA's local affiliate, was elected to the House District 49 seat, being vacated by Gov.-elect Gina Hinojosa.

"TSTA is happy to see real education experts, such as these members of our union family, elected to public office," TSTA President Linda Estrada said. "Now they will step up to the political front lines and work to improve funding for our public school classrooms, raise pay for teachers and support staff, repeal or limit the private school voucher law and reduce teacher and student time spent on wasteful, standardized testing."

Estrada also applauded the election of Hinojosa to the governor's office and other TSTA-endorsed, pro-public education candidates to key statewide offices – Vikki Goodwin (lieutenant governor), Sarah Eckhardt (comptroller) and Nathan Johnson (attorney general).

"This new leadership will end the Abbott-Patrick war on public schools and the teachers who work in them. All our students will benefit with better-funded resources and an end to political and ideological meddling in their classrooms," Estrada said.

"Hinojosa has been a champion for our public schools, first as a school board member and then a legislator. Now, she will be the advocate and ally educators and students have long needed in the governor's office to refocus our state's education priorities on public schools, not privatization," she added.

TSTA also applauded James Talarico's election to the U.S. Senate and the Democratic takeover of majorities in both congressional chambers.

"Talarico will work with his new colleagues to stem Trump's attacks on our democracy and work to repeal the new federal voucher law for private schools, restore Trump's cuts to federal education funding and end Trump's illegal efforts to shut down the Department of Education," Estrada said.