



# MCALLEN AFT NEWS



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## **H-E-B Education Excellence Awards**

Nominations are being accepted to help choose our state's 2018 outstanding public school educators, school boards and public or private early childhood education facilities. Since 2002, the program has awarded more than \$9.3 million in cash, gift cards and grants to finalists and winners.

### **District Award**

This honor is designed to recognize school districts and is based on the following criteria:

- Commitment to student achievement through innovative programs
- Parent/Community involvement
- Professional development opportunities for teachers and administrators

### **Teacher Award**

This honor is designed to recognize teachers and is based on the following criteria:

- Passion and commitment to the teaching profession
- Innovation and creativity in the classroom
- Professional growth and development

Application information can be found at:  
<https://www.heb.com/static-page/excellence-in-education-awards>

## **SEPT. 13-15 SBOE Meeting Highlights**

The State Board of Education received a briefing on the 47-page draft School Library Program: Standards and Guidelines for Texas document that is being developed to replace the current school library standards that were adopted in 2005. The standards are being developed by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. Elizabeth Philippi the commission's school library coordinator, told SBOE Committee on Instruction members that the school library standards are being developed with an eye toward streamlining the document to make it easier for school administrators to evaluate their own libraries and to work with librarians in creating a meaningful and strong library program at their schools.

The standards will not be mandatory for districts and campuses to implement (because there's nothing in state law to require districts to adopt the standards and the TEA lacks legal authority to sanction districts that don't adopt the standards).

The draft standards provide opportunities for school administrators to self-evaluate school libraries on a five step rating system—Distinguished, Accomplished, Proficient, Developing and Improvement Needed—in these six core "strands": 1) information literacy, 2) inquiry, 3) reading, 4) digital learning, 5) safe and nurturing environment and 6) leadership.



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## Continued

### State constitutional amendments on November 7 ballot—register to vote by October 10

There's an election coming up on November 7 that will decide the shape of school boards in many communities across Texas as well as the fate of seven amendments to the Texas Constitution. In many local school bonds, tax rates, and other policy propositions will be on the ballot as well. Last day to register to vote in time for this election is October 10. For registration information, visit <http://www.votetexas.gov/register-to-vote/index.html>. Early voting runs from October 23 through November 3. We encourage you to get informed and get involved. It'll be good practice for 2018, when federal and state lawmakers as well as key local officials come before the voters.

Here's a preview of the seven constitutional amendments on the statewide ballot.

–**Proposition 1:** Allows a property tax exemption on the homestead of a partially disabled veteran that was donated in part and partly purchased by the veteran. Current law allows the exemption only if the homestead was fully donated.

–**Proposition 2:** Eases restrictions on home-equity loans (extensions of credit secured by a lien on a homestead). For instance, it would allow a homeowner to refinance a home-equity loan as a non-home-equity loan, which would allow foreclosure without a court order and permit lenders to have recourse against other assets.

–**Proposition 3:** Limits terms for certain gubernatorial appointees. State appointees who complete their terms of office currently continue to perform their duties until a successor is confirmed by the Texas Senate. This amendment would limit how long an appointee with an expired term could hold over even if no successor has been approved.



We are at a critical moment when we must reclaim the promise of public education—not as it is today or as it was in the past, but as it can be—to fulfill our collective obligation to help all children succeed.

–**Proposition 4:** Requires notice to the attorney general of Texas when a case is filed in state court that challenges the constitutionality of a Texas statute. After giving this notice, the court would have to wait 45 days before issuing a final judgment, in order to give the attorney general time to intervene in defense of the challenged law.

–**Proposition 5:** Current law allows charitable foundations of certain professional sports teams based in Texas to conduct charitable raffles; this amendment would expand the list of teams eligible for this exemption from the general prohibition of lotteries and gift enterprises.

–**Proposition 6:** The constitution currently allows a homestead tax exemption for the surviving spouse of a member of the U.S. military killed in action. This proposition extends the same treatment to the surviving spouse of a first responder killed in the line of duty.

–**Proposition 7:** Lets the Legislature allow banks to hold raffles to provide incentives to put money in a savings account. Current law allows raffles only for charitable causes.

For more information, see <http://www.hro.house.state.tx.us/pdf/focus/amend85.pdf>.

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