



Elgin Teachers Association - Serving Over 2,500 Members in Eleven Communities

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Fellow ETA Members:

With early voting starting on October 22 and the election on November 6, it is important professionally for ETA members to get involved. Over the past four years, we have seen legislation that has directly impacted us--the most recent being the 3% law passed as part of the compromise for accepting the proposed IL budget.

Consider that teachers tend to vote at a 20% higher rate than the population as a whole. It is not surprising that candidates not only seek our IEA endorsement but also count on support from IEA members as make-or-break in their path to victory. One promising update is this November election has more current educators running for public office than ever before. Educators are frustrated by what has been occurring in Springfield, and they want to make a difference.

We are asking every ETA member to learn about the candidates asking for your vote. We hope you will consider the IEA endorsement. The candidates endorsed by the IEA are chosen because, after an extensive process, they want to see the best possible education for all students, and they will listen to the collective voices of the ETA and other teachers' unions.

In order to fill legislative seats in Springfield and Washington with friends of education, we need to vote. Beyond voting, we need to remember that members of our community respect our voices as teachers. Consider encouraging family and friends to vote. Discussing politics can be difficult, but remember that the vast majority of communications we receive about the election (TV commercials, phone calls, direct mailers) are intended for one purpose: motivating voters to get to the polls. A very small percent of materials are intended to change a voter's mind about a candidate.

We increase our sphere of influence by encouraging friends and family to vote, and we increase our influence even more by actively supporting candidates. If you feel strongly about a candidate, look at his/her website to see how you can get involved. Imagine if every ETA member gave just two hours on an evening or on the weekend. Our voices would truly be heard loud and clear.

Thank you for all you do as educators. Let's work together this year to ensure the best representation for education at local, state, and national levels.

From Your ETA Leadership