

★ **Property Taxes Increased Because School Funding Decreased**

In the past, the state paid 60% of the cost of public education. It's now down to 38%, forcing school districts to raise tax rates to cover the loss. Blanco County is considered "property rich" so our money helps fund other districts. This wouldn't be necessary if the Texas Legislature would set a basic allotment to fund every school equally. The state should pay at least 50% to help ease local tax rates, reduce class sizes, recruit and retain teachers, and improve education.

★ **Keep Our Public Dollars in Public Schools**

Public schools are the backbone of rural Texas, but some people want to take money from our schools to subsidize private, for-profit schools. School vouchers wouldn't even cover the full cost but would be a tax-break for wealthy Texans who can afford the tuition. Blanco County does not have any for-profit schools. Even if these private schools did exist in rural Texas, they don't have to accept all students.

★ **Teaching to the Test is Not Education**

Texas has more standardized testing than is required by federal law. Too often, these tests are used to shame students, blame teachers, and punish schools. Imagine the amazing job our teachers will do when not forced to just teach to the test. Testing has its place, but that should not prevent our teachers from inspiring our children and helping them grow into young adults who know how to think.

★ **Teachers Deserve to Be Paid Fairly**

We are fortunate to have great teachers in Blanco County. Let's pay them fairly. Let's also honor our commitment to our retired teachers. Many of them must go without the basics such as healthcare because they aren't eligible for social security and the Teacher Retirement Service pension hasn't given a cost-of-living increase since 1999. Let's provide both current and retired teachers competitive benefit plans which will help attract and retain the best and the brightest.

Our children deserve a great public education.

Our teachers deserve to be paid fairly.

Constant standardized testing isn't the best way to learn.

We need to keep our money in Blanco County.

**TALK TO YOUR
LOCAL DEMOCRATS**
We Share Your Values

