



Tax Rate Election (TRE) Employee Do's and Don'ts

On August 30, 2018, the Clint ISD Board of Trustees adopted an order calling for a Tax Ratification Election (TRE) to be held November 6, 2018. Clint ISD voters will be asked to ratify the new Maintenance and Operations (M&O) tax rate of \$1.17. You can read about this election on the District's website. We have provided information to educate and inform the public about this election.

In preparation for the TRE election, the District would like to provide a reminder about what schools, the District, and employees can and cannot communicate about the TRE election when using District resources.

State law prevents district from using public funds or resources, including intercampus mail, district facilities or district-sponsored events, to advocate for or against a **TRE**. School districts and their employees **may communicate only factual information**. Please review the information and guidelines below on the do's and don'ts of communicating about the TRE.

Knowing the Law

The law that indicates how public funds can or cannot be used for political advertising, such as advocating for or against a TRE, can be found in the Texas Election Code. Section 255.003 in the code stipulates that:

- (a) An officer or employee of a political subdivision (school district) may not spend or authorize the spending of public funds for political advertising.
- (b) Subsection (a) does not apply to a communication that factually describes the purposes of a measure if the communication does not advocate passage or defeat of the measure.
- A person who violates this section commits an offense, which, under this section, is a Class A misdemeanor.

Do's and Don'ts

To better understand the intent of the law, please review the following examples of what you, as an employee, can and cannot do when communicating about the TRE.

As a CISD employee DO:

- Provide factual information in English and Spanish.
- Provide factual information on voting times and locations.
- Provide factual information on student growth, performance data, and needs of the district.

As a CISD employee DON'T:

- Don't use district funds or resources to advocate for or against the TRE.
- Don't advocate for or against the TRE using district time.
- Don't use the district's communication systems, including e-mail, telephone, and text messaging, to advocate for or against the TRE. (e.g. sending and or forwarding an email advocating for or against the TRE would be a direct violation of the law)
- Don't allow a third-party to distribute promotional material advocating for or against the TRE in district facilities during district-sponsored events.

Need more info?

To find more information on how state law affects your communications about the TRE, please visit the Texas Election Code and the Texas Ethics Commission websites.