



Steve Sprowls

Texas HD 93 – School Choice Memo

Prepared November 11, 2025

RESEARCH FINDINGS.....

On his personal page, Sprowls posted an image on Facebook saying “Say No to Vouchers”3

Sprowls has called school vouchers a “scam.”4

Sprowls emailed Rep. Charlie Geren in November 2023: “Thank you for your vote to remove vouchers from HB1. Northwest ISD stakeholders appreciate your commitment to them.”5

Sprowls laments that, “charter schools receive the same, if not more funding per student from the state. Yet they are not held to the same higher accountability standards of ISD public schools.” 15

Sprowls gets his “advocacy” training and promotes messaging from Raise Your Hand Texas. The group has been denounced by GOP organizations..... 16

Sprowls made a post before the 2024 Primary attacking Gov. Abbott and his “puppets” promoting school vouchers. He encouraged people to vote against Abbott’s endorsed candidates, reading this post it’s hard to imagine he voted for the Republican state candidates in the general election..... 25

Sprowls advocates for teachers and wants more tax dollars to go towards their salaries. He of course stands to benefits from this since his wife is a public-school teacher. 27

Sprowls supported a whopping \$2 billion bond for Northwest ISD in 2023. The bond was split into three propositions, it covered the creation of new schools and sporting venues, as well as updates to existing structures and technology. 28

The 2023 bond that Sprowls championed exemplifies the corrupt dealings between school boards, TASB, and contractors. While Sprowls points to the bond’s passage as a sign of community support, the bond campaign to sway voters received half its financial support from NISD vendors. 32

Sprowls has championed raising ISD taxes to such a level that it requires voter approval at least three times, including as recently as August 2025. Voters rejected the higher taxes in 2020 and in 2024. Perhaps Sprowls and the board think they will have a better chance of passing their tax hikes during an off-year election. 35

In February 2026, Northwest ISD announced program cuts due to a \$16 million deficit. NISD had planned to close the deficit with the VATRE. 42

Sprowls on keeping homeschoolers accountable if they receive vouchers: "If ISDs have to be under a perpetual colonoscopy when it comes to financial and academic accountability & transparency, so should any educational entity that receives tax payer money. I also ask them what their far-right wackadoodle base will think when they learn that all religious denomination private schools will receive taxpayer money; not just the mega-church christian schools." 45

Sprowls: "Seriously, when you get past the noise of the wackadoodles, and realize that ISDs are under a perpetual financial colonoscopy, NISD has amazing folks performing financial miracles everyday." 46

In a vulgar and emotional post, Sprowls accused Republican Senators of "hating" public school students and treating them as 3/5 the value of private school students. 47

Sprowls voted to adopt Northwest ISD's 2024-2025 legislative priorities. These included oppose universal private-school vouchers or Education Savings Account programs and revising required ballot language for bond elections that "misleads voters" – a shot at the requirement that bond propositions state "this is a tax increase." 49

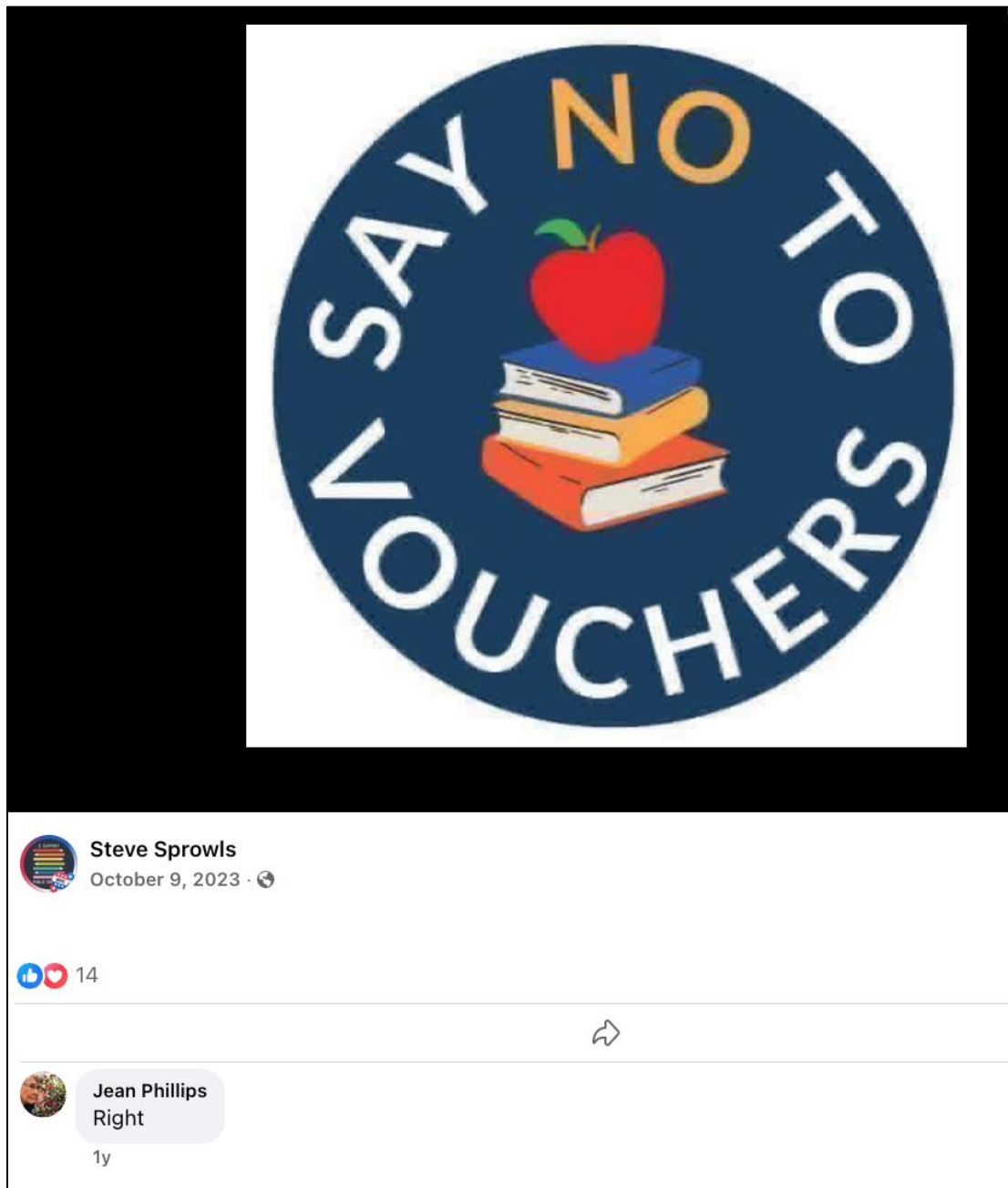
Sprowls voted to adopt Northwest ISD's 2023 legislative priorities. These included oppose any effort to divert local property tax revenue for any non-public 55

education purpose and revising required ballot language for bond elections that "misleads voters" – a shot at the requirement that bond propositions state "this is a tax increase." 55

Sprowls claims that "administrative fees" built into school choice bills proves that vouchers are a "scam" while all fund expenditures per student in Northwest ISD is over \$26k. 57

Sprowls claims that a "private school student" gets more money than a "public school student" from the state. 59

On his personal page, Sprowls posted an image on Facebook saying “Say No to Vouchers”



Facebook, 10/09/2023

Sprowls has called school vouchers a “scam.”



Steve Sprowls Trustee Place 5 for Northwest ISD

March 7 · 🌐



Two Austin visits in two weeks. Advocating, building relationships, and sharing NISD successes and struggles.

Met again with [Nate Schatzline For Texas](#)'s office. Much better conversations this time. Unfortunately he's set in his ways with the [voucher scam](#), but looking to draw his attention to the lack of financial and academic accountability with vouchers and the 8% administrative fees built into HB3 to the tune of \$1 BILLION...gotta love bigger government and easy access for those intent on fraud, waste, and abuse.

Also meet with Senator [Kelly Hancock](#)'s Education Aides. The Senate has been passing Education bills faster than the measles outbreak is happening in West TX. I just wish we could get the Senator to call us on impacts to NISD before voting on these Senate Bills. However, we did have a good conversation about SB260 (School Safety Funding). It a great next step, but still equates to school safety requirements being an underfunded mandate. As of now, this bill would provide approximately \$55.6K/campus to NISD. Considering a Ft Worth SRO costs NISD \$110K/each on the high end and \$60K for the one Wise County deputy, we're still about \$700K short as a district having to pay for these State required positions. On a personal side with me being an Air Force veteran, and Senator Hancock being the Chair of the Veteran's committee, we got into a discussion about a bill the Senator is writing that will make it quicker for Vets and their spouses to get industry required certifications in TX. I asked if teaching certifications could be included in the bill. We'll see if it happens.

By chance met with Representative Geren on the elevator. Told him we appreciate his support of public education and his past no votes on the voucher scam.

[Facebook](#), 03/07/2025

Sprowls emailed Rep. Charlie Geren in November 2023:
“Thank you for your vote to remove vouchers from HB1.
Northwest ISD stakeholders appreciate your commitment
to them.”

Tate, Andie

From: Steve Sprowls <steve.sprows@nisdtx.org>
Sent: Friday, November 17, 2023 6:16 PM
To: Charlie.Geren@house.texas.gov
Subject: Thank you! 🍷❤️

Representative Geren,


Thank you for your vote to remove vouchers from HB1. Northwest ISD stakeholders appreciate your commitment to them.

All the best,
Steve Sprowls
President, Northwest ISD Board of Trustees

1

Northwest ISD Public Information Act Release, Steve Sprowls email 11/17/2023

- ◆ In October 2023, Sprowls made a series of posts attacking vouchers, all with a similarly worded disclaimer to the effect of “below is my opinion, and it doesn’t necessarily represent the view of either NISD or the other board members.”

**Steve Sprowls Trustee Place 5 for Northwest ISD**
October 15, 2023 · 🌐

Below is another one of those long posts that I write...which means it's important...and I need your help. Also below is my opinion, and it doesn't necessarily represent the views of either NISD or the other board members.

Our State Representatives have been called back to Austin by Governor Abbott for another Special Session. One of the agenda items set by the governor is vouchers for private and home schools. The governor is hell-bent on getting these vouchers passed, and he will hold school funding and teacher pay raises hostage to get his way. He's even threatening State Representatives that his big-money backers will support an opponent against them in the primaries next March if they don't support his voucher plan. Because of this, he has a couple of our local State Reps running scared. Sadly, most of the legislators (both State Senators & State Reps) that represent NISD families are in favor of school vouchers. With that said, NISD students and teachers need your help advocating to our State Legislators. At the bottom of this post, I'll have info on how to reach the ones that represent your family.

So what's the big deal? It's all about parent choice and failing public schools right? Sure, and I'm not opposed to school choice. Parents are the best advocates for their kiddos and are free to chose how they want their children educated either by public, private, or home school. However, if an educational institution or home school family is going to receive taxpayer monies, then they all need to play by the same "set of rules" in regards to accountability, transparency, testing standards, reporting requirements, and no discrimination. As taxpayers, we deserve a high level of fiduciary responsibility no matter who receives the monies. Currently, only public schools will have to jump through all of the hoops, while private and home schools will not.

Dollar amount per student:

- Private/Home School \$8000 per student (proposed)
- Public School \$6160 per student. This amount was last updated in 2019. Since then, inflation has rising by 17%. However, this "basic allotment" has not changed and a meager 2.5% increase didn't pass early this year. To keep up with inflation, it needs a snap-up adjustment to \$7200. In a prefect world where state legislators are pro-public education, they would not only increase the basic allotment to \$7200, but they would also add a "COLA" (cost of living adjustment) to this amount. The inflation this year alone is looking to be over 3%. Unfortunately, our state leaders think the basic allotment set in 2019 is good enough regardless of the fact that everything costs more now.

Facebook, 10/15/2023

Steve Sprowls Trustee Place 5 for Northwest ISD's post



- So why are the amounts per student different for private/home school (\$8000) and public ed (\$6160)? 🧐 My guess is they want to filter tax-payer money to their big-money donors who run the private schools.

- What can you do? Demand our state legislators increase the basic allotment to a minimum of \$7200. Also demand they include a COLA to the basic allotment. If vouchers should pass, also demand the dollar amounts per student (regardless of public, private, or home school) are the same across the board.

Inflation & Teacher Pay Raises:

- 80-85% of NISD's budget goes to salaries to teachers, admin, bus drivers, and all other NISD employees

- The big chunk of the money to pay for teachers salaries comes from the basic allotment mentioned above (\$6160).

- This past year, NISD had to pass a \$3 million deficit budget to give teachers and staff a 3% raise to stay competitive. Most of the surrounding ISDs did the same thing.

- Again the basic allotment hasn't increased since 2019 even though inflation is up 17% in the same timeframe. Because if this, NISD (and surrounding ISDs) haven't been able to increase teacher salaries to keep up with inflation.

- Due to their inaction, indifference, and/or lack of support for public ed, the state leaders that represent NISD families are basically saying they don't appreciate the teaching profession and that teachers should be happy with the meager pay raises

- It should be noted that UAW workers are currently on strike because a 20% pay raise wasn't high enough. But teachers are expected to "shut up and color" and be happy with the 3% raise.

- What can you do? Demand our state legislators increase the basic allotment to a minimum of \$7200 so we can pay the teachers their worth.

Average Daily Attendance (ADA) vs Enrollment:

- The basic allotment of \$6160 is based on ADA. So when a student misses school for any reason: sickness, family vacation, etc, NISD loses money.

- Private/Home school vouchers will be based on enrollment. So when a student misses for any reason, the school will still get the money.

- In a perfect world, the basic allotment should also be based on enrollment since we have to staff classrooms based on enrollment to abide by state required student to teacher ratios.

- What can you do? Demand our state legislators base basic allotment off of enrollment. If vouchers should pass, demand they base the ADA & vouchers off the same category for fairness.

Facebook, 10/15/2023

Steve Sprowls Trustee Place 5 for Northwest ISD's post



Financial Transparency/Accountability/STAAR Testing/Discrimination

- Public schools have to be financially transparent, be subject to outside audits, and be fiduciary stewards of taxpayers money...Private schools—none of these will be required if they receive taxpayer dollars for vouchers.

- Public schools have to be accountable to taxpayers in several ways. Campus grades, graduation rates, open records requests, etc ...Private schools—none of these will be required if they receive taxpayer dollars for vouchers.

- Public schools are required to have students take the STAAR test ...Private schools—no requirement if they receive taxpayer dollars for vouchers.

- Public schools cannot discriminate which students they'll accept at their campuses. They have to accept anyone that enrolls ...Private schools—They can discriminate at will for any reason if they receive taxpayer dollars for vouchers

- What can you do? If vouchers should pass, demand our state legislators make any entity, institution, or homeschool family play by the same rules. This is a no brainer to ensure fiduciary responsibility. Otherwise, the voucher program will be ripe for fraud shenanigans.

Also, let's remind our State Legislators they represent us, their constituents. They do not work for or represent the Governor. If the governor's voucher plans is so amazing, let it stand on its own merit. Hell, put it on a ballot and let the citizens decide what's best. Tell the legislators NOT to hold school funding hostage to pass vouchers. That's a cowardly approach in my opinion.

So how do I engage/contact my state legislators?

The attached map shows the relationship to our state legislators boundaries and the NISD boundary. Also, the NISD Advocacy Committee website below has a link on how to reach out to the nine state legislators that represent NISD constituents. The website also has info on issues important to NISD:

<https://www.nisdtx.org/.../legislative/advocacy-committee>

If you've read this far, thank you. Please be proactive and please engage with our state leaders. Our students and teachers need the voices of the entire community.



NORTHWEST ISD DELEGATION

Northwest ISD and Texas Senate Districts



Facebook, 10/15/2023

Steve Sprowls Trustee Place 5 for Northwest ISD's post



If you've read this far, thank you. Please be proactive and please engage with our state leaders. Our students and teachers need the voices of the entire community.

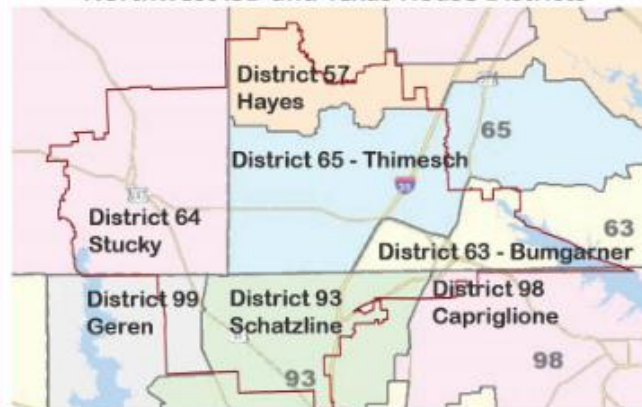


NORTHWEST ISD DELEGATION

Northwest ISD and Texas Senate Districts



Northwest ISD and Texas House Districts



  43

3 comments 40 shares

[Facebook](#), 10/15/2023

Steve Sprowls Trustee Place 5 for Northwest ISD's post



Steve Sprowls Trustee Place 5 for Northwest ISD

October 17, 2023 · 🌐

...

Below is obviously satire aimed at making fun of the stupidity that is the current voucher plan being pushed by the governor and our state senators. As always, what I say on my Trustee page is my opinion and my opinion alone.

This voucher thing may not be so bad after all if you don't mind scamming taxpayers out of their money...err...I mean advancing the educational standards of the State of Texas

My plan is to start a shiny, brand new private school in a strip mall and only admit 100 students. Since oversight from the State will be slim to none...err...I mean allow for freedom and flexibility, I'll be the sole instructor. Don't worry about my lack of having a teaching certification or the 100:1 student to teacher ratio. If the State doesn't care, you shouldn't either. What about the curriculum you ask? As long as your kids aren't with the riff-raff in public schools does it matter what the curriculum is? Just kidding...PragerU of course!!! I'm sure you're wondering about the STAAR test correct? Pppfffff...private school baby...no STAAR test required even when receiving tax payer money!!! Let's not forget tuition. I'll only charge \$8000/student...which means \$0 out of pocket for the parents. I'm just here to scam the taxpayers...err...I mean advance the educational standards for the State of Texas. Oh, who will I allow to attend my "prestigious" private school? Any one I want. I'm allowed to discriminate at will for any reason!!! What about oversight, accountability, transparency of my school? 🤔🤔🤔🤔🤔🤔...wait...serious face...🤔🤔🤔. The State says it's up to the parents. If they're not happy with the results, then they can remove their kids. But remember...PragerU!!! By the time parents figure out my scam...err...my academic standards, I will have collected \$800,000 in one year. I won't push my luck too far though. I'll just do it for two years and walk away with \$1.6 million.

I love the wisdom of our Governor & State Senators...giddy up 🤗🤗🤗

👉 Again...satire 👉



Facebook, 10/17/2023

◆ October 11, 2023 email from Sprowls to Superintendent Mark Foust:

Tate, Andie

From: Steve Sprowls <steve.sproles@nisdtx.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2023 2:22 PM
To: Foust, Mark
Subject: Re: NISD & State Legislator Maps

Thanks. Are any of our legislators anti-voucher? Which one is scared of the Governor? Would you consider Thimesch a public school/NISD ally? She comes across to me that way.

I'm working on a post that will call them out for not abiding by the wishes of their constituents.

All the best,
Steve Sprowls

On Oct 10, 2023, at 10:49, Foust, Mark <mark.foust@nisdtx.org> wrote:

I think Angela may have made an error on the map and she is double checking and updating.
I believe that is Richard Hayes of Denton. I met him at his office last week. He is a freshman rep, but lifelong resident in Denton ISD, supports vouchers and parent choice, but not opposed to more funding for staff raises. Does not understand public ed, public school finance at all based on our conversation. He is an attorney.

<image001.png>

Mark Foust, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
817-215-0030

Northwest Independent School District
PO Box 770070 | Fort Worth, TX 76177

From: Steve Sprowls <steve.sproles@nisdtx.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2023 9:39 AM
To: Foust, Mark <mark.foust@nisdtx.org>
Subject: Re: NISD & State Legislator Maps

Thank you. Who is in the HD above Thimesch?

All the best,
Steve Sprowls

On Oct 10, 2023, at 09:14, Foust, Mark <mark.foust@nisdtx.org> wrote:

This is what Angela Scott has. I hope this works for you.

<image002.png>

Mark Foust, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
817-215-0030

Northwest Independent School District
PO Box 770070 | Fort Worth, TX 76177

From: Scott, Angela <AScott@nisdtx.org>
Sent: Monday, October 9, 2023 5:20 PM
To: Foust, Mark <mark.foust@nisdtx.org>
Subject: RE: NISD & State Legislator Maps

Attached is a Northwest ISD Delegation map. Following is information on contacting legislators, which is available at this link - <https://www.nisdtx.org/about-nisd/strategic-planning/legislative/advocacy-committee>. I do not have a quick reference guide for communicating with our legislators, but we could certainly work on developing something.

Contact Your Local Legislators

When contacting your legislators, consider sharing your home address and/or identifying yourself as a constituent, parent, employee, etc. of Northwest ISD or a specific area. Legislators often give more consideration to their local constituents.

1. [Who Represents Me?](#)
2. [Email the nine Senators and Representatives representing Northwest ISD.](#)
3. [Local Legislators Contact Information](#)

Let me know what you might need.
Angela

Angela Scott
Public Affairs Coordinator
Northwest Independent School District
Office – (817) 698-1088
Mobile – (817) 307-9701
<image001.png>

-----Original Message-----

From: Foust, Mark <mark.foust@nisdtx.org>
Sent: Monday, October 9, 2023 3:11 PM
To: Scott, Angela <AScott@nisdtx.org>
Subject: FW: NISD & State Legislator Maps

Can you help with this?

Mark Foust, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
817-215-0030

Northwest Independent School District
PO Box 770070 | Fort Worth, TX 76177

-----Original Message-----

From: Steve Sprowls <steve.sprows@nisdtx.org>
Sent: Monday, October 9, 2023 1:34 PM
To: Foust, Mark <mark.foust@nisdtx.org>
Subject: NISD & State Legislator Maps

Dr Foust,

Can I get updated maps showing State Senators & State Reps boundaries overlaid into a NISD boundary map? I want to share on social media, so our Daniela know who represents them.

Also, does Angela have. Quick Reference gGuide on how best to email/contact our legislators?

All the best,
Steve Sprowls

<Northwest ISD Delegation Map.jpg>

◆ October 11, 2023 email from Sprowls to Superintendent Mark Foust:

Tate, Andie

From: Steve Sprowls <steve.sprows@nisdbx.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2023 2:18 PM
To: Foust, Mark
Subject: Basic Allotment


Working in a FB post about vouchers and school funding. Are these figures correct?

Basic Allotment of \$6160 was set in 2019.

Did they increase it at all this past session? I have notes that say it will increase by \$90 for FY24 and another \$50 for FY24. Is this correct? I can't find it these amounts this time.

All the best,
Steve Sprowls

Sprowls laments that, “charter schools receive the same, if not more funding per student from the state. Yet they are not held to the same higher accountability standards of ISD public schools.”


Steve Sprowls Trustee Place 5 for Northwest ISD · [Follow](#)
February 28, 2019 · 🌐
...

Click the link below to let your Texas Legislators know they need to fix the school finance mess this session.


<https://texansforstrongpublicschools.org/fivethings.aspx>

In the link above, watch the short video that briefly touches on the 5 things they need to address.

My thoughts on the "5 Things":

- 1 & 2...it's s no brainer. They know we as parents don't understand it, and if we don't understand we don't know how to fix it. So the legislators just keep kicking the can down the road. But the need for property tax relief has brought it to the forefront this session.
- 3...even if tax rates aren't raised by local entities, we have no control on the appraised tax value of our homes. The tax value of my house has risen 40% over the last 5 years. That would be great if I were selling my house, but I'm not. Now it's just a tax burden that I can't control. If your a renter, this effects you as well. Part of your rent goes to pay for property taxes, and in my opinion, one of the reasons rental rates are so high.
- 4...The next school year, \$22 million dollars of NISD's budget will be "Robin Hood'ed" to the state. This \$22 million dollars will be put in the State's General Fund. Not all of the \$22 million that was taxed for educational purposes will be used for education. Some of it will be diverted to pay for roads, political pet projects, etc...which is unconstitutional.
- 5...charter schools receive the same, if not more funding per student from the state. Yet they are not held to the same higher accountability standards of ISD public schools. They are also allowed to discriminate and turn kids away from attending their school. Also when a charter school closes for financial reasons, why doesn't their assets go back to State that gave them the monies to buy those assets? Why does a separate entity that was created by the charter school get keep the assets? So are charter schools just a way for a corporate entity to acquire real estate assets using state funds with no real intentions of educating kids?

If you want change, you have to speak up. Click the link above to let the legislators hear your voice.



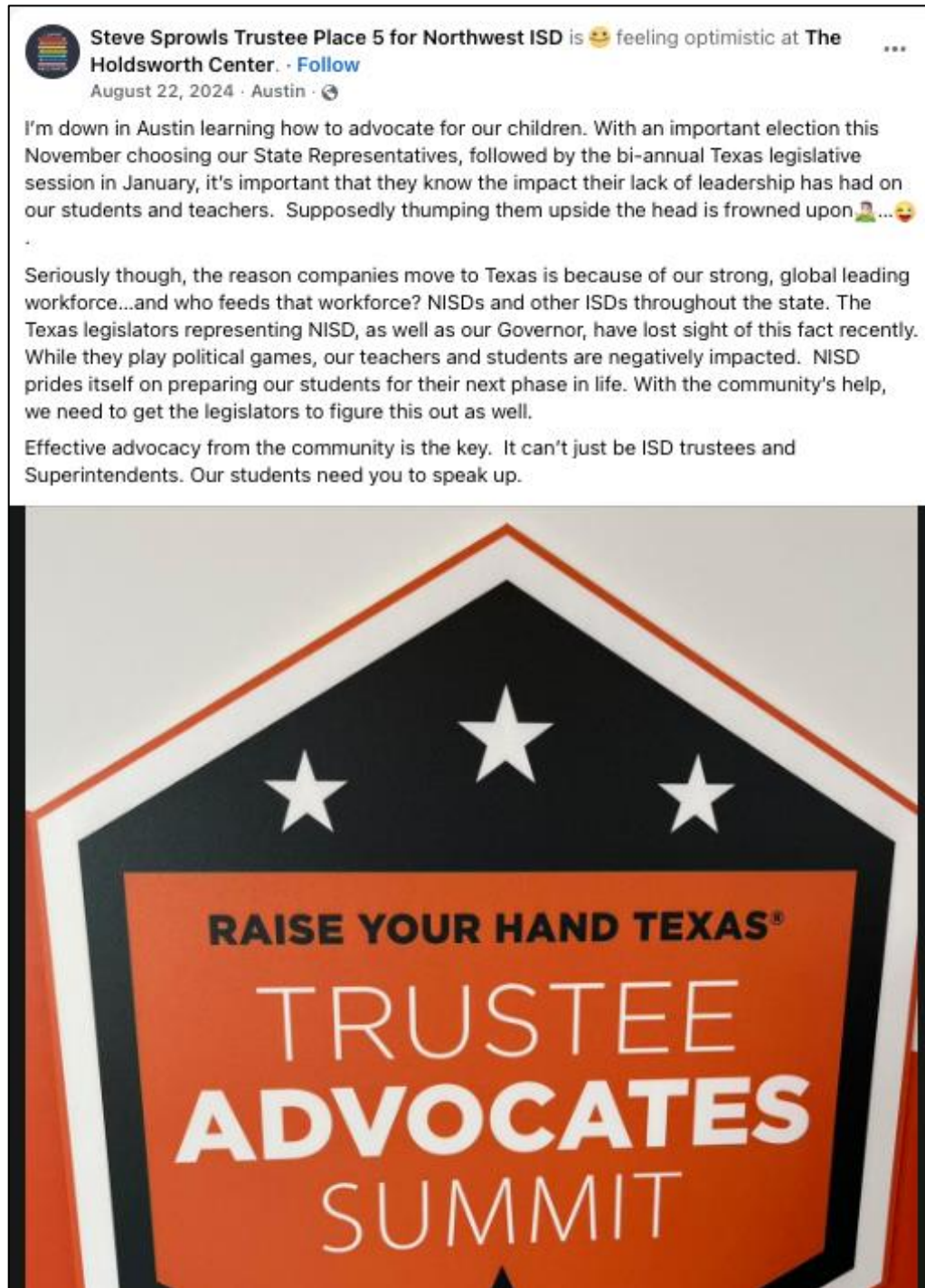
TEXANSFORSTRONGPUBLICSCHOOLS.ORG

Texans for Strong Public Schools | Fair Share


When you stand with Texans for Strong Public Schools, you're taking a stand for the future of public education in Texas.

Facebook, 02/28/2019

Sprowls gets his “advocacy” training and promotes messaging from Raise Your Hand Texas. The group has been denounced by GOP organizations.



Facebook, 08/22/2024


Steve Sprowls Trustee Place 5 for Northwest ISD · Follow

March 30 · 🌐


NISD Stakeholders, it's time to do a full court press on the TX House Education Committee. This committee will probably vote on HB2 (school finance bill) & HB3 (private school voucher bill) early next week.

All indications are pointing to the Basic Allotment only increasing 3.5% since 2019, even though inflation is up 23% since then. We need you to voice your concerns to them that they will continue to underfund public education while sitting on record state surplus of funds. Basic allotment needs to be \$7500 to keep up with inflation since 2019.

When it comes to HB3, it's all 🤖, and is set up for fraud, waste, and abuse. It's an entitlement program. It has no fiscal or academic accountability. It allows private schools to discriminate. It bloats government by increasing the budget and staff of the TX Comptroller's office. It awards third-party vendors over \$600 million to administer the program...even though the Comptroller's office staff will be increased to administer it as well. Over the next four years, it could cost the state \$12 BILLION. Imagine what that dollar amount could do for ISDs...you know Article 7 of the Texas Constitution that requires adequate funding for public education...but says nothing about private schools.


TX is ranked 44th in the US when it comes to public school funding; while being the 8th largest economy in the world. Let your voices be heard in correcting this travesty. Click the NISD link below to find the sub link to email ALL members of the House Education committee ("Email the House Public Education Committee"). It's time to stop sitting on the sidelines. Paint the picture and advocate for NISD students.

<https://www.nisdtx.org/.../legislative/advocacy-committee>


Raise Your Hand Texas · Follow

March 28 · 🌐

In this week's Across the Lawn, Raise Your Hand Texas reviews the latest updates on school funding and voucher bills, along with parental and teacher's rights legislati... [See more](#)



**ACROSS
THE
LAWN**

RAISEYOURHANDTEXAS.ORG

89th Session Update: More Rules for Public Schools - March 2025

In this week's Across the Lawn, Raise Your Hand Texas reviews the latest updates on sc...

Facebook, 03/30/2025



Steve Sprowls Trustee Place 5 for Northwest ISD · Follow

October 14, 2024 · 🌐

Why do State leaders and our State legislators have such disrespect for the teaching profession? Why does the public not respect the profession? These are highly educated individuals with at least a Bachelor's degree, lots with Master's, and a high number of PhDs. If we can't respect the profession, how do we expect to get highly qualified individuals to teach our kids, and guide them to their best future self?

It's time to bring back respect to the teaching profession. Engage your State Legislators and ask if they respect the teaching profession and what they plan to do about it in the next session.



Teacher Pay should be a Top Priority for the 89th Legislative Session.

NEW BLOG

"There is a significant and persistent gap between Texas teacher salaries and the national average. On average, Texas educators earn over \$9,000 less than teachers across the country and 23.4% less than other college graduates in the state. Stagnant cost-of-living adjustments during rising inflation have further reduced teachers' purchasing power."



READ FULL BLOG:

go.ryht.org/teacher-raises-89th-session



Raise Your Hand Texas · Follow

October 11, 2024 · 🌐

🍎 New Blog Post: Teacher Raises a Top Priority for the 89th Legislative Session. Our Texas teachers are underpaid—by over \$9,000 compared to the national average—and t... [See more](#)

Facebook, 10/14/2024



Steve Sprowls Trustee Place 5 for Northwest ISD · Follow

May 9 · 🌐

For my TX peeps...public school funding has NOT been approved yet. Tell the state Senators to pull their heads out of their 🍌 and fund public schools NOW!



Raise Your Hand Texas · Follow

May 9 · ⚙️

Take action now: <http://go.ryht.org/fundschoools>

Tell leadership and budget writers to make sure that at least \$9.1 billion in new funding goes to public schools and tea... See more

Facebook, 05/09/2025



Steve Sprowls Trustee Place 5 for Northwest ISD · Follow

October 16, 2024 · 🌐

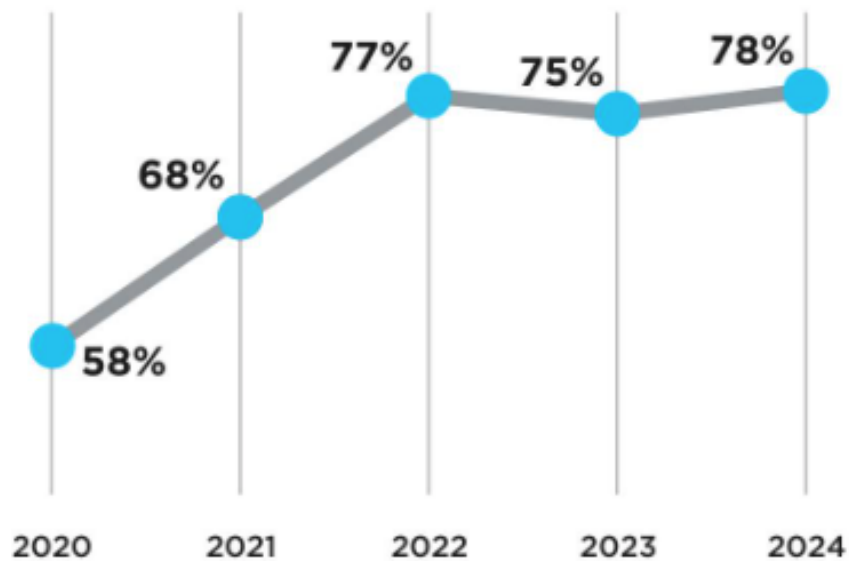
...

Without teachers, our society doesn't have a future.

2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Teachers Considering Leaving the Classroom

% Texas teachers seriously considering leaving



Source: Charles Butt Foundation 2024 Texas Teacher Poll

Read more at www.raiseyourhandtexas.org/policy

RAISE
YOUR HAND TEXAS



Raise Your Hand Texas · Follow

October 10, 2024 · ⚙️

An investment in today's Texas teachers is an investment in Texas' future workforce. ... See more

👍❤️👏 5

Facebook, 10/16/2024



Steve Sprowls Trustee Place 5 for Northwest ISD · Follow

November 4, 2024 · 🌐

Teachers, "paint the picture" and MAKE your voice be heard.



Teachers: Use Your Voice and Vote!

NOVEMBER 2024

Texas teachers have the ability to influence decisions during the 89th Legislative Session from their classroom, the voting booth, their community meeting, online, or at the Capitol. We look forward to meeting you on your advocacy journey!

READ MORE:

go.ryht.org/TxTeachers89th

RAISE
YOUR HAND TEXAS



Raise Your Hand Texas · Follow

November 4, 2024 · 🌐

Texas teachers, your voice matters and your vote counts!... See more



1

Facebook, 11/04/2024



Steve Sprowls Trustee Place 5 for Northwest ISD · Follow

November 20, 2024 · 🌐

During the COVID lockdown, parents found out real quick the hard work teachers do day in and day out educating our children, and getting the students ready for the next phase of their life. In these last two to three years, the lack of respect for the teaching profession has reared its ugly head...especially from our State leaders and legislators. So what changed?

This is a highly educated profession that is constantly told to "shut up and color". It's time to fight for them, and amplify their voice. Reach out to your State legislators and advocate for them.

2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



Source: Charles Butt Foundation 2024 Texas Teacher Poll

Read more at www.raiseyourhandtexas.org/policy

RAISE
YOUR HAND TEXAS



Raise Your Hand Texas · Follow

November 14, 2024 · ⚙️

For the past three years, over three-fourths of Texas teachers have considered leaving the profession, marking the highest levels of teacher dissatisfaction in decades.... [See more](#)

Facebook, 11/20/2024



Holly Hansen ✓
@hollyshansen



A copy of the resolution on Charles Butt and his PACs Raise Your Hand Texas & Charles Butt Public Education PAC, & “taxpayer-funded lobbying partners” HillCo Partners.

DENOUNCING CHARLES BUTT AND AFFILIATES

Whereas Charles Butt is a Democrat billionaire who has a long history of advocating for policies contrary to the Republican Party of Texas platform; and

Whereas Charles Butt has advocated against election integrity and supported universal and mail in ballots for all in Texas, which would have led to rampant voter fraud; and

Whereas, Charles Butt and his affiliated groups have lobbied against parents’ God-given rights and against empowering parents to choose the education that is best for their children; and

Whereas, Charles Butt and or his company, H-E-B have lobbied for amnesty to illegal immigrants and against banning sanctuary cities for illegal immigrants; and

Whereas, Charles Butt, as owner of H-E-B, is one of the largest recipients of food stamps in Texas; and

Whereas, Charles Butt, through his business, H-E-B, has sponsored drag queen shows for children; and

Whereas, Charles Butt, through his affiliate political action committees and organizations has actively campaigned and donated millions of dollars against conservatives that want a secure border in Republican Primary election; and

Whereas, Charles Butt has partnered with taxpayer-funded lobbying organization, HillCo Partners, to support Republican Primary Candidates that oppose the Republican Party of Texas Platform and Priorities; now therefore

Be it resolved that we call on all Republican Party candidates and elected officials to denounce and reject any endorsement, campaign contribution, or association with Charles Butt, his affiliated PACs and organizations, including Raise Your Hand Texas and the Charles Butt Public Education PAC, and his taxpayer-funded lobbying partners, HillCo Partners.

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 20__, at the Senate District Convention of Senate District ____ of the _____ Party of Texas.

X, 03/23/2024

Sprowls made a post before the 2024 Primary attacking Gov. Abbott and his “puppets” promoting school vouchers. He encouraged people to vote against Abbott’s endorsed candidates, reading this post it’s hard to imagine he voted for the Republican state candidates in the general election.

- ◆ Sprowls wrote on Facebook: “Governor Abbott’s obsession with vouchers is harming school districts across the state. Locally, it has already negatively impacted Keller & Ft Worth ISDs as they have had to make large budget cuts and layoff teachers and staff. “



Steve Sprowls Trustee Place 5 for Northwest ISD · [Follow](#)

February 19, 2024 · 🌐

...

Below is my opinion and doesn't represent the views of Northwest ISD or my fellow Trustees.

My apologies for the long post about the upcoming elections for Texas State Representatives & State Senators...but it's important.

Tomorrow will be the first day for early voting for the Primary election setting up for the big election in November. On this ballot will be everyone from Presidential candidates down to lots of political offices at the local level...with the exception of school board members. School board Trustees will be voted on in May.

When it comes to voting in Texas for our local officials, to include State Representatives & State Senators, it's commonly known that elections are won in the Primaries. In our part of Texas, this means that whoever wins the Republican primary in March, will more than likely win the election in November. Also, these Primaries have very low voter turnout, so every vote will have a tremendous impact for the next two years.

What does this mean for the teachers and students of NISD? It means everything when it comes to the State's Constitutional responsibility to fund public education. Even though candidates will campaign on various issues, the only one I'll focus on here is their support for funding public education.

Governor Abbott's obsession with vouchers is harming school districts across the state. Locally, it has already negatively impacted Keller & Ft Worth ISDs as they have had to make large budget cuts and layoff teachers and staff. Sadly, six of the seven State Representatives, and both of the State Senators that represent NISD constituents, have become puppets to Governor Abbott. They're holding funding for public education hostage by tying vouchers into the latest school funding bill. As a result, school funding has stagnated at 2019 dollars, even though inflation since then has been over 20%...harming the 31K+ students & 3K+ teachers and staff in NISD.

Facebook, 02/19/2024

- ◆ Sprowls thinks parents already have a “choice”: “Initially the school voucher debate was about giving students at failing schools an opportunity to attend better schools. Now the rhetoric is about giving families a \$10K “coupon” to attend private schools...including families making over \$150K a year. Of the four student categories the voucher language addressed, I don’t recall them addressing students in failing schools. The Governor & his puppets say it’s about a “parent’s choice”, but parents already have a choice between public, charter, and private schools.”

Initially the school voucher debate was about giving students at failing schools an opportunity to attend better schools. Now the rhetoric is about giving families a \$10K “coupon” to attend private schools...including families making over \$150K a year. Of the four student categories the voucher language addressed, I don’t recall them addressing students in failing schools. The Governor & his puppets say it’s about a “parent’s choice”, but parents already have a choice between public, charter, and private schools. On top of this, taxpayer money paid to private schools via vouchers will not have the same state-level academic scrutiny that public schools have. Also private schools are allowed to discriminate on who attends their campuses and have no financial transparency. This sets up a process that will be ripe for financial fraud. The voucher plan is all about them giving wealthy donors a \$10K tuition “coupon” for each student, as well as diverting your tax payer dollars to these private entities.

Normally, I am a supporter of Abbott. I like what he’s currently doing at the border. Fentanyl, human trafficking, and the possibility of US enemies taking advantage of the porous border are all real threats. I even have a painting of the Texas Capitol with his signature on it. However, when it comes to funding public education, he’s out of touch. If vouchers are such a great option, let it stand on its own.

The attached pictures show each Representative’s & Senator’s district in relation to NISD Boundaries. They also show who is running for which seat and under which party.

For all of my supporters in the last year’s election, I need you to get to the polls and vote. Research the candidates and see where they fall when it comes to supporting public education & NISD. As a quick rule of thumb, if they’re endorsed by Abbott, then they’re probably against NISD teachers and students.

Early voting goes from Feb 20th to Mar 1st.

Election Day is Mar 5th

Facebook, 02/19/2024

Sprowls advocates for teachers and wants more tax dollars to go towards their salaries. He of course stands to benefit from this since his wife is a public-school teacher.



Steve Sprowls Trustee Place 5 for Northwest ISD · Follow

November 20, 2024 · 🌐

During the COVID lockdown, parents found out real quick the hard work teachers do day in and day out educating our children, and getting the students ready for the next phase of their life. In these last two to three years, the lack of respect for the teaching profession has reared its ugly head...especially from our State leaders and legislators. So what changed?

This is a highly educated profession that is constantly told to "shut up and color". It's time to fight for them, and amplify their voice. Reach out to your State legislators and advocate for them.

2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



Read more at www.raiseyourhandtexas.org/policy

RAISE
YOUR HAND TEXAS



Raise Your Hand Texas · Follow

November 14, 2024 · ⚙️

For the past three years, over three-fourths of Texas teachers have considered leaving the profession, marking the highest levels of teacher dissatisfaction in decades. This is no longer a temporary response to pandemic challenges and is instead a new reality for our students in Texas classrooms.

When asked, 70% of school leaders agree that increased salaries would improve teacher retention. For Texas to keep a competitive workforce, we must invest in and enhance teachers' total compensation packages.

Read our 2025 legislative policy recommendations at <https://lnkd.in/dqwYiHb5>.

#TxEd #TxLege #TexasTeachers #89thLege

Facebook, 11/20/2024

Sprowls supported a whopping \$2 billion bond for Northwest ISD in 2023. The bond was split into three propositions, it covered the creation of new schools and sporting venues, as well as updates to existing structures and technology.

Northwest ISD's \$2 Billion Bond Package Approved by Voters

BY SETH MOREHEAD MAY 15, 2023

Residents of Northwest ISD approved a \$2 billion bond for new schools, stadiums, and technology devices on the May 6 election, the district's largest bond to date.

Northwest ISD is located in Denton, Tarrant, and Wise counties, and runs Northwest High School in Justin, Byron Nelson High School in Trophy Club, and V.R. Eaton High School in Fort Worth and Haslet.

The **bond proposal** was divided into three propositions.

Proposition A requested \$1.6 billion to build 12 new schools, including a new high school located in Fort Worth. It will also fund a new agricultural center, new buses, and many renovations centered around traffic control, building function, enlarging cafeterias, gyms, and auditoriums, athletic facility improvements, security upgrades, and IT upgrades. **Proposition A passed with 61 percent approval.**

Proposition B cost \$302 million, with a focus on the district's sports venues. Home stadiums will be built at Byron Nelson, V.R. Eaton, and the new high school, though Northwest will continue to use Northwest ISD Stadium as its home stadium. Scheduling has been a real challenge for the district, as three schools have had to use the same home venue simultaneously for years. Proposition B also covers renovations to the district's track and field facilities, as well as lifecycle renovations to Northwest ISD Stadium. Proposition B passed with just over 50 percent approval.

Proposition C was the smallest portion of the bond proposal, costing \$22 million. This will allow the district to purchase technology devices for students and teachers. Proposition C passed with 62 percent approval.

Interestingly, the Wise County portion of the district **rejected** all three propositions.

Overall, Northwest ISD will be able to accommodate 8,400 new students on top of the 29,000 currently enrolled. The district said it will immediately start construction on some of the new facilities that were approved in the bond.

The property tax rate in the district will go up, with the Interest and Sinking portion of the rate increasing by \$0.001 from \$0.42 to \$0.421. The Maintenance and Operations portion of the rate, typically the largest component of property taxes, sits at \$0.8546. The total property tax rate for the district is \$1.2746 per \$100 of taxable value.

Of note, property taxes can still increase because of continuously rising property evaluations. For example, **Northwest ISD's taxable value in 2021** was just over \$13 billion; **in 2022, that number had grown to \$15.9 billion**. Texas law does prevent increases in assessed taxable value on homesteads over 10 percent per year — there is no cap on property that isn't homesteads.

A bond package this large has been a few years in the making, with the **district proposing** a near \$1 billion dollar package in 2020 that came with a much higher tax rate increase. The **2020 package failed** with all propositions being rejected by double-digit margins but was followed in 2021 by a **successful \$746 million bond** that came without a tax rate increase.

The 2023 bond was the result of the district's Long Range Planning Committee, an entity composed of 57 community and staff members from the district, tasked with the analysis and planning of the district's future.

"I'm so proud of the work the Long-Range Planning Committee has done to provide our district with a vision for our future," said superintendent **Dr. Mark Foust in a statement**. "Since 1996, this committee has existed to analyze the growth and parity of our district throughout all 234 square miles. They have continuously provided a community perspective for what new facilities we should build to stay ahead of growth and put the interests of students first. I look forward to hearing our full community's feedback on the proposals."

"Our community understands that as the fastest-growing school district in the area, we regularly build new schools and facilities to keep pace with growth. We look forward to welcoming the 8,400 new students who will join our district that the projects in this bond package will accommodate."

Northwest ISD is the fastest-growing school district in North Texas, with over **11,000** new students enrolling over the last decade.

The district is projected to **expand to over 48,000 students** over the next 10 years. Growth in Fort Worth's suburbs has been massive, and the land lying in the district is no exception. There are 63 actively building subdivisions, with 36 more in various stages of planning and development. In the third quarter of 2022, construction on over 5,000 houses broke ground.

Northwest ISD has significant debt already, with over \$1 billion of outstanding general obligation (GO) debt. That comes out to just north of \$40,000 per student. GO bonds are usually paid off over decades.

Residents of the district also **reelected** Steve Sprowls, Dr. Lillian Rauch, and Jennifer Murphy to the school board. Sprowls has been on the board since 2017, Rauch since 2014, and Murphy since 2020.

The Texan, 05/15/2023

- ◆ The ISD released **a bond video** explaining the three proposals, and developed a **whole website**.
- ◆ The campaign emphasized that the bond would increase the tax rate by \$.001, due to increased revenue sources. This does not take into account the fact that appraisal values on homes also increased.

- ◆ Sprowls voted to set the bond election and was a big supporter of it.



Steve Sprowls Trustee Place 5 for Northwest ISD · Follow

April 5, 2023 · 🌐



Bond/School Finance #4

The biggest issue we face in NISD is continuous growth. Prior to COVID, the district grew at an average of 800-1000 new students every year. Last school year, we grew by 2200 new students. This year we had enrolled 1500 new students at the time of spring break. In order to make room for these new students, we have to build new campuses. But...to raise money to build these new campuses, we have to get permission from NISD voters to issues bonds—State law. The current Bond proposal (split into three proposals) will be on the ballot on May 6th. The purpose is to provide campuses, facilities, and technology to meet the needs of the next 8400 students that move into NISD.

I am hoping the Bond propositions pass as it will give NISD stakeholders comfort knowing what's in store for their kiddos in the next few years. I've been asked several times what would happen if the Bond propositions do not pass. As of now, I don't have an exact answer. The Board and senior admin will have to look at all options, and then make decisions on how best to alleviate overcrowding at campuses. Two options we have used in the past would be to redraw campus boundaries or rent more portable buildings, or possibly both.

My least favorite option is to rent more portable buildings. The funding for these rentals would come out of the M&O budget; which if you remember from my previous posts is the fund that pays teachers salaries and funds school programs. I really don't want to waste money on portables when that money could be better used for teachers and students. The attached picture is of Julian T Saldivar Elementary School near Love Field. I see it a lot when I'm at work, and its 18 (eighteen) portables are startling. I know it's an extreme example, but I don't want any of our campuses to look like this.

For more details on the upcoming Bond election, please visit the website below. Also look for Bond presentations at your nearest campus.

<https://www.nisdtxbond.org>

Facebook, 04/05/2023

The 2023 bond that Sprowls championed exemplifies the corrupt dealings between school boards, TASB, and contractors. While Sprowls points to the bond's passage as a sign of community support, the bond campaign to sway voters received half its financial support from NISD vendors.

- ◆ The bond passage was supported by “Yes For Northwest” which raised \$55,734. \$24,500 came from NISD vendors (identified in the ISD check registers).
- ◆ Contributors who received payments from the ISD following the bond's passage are highlighted.
- ◆ Note: Huckabee is not only a financial supporter but also reported an in-kind contribution for “graphic design and coordination assistance” of \$2,500; showing that firms like Huckabee are directly involved in the actual campaign activities to support the bond.

Contributor Name	Amount	Description	Date	City	State
Ballard ,Britt	200.00		03-01-2023	Brooklyn	NY
Basden Steel Corporation	3,000.00		04-13-2023	Burleson	TX
Bergeron ,Lisa	20.00		02-26-2023	Fort Worth	TX
Brooks ,Angela	100.00		03-03-2023	Southlake	TX
Copp ,Judy	50.00		04-18-2023	Justin	TX
CORE Construction	5,000.00		02-28-2023	Frisco	TX
Corwin ,Adam	1,000.00		04-17-2023	Tampa	FL
Edstrom ,Dave	50.00		03-22-2023	Trophy Club	TX
Forte ,Stacy	100.00		04-01-2023	Trophy Club	TX
Fritz ,Caleb	25.00		03-01-2023	Haslet	TX
G & L Mechanical Contractors, LP	1,000.00		04-13-2023	Grapevein	TX
Glenn Partners	5,000.00		04-09-2023	Dallas	TX
Griffiths ,Melissa	20.00		03-09-2023	Trophy Club	TX
Grissom ,Phyllis	100.00		02-20-2023	Fort Worth	TX
Hatfield ,Deann	100.00		04-20-2023	Justin	TX
Hellos Construction	2,500.00		04-13-2023	Allen	TX
Helmick ,Casey	50.00		02-25-2023	Haslet	TX
Henk ,Tamara	100.00		03-24-2023	Southlake	TX
Hill & Wilkinson General Contractors	2,000.00		04-20-2023	Richardson	TX
Hobbs ,Christie	100.00		04-01-2023	Fort Worth	TX
Huckabee	10,000.00		04-24-2023	Fort Worth	TX

Contributor Name	Amount	Description	Date	City	State
Huckabee & Associates	2,500.00	graphic design and coordination assistance.	04-26-2023	Fort Worth	TX
Infinity Sound LTD	500.00		04-13-2023	Grand Prairie	TX
J & E Companies	3,000.00		04-13-2023	Grand Prairie	TX
Joeris General Contractors	500.00		04-20-2023	Dallas	TX
Johnson ,Barbara	50.00		04-01-2023	Roanoke	TX
Lunday ,Michelle	100.00		02-17-2023	Trophy Club	TX
Lunday ,Michelle	48.00	Post Office Box	02-15-2023	Trophy Club	TX
Lunday ,Michelle	5.00		02-20-2023	Trophy Club	TX
McCownGordon Construction	5,000.00		04-19-2023	Plano	TX
Medzorian ,Karen	100.00		03-08-2023	Trophy Club	TX
Meyers ,Norma	50.00		03-05-2023	Fort Worth	TX
Moore ,Bonnie	100.00		02-27-2023	Trophy Club	TX
Murphy ,Chad	100.00		04-14-2023	Fort Worth	TX
Northstar Builders	2,500.00		03-13-2023	Coppell	TX
One Source Commerical Flooring, LLC	2,000.00		04-13-2023	Plano	TX
Progressive Services Inc DBA Progressive Roffing	1,500.00		04-13-2023	Phoenix	AZ
Pry ,Alyssa	50.00		03-01-2023	Fort Worth	TX
Quattrochi ,Emily	10.00		02-26-2023	Fort Worth	TX
Rauch ,Christopher	100.00		04-14-2023	Trophy Club	TX
Rios ,Erin	25.00		02-27-2023	Fort Worth	TX
Robinson ,Michael	50.00		03-26-2023	Fort Worth	TX
Rose ,Lindsay	25.00		04-02-2023	Fort Worth	TX
Royal Glass Company	1,000.00		04-13-2023	Krum	TX
Simpson ,Danny	1,000.00		04-10-2023	Roanoke	TX
Stepp ,Heather	25.00		02-26-2023	Haslet	TX
Teague Nall & Perkins	2,500.00		05-11-2023	Fort Worth	TX
Terrell ,Robbie	25.00		04-02-2023	Roanoke	TX
Thomas ,Damron	50.00		02-26-2023	Fort Worth	TX
Ward ,Elizabeth	50.00		04-07-2023	Roanoke	TX
Washam ,Joe	106.09	Cany for handing out at a table.	04-07-2023	Justin	TX
Washam ,Joe	100.00		03-31-2023	Justin	TX
Washington ,Heidi	25.00		04-03-2023	Haslet	TX
Webb ,Melinda	25.00		04-01-2023	Trophy Club	TX
Wright Construction Co., Inc.	2,000.00		04-13-2023	Grapevine	TX
	55,734.09				

Table Sourced from Texas Ethics Commission, Contributions by Filer ID 00081476 Yes For Northwest; Note errors in original source data: Hellas Construction is Hellas Construction

Contributor Name	Amount	Description	Date	City	State
Glenn Partners	5,000.00		04-09-2023	Dallas	TX
Hellos Construction	2,500.00		04-13-2023	Allen	TX
Huckabee	10,000.00		04-24-2023	Fort Worth	TX
Huckabee & Associates	2,500.00	graphic design and coordination assistance.	04-26-2023	Fort Worth	TX
One Source Commerical Flooring, LLC	2,000.00		04-13-2023	Plano	TX
Teague Nall & Perkins	2,500.00		05-11-2023	Fort Worth	TX
	24,500.00				

Table Sourced from Texas Ethics Commission, Contributions by Filer ID 00081476 Yes For Northwest; Note errors in original source data: Hellos Construction is Hellas Construction

Sprowls has championed raising ISD taxes to such a level that it requires voter approval at least three times, including as recently as August 2025. Voters rejected the higher taxes in 2020 and in 2024. Perhaps Sprowls and the board think they will have a better chance of passing their tax hikes during an off-year election.

Northwest ISD considers second attempt at VATRE

*By Brendan Marchand
on August 06, 2025*



The Northwest ISD Board of Trustees will consider placing a Voter-Approval Tax Rate Election (VATRE) on the November ballot to alleviate pressure from what the district has described as the school funding crisis in Texas.

The board did not take action on putting a VATRE before voters in the general election on Monday, but did consider the possibility during a budget workshop at its meeting. The board of trustees must call for the item to be placed on the Nov. 4 ballot by Aug. 18.

If approved, a VATRE would increase the district's maintenance and operations (M&O) tax rate by three cents. The proposed tax hike differs from a bond, which can only be used for facilities projects, while a VATRE can be dedicated to staff pay and operations funding.

The district called for a VATRE in last November's election, but it was voted down 55.83 to 44.17 percent. It was intended to eliminate the district's \$16 million deficit after the adoption of the 2024-2025 budget, but with the measure's failure, Northwest ISD was forced to cut around 100 staff positions and restructure multiple student programs.

Northwest ISD Chief Financial Officer Jonathan Pastusek first briefed the board on the district's expected tax rate changes, which are estimated for the 2025-2026 fiscal year at 63.31 cents (maintenance and operations) and 42.10 cents per \$100 valuation (interest and sinking).

The anticipated M&O rate is three cents less than the current rate of 66.61, while the I&S rate remains the same.

By adding back the three cents from an approved VATRE, the estimated revenue increase for Northwest ISD is expected to be \$12 million, Pastusek said.

“From last year to this, even with going out for the VATRE, we expect that the average homeowner will pay \$448 less in taxes,” Pastusek said.

If the VATRE does not pass, homeowners will pay \$556 less in property taxes, Pastusek said, using calculations from an average \$500,000 taxable home in the district.

The decrease is due to not only Northwest ISD’s anticipated compression of the M&O rate, but also the assumption that voters will approve increasing the homestead exemption from \$100,000 to \$140,000 through Proposition 13 on the Nov. 4 ballot.

Pastusek said that if the VATRE is successful, the district plans to use those funds to implement smaller class sizes, restore staffing cuts in fine arts, maintain current academic, athletic and fine arts programs and continue to pay for competitive staff compensation and pay raises.

“If the VATRE were not to pass, the district would not be able to decrease the student-teacher ratios, or restore any of those program cuts,” Pastusek said. “And it will limit the ability to give future raises and stay competitive with salaries, and could lead to possible reductions in program offerings...”

60 percent of Northwest ISD’s staff is teaching staff, compared to peer districts at 55 percent and state averages at about 49 percent, Pastusek said, emphasizing the district’s focus on maximizing dollars for teacher recruitment and retention.

“This is what our [efficiency] auditor said: [Northwest ISD] is maximizing the efficient use of staffing resources to serve students while achieving high accountability ratings comparable to its peer districts,” Pastusek said.

Pastusek noted that while the district did receive about \$15 million more in funding out of the 89th Texas Legislature, the majority of the money had no local control and was largely directed toward teacher pay, which did not alleviate increased classroom sizes and larger student-teacher ratios.

Northwest ISD only received about \$2 million in unrestricted funds from the state, Pastusek said.

“This is not a Northwest ISD problem. This is a state funding issue,” he said.

If the VATRE were to pass in November and the district gains the additional \$12 million in funding, Pastusek said \$8 million would be assigned to reducing class sizes and helping with program staffing that was cut last year in the wake of the large deficit budget. \$4 million would be dedicated to future compensation for competitive pay raises and recruitment and retention of staff.

Pastusek said core subject areas would see the most relief from an approved VATRE.

Elementary class sizes would be restructured following as follows:

Class sizes in second grade would be reduced to 22:1

Third grade reduced to 23:1

Fourth grade reduced to 23:1

Kindergarten through second grade would remain 22:1

Fifth grade would remain at 25:1

If the VATRE passes, middle school teachers would see 172.5 students instead of the current 180. It would also take pressure off of high school teachers who currently have some class periods upwards of 35 students.

Pastusek said VATRE funds would also allow the district to restore cuts to fine arts programs, like hiring assistant directors across all middle schools for band and choir, as well as having two art teachers.

Pastusek reiterated that the three cents the district would ask for through a VATRE proposition would not be subject to state recapture.

He explained to the board that Northwest ISD cracks the top 10 in highest salaries for districts on the west side of the Metroplex, with the majority of those districts utilizing past VATRE funds to do so. However, Northwest ISD falls at the bottom of the list for revenue per student.

“We’re trying to be extremely competitive ... with salaries and keeping our staffing ratio better than everyone else’s, while getting that much less in revenue,” Pastusek said. “It all goes back to the efficiency side. We have put the money in the classroom. That’s why we had to make changes in the classroom with the deficit. We had nowhere else to go.”

Northwest ISD Superintendent Dr. Mark Foust said that community members still uncertain of the VATRE funding will see proof of how it can help the district if they happen to walk a child into a classroom on the first day of school next week.

“They will see, physically, what that looks like with the number of students in the classroom,” he said. “That’s why the bulk of [VATRE funding] is about class size ratios and how we can structurally put some things back. We can’t put everything back in ... but we can structurally repair some programs that we cut and address class sizes.”

Pastusek said that the district would receive the three additional cents from an approved VATRE every year, which stay under local control.

Board president Steve Sprowls asked if the VATRE passes in November how long it would be before the district pursued another bond.

“I would say we’re still a few years away,” Foust said. “We’re trending well on path like we have been. We did it (the 2023 bond) for the next 8,400 students because we didn’t know if that was in four years, five years, six years. We hoped for five or six, and that’s where we’re trending right now.”

Foust said the vast majority of the 2023 bond projects will be completed by the 2027-2028 school year. He said 2027 is likely the year a bond committee would be brought together to assess current and future needs, informed by what happens with student growth over the next few years.

The school board’s next meeting is Aug. 12, where members will formally vote on a decision to place a VATRE on the November ballot.

Wise County Messenger, 08/06/2025

Northwest calls for VATRE on November ballot

By Brendan Marchand
on August 13, 2025



The Northwest ISD Board of Trustees unanimously voted on Tuesday to place a voter-approval tax rate election (VATRE) on the Nov. 4 ballot.

Wise County Messenger, 08/13/2025

Financial Planning and Voter-Approval Tax Rate Election

Facing a significant budget shortfall because of a lack of legislative action to increase public education funding, Northwest ISD adopted a deficit budget of \$15.8 million for the 2024-2025 school year. The state allows school districts to increase the M&O tax rate within a certain range, increasing revenue, through the community's passing of a Voter Approval Tax Rate Election ("VATRE"). This is the only tool districts have available to increase revenue from the M&O tax rate. The NISD Board called a VATRE to potentially increase the M&O tax rate by 3 cents, which would generate approximately \$16 million in additional revenue. All 3 cents are classified as "golden pennies," meaning all revenue generated from the potential tax rate increase would remain in Northwest ISD for local use and not be subject to recapture for state use. If approved, Northwest ISD can continue to provide current class sizes and student programs while funding teacher and staff raises. Future budget development and planning will vary greatly depending on the outcome of the November election. *The VATRE was not approved by the voters and the tax rate will remain at 0.6669.

Northwest ISD 2024-2025 Adopted Budget, p. 14

**2024- 2025
Adopted Budget**

**NORTHWEST INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
DIRECT AND OVERLAPPING PROPERTY TAX RATES
LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS**

District Direct Rates

Fiscal Year	General Purposes	Capital Purposes	Total
2025	0.66690	0.42100	1.08790
2024	0.66920	0.42100	1.09020
2023	0.85460	0.42000	1.27460
2022	0.87200	0.42000	1.29200
2021	0.91630	0.42000	1.33630
2020	0.97000	0.45000	1.42000
2019	1.04000	0.45000	1.49000
2018	1.04000	0.45000	1.49000
2017	1.04000	0.41250	1.45250
2016	1.04000	0.41250	1.45250
2015	1.04000	.041250	1.45250

Northwest ISD taxpayers will continue to see the lowest tax rate in more than three decades. The Northwest ISD Board of Trustees approved the district's recommendation to decrease the total tax rate to \$1.08790 per \$100 of taxable property value, reduced from the 2023-2024 tax rate of \$1.09020. The new tax rate is composed of a maintenance and operations tax rate of \$0.66690 and an interest and sinking tax rate of \$0.4210.

In Texas, M&O tax rates pay for day-to-day operations of school districts, such as salaries and utilities, while I&S tax rates are used to pay off debt, such as paying off bonds. While voters authorized the district to increase the I&S tax rate by one-tenth of a penny in the 2023 bond election, the total tax rate still decreased because of continued M&O tax rate compression required by state law.

In Texas, school district M&O tax rates are primarily determined by the state government based on a formula. Northwest ISD's fast growth has played a beneficial role in this formula. The second part of the total tax rate, the I&S portion, is levied to service debt approved by voters as part of bond elections.

Northwest ISD's fast growth means the district has typically sought voter approval for bond referendums every three to five years to build new schools to accommodate an influx of new students. Northwest ISD remains the fastest-growing school district in North Texas, with more new homes both built and sold than any other district in the region. On average, the district now increases its total enrollment by at least 1,200 students per year.

2024- 2025
Adopted Budget

**NORTHWEST INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
ASSESSED VALUE AND ACTUAL VALUE OF TAXABLE PROPERTY
CURRENT AND FORECASTED**

	Real Property	Personal Property	Minerals		Total	Total
Fiscal	Assessed	Assessed	Assessed	Less:	Taxable	Direct
Year	Value	Value	Value	Exemptions	Value	Rate
2028 *	\$43,187,052,701	\$15,110,604,167	\$1,692,132,797	\$16,135,905,884	\$43,853,883,782	1.0879
2027*	\$41,130,526,382	\$14,391,051,587	\$1,611,555,045	\$15,367,529,413	\$41,765,603,602	1.0879
2026 *	\$39,171,929,888	\$13,705,763,417	\$1,534,814,328	\$14,635,742,298	\$39,776,765,335	1.0879
2025*	\$37,306,599,893	\$13,053,108,016	\$1,461,727,932	\$13,938,802,189	\$37,882,633,652	1.0879
2024	\$35,530,095,137	\$12,431,531,444	\$1,392,121,840	\$13,275,049,704	\$36,078,698,717	1.0902
2023	\$35,530,095,137	\$12,431,531,444	\$1,392,121,840	\$11,700,750,390	\$37,652,998,031	1.2746
2022	\$28,732,922,424	\$10,561,735,558	\$841,284,023	\$9,718,064,867	\$30,420,877,138	1.2920
2021	\$23,131,241,063	\$9,175,830,845	\$445,539,899	\$7,226,998,727	\$25,525,613,080	1.3363
2020	\$20,058,653,032	\$8,313,515,744	\$374,008,410	\$6,548,848,824	\$22,197,028,362	1.4200
2019	\$17,851,905,760	\$6,750,091,428	\$617,067,673	\$5,357,866,481	\$19,861,198,380	1.4900
2018	\$13,312,469,751	\$5,037,881,478	\$659,928,810	\$4,086,095,274	\$14,924,184,765	1.4900
2017	\$10,942,403,000	\$3,071,844,000	\$709,709,000	\$2,303,447,000	\$12,420,509,000	1.4525
2016	\$9,644,355,000	\$3,118,392,000	\$1,296,365,000	\$2,353,571,652	\$11,705,540,348	1.4525

2024-2025 Adopted Budget, p 24, 31

In February 2026, Northwest ISD announced program cuts due to a \$16 million deficit. NISD had planned to close the deficit with the VATRE.



<https://fortworthreport.org/2025/02/12/northwest-isd-cuts-student-programs-as-16m-deficit-forces-staff-reduction-larger-classes/>

Faced with a budget deficit for the 2025-26 school year, Northwest ISD administrators say they had to move “big rocks” to close the gap. Now, some students and parents say those rocks are crashing down on them.

Following a unanimous trustee decision in January to increase class sizes and reduce 101 staff positions, Northwest ISD will eliminate its Advancement Via Individual Determination, or AVID, and Reading Recovery programs for the 2025-26 school year as part of its effort to cover a \$16 million budget deficit.

The program cuts, confirmed in a letter to staff and families Feb. 11, ignited reactions from students and parents who credit these programs with their academic success.

“I implore you, do not take the program that made me college and career ready,” Sophia Brumley, a sophomore at Northwest High School, told trustees during their Feb. 10 meeting. “AVID changed my life. ... I didn’t know how to take notes, apply to college.”

AVID is an academic support program designed to improve students' college and career readiness. The program, offered at Chisholm Trail Middle School, Pike Middle School and Northwest High School, emphasizes skills like inquiry, collaboration and organization to support academic growth and provides intensive support through tutor-facilitated study groups and student-teacher collaboration.

Of the campus' nearly 2,600 students, 94 participated in AVID at Northwest High School during the 2024-25 school year, Northwest High student Makenzie Walker told trustees. The programs were eliminated, the letter said, because of low enrollment.

The program had been "life-changing," Sophia's mom Jill Brumley told trustees.

But officials said they could no longer offer those services and plan to transition AVID and Reading Recovery teachers into other teaching positions. Alternative student support options are still being discussed, according to a district spokesperson.

"Once we find appropriate replacements, we will work with counselors to provide those recommendations and work with students for choices that best fit them," district spokesperson Anthony Tosie told the Report.

The program eliminations are among several cost-saving measures the district recently announced as it grapples with an ongoing lack of funding. Officials have repeatedly pointed to the Texas Legislature not increasing per-student funding since 2019, despite rising costs.

In November, voters rejected a 3-cent tax rate hike that would have increased property tax revenue to fund district operations. Without that additional funding, district leaders say they had no choice but to move forward with staffing and program reductions.

"Hey, we're serving your kids. They're gonna get a great education here," Superintendent Mark Foust said during a Jan. 23 school board meeting. "We're just doing it differently."

The most immediate and visible change will be increased class sizes across nearly all grade levels:

Second-, third- and fourth-grade classrooms will move from a student-to-teacher ratio of 22 to 1 to 24 to 1, requiring an exemption from the Texas Education Agency due to class size limits.

In middle and high schools, teachers will now oversee 180 students per day, increasing the average class size to 25.7 students in middle school and 30 students in high school.

101 teaching positions and \$6 million in support positions will be eliminated.

The district will also reduce the number of athletic class periods at each high school, reallocating teachers to academic classes to avoid hiring additional staff. Fine arts staffing will be reduced by 15%. Some teachers may now split their time across multiple campuses.

Officials are also targeting \$3 million in non-payroll savings through adjustments to technology contracts, supply budgets and operational expenses.

Additional savings may come from renegotiating outsourced contracts, reducing travel and conference budgets and scaling back some districtwide programs, like dyslexia or English as second language programs.

The district is also exploring new revenue sources, like increasing facility rentals, boosting tuition-based program enrollment and seeking grants and private partnerships.

Sprowls on keeping homeschoolers accountable if they receive vouchers: "If ISDs have to be under a perpetual colonoscopy when it comes to financial and academic accountability & transparency, so should any educational entity that receives tax payer money. I also ask them what their far-right wackadoodle base will think when they learn that all religious denomination private schools will receive taxpayer money; not just the mega-church christian schools."



Steve Sprowls Trustee Place 5 for Northwest ISD · [Follow](#)

October 22, 2024 · 🌐

...

Over the next several months, you are going to see me in pictures with legislators that may or may not be friendly to public education and/or NISD. These past several days, I have been questioned why I would pose with legislators that are pro-voucher. So let me explain my advocacy efforts.

The attached picture is the legislative priorities for NISD going into the 89th legislative session that will start in January. It's obviously more than vouchers.

As I told teachers at Convocation that when they engage their legislators, they need to "paint a picture" and let the legislators know what impacts their inactions and past decisions have had on the classroom. In my position as Board President, I'm able to bring the sitting legislators to the "canvas" and let them see first hand what is happening in NISD.

So where we have disagreements with Vouchers (aka tuition coupons), I don't turn my back on them and shut them out. I invite them to our facilities to show off our programs. This gives me the ability to talk with them face-to-face about increasing the basic allotment to match inflation, our unfunded and under-funded mandates, eliminating recapture, and even the unfair ballot language for both the VATRE and Bonds.

If vouchers do come up in the conversations, I ask how they plan to hold private and home schools accountable to the same level as ISDs. I even use my favorite phrase to "paint the picture"... "If ISDs have to be under a perpetual colonoscopy when it comes to financial and academic accountability & transparency, so should any educational entity that receives tax payer money." I also ask them what their far-right wackadoodle base will think when they learn that all religious denomination private schools will receive taxpayer money; not just the mega-church christian schools.

When I advocate for NISD, I approach it that y'all would rather them get their info from an NISD expert instead of their base that has never set foot on an NISD campus? While I acknowledge there may be disagreements in one subject, I also know there may also be commonalities in others; and that's why I have to keep the conversations open. I can't let divisive politics interfere with me advocating for NISD. Hopefully, you understand. If not, don't hesitate to reach out and ask.

When you see these pictures going forward, please know that I am advocating for our teachers, our students, and all of our stakeholders. To quote Bryan Adams..."Everything I do. I do it for you."

Facebook, 10/22/2024

Sprowls: “Seriously, when you get past the noise of the wackadoodles, and realize that ISDs are under a perpetual financial colonoscopy, NISD has amazing folks performing financial miracles everyday.”



Steve Sprowls Trustee Place 5 for Northwest ISD · [Follow](#)

August 27, 2024 · 🌐

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As always, the below post is in no way intended to represent NISD or my fellow NISD Board members.

Whaaaaaaat😬? NISD received an “A = Superior Achievement” from TEA’s Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) for the 22nd year in a row? According to the wackadoodles, NISD is irresponsible and wasteful with its money. But here we, are getting an “A = Superior Achievement” rating for the 22nd year in a row from a state agency run by a Commissioner that was appointed by Governor Abbott. How can that be 🧐?

Seriously, when you get past the noise of the wackadoodles, and realize that ISDs are under a perpetual financial colonoscopy, NISD has amazing folks performing financial miracles everyday. The most recent miracle was on August 24th when our financial folks saved the district \$1.6 million in future interest payments!!!


I’m curious if private schools and homeschoolers will have to play by the same transparency rules when they start receiving tax payer property taxes for “tuition coupons”...also know as “private school vouchers”...also know as “education savings accounts”. Or will they be allowed to spend it willy nilly. Based on the legislation bills written last year trying to get vouchers passed, there was no financial transparency language written in the bill. So I’m guessing they’ll get to spend your property tax money willy nilly. Wackadoodles, it’s time you pay attention to where the wasteful spending will actually be.

For more details on NISD’s FIRST rating, click this link below. NISD is number 061911 in the list: <https://tealprod.tea.state.tx.us/First/forms/Main.aspx>

Again, the above post is in no way intended to represent NISD or my fellow NISD Board members.

Facebook, 08/27/2024

In a vulgar and emotional post, Sprowls accused Republican Senators of “hating” public school students and treating them as 3/5 the value of private school students.

 **Steve Sprowls Trustee Place 5 for Northwest ISD**
May 16 · 🌐

The new Senate version of school funding is a joke. It's 💩! Even though it gives some of the teachers raises, it ignores the bus drivers, aides, counselors, nurses, librarians, and every other employee that ensures the schools function on a day-to-day basis. The big joke is the \$55 increase in basic allotment. Inflation since 2019 (the last time basic allotment was increased) is now approaching 26%. Texas State Senators think \$55 (a 0.009% increase) is enough to cover inflationary expenses, programs, and pay raises for everyone else left out from the teacher raises.


Senators Tan Parker & Kelly Hancock...why do y'all, the Texas Senate, hate public education students so much? Why do y'all continue to value them at three-fifths the value of private school students? I thought we were beyond that as a society. Be here we are at \$6200 for public student students, and \$10K+ for private school students.

NISD Stakeholders, make your voices heard. Use the link below to reach out to your State Senator & Representative and let them know to fund public education appropriately...as the Texas Constitution says.

\$9.1 Billion Needed

**TELL LAWMAKERS TO
FUND SCHOOLS
AND
PAY TEACHERS!**




go.ryht.org/fundschoools

 **TAKE ACTION**

RAISEYOURHANDTEXAS.ORG

Fund Public Schools & Pay Teachers

Subscribe to our e-newsletter and periodic text alerts for Texas educati...

   12

3 comments 11 shares

Facebook

- ◆ “I don't understand why our State leaders hate our teachers and students so much.”



Steve Sprowls Trustee Place 5 for Northwest ISD

March 6 · 🌐

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**edit to post...the link to submit comments on HB2 has been turned off. However, this link has contact info for all sitting members of the House Education Committee. Even though none of them are NISD Representatives, you CAN still reach out to them. Please do so!

<https://house.texas.gov/committees/committee/400>

NISD Stakeholders, our students and teachers need your help! We need you to reach out to the Texas House Education Committee and ask them to increase the Basic Allotment to \$7500. The current amount of \$6160 was set in 2019. Since then, inflation has increased 23%. House Bill 2 (HB2) is currently proposing a \$220 increase...a 3.5% increase in the same time frame of a 23% inflation increase.

Just like our households, NISD costs for bus fuel, insurance, program materials, and anything else needed for day-to-day operations have increased.

This lack of increase in the Basic Allotment is THE main reason for us increasing class sizes and reducing teaching positions. It's also THE main reason ISDs across the State are struggling financially.

If this proposed \$220 increase doesn't change, NISD might be able to do a 1% salary increase for ALL workers ONCE during the next biennium. Again, inflation is up 23%, but we can only give a 1% raise over the next two years.

I don't understand why our State leaders hate our teachers and students so much. If anything, they need to abide by the TX Constitution and fund public schools properly.

So please stop doom scrolling, and visit the link below to leave comments for the TX House Education Committee. Our students and teachers deserve better than what our State leaders propose.

<https://comments.house.texas.gov/home?c=c400>

Facebook, 03/06/2025

Sprowls voted to adopt Northwest ISD's 2024-2025 legislative priorities. These included oppose universal private-school vouchers or Education Savings Account programs and revising required ballot language for bond elections that "misleads voters" – a shot at the requirement that bond propositions state "this is a tax increase."

- ◆ At the September 23, 2024 Northwest ISD board meeting, Sprowls voted to adopt the district's **2024-2025 legislative priorities**.

NO. 8568 REVIEW AND CONSIDER 2024-2025 NORTHWEST ISD LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES: It was moved by Dr. Rauch and seconded by Dr. Simpson to approve the 2024-2025 Northwest ISD Legislative Priorities as recommended by the administration.
Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Northwest ISD, Board Meeting Minutes 09/23/2024

NORTHWEST ISD

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

**PRIORITIZE PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING****INCREASE BASIC ALLOTMENT TO MATCH INFLATION****FULL DAY FUNDING FOR FULL DAY PRE-K****INCREASE WEIGHTED FUNDING FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION AND BILINGUAL STUDENTS****INCREASE TRANSPORTATION FUNDING TO MATCH INFLATION****FUND SECURITY MANDATES BASED ON LOCAL COSTS****ELIMINATE OR REDUCE RECAPTURE****ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM REFORM**



To: Board of Trustees

From: Mark Foust, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Review and Consider 2024-2025 Northwest ISD Legislative Priorities

Date: September 23, 2024

Background Information and Rationale: With the 89th Legislative Session beginning on January 14, 2025, it is important to determine Northwest ISD's key priorities to focus upon that best represent the interest of the district, its students, and families.

The purpose of the 2024-2025 Northwest ISD Legislative Priorities is to identify the district's greatest areas of concern. Once approved, the priorities will be developed into more detailed talking points and other handouts to use as a communication tool with our legislators, parents, community, and staff.

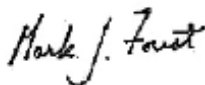
Support of Strategic Goals:

- Northwest ISD will provide personalized learning experiences and cultivate the growth and achievement of every student.
- Northwest ISD will recruit, value, and retain highly effective staff prepared to meet the individual needs of our students and learning community.
- Northwest ISD will foster a safe environment and a culture of engagement that values the voices of all students, staff, families, and community members.


Budget and/or Fund Impact: Approval of the 2024-2025 Northwest ISD Legislative Priorities has no direct impact on the budget.

Recommendation: Approve the proposed 2024-2025 Northwest ISD Legislative Priorities as recommended by the administration.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Foust, Ed.D.
Superintendent



Angela Scott
Public Affairs Coordinator



2024-2025 DRAFT

Northwest ISD Legislative Priorities**Support public schools and improve public school funding.**

- Prioritize long-term funding for Texas public schools, ensuring that the state's constitutional obligations to public education are fully met before considering or developing any private-school voucher or Education Savings Account program.
- Establish a formula-driven increase to the Basic Allotment each biennium based on the rate of inflation.
- Provide full funding for state mandates.
 - Increase the funding weight of the Special Education, Emergent Bilingual, and other student group allotments to more adequately address all associated costs, both direct and indirect.
 - Fully fund the state-mandated expansion of universal high-quality full-day pre-kindergarten.
 - Increase the School Safety Allotment to fully fund the mandates approved under House Bill 3 based on actual costs incurred by a school district.
 - Increase the Special Education Transportation Allotment to fully fund the transportation of students as mandated.
- Increase the Transportation Allotment from \$1 per mile, roughly 25% of the actual cost, to help ensure students have the transportation necessary to attend school.
- Reduce the burden of recapture, such as providing a discount for districts that make early recapture payments. Increase the threshold of when recapture begins with an increase in the basic allotment and funding structure based on enrollment, creating a higher floor.
- Require all recapture dollars be spent on Texas public school districts by establishing a separate, dedicated, transparent fund, ending the practice of the state supplanting its investment in education with recapture dollars and preventing the use of recaptured tax dollars for private schools or any other project that is not related to public school districts.
- Provide considerations, accommodations, and relief for fast-growth school districts to include increasing the capacity of the Fast Growth Allotment to acknowledge the growing statewide need and to reduce or eliminate proration.
- Oppose universal private-school vouchers or Education Savings Account programs where there is no public financial or academic accountability for public tax dollars.

**Support student learning and success.**


- Establish a comprehensive accountability system that includes meaningful, diversified data points, as well as flexible measures that parents and local communities value.
- Statutorily pause accountability ratings to allow one full year to properly implement any new STAAR assessment changes.
- Prioritize funding and incentives for teacher recruitment and retention that offers local flexibility.



Support local decision-making.

- Support community-focused governance and local flexibility to meet student and staff needs.
- Support expansion of materials approved through the new Instructional Materials Review and Approval process and more local decision-making and flexibility in the selection of instructional materials that receive funding at the higher level.
- Ensure all bond and tax rate election ballot language is clear, transparent, and understandable. Revise required language that misleads voters. Oppose legislation that limits dates upon which elections may be held or that creates additional requirements, such as voter turnout thresholds or supermajorities.

- ◆ Sprowls posted about the legislative priorities on Facebook, including the “unfair ballot language for both the VATRE and Bonds.”

**Steve Sprowls Trustee Place 5 for Northwest ISD**October 22, 2024 · 🌐...

Over the next several months, you are going to see me in pictures with legislators that may or may not be friendly to public education and/or NISD. These past several days, I have been questioned why I would pose with legislators that are pro-voucher. So let me explain my advocacy efforts.

The attached picture is the legislative priorities for NISD going into the 89th legislative session that will start in January. It's obviously more than vouchers.

As I told teachers at Convocation that when they engage their legislators, they need to "paint a picture" and let the legislators know what impacts their inactions and past decisions have had on the classroom. In my position as Board President, I'm able to bring the sitting legislators to the "canvas" and let them see first hand what is happening in NISD.


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If vouchers do come up in the conversations, I ask how they plan to hold private and home schools accountable to the same level as ISDs. I even use my favorite phrase to "paint the picture"... "If ISDs have to be under a perpetual colonoscopy when it comes to financial and academic accountability & transparency, so should any educational entity that receives tax payer money." I also ask them what their far-right wackadoodle base will think when they learn that all religious denomination private schools will receive taxpayer money; not just the mega-church christian schools.

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When you see these pictures going forward , please know that I am advocating for our teachers, our students, and all of our stakeholders. To quote Bryan Adams..."Everything I do. I do it for you."

NORTHWEST ISD



Facebook, 10/22/2024

Sprowls voted to adopt Northwest ISD's 2023 legislative priorities. These included oppose any effort to divert local property tax revenue for any non-public education purpose and revising required ballot language for bond elections that "misleads voters" – a shot at the requirement that bond propositions state "this is a tax increase."

- ◆ At the December 12, 2022 Northwest ISD board meeting, Sprowls voted to adopt the district's **2023 legislative priorities**.

NO. 8349 REVIEW AND CONSIDER 2023 NORTHWEST ISD LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES: It was moved by Ms. Copp and seconded by Dr. Rauch to approve the 2023 Northwest ISD Legislative Priorities as recommended by the administration.
Motion carried unanimously 7 - 0.

Northwest ISD, Board Meeting Minutes 12/12/2022



2023

Northwest ISD Legislative Priorities

School Finance and Recapture

- Increase and adjust the basic allotment each biennium based on the rate of inflation and fund school districts from enrollment instead of Average Daily Attendance.
- Reduce the burden of recapture, such as providing a discount for districts that make early recapture payments. Increase the threshold of when recapture begins with an increase in the basic allotment and funding structure based on enrollment, creating a higher floor.

Vouchers

- Oppose any effort to divert local property tax revenue for any non-public education purpose. Ensure charter schools and other education-related systems receiving public funds have financial and academic accountability to the public in line with accountability measures for public school districts.

Assessment and Accountability

- Advocate for the establishment of a comprehensive accountability system that includes meaningful, diversified data points, as well as flexible measures that parents and local communities value.
- Pause accountability ratings to allow one full year to properly implement new STAAR assessment changes.

Election Requirements

- Ensure all bond and tax rate election ballot language is clear, transparent, and understandable. Revise required language that misleads voters. Oppose legislation that limits dates upon which elections may be held or that creates additional requirements, such as voter turnout thresholds.

Local Decision-Making

- Support community-focused governance and local flexibility to meet student and staff needs.

Sprowls claims that “administrative fees” built into school choice bills proves that vouchers are a “scam” while all fund expenditures per student in Northwest ISD is over \$26k.

Steve Sprowls Trustee Place 5 for Northwest ISD
February 24 · 🌐

As always below is my opinion, and in no way intending to represent NISD or my fellow Trustees.

The scam inside the Private School Vouchers bills (both Senate Bill 2 & House Bill 3) that no one is talking about.


Why are Governor Abbott, our State Senators, and our local State Representatives pushing so hard for these vouchers? Because there is a 💩 ton of money to be made.

Included in Section 29.362 of both SB2 & HB3 is a 3% administrative fee for the Texas Comptroller's office and a 5% administrative fee for 3rd-party administrative companies.

Considering the summary for SB2 estimates the 4-year cost of vouchers to be \$12.6 billion from '27-'30, the TX Comptroller's office will get an additional \$378 million and the 3rd-party vendors will get \$630 million. That's over \$1 billion is bureaucratic bull 💩 administrative fees. If private school vouchers didn't exist, imagine what that \$1 billion could be used for.

But let's zoom in on the \$630 million for the 3rd-party administrators. Guess who some of the big donors are to Governor Abbott & Co? You guessed it, individuals with ties to the 3rd-party administrative companies overseeing vouchers in other states. Just follow the money and you'll see the scam.

Again the above is my opinion, and in no way intending to represent NISD or my fellow Trustees.



Facebook, 02/24/2025

- ◆ As of June 2024, “All Fund Expenditures” amounted to \$26,377 per student at Northwest ISD.

Northwest ISD is committed to transparency and strives to provide taxpayers with clear, relevant financial information. Northwest ISD has been awarded the Traditional Finances Star for exemplary efforts in creating financial transparency around public services and spending decisions. These efforts provide citizens with clear, consistent information about public spending in user-friendly formats.

Financial Summary - as of 06/30/2024

- All Fund Expenditures: **\$810,723,307** Total and **\$26,377** Per Student
- General Fund Expenditures: **\$308,943,812** Total and **\$10,052** Per Student
- All Fund Revenues: **\$574,086,407** Total and **\$18,678** Per Student
- General Fund Revenues: **\$306,792,494** Total and **\$9,982** Per Student
- Revenue from Property Taxes: **\$237,155,625** Total and **\$7,716** Per Student
- **Total Full-time Equivalent Positions for All Personnel**

Northwest ISD, “*Financial Transparency*”

Sprolws claims that a “private school student” gets more money than a “public school student” from the state.



Steve Sprowls Trustee Place 5 for Northwest ISD

February 18 · 🌐

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Sad...but our State Representatives feel the same way.

New 3rd Grade STAAR Question

The state gives \$6,160 for each public school student's education and \$10,000 for each private school student's education.

How much more money does a private school student get than a public school student?

A) \$3,840

B) \$4,000

C) \$10,000

D) None – because Abbott believes it doesn't matter, since private school kids deserve more money under SB2 and don't have to answer STAAR questions anyway.

👍👎 25

7 shares

Facebook, 02/18/2025