



5 December, 2022

The Honorable Lois Kolkhorst  
Texas Senate  
P O Box 12068  
Capitol Station  
Austin, TX 78711

The Honorable Ben Leman  
Texas House of Representatives  
Room E1.512  
P O Box 2910  
Austin, TX 78768

Texas State Board of Education  
Mr. Tom Maynard  
SBOE Member, District 10  
P O Box 625  
Florence, TX 76527

We would like to address the “legislative agenda” of 12 November, 2018 currently posted on the website of Brenham’s School board, and addressed to you, specifically items 8 and 9, to wit:

- 8) We respectfully ask that you vigorously oppose any legislation that is brought to the House of Senate as it relates to vouchers or the state adding any additional support or funding to charter schools, which consistently threatens to ciphre funds from the Texas Public School System. We are adamantly opposed to vouchers.
- 9) We respectfully ask that you vigorously oppose any legislation using public funds to support educating students in private or parochial schools. These schools are not governed by locally elected officials and are not subject to the same accountability system as Texas public schools. We are adamantly opposed to this.

This appears to mirror, or be inspired by, a similar legislative agenda (TASB 2022-2024 Advocacy Agenda Priorities) posted on the website of the Texas Association of School Boards, to wit:

### **Vouchers**

TASB calls upon the Texas Legislature to prevent any transfer of public funds using vouchers, education savings accounts, or corporate tax credits to private schools or individuals, including the expansion of virtual instruction by corporations.

### **Charter Schools**

TASB calls upon the Texas Legislature to restrict the expansion of charter schools and to reduce the impact charter schools and other educational institutions receiving public funds have on the state budget and local public schools by limiting funding to a rate no higher than that of local districts. The Legislature should increase the transparency and accountability of charter schools and other educational institutions receiving public funds, especially with regard to student enrollment processes/recruitment, student expulsion practices, business operations, and expenditures.

Numerous studies have shown that the American people in general, and parents of students in particular, overwhelmingly favor the school choice options that the Brenham School Board “adamantly opposes”.

This puts Brenham ISD School Board in sharp conflict with the voters who elected them, parents who depend on them and “we the people”.

The [American Federation for Children](#) cites a poll from Democratic pollster Beck Research<sup>1</sup> which finds that:

- 65% of K-12 parents back school choice, including 66% of public-school parents
- African-American and Latinos favor school choice by 74% and 71% respectively
- K-12 parents back Education Savings Accounts by 78%, only 14% oppose
- Support for charter schools and school vouchers is at 77%, even increasing among Democrats by 10 points, Independents to 81%, and Republicans by 85%
- A federal tax-credit scholarship is favored by 79% of K-12 parents
- African-Americans support of federal tax-credit scholarships is at 92%

USA Today<sup>2</sup> reports that a survey of likely 2020 voters, Democrats for Education Reform (DFER) found that

- 81% of voters, including 81% of Democratic primary voters and 89% of black Democratic primary voters support expanding school choice, including magnet schools, public charter schools, and career academies

Other surveys and polls report similar results

- American school parents favor Homeschooling as an option by 68.5%
- 60.5% of Americans in 2022 (and 51.6% of school parents) believe that public education is heading in the wrong direction.

It is with great concern that we note the remarkable conflict between the School Board's legislative agenda and the beliefs of "we the people".

We believe that the School Board should actively represent "we the people" rather than an agenda pushed by the Texas Association of School Boards

We call on the Brenham School Board to renounce any part of their legislative agenda that clashes with the parents and voters of the School District.

When soliciting approval for spending literally millions of dollars of taxpayer money, it would seem to be imperative that the Board respect the wishes and concerns of its financial supporters.

Sincerely,

Billy Sutherland, Pastor  
Calvary Baptist Church  
1100 Niebuhr St  
Brenham, Tx 77833

(713) 703-1246

(Acting on behalf of the Pastors of Texas Church Leaders – [texaschurchleaders.org](http://texaschurchleaders.org))

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<sup>1</sup> <https://federationfstg.wpengine.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/1-21-21-AFC-2021-National-Release-Memo-Final-1.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2020/02/24/voters-strongly-support-school-choice-educators-should-listen-column/4831964002/>