

Texas Representative Roberto R. Alonzo's

Capitol Report



**Blue Ribbon Schools
In Texas for 2015**

Earlier this year, the Texas education Agency (TEA) nominated more than 20 Texas public schools for national 2015 Blue Ribbon Schools recognition. Founded in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes public and private elementary, middle, and high schools based on their overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. The national Blue Ribbon School award affirms the hard work of students, educators, families, and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master an array of challenging content.

On September 29, 2015 the U.S. Department of education announced that 25 schools nominated by the TEA have been awarded Blue Ribbon honors for this year. All schools were selected as exemplary high performing schools as measured by state assessments or nationally normed tests. Also, each school has an economically disadvantaged population of 25 percent or greater.

Trinidad Garza Early College High School was one of the schools to receive this honor, and is located in the second largest urban school district in Texas. Garza ECHS collaborates with Mountain View College, within the Dallas Community College District, and provides a partnership that ensures that the goal of college success is attained. Students attend both high school and on-site college classes in order to graduate with high school diplomas and Associates' Degrees. Most of the students are the first in their family to attend college in an area where about 10 percent of the population has a college degree.

"National Blue Ribbon recognition for Garza ECHS, as well as the 24 other Texas school, is certainly well deserved. They earned this award through their unwavering dedication and steadfast education efforts taking place in classrooms and throughout their communities," states Rep. Alonzo.

Schools that receive this award are to be recognized at the Blue ribbon School conference in Washington, D.C. in November.



**Nov. 2015 Ballot:
Proposition 5**

Proposition 5, a proposed amendment to be submitted at the general election on Tuesday November 3, 2015, would increase from 5,000 to 7,500 the maximum total population threshold of a county that is allowed to construct and maintain private roads as long as the county imposes a reasonable charge for the work.

This amendment would update a provision of the Texas Constitution adopted in 1980 that governs the population cap for counties that may build private roads. Small counties in Texas have grown since that time and the Constitution should be updated to reflect population growth over the past 35 years.

Having a population cap for eligible counties is necessary to prevent all counties in the state from competing with private industry. However, in the 20 small counties that would be affected by Proposition 5, there are few private industries with which to compete. moreover, it is not profitable for outside companies to contract for minor projects in such counties. Small counties should be free to take on minor road projects to protect traffic safety in their jurisdiction. Proposition 5 would give these counties the necessary flexibility.



**Rep. Roberto Alonzo
with The Worker's
Defense Project team**



**Rep. Alonzo with
students from
Grand Prairie
High School.**