

Another Texas System Reform Failure

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In Nevada, Republican control of the legislature and governorship was good enough to [achieve legislation](#) that may productively transform the Nevada K-12 system. The nearly identical political control circumstances of Texas were, once again, not good enough to achieve ANY meaningful change in the Texas K-12 school system; no private school choice; no improvement of a charter law that would be a lot better if Texas copied Minnesota, California, or the District of Columbia; ultra-blue states that have very, very little else to teach Texas. Not zero; Texas also needs to copy California on part of its Prop 13 property tax reform; the part that prevents homeowners from being taxed out of their long-time homes by skyrocketing appraisals.

While I blame the no-school-choice-disaster on the Republican Party's failure to confront its elected members' anti-reform fallacies and its failure to muster some party discipline, it is well worth noting that the basis of this latest failure to change the low-performing circumstances of Texas public schools was anything but the democratic ideal of the current system's defenders. The current system's defenders often laud the current system for accountability to the public through majority rule; policymaking by consensus. The 2015 Texas legislators did not vote on school choice legislation. One or two men; a committee chair, and the House speaker, kept private school choice bills off the committee agenda. This terrible injustice to Texas schoolchildren struggling in circumstances not working for them, and the public's right to consider reform proposals, will hopefully yield some accountability. The committee chair is escaping accountability by retiring (☺), so the House Speaker will have to be held accountable for: a.) his role in the 2015 disaster, if any; and b.) if innocent, insuring that the 2017 Public Education Committee Chair does not believe fallacies that would, again, suppress consideration of private school choice for Texas.