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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:****1.1 Million Texans Vote for School Choice Initiative; More Than 85 Percent in Support**

**AUSTIN, Texas –May 31, 2012** – On Tuesday, more than 85 percent of Texas Republicans voted in favor of school choice and in support of Taxpayer Savings Grants ([TaxpayerSavingsGrants.org](http://TaxpayerSavingsGrants.org)). This result is confirmation that Texans want school choice, taxpayer savings, and the opportunity to choose the school that is right for their child.

Taxpayer Savings Grants is a voluntary statewide program that allows parents to transfer their child from a public school to a private school and use a Taxpayer Savings Grant to pay the tuition.

“It’s a huge victory for parents, students and taxpayers,” said Allan Parker, President of The Justice Foundation. “This election demonstrates that Texas voters overwhelmingly support school choice, including both public and private school choice. Texas leaders including Gov. Rick Perry and former President George W. Bush have long endorsed school choice. Now we know that it is also hugely popular with a majority of voters in Texas.”

More than 1.1 million Texas voters gave overwhelming support to the following ballot initiative:

***The state should fund education by allowing dollars to follow the child instead of the bureaucracy, through a program which allows parents the freedom to choose their child’s school, public or private, while also saving significant taxpayer dollars.***

In a published report, the Heartland Institute estimates the program will save the State of Texas more than \$2 billion over the next two years. This projection is based on an average savings of \$3,429 for each student who voluntarily accepts the grant, as well as participation rates in similar choice programs across the country.

“These definitive election results prove that Texans want freedom in education,” said Brooke Terry, Grassroots Coordinator with Texans for Voluntary Taxpayer Savings, Inc. “Texas taxpayers deserve the right to voluntarily choose the school that best meets the needs of their child as well as save the state a great deal of money. The Taxpayer Savings Grant program is the preeminent proposal to achieve this goal.”

**About Taxpayer Savings Grants**

Taxpayer Savings Grants are a voluntary program that allows parents to choose a private school for their child, and use a Taxpayer Savings Grant (equal to 60 percent of the statewide average maintenance and operations expenditure) to help pay the tuition. For more information on Taxpayer Savings Grants and The Heartland Institute studies, visit: [TaxpayerSavingsGrants.org](http://TaxpayerSavingsGrants.org)