

Mark Loewe's responses to League of Women Voters questions, 2012

Education (250 character limit)

Ph. D. Physics, University of Texas at Austin, B. S. Physics and B. S. Chemistry, Magna Cum Laude, University of California at Irvine, Fulbright Kommission support for physics research in West Germany, Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Pi Sigma, Phi Kappa Phi.

Experience (250 character limit)

I coauthored a quantum mechanics textbook, taught physics at UT and Texas State, discovered incorrect scores issued on TAKS math and science tests, helped to develop a tiny on-wheel pump to maintain proper tire pressure, and do microelectronics R&D.

What criteria should be used in developing and approving curriculum standards for courses? (375 character limit)

Criteria should include accuracy and importance of scientific and historical facts, promotion of students' abilities to gain knowledge and skills, successfully predict consequences of actions, and assess and communicate harms and benefits, and promotion of honesty, good citizenship, free enterprise, reason, science, useful arts, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

What changes, if any, would you make to current investment policies for the Permanent School Fund and to distributions funding public schools? Please explain. (375 character limit)

I discovered errors of roughly \$752 Million in values of two international investment funds listed in the Texas Permanent School Fund Schedule of Investments Held as of August 31, 2009 (Unaudited). The SBOE's failure to notice these enormous errors suggests dereliction of its duty to oversee PSF investments. I would lead the SBOE to carefully oversee PSF investments.

What changes, if any, would you support to ensure sufficient oversight of charter schools? (375 character limit)

Sufficient oversight requires vouchers to empower millions of parents to reject mediocre schools and choose safe schools that better serve their childrens' individual needs, abilities, and interests. When choosing schools (government, voucher, and other), parents may compare results of government achievement tests given at all schools that receive public education funds.

What are the two most serious public education issues facing the State Board of Education during the next term, and how would you address them? (375 character limit)

Texas pays excessively high prices for mathematics and science textbooks. I wrote House Bill 2959 (2009) and would lead the SBOE to acquire low cost textbooks for children to keep permanently. I devised progressive vouchers to attract billions of additional private dollars per year into Texas K-12 education and to maximize public education funds available for any child.