It's not just that Texas has national market leverage against oligopolistic publishers. It's about the original intent of the Texas Constitution, popular sovereignty, and State Board of Education checks-and-balances on legislators.

## REASONS WHY TEXAS DRIVES public school textbook reform

### NON-TAX FINANCED PURCHASES
California's tax woes have formally halted state textbook approvals until 2016. Its Superintendent of Public Instruction has said, "It could be close to a generation before we see new textbooks." But Texas spends no tax revenue on textbooks. Instead, income from Texas' Permanent School Fund buys its textbooks. Unlike California, Texas need never suspend textbook adoptions due to tax shortfalls.

### EFFECTIVE POPULAR LEVERAGE
Texas' elected SBOE thus has unique political standing to keep the annual state textbook adoption cycle going by providing Permanent School Fund money for it each year, pressing appropriators to allocate it for textbooks instead of spending it elsewhere as general revenue. Over time, voters bring to heel politicians who balk at so doing. In publishers' eyes this makes Texas a more reliable market.

### SEPARATE SBOE & LEGISLATIVE SCHEDULES
"Nothing is safe," goes an old Texas proverb, "when the legislature is in session." Texas' Constitution therefore limits regular legislative sessions to just 140 days every other year, from January to May. The SBOE usually addresses textbooks from July to November each year. Its textbook approvals seldom coincide with legislative sessions and so are largely free from legislative micro-management.

### INTENSE GRASSROOTS ACTIVISM
In some textbook adoptions, Texas' dynamic populist tradition of feisty citizen involvement routs the power of wealth to corrupt, of lobbyists to confuse, and of the miseducation establishment to control; and births spontaneous, ad hoc, enlightened leadership initiatives that pull up creative chairs and deal themselves influential hands (as on the inside pages here on Islam, evolution, and phonics).