



General observations

- **MAGA/anti-establishment energy remained strong in the GOP runoff.** The Paxton-over-Cornyn result became the clearest example of a broader trend: institutional support, money, and seniority mattered less than alignment with grassroots conservative voters.
- **POTUS controls the Republican party** – despite his favorability numbers being down, President Trump is on a multi-state winning streak in the primaries. This confirms that the MAGA wing of the Republican party is the most active and loyal.
- **Traditional assumptions about electability weakened.** Several races suggested voters prioritized ideological alignment and authenticity over experience or perceived general-election strength.
- **Geographic and demographic shifts complicate Texas politics.** Suburban behavior remains mixed, while Hispanic voters continue to resist easy partisan categorization—particularly around economic issues, cultural identity, and border security.
- **No Republican is guaranteed a seat** in 2027. The Democratic Party has nominees in every legislative, executive, statewide judicial seat.
- **US Senate race is widely reported as the most expensive in US History** – and we haven't even gotten to the general election yet!
- **Buckle up for November** – Democrats remain enthused by their Senate nominee, and are confident this is the year, but Texas has not elected any Democratic candidates to statewide office since 1994: the re-election of Bob Bullock (Lt. Gov), Dan Morales (Attorney General), John Sharp (Comptroller), and Garry Mauro (Land Commissioner)

Voter turnout

Runoff elections are low-turnout affairs – and this year was no exception. With fewer races on the ballot, no weekend early voting, and Election Day falling the day after Memorial Day, participation fell sharply from March. Just under two million Texans voted statewide in the runoff, a steep decline from the more than 4.3 million voters who participated in March.

According to the Secretary of State, there are at least 18,657,918 total registered voters in Texas (this number includes “suspense” voters). A more accurate number is **17,429,000**, which does not include suspense voters.

Final numbers, including REALTOR® turnout, won't be available for a while, but as of Wednesday afternoon (and using the lower of the Voter Registration numbers):

- **At least 1,940,352 Texans voted (11.13%) in the primary runoffs:**
 - 1,387,674 Republicans (7.96%)



- 552,678 Dem (3.17%)

Runoff Summary

Over the years, incumbents have not fared well in runoffs. Since 1996, 49 incumbent legislators have been forced into runoffs, and 36 (75%) of them have lost. Only one incumbent who finished second in the primary have prevailed in a runoff since 1996 (Dade Phelan – 2024). These numbers are inclusive of 2026.

Six REALTOR®-supported candidates advanced to the May 26 runoffs (4 Repub/2 Dem). Since that time, the RPAC and TREPAC Trustees approved support for an additional four candidates (2 Repub/ 2 Dem)

In those ten races, RPAC and TREPAC candidates were a combined 5-5, as detailed below.

RPAC/TREPAC by the numbers:

- At the federal levels, RPAC took a position in four runoffs, with one win and three losses: a 25% success rate
 - **RPAC Federal Races**
 - One win (Republican Tom Sell)
 - Three losses (Republicans John Cornyn and John Lujan; Democrat Julie Johnson)
- **At the state level, TREPAC took positions in six races with four wins and 2 losses; a 67% win rate.**
 - **TREPAC State Races**
 - Four wins (Republican Mayes Middleton, Democrats Montserrat Garibay, Venton Jones, and Adrian Reyna)
 - Two losses (Republican Jim Wright; Democrat Hubert Vo)
- At the local level, TREPAC was also active in runoffs, supporting 19 candidates, with 13 wins and six losses for a win rate of 68.4%
 - **TREPAC Local Races**
 - 13 wins (5 Repub, 8 Dem)
 - 6 losses (1 Repub, 5 Dem)

Opportunity Races

- The associations combined to run 4 opportunity races
 - NAR (3) – 1 Republican, 2 Democrat
 - 3 losses
 - TR (1) 1 Democrat
 - 1 win

Races of note

- The most well-publicized race was the historic GOP runoff for US Senate, featuring the 4-term incumbent **John Cornyn** against Texas Attorney General **Ken Paxton**. In what may be the most expensive Senate primary in US history, General Paxton, who secured the endorsement of President Trump during early voting, routed Sen. Cornyn by about 26 points. Cornyn becomes the first Republican Senator to lose a primary in Texas history, according to the AP.

Seniority within the chamber is an item of note that is not frequently discussed and was not a campaign issue: Having served continuously since 2002, Cornyn was one of the most senior members of the chamber. With Cornyn's loss and Ted Cruz serving since 2013, Texas loses considerable committee seniority and institutional influence within the U.S. Senate.

- Further down the ballot, the Trump endorsement yielded results in CD 9, where **Alex Mealer** defeated state Rep **Briscoe Cain** and **Carlos De La Cruz** defeated state Rep. **John Lujan** in CD 35.
- **Tom Sell** handily won his primary in CD 19 and former Congressman **Colin Allred** defeated Congresswoman **Julie Johnson** for the redrawn CD 33.
- At the state level, the MAGA movement continued as **Mayes Middleton** earned the nomination for attorney general over Congressman **Chip Roy** and **Bo French** ousted Railroad Commissioner **Jim Wright**.
- Republicans weren't the only ones that showed they wanted a change. In CD 18, **Christian Menafee**, who was recently sworn in after a special election victory in February, defeated longtime Democratic Rep. **Al Green**, whose district was targeted by mid-decade redistricting efforts.
- For state legislative races, two incumbent democrats faced runoffs: In HD 149 (Houston), longtime state Rep. (and former REALTOR®) **Hubert Vo** lost to Alief School Board member and education advocate **Darlene Breaux** and REALTOR® Rep. **Venton Jones** handily defeated **Amanda Jones** in HD 100 (Dallas). Breaux faces Dave Bennett in the general, and Jones squares off against Jordan Hoffnagle.
- HD 125 (San Antonio) **Adrian Reyna** easily dispatched **Michelle Barrientes** and faces Republican **Rick Martinez** in the general election.
- HD 49 (Austin) Democrat **Montserrat Garibay** defeated former Austin City Council member **Kathie Tovo** and is unopposed in November.



- HD 37 (Rio Grande Valley) Democrat **Ozzie Ochoa, Jr.** defeated **Esmi Cantu-Castle** and will face State Rep. **Janie Lopez** in a swing seat this November

Other races

- In SD 19, Republican **Marcus Cardenas** earned the nomination over Robert Marks, Jr. and faces off against fiery Democratic incumbent Senator **Roland Gutierrez**.
- HD 40 (Rio Grande Valley) Republican **Celeste Cabrera-Huff** bested **Nehemias "Nemo" Gomez** and will face State Rep. **Terry Canales**.
- HD 41 (Rio Grande Valley) Republican **Gary Groves** secured his party's nomination over **Sergio Sanchez** and will face Democrat **Julio Salinas**, who defeated **Seby Haddad** in the race to succeed the retired state Rep. **Bobby Guerra**.
- HD 97 (Fort Worth) Democrat **Beth Llewellyn McLaughlin** defeated **Diane Symons** and will face freshman Republican state Rep. **John McQueeney**
- HD 126 (Northwest Harris County) former Harris County Clerk **Stan Stanart** cruised over **Kelly Peterson**, the district director for retiring state Rep. **Sam Harless**. Stanart faces democrat **Stefanie Boyd** in this open seat.
- Finally, in HD 131 (Houston), Democrat **Staci Childs** defeated **Lawrence Allen** (son of outgoing state Rep. **Alma Allen**). Childs faces **Scott Whitmarsh** in this heavily democratic district.

Looking forward to November

Here are the statewide races that will be on every Texan's ballot on November 3. Candidates in **bold** have earned TREPAC support.



TEXAS REALTORS

Governmental Affairs

District	Open	Republican Candidate	Democrat Candidate
U.S. Senate	X	Ken Paxton	James Talarico
Governor		Greg Abbott (i)	Gina Hinojosa
Lt. Governor		Dan Patrick (i)	Vikki Goodwin
Attorney General	X	Mayes Middleton	Nathan Johnson
Comptroller	X	Don Huffines	Sarah Eckhardt
Land Commish		Dawn Buckingham (i)	Benjamin Flores
Ag. Commish	X	Nate Sheets	Clayton Tucker
Railroad Commish	X	Bo French	Jon Rosenthal
SCOTX Chief Justice		Jimmy Blacklock (i)	Maggie Ellis
SCOTX Place 2		James P. Sullivan (i)	Chari Kelly
SCOTX Place 7		Kyle Hawkins (i)	Kristen Hawkins
SCOTX Place 8		Brett Busby (i)	Gisela D. Triana
15COA -1		Scott Brister (i)	Jerry Zimmerer
15COA -2		Scott Field (i)	Thomas Baker
15COA -3		April Farris (i)	Marc Meyer
Tex. Crim. App. Place 3	X	Thomas Smith	Okey Anyiam
Tex. Crim. App. Place 4		Kevin Yeary (i)	Audra Riley
Tex. Crim. App. Place 9	X	John Messinger	Holly Taylor

Of note, this is the first time that the newly created **15th Court of Appeals** will appear on the ballot. The Court was created in the 88th Texas Legislature. Gov. Abbott appointed the initial three justices. The 15th Appellate Court handles civil cases involving state agencies, constitutional challenges, and cases from the business court.

The candidates for this important court will be on all ballots statewide: the other 14 appellate courts are elected from specific regional districts.

The Texas Congressional delegation is currently 25 Republicans and 13 Democrats, with two Republican senators. Fruits of the GOP's redistricting efforts remain unclear. The changes were supposed to yield five more Republican seats in the U.S. House, potentially shifting the partisan composition to 30 Republicans and 8 Democrats. This is something to watch in November.

The Texas Senate is currently 19 Republicans and 12 Democrats. As November approaches, keep an eye on SD 9, a 60% Republican district, where Democrat Taylor Rehmet flipped a seat in a January special runoff and SD 19, where Democratic Senator Roland Gutierrez faces a challenge from Marcus Cardenas in a swing seat.

The Texas House is currently composed of 88 Republicans and 62 Democrats (76 needed for a majority). For the 90th Texas Legislature, there will be at least 25 new members of the House.

Texas Democrats are bullish on their chances to pick up a considerable number of seats in the Texas House. Indeed, as many as 18 seats could be in play in November. Democrats would need to pick up at



least 14 to have a majority in the lower chamber – a tall, but not insurmountable order. In 2018 (the last Trump mid-term), democrats flipped 12 seats in the Texas House.

Without naming specific districts, keep an eye on current Republican seats in the following counties:

- Bexar
- Cameron
- Collin
- Denton
- Fort Bend
- Harris
- Nueces
- Tarrant
- Williamson

As we pivot toward November, one thing is increasingly clear: traditional assumptions about Texas politics are becoming less reliable. The electorate is shifting, turnout coalitions are evolving, and political intensity remains high across the ideological spectrum. While Texas remains fundamentally Republican, the environment suggests a more expensive, more competitive, and less predictable election cycle than many anticipated six months ago.