



General Election Update

November 8, 2006

The general election was held yesterday in Texas. This election cycle features all of the statewide offices, 16 of 31 State Senate seats and all 150 House of Representative seats.

Some of the major stories of the night include a **Nick Lampson** (D) victory in the heavily Republican Congressional District formerly held by Tom DeLay (R) and **Kay Bailey Hutchison's** (R) easy re-election to the U.S. Senate with 62% of the vote.

Additionally, **Rick Perry** (R) garnered re-election as Governor of Texas over a crowded field of competitors, there was a net pick up of 4 seats for the Democrats in the Texas House and perhaps more as there was an upset of at least 3 incumbent State Representatives, maybe 4.

Moreover, all of the statewide, non-judicial offices up for consideration were held by Republicans. Specifically, **Susan Combs** (R) won the race for Comptroller, **Greg Abbott** (R) won re-election as Attorney General, **Todd Staples** (R) won the Agricultural Commissioner post, **Jerry Patterson** (R) will continue to serve as Land Commissioner and **Elizabeth Ames Jones** (R) won a full term on the Railroad Commission.

Congress

The composition of the Texas delegation is 20-12 in favor of Republicans.

Much of the national attention surrounded the election for Tom DeLay's former seat in Sugar Land (CD-22). Former Congressman Nick Lampson (D) will now represent CD-22. He won with 51% of the vote despite a vigorous effort by Houston Councilwoman Shelley Sekula-Gibbs (R) to educate voters on her write-in candidacy.

Governor

On the gubernatorial front, Governor Rick Perry (R) prevailed in an unusually crowded field of gubernatorial candidates. He won a race that had been fraught with entertaining side stories with a plurality of 39% of the vote.

Lt. Governor

Lt. Governor **David Dewhurst** (R) easily won re-election with 58% of the vote.

Senate

The composition of the Texas Senate is 20-11 in favor of Republicans.

The only contest in the State Senate that generated any real attention prior to the general election was the seat held by Sen. **Eliot Shapleigh** (D) in El Paso. Although there had been some speculation that Dee Margo (R) could pose a serious threat, Sen. Shapleigh cruised to re-election with 58% of the vote.

House

The current composition of the Texas House is 80-68 in favor of Republicans. There will be a special election held in the near future to determine who will replace Glenda Dawson (R), who won re-election posthumously. Also, Corpus Christi Rep. Gene Seaman's re-election prospects were too close to call as of Wednesday morning.

The Democrats will pick up at least 4 seats in the Texas House. They were able to capture the Austin metro seat formerly held by Terry Keel (R) and prevailed in upsets of at least 3 incumbents – Rep. Bill Keffer (R), Rep. Martha Wong (R) and Rep. Toby Goodman (R). To reiterate, Rep. Gene Seaman (R) was still awaiting a final tally.

There has been some speculation that a strong showing by the Democrats would precipitate a Speaker's race to challenge Speaker Tom Craddick. At this time, Speaker Craddick retains over 100 pledge cards for his re-election. However, should anything change we will let you know as soon as possible.

Some races of note include –

House District 3 – Rep. Mark Homer (D) won easily with 57% of the vote.

House District 11 – Rep. Chuck Hopson (D) survived a bruising campaign against a well-funded, well-known opponent with 51% of the vote.

House District 12 – Rep. Jim McReynolds (D) prevailed in what many thought would be a close race, but one in which Rep. McReynolds broke loose with 55% of the vote.

House District 17 – Rep. Robby Cook (D) eked out a victory to retain his seat. Rep. Cook won re-election with 48.9% of the vote.

House District 32 – Rep. Gene Seaman (R) was awaiting a final tally in his re-election bid although the prospects did not look favorable for him. Challenger Juan Garcia (D) appeared poised to wrest this seat away from the Republicans.

House District 47 – Valinda Bolton (D) won a hard-fought contest to replace the retired Terry Keel (R) in this Austin metro House seat. She finished up with 50.2% of the vote.

House District 85 – Joe Heflin (D) overcame a heavily financed opponent to retain this seat for the Democrats. This expansive district in West Texas had been represented by the former Speaker of the Texas House, Pete Laney.

House District 93 – Incumbent Rep. Toby Goodman (R) lost his bid for re-election to Paula Hightower Pierson (D). Mrs. Pierson prevailed with 49.3% of the vote.

House District 102 – Rep. Tony Goolsby (R) repeated his conquest in a rematch of the 2004 election. Rep. Goolsby garnered 52% of the vote.

House District 107 – Incumbent Rep. Bill Keffer (R) was upset by Allen Vaught (D) in this Dallas County House seat. Mr. Vaught earned 50.1% of the vote.

House District 134 – Incumbent Rep. Martha Wong (R) was defeated by Ellen Cohen (D) who ran a highly organized campaign and was effective crafting a coalition of grassroots activists in this Houston House district. Cohen received 55% of the vote.

House District 149 – Incumbent Rep. Hubert Vo (D) cruised to victory in his rematch from the 2004 Election with former Rep. Talmadge Heflin. Rep. Vo won with 54% of the vote.

3rd Court of Appeals

There will now be two Democrats on the six member 3rd Court of Appeals. Diane Henson (D) upset Incumbent Judge Will Wilson (R) to earn a seat on the Court. The other incumbents up for re-election won their contests.

Place 2 – Incumbent Judge Alan Waldrop (R) won re-election with 51% of the vote.

Place 3 – Incumbent Judge Will Wilson (R) lost his race to Diane Henson (D). Mrs. Henson garnered 50.2% of the vote to claim a spot on the Court.

Place 5 – Incumbent Judge David Puryear (R) prevailed in his re-election bid with 52% of the vote.

Place 6 – Incumbent Judge Bob Pemberton won re-election to the bench with 51% of the vote.