

## The Hottest Contests on the 2006 Ballot

HD	Republican	Democrat	Libertarian	2004 House election	Bush / Cheney	Notes
3	Kirby Hollingsworth, Mt. Vernon	<b>Mark Homer, Paris</b>	n/a	Homer 50.2 / Hollingsworth 49.8	68.6	A rematch. Homer won last time by 218 votes.
11	Larry Durrett, Jacksonville	<b>Chuck Hopson, Jacksonville</b>	Paul "Blue" Story, Henderson	Hopson 52.7 / Alberts 47.3	71.2	Durrett is better financed than Hopson's last opponent, but Hopson is getting help from some of his Republican colleagues.
12	Jody Anderson, Lufkin	<b>Jim McReynolds, Lufkin</b>	Donald Keith, Trinity	McReynolds 51 / Clemons 49	66.4	Texans for Lawsuit Reform and other GOP-leaning donors are playing on behalf of Anderson.
17	Tim Kleinschmidt, Lexington	<b>Robby Cook, Eagle Lake</b>	Roderick Gibbs, Elgin	Cook 53.7 / Killgore 44.2	64	Cook's the best-known candidate, but is being pressed on water, animal-tagging and other issues. He vests in the state legislative retirement in one more term; one opposition ad says voters can save money by beating him.

(Incumbents in **bold** )

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32	<b>Gene Seaman, Corpus Christi</b>	Juan Garcia, Corpus Christi	Lenard Nelson, Rockport	Seaman unopposed	66.8	Seaman's tax issues — paying rent to his wife from campaign funds and claiming homestead exemptions in both Corpus Christi and Austin — and some of his votes are at issue.
35	Michael Esparza, Alice	<b>Yvonne Gonzalez Tourellies, Alice</b>	Edward Elmer, Pleasanton	Gonzalez Tourellies 50.9 / Opiela 49.1	59.2	The incumbent won a tight race two years ago, but she's got better funding than the challenger (or did, at mid-year).
47	Bill Welch, Austin	Valinda Bolton, Austin	Yvonne Schick, Spicewood	Keel unopposed	53.3	Open (R): Terry Keel; Neither candidate started with great name ID, and other Austin seats with similar characteristics have seen Democratic upsets. Both sides have it on the hopeful list.
69	Shirley Craft, Wichita Falls	<b>David Farabee, Wichita Falls</b>	Richard Brown, Holliday	Farabee 53.1 / Craft 46.9	72.6	Another rematch; Farabee has prevailed so far in a red, red district.

(Incumbents in **bold** )

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85	Jim Landtroop, Plainview	Joe Heflin, Crosbyton	David Schumacher, Anson	Laney 58.8 / Sharp 41.2	76.3	Open (D): Pete Laney; the most Republican district held by a Democrat, but Laney's backing the Democrat and still has some political strength. The GOP ranks this among their "most likely" wins.
93	<b>Toby Goodman, Arlington</b>	Paula Hightower Pierson, Arlington	Max Koch III, Mansfield	Goodman 56.1 / Gregory 43.9	56.7	Goodman's campaign-financed Austin home is an issue, and he's vulnerable. But the alarms went off early and he's getting help from Austin and elsewhere.
102	<b>Tony Goolsby, Dallas</b>	Harriet Miller, Dallas	Thomas Hall, Dallas	Goolsby 53.2 / Miller 46.8	56.2	One of four rematches on our list; Goolsby is in trouble, particularly if the governor's race peels away straight-ticket Republicans. It's a turnout game.
107	<b>Bill Keffer, Dallas</b>	Allen Vaught, Dallas	Chris Jones, Dallas	Keffer unopposed	56.8	Democrats' sleeper of the year; urban reps like Keffer often have low name ID, and the Democrat is a Purple Heart medaled veteran in Iraq. But county Democrats who won election two years ago didn't win in this district; the table's tilted to the GOP.

(Incumbents in **bold** )

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118	George Antuna, San Antonio	Joe Farias, San Antonio	James Thompson, Universal City	Uresti 56.8 / Salyer 43.2	54.7	Open (D): Carlos Uresti; Republicans have high hopes in this district, which could be influenced by overlapping Senate and congressional contests. Democrats say the turnout machines and the history of the district will keep it in their column.
133	Jim Murphy, Houston	Kristi Thibaut, Houston	Chris Camero, Houston	Nixon 78.3 / Harris (ind) 21.7	56.1	Open (R): Joe Nixon; Another on the Democratic sleeper list, but demographic changes working against the GOP might take another few years to ferment. Some Republicans tell us it's silly to put this one on the list.
134	<b>Martha Wong, Houston</b>	Ellen Cohen, Houston	Mhair Dekmezian, Houston	Wong 53.6 / Dougherty 44.3	54.4	Both sides have this one at the top of their competitive lists. It's a marginally Republican district full of swing voters and Cohen's years of nonprofit work give her a phone list and fundraising base most Democrats don't have. Wong's on full red alert.
149	Talmadge Heflin, Houston	<b>Hubert Vo, Houston</b>	n/a	Vo 50 / Heflin 50	53.4	The fourth rematch in the only House seat that went to a House recount after the last elections. Heflin doesn't have the financing he did two years ago, but still has a base. And he only lost by a handful of votes last time.

(Incumbents in **bold** )