

Top Texas Races in November

Start the argument. There are more than 100 races on the November ballot in Texas with candidates from each of the two major parties. Which will be hotly contested, with viable candidates, lots of money, lots of ads and lots of attention? We've refreshed our list of hot races on the ballot, adding a couple that weren't apparent (to us, anyhow) right after the primaries. And we'll likely revise this again at the end of the summer, when it's more apparent who can raise money, who's running a serious race, and who's just a gas bubble. Left off, but worth your attention: The special election race to replace Republican Sen. **Kyle Janek** of Houston in SD-17. Candidates can file until August 29, and both parties consider the seat competitive, with a Republican lean.

6/26/08

Office/District	TWI	Republicans	Democrats
U.S. Senate	-16.9	John Cornyn , San Antonio	Rick Noriega, Houston
Railroad Commission	-16.9	Michael Williams , Austin	Mark Thompson, Hamilton
Texas Supreme Court, Chief Justice	-16.9	Wallace Jefferson , Austin	Jim Jordan, Dallas
Texas Supreme Court, Place 7	-16.9	Dale Wainwright , Austin	Sam Houston, Houston
Texas Supreme Court, Place 8	-16.9	Phil Johnson , Austin	Linda Yañez, Edinburg
Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 3	-16.9	Tom Price , Richardson	Susan Strawn, Houston
Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 4	-16.9	Paul Womack , Georgetown	J.R. Molina, Fort Worth
Congress			
CD-7	-27.7	John Culberson , Houston	Michael Skelly, Houston
CD-10	-19.3	Michael McCaul , Austin	Larry Joe Doherty, Brenham
CD-22	-22.7	Pete Olson, Sugar Land	Nick Lampson , Stafford
CD-23	-6.0	Lyle Larson, San Antonio	Ciro Rodriguez , San Antonio
Senate			
SD-9	-20.5	Chris Harris , Arlington	Melvin Wilms, Grand Prairie
SD-10	-14.2	Kim Brimer , Fort Worth	Wendy Davis, Fort Worth
SD-11	-23.3	Mike Jackson , La Porte	Joe Jaworski, Galveston
House			
HD-3	-18.8	Kirby Hollingsworth, Mount Vernon	Mark Homer , Paris
HD-11	-31.7	Brian Walker, Tatum	Chuck Hopson , Jacksonville
HD-17 (D)	-16.1	Tim Kleinschmidt, Lexington	Donnie Dippel, La Grange
HD-32	-22.3	Todd Hunter, Corpus Christi	Juan Garcia III , Corpus Christi
HD-34	-1.7	Connie Scott, Corpus Christi	Abel Herrero , Corpus Christi
HD-47	-3.4	Donna Keel, Austin	Valinda Bolton , Austin
HD-52 (R)	-17.0	Bryan Daniel, Georgetown	Diana Maldonado, Round Rock
HD-78 (R)	-9.7	Dee Margo, El Paso	Joseph Moody, El Paso
HD-85	-31.0	Isaac Castro, Hamlin	Joe Heflin , Crosbyton
HD-93	-8.8	Bill Burch, Grand Prairie	Paula Hightower Pierson , Arlington
HD-96	-16.2	Bill Zedler , Arlington	Chris Turner, Burleson
HD-97	-23.6	Mark Shelton, Fort Worth	Dan Barrett , Fort Worth
HD-101 (R)	-12.6	Mike Anderson, Mesquite	Robert Miklos, Dallas
HD-102	-16.2	Tony Goolsby , Dallas	Carol Kent, Dallas
HD-106	-10.8	Karen Wiegman, Grand Prairie	Kirk England , Grand Prairie
HD-107	-11.5	Bill Keffer, Dallas	Allen Vaught , Dallas
HD-144 (R)	-20.8	Ken Legler, Pasadena	Joel Redmond, Pasadena
HD-149	-8.7	Greg Meyers, Houston	Hubert Vo , Houston

Incumbents' names are in bold. Open seats have a letter next to them so you'll know which party is currently in office. And here's how the Texas Weekly Index (TWI) works: It's the average difference between statewide Republicans and statewide Democrats in contested elections in 2004 and 2006, by district. If it's red (or a negative number) Republicans did better in that district; if it's blue (or a positive number), Democrats did better. It's not meant to predict results, but to give you a quick look at recent political history in each district.

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