

## MEMORANDUM

**From:** Jeremy Bird, Battleground Texas Senior Advisor  
**To:** Interested Parties  
**Re:** Early vote turnout in Texas  
**Date:** October 31, 2014

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With 4 days to go in the 2014 election cycle – and the last day of the early vote period ending today – there has been a significant amount of misinformation about what early vote turnout could mean for Wendy Davis, Leticia Van de Putte, and other Democrats around the state on November 4.

What the early vote numbers actually show is a race that is steadily moving in favor of the Democratic slate – and an electorate that is clearly shifting toward Team Wendy thanks to the continued hard work of the more than 33,000 grassroots volunteers who have already made nearly 7 million calls and door knocks to engage voters about the stakes this election and motivate them to cast their ballots between now and Tuesday.

When you compare where things stood on the same date in 2010 with what we're seeing today, here's what the early vote numbers mean for Democrats:

### VOTER TURNOUT IS UP OVER THE LAST GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION

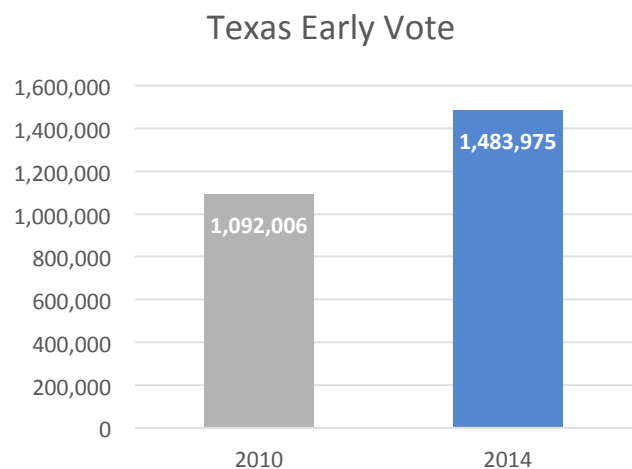
A simple apples-to-apples comparison of early vote ballots from the available counties in 2010 to the same available counties in 2014 shows voter turnout in this election is significantly higher than four years ago.

In the 15 most populous counties, 198,586 Texans have already voted by mail in 2014 according to the Texas Secretary of State. By this time four years ago, only 124,181 Texans had voted by mail in these 15 counties. That's an increase of +60% over the last gubernatorial election (+74,405).

We have collected county-level data from more than 70 of the largest Texas counties in 2010 and 2014, and this data shows an even bigger increase.

In these counties, which account for more than 85% of Texas voters, 1,092,006 people had voted early by mail or in person by this point four years ago. This year, that number has increased to 1,483,975 – an increase of +391,969 votes or +36%.

When you take into account historical trends, the outlook is even better for what this year's final early vote turnout is likely to be. Most early voting actually takes place during the final few days of the early vote period. In 2010, 2,226,941 total ballots were cast early in these counties – but just 1,092,006 of those ballots had been reported by this point. **In other words, more than half of early votes had not yet been reported by this point in 2010.** We expect similar results this year.

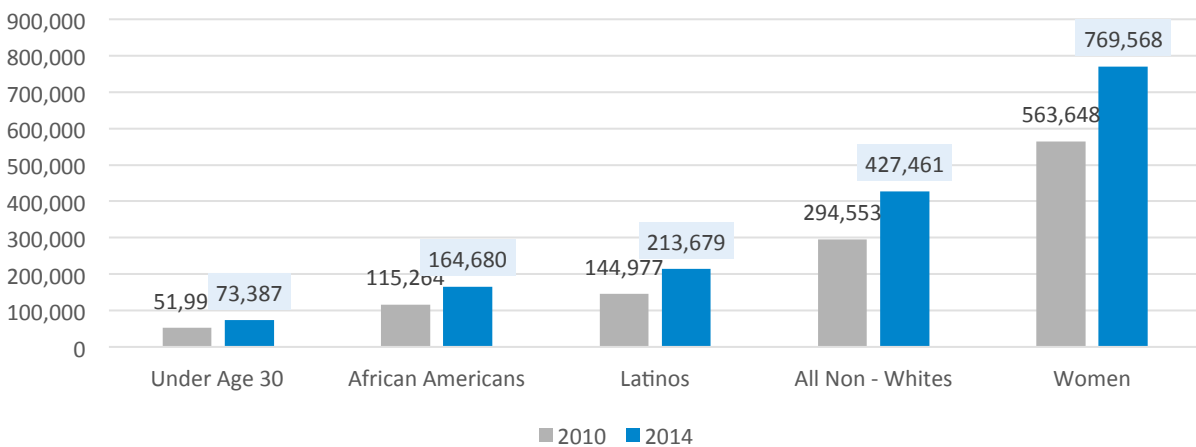


## VOTERS THIS YEAR ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE FOR TEAM WENDY

Furthermore, the voters who are turning out this year are more likely to be Wendy Davis supporters – and that’s good for every Democrat on the ticket:

- The number of **African-Americans** who have voted already in these counties has increased from 115,264 at this point in 2010 to 164,680 today – an increase of +43%.
- The number of **Latinos** who have voted already in these counties has increased from 144,977 at this point in 2010 to 213,679 today – an increase of +47%.
- The total number of **non-whites** who have voted already in these counties has increased from 294,553 at this point in 2010 to 427,461 today – an increase of +45%.
- The total number of **women** who have voted already in these counties has increased from 563,648 at this point in 2010 to 769,568 today – an increase of 37%.
- The total number of **people under age 30** who have voted already in these counties has increased from 51,995 at this point in 2010 to 73,387 today – an increase of 41%.

Texas Early Vote 2010 vs 2014



## THE BOTTOM LINE: THIS WILL BE A FIGHT TO THE FINISH

The early vote numbers this year are very encouraging for Wendy Davis and the Democratic ticket – and all signs point to this being a fight to the finish.

Ultimately, in a race this important – with candidates as compelling and inspiring as Wendy, Leticia, and so many others in key statewide and legislative fights this year – the winners next week will come down to grassroots Texans making their voices heard in the only poll that matters.