

# The Difference in the Difference

## How the margins changed in the state's biggest counties

The number of votes separating the Republicans from the Democrats in the presidential contests in 2004 and 2008, and the percentage differences between the winners (Bush and McCain) and the losers (Kerry and Obama). Red numbers indicate Republican advantages; blue numbers favor the Democrats. And the change in the last column is the difference between the vote margins in the two years. The top 25 counties are ranked by the number of registered voters in 2008.

County	2004 Margin		2008 Margin		Change
	Votes	%	Votes	%	
<b>ALL COUNTIES</b>	<b>1,694,213</b>	<b>22.9%</b>	<b>950,695</b>	<b>11.8%</b>	<b>743,518</b>
HARRIS	108,858	10.2%	19,099	1.6%	127,957
DALLAS	9,605	1.4%	112,989	15.3%	122,594
TARRANT	142,176	25.4%	73,540	11.7%	68,636
BEXAR	49,722	10.5%	29,252	5.6%	78,974
TRAVIS	49,350	14.0%	117,036	29.4%	67,686
COLLIN	105,500	43.0%	75,850	25.6%	29,650
EL PASO	21,881	12.9%	60,238	32.5%	38,357
DENTON	81,545	40.5%	58,775	24.2%	22,770
HIDALGO	11,438	10.1%	50,593	38.7%	39,155
FORT BEND	24,903	15.3%	4,838	2.4%	20,065
MONTGOMERY	76,026	56.7%	83,181	52.7%	7,155
WILLIAMSON	40,167	31.3%	20,632	13.0%	19,535
NUECES	14,920	14.3%	4,479	4.4%	10,441
GALVESTON	17,371	16.4%	20,453	19.5%	3,082
CAMERON	803	1.2%	21,809	28.8%	22,612
BRAZORIA	34,758	37.3%	31,035	29.6%	3,723
LUBBOCK	47,663	51.2%	35,818	36.7%	11,845
BELL	24,970	31.3%	8,829	9.8%	16,141
JEFFERSON	2,643	2.9%	1,983	2.2%	660
MCLENNAN	25,330	32.0%	19,046	23.9%	6,284
SMITH	33,422	45.4%	31,461	39.5%	1,961
WEBB	5,901	14.2%	20,333	43.4%	14,432
HAYS	6,911	14.5%	1,207	2.0%	5,704
BRAZOS	21,466	39.5%	16,963	28.9%	4,503
ELLIS	22,962	49.4%	22,745	42.2%	217

Source: Texas Secretary of State

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