

First Look: Top November Races

Start the argument. There are more than 100 races on the November ballot in Texas with candidates from each of the two major parties. But which ones will be hotly contested, with viable candidates, lots of money, lots of ads and lots of attention? This is our first post-primary and post-runoff hotlist, and we know from years past that it'll change in a dozen ways before the voting starts. These aren't the only races of interest, and some will fall off the list as others are added, candidates make mistakes, money vaporizes and all of that stuff that makes politics interesting in the first place.

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-22	-22.7	Pete Olson, Sugar Land	Nick Lampson , Stafford
CD-23	-6.0	Lyle Larson, San Antonio	Ciro Rodriguez , San Antonio
Senate			
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-17	-16.1	Tim Kleinschmidt, Lexington	Donnie Dippel, La Grange
HD-32	-22.3	Todd Hunter, Corpus Christi	Juan Garcia III , Corpus Christi
HD-47	-3.4	Donna Keel, Austin	Valinda Bolton , Austin
HD-52	-17.0	Bryan Daniel, Georgetown	Diana Maldonado, Round Rock
HD-78	-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	-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-149	-8.7	Greg Meyers, Houston	Hubert Vo , Houston
HD-150	-41.5	Debbie Riddle , Tomball	Brad Neal, Spring

Incumbents' names are in bold. 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.