

Texas Weekly's Hot List

The most competitive races in the Texas General Election

We lifted this idea from the inventors of the federal terror watch, ranking districts by the threat to each incumbent (or incumbent party, in the case of open districts) and giving each group garish colors. *Yellow* means there's trouble on the sidewalk. *Orange* is trouble on the front porch. *Red* is trouble walking in the door. Incumbents' names are in bold.

And for the last week: It becomes less likely, as you get closer to an election, that the information available from partisans is reliable. They're in the last throes of campaigning, asking people for last-minute money, trying to sell reporters on last-minute blockbusters about the opposition — they're in full sales mode, which is not necessarily based on facts. We end this cycle with both of the congressional races on the list in the red, along with six statehouse seats, all held by Democrats. Eleven more statehouse spots end this pre-election speculation in the orange, and another dozen are in the yellow zone. It feels, subjectively, like a big Republican year, and most of the people in trouble on our list are Democrats. The biggest advantage modern Republicans have attained in the House was 88 seats, in the 2002 election. That margin — 88 Republicans to 62 Democrats — has since shrunk to 76-74 (and it widened to 77-73 when Chuck Hopson left the Ds for the Rs last year). The swing seats are mostly held by Democrats, and that's one more reason most of the races below involve that party's incumbents.

District / Temperature	Republican	Democrat	Libertarian
CD-17	Bill Flores, Bryan	Chet Edwards , Waco	Richard Kelly, Morgan
CD-23	Francisco "Quico" Canseco, San Antonio	Ciro Rodriguez , San Antonio	Martin Nitschke, Houston
HD-3	Erwin Cain, Sulphur Springs	Mark Homer , Paris	J. Douglas Froneberger, Sulphur Springs
HD-85	Jim Landtroop, Plainview	Joe Heflin , Crosbyton	
HD-96	Bill Zedler, Arlington	Chris Turner , Burleson	
HD-101	Cindy Burkett, Mesquite	Robert Miklos , Dallas	
HD-102	Stefani Carter, Dallas	Carol Kent , Dallas	
HD-133	Jim Murphy, Houston	Kristi Thibaut , Houston	Alfred Montestruc, Houston
HD-1	George Lavender, Texarkana	Stephen Frost , Atlanta	
HD-34	Connie Scott, Corpus Christi	Abel Herrero , Robstown	
HD-45	Jason Isaac, Dripping Springs	Patrick Rose , Dripping Springs	
HD-47	Paul Workman, Spicewood	Valinda Bolton , Austin	Kris Bailey, Austin
HD-52	Larry Gonzales, Round Rock	Diana Maldonado , Round Rock	Charles McCoy, Hutto
HD-56	Charles "Doc" Anderson , Waco	John Mabry, Waco	Neill Snider, Waco
HD-57	Marva Beck, Centerville	Jim Dunnam , Waco	Derek Johnson, Marlin
HD-78	Dee Margo, El Paso	Joseph Moody , El Paso	
HD-105	Linda Harper-Brown , Irving	Loretta Haldenwang, Irving	Cecil Anthony Ince, Irving
HD-107	Kenneth Sheets, Dallas	Allen Vaught , Dallas	Brandon Parsons, Dallas
HD-113	Joe Driver , Garland	Jamie Dorris, Sachse	
HD-12	James White, Hillister	Jim McReynolds , Lufkin	
HD-17	Tim Kleinschmidt , Lexington	Pati Jacobs, Bastrop	Travis Hill, Elgin
HD-35	Jose Aliseda, Beeville	Yvonne Gonzales Toureilles , Alice	
HD-48	Dan Neil, Austin	Donna Howard , Austin	Ben Easton, Austin
HD-74	Thomas (T.C.) Kincaid Jr., Fort Stockton	Pete Gallego , Alpine	
HD-93	Barbara Nash, Arlington	Paula Pierson , Arlington	Colin Sowards, Mansfield
HD-114	Will Hartnett , Dallas	John Wellik, Dallas	
HD-106	Rodney Anderson, Grand Prairie	Kirk England , Grand Prairie	Gene Freeman, Grand Prairie
HD-134	Sarah Davis, Houston	Ellen Cohen , Houston	Wesley Hamner, Houston
HD-138	Dwayne Bohac , Houston	Kendra Yarborough-Camarena, Houston	
HD-144	Ken Legler , Pasadena	Rick Molina, Houston	Clifford Messina, Houston
HD-149	Jack O'Connor, Houston	Hubert Vo , Houston	