



RATLIFF COMPANY
500 WEST 13TH STREET
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701

AUSTIN OFFICE:
TEL (512) 494-9180
WWW.RATCO.NET

KEVIN COOPER
HON. THOMAS RATLIFF
RANDY ELLISTON

November 09, 2018

MEMORANDUM

TO: DPROA, Pete Bailey, Dwight Walker, and Boux Bland

FROM: Randy Elliston

SUBJECT: Legislative Update

Gentlemen,

With the mid-term elections behind us, we now know who will serve Texas in the U.S. Senate and who will represent Texas in the U.S. Congress.

U.S. Senate: Ted Cruz wins against opponent Beto O'Rourke with about 51% of the vote. This race was much closer than expected and had the Republicans nervous. It is now widely speculated with O'Rourke's showing in Texas that he will be a Democratic party Presidential candidate in 2020.

Congress: The Texas Congressional Delegation has 36 members. Democrats flipped 2 seats. New Members are:

1. CD 2 Dan Crenshaw (Republican)
2. CD 3 Van Taylor (Republican)
3. CD 5 Lance Gooden (Republican)
4. CD 6 Ron Wright (Republican)
5. CD 7 Lizzie Fletcher (Democrat)
6. CD 16 Veronica Escobar (Democrat)
7. CD 21 Chip Roy (Republican)
8. CD 27 Michael Cloud (Republican)
9. CD 29 Sylvia Garcia (Democrat)
10. CD 32 Collin Allred (Democrat)

It is notable that Republican U.S. House Speaker Paul Ryan came to Texas to campaign for Dallas U.S. Republican House member Pete Sessions but was not able to push him past Collin Allred in a District Hillary Clinton won (by a narrow margin) in the 2016 Presidential election.

Statewide: All Republicans were re-elected, but with margins from only 50.85% (PAXTON) to 56.08% (ABBOTT).

Republican Governor Gregg Abbott defeated Former Dallas County Sheriff, Democrat Lupe Valdez.

Republican Lt. Governor Dan Patrick defeated Democrat Mike Collier.

Republican Attorney General Ken Paxton defeated Democrat Justin Nelson.

Republican Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller defeated Democrat Kim Olson.

Republican Railroad Commissioner Christi Craddick defeated Democrat Roman McAllen.

Texas Senate: The Senate currently has 21 Republicans and 10 Democrats. There were 15 Senate seats up for re-election. The Democrats flipped 2 seats. The final partisan break-down will be 19 Republicans and 12 Democrats (although one seat will be immediately vacated and not likely to be filled until a special election next year). It takes at least 19 members to bring a bill to the Senate floor under the current rules, meaning if one Republican did not vote they would have to work across the aisle to get the bill to the floor.

New Members are:

1. SD 6 (GARCIA elected to Congress) There will be a special election to fill this seat
2. SD 8 Angela Paxton defeated Mark Phariss
3. SD 10 Beverly Powell defeated incumbent Konni Burton
4. SD 16 Nathan Johnson defeated incumbent Don Huffines
5. SD 19 Pete Flores defeated incumbent Carlos Uresti
6. SD 30 Pat Fallon defeated Kevin Lopez

Three Dallas area Senators changed as a result of election:

Republican Pat Fallon defeated Kevin Lopez to win SD 30. Democrat Nathan Johnson defeated Republican Don Huffines to win SD 16. Republican Angela Paxton defeated Democrat Mark Phariss to win SD 8.

Texas House: The House currently has 95 Republicans and 55 Democrats. The Democrats flipped at least 12 seats. So, the new partisan divide will be at least 83 Republicans and 67 Democrats. The Republicans must meet the Republican Caucus 2/3rd rule to elect a Speaker or meet the simple majority for the Republican Party Speaker Pledge. At 83/67 the Republicans need 50 members to meet the Republican Caucus 2/3rd rule but just 42 to meet the simple majority for the Republican Party Speaker Pledge. Conversely, if the 64 Democrats vote as a block, they will only need 12 Republicans to cross over and vote with them to crown one of them Speaker. Incidentally, this is how Straus became Speaker in 2008.

New members are:

1. HD 4 Keith Bell
2. HD 8 Cody Harris
3. HD 13 Ben Leman
4. HD 15 Steve Toth
5. HD 23 Mayes Middleton
6. HD 37 Alex Dominguez
7. HD 45 Erin Zweiner
8. HD 47 Vicki Goodwin
9. HD 52 James Talarico
10. HD 54 Brad Buckley
11. HD 62 Reggie Smith
12. HD 65 Michelle Beckley
13. HD 89 Candy Noble
14. HD 102 Ana-Maria Ramos
15. HD 104 Jessica Gonzalez
16. HD 105 Terry Meza
17. HD 106 Jared Patterson
18. HD 109 Carl Sherman
19. HD 113 Rhetta Bowers
20. HD 114 John Turner
21. HD 115 Julie Johnson
22. HD 116 Trey Martinez Fischer
23. HD 118 Leo Pacheco
24. HD 121 Steve Allison
25. HD 132 Gina Calanni won by 49 votes
26. HD 135 Joe Rosenthal
27. HD 136 John Bucy

At this time there are no re-counts; however, mail in and provisional ballots are still being counted. There are several state races and one federal race which could be eligible for recounts or could confirm the current winner or automatically produce a new winner. I will keep you posted should any of these scenarios occur.

Now that the mid-term elections have concluded the election of a new House Speaker by the House of Representatives will be on everyone's minds as the list of Texas House Members vying for House Speaker most likely will continue to grow. There are still six Republicans and one Democrat that have announced:

Republican Rep. Tom Clardy of Nacogdoches
Republican Rep. Drew Darby of San Angelo
Republican Rep. Phil King of Weatherford
Republican Rep. John Zerwas of Richmond

Republican Rep. Tan Parker of Flower Mound
Republican Rep. Four Price of Amarillo
Democrat Rep. Eric Johnson of Dallas

The Speaker election is important as he/she will select committee chairs for the upcoming legislative session.

OVERSIGHT COMMITTEES AND BOARDS:

Senate State Affairs Chaired by Senator Joan Huffman:

The committee has no future meetings scheduled at this time. Most likely the committee will not meet again until January after the legislative session begins.

House Committee on Pensions Chaired by Rep. Dan Flynn:

The committee has no future meetings scheduled at this time. Most likely the committee will not meet again until January after the legislative session begins.

Pension Review Board of Texas:

The Review Board met on October 4, 2018. There was nothing of great interest for you at this meeting, but there was some discussion about DROP benefit problems of other retirement systems. A link to the video of the meeting along with the agenda and board packet materials are below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CZaqPy4whZk&feature=youtu.be>

<http://www.prb.state.tx.us/txpen/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/2018.10.04-Meeting-Packet.pdf>

The Review Board has no future meetings scheduled for the remainder of 2018.

Randy Elliston, Government Affairs Consultant
Ratliff Company
500 West 13th Street
Austin, Tx 78701
Cell: 512-415-9975

Randy Elliston is a retired Chief of the Texas Highway Patrol with over 35 years of experience in Texas State Government Relations. He is now a member of the Ratliff Company team representing clients in areas of public safety, law enforcement, transportation and state administrative processes.