

# Texas Crane Owners Association

March 2026

Presented by:  
Eric Woomer

**ERIC WOOMER**  
*Policy Solutions*



# OVERVIEW

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**Elections 2026 – March Primary Results**

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**89<sup>th</sup> Legislative Interim**

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**TCOA 90th Legislative Priorities**

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**Construction Stakeholders**

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**TCOA PAC**

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**Legislative Timeline**

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**Questions and Next Steps**



# March Primary: Record Voter Turnout

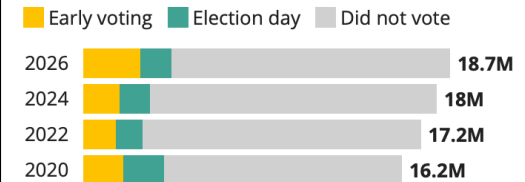
- Record high 18.6 million Texans registered to vote.
- 2.3 million votes cast during early voting – 12.3% statewide turnout.
  - 53% Democrat; 47% Republican
- 4.5 million votes cast on Election Day - March 3<sup>rd</sup>:
  - 2.3 million Democrat; 2.2 million Republican
- Democrats outpaced Republicans in early voting and on election day – a first since 2020.

? - Will this momentum carry into November?

? - Are these “new” voters or simply “earlier than usual” voters?

## Texas primary voting turnout

Turnout in this year's primary surpassed the total in 2020.



Note: Early voting numbers include mail-in votes. Data for 2026 is preliminary and current as of 8 a.m. on March 5.

Source: Texas Secretary of State

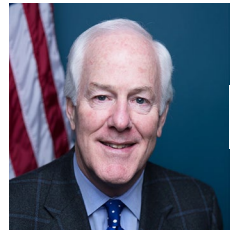
Credit: Apurva Mahajan

Source: Texas Tribune

# March Primary Results

*Election 2026*

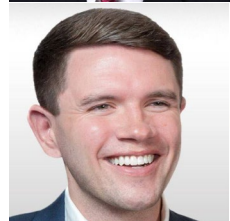
## U.S. Senate Race



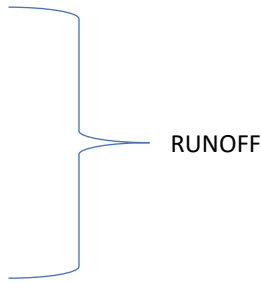
**Senator John Cornyn (Incumbent)**



**Attorney General Ken Paxton**



**State Rep. James Talarico**



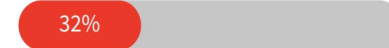
## Attorney General



**State Sen. Mayes Middleton**



**U.S. Rep. Chip Roy**



**State Sen. Nathan Johnson**



**Joe Jaworski**



# March Primary Results

*Election 2026*

## Governor



**Gov. Greg Abbott (Inc)**



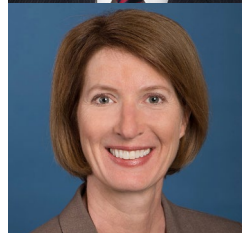
**State Rep. Gina Hinojosa**



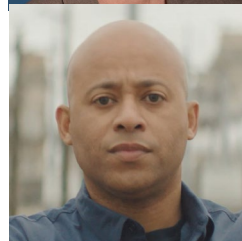
## Lt. Governor



**Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick (Inc)**



**State Rep. Vikki Goodwin**



**Marcos Velez**



RUNOFF

## Comptroller



**Don Huffines**



**State Sen. Sarah Eckhardt**



# March Primary Results

Election 2026

## Land Commissioner



**Dr. Dawn Buckingham**



**Benjamin Flores**



## Agriculture Commissioner



**Nate Sheets**



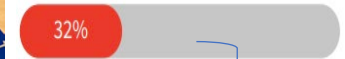
**Clayton Tucker**



## Railroad Commissioner

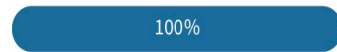


**Comm. Jim Wright (Inc)**



**Bo French**

**State Rep. Jon Rosenthal**



RUNOFF

# March Primary Results:

## *Texas Senate*

Most departures the body has experienced since 2014.

### Election Outcome:

- SD 3 (Nichols) Rep. Trent Ashby won the GOP ticket and will face Bobby Tillman.
- SD 4 (Creighton) Brett Ligon won the GOP ticket and will face Ron Angeletti.
  - ***May 2<sup>nd</sup> Special Election for remaining term.***
- SD 9 (Hancock) Sen. Taylor Rehmet will again face Leigh Wambsganss in November.
  - ***Rehmet won the Special Election for Hancock's remaining term.***
- SD 11 (Middleton) Rep. Dennis Paul won the GOP ticket and will face Shannon Dicely.
- SD 22 (Birdwell) Rep. David Cook won the GOP ticket and will face Amy Martinez-Salas.

# March Primary Results:

## *Texas House*

### 21 Representatives Not Returning (14 GOP, 7 DEM)

#### Key Incumbent Losses:

- HD 3 - Rep. **Cecil Bell** defeated by Kristen Plaisance
- HD 85 - Rep. Stan Kitzman defeated by Dennis Geesaman
- HD 101 – Rep. Chris Turner defeated by Junior Ezeonu

**Key House Incumbent Winners:** *Jeff Leach, Marc LaHood, Mark Dorazio, Ken King, Angela Orr, Will Metcalf, Stan Gerdes, Terri Leo Wilson, Pat Curry, Keresa Richardson, Candy Noble, Lacey Hull*

#### House Runoffs on May 26:

- HD 41(D) Seby Haddad 39% v Julio Salinas – 37% (Guerra seat)
- HD 49 (D) Montserrat Garibay 33% v Kathie Tovo 28% (Hinojosa seat)
- HD 126 (R) Stan Stanart 49% v Kelly Peterson 29% (Harless seat)
- HD 131 (D) Staci Childs 46% v Lawrence Allen 28% (Allen Seat)
- HD 149 (D) Rep. Hubert Vo 31% v Darlene Breaux

#### Impact:

- 2027 will see significant number of new members.
- Steep Learning Curve
- Must replace eight committee & subcommittee chairs.
- Additional changes to committee chairs and member assignments.
  - Subcommittees unlikely in 2027.
  - Democratic vice-chairs?

# March Primary Results

## What does this mean?

- Election generally favorable for Speaker Burrows, but must remain vigilant.
- More extreme Republicans did not replace more moderate GOP members.
- House: *Democrats likely to gain 3-6 seats, mainly along the border.*
- Senate: *Expected to remain largely unchanged.*
- Changes to committees and/or any leadership could impact housing policy.
- Education and advocacy efforts need to happen early and continuously.

# 89<sup>th</sup> Legislative Interim

## Interim Studies

Interim Committee Charges released in March.

Lt. Governor released initial round of charges in February:

*Sharia Law;*

*Property Tax Cuts;*

*Securing Critical Infrastructure & Supply Chain;*

*Fraud, Waste, Abuse within Medicaid and Child Care;*

*Promoting America and Texas First in Education*

## Sunset Review Cycle

Senate appointed Sen. Kolkhorst chairman

Large agencies under review this cycle:

- Texas Workforce Commission,
- Health and Human Service Agencies
- Juvenile Justice Department

Sunset activities will ramp up soon and will take up significant bandwidth.

## Abbott Actions & Appointments

Investigation into Fraud Waste and Abuse at: *Texas Medicaid, Texas Rental Assistance Program, Texas Child-Care.*

Directs state agencies to address potential Chinese Communist Party (CCP) Connected Cybersecurity Risks: *Report due April 17<sup>th</sup>.*

Amanda Crawford, new Insurance Commissioner

Steve Pier, new Executive Director of the Texas Workforce Commission

## Major Issues Ahead

Many GOP priorities have been achieved. Among those remaining:

*Fraud, Waste, Abuse*

*Data Centers*

*Water Issues*

*Insurance Reforms*

*Tort Reform*

*Property Tax Relief*

*H1B Visas*

*Taxpayer Funded Lobby*

# House Interim Charges

## **Committee on Transportation**

Study the need for the Texas Department of Transportation to receive prioritization direction from members of the Texas Legislature, including when identifying local projects for construction or maintenance.

### **Subcomm. On Transportation Funding:**

Examine the formula funding and discretionary funding categories used by the Texas Department of Transportation to allocate dollars for planning and construction of projects. Examine the adequacy of current funding revenue to meet projected transportation needs. Evaluate continuing the County Transportation Infrastructure Fund grant program, and assess its benefits to rural road infrastructure and public safety. Recommend ways to improve transportation-related funding, allocation methodologies, and transparency

# House Interim Charges

## **Appropriations:**

Monitor and oversee the implementation of appropriations bills, other legislation passed by the 89th Legislature affecting the allocation or use of funds from the state treasury, and major spending items, including funding for capital funding for Texas State Technical Colleges.

# House Interim Charges

## **Trade, Workforce and Economic Development -**

### **Subcomm on Workforce**

Study workforce development and labor market conditions in Texas, including skills gaps, workforce participation, training and education, and alignment between workforce programs and employer demand. Identify challenges and best practices to maintain the competitiveness of regional labor markets and strengthen workforce readiness.

# Senate Committee Shuffle + Interim Charges

## Committee on Transportation

### **Sen. Tan Parker, Chair**

Sen. Royce West

Sen. Paul Bettencourt

Sen. Brent Hagenbuch

Sen. Chuy Hinojosa

Sen. Nathan Johnson

Sen. Phil King

Sen. Borris Miles

Sen. Charles Perry

Examine the issuance of Commercial Driver Licenses (CDL) in Texas. Identify opportunities to strengthen safety standards of third-party CDL training schools and testing facilities, such as unannounced or undercover audits. Review program standards of English-proficiency throughout the CDL program for all commercial drivers in Texas, regardless of destination. Examine law enforcement policies relating to roadside inspections, including how an officer verifies the validity of a CDL and associated documents. Make recommendations to bolster the integrity of third-party providers, to ensure English-proficiency among Texas CDL holders, and to support public safety through enforcement.

# Senate Interim Charges

## **Committee on Business & Commerce**

Consider proposals to improve transmission planning, construction, and ratemaking processes to protect everyday Texans from rising electricity costs.

Study the adequacy of current statutory, regulatory, and infrastructure frameworks to meet the rapidly increasing demand from large electric loads, such as data centers. Recommend ways to balance economic development benefits of this growth against the impacts on landowners, private property rights, water infrastructure, and community integrity.

Evaluate the rising cost of property and casualty insurance in Texas. Consider the stability and competitiveness of the Texas insurance market, insurer participation, and coverage availability to meet consumer demand.

# Senate Interim Charges

## **Committee on Finance**

Study current transportation funding from all sources and the long-term needs of Texas drivers. Assess the implementation of funding appropriated by the 89th Legislature and make recommendations to ensure the effective and efficient use of transportation funding.



## 90<sup>th</sup> LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



### Trucking Litigation

- *The Lone Star Economic Alliance (LSEA) has begun holding meetings.*
- *TLR has changed their leadership (with Patrick Ryan assuming the helm) and hired a new Director of Communications (Jordan Overturf).*

### Legislation:

- *Reduce inflated medical damage claims by tightening up definitions of **admissible evidence**, required **disclosure of referrals** and other financial arrangements between the plaintiff's attorney and health care providers, and provided for greater transparency and accuracy in the **calculation of health care expenses** (SB 30 - 89<sup>th</sup>)*
- *Fix the laws pertaining to civil liability of a commercial motor vehicle owner or operator and **address inadequacies from SB 21** passed in 2021 (SB 39 - 89<sup>th</sup>)*

### Landscape:

- *Changes in leadership at TLR could impact strategy overall;*
- *Trial lawyer interests are spending **millions** in campaigns, including targeting key lawmakers;*
- *Makeup of the House and Senate will be a factor.*

# CONSTRUCTION STAKEHOLDERS





# TCOA PAC

Constant turnover among state lawmakers and staff means that TCOA must constantly educate, so that new legislators understand the Texas construction industry and the issues that are important to you.

Our friends in the legislature need financial support to run a winning campaign, and our political and policy opponents answer the call, contributing in large numbers to state lawmakers.

**If TCOA is to remain politically influential, it's important that we all get involved!**



How Do I  
Support  
TCOA PAC?

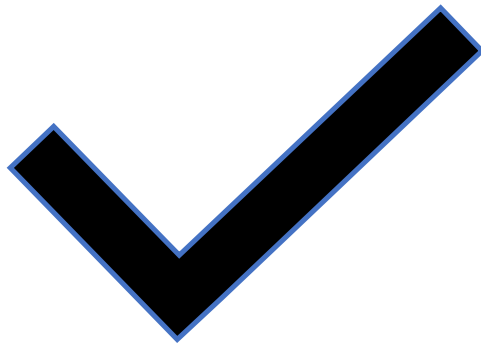




# LEGISLATIVE TIMELINE

- May 26, 2026: Primary Runoff
- November 3, 2026: General Election
- November 9, 2026: Bill Pre-Filing
- January 12, 2027: Session Begins
- May 31, 2027 (140<sup>th</sup> Day): Sine Die!
- June 22, 2027 (20<sup>th</sup> Day): Veto Period Ends

# Questions and Next Steps





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Your  
TXLege  
Team

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