



# Baylor Lariat

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## ELECTION ISSUE



Meredith Wagner | Focus Magazine Editor-in-Chief



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### Crucial counties come through, help Cruz beat out Beto

**LIZZIE THOMAS**  
Staff Writer

After a close race that has brought a debate for Texas identity and values to the forefront, Rafael “Ted” Cruz has been re-elected to the US Senate, beating Robert “Beto” O’Rourke by 3 percent statewide and 23.07 percent in McLennan County.

Cruz is widely known for his tough stances on gun control and immigration. With the win, Cruz kept alive his hopes of mounting a second presidential run once Trump leaves the White House.

In his victory speech, Cruz said his win affirmed that he won the “battle of ideas” against O’Rourke over issues like taxes, regulation and jobs.

“All the money in the world wasn’t a match for the good people of Texas,” he said, while also acknowledging that millions of people across the state were inspired by O’Rourke’s campaign.

“Thank you, Texas! Now let’s get back to

work and defend jobs, freedom, and security for Texas and America!” Ted Cruz said in a Facebook post.

Texas is a very red state historically. David Bridge, associate professor of political science and undergraduate program director, told the Lariat with an email that there might have been some uprisings within Democratic communities, but they were swimming against a strong tide. Though Cruz’s win was predicted, Bridges said the polls generally indicated that Cruz was going to win — albeit by a narrower margin than usual.

“While Republicans are happy to gain the victory, both parties are looking at the circumstances that allowed the campaign to be as expensive and lengthy as it was,” Bridge said.

Dr. Patrick Flavin, associate professor of political science, said that O’Rourke’s campaign was cautiously optimistic and was hoping for a bigger voter turnout.

“I don’t know any other way to say this other than El Paso, I love you so much. I am so proud of you and this city and this community and

what you mean to the rest of this country and what you have achieved tonight ... the kindness the generosity that you have shown to me... is amazing. I know that we will continue to work to together, to make sure we live up to the promise and the potential of this country,” Beto said in a live speech on Facebook on Tuesday night.

Neal Dikeman, the Libertarian candidate for Texas senator said for him, running was not about winning.

“We did this to send a message,” Dikeman said. “Obviously if we had an opportunity to win, that’d be great. We’re going to change the outcome of this race and that’s going to allow you and every other voter in Texas to decide whether they win or lose.”

Though many people may not know his name, Dikeman took his role seriously in the viral race.

“We had about a dozen media organizations tell us our voters were likely to determine the race,” Dikeman said Monday. “Undetermined which way, if the race is actually as close as

Congressman O’Rourke thinks it is Libertarian voters are likely to determine whether he wins or Senator Cruz wins.”

According to polls by FiveThirtyEight, Texas was a tipping point race and the margins were so close that small portions of voters choosing Dikeman, who would otherwise vote Republican or Democrat, could have decided who won, according to Dikeman. By taking votes away from one candidate or the other, Dikeman affected the results with 0.7 percent of the vote.

“We’ve already had a dramatic impact on the race,” Dikeman said. “If you go to neildikeman.com, you can look and see some of the things we’ve done. Among them is the largest campaign finance violation and complaint in US history [which we filed].”

Dikeman’s campaign attempted to fine CNN \$10 million for campaign finance violations in attempt to drive money out of politics, Dikeman said. According to Dikeman, he and his campaign purposely changed CNN’s narrative and the narrative of the race.

### Texas GOP rushes in to win local votes

**MADISON DAY**  
Assistant News Editor

In statewide elections, all representatives return to their seats for another term. The blue wave seemed to miss Texas as major positions were filled with Republicans.

#### Governor

Gov. Greg Abbott was re-elected for a second term as governor of Texas. Abbott won 56.2 percent of the votes, beating Valdez by 14.1 percent. Abbott won the majority in McLennan County with 65.59 percent of votes, beating Valdez by 32.62 percent.

Abbott (R) ran against Lupe Valdez (D) and Mark Tippetts (L). Going into Election Day, Abbott was in the lead by about 30 percent, according to CBS Channel 21 of Dallas-Fort Worth.

Gov. Abbott has served one term as governor of Texas, and there is no term limit for Texas governors. Previously, Abbott served as the Texas attorney general and justice on the Texas Supreme Court. He is focused on tax cuts via his “Bicentennial Blueprint,” creating jobs, improving Texas’ education system and securing the borders, according to his website.

“When you elected me Governor, I promised you a Texas that would create jobs and promote opportunity. I promised to cut taxes, improve education, build more roads, and take action to secure our border. With your help, we delivered on those promises and so much more. But we’re just getting started. Together, we will keep Texas the most exceptional state in America,” Abbott’s website says.

Former Dallas County sheriff Lupe Valdez focused her campaign on improving veterans affairs, LGBTQ+ rights, public schools and advocating for immigrant communities.

“As a former US Army National Guard Captain, I have seen too many veterans who have served our country heroically return home with a lack of access to healthcare, sustainable housing and reintegration services. We have to start with legislation that will provide healthcare to 76,000 veterans currently not covered due to the current administration’s refusal to accept Federal Medicare expansion funds,” Valdez’s

website says.

Mark Tippetts, the Libertarian candidate, said he believed in providing protection of the rights of all people. According to Tippetts’ campaign manager, Patrick Dixon, Tippetts wanted people to recognize there are more than two political parties on the ballot.

“We want voters to understand that you have more than two options on Election Day. There are three candidates running for governor. The Libertarian party is the fastest-growing party in the state and in the country. We’re the only party that believes in personal individual freedom and liberty and that sets Mark Tippetts apart from the other candidates,” Dixon said.

#### Lieutenant Governor

Dan Patrick was re-elected as lieutenant governor, winning 51 percent of the votes statewide. McLennan County voted for Patrick, giving him 60.10 percent of the votes and beating out his opponent by 22.41 percent of the votes.

Going into Election Day, the lieutenant governor race was leaning red with Dan Patrick (R) leading Mike Collier (D) by 11 percent. The libertarian candidate running against them was Kerry Douglas McKennon.

Patrick is “unwavering in his fight for life and liberty,” according to his website, by securing the border, reducing property taxes and promoting the Second Amendment.

“Focusing on strategies to keep Texas families and communities safe and the state economy strong, under his leadership, the Senate passed legislation to dramatically increase support for border security and reduced the franchise tax by 25 percent on a pathway to eliminating it all together. Lt. Governor Patrick has championed property tax relief over several legislative sessions and continued the education reforms he began as Chair of the Senate Education Committee, tackling the problems of failing schools and giving parents more choices for their children,” Patrick’s website says.

Mike Collier said he wanted to change the course of Texas politics today. According to Collier, Texas is on the wrong track in terms of education and property taxes, and he thinks

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**See all of our updates and final votes on our twitter feed @baylorlariat**





**WAITING GAME** Baylor students talk as they await the results of the Texas Senate race between Republican Sen. Ted Cruz and Democratic Rep. Beto O'Rourke at the McLennan County Republican watch party at its headquarters location on Valley Mills Drive.

# Senate race watch parties bring supporters together

**RAEGAN TURNER**  
Staff Writer

Tuesday night, Wacoans and Baylor students alike gathered across the city to track the live updates of the U.S. Senate election. Incumbent Republican Sen. Ted Cruz won the election with 51.2 percent to Democratic Rep. Beto O'Rourke's 48.1 percent, as of 11 p.m. Tuesday with 84 percent of precincts reporting.

One of the several watch parties in Waco was organized by Portland, Ore., senior Eric Soo, the president of the Baylor College Republicans. The event was hosted with the McLennan County Republican Party, backing Cruz, but included guests that are not members of the Republican Party. The Democratic club on campus, Baylor Democrats, was invited to the event to create a positive space within the diverse community to have fun while viewing the election, according to Soo.

Soo expressed his desire to establish a relationship between him and the Democrats on campus, who he said are "not his enemies." He said that despite their differences, it is possible to have community.

"It's important to not be afraid to share who you are authentically but also not being afraid to listen and remember that we are part of a community. And that doesn't mean walling yourselves off relationship-wise. We live alongside the Democrats, so of course we are going to invite them to events like this," Soo said.

The watch party, located at the Republican Party of McLennan County headquarters, was loud with friendly conversation and television updates. Plenty of food and drink were available and

space was limited.

Soo dismissed the idea that dissension is present between the two parties on Baylor's campus, which contrasts the rest of the nation.

"I think the fact that I listen to them, I respect them and they do the same for me is great. I actually talked to [Vice President for Student Life Kevin Jackson] today in my leadership class about how we do have a really sad political climate. I see a lot of this fighting going on in D.C. but on campus, the Democrats and I get along really well," Soo said.

In contrast on the national scale, NPR reports that "The partisan split in America is the highest it has been in two decades, with Republicans and Democrats holding vastly disparate views on race, immigration and the role of government."

Across town, many of those Waco-based Democrats congregated at tables facing a blaring television. Some Baylor students who participated as volunteers in O'Rourke's campaign were also there eagerly watching the results of elections in other states and discussing their hope of a Democratic win.

Flower Mound senior Peter Mungiguerra is one of these students. He was emphatic about his candidate, O'Rourke, and how the community of Waco rallied behind the representative from El Paso.

"It didn't take just a couple of people; it took an entire community. I was talking to the Democratic party chair from McLennan County a little earlier and she said that half these people in this room wouldn't be here right now if it weren't for Beto and for people caring and getting fired up and wanting to make some change happen," Mungiguerra said.

# Texas voters report malfunctioning machines

**WILL WEISSERT**  
Associated Press

With the arrival of Election Day, many voters across the country were on edge about the possible outcomes. Tensions regarding this year's U.S. Senate race between incumbent Republican Sen. Ted Cruz and Democratic Rep. Beto O'Rourke have been especially high. Polling numbers of the two candidates were close, making the news that reports of changing votes have surfaced from several districts of the Lone Star State even more intense.

"The Hart eSlate machines are not malfunctioning, the problems being reported are a result of user error — usually voters hitting a button or using the selection wheel before the screen is finished rendering," Sam Taylor, spokesman for the office of Secretary of State Rolando Pablos, who was appointed by Republican Gov. Greg Abbott, told the Associated Press.

The machines are used in around 80 counties, including the state's largest, Harris, which is home to Houston, as well as Travis, which includes Austin, and Tarrant, encompassing Fort Worth, the Associated Press reported.

Many Hart eSlate machines used in Texas don't provide receipts or other forms of paper trail to voters, but those casting ballots do see a screen that shows their choices before final submission — and can go back and make changes. Similar machines are used in parts of Indiana, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Virginia, according to Verified Voting, a nonprofit group focused on ensuring the accuracy of elections.

The machine's manufacturer, Hart InterCivic, attributed the Texas issues to 16-year-old technology.

"The same story has happened in multiple elections," Steven Sockwell, the company's vice president of marketing, told the Associated Press. "There was no flipping then and there's not any now."

In a statement to supporters, Cruz



**SWITCHEROO** Texas voters have reported voting machines altering their selections, a malfunction that Fort Bend County administrator John Oldham said is a user-induced problem.

cited "multiple reports" of race selections changing and added "once you select the Republican party ticket, please be patient and do not select 'next' until the ballot has populated all of the selections."

John Oldham, an election administrator in Fort Bend County, told ABC 13 that this is not the first time complaints have been received regarding altered votes in the county, though he does not think the malfunction stems from external sources.

"We've heard from voters over a number of elections about this," Oldham said. "It's not a glitch, it's a user-induced problem that comes from the type of system that we have."

Dr. Pat Flavin, associate professor of political science, provided his expert opinion on the voting machine mishaps, agreeing with Oldham.

"All things point to those problems being voter error. People were voting the straight party option and clicking through, which didn't give the computer enough time to catch up. It's unlikely that the voting machines will affect the election, since it only happens to a tiny fraction of

voters," Flavin said.

Oldham also told ABC 13 that he suspects both parties could feel the effects of the errors.

"I think both sides could be equally hurt," he said.

The voting process has been disrupted by this specific problem for single-party voters of both the Republican and Democratic parties.

When asked about his views on the situation, Waco freshman Malachi Key expressed his opinion that the election process should not be greatly impacted, but voters should be cognizant of their submissions.

"I think that it might affect the election, but only to a minimal amount. There's only been a small number of reports about machines malfunctioning, and it's been a known issue with this type of machine since 2016, so hopefully people will pay attention to the summary at the end of voting and election officials will be helpful and informative to voters," Key said.

*\*Raegan Turner, Lariat Staff Writer, contributed to this report.*

# Governor races have national implications

**MCKENNA MIDDLETON**  
Opinion Editor

On Election Day, 36 states held elections for governor. According to data from Baylor Institutional Research and Testing, 91.4 percent of undergraduate Baylor students are from states participating in governor elections.

The National Governors Association reported 17 of those 36 states had incumbents eligible for re-election, but even some of those seemingly predictable states were met with unexpected challenges. For example, in right-leaning Texas, incumbent Republican Gov. Greg Abbott won re-election by 55.6 percent to Democratic challenger Lupe Valdez's 42.2 percent as of 11 p.m. Tuesday with 78 percent of precincts reporting.

Dr. Patrick Flavin, associate professor of political science at Baylor, said these races reflect a larger narrative of nationalization in American politics.

"Given that the federal government under unified control isn't doing much in terms of changing policy, the states I think are more really where the action is at. So I think they're getting a little more focus in this election," Flavin said.

In that way, Flavin said Republican control on a federal level could mean gubernatorial races are more important for Democrats to advocate for policy changes on a state level.

"So I think that what's really on the ballot in several of these states is if you switch from a Republican governor to a Democratic governor, you could get some policy changes that wouldn't otherwise happen," Flavin said. "Democrats are usually the national party and Republicans are sort of the states-focused party, but that's sort of flipped as they find themselves in the minority."

At the same time, Flavin said governor elections can have a greater capacity in general for state-based political focus than other offices where national politics have taken hold.

“ Democrats are usually the national party and republicans are sort of the states-focused party, but that's sort of flipped as they find themselves in the minority.”

**DR. PATRICK FLAVIN | ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

Some of the governor races were projected to be a shoo-in for the incumbent party, such as in California and Texas. However, other races such as Georgia and Florida were much more highly contested in polling data.

Flavin said closer polls might motivate people to vote more because close races have more campaign spending and more mobilization efforts.

"Whether their vote's going to potentially make a difference in the outcome is a motivating factor. And so not surprisingly, we see higher voter turnout in more competitive races. I think that's one aspect that increased polling has sort of helped," Flavin said.

In Georgia, Republican Secretary of State Brian Kemp ran a tight race against Democrat Stacey Abrams. In the end, Kemp won the governor seat with 52.7 percent to Abrams 46.4 percent as of 11 p.m. Tuesday with 92 percent of precincts reporting.

"On one hand, it's somewhat surprising given the red lean of Georgia, but I think what this probably signals is one, the changing demographics of the South, but also the ripe conditions for Democratic candidates this year," Flavin said. "So I think if the conditions weren't the way they are, it's unlikely that the Georgia governor's race would be as close just because of the lean of that state. But because the conditions are what they are, it's propped up as probably the most prominent governor's election."

Augusta, Ga., senior Palmer Brigham said she's noticed changes in Georgia both politically and with local businesses.

"I believe the fact that a normally predictable state like Georgia is hosting a close election for governor shows true democracy at work. A lot of important issues have drawn attention in this election and I hope whatever the outcome, this attention will garner the changes the state need," Brigham said.

In the case of the Georgia race, Flavin said both candidates have focused on national politics based on their respective political parties.

"So neither is really trying to moderate their positions, and I think that's part of the larger pattern of just the nationalization of all sorts of state level races," Flavin said.

On the flip side, more decided races like the gubernatorial election in California and Texas have been characterized by a shift away from nationalization, Flavin said. This still wasn't enough for California governor Republican candidate John Cox to win in such a blue state; he lost with 44 percent to Democratic candidate Gavin Newsom's 56 percent as of 11 p.m. Tuesday with 16 percent of precincts reporting.

Flavin said they may downplay ties to national politics like Cox who did not emphasize the endorsement Trump gave him in his political advertising.

"I think in politically lopsided states like California, it behooves the challenger to be less linked to national politics," Flavin said. "So Trump as a president and the Republican party as a party aren't super popular in California, so I think it makes good political sense to do so."



Election

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our democracy in peril by allowing voter suppression and the corporate takeover of politics.

“The election process has been one of the greatest experiences of my lifetime. The support we get in places like Waco — not necessarily known to be a Democrat haven — has been tremendous. People are so excited to share their hopes and aspirations with me, and it’s inspiring. I met a school superintendent in West, Texas recently. He approached as we were in between campaign events at a truck stop in Tulia. He told me that he, as a lifelong Republican voter, was voting for me, the first ever Democrat he would mark on a ballot,” Collier said.

McKennon said he believes that all individuals have the right to live as they please without the government getting in the way, as long as they don’t interfere with other’s rights, according to his website. McKennon wanted to abolish property taxes and legalize marijuana and prostitution. According to McKennon’s campaign manager, Ryan Simpson, McKennon was campaigning for less government interference.

“The number one take away from McKennon’s platform is less government in lives of businesses and individuals. More government in many cases causes worse problems than its trying to fix in the first place such as with any black market,” Simpson said.

**Attorney General**  
Ken Paxton was re-elected as attorney general, winning 51 percent of the votes. In McLennan County, Paxton beat out Nelson by 22.43 percent, getting 60.04 percent of the votes.

Incumbent Attorney General Ken Paxton (R) ran against Justin Nelson (D) and Michael Ray Harris (L). Going into election day, polls showed Paxton in the lead, even though he is under indictment for security fraud charges, Incumbent Attorney General, Ken Paxton, strongly promotes

religious freedom, the protection of the 10th Amendment and defends the free enterprise system — advocating for less government regulations in the economy.

“He has been a prominent voice in the defense of religious liberty during multiple attacks by the Obama Administration and also more recently supporting the current Administration’s policies defending religious liberty. A defender of our free enterprise system, General Paxton also continues to fight against overreaching government regulations which harm Texas jobs and economic growth,” Paxton’s website says.

Justin Nelson focused his campaign the promise to bring integrity back to the attorney general’s office. Nelson believes in standing up for the law and wants to serve as a check on power, according to his website.

“I will fight for ALL Texans to stop corruption, fraud, and government waste, to safeguard consumer protections, and to ensure everyone is treated equally under the law,” Nelson’s website says.

Michael Ray Harris was the Libertarian candidate and has been a criminal defense attorney for 20 years. Harris said he wanted to focus on civil asset forfeiture laws and ensure that “abuse of office” should apply to federal agents.

**State Representative for District 56**  
Charles “Doc” Anderson won the race for State Representative for District 56 winning 65.79 percent of the votes.

Charles “Doc” Anderson (R) and Katherine Turner-Pearson (D) were on the ballot for state representative for District 56 — which includes Waco and the surrounding area.

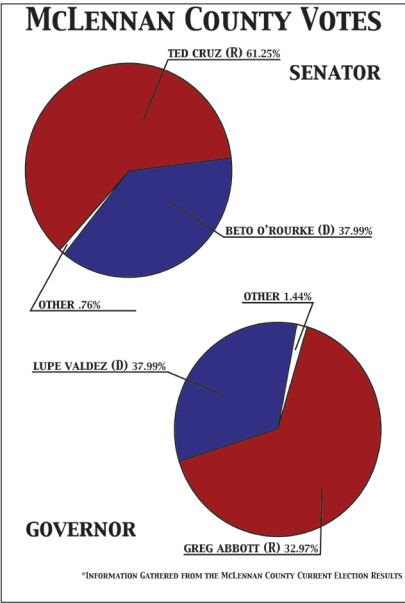
Anderson is the incumbent representative for District 56 and said he plans to focus his time in office in reforming the Texas educational system, tackling the rising property tax issue and enhancing border security.

“You have state and you have local issues — the biggest issue we’ll be dealing with is public school finance. It’s really important, that we educate our kiddos in Texas properly. We need to get a handle on property taxes. They are driving people out of their homes, preventing young people from getting homes. I’ve had middle class folks call saying they have to downsize to avoid taxes,” Anderson said.

Turner-Pearson, the Democratic candidate that ran against Anderson, focused her platform on promoting funding for Texas public schools.

“I think what I’ve really been trying to get across to people, is that we really have to get funding from the state of Texas

for our public schools. I think that has been the keystone [of my platform.] My opponent has been voting along with the rest of the legislature to defund our schools. By defunding schools, we are shorting the children and that’s on investment for the future of the State of Texas,” Turner-Pearson said.



Graphic by Liesje Powers | Multimedia Editor

GOP incumbents win some local seats, Dems. takes commissioner

LIZZIE THOMAS  
Staff Writer

In McLennan County, the voter results are in with the Republican Party taking County Judge and Comptroller and the Democratic Party taking County Commissioner.

**County Commissioner**  
McLennan County Democrat Patricia “Pat” Chisholm-Miller won the seat of county commissioner, Precinct 2, by 29.85 percent after about 22 years of serving in county commissioner’s office as the administrative assistant, defeating Donis “DL” Wilson.

Of 243,394 McLennan County residents, 139,837 are registered voters and 74,398 voted. In 2014, 44,982 voted of 128,120 registered voters. The voter turnout for 2014 was 35.11 percent and for this year was 54.16 percent.

Chisholm-Miller could not be reached for comment.

According to a debate at the Mayborn Museum on Oct. 11, one of the biggest issues Chisholm-Miller said she wants to tackle is economic development in the low-income areas of East Waco, unlike her opponent, Donis “DL” Wilson, who wanted to focus on the rural areas that he said felt neglected.

“Some of the biggest issues are economic development for rural cities and urban areas,” Chisholm-Miller said. “From the county perspective, we need to look at salaries. We need to not only bring up companies and tourism, but also make it so our own people can enjoy what comes with that.”

According to that debate, Chisholm-Miller said she wants to capitalize on the economic prosperity Waco is experiencing and bring it to East Waco to turn it into long-term success for the area.

**County Judge**  
Scott Felton, the incumbent Republican county judge, won the election against Democratic opponent, Rick Allen by 28.12 percent.

First appointed to serve the rest of Jim Lewis’s term before being re-elected in 2014, Felton told the Waco Tribune-Herald at that time in 2012 he would finish his term and return to his farm. Now, six years later, Felton shows no signs of wanting to do so.

Allen questioned his character regarding this move and others.

“What does that say about his integrity? As county judge, I’d be able to provide the accountability voters don’t have right now,” Allen said Monday.

Allen listed the lack of county parks and libraries as an issue he wants to fix. He acknowledged that the City of Waco has those public amenities important to civic life, but Allen said he wants to serve the rest.

“We don’t have the roads and bridges we need, our county jail is consistently underperforming,” Allen said.

Felton could not be reached for comment.

**Comptroller**  
Glenn Hegar, the incumbent Republican Texas Comptroller,

won the race against Joi Chevalier by 26.98 percent in McLennan County and 7.24 percent statewide.

Hegar could not be reached for comment.

A former state senator, Hegar was elected in 2014. He wants to invest the revenue earned from oil and gas severance taxes, so that it’s not just sitting and not gaining more. As far as tax reform, Hegar wants to put out a report on public education funding in order to get the facts about enrollment.

Hegar said that Texas needs to be careful and intentional with its money at a rally in Tyler on Oct. 23, at an event with Grassroots America-We the People.

Chevalier said some of the changes she would have implemented in her 90-day plan included auditing (getting more hard information to work from), evaluating what taxes have not been looked at recently, finance reform in order to make sure that Texas is using funds wisely.

“We’ve got very real issues that we need to address, and so I’m trying to come up with solutions, and this is putting money to work that we have today,” Hegar said. “It’s your money and my money. It’s the taxpayers’ money. If I have a wiser ability to use that money more prudently to solve our problems so that this generation and future generations won’t have to be solving those problems.”

He implied that the funding system is outdated given that it was set up 30 years ago and no one could have predicted the growth.

“This is a super pivotal election and I’m grateful that I finally have a chance to be a part of this voting culture.”

**BEVIN MAIRURA | JUNIOR, MINNETONKA, MN**

“Social media has really ruined this election, as well as pressure from friends or celebrities online to vote a certain way..”

**KIERRANNE O'MALLEY | SOPHOMORE, ROUND ROCK, TX**

“Beto strikes me as a once in a generation candidate, and I’m not confident that any Democrats could be competitive in a Texas Senate race for a while if he doesn’t win...”

**MATT MUIR | SOPHOMORE, ROBINSON, TX**

“People in other countries wish they had a voice like we do, so we need to use it...”

**MEGAN SAN MIGUEL | JUNIOR, FORT WORTH, TX**

“As someone who’s been actively involved in politics, I would love to see more people my age feel empowered by the political process.”

**BREANN BATES | SOPHOMORE, MINNEOLA, FLORIDA**

“The fact that that the Beto/ Cruz race is practically tied makes me feel hopeful that Texas is ready for change. It lets me know that incumbents are no longer guaranteed their position based on name recognition...”

**MACY SCOTT | JUNIOR, SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA**

**STUDENT OPINIONS ON THE ELECTIONS**



LARIAT LETTERS

Students share election effects

“Red Ted” Redemption: Baylor Republicans celebrate Cruz

ERIC SOO  
Guest Contributor

The incumbent President’s party has only failed to lose seats in three of the midterm elections since the Civil War. Last night, the Democrats followed this historical trend and gained the lion’s share of seats to reclaim the House—a smaller majority than expected, but a powerful “Blue Wave”—that will no doubt be heralded by the mainstream media as a rebuke of President Trump and his policies. Tonight was an antidote to the sting of 2016 for Democrats, and a confirmation that the strategy of depicting Republicans as racist, misogynistic, poor-hating, etc. works! It also signals that health care reform, climate change, and social justice are something that constituents are looking for their representatives in Washington to address. The #Resistance will continue unabated for the next two years in a split and less effective House, and every day Republicans will have to expect increased attacks on Trump and themselves by an empowered and angry backlash to the controversial president.

I watched the videos of rioting in my hometown of Portland when President Trump won. My family went to a public march to support President Trump, and it was shut down prematurely because so many Antifa members showed up: the police couldn’t guarantee the citizen’s safety.

Right now, only one side feels safe voicing an opinion in America, and the loyalty Republicans feel to Trump is not one of the head, but of the heart. Every Republican has had malice attributed to their ballot in 2016, and has been misrepresented by the media, or the friends that wrongfully call us Nazis—since 2016. Seeing President Trump experiencing the same problems, but standing tall anyways, creates a sense of solidarity with him that has no other parallel in American politics.

Parties have re-oriented their message over the centuries to recapture a majority, and the enduring power of both the Democratic Party and the Republican Party are a testament to that. The Democrats have now regained the majority of Congress. The initiative now is for Republicans to reflect on how we can better address our peers and change our message to appeal to more of the electorate. On an encouraging note for Republicans, the GOP expanded its lead in the Senate. This means that President Trump will not be impeached, and the confirmation of constitutional-respecting judges will continue. Because the Democrats won the House, one can also expect not to see so many stories dedicated to the Russian bogeyman, or to the elimination of the electoral college. Republicans have to make up ground in the popular vote, and Democrats have to appeal to a greater

diversity of American communities not of skin tone, but of geographic distribution. My private hope is that tonight’s mixed result will encourage a less divisive orientation of the heart.

College Republicans want to live in an American where we can engage in our democracy without political correctness determining how one has to vote. Jesus had both a tax collector and a zealot among the twelve... we need to stop saying that “real Christians” would vote a certain way, and let the Holy Spirit—not Babylonian culture—dictate how we live our lives.

Baylor’s own Vice President, Dr. Jackson, stated that the solution to this political climate is to “do everything we can in our own spheres of influence.” I have done my best to lead by this sentiment, and the Baylor College Republicans have held a bipartisan event with the College Democrats every semester I have been chairman. We have bowled together, eaten together, and tonight they are coming to a bipartisan watch party. Progressive and independent friends will also be in attendance, and the College Republicans are looking forward to enjoying Texan BBQ and American junk food in their good company. Politics is relationship-building on a national level. If we can continue to enjoy nights like tonight, then our county has nothing more to look forward to than a future of Providence and hope.

Baylor Democrats say Beto’s impact is still far-reaching

ALDRIN BALLESTEROS  
Guest Contributor

We seem to hear on the news that every election is “the most important election in history”. In a way, this is true. Every election we vote on who will represent and work for the issues that we as citizens of the United States care about. Our democracy is made up of constantly moving pieces. Today we decided where we want these pieces to take us in the upcoming years.

As members of a democracy we must accept the outcomes of this midterm election. I am positive that I have never been as invested and proud of a candidate as I am of Congressman Beto O’Rourke. However, the result was not what I was hoping, and I accept it. An important element of our election process is respecting the outcome.

The Texas Senate race between Ted Cruz and Beto O’Rourke has been highlighted as one of the most important in these midterm elections. There are so many different elements that make this election both exciting and worthy of analyzing. Beto O’Rourke has run an unprecedented campaign. Not only has he visited every corner of the state, he has also targeted a couple of key groups of voters that I believe have been previously ignored to a certain extent. Beto O’Rourke has visited colleges across Texas left and right. He’s also reached out to those Latino voters who have

not been reached out to in the past. Regardless of if he wins or not, he has managed to increase the engagement of these two important groups of Texans. If this trend continues, he has managed to change the nature of future elections in Texas.

As a Latino from El Paso, I see Beto O’Rourke as someone who understands my issues and concerns. While he is not a Latino, he grew up in the same place that I did. As a member of the Hispanic Student Association at Baylor, I know that there are many Latinos just like me who identify with this. I am very grateful that he’s made the effort to reach out to us. We make up almost half of the population in Texas, yet we have very low turnout rates. I’ve been doing research on the effect of Latino voters during my semester in D.C. and the issue in Texas is that we’re simply not reached out to. I believe that Beto has reached out to these groups of “unreliable” voters, and has made the genuine connection that was needed to motivate people to vote. These efforts made to connect with Latinos translate to the 200 percent increase that we saw in Latino early voter turnout.

Last semester I had the opportunity to take pictures at Heritage Creamery where Beto ate cream as he spoke to Baylor students. This semester I had the opportunity to help organize Beto’s event at Common Grounds. Earlier that day he was at A&M, and later that day he drove to UT Arlington. He’s reached out to every college possible time and time again. He’s

reached out to us, the young generation of voters who might or might not vote. He’s showed us that he’s invested in us and that that he’s put the effort to listen to our concerns. He’s worked harder than anyone I’ve seen before, but he’s managed to motivate college students to vote. That’s how you get young adults early votes to increase by 500 percent compared to last midterm election.

I can already tell that Baylor as a whole has gained a lot from this midterm election. We have seen incredible efforts by students and organizations to increase the participation of students in this election. There has been a coalition of organizations working very hard to deputize students, register new voters, and even take students to the polls. This goes to show the incredible power that our students have. Just today, Baylor grad Colin Allred has won the race for Texas’ 32nd congressional district.

Baylor College Republicans invited Baylor Democrats to a watch party for today’s election. That is probably one of the things that makes me the happiest. At Baylor we have people from both parties. That shouldn’t stop us from being able to sit together and enjoy the things that we share as a Baylor community. One of our members mentioned that she hopes that we can sit down and talk about are political views without the fear of getting into a heated argument. Sometimes we must agree to disagree and that is perfectly okay.

Graphic by Thomas Moran

Democrats close to taking back control of the House

LISA MASCARO  
Associated Press

The Democrats appeared close to taking back the House on Tuesday in a victory that could slap a check on President Donald Trump’s agenda over the next two years and lead to a multitude of investigations into his business dealings and his administration.

The party needed a net gain of 23 seats to break the Republicans’ eight-year hold on the House that began with the tea party revolt of 2010. By late evening, as the polls on the West Coast closed, the Democrats had picked up at least 18 seats GOP-held seats in one of the most volatile midterm elections in modern U.S. history.

While the Republican Party maintained control of the Senate, a win for the Democrats in the House would end the GOP monopoly on power in Washington and open a new era of divided government.

“Tomorrow will be a new day in America,” Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi said at a

victory party in Washington. Democratic candidates for the House flipped seats in several suburban districts outside of Washington, Philadelphia, Miami, Chicago and Denver that were considered prime targets for turnover because they were won by Hillary Clinton in 2016. They also made inroads into Trump country as Democrats tried to win back white working-class voters.

Midterm elections are typically difficult for the party in power, and GOP incumbents were on the defensive in many races across the country.

As Election Day unfolded, Democrats were increasingly confident, predicting a House majority on the strength of voter enthusiasm, robust fundraising and unusually fresh candidates. More women than ever were running, along with veterans and minorities, many of them motivated by Trump’s rise.

The campaign unfolded against a backdrop of heated rhetoric and angry debates on immigration, health care and the role of Congress in

overseeing the president.

To stem Republican losses, Trump sprinted through mostly white regions of the country, interjecting dark and foreboding warnings about what Democratic power would mean for the nation.

The debate was dominated not by the GOP’s \$1.5 trillion tax cuts but by Trump’s dire prediction of “invasion” from the migrant caravan and what he called the “radical” agenda of speaker-in-waiting Pelosi.

GOP Whip Steve Scalise of Louisiana predicted his party would retain a slim majority, saying on election eve: “In the end, we hold the House because of the strong economy.”

Health care and immigration were high on voters’ minds as they cast ballots, according to a wide-ranging survey of the American electorate conducted by AP. AP VoteCast also showed a majority of voters considered Trump a factor in their votes.

For Democrats, the road to the 218-seat majority ran through the two dozen suburban districts Clinton

won and through swaths of Trump country in the Rust Belt and heartland where voters backed the president two years ago. How women and independent voters cast their ballots was likely to determine the outcome.

In the suburbs outside the nation’s capital, Virginia Rep. Barbara Comstock — among the most endangered GOP incumbents, branded Barbara “Trumpstock” by Democrats — lost to Jennifer Wexton, a prosecutor and state legislator. Wexton was among the record number of women running this year.

In the Miami area, former Clinton administration Cabinet member Donna Shalala won an open seat, while GOP Rep. Carlos Curbelo lost his bid for a third term in another district.

Pennsylvania looked particularly daunting for Republicans after court-imposed redistricting and a rash of retirements put several seats in play. Democratic favorite Conor Lamb, who stunned Washington by winning a special election

in the state, beat Republican Rep. Keith Rothfus in a new district. At least three other red districts flipped to blue.

In Kansas, Democrat Sharice Davids beat a GOP incumbent to become the first Native American and gay woman elected to the House.

But in Kentucky, one of the top Democratic recruits, retired Marine fighter pilot Amy McGrath, lost her bid to oust to three-term Rep. Andy Barr in the Lexington-area district.

Outside Richmond, Virginia, one-time tea party favorite Rep. Dave Brat faced an unusually strong challenge from Democrat Abigail Spanberger, a former CIA operative motivated to run for office after the GOP vote to gut the Affordable Care Act. Like other Democrats across the country, Spanberger emphasized protecting people with pre-existing conditions from being denied coverage or charged more by insurers.

In a suburban battleground in Atlanta, Republican Rep. Karen Handel won a costly special election earlier this

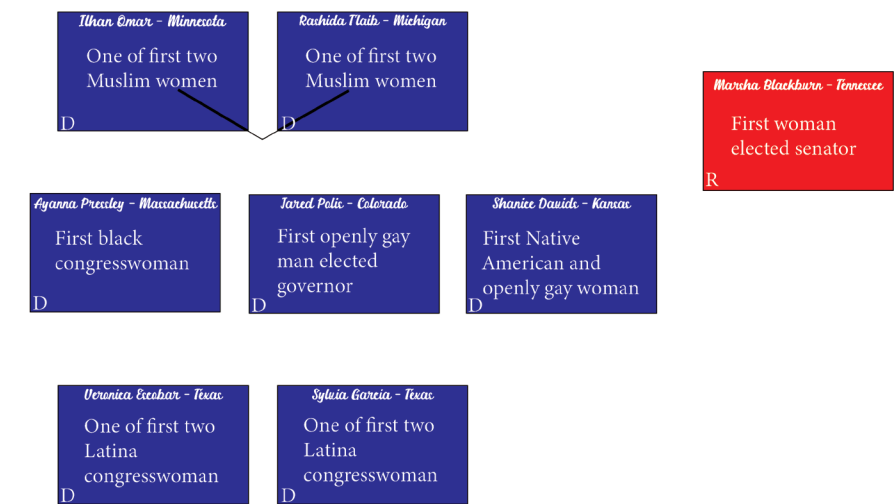
cycle but faced an upstart challenge from Lucy McBath, whose 17-year-old son was shot and killed at a gas station.

The GOP’s hold on the majority was complicated by an unusually large number of retirements as well as persistent infighting between conservatives and centrists, with much of the conflict centered on the question of allegiance to Trump.

Republicans had expected the GOP tax plan would be the cornerstone of their election agenda this year, but it became a potential liability in key states along the East and West coasts where residents could face higher tax bills because of limits on property and sales tax deductions.

The tax law has been particularly problematic for Republicans in New Jersey, where four of five GOP-held seats were being seriously contested. Democrat Mikie Sherrill, a former Navy pilot and federal prosecutor, was favored for a suburban Newark seat.

“Firsts” in House



Graphic by Lauren Lewis

Out of many, several firsts elected across country

ERRIN HAINES WHACK  
AP National Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House is getting its first two Muslim women and Massachusetts is getting its first black congresswoman while Arizona and Tennessee stand to elect their first woman senators in Tuesday’s

midterm elections.

The high-profile midterm cycle that produced a record number of women contenders and candidates of color meant several winners will take office as trailblazers, marking firsts for their race and gender.

What is already the most diverse Congress ever could become even more so after Tuesday’s elections and will include several trailblazers.

The inclusive midterm victories bode well for future election cycles, said Kimberly Peeler-Allen, co-founder of Higher Heights for America, a national organization focused on galvanizing black women voters and electing black women as candidates.