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ASSESSING THE MARCH 3 TEXAS PRIMARY ELECTION ----

THE IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

MARCH 4, 2020

FEDERAL

U. S. Senator from Texas – Current U. S. Senator **John Cornyn** won his Republican Primary race to return to the U. S. Senate from Texas. On the Democratic side, M. J. Hegar, who received 367,617 votes or 22.72%, will be in a May 26 runoff with former Texas State Senator Royce West, who received 220,064 votes or 13.6%.

U. S. Congressional District 11 – **August Pfluger**, heavily endorsed by ag and pretty much a Republican seat, easily defeated 9 other candidates in the Republican primary, won with 52.1% of the vote. This is the seat currently held by retiring U. S. Congressman Mike Conaway

U. S. Congressional District 13 – **Josh Winegarner** (a long - time employee of the Texas Cattle Feeders Association in Amarillo), also heavily endorsed by ag and pretty much a Republican District, will be in a runoff with Ronny Jackson in the Republican Primary on May 26, but had 13 other candidates in the race. Josh got 38,924 votes or 38.9% of the vote and Jackson got 19.8% of the vote or 19,839. The seat is currently held by retiring U. S. Congressman Mac Thornberry.

U. S. Congressional District 17 – which stretches from Waco to College Station is an open seat and in the Republican Primary. **Pete Sessions**, who received 21,667 or 31.6% of the vote, will be in a runoff with Renee Swann, who received 13,047 or 19% of the vote.

U. S. Congressional District 24 – which featured former Democratic candidate for Texas Ag Commissioner **Kim Olson**, who received 8,935 or 43.2% of the vote, will be in a Democratic Primary runoff with Candace Valenzuela, who received 6,227 or 30.1% of the vote. The winner will faceoff with 16 – year incumbent R) Kenny Marchant in the November General Election. The race covers the Metroplex.

TEXAS SENATE

Texas Senate District 27 – which is currently held by D) **Eddie Lucio** of Brownsville and who has spent 34 years as a State Senator / State Representative, will be in a Democratic Primary runoff on May 26 --- receiving 30,849 or 49.78% of the vote against Sara Stapleton Barrera, who received 22,022 or 35.6% of the votes.

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House District 25 – The somewhat rural seat is currently held by retiring House Speaker Dennis Bonnen of Angleton. In the Republican Primary there will be a runoff between Rovin Garrett who received 6,681 or 28.57% of the vote against **Cody Vasut**, who received 5,193 or 22.21% of the vote.

House District 45 – The seat is currently held by D) **Erin Zwiener** of Dripping Springs, who sits of the House Ag Committee. However, in the Republican Primary there will be a runoff between Carrie Isaac, who's husband once held this seat and who received 8,236 or 47.88% of the vote, against Bud Wymore, who received 7,119 or 41.38% of the vote.

House District 59 – The seat is currently held by 8 – year incumbent R) **J. D. Sheffield** of Gatesville, who grew up on a cotton farm near Lorraine, Texas and will be in a runoff with Shelby Slawson. Sheffield received 7,592 or 30.35% of the vote to Slawson's 11,398 or 45.57% of the vote.

House District 60 – In an important rural open seat just West of Ft. Worth, there will be a runoff in the Republican Primary with ag-favored **Glenn Rogers** (a veterinarian), who received 14,706 or 43.78% of the vote to Jon Frances 15,418 or 45.9% of the votes.

House District 85 – In what was expected to be a tight race in the Wharton / El Campo area, incumbent **Phil Stephenson** won against two opponents in the Republican Primary with 14,726 or 78.84% of the vote. Stephenson, who is originally from Plainview, attended Texas Tech University on a baseball scholarship and his dad was a pitcher with Dizzy Dean on the St. Louis Cardinals baseball team.

House District 116 – This is a San Antonio open seat race that has no impact on ag, however, it is listed because it was the tightest race on election night with Robert Litoff receiving 2,195 votes and his opponent, Fernando Padron, received 2,184 ---- 11 vote difference. A recount is likely.