

Post 2020 General Election Legislative Report

BOB TURNER RURAL ISSUES CONSULTING

Voss, Texas

Cell text 325 669 1717

Austin, Texas

The long anticipated 2020 General Election Day is over. However – the Presidential winner is yet to be determined – or named. These delays will be due to differing state election laws – and bickering between the two players. It has already become obvious that there will be calls for recounts – and no doubt a strong probability of lawsuits concerning various elements of the process.

Regardless of which candidate is finally named winner - - It would probably be a safe guess that the extremist elements of both political parties – and presidential campaign camps - will bring on a very embarrassing and costly round of confrontations. These incidents will have a negative impact – and be harmful to our position as a World Leader. It seems that with each election cycle – the rift becomes deeper and more difficult to work around as we go about the business of GOVERNING.

However – here in Texas STATE politics and elections – things have progressed far more efficiently. At this writing – it appears that the much-touted possible turn-over of the Texas House from Republican (R's) to Democrat (D's) did not happen. In fact - even after MILLIONS OF DOLLARS invested – the political party balance - (R's versus D's) - remained almost the same as it was during the previous legislative session.

In view of this - - the Texas House remains safely in Republican control.

During the- brief period before this was determined – several Democratic House Members had stated their intent to seek the House Speaker’s position. This of course – was in the event the House majority did actually flip. Now – however – it is quite obvious that a Republican will again be chosen as Speaker of the Texas House. A number of legislators indicated their intent to seek the Speakers position. The number of those desiring the position has narrowed down to only one – making it appear at this point that Chairman Dade Phelan – from Beaumont – will probably become the Speaker – for the 87th Legislature- which will begin on January 12th, 2021.

With all of the politics and campaign hoop-la’ being behind us - now comes the governing phase. The real challenge still deals with living with - and learning to run the State of Texas’ business – while dealing with a very active Corona-virus pandemic. How to operate a process of permitting the citizenry to be players and maintaining the constitutionally required level of transparency will be VERY difficult – at the best. How do you conduct public hearings – while limiting – or prohibiting large gatherings? How does a legislator’s constituency have free access to their duly elected official – when access to the Capitol is severely limited? My observation – after much visiting with legislators and staffers – is that the “Old Norm” of taking large groups to the capitol to demonstrate our concerns are now history. We will have to devise new techniques and approaches.

It is obvious that there will be an increased use of virtual communication means. Those of us in the consulting business have had adequate opportunity to hone those skills – as we have dealt with clients – - as well as legislators and various associations.

Since we all have had the same experience at this sort of thing - - let's all dive off the HIGH BOARD together. Let us wish our elected officials well as they face the daunting challenges that lie ahead.