

## Post Primary Report

BOB TURNER RURAL ISSUES CONSULTING

Voss, Texas

cell text 325 669 1717

Austin, Texas

Primary election day is over. Perhaps now – even though your choice of candidates did not win - it is time to show your support for the newly elected office holder. The majority has spoken – we need to accept the decision of the voters. If you did not vote – don't cry on my shoulder.

As usual – there were some surprises in the election outcomes. One that really stood out was incumbent Railroad Commissioner Ryan Sitton's defeat by a first-time candidate – Jim Wright. Does this further prove that name familiarity DOES COUNT with many uninformed voters? It appears that most Texans really do not understand the role of the Railroad Commission. Apparently many really do not care – either. Yet – those three commissioner positions ARE STATE WIDE elective offices.

From the agricultural and rural Texas viewpoint – it is noteworthy that two of our long-time friends did win in heatedly competitive races. U S Representatives Henry Cuellar and Kay Granger did win – in races that many thought could possibly end in their defeat. In the open seat being left by Congressman Mike Conaway – it seems unbelievable – but August Pfluger won in a field of 10 – without a run-off. In the case of departing Congressman Mac Thornberry - - our long time agricultural ally – Josh Winegarner led the ballot of candidates and won a position in a run-off election. In the Texas House - an agricultural and rural ally – State Representative J D Sheffield made it to a run-off with new comer- Shelby Slawson.

A major concern of mine is – that the run-off election is scheduled for May 26th. This leaves approximately an 80 day period between primary election and the run-off election. This will add immensely to the cost - well into the hundreds of thousands of dollars - for both candidates. It seems that the big winner in these run-offs is the campaign managers and advertising industry.

This presidential election year Texas primary election brought on some unexpected numbers. I think these numbers are noteworthy and can possibly be seen as an indicator for the general election this November. More than 4 million ( UNOFFICIAL total vote was 4,084,431 )Texans voted in the March 3<sup>rd</sup> primary election. Approximately half of those voting – voted early – with only half voting on the March 3<sup>rd</sup> election day. ANOTHER interesting side note is that 16.2 MILLION Texans are registered to vote. It is pathetic to further note that only 25.2% of those registered to vote – actually went to the poll. Of those 2,076,046 voted in the Democratic primary - - while 2,008,385 voted in the Republican primary. Quorum Report states that in competitive Republican held Texas House districts – on an average GOP voting was up 24% from 2018 – while Democratic voting was up 112%. Is this shift being driven by an ever-growing population – much of which is from out of state? We may ask ourselves – is this a growing trend – or a one-time swing of the pendulum? Keep in mind that voter turn-out does not necessarily indicate which party's presidential candidate will be elected president. Normally only a small percentage of those who vote in the initial election show up to vote in a run-off election. We will see if that long time trend holds true during this election cycle.

The March 3<sup>rd</sup> primary was conducted using the usual straight party ballot. You either voted in the Republican primary - OR – in the Democratic primary. This year – for the first time – and due to new voting laws in place - the winners of both primary elections will now be

listed together on the November general election ballot. This will put an end to “ straight-party “ general election voting. It “ might even ” be advantageous for us to know something about the candidates – rather than depend on either party to make our mind up for us. The ballot will be configured similar to our current SPECIAL ELECTIONS ballots. Here I need to say that there is the possibility of a suit being filed that could – if ruled by the courts – determine that the single ballot – both party’s candidates on a single ballot is unconstitutional. While our American method of governing our nation AND choosing our leaders might not be perfect – it is far superior to any other nation in the world.

As former Lt Governor Bob Bullock said each time he spoke - - - “ GOD BLESS TEXAS AND GOD BLESS THE U S A “