



Texas BOMA Legislative Update
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The elections are (finally) over! Last night, across the country, voters chose not just the President, but also members of the U.S. Senate, Congress, and various state and local races. Texas was no different.

The Presidential Race

President Barack Obama (D) defeated former Governor Mitt Romney (R) in the race for President. President Obama won at least 303 electoral votes (at the time of writing, Florida has not yet been called for either candidate) to Governor Romney's 206, putting the President above the required number of 270 needed to win the election.

Federal Races

Despite the literally billions of dollars spent this election cycle on congressional and U.S. senate races, very little changed in the grand scheme of things. In the U.S. Senate, Democrats will have 55 seats to the Republicans 45, a net pickup of 2 seats for Democrats and a corresponding net loss of 2 seats for the Republicans. In the U.S. House, while a few races are still outstanding, Republicans will comfortably maintain their majority.

In Texas, former solicitor general Ted Cruz (R) handily defeated former Rep. Paul Sadler (D) to become the next U.S. Senator from Texas, replacing retiring Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison (R). After the 2011 census, Texas added four new congressional districts, expanding the delegation from 32 to 36. In 2013, the Texas partisan breakdown will be 24 Republicans and 12 Democrats, a change from the current 23-9 split. Next year, four members of the 2011 delegation will not return to Congress: Quico Canseco* (R-San Antonio), Charlie Gonzalez (D-San Antonio), Ron Paul (R-Surfside), and Silvestre Reyes (D-El Paso). The new members to the Texas congressional delegation are Joaquin Castro (D-San Antonio), Pete Gallego* (D-Alpine), Beto O'Rourke (D-El Paso), Steve Stockman (R-Houston), Marc Veasey (D-Fort Worth), Filemon Vela (D-Brownsville), Randy Weber (R-Pearland), and Roger Williams (R-Weatherford). While we listed Congressman Canseco losing to Representative Gallego, Congressman Canseco has not yet conceded, and there may be an election challenge.

State Races

The state races played according to general expectations. All the Republicans on the statewide ballot won without exception.

State Senate

In the state senate, there was only one close race, that of Sen. Wendy Davis (D-Fort Worth) facing off against Dr. Mark Shelton (R-Fort Worth). Senator Davis narrowly defeated Dr. Shelton, and will be returning to the Senate.

Since our last writing, Sen. Mario Gallegos (D-Houston) passed away. Governor Perry will call a special election in the near future to replace Senator Gallegos.

Next year, the Senate will have a 19-12 Republican to Democratic split, assuming Sen. Gallegos is replaced by a Democrat in the heavily democratic district. While the partisan divide remains the same, there will be six new members in the state senate next session. In addition to the individual who replaces Sen. Gallegos, the new senators will be Dr. Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels), Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills), Charles Schwertner (R-Georgetown), and Larry Taylor (R-Friendswood).

State House of Representatives

In the House, there were several close races. Three incumbents were defeated Tuesday night: Connie Scott (R-Corpus Christi) lost to former Rep. Abel Herrero (D-Corpus Christi); John Garza (R-San Antonio) lost to Philip Cortez (D-San Antonio); and Dee Margo (R-El Paso) lost to former Rep. Joe Moody (D-El Paso).

In 2013, the partisan breakdown in the Texas House will be 95 Republicans and 55 Democrats, a slight change from the 102-48 breakdown coming into the election. There will be 40 new members in the House who have never served, plus several members who were defeated in 2010 and regained a seat in 2012.

The Legislative Session

The Texas Legislature convenes for the 83rd regular session on January 8, 2013.

We will continue to monitor the situation and keep you informed.