

“Early Voting Starts Monday, October 19, and ends on October 30, 2026, for the November 3rd Election.”



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VOLUME 79 NUMBER 5

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

October 15 - 21, 2026

Special Editorial

The Ballot, The Vote and You



By: **Dr. John E. Warren**,
Publisher, San Diego Voice &
Viewpoint Newspaper
Chairman of the Board of
Directors, NNPA

By now, those of us who are registered voters have received our ballots in the mail for the November 3rd General Election. For Californians, the ballot is two long, double-sided pages. Some choices are easy, like those running for State offices such as Governor, Secretary of State, etc.

Then there are the propositions, measures, and names of people you have never heard of, so don't panic. This is when you

start to feel like your vote won't make a difference. Fight the feeling. Every vote counts. Those who would steal our right to vote with harsh restrictions like Proposition 39, are counting on you giving up, laying your ballot aside until you forget to use it or if you have not registered to vote, they are counting on you buying the idea that your one vote won't make a difference.

Friends and loved ones

around you may not be registered to vote and may tell you they don't plan to, and that it won't make a difference if they do. This is where you must stand up and fight to convince them they do count. You offer to take them to the polls where they can still register and vote a "Provisional Ballot"

These are the reasons the San Diego Voice & Viewpoint prepared the 2026 Voter's Guide. We have

made recommendations on candidates and Ballot measures that we have researched based on

our coverage of the many issues affecting you, which we write about daily. The Choice is yours, but make a choice you must if we are to continue with any degree of democracy and freedom.

As we look at the County and City of San Diego, please think before you vote. This local elec-

tion is not about friendships. It's about survival for those of us who are struggling with healthcare, rent, food, and fuel, whether for our homes or cars.

For the County, Measure A is not what it appears to be and we must not be deceived by how much we like the Supervisors sponsoring it.

Remember, in 2010 over 60 percent of the residents voted for Term Limits. That means restrict-

ing elected Supervisors to only two terms in office. We can adopt all the "transparency" in Measure A without adding a third term of office or stripping the new CAO of authority we didn't seek before we placed an African American woman in that position.

Let's get down to business, complete this vote with everything we have, and pay closer attention to our government at all levels.



After over a week off from the campaign trail due to illness, U.S. Senate candidate James Talarico, seen on June 26, 2026, made his first major appearance at a CNN town hall in Fort Worth on Wednesday. Photo Credit: **Blaine Young** for The Texas Tribune

At CNN town hall, Senate candidate James Talarico woos moderate and undecided voters

By **Kayla Guo**, The Texas Tribune

In his first major appearance after over a week off the campaign trail with the flu, Democrat James Talarico addressed a range of questions at a CNN town hall Wednesday with a clear eye toward winning over undecided and moderate voters.

"This is, I think, a theme of this entire conversation tonight: We have an affordability crisis because we have a corruption crisis," Talarico said at the town hall, reiterating the populist message core to his campaign over the past year.

The audience in Fort Worth included around 20 Texas Democrats, 20 independent voters and 20 Republicans, several of whom

asked questions of and debated Talarico directly on issues ranging from abortion to energy to immigration.

Talarico has consistently led in public polling of the race, an unusual sight in red Texas, and with independent voters. A Marist University poll released Wednesday found that 8% of Republican voters backed him, too.

The Austin Democrat had the national stage to himself. His opponent, Republican Ken Paxton, was invited by CNN to participate but did not respond, the network said. Talarico has also challenged Paxton to

Continue **Woos** Page 5

Bryan Adams High School Leadership Academy alum Dominique James makes history

By **Molly Schrader**



Photo Credit: **Dallas ISD**

DALLAS — In December 2023, when Bryan Adams High School Leadership Academy alum Dominique James stood on stage to receive her doctoral hood, she became the first Black female student to earn a doctorate in biomedical engineering from the University of Texas at Dallas.

For the Class of 2015 valedictorian, that moment encapsulated years of cu-

riosity, discovery, and commitment. Before her research in advanced ultrasound imaging and breast cancer treatments, James was a highly involved Bryan Adams student. From serving as captain of the Belles drill team to competing in Academic Decathlon and Destination Imagination, her high school years were packed.

It was in those extracur-

riculars and advanced placement classes where her passion for problem-solving and leadership took root.

"In Destination Imagination, we focused a lot on engineering tasks, which helped me start thinking more creatively about problem-solving," James said. "And with drill team, it really helped me become more confident doing things I wasn't used to. When I had

to present my research later on in life, I wasn't nervous because I was used to performing on a stage."

As the first in her immediate family to attend and graduate from college, navigating the higher education landscape was unfamiliar.

Through the help of the Academic Success Program, James found the guidance needed to prepare

Continue **Alum** Page 6



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EDITORIAL PAGE

November 3rd Will Be a Defining Moment In Your Voting Life

By James B. Ewers Jr., Ed.

Dr. James Ewers

We are getting closer to a day that most Americans want. I suspect every time we go to the grocery store, we think about what might be. Each time we fill up at the gas pump, we want the day to come sooner.

Well, citizens of our beloved nation, election day is close. Can you feel it? The anticipation of it almost rivals a holiday. Our excitement is boiling over.

We talk with family and friends as if there will be some kind of gift exchange. In a strange way, we will exchange. Americans are exchanging chaos for calm. We are exchanging extremism for rational thinking. Lastly, we are exchanging hopelessness for hope.

Having hope each day is important. If we are honest, hope has been in short supply for us recently. Every day there is something else to drain us. It could be argued that we are just going through life’s motions. That’s sad.

Only a small percentage of Americans believe our country is faring well. Trying to convince them otherwise is unwise.

I truly think that America is sick and tired of going through this misery and strife. Frustration has set in and has been the call of the day for way too long.

The answers we have been getting to important questions are inadequate and amount to word salad without the oil and vinegar.

Last month, reporters and news organizations were asked to leave the White House press room. How could that be? It was because the administration believed they were giving fake news to the American

people. The courts have now ruled that they can return.

With all that is happening now, the November 3rd midterm elections loom large. Almost every voting prognosticator is saying this will be an extremely important election.

Polling suggests the Democrats will win back the House of Representatives. According to NBC News, “National polling averages show Democrats leading with roughly 52% of the congressional preference compared to 43% for the Republicans.”

If you take this poll as an example of what’s to come, the Democrats may win. However, do you remember what the polls said about Kamala Harris winning the presidency?

Democratic leadership must work hard and not take anything for granted. If they do, then the outcome will not be to their liking.

Some political experts

suggest the GOP might lose the Senate as well. I think that’s a long shot. Too much would have to happen for that to become reality.

Reports from the New York Times and Siena University suggest that the Democratic Senate candidates are leading or tied in several states. Some of these states include Texas and Alaska. It looks hopeful, but I view it with suspicion.

Fox News says that in Texas, Democrat James Talarico holds a slight edge (2 points) over Republican Ken Paxton. These numbers in my opinion will change several times before it is time to cast your ballot.

Another Senate race to watch is between Maine Republican incumbent Susan Collins and Democratic challenger Troy Jackson. An AARP poll shows Jackson leading

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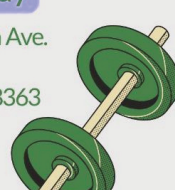
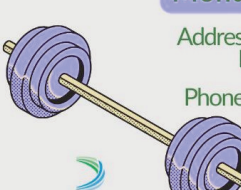
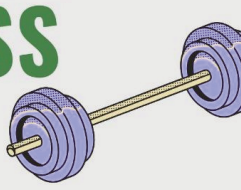
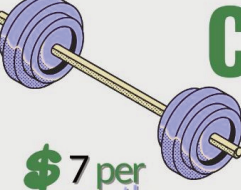
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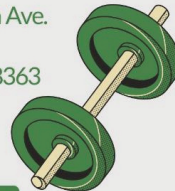
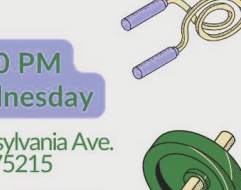
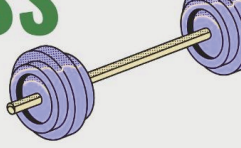
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Medicare Misconceptions to be Aware of This Annual Enrollment Period

(StatePoint) Each fall, the Annual Enrollment Period (AEP) for Medicare, which runs from Oct. 15 to Dec. 7, is an opportunity for people eligible for Medicare to choose the health plan that will work best for them in the coming year.

While Original Medicare provides broad coverage, there are some services that aren’t covered, including many that people are likely to need as they age, according to Jane Funk, vice president of Medicare Market Growth with HealthSpring, which offers Medicare and supplemental policies across the country.

For starters, it’s important to know that people who choose Original Medicare generally remain responsible for deductibles and coinsurance, and there

is no annual out-of-pocket maximum. Either Medicare Supplement or standalone Supplemental Health & Life policies can help with some of those costs. Medicare Advantage (MA) plans have annual limits on out-of-pocket spending for covered services, but costs, networks and authorization requirements vary.

Funk points to the following areas that can be particularly tricky for those looking to secure their coverage for the year ahead.

Routine dental, vision and hearing care. Original Medicare generally doesn’t cover routine dental care or dentures, routine eye exams for glasses or contacts, or hearing aids. Many MA plans or standalone dental, vision and hearing policies offer additional benefits in

these areas. Services, provider networks, frequency limits and member costs vary so make sure you know exactly what is covered.

Hospital status. Hospital services can also trip people up. Someone may spend several nights in a hospital but still be classified as an outpatient receiving observation services rather than as an inpatient. Under Original Medicare, that distinction can affect both the hospital bill and whether a subsequent skilled nursing facility is covered. Patients or their caregivers should ask directly: “Am I admitted as an inpatient, or am I here under observation?”

Annual wellness visits. An annual wellness visit is not the same as a traditional comprehensive physical.

The wellness visit focuses on preventive planning and assessing health risks. If the provider performs additional tests or addresses medical concerns, deductibles or coinsurance may apply. Some MA plans offer more comprehensive annual exams at no additional cost to the member.

Prescription drugs. Many people assume they have outpatient drug coverage under Original Medicare, but they do not. Original Medicare doesn’t include outpatient prescription drug coverage; beneficiaries need a separate drug coverage plan, called a Part D plan, or they need an MA plan with Part D included (MAPD) for that. Each plan has its own formulary,

Continue Medicare Page 5

Quinn Questions

Imaginary quotes

By Rix Quinn

A historian once suggested, “Great triumphs should be recorded.” Since then, when anyone did something important, a reporter wrote it down.

Then audio and video got invented. After that, the newsperson simply pointed a microphone or camera at famous people.

If the celebrity said something good, it made the nightly news. If the quote was something unexpected, it might become a “blooper,” and could be replayed frequently...some-

times even at parties.

Here’s the point: If we had current technology a long time ago, we could have recorded these famous sayings. (Unfortunately, since we didn’t, I had to make them up.)

“Excuse me...is this East Texas?” – Columbus, on discovering the Bahamas.

“Honey, I’m starving. You heat up the stove, and I’ll ask the neighbors over for dinner.” – Melvin the Cannibal

“So, while I was asleep

under the tree, an apple fell on my head. I shall call it ‘concussion.’”—Isaac Newton, before he thought of the word “gravity.”

“How about we just eat ducks? I can’t get these dang turkeys in the pot.” – Pilgrim chef.

“Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered weak and weary, over some old catalog I had tossed out once before...”—first draft of “The Raven.”

“What do you think this is? A quick-print shop?” – Gutenberg, to an early

printing customer.

“C’mon, masked man. Let’s duel. On guard!!! Hey...where’s my nose?” – Zorro’s fencing partner.

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Continued Page 4

Medicare Misconceptions to be Aware of This Annual Enrollment Period

pharmacy network and coverage rules, such as prior authorization, step therapy or quantity limits. Just because a medication is prescribed doesn’t mean it will be covered by a specific plan.

International care. Original Medicare provides very limited foreign travel coverage. Medicare Supplement and plans may offer certain emergency benefits abroad, but Medicare beneficiaries with any Medicare plan should verify those provisions before traveling, rather than assume their usual coverage will follow them.

One last note. Being wary of unsolicited calls from fraudsters about Medicare plans is important. Do not provide insurance or personal information without verifying that you are speaking to a legitimate Medicare provider. If you are not sure who you are speaking with, hang up and call back using a number from a verified source, such as the back of your Medicare card or a website. Credible sources of information include Medicare.gov and HealthSpring’s website at <https://HealthSpringMedicare.com/LearnMore>.

“Plan benefits, formularies and networks can change, and so can one’s health, so people should never assume that last year’s plan will still fit their needs best,” says Funk. “Spending time doing research can prepare people to make an informed decision during AEP.”

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Continue **Woos** Page 1

debate; Paxton has not agreed to any of the five invitations extended by TV networks, including Fox News.

With just four full days before early voting, Talarico used the forum to present himself as a moderate Democrat willing to buck both his party and the opposition. He repeatedly pushed back on the Democratic Party’s record while also criticizing the GOP as he laid out his positions on immigration, energy, government spending and more.

“This was a heat-seeking missile at Republican voters who supported John Cornyn but don’t like Ken Paxton,” Democratic strategist Paul Begala said on CNN’s post-town hall panel, referring to Texas’ sitting Republican senator who was felled by Paxton in the primary.

Republicans seized on Talarico’s answers to argue, as they have for months, that he was simply moderating for the campaign and that his stated positions ran contrary to his record in the Texas House.

“Even with CNN by his side, James Talarico couldn’t defend his record of supporting the far-left’s extreme agenda at the expense of Texas working families,” said Chris Gustafson, a spokesperson for the Senate GOP-aligned Senate Leadership Fund. “Talarico proved once again that he’s simply too liberal and too dangerous for Texas.”

Talarico throughout the event focused almost exclusively on policy and mentioned Paxton just twice: at the very start of the 90-minute program, when he addressed the conspiracy theory Paxton helped fuel that falsely claimed Talarico was at an Ohio mental health facility last week rather than at home in Austin with the flu, and at the very end, when he lambasted Paxton as the “most corrupt politician in Texas.”

Talarico’s answers on the issues remained largely consistent from throughout his campaign.

On immigration and border security, Talarico said, “Joe Biden failed us

“I think that’s backwards,” Talarico said.

Republicans have sought to poke holes in his response, noting that Talarico introduced a bill in the Legislature that would have required Texas to cut its carbon emissions to 50% of 1990 levels by 2030 and to 10% of 1990 levels by 2050. (Talarico has insisted that he has remained consistent throughout his career.)

Talarico emphasized to a voter asking how he would fight political corruption that the measures he has championed — imposing congressional term limits and banning super PACs, gerrymandering and congressional stock trading — should apply to both parties. National Republicans, including President Donald Trump, Senate Republican leadership and Elon Musk, have poured hundreds of millions of dollars into Texas boosting Paxton and attacking Talarico — a fact of the race the Democrat noted at the top of Wednesday’s forum.

“I don’t care if they’re Democratic super PACs or Republican super PACs, I think we got to ban them all because there’s way too much influence from big money in our politics,” he said. “I’m running on these political reforms that will affect both parties, that will clean up government, so that we can have a government of by and for the people again, not a government of by and for the billionaires.”

Asked how he would address the national deficit, Talarico pointed to closing “billionaire tax loopholes,” ending the war in Iran and, in an appeal to right-leaning voters, cutting down on government bloat.

“Let me just let me say something that a lot of Democrats aren’t willing to say: We should be looking for efficiency in our government,” he said.

Paxton, a darling of the hard right, has also recently sought to appeal to the potentially decisive crop of right-leaning, undecided voters. He launched an ad Wednesday touting his record as attorney general of suing city governments looking to raise property taxes, pharmaceutical companies and Big Tech.

“Liberals like James Talarico talk about putting more money in your pocket. Ken Paxton has actually done it,” a Tarrant County woman says in the ad. “When big government and big corporations come for you, Ken Paxton goes after them, so you can keep more of your money.”

Talarico, meanwhile, has tied high costs to billionaire influence and political corruption. And he has pointed to Paxton’s exploding net worth while in office, his 15 homes and his past legal and ethical scandals to argue that the attorney general would seek to serve himself and not Texans while in the U.S. Senate.

“We cannot afford Ken Paxton’s corruption,” Talarico said to close out Wednesday’s town hall. “This election is not about left versus right. It’s about whether we will have a senator who puts money in your pocket, or a senator who puts money in their own. That is the choice before us in November.”

This article first appeared on The Texas Tribune.

Teddy’s Creation

(Answer Key on Page 6)

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- ☐ For
- ☐ Against
- The issuance of \$443,000,000 general obligation bonds for public safety improvements and facilities, including fire, police, and emergency services; the levying of a tax sufficient to pay principal and interest thereon; the estimated amount of repayment, including principal and interest, based on current market conditions, being \$629,618,180.

Early Voting dates and times:

October 19 through October 23	Monday – Friday	7:00 am – 7:00 pm
October 24	Saturday	7:00 am – 7:00 pm
October 25	Sunday	12:00 pm – 6:00 pm
October 26 thru October 30	Monday – Friday	7:00 am – 7:00 pm

Dallas County Early Voting and Election Day locations:

Early Voting: <https://www.dallascounty.org/elections/VoteCenters/Early%20Voting%20Vote%20Centers.pdf>

Election Day: <https://www.dallascounty.org/elections/VoteCenters/Election%20Day%20Vote%20Centers.pdf>

Collin County Early Voting and Election Day locations and dates/times:

Early Voting: <https://www.collincountytx.gov/Elections/polling-locations?electionId=75&scheduleType=ev&electionDesc=November%203.%202026%20Uniform%20Election>

Election Day: <https://www.collincountytx.gov/Elections/polling-locations?electionId=75&scheduleType=ed&electionDesc=November%203.%202026%20Uniform%20Election>

Denton County Early Voting and Election Day locations and dates/times:

Early Voting: https://www.votedenton.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/1126_EV_Locations_v2.pdf

Election Day: <https://www.votedenton.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/1126-Unconsolidated-ED-Locations-v2.pdf>

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE CITY SECRETARY’S OFFICE:
Bilierae Johnson (214) 670-5654 or Miroslava Martinez (214) 670-3809

5

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October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Continued Page 1

Bryan Adams High School Leadership Academy alum

prepare college applications, polish essays, and understand financial aid.

“My priority was Texas schools because in the top 10%, you automatically get accepted,” she said. “But my advisor taught me to put a few schools outside Texas and helped me find them, including the University of Rochester.”

Her dad had always joked that she would find a way to go to college for free. When she was awarded the prestigious Gates Millennium Scholarship, those words became true. The scholarship lifted her above financial constraints, allowing her to earn her bachelor’s degree in biomedical engineering at the University of Rochester before returning home to Texas for graduate school.

Driven to stay close to her family, James chose the University of Texas at Dallas for her doctoral studies, focusing her biomedical engineering research on improving ultrasound imaging technologies for breast cancer.

“It was eye-opening to realize I was still the first Black PhD graduate,” James said. “I take it with pride because at least I set the path for other students to know that it’s possible. As long as you have support along the way, it’s achievable.”

Now, James is applying her analytical skills in a different area: patent examination. On the government side, she reviews complex technologi-

cal inventions, from medical devices to automotive advancements, ensuring inventors receive proper legal protection for their groundbreaking work.

She continues to keep her eyes set on growth, considering future endeavors in quality regulatory affairs or even law school. Reflecting on her journey from Bryan Adams to making history at UTD, James views her success as a shared victory with her family.

“My parents are immigrants, so making them proud and ensuring their sacrifices weren’t for nothing has always been ingrained in me,” she said. “Watching everything come together is just motivation to keep going.”

Teddy’s Answer Key

6	8	3	7	9	5	2	1	4
9	7	5	2	1	4	8	6	3
1	2	4	8	6	3	7	9	5
7	3	9	5	2	1	4	8	6
8	4	6	3	7	9	5	2	1
2	5	1	4	8	6	3	7	9
4	1	8	6	3	7	9	5	2
5	9	2	1	4	8	6	3	7
3	6	7	9	5	2	1	4	8