Wednesday, November 11, is Veterans Day!

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SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

November 5 - 11, 2026

2026 Texas Elections

Democrats seize power in Texas, ending decades of GOP dominance

Texas' governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general and every other statewide candidate fell, upending the state's political power structure in one night.

By Eleanor Klibanoff, graphic by Apurva Mahajan / Texas Tribune



Members gather around the dias during a point of order regarding a bill on the Texas House floor in Austin on Sept. 9, 2025. Photo Credit: **Kaylee Greenlee** for The Texas Tribune

Everything has changed.

A blue tsunami of epic proportions swept through Texas Tuesday night, decimating the largest, most influential red state and ending the longest statewide shutout of any political party in the country. Democrats up and down the ticket, buoyed by national anger toward President Donald Trump, won seats they haven't been viable contenders for in decades despite historic spending from their opponents.

Gov. Greg Abbott, the most powerful and well-resourced governor in modern Texas history, was unseated by Gina Hinojosa. Attorney General Ken Paxton, who in past elections cast off impeachment, indictment and infidelities, fell to James Talarico in his bid for the U.S. Senate. Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, the iron-fisted ruler of the Texas Senate, went down to a little known state representative. Republicans lost the attorney general's office, one of the most

Continue **Seize** Page 2

Democrat James Talarico flips a US Senate seat in Texas and sends a shock through the GOP

By JESSE BEDAYN and THOMAS BEAUMONT Associated Press



Democratic Senate candidate Texas state Rep. James Talarico speaks at an election night event in Austin, Texas, Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026. (AP Photo/**Eric Gay**)

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Democrat James Talarico flipped a U.S. Senate seat in Texas on Tuesday, defeating Republican Ken Paxton to pull off the party's first statewide victory in more than 30 years and sending a jolt through a longtime GOP stronghold that President Donald Trump carried by double digits just two years ago.

The 37-year-old state legislator, former middle school teacher and Presbyterian seminarian will become Texas' first Democratic senator since 1993, laying bare how voter frustration midway through Trump's second term imperiled Republicans deep inside typically safe turf. The victory is a rejection of Trump's pick for the seat and helped power Democrats to retake control of the Senate.

A large crowd erupted in cheers at Talarico's watch party in downtown Austin after the race was called. His victory was part of a breakthrough night for Democrats in Texas, where Republican

Continue **Shock** Page 4

Democrat Gina Hinojosa elected Texas' first Latina governor, ousts Republican incumbent Greg Abbott

By JESSE BEDAYN and ANNA WILDER Associated Press



Democratic Texas gubernatorial candidate Gina Hinojosa, center in white, speaks to supporters as she departs an election night event in Austin, Texas, Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026. (AP Photo/**Ashley Landis**)

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Gina Hinojosa was elected the first Democratic governor of Texas in more than 30 years on Tuesday, ousting Republican incumbent Greg Abbott and catapulting a decided underdog to the helm of what has long been the nation's most populous red state.

She will become Texas' first Latina governor — and the first Democrat to hold the office since Ann Richards in the 1990s — following a groundbreaking victory that topples one of the nation's most prominent Republican governors and steadfast supporters of President Donald Trump, possibly accelerating the state's shift to an emerging battleground.

Her victory was part of an electrifying night for Democrats in Texas, where James Talarico also won election, defeating Republican Ken Paxton in the race for the U.S. Senate.

Hinojosa's win served as

Continue **Latina** Page 6

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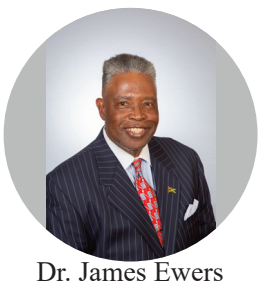
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EDITORIAL PAGE

Helping African American Children to Be Proud and Purposeful During These Times

By **James B. Ewers Jr.**, Ed.


Dr. James Ewers

I am an African American man who was born, raised and nurtured a long time ago. The sand in my hourglass is running out. That is simply the passing of life. It happens for all of us.

Let's just say I am a proud member of the old school. In the public square, strangers call me Pops or OG. For men like me, those are considered terms of pride and admiration

Thankfully, I've been around long enough to understand and appreciate those compliments. You see, many of us have gone on to glory. Being in my right mind with a portion of health and strength isn't taken lightly.

During my career in public and higher education, I advised students on deportment, and it was well received. Some former students whom I have run into over the years have thanked me again for that sage wisdom.

Now, I still give success tips to this current generation of future leaders. I believe they have been well received.

As the years have gone by, I realize how fortunate I was to have been raised in the East Winston section of Winston-Salem, NC. In that community, I learned the behavioral standards that have stayed with me.

My home training began with my parents. They provided me with the foundation for successful living. I have not wavered from the script that they gave me.

It was layered in self-respect. There is a song by The Staple Singers entitled Respect Yourself. When you have a chance, listen to it, as it has an encouraging message.

Back in the day, we had great respect for adults. Being polite and courteous were attributes all of us had as children. We spoke in a respectful tone and acted like we had some sense.

We represented our families well wherever we went. That was the standard and the expectation. Being contrary wasn't in the cards. For example, while at school, parents were rarely called about an unruly child.

Teachers were well respected, and classrooms were places where learning took place. Dreams of what we could be were shaped and molded there.

I realize more now that my environment was different from today's. Overall, it's still my strong belief that parents want what is best for their children. I think we would all agree with that.

Yet our neighborhoods today are different. Technology has played a major role in keeping children inside and playing games on their computers instead of being outside with their friends.

Life for parents now is fast-paced. Before you know it, the day has come and gone. Schedules and appointments keep them busy and sometimes a bit anxious. Trying to prepare dinner and finish homework can be challenging. Kudos to parents for handling these tasks well. If you are old school, you have been there, and you know how that works.

A generation of young African American children needs our help as they grow and mature. It really does take a village to raise a child. These are interesting times, so we must intervene and engage positively when we can. We can't let them fall through the cracks because of apathy and indifference.

As African American parents and grandparents, we have a moral obligation to help our children develop character. We are their role models for this development.

As children mature, they will emulate what they see and hear. Home training (HT) starts with us. We can't leave it to others to make a plan because we must have one.

If you haven't started some HT lessons, begin today and don't delay. Don't wait until it's too late and then wonder what happened.

Continued **Seize** Page 1

influential conservative legal positions in the country. The new congressional map Republicans drew yielded them no gains — in fact, they lost one seat overall.

The only question remaining in the wee hours of Wednesday morning was whether Democrats would take control of the Texas House, and by what margins.

As the floodwaters recede, Texas' first divided government in decades is left in its wake. Democrats will have to learn how to govern a state that has become the eighth largest economy in the world since they last held this much power in the 1990s. Texas Republicans will be left to sort through the wreckage and chart a new path back to power.

First, both sides will have to emerge from what seems to be a collective shell shock gripping the governing class of the Lone Star State.

It was a devastating night for Republicans nationwide — a sharp repudiation of Trump and his policies. Deep red Texas had proven impervious to blue waves in the past, which perhaps explains Republicans' willingness to take on extra liabilities this cycle, like running scandal-plagued Paxton for U.S. Senate, and Bo French, known for racist social media posts, for railroad commissioner. After a bruising primary, the victors declined to rebuild bridges with the party's more moderate, establishment types, dug in on tired culture war tropes and never found their footing after being blamed for welcoming in data centers and Flock cameras.

Democrats, used to falling short of the hype that Texas might turn blue, were hopeful this year. Talarico led Paxton in almost every poll for months, pulling gubernatorial nominee Gina Hinojosa and the rest of the statewide ticket within striking distance of their better funded Republican opponents. They had someone running in every seat for the first time in modern history, preparing for some edge case flips.

But nothing could have prepared either side for what happened Tuesday night — a full flip of statewide political control on a scale unseen in this state since Reconstruction

Based on pre-election night projections, Jason Villalba, a former moderate Republican state House member and president of the Texas Hispanic Policy Foundation, put together a model that showed Talarico winning and Hinojosa coming close. As the night went on, he shifted his projections to a better outlook for Democrats.

But he never could have imagined the wipeout that so thoroughly sidelined his party.

"I consider myself pretty plugged in, pretty astute and advised, and today caught me off guard in a way that I never expected, and I think that's true for both sides," he said.

"It's a new day," he said. "But what tomorrow holds? I have no idea."

"Clear repudiation"

It was hard to believe Mayes Middleton was going to lose. Middleton, a wealthy oil and gas magnate and conservative state senator from Galveston, ran for attorney general vowing to continue the record of right-wing legal victories that has come to define the agency on the national stage. He self-funded his primary, spending almost $20 million to define himself as "MAGA Mayes," then sat back, and went largely silent during the general election.

Meanwhile, his opponent, state Sen. Nathan Johnson, cobbled together enough money to run a few statewide ads promoting his plans to focus on the agency's bureaucratic functions. Johnson also hammered Middleton for his fealty to the president, a risky proposition in a state that voted for Trump by 14 percentage points in 2024.

But on Tuesday night, Middleton called Johnson to concede, handing the reins of the largest red state attorney general's office to the other team. The effects will be cataclysmic for the conservative legal movement that has come to rely on Texas to bring risky lawsuits challenging Democratic administrations, blue states and private corporations.

"No one ever thought he would be even close to losing. No one thought it. No one talked about it," said Brendan Steinhauser, a GOP consultant. "He was a rock solid candidate and that tells me this is about something bigger than the candidates we put up or the races they ran."

The election was a clear repudiation — that's the phrase several GOP political consultants used — of Trump's recent policies. The crushing cost of groceries and gas hit the Republican brand especially hard. The war in Iran, immigration enforcement, and outrage over data centers didn't help. Those factors helped contribute to shocking losses for Republicans in South Carolina, Kansas and Iowa, too.

"Voters spoke about that and people are frustrated," state Sen. Bryan Hughes, R-Mineola, said at the Abbott downtrodden watch party Tuesday night. But these are issues, he said, that Texas leaders "have no control over."

But they do have control over how closely they embrace the face of those policies, Villalba said, noting that the Texas GOP has fallen into lockstep with the national MAGA movement over the last decade. As a moderate Republican who has felt like a foreigner in his own party in recent years, Villalba is hopeful that this rebuke will cause Texas Republicans to reconsider their fealty to Trump.

"I don't expect we're going to go back to the days of George W. Bush-style conservatism, but I would hope that we can all agree that abject racism and unadulterated populism is not a winning model," he said. "If you cede your authority to a single individual, well, we see what has happened."

Texas Republicans should hope that this election was decided by a lot of Republicans choosing to stay home, or even cross party lines, in rejection of Trump, Steinhauser said. The only other alternative would be that the state suddenly found a whole lot more Democratic voters, which would make these victories more durable in the future.

One guy, at least, believes the Texas GOP's loyalty to Trump is not to blame for Tuesday's results. In fact, he's blaming Texas Republicans for not being MAGA enough.

"If Greg Abbott, the Governor of Texas, hadn't become a RINO in the last

Continue **Seize** Page 3

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR



RELIGIOUS/NEWS

The Religious Babylon

Revelation 17:1-18



Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

Chapter 17 represents Babylon as a religious system and city. Babylon began in Genesis 10:10 with the attempt to build the Tower of Babel. In verses 1-2, we are introduced to Babylon as being "the great whore" or "harlot" that sitteth upon many waters (v. 1). This church is not genuine and is unfaithful to the Lord; thus, the church is labeled a harlot! The "great harlot", the religious Babylon, will remain on earth after the rapture of the church and will "sit upon many waters" (have great influence over peoples, multitudes, and nations, Revelation 17:15).

According to verse 2, there will be an unholy alliance between this apostate church (Babylon) and kings of the earth. This apostate church will exert much power during the first three and one-half years of the Tribulation Period. The Apostle John further describes in his vision "a woman that sat upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns" (v. 3). What a frightful scene we have before us! The wild beast has been previously identified as the Anti-Christ (Revelation 13:1, the beast of the sea). This wild beast will be ruling over the restored Roman Empire. The woman is identified as a city (Revelation 17:9), and many biblical scholars suggest Rome is that city because it sits on seven hills. Rome is said to be the religious capital of the world. This woman, the harlot, represents a religious system that will be revealed during the first part of the Great Tribulation Period after the genuine church (Acts chapter 2 until the Rapture) has been taken up from the earth.

In verse 4, John describes the woman (symbolic of Rome) as arrayed with splendor. She was arrayed in purple and scarlet color, for purple was the predominant color of Roman imperialism. In verse 5, Babylon is called the "Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth," for Babylon is the fountainhead of all false religion. Babylon is the mother of false religion and will operate in Rome, the city of seven hills (v. 9).

This apostate church, operating in Rome, will be successful in persecuting believers during the Tribulation Period, and this vision that John sees caused him to wonder (vv. 6-7). John is told that a beast will ascend from the abyss (bottomless pit) (v. 8). The beast (Anti-Christ) is referred to here, and he rises to power in the middle of the Tribulation Period (the last three and one-half years). The events in verses 1-7 will take place before the Anti-Christ's rise to power. Rome is known as the city of seven hills (seven mountains) and the seven kings have been interpreted by some biblical scholars as a selective list of Roman emperors (vv. 9-10). Others suggest they refer to various forms of government in the Roman Empire. The beast that is to come during the tribulation period is said to be the eighth, and his doom is sure (v. 11).

n verses 12-14, the beast (Anti-Christ) will wield tremendous power over the ten kings (Ten-nation federation), who will join the beast (Anti-Christ) in an effort to make war against the Lamb (Jesus Christ). According to verse 15, the apostate church will be composed of many people; it will be truly an ecumenical church! In verse 16, the apostate church is destroyed by the ten kings (horns) headed by the Anti-Christ. When the ten kings joined forces to do the bidding of the Anti-Christ, they were in reality accomplishing the purpose of God (v. 17). In verse 18, the woman has been identified as Rome (v. 9), for Rome will be the religious and political hub of the world during the Tribulation Period.

"May God Bless!"

Continued **Seize** Page 2

six months of his Political Life, he wouldn't have lost," Trump posted on social media Tuesday night. "He went back to his original formula, and it wasn't pretty!"

What comes next

The last time Democrats held most of these statewide seats, Talarico was in kindergarten. The party has spent most of the last three decades playing defense, trying to do harm reduction on right-wing legislation and cobbling together uncomfortable coalitions with their least-partisan Republican colleagues.

All that changes now.

As governor, Hinojosa will have the power of executive action, the ability to call special legislative sessions, appoint people to boards, commissions and judicial vacancies, and veto legislation she disagrees with.

Lt. Gov. Vikki Goodwin will oversee the Senate, a role Dan Patrick has wielded with an iron fist. But Republicans are expected to maintain a majority of that chamber, and already, there's talk of finding ways to curb her authority on crucial roles like deciding what legislation to bring to the floor of the chamber.

As attorney general, Johnson could decide to reverse the state's position on, or drop entirely, controversial lawsuits that Paxton got the state embroiled in. He could also join other blue states — because that's what Texas is now, by some metrics — in bringing lawsuits against the Trump administration. Suing the federal government is certainly something that the agency knows a lot about.

Comptroller Sarah Eckhardt will hold the state's purse strings, overseeing the $1 billion school voucher program she and the rest of the legislative Democrats voted against approving. Agriculture Commissioner Clayton Tucker will be responsible for programs designed to support farmers, and shape policy around data centers and rural Texas.

These are big, historic wins that will change the state's political landscape overnight. And also, Texas still remains a conservative state, with many fossilized bastions of Republican power that will take more than one election to unearth. Many of these candidates ran on promises of moderation; they'll now have to decide whether to honor that, or take these results as an endorsement of their party writ large.

Hinojosa, at least, is indicating she plans to find ways to work with the party that spent tens of millions of dollars to keep her out of office.

"We did not end one era of single party rule to usher in another," she said at the Texas Tribune Festival in September.

This article first appeared on The Texas Tribune.

"On Veterans Day, take a moment to honor and thank our military veterans for their service and sacrifice."

~ THEME: HOLIDAY MOVIES
(Solution will appear in November 12 edition)

ACROSS
1. "As the World Turns" and such
6. Hundredweight, acr.
9. Notable achievement
13. Keep a threat ____ ____, or away
14. Across, in verse
15. Jiggly dessert
16. Opposite of bow
17. Sch. grp.
18. Kidman's ex
19. *HomeExchange story, with The
21. *Rudolph's father
23. *Kevin to Buzz in "Home Alone"
24. "Dickens!"
25. Quantity, acr.
28. *"Candy ____ Lane" starring Eddie Murphy
30. Opposite of anaerobe
35. Russian mountain range
37. Coxae, sing.
39. Tori, sing.
40. Goals
41. Famous Mac & Cheese manufacturer
43. One of auto pioneers
44. Letter-shaped girder
46. Home to Taj Mahal
47. A la _____, with ice cream
48. Relating to teeth
50. "My bad"
52. Eucharist vessel
53. Multicolored horse
55. NHL court
57. *Bailey of Bedford Falls
60. *Mount ____, Grinch's home
64. Supercharger
65. Ewe's mate
67. Alice Halsey on "Little House on the Prairie"
68. Ammo in a quiver, sing.
69. Knot-tying vow (2 words)
70. Sensory threshold, in psychology
71. Artist's inspiration
72. Bajillion years
73. Guns N' Roses lead guitarist

DOWN
1. "Away to the window I flew like a flash, ... and threw up the ____"
2. "Beetle Bailey" pooch
3. Cain's brother
4. *The McCallisters' travel destination
5. Trustee
6. Printer button
7. *Harry and Marv, a.k.a. the ____ Bandits
8. Pro move
9. Shade-loving plant
10. Hamburg river
11. Winglike
12. Freight weight
15. Official work trip
20. Taken where?
22. South American tuber
24. Six-sided polygon
25. *Cousin Eddie actor
26. Human social group
27. Mandarin's headquarters
29. *Luther Krank's wife
31. Living space
32. Lowest deck
33. *Will Ferrell's famous holiday role
34. English county
36. Future J.D.'s hurdle
38. Like Bob Ross' do
42. Short-trunked ungulate
45. Bone filler
49. Yule treat
51. Type of racing boat, pl.
54. Nest for an eagle
56. Not your grandmother's mail?
57. Spiritual leader
58. Makes a mistake
59. Double reed woodwind
60. Slangy "Follow me!"
61. Cat on a shoe
62. Wraths
63. Hyperbolic tangent
64. _____ o' shanter
66. Fuss, to Shakespeare

Statepoint Crossword Puzzle
Theme: HOLIDAY MOVIES

CROSSWORD

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Continued **Shock** Page 1

Gov. Greg Abbott was also ousted by Gina Hinojosa.

"We just took back Texas," Talarico told supporters upon taking the stage.

Talarico will become the Senate's youngest member and replace longtime Sen. John Cornyn, 74, who lost a bruising GOP primary to the scandal-plagued Paxton, whose nomination bolstered Talarico's appeal to Republican and independent voters.

Speaking briefly to supporters in Dallas, Paxton acknowledged GOP losses across the map. "We've had a difficult night tonight across the country, but it's not over," he said.

The heated campaign in Texas, one of the most expensive of the midterms, became partly a referendum on Paxton's legal, personal and ethical troubles that have shadowed much of his three terms as the state's attorney general. That included a federal corruption investigation, which did not result in charges, and impeachment by his own party in the Texas House over accusations of abusing his office to help a political donor. He was later acquitted in the state Senate.

Democrats have spent much of this century on a sputtering quest to win in Texas, and finally achieving victory could offer a roadmap in states where the party has struggled to compete. Talarico found success in a campaign with scant partisanship, TikToks that racked up millions of views and attacks against billionaires he said were corrupting politics at the expense of everyday Americans — a target that included Elon Musk, the world's richest person and a Texas resident, who spent heavily backing Paxton.

For Republicans, whose governance in Texas has seen the rollback of abortion rights and offered the Trump administration a blueprint for immigration crackdowns, the defeat to a Democrat who once ran as a proud Austin progressive threatens to deepen partisan infighting.

Senate GOP leaders warned early on that Paxton and his baggage would jeopardize the seat in an already difficult midterm landscape for Republicans.

But Trump, trusting his instincts, endorsed his loyal ally in the primary over Cornyn.

The first Democrat to win a Texas Senate race since 1988

Talarico, the grandson of a Baptist preacher, ran a campaign that sidestepped culture-war battles and instead emphasized an economic populist message while skewering Paxton's history of scandal.

He told crowds that the biggest divide in the U.S. "is not left versus right, it's top versus bottom." Rarely maligning the Republican Party as a whole, the Democrat, whose path to victory required converting GOP voters, focused on the top issue of a frustrated electorate: the rising cost of living.

The AP Voter Poll, an expansive survey of more than 5,000 Texas Senate voters, found that Talarico built a diverse coalition — winning most young voters and Hispanic voters in the state. Both groups were about evenly split between Trump and former Vice President Kamala Harris in the 2024 presidential election, according to AP VoteCast.

This year about three-quarters of voters under 30 went for Talarico, as did roughly 6 in 10 Hispanic voters.

Talarico won about two-thirds of moderates — who make up about 4 in 10 Senate voters overall in Texas — as well as most independents. Even about 1 in 10 Republicans voted for Talarico, while vanishingly few Democrats did the same for Paxton.

Talarico drew a causal line from high prices to corruption — billionaires seeding politics with gobs o

Continue **Shock** Page 5

Quinn Questions

Do you remember your first love interest?

By **Rix Quinn**

My first romantic interest was a new girl in my first-grade class. She had the best-looking tennis shoes on the planet.

Even better, she was a world-class runner. All us kids raced every day during recess and—except for the time some guy tripped her—she won every race.

Because boys and girls stayed on different sides of the playground, it took all my courage to cross the dividing sidewalk to ask where she got those shoes. Once I got those footwear details, she was no longer interested in me.

I briefly admired a girl in a third-grade square dance class because she knew the do-si-do.

But then I met Charlotte, my seventh-grade English teacher.

To this 12-year-old boy, she seemed gorgeous. She was an older woman…probably 24. In class she teased me, and we kidded around a lot.

By the third six weeks I was profoundly in love, and that had never happened before. But at the height of my passion, spring came around.

A couple of friends and I got tickets to the local sports event. While there, I saw my 20-something instructor with a man about her age.

After we exchanged greetings, she said, "I'd like for you to meet my fiancée." What? Was she engaged?

I shook the guy's hand and talked to them for a couple of minutes, but I was emotionally destroyed. How could she?

I felt really bad for at least nine days. Then baseball season started.

SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, Nov. 5	Friday, Nov. 6	Saturday, Nov. 7	Sunday, Nov. 8	Monday, Nov. 9	Tuesday, Nov. 10	Wednesday, Nov. 11
H -77° L -54°	H 66° L -52°	H -66° L -51°	H 61° L 54°	H 64° L 50*	H -69° L -54°	H -70° L -52°

The criticism mounts for Brian Schottenheimer as the Cowboys keep finding ways to lose

By **SCHUYLER DIXON** AP Pro Football Writer

FRISCO, Texas (AP) — Owner Jerry Jones and quarterback Dak Prescott tried to shield coach Brian Schottenheimer from mounting criticism after the Dallas Cowboys again failed to put together consecutive victories.

The latest loss was the most crushing of Schottenheimer's season-plus in charge, since the Cowboys matched the biggest blown fourth-quarter lead in franchise history at 14 points in Arizona's 33-30 overtime victory, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Questions about Schottenheimer's job security had already come up this season. Now, they've lost to backup quarterbacks twice — Gardner Minshew's huge rally for the Cardinals coming after the previous home loss was against undrafted rookie Jalon Daniels for then-winless Tampa Bay in his second career start.

Dallas (3-5), which visits Indianapolis (2-6) on Sunday, has lost because of poor performances from a defense that can't seem to figure things out. There was a defeat directly tied to Schottenheimer's questionable game management in the final seconds.

Put it together, and the Cowboys have had a winning record after just one of 25 weeks under Schottenheimer, whose only winning streak was a three-game run last November.

"I will say that a lot of people let Brian down today," Jones said when asked why he still had confidence in his ninth head coach in 37 years as owner and general manager. "And so for whatever criticism we want to have of Brian, we can all get in line."

Prescott would count himself among those who let the coach down with a supposedly high-powered offense that has sputtered in all three losses during the current four-game stretch. The 11th-year starter bristled when asked about Schottenheimer after the game.

"Don't put the blame on one person," Prescott said. "I think that's weak. I think that's cowardly. This game is about all 11 that touch the field and every person that has a part in it, coaches and support staff. It's never just one person's fault. Even if I go out there and throw a bunch of interceptions, it's never just truly one person's fault."

Jones traded star pass rusher Micah Parsons a week before Schottenheimer's first game last season, but has since made several moves to try to bolster the roster, especially on defense.

That included last year's trade for defensive tackle Quinnen Williams that cost Dallas one of the two first-round draft picks from the Parsons deal. The Cowboys gave up a 2028 second-round pick to get cornerback Joey Porter Jr. this season.

Wade Phillips is the only coach Jones fired midseason. The Cowboys were 1-7 and had just been embarrassed on national TV in Green Bay when Phillips was let go in 2010. Jason Garrett coached most of the next decade.

"I made a change, and I don't want to mention it, because I'm not proud of it," Jones said. "But I made the change with Wade Phillips there in the middle of the season. And I don't see that here."

The defense was working, for most of three quarters — and that was after a strong second half in a win at Philadelphia the previous week. Then Tyler Allgeier ripped off a 63-yard touchdown run, and a 52-yarder on Arizona's next offensive play.

Minshew threw for three touchdowns in the fourth quarter, the last to cap an 80-yard drive in just 63 seconds. The only reason the Cardinals didn't win in regulation was because Chad Ryland missed the PAT with 6 seconds to go. A Dallas defense that is among the worst in the NFL suddenly looked the part again.

Continued **Shock** Page 4

money — and used it to attack Paxton's reliance on megadonors. Meanwhile relentless television ads flashed headlines from a federal corruption investigation into Paxton after his aides reported him to the FBI in 2020, although prosecutors ultimately decided to not bring charges.

It was still an uphill climb. Democratic candidates in past years, most notably Beto O'Rourke's 2018 campaign against Sen. Ted Cruz, have ignited enthusiasm that was swiftly doused on election night. Texas last sent a Democrat to the Senate when Lloyd Bentsen was reelected in 1988 — the year before Talarico was born.

Paxton's durability faded in a heated race

Paxton's defeat shatters a decade of political resilience in the face of legal and personal troubles, including a 2015 indictment on securities fraud charges and a divorce filing last year by his wife, state Sen. Angela Paxton, on "biblical grounds" over accusations of adultery.

That durability withered in the biggest race of his career.

About two-thirds of voters said Paxton did not have the right personal character to serve as a U.S. Senator, according to the AP Voter Poll. And though he tried to cast Talarico as "too extreme," only about half of voters agreed.

Paxton also struggled to unify Republicans after the primary against Cornyn. Trump campaigned in Texas in a final stretch bid to drive GOP turnout, but facing deep unpopularity across much of the country, his efforts fell short.

It was a very pricey campaign

The race was one of the most expensive in the country, as both sides blanketed the airwaves with more than a half-billion dollars in combined campaign ads, according to AdImpact.

Most of that was aimed at boosting Paxton in the nation's second-most populous state, home to 31 million residents and for years a conservative counterweight to California's liberal influence.

Musk contributed a total of $158 million to the Senate Leadership Fund, the same amount that the fund then gave to Texas PAC, the largest contributor to Paxton's campaign. Musk also gave $10 million to the Paxton-supporting Lone Star Liberty PAC. Talarico argued that the inflated spending blitz made clear the urgent need for checks on powerful interests.

His victorious campaign, Talarico said, is about changing the game to a "politics of love."

"This win is for every Texan who has ever wondered if anyone is ever listening," he said. "I heard you. We heard you. And tonight, the world hears you."

Teddy's Creation

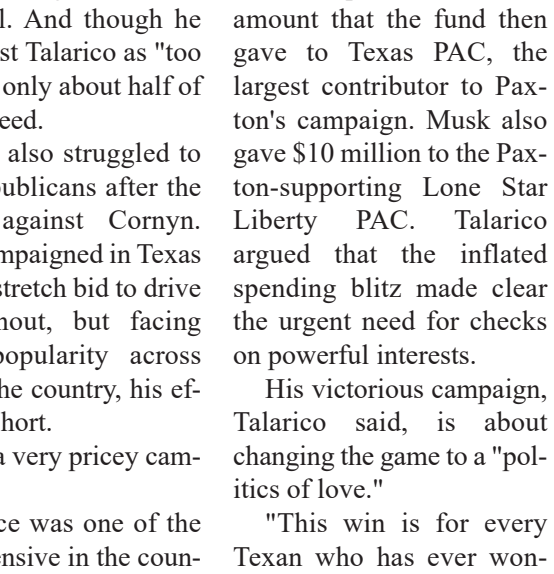
(Answer Key on Page 6)

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	8	5	6					

HEALTH

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Parkland

Statepoint Crossword Puzzle
Solution: October 29 ~ BIRDS

U	S	E	R			P	A	P				K	A	Y
T	A	X	A		T	I	L	E		O	P	I	N	E
A	K	I	N		U	V	E	A		G	H	E	N	T
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C	P	A				R	E	D			L	U	G	S



Continuedd **Latino** Page 1

validation for Democrats' long deferred dream that demographic changes in the state would be followed by a shift in political power. It also elevates Hinojosa, a 52-year-old state legislator from a liberal Austin district since 2017, into a breakout Democratic star, even as she did not have significant support from the national party for her campaign.

"It never bothered me that they doubted me. It bothered me that they doubted us," Hinojosa told supporters at her victory party in Austin. "Texas, my faith in you never wavered."

Jumping in the race with little money or name recognition, Hinojosa engineered a plucky and populist challenge, railing against artificial intelligence data centers and corruption to down Abbott. She also proved that money in politics has clear limits. Billionaire Elon Musk had spent tens of millions of dollars to back Republicans, and Abbott's campaign had spent $180 million since last year in what was thought to be a safe path to a fourth term.

But Hinojosa proved durable while simultaneously riding the tailwinds of Talarico's hard-charging Senate campaign, one of the nation's marquee races. Just two years after Trump carried the state by double digits, the upset is also a stark reflection of how a glum national mood dragged down Republicans even in a stronghold where Democrats had not won in decades.

Trump blamed Abbott for the loss in a striking criticism of one of his staunchest supporters, accusing him of becoming a "RINO," or Republican in name only, in the last months of the race. "He went back to his original formula, and it wasn't pretty!" Trump posted on social media.

Abbott, who had been seeking a record fourth term, said he called Hinojosa and pledged to help her transition into office.

"Leading this state has been the greatest honor I've ever had," Abbott told supporters as he conceded the race.

On a national level, the loss will set off alarms for Republicans, who depend on winning Texas in presidential election years to maintain a path to the White House.

The first Democrat elected governor since 1990

How Hinojosa governs is likely to open a dramatic political and cultural shift in the Texas Capitol, which over the last decade has passed one of the nation's strictest abortion laws and increasingly aggressive immigration crackdowns.

Abbott, who first took office in 2015, won each of his previous races by double digits.

Then came Hinojosa, who started her campaign last year at a time when bigger-name Democrats seemed uneager to wade into the race.

From the start she accused Abbott of prioritizing the wealthy over everyday people and failing to bring down costs. Abbott said Hinojosa wanted to raise taxes and painted her as a radical and a threat to Texans' way of life.

One of Hinojosa's earliest campaign pledges was a one-time $1,500 payment to each of the state's nearly 32 million residents that she called a "Corruption Tax Refund." She said the money would come from Texas' massive emergency savings fund.



Teddy's Answer Key

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