

Editor's Choice



A woman walks past an electronic board, which shows currency exchange rates, in Buenos Aires' financial district



Protestors chant and are arrested demonstrating against the confirmation of U.S. Supreme Court nominee Kavanaugh in front of the Supreme Court building on Capitol Hill in Washington



U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ross speaks during Reuters interview in his office at the U.S. Department of Commerce building in Washington



Guns are seen after police arrested Brazilian Marisa de Souza Penna and four other compatriots accused of plotting to free a leader of the Red Command drug gang from jail, in Paraguay



Former German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and his wife Kim So-yeon before their wedding party in Berlin



Brazilian presidential candidate Fernando Haddad talks with journalists as he attends a rally in Belo Horizonte



FILE PHOTO: Jerusalem Mayor Barkat speaks during a news conference in Jerusalem



A Yazidi boy holds a picture of Nadia Murad, who won the Nobel Peace prize, in Duhok

It doesn't take very many people to win an election in Texas.

With redistricting fights pushing the primaries closer to summertime — and further from the possibility of giving the state's Republican voters any say in who should be their presidential nominee — turnout could be even lower than normal. "Normal" is a relative term when it comes to turnout in Texas elections.

Remember that big gubernatorial fight the Republicans had in 2010? Gov. Rick Perry and Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison each spent more than \$20 million on their campaigns. Debra Medina, a political newcomer appealing to fiscal conservatives and Tea Party voters looking for alternatives to the career politicians on the ballot, brought even more attention to the race.

At the time, the state had 18.8 million people who were old enough to vote. That big, fat, exciting Republican primary attracted fewer than 1.5 million of them — less than 8 percent.

The Democratic primary that year had seven candidates for governor in it, but former Mayor Bill White of Houston won it without raising his heart rate, or anyone else's. Turnout was 3.6 percent of the state's voting age population.

Perry ultimately needed only about 4 percent of the eligible voters to secure the nomination — tantamount, in this reliably red state, to winning another term as governor.



Presidential elections draw crowds. Democrats surprised everyone in 2008 by getting all the way to Super Tuesday without having decided between Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama. Republicans had already settled on John McCain, though Mike Huckabee was still turning heads.

Special REPORT

Record Shows: Texans Leave The Voting To A Small Minority

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



That year, Democrats got 16.2 percent of the eligible adults in Texas, and the Republicans got 7.7 percent.

That's electoral anemia: it's an outstanding year when only one in four eligible adults votes.

Expect a weaker showing this year. The primaries were supposed to happen in less than three weeks, giving Republicans a pretty good chance of voting before their party had settled on a presidential nominee and producing a good turnout as a result.

But the date vaporized in the wake of redistricting litigation. Now it appears that the primaries will happen on May 29, or even later. A gaggle of election administrators from across the state told federal judges this week that any earlier date would set at least some of them up for

failure.

And the court has all but ruled out a split primary, with the presidential elections in April and everything else, from the United States Senate races down to the county races at the bottom of the ballot, in May or June. It's expensive, and lawyers say the state can't pay for it.

The judges haven't asked many questions about turnout, but turnout underlies some of the legal arguments. A presidential race is a draw, and people in both parties fear that a split primary would lower turnout.

A late primary could also suppress turnout. Voting in June — after school is out and summer plans are under way — won't get people off their couches, especially if the races are boring. If there's not a good fight on the ballot, civic responsibility is

the only motivation to vote. Even a May 29 primary comes with a summer problem: the runoff following that election would fall on July 31.

A split primary could present an advantage for some candidates and campaign consultants, according to Craig Murphy, whose firm counsels Republicans. The earlier election would show which voters are engaged — a good list of prospects to pursue for the later elections for Congress and the Legislature. If it comes to a split primary, he's not worried.

2018 TEXAS ELECTIONS

That's not the conventional wisdom.

"If we have a split primary, I would not want to be a Republican incumbent," said Jeff Crosby, a Democratic consultant. "Presumably turnout will drop significantly, meaning a larger percentage of the voters will be foaming-at-the-mouth freak shows — a k a the Tea Party. They are the Mikey of politics: They don't like anyone."

Democrats, without a contested presidential primary and without the internal frictions that currently bother the majority party, don't have that problem. "Strangely, we Democrats do not appear, for the moment, to be forming our traditional circular firing squads," Crosby said, adding a

caveat: "There is time."

But the parties share the bigger problem on Election Day: Most Texans will be doing something else.

Related

Thousands of Texas voter registration applications filed using online tool could be invalid

AUSTIN — More than 2,000 Texans who registered to vote using an online tool provided by a California nonprofit could be in for a rude awakening on Election Day — they are not, in fact, officially registered. In September, vote.org, which uses technology to increase voter turnout and bring more people into the political process, rolled out the tool to help Texans register for the November election. It was available in Dallas, Bexar, Cameron and Travis counties ahead of Tuesday's registration deadline.



Applications began rolling in, even from outside those four counties. But on Monday, the office of the secretary of state, the top elections administrator, told the nonprofit the applications submitted through it weren't valid because they didn't have original signatures. In a statement on Wednesday, Secretary of State Rolando Pablos said: "We remind all eligible Texas voters that online voter registration is not available in the State of Texas. Any website that misleadingly claims to assist voters in registering to vote online by simply submitting a digital signature is not authorized to do so. All Texas voters should be extremely cautious when handing over personal and sensitive information to any unknown third party."

He urged voters to check their registration status on the secretary of state's website, where they could also get more information on the elections. (Courtesy <https://www.dallasnews.com/news>)

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OVERVIEW

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Wednesday that denuclearization negotiations with North Korea will be completed by January 2021.

The deadline reflects a commitment from North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un, according to Pompeo.

The chief U.S. diplomat's statement came a day after South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korea's Kim met in Pyongyang to discuss the next steps in their peace process.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is heading back to North Korea for another round of talks aimed at getting Kim Jong Un to give up nuclear weapons.

This will be Pompeo's third visit to North Korea since spring. State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert told reporters Tuesday that the secretary expects to meet with Kim in Pyongyang.

President Donald Trump said last week that he hopes to meet again soon with the North Korean leader. They held the first-ever summit between a U.S. and a North Korean leader in June.

Pompeo will be pushing for progress on achieving the goal of denuclearization that Trump and Kim agreed to only in vague terms at their summit in Singapore.

North Korea says it first wants relief from punishing international sanctions.

Pompeo says North Korea nuclear talks to be completed by January 2021



North Korean leader Kim Jong-un leads a target-striking contest of the special operation forces of the Korean People's Army to occupy islands in Pyongyang on Aug. 25, 2017.

Secretary Of State Pompeo Heads To North Korea For Nuclear Talks

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo attends a media briefing during the United Nations General Assembly on September 24, 2018 in New York City.

(Photo/Reuters)

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Wednesday that denuclearization negotiations with North Korea will be completed by January 2021.

The deadline reflects a commitment from North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un, according to Pompeo.

The chief U.S. diplomat's statement came a day after South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korea's Kim met in Pyongyang to discuss the next steps in their peace process. It also marks the latest significant development in President Donald Trump's outreach to Kim following a much-hyped summit in Singapore earlier this year.

The Pentagon said it is continuing to back the State Department's efforts on North Korea.

"The Department of Defense remains in full support of our diplomats as they work to achieve the final, fully verified denuclearization of the DPRK as agreed to by Chairman Kim," U.S. Marine

Corps Lt. Col. Christopher Logan said in an emailed statement to CNBC.

The White House did not immediately respond to CNBC's request for comment.



U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un.

While Trump has taken center stage along with Kim in the ongoing peace process, experts point to the effect South Korea's president has had on the negotiations.

"I think we can call the recent efforts by

the Center for the National Interest, told CNBC.

"South Korea's president deserves tremendous credit for doing what looked like the impossible, as talks between the U.S. and North Korea were headed for a dead end. I think it is clear there is the possibility of a compromise and even another Trump-Kim summit, right before the midterms," he added.

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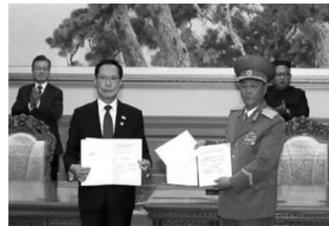
before the midterms," he added.

Related

DPRK, South Korea Begin Landmine Removal As Part Of Military Peace Agreement

South Korea's president is touting recent military agreements with their northern neighbors as troops begin removing landmines along the heavily fortified border.

The south's defense ministry confirmed



FILE - In this Sept. 19, 2018, file photo, South Korea's Defense Minister Song Young-moo, front left, and North Korea's Minister of the People's Armed Forces No Kwang Chol, front right, hold the documents after signing as South Korean President Moon Jae-in, rear left, and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, rear right, clap at the Paekhwawon State Guesthouse in Pyongyang, North Korea. North and South Korea began removing mines at two sites inside their heavily fortified border Monday, Oct. 1, as part of their recent deals to ease decades-long military tensions. (Pyongyang Press Corps Pool via AP, File)

Meanwhile, South Korean President Moon Jae-in expressed optimism, claiming recent agreements will end all hostile acts. He also said the north is committed to helping maintain "long lasting peace and prosperity" on the peninsula.

"We have now begun our audacious journey towards the lasting peace and prosperity of the Korean Peninsula. The path we are taking has never been taken before, and it is hard to predict what difficulties we might face. Therefore, we need a stronger national defense more than any other time. Peace can continue only when we have power and are confident of protecting ourselves." — South Korean President Moon Jae-in

His comments come as South Korea celebrated its 70th Armed Forces Day as the peninsula works to reduce tension and build trust. (Courtesy oan.com)

Advertisement for the 2018 Houston Travel Shopping Guide. It features a collage of travel-related images and text, including a large red banner that says '2018 休斯頓旅遊購物指南 HOUSTON TRAVEL SHOPPING GUIDE VOLUME 5'. Below this, there are several smaller promotional cards for local businesses like 'Pepper Twins', 'Country Style Organic Chinese Food', and 'Houston Premium Outlets'. A large yellow banner at the bottom reads '請至本報社 免費取閱' (Please come to our newspaper office for free pickup). To the right, a large red character '已經' (Already) is visible, suggesting the guide is available.

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