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How Ted Cruz and Beto O’Rourke got to this point



Inside C2

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‘Racist’ Trump ad pulled from air as campaigns rush to uncertain end

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - NBC, Fox News and Facebook pulled a controversial ad by President Donald Trump’s campaign that critics had labeled racist as a bitter election fight for control of the U.S. Congress headed on Monday for an unpredictable finish.

Tuesday’s elections, widely seen as a referendum on Trump, have been portrayed by both Republicans and Democrats as critical for the future of the country. At stake is control of both chambers of Congress, and with it the ability to block or promote Trump’s agenda, as well as 36 governor’s offices.

Factbox: Breaking barriers: U.S. election winners could mark minority firsts

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A surge in early voting, fueled by a focus on Trump’s pugilistic, norms-breaking presidency by supporters of both parties, could signal the highest turnout in 50 years for a midterm U.S. election, when the White House is not on the line.

The 30-second ad, which was sponsored by Trump’s 2020 re-election campaign and which debuted online last week, featured courtroom video of an illegal immigrant from Mexico convicted in the 2014 killings of two police officers, juxtaposed with scenes of migrants headed through Mexico.

Critics, including members of Trump’s own party, had condemned the spot as racially divisive.

CNN had refused to run the ad, saying it was “racist.” NBC, owned by Comcast Corp, said on Monday it was no longer running the ad, which it called “insensitive.”

Fox News Channel, which Trump has repeatedly named his favorite broadcaster and is highly supportive of his nationalist policies, also said it would no longer run the spot. Fox News, a unit of Twenty-First Century Fox Inc, said it had made the decision after a review but did not elaborate. Facebook Inc said it would no longer allow paid promotions of the ad although it would allow users to share the ad on their own pages.



U.S. President Trump gives thumbs up during campaign rally in Cleveland, Ohio

Trump batted away reporters’ questions about the networks’ decision to drop the ad.

“You’re telling me something I don’t know about. We have a lot of ads, and they certainly are effective based on the numbers we’re seeing,” Trump said as he departed Joint Base Andrews in Maryland for a rally in Cleveland, Ohio. Asked about concerns that the ad was offensive, he replied, “A lot of things are offensive. Your questions are offensive.” After Ohio, Trump was headed to campaign against vulnerable Democratic

U.S. senators in Indiana and Missouri at the end of a six-day pre-election sweep.

Opinion polls and election forecasters favor Democrats to pick up the minimum of 23 seats they need on Tuesday to capture a majority in the U.S. House of Representatives, which would enable them to stymie Trump’s legislative agenda and investigate his administration.

Trump close to naming U.N. envoy, sees more Cabinet changes

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President Donald Trump said on Monday he would nominate a new U.S. ambassador to the United Nations by the end of the week and that more changes in his Cabinet may be coming.

Trump said last week he was seriously considering naming U.S. State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert to the post to succeed Nikki Haley, who said on Oct. 9 she would resign at the end of the year.

“I’ll announce before the end of the week the U.N. ambassador,” Trump told reporters before leaving Washington for another series of campaign rallies a day before the congressional midterm elections

“Administrations make changes usually after midterms, and probably we’ll be right in that category, too,” Trump added. “I think it’s very customary. No

timeline. For the most part I love my Cabinet. We have some really talented people.”

Haley was the latest in a string of senior Trump administration figures to quit, although she made her announcement in the Oval Office sitting next to Trump, who praised her for doing “an incredible job.”

White House counsel Don McGahn’s departure was announced in August and he has left. Scott Pruitt, the Environmental Protection Agency chief, resigned on July 5 under fire over ethics controversies.

In response to reporters’ questions as he left for a rally in Cleveland, Trump said he was not planning to replace Defense Secretary Jim Mattis. Last month, Trump said Mattis “may leave” and that he regarded him as “sort

of a Democrat.”.

He also said Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke was doing a “good job.” Zinke has been under at least three probes by the Interior Department’s inspector general over ethics questions. Last month, the inspector general sent one of the probes to the Justice Department, increasing the chances that Zinke could face a criminal investigation.

Trump did not answer when asked about Attorney General Jeff Sessions, whom he has frequently criticized.



President Trump departs Washington to hold campaign rallies in three states



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How Ted Cruz and Beto O'Rourke got to this point

The tight race between GOP incumbent Ted Cruz and Democratic challenger Beto O'Rourke will be decided tomorrow.

The tight race between GOP incumbent Ted Cruz and Democratic challenger Beto O'Rourke will be decided tomorrow.

The two candidates for U.S. Senate from Texas have several things in common: They both grew up in Texas. They both graduated from Ivy League universities. They've both become well-known relatively early in their

political careers.

But ideologically, Republican Ted Cruz and Democrat Beto O'Rourke couldn't be more different. Cruz was elected to the Senate in a wave of Tea Party voting. O'Rourke leans to the progressive, liberal side of the spectrum.

Tuesday, Texas will choose one of them to represent them in the Senate in what has become a surprisingly close election in a historically dark-red state.

Take a look at the two candidates through the years in the following slide-shows and learn how they got to this point.



Gas prices plunge to lowest since April

Average gasoline prices had the biggest weekly drop all year, falling to the lowest level since April, according to GasBuddy, which tracks gasoline prices nationwide.

The plunge has followed the recent rout in oil markets that has pushed crude prices down to about \$63 a barrel from a recent peak of \$76 -- a 17 percent decline. In Houston, gasoline prices fell 8 cents over the week to \$2.43 a gallon on Sunday, GasBuddy said. Nationally, the average price fell 7 cents a gallon to \$2.73.

Average prices in both Houston and nationally are down about 18 cents a gallon from a month ago, but more than 20 cents a gallon higher than a year ago. Patrick DeHaan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy, said that part of the decline was seasonal as scheduled shutdowns of refineries had led to higher crude inventories, which turn have spurred declines in oil prices. But other factors, such as

concerns over the pace of economic growth, have contributed.

"Jitters over the economy and stock market have helped to push values down," he said. "We should see prices move lower yet again--but this behavior is par for the course every autumn."



Gasoline prices had the biggest price drop of the year over the past week.



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Editor's Choice



A commuter walks past U.S. political party symbols at Metro station in Reston, Virginia



Donald Trump, Jr. and Kimberly Guilfoyle campaign for Republican candidates ahead of the 2018 midterm elections, in Beckley, West Virginia



Donald Trump, Jr. and Kimberly Guilfoyle campaign for Republican candidates ahead of the 2018 midterm elections, in Beckley, West Virginia



Republican senate nominee Patrick Morrisey greets supporters at a blacksmith's forge ahead of the 2018 midterm elections in Falling Water, West Virginia
Four Realms' movie in London, Britain, November 1, 2018. REUTERS/Simon Dawson



Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) takes part in a motorcycle ride around the state ahead of the 2018 midterm elections in Charlestown, West Virginia



Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) takes part in a motorcycle ride around the state ahead of the 2018 midterm elections in Charlestown, West Virginia



Ojeda speaks to supporters ahead of the 2018 midterm elections in Peach Creek



Bell of West Logan awaits the arrival of Senator Manchin in Peach Creek

On Nov. 6, Texas voters will decide who will hold several statewide, legislative and congressional seats. To help Texans navigate Election Day, we've compiled an overview of everything you need to know about casting a ballot in the 2018 midterms. (And no, you still can't take a selfie at the polls.)

If you share your address below, we'll personalize this piece for you, showing the races you get to participate in and which county you need to work with. (Don't worry! We're not storing this information — just determining which districts and county you live in.)

Whom do I get to vote for?

Your representatives

Aside from statewide races decided by all Texans, who you get to vote for depends on where you live. On the federal level, Texans are divided among 36 U.S. House districts. On the state level, your address determines your district — and who represents you — in the Texas House, the Texas Senate and on the State Board of Education. All U.S. House and Texas House districts are up for election this year, but only half of Texas Senate and State Board of Education seats are on the ballot.

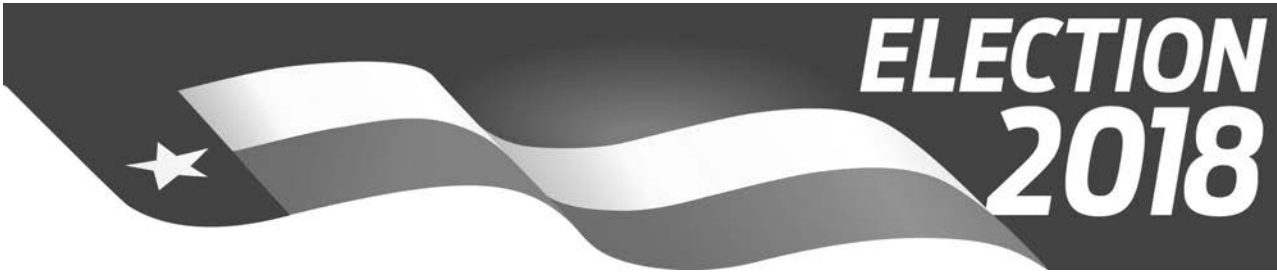
2018 TEXAS ELECTIONS

If you share your address above, we can show you the 2018 general election candidates for each of your districts. Otherwise, you can view our roundup of all the candidates here.

Your statewide candidates

Fourteen of the races on all Texans' general election ballots this year will be for statewide positions. This includes the race to decide who — in addition to John Cornyn — will represent the state in the U.S. Senate. Seven statewide races include executive positions such as governor, lieutenant governor and attorney general, and six are for the state's two highest courts — the Su-

The U.S. Midterm Elections – The Texas Perspective



What Texas Voters Should Know For The 2018 Midterm Elections

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

preme Court and the Court of Criminal Appeals.

CANDIDATES

D Beto O'Rourke

L Neal Dikeman

R Ted CruzIncumbent

U.S. Senate

CANDIDATES

D Lupe Valdez

L Mark Tippetts

R Greg AbbottIncumbent

Governor

CANDIDATES

D Mike Collier

L Kerry McKennon

R Dan PatrickIncumbent

Lieutenant Governor

CANDIDATES

D Justin Nelson

L Michael Ray Harris

R Ken PaxtonIncumbent

Attorney General

CANDIDATES

D Joi Chevalier

L Ben Sanders

R Glenn HegarIncumbent

Comptroller

CANDIDATES

D Miguel Suazo

L Matt Piña

R George P. BushIncumbent

Land Commissioner

CANDIDATES

D Kim Olson

L Richard Carpenter

R Sid MillerIncumbent

Agriculture Commissioner

CANDIDATES

D Roman McAllen

L Mike Wright

R Christi CraddickIncumbent

Railroad Commissioner

CANDIDATES

D Steven Kirkland

R Jimmy BlacklockIncumbent

Texas Supreme Court, Place 2

CANDIDATES

D R.K. Sandill

R John DevineIncumbent

Texas Supreme Court, Place 4

CANDIDATES

D Kathy Cheng

R Jeff BrownIncumbent

Texas Supreme Court, Place 6

CANDIDATES

D Maria T. (Terri) Jackson

L William Bryan Strange III

R Sharon KellerIncumbent

Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 1

CANDIDATES

D Ramona Franklin

R Barbara Parker HerveyIncumbent

Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 7

CANDIDATES

L Mark Ash

R Michelle Slaughter

Texas Court of Criminal Appeals,

Place 8



Where can I cast my ballot, and how can I find which polling places are near me?

Using the same website that allows you to check whether you're registered, you can also find polling location options on Election Day and during the early voting period. During the early voting period, voters can cast ballots at any location in the county they are registered to vote in.

Can I wear my "Beto for Senate" or "Cruz for Senate" shirt to the polls?

No. Doing so constitutes electioneering, which is illegal in Texas.

Voters who are caught wearing campaign gear to the polls may get asked to turn their shirts inside out or to put on a jacket. Refusal to do so could result in being turned away from the polls.

Under Texas law, a person "may not electioneer for or against any candidate, measure, political party" within 100 feet

of the voting site during early voting or on Election Day.

What form of ID do I need to bring?

You can see more details about the acceptable forms of ID in this Texplainer, but here's a summary.

Voting in Texas requires a valid photo ID. Polling places accept seven types of photo ID:

- A state driver's license issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)
- A Texas election identification certificate (issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety)
- A Texas personal identification card (issued by DPS)
- A Texas license to carry a handgun (issued by DPS)
- A U.S. military ID card that includes a personal photo
- A U.S. citizenship certificate that includes a personal photo
- A U.S. passport



What if I don't have a valid photo ID?

Voters who do not have any of those documents and cannot "reasonably obtain" them can still cast a vote if they sign a form in which they swear that they have a "reasonable impediment" from obtaining appropriate identification. Those voters will also have to present one of the following types of ID:

- A valid voter registration certificate
- A certified birth certificate
- A copy or original of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other document that shows the voter's name and address (any government document that contains a voter's photo must be an original). (Courtesy The TexasTribune.com)

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