



Mid-Term State Election Updates: Texas

By: [Joby Rittenhouse](#)

Cruz Defeats Beto

In the [closest race in 40 years](#), incumbent and former-presidential candidate Ted Cruz defeated El Paso congressman Beto O'Rourke by a mere 220,000 votes (out of 8.3 million) for U.S. Senate. Although his bid resulted in defeat, O'Rourke's rise from obscurity posed the greatest threat to the Republican grip on any major statewide office in years. Backed by large contributions from a national base, O'Rourke's candidacy helped spur Democratic victories in other Texas races. Cruz withstood the challenge, in part due to the overwhelming support [Cruz received in the Permian Basin](#). Cruz won more than 75 percent of the vote in Midland County and received no lower than 64 percent of the vote in six other large West Texas counties.

Chairwoman Craddick to Serve a Second Term

It has been nearly twenty years since a commissioner on the Texas Railroad Commission has won a re-election bid and served two full terms. However, on November 6, [chairwoman Christi Craddick defeated](#) Democrat Roman McAllen and Libertarian Mike Wright to become the first commissioner to win re-election and serve a second six-year term since the mid-1990s. Craddick, who had been at the helm of one of the most powerful regulatory agencies in the state for the last six years, has faced some mounting [criticism due to ties to the industry](#), but received roughly 54% of the vote. Notably, [Craddick is the only woman elected](#) by the people of Texas to a non-judicial statewide office.

Bush Re-Elected as Texas Land Commissioner

[Republican George P. Bush defeated Democratic challenger](#) Miguel Suazo on Tuesday to win his second term as Texas Land Commissioner. Bush, the son of former Florida Governor Jeb Bush, won re-election by nearly one million votes and will serve through 2022. E&P companies with assets and operations on land owned by the State of Texas deal with the Texas General Land Office, a state agency that, as relevant here, manages state lands and helps fund Texas public education through oil and gas leases.

Copyright © 2018 Beatty & Wozniak, P.C. All Rights Reserved.

This newsletter does not constitute legal advice. The views expressed in this newsletter are the views of the authors and not necessarily the views of the firm. Please consult with legal counsel for specific advice and or information.

[Read our complete legal disclaimer](#)