

Candidate Development Report

Besa Martin, Candidate Development Chairman

A super thank you to all the TFRW Election Guard Volunteers. Our energizer bunny President Toni Anne Dashiell interfaced with the campaign managers who sought out our help due to the Hurricane Ike devastation. These campaigns needed some outside support, as many living in the area were still trying to rebuild and recover. A huge thank you is also due to 'Borah Van Dormolen who courageously kicked off the volunteer effort. We worked in the Houston area to support the campaigns of challenged Republican incumbents and the courageous Republican challengers. The candidates were thankful for our participation.

The U. S. Representatives Michael McCaul and John Culberson, who we worked for, retained their seats. Challenger Pete Olson unseated the incumbent Democrat, winning another U. S. Representative seat. The good news is that all Republican incumbents kept their seats.

Texas Senator Mike Jackson who we worked for in the Houston area also retained his senate seat. However we lost Kim Brimer's Senate seat in Tarrant County and apparently early voting was the difference in that race. We still have one run-off race to go and that is for Senate District 17. If Joan Huffman comes out the winner, we will retain that seat.

In the Texas House, Republican Todd Hunter unseated the Democrat in District 32 and Mark Shelton unseated the Democrat in District 97. Unfortunately we did lose some Texas House seats. District 133 Representative Jim Murphy lost a very close race. District 96 Republican incumbent Bill Zedler lost his seat. District 102 Republican Tony Goolsby lost his seat. Looking at some of the Democrat held seats; the Republican challengers did show that victory could be possible in 2010. For Example, Republican Brian Walker was just about 100 votes short of unseating the Democrat incumbent in District 11. The good news is that the Republicans still have the majority in the Texas House, 76 to 74. Too close!!!

While we did lose some seats in the Senate and House, I see great opportunities in the next election cycle.

The candidates greatly appreciate all of the work done by TFRW volunteers.

Finally, remember to turn in your hours for the Dewhurst General Election Competition. Click here http://www.tfrw.org/general_election_competition.html to download forms for Individuals and Clubs.