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ELECTIONS 2026

County GOP maintains edge in primary voting; local Dems triple turnout

By Camila Gonzalez Staff Writer

Texas saw high voter turnout for the primary elections on March 3, with about 1 in 4 registered voters casting a ballot. The state also saw more Democratic primary votes than Republican. However, Denton County didn't match those trends.

Statewide, over 21 million Republican ballots were cast, while Democratic primary voters cast over 2.3 million, according to the Texas Secretary of State's Office.

Out of about 667,800 registered voters in Denton County, about 171,000 cast a ballot in the primaries, according to numbers from Denton County Elections Administration. That's about 25.6% voter turnout overall. Texas has open prima-



Claire Williams/DRC file photo A Denton County voter holds up her "I Voted" sticker after casting a ballot in 2024.

ries, which means voters can decide which party's primary election they want to vote in. However, a voter can't cross party lines to vote in the other party's runoff in the same election

cycle. Republican primary voters cast the majority of ballots in Denton County with about 88,120 votes total, while Democratic voters accounted for about 82,890

ballots. Percentage-wise, 13.2% of Denton County voters cast ballots in the GOP primary, while the Democratic primary had a 12.4% turnout.

Despite still having a lower turnout than the Republicans in 2026, Denton County Democrats nearly tripled their turnout this year when compared to both the 2022 and 2024 primaries.

Both parties in Denton County saw higher turnout this year than in 2022 during the most recent midterm primary. That year, 11.9% of voters cast ballots in the GOP primary and 4.75% in the Democratic primary.

At the state level in 2022, Democrats cast just over 1 million ballots while Republicans cast nearly 2 million.

See TURNOUT on 2A

DENTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Man killed in Denton police shooting identified as a 25-year-old resident

THIN LINE FEST



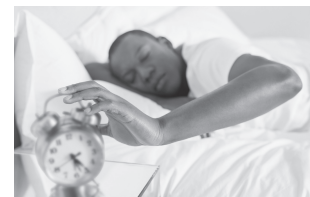
'The Last Picture Shows' director on his elegy for small-town cinemas doc screening at Thin Line Fest

CANNABIS



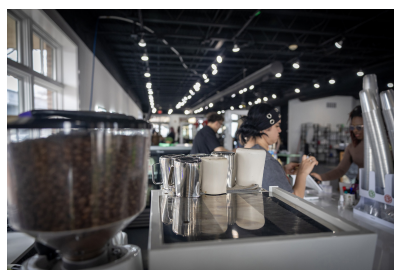
Hemp businesses fear an uptick in police raids after more than 15 in two years

HEALTH



Strategies to help adjust your body after daylight saving time begins

Everyday moments



ABOVE: Tarisa Banks swings with her 2-year-old daughter, Taylor, while their dog, Minnie, enjoys the sun near Sage Hall at the University of North Texas on March 3. Although she isn't a student, Banks likes to take Taylor and Minnie on walks around campus when the weather is nice. Madeline Bullie/For the DRC

LEFT: Alison Flores prepares a strawberry matcha at the Eagle Cawffee cart on the Square on Wednesday. Rick Santiago/For the DRC

These photos were contributed by University of North Texas students in the Mayborn School of Journalism's Advanced Photojournalism Portfolio course.



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