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Davis edges Gibson in Precinct 2



ROD AYDELOTTE, TRIBUNE-HERALD

Democratic candidates Jeremy Davis and Ashley Bean Thornton campaign Tuesday at the city of Waco Multi-Purpose Center.

BY CARL HOOVER
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Nonprofit director and Waco school board trustee Jeremy Davis edged out educator and Bellmead City Council member Travis Gibson in the Democratic Party primary for McLennan County Precinct 2 commissioner in Tuesday's tightly contested election.

Davis tallied 1,611 votes, or 51.7% of the 3,116 votes cast, to 1,505 for Gibson, or 48.3%.

Davis, the director and founder of Mentor Waco and District 1 trustee on the Waco Independent School District board, gradually moved ahead of Gibson as the ballots were counted throughout the evening.

"This is a win for all of Precinct 2 and McLennan County. It shows that when our leaders

prepare themselves and connect with the people, our community responds," he said after the final results came in. "Now we can work to getting our seat back in November."

Davis attributed his win to young people with whom he's worked for years being old enough to vote for him in their first election. He also felt the support of veterans and older community members had been strong, he said.

The 30-year-old Davis will face incumbent Precinct 2 Commissioner Donis "D.L." Wilson, who was unopposed in the Republican Party primary, for a second time in the November general election.

The Precinct 2 candidate said that a strong turnout of Democrats at the polls crossed

demographics. "We're showing Mr. Wilson that the Democratic train will be coming," he said.

Davis said some longtime Precinct 2 Democratic voters were angry to find the Precinct 2 race not on their ballots Tuesday after redistricting by the commissioners court this summer, and they complained to him. "They felt they no longer had a say-so," he said.

Turnout in the reconfigured precinct, however, showed Democrats still had a presence at the polls, he said.

Gibson, 54, credited Davis for a clean race and said while he was disappointed to lose, he felt running for the seat had been worthwhile. "It was worth it. The people spoke and you always

Please see **PRECINCT 2**, Page A3

TEXAS HOUSE DISTRICT 56

Curry, Thornton headed to general

BY CHRISTOPHER DE LOS SANTOS
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When the dust settled on hard-fought primary elections, one-term Texas House District 56 incumbent Rep. Pat Curry defeated GOP challenger Ralph Patterson with 69% of the vote, and on the Democratic side, Ashley Bean Thornton defeated Janessa Givens with almost 56% of the vote.

Tuesday's results set up a Nov. 3 general election race between Curry and Thornton.

"Thank you, I want to thank my voters and everyone who went out to vote," Curry said. "The votes came in and they have rehired me to go and continue the journey to support Central Texas. I couldn't be more proud."

Thornton also thanked her supporters and said she looks forward to hearing from more of the district in her general election campaign.

"All the conversations I have had so far have been with people who generally agreed with me," Thornton said. "I made listening a great focus of my campaign and I would like to continue to do that and have conversations with people who many not agree with me."

Curry ran on his promise to continue an effort to allow dairy farms in the Lake Waco watershed to expand herds while also preserving water quality and to "move the needle" on other conservative issues that matter to McLennan County voters.

"After standing and talking to people at the polling places during the 11 days of early voting I think I have a pretty good understanding of what moves all the voters in our district," he said. "Our voters are concerned about property taxes. Our voters are concerned about mental health. Our voters are concerned about water, no matter which ticket they're voting on."

"I listen to all of them and I understand their struggles and I will do my best to help them."

House District 56 includes more than two-thirds of McLennan County's population, while portions of central and North Waco, the area around Baylor University, most of Bellmead, and much of the eastern portion of the county are in House District 13.

Please see **HD 56**, Page A3



CHAD CONINE, TRIBUNE-HERALD

■ **INSIDE:** La Vega reaches state finals again, see **Page A4**

PRIMARY ELECTIONS



JACK MYER, AP

Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, speaks to the media Tuesday in Austin. Cornyn is headed to a runoff with Ken Paxton.



JULIO CORTEZ, AP

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton speaks during a primary election night watch party Tuesday in Dallas.

CORNYN, PAXTON ADVANCE TO RUNOFF

Crockett, Talarico neck-and-neck in Democratic race for US Senate

BY JOSEPH MORTON
The Dallas Morning News

WASHINGTON — Texas' bitter, big-money Senate primary left Republicans fractured Tuesday night in early returns as Democrats fought for an edge, all in a showdown that could help decide control of Congress.

With the GOP vote split as of late Tuesday night among Sen. John Cornyn, 42%, Attorney General Ken Paxton, 41%, and U.S. Rep. Wesley Hunt, 13%, none had a majority, setting up a May rematch between the top two and weeks of renewed attacks.

On the Democratic side, U.S.

Rep. Jasmine Crockett of Dallas and state Rep. James Talarico of Austin were close together after pushing rival strategies for a party shut out statewide for more than three decades.

Talarico led with about 52% of the vote as of 11 p.m.

Already the most expensive Senate primary in U.S. history, it has topped \$125 million in ad spending, and the national parties are watching closely for clues about turnout, messaging and momentum ahead of the midterms.

In the three-way GOP brawl, Cornyn stressed experience and electability, Paxton ran on his

MAGA loyalties and Hunt cast himself as a younger, conservative alternative.

For the Democrats, Crockett leaned into energy and confrontation, while Talarico preached coalition-building and crossover appeal.

Crockett said Tuesday a GOP-driven change was hurting her in Dallas County, her stronghold, with polling site shifts causing confusion and some voters being turned away.

"It is so sad that the Republicans don't know how to win fair and

Please see **RUNOFF**, Page A3

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE PRECINCT 1, PLACE 1

Hensley takes decisive primary win

BY BLAKE HOLLINGSWORTH
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Incumbent Dianne Hensley has won the Republican primary for McLennan County Precinct 1, Place 1 justice of the peace, defeating three challengers as she seeks a fourth term on the bench.

In the final unofficial tally from the McLennan County Elections Office, Hensley received 6,334 votes, or 56.7% of the total, while challenger Sterling Shepperd received 3,679 votes, or 32.9%. Adriana Bost finished with 653 votes, or 5.6%, and Anthony Luévanos finished with 503 votes, or 4.5%.

Hensley faced three challengers in the Republican primary after running unopposed in 2022. Because no Democrat filed for the seat, she will

run unopposed in November's general election and likely return to the JP bench when the next term begins in January.

Although Hensley declined to claim victory ahead of the final tally arriving Tuesday night, she credited her strong showing to her ability to manage the court's heavy workload.

"We have the most cases filed in the county consistently for 10 years, and I think it's because we keep things moving and do a good job, so I appreciate people noticing," Hensley said.

Justice of the peace courts handle Class C misdemeanor cases, small claims and debt disputes, evictions,

Please see **JP 1-1**, Page A3



ROD AYDELOTTE, TRIBUNE-HERALD

Precinct 1, Place 1 Justice of the Peace Dianne Hensley keeps her eye on the TVs as election results come in Tuesday night during her watch party at The Brazos Landing.