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TBLUNAMI



RAPPIN'
THOMAS WYATT

FEAR OF A BLACK PLANET

Donald Trump and the sycophant **GOP**ers who worship him learned a harsh but truthful reality this week. The midterms weren't only a rebuke of far right-wing policies coupled with deliberately cruel intentions, but a stark reminder of what this country will become when we rise together as one against all those who oppose us.

For years, **American politics** has wrestled with a familiar temptation: the use of demographic change as a source of fear rather than a source of possibility. When political leaders frame growing **racial diversity** as a threat, they are not merely describing a changing nation. They are asking voters to see neighbors, coworkers, and fellow citizens as rivals in a zero-sum contest for belonging.

The idea that **America** is becoming a "**Black Planet**", or any similar phrase suggesting that Black political, martial, educational, industrial, or social participation represents a danger to the country, misunderstands both democracy and history. A healthy democracy is not diminished when more diversified people participate. It is strengthened. The expansion of civic engagement among Black Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans, Indigenous communities, immigrants, and young voters reflects the continuing promise of a nation that has long struggled to live up to its founding ideals.

Justice-centered politics begins with a simple principle: every community deserves equal voice, equal dignity, and equal access to power. Efforts to mobilize voters through fear of racial change ultimately reveal more about the anxieties of those making the argument than about the realities of the communities being targeted. Families want good schools, safe neighborhoods, affordable housing, quality healthcare, and economic opportunity. Those aspirations are shared across racial and cultural lines.

The future of American democracy will not be secured by warning voters about demographic transformation. It will be secured by building coalitions capable of addressing common challenges. Attempts to divide citizens according to race may generate headlines, but they rarely generate lasting solutions. A multiracial democracy is not a crisis to be managed. It is the unfinished promise of America itself. It is the American dream.



By Thomas Wyatt | EIC, The Villager

(EDITORIAL) – At the time of this writing, these are the most updated facts I have. Texas politics entered uncharted territory Tuesday night as decades of Republican dominance gave way to a stunning Democratic breakthrough, prompting both celebration among supporters and deep soul-searching within Republican ranks. According to reporting from the ***Texas Tribune***, Republican leaders and activists quickly began assigning blame for a sweeping election setback that saw Democrats make gains across the state and exposed growing divisions within the GOP coalition.

At the center of the political earthquake were the victories of **James Talarico** and **Gina Hinojosa**, two Austin-area Democrats whose wins shattered barriers that had stood for generations. Talarico defeated Republican Attorney General **Ken Paxton** and Elon Musk's money to capture a U.S. Senate seat, becoming the first Democrat elected to the Senate from Texas since 1988. Meanwhile, Hinojosa unseated Governor **Greg Abbott** (and Elon Musk's money), ending more than three decades of Republican control of the governor's office and becoming Texas' first Latina governor.

For many Texans, these results were not simply partisan victories. They reflected growing frustration with a political system that many voters felt had become disconnected from everyday concerns such as public education, health care access, affordability, voting rights, and government accountability. Throughout their campaigns, both Talarico and Hinojosa emphasized people-centered governance, economic opportunity, and broad civic engagement. Their victories suggest that a coalition of urban voters, young people, communities of color, suburban moderates, and disaffected independents may have become powerful enough to reshape statewide politics.

The upset Senate victory was particularly remarkable. Texas had long been considered one of the nation's most difficult states for Democrats to win statewide. Yet Talarico, a former public school teacher and state representative, overcame long odds to defeat the Trump-backed Paxton, delivering what political observers described as one of the most significant Democratic victories in modern Texas history.

Equally historic was Hinojosa's triumph over the three-term incumbent governor. For decades, Democrats pointed to Texas' changing demographics and growing urban population as signs that the state's political future could eventually become competitive. With her victory, that long-discussed possibility became reality.

These election results raise important questions about representation and power. Communities that have often felt overlooked in statewide policymaking now see leaders who campaigned on expanding opportunity, strengthening public institutions, and increasing civic participation. Whether those promises translate into policy remains to be seen, but many advocates believe the election results have created new possibilities for addressing disparities in education, health outcomes, voting access, criminal justice, and economic development.

The long-term effects could be profound. A Democratic governor and a Democratic U.S. senator from Texas may alter the national political map and force both major parties to rethink their strategies. Republicans may be compelled to broaden their appeal beyond their traditional base, while Democrats will face the challenge of governing a state that remains ideologically diverse and politically complex.

The economic implications could also be significant. Texas has long marketed itself as a low-tax, business-friendly state. The new leadership will likely face pressure to balance economic growth with investment in public education, infrastructure, workforce development, and social services. How successfully they navigate those competing priorities could determine whether this election represents a temporary shift or the beginning of a lasting political realignment.

For now, one fact is undeniable: Texas voters have delivered a message that the future is not predetermined. The victories of Talarico and Hinojosa have transformed what many believed was politically impossible into historical fact. Whether that transformation leads to greater equity, broader opportunity, and a more inclusive vision of Texas will depend not only on the state's new leaders, but also on the continued engagement of the communities whose votes helped make history.

INSIDE

Democrats explode during midterms, takeover Texas house by 15 seats. See FLIPS, page 2

Austin voters approve tax-increasing bonds for parks and libraries. See RACES, page 2

Trump to stop sending billions to Israel by the end of the year, Congress has say. See AID, page 4

Question of 2026

Do you believe if John Cornyn were the nominee for Texas Senate, Talarico would've won this midterm election?

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