

Runoff Races

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon
VILLAGER Columnist

VILLAGER NEWS - Last week's primary saw a record amount of Central Texans went to the polls. According to the Travis County Clerk, this primary cycle saw one of the highest turnouts. In numerous races, there were clear winners, including the Travis County Constable Precinct 1.

However, the Travis County District Attorney will have a runoff election. In the Travis County District Attorney race,



Judge Dimple and Ora Houston.
Photos by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon

Jose Garza received the majority votes; but he failed to get 50.1. The incumbent managed to survive a difficult political landscape. Moreover, it seems that Travis County voters desire to have a more progressive District Attorney.

Finally, the County Court at Law #4 is also headed for a runoff. Moreover, Judge Dimple and Margaret Chen Kercher will challenge one another. If elected, Travis County will get its first elected Asian-American woman to the courts. Despite making history, both candidates seek to decrease the workload of the County Court at Law docket, which includes domestic abuse cases.



Mindfey and Margaret Chen Kercher.
Photos by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon

Travis County Judge Race

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VILLAGER NEWS - As the current Travis County Judge, Sarah Eckhardt resigns, numerous individuals have announced their intention to run for this position.

Andy Brown, former Travis County Party Chair; Travis County Commissioner Jeff Travallion; and Travis County Democratic party chair Dyana Limon-Mercado have all announced their candidacy.

These candidates background brings different outlooks to this post. Brown and Limon-Mercado have run on a County-wide ballot, therefore, have established contacts throughout the county. On the other hand, Commissioner Travallion has run only on a precinct level, which covers North-East



Jeff Travallion

and East parts of Travis County.

Finally, the County Judge serves as the pre-

siding officer for Commissioners Court meet-

ings and ceremonial head of Travis County government. The four precinct Commissioners traditionally represent their constituents on all precinct-specific issues before the Court. The role of the Court's major duties includes the following: Setting the tax rate and adopting a county budget, assists the other elected or appointed officials at Travis County to carry out their statutory duties, builds and maintains County roads and bridges, and Develops and maintains open space for public usage.

Texas Senate District 14 Heats Up

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon
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VILLAGER NEWS - Recently, Texas Senator Watson announced he will be retiring from the Texas Senate, causing a political earthquake throughout Central Texas. As a result, numerous elected officials



Sarah Eckhardt

and concerned citizens have entertained the thought to run for office. The Travis County

Judge Sarah Eckhardt and Texas House of Representatives Eddie Rodriguez announced

their intentions to run for Texas Senate District 14. Judge Eckhardt worked for eight years as an Assistant Travis County Attorney. In 2006, she was elected to represent Precinct 2 on the Commissioners Court and re-elected in 2010. According to Judge Eckhardt, "with deep roots in Austin and Travis County, I have dedicated life in public service to improving access to opportunity for Travis County families for twenty years."

Finally, Representative Rodriguez represents District 51, which covers South-East Travis County. Rep. Rodriguez was first elected in 2002. In November 2018, he



Eddie Rodriguez

was re-elected to his ninth term in office. Rep. Rodriguez also served on the House Committees

on Calendars, State Affairs, and Ways and Means in the most recent Legislative Session.

Voters Head to Primary Polls Despite Coronavirus Pandemic

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DEFENDER NEWS SERVICE - Voters in three states will head to the polls on Tuesday amid a coronavirus health crisis that has led other states to postpone their elections.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued guidance this weekend saying that people should avoid gatherings of 50 people or more, raising questions about the safety of opening polling places, where hundreds will gather indoors and stand in line to cast ballots.

DeWine, a Republican, said couldn't justify holding the election because it would not conform to CDC guidelines.

Biden and Sanders

have differed on whether the Tuesday elections should go forward as planned. Many on the left are agitating for the elections to be delayed, and Sanders echoed their concerns in an interview with Anderson Cooper following Sunday night's debate.

The Biden campaign, however, struck a different tone, saying that the state leaders know best and would have postponed the elections if they represented a public health threat.

Biden's statement was criticized by some, who noted that even those who are not showing symptoms can spread the virus and that everyone is at risk of exposure. Election officials

have been sanitizing polling places and moving the locations outside of nursing homes. They've been encouraging people to vote early or to mail in ballots ahead of time, or to arrive at off-peak hours to avoid long lines or big crowds.

President Trump said that he didn't believe postponing the elections is necessary.

Biden leads Sanders by about 140 delegates. That lead is expected to grow substantially on Tuesday if the elections in Florida and other states fits with the polls.

The latest NBC News-Wall Street Journal national poll found Biden opening up a 29-point lead over Sanders.