

# THE BATTALION

Box by Box

See page 12 for Brazos County election results, precinct by precinct.

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## Top Texas races: still too close to call

United Press International  
DALLAS — Republicans generated unexpected strength in the state's larger cities Tuesday, edging Sen. John Tower, Texas, toward re-election and pushing Dallas millionaire Bill Clements toward re-election as the state's first Republican governor since Reconstruction.

Democrats John Hill and Bob Krueger, nominees for governor and the U.S. Senate, held out hope final vote tabulations would enable them to overcome the GOP leads and maintain the 105-year Democratic domination of Texas' top state races.

But if Clements' and Tower's leads held, the GOP would double its number of statewide elected officials in Texas and bring some reality to their long-term campaign to make Texas a two-party state.

Final figures from the Texas Election Bureau at 2:30 a.m. today from 246 of the state's 254 counties, 174 complete, showed Clements leading Hill 1,054,965 to 823,706. The TEB totals gave Tower, a Texas Senate veteran first elected in 1964, to succeed Lyndon B. Johnson, a 521,263 to 1,001,443 lead over Krueger,

a former dean at Duke University who abandoned his academic career to return to Texas in 1973 after a 15-year absence and enter politics.

Figures from the National Election Service, plagued by computer problems throughout the tabulations, showed Hill and Krueger in the lead early today, but NES officials conceded a 200,000-vote error in reporting Bexar County returns in the governor's race.

Hill, who stayed at his campaign headquarters in Austin until 2 a.m. then promised to return at 9 a.m. to make a statement on the returns, said it may be days before the final outcome of the election is known.

"Frankly, we may be in for several days of suspense," he told supporters before leaving what was supposed to be a victory celebration.

"It may be too close to call. It may have to go to an official count, and we may have to wait for several days."

He contended the counties with votes still to be counted were rural counties and counties where he had run strong in the primary, thus making it possible he could

overcome Clements' lead in the final count.

Clements was confident throughout the night, saying, "I'm in tune with the tempo and times of Texas, I am right for Texas and Hill is wrong."

He reacted sharply to suggestions from Hill that his \$7 million campaign raised questions about the election process.

"He's had his snoot in the trough for a long time. I'm sure he's spent eight or nine million in his efforts to be governor of Texas," Clements said. "I am sure that Texas voters feel that way."

Krueger, a two-term congressman making his first race for statewide office, gave Tower the strongest challenge of his career. Tower defeated a field of more than 70 candidates in a 1961 special election to earn the right to succeed Lyndon B. Johnson, then defeated Democratic opponents in 1966 and 1972 by margins of at least 200,000 votes.

It appeared Tower's refusal to shake hands with Krueger at a Houston debate might turn the campaign against the diminutive senator, a former government professor at Midwestern University, but Tower utilized television advertisements to defend his actions, saying Krueger had slurred his wife and daughter and he refused to be hypocritical by shaking hands with him.

Tower, 53, is sixth in seniority among Republican senators, and pointed out repeatedly during his campaign that he was the "No. 1 target of organized labor."

Krueger contended Tower had been ineffective during his 17 years in Washington.

## Voters defeat 2 amendments

United Press International  
AUSTIN — Texas voters Tuesday gave overwhelming approval to the highly publicized "tax relief amendment" adopted last summer by the special legislative session and also sanctioned six of eight other constitutional amendments on the ballot.

Returns early Wednesday morning showed the "tax relief amendment" being voted better than 6-1. With more than two-thirds of Texas' 254 counties reporting, the amendment had drawn 294,445 votes to 55,658 no votes. The amendment would save taxpayers \$450 million over a three-year period.

An amendment that would permit local governments to issue revenue bonds to finance construction of industrial facilities was being turned back and an amendment authorizing cities to issue tax increment bonds for redevelopment of blighted areas were being rejected by slim margins.

The "tax relief amendment" would provide tax breaks from local school taxes for homeowners, farmers and ranchers and the elderly, with the option for the state to reimburse local school districts for the expense lost because of the new exemptions.

The amendment also would call for taxing agricultural land on its productivity rather than its market value, and would provide truth in taxation procedures giving citizens a voice before local entities would raise taxes.

Gov. Dolph Briscoe, on whose insistence the measure was adopted by the Legislature, was elated that voters approved the amendment.

"I am extremely pleased that Texas voters have adopted the tax relief amendment by an overwhelming margin," the governor said. "This amendment to our constitution will go a long way toward achieving the goal of ensuring that as much of our agricultural land as possible stays in production."

"More importantly, adoption of this amendment guarantees added tax relief for our senior citizens."

The other amendments approved by voters:

- permits the state to purchase products manufactured by non-profit sheltered workshops for the handicapped without taking competitive bids.
- exempts solar and wind powered energy devices from property taxes.
- expands jurisdiction of justice of the peace courts in civil cases up to \$500.
- permits the Legislature to expand membership on the courts of civil appeals and allows the courts to hear cases in sections.
- abolishes the State Building Commission.
- permits water districts to issue bonds and use tax revenue for firefighting purposes.

## Democrats win most major races

# Half of Brazos County votes

By KAREN ROGERS  
Battalion Staff

Voters in predominantly Democratic Brazos County responded much as expected Tuesday, with Democratic candidates taking most of the major races. A normal turnout of 15,295 of the county's 31,461 registered voters participated in the elections.

The race for U.S. Senator between Bob Krueger and John Tower was as closely contested in the county as the state, with Republican Tower winning by a slim 208 votes. This was the only race the Republicans won in the county.

The contest between John Hill and Bill Clements for governor was as close as the senatorial race, but here Democrats came out on top. Hill defeated Clements by 6,291 votes in Brazos County.

Democrat Phil Gramm defeated Wes Mowery by 6,578 votes in the U.S. 6th



'X' Marks the Box

Jim Malone, election worker, watches as Margorie Nickolson votes in Tuesday's election. The polls in the Memorial Student Center were open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Of the more than 30,000 students on campus, only 651 persons voted.

Battalion photo by Lynn Blanco

## Months of work — hours of wait

By SCOTT PENDLETON  
Battalion Staff

The candidates spent months trying to affect the course of a single day. The planning and execution of their campaigns, which absorbed their attention and campaign contributions, was for one purpose: victory on Nov. 7.

In a matter of hours, the candidates learned whether those months had been put to good use. The moment of truth seemed too brief to do justice to their preparation for it.

Just or not, Nov. 7 is already history. Victors and vanquished alike must now face the future.

Dr. Phil Gramm, the Texas A&M economics professor-turned-politician, was in the victors' ranks Tuesday night. His thoughts must now turn to Washington, where he will represent the 6th Congressional District in the House of Representatives.

A campaign aide said that Gramm's number one priority, as he had promised numerous times during his campaign, will be passage of an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would require the government to operate on a balanced budget during peacetime.

With 72 percent of the Brazos County vote, and 64 percent overall, Gramm was gratified at what he considered to be a vote of confidence and a clear mandate to push his programs in Congress.

Since his background is economics, Gramm would like to be appointed to a committee such as Ways and Means or Appropriations. He knows that appointment to such a powerful committee is unlikely for a freshman congressman. He said

would be pleased to be appointed to the Commerce Committee, as he would be able to use his background and expertise.

Gramm will be keeping an office in Brazos, Tarrant and Dallas counties, the aide said.

What plans Wes Mowery may have are unknown. Gramm defeated the Republican from Fort Worth in the 6th Congressional District race. Mowery couldn't be reached Tuesday night for comment.

Candidates for local offices who made it into the winner's circle included Dick Holmgreen, county judge; Bobby Yeager, sheriff; and Gerald "Buddy" Winn, county tax assessor-collector.

Holmgreen admits being cautious as he enters his new job. He said he didn't know yet what the county could look forward to from him.

He identified many problem areas in the county, but said he couldn't say he had the answers since he didn't know enough about them yet.

"Some answers and going to have to come and come quickly," Holmgreen said in reference to the county jail. Holmgreen emphasized the jail as one of the county's problems.

Poor roads, fire protection problems, a county ambulance service and unsafe railroad tracks also concern Holmgreen. He said that since the solutions to these problems all involve money, he would have to give each careful study.

"Until you know how much (money) you have to work with, you have to go slow," Holmgreen said.

Holmgreen would like the roads, railroad tracks, and jail to be

brought up to better standards. In the case of the jail, Holmgreen said he will oppose to short-term improvement that would be inadequate in a few years.

Holmgreen's unsuccessful opponent, Republican John Raney, would like to see some improvements made in the election laws.

"The laws are definitely written in favor of the Democrats and the incumbents," Raney said.

"The election laws didn't have the same effect on Holmgreen as they did on me," he said. Holmgreen benefited from the exposure he got during the primary and from the presence of a whole slate of Democratic candidates.

Raney said the election laws should be changed so that candidates don't have to campaign so long.

"I don't think they will be," he added.

Raney was disappointed not only by his loss to Holmgreen but by the 41 percent of the vote that he received.

"I thought 45 percent was about the bottom I would get," he said.

Bill Owens, another unsuccessful Republican candidate, was more critical of his opponent's experience than of the election. Owens, who ran for sheriff against Bobby Yeager, said he wasn't expecting to win, though he tried.

"Yeager is a pretty good ol' boy," Owens said, "but I just don't think he has the experience necessary for the job. Brazos County will pay a high price for it."

Nevertheless, Owens wished Yeager the best of luck.

District race. This came as no surprise since Gramm is a Brazos County resident and former economics professor at Texas A&M University.

One surprise was the attorney general contest between Mark White and Jim Baker. Although it was expected to be close, Democrat White won the county by a 4,021 vote margin.

In local races, Bobby Yeager, candidate for sheriff, trounced his Republican opponent, Bill Owens, by 7,839 votes.

Democrat Dick Holmgreen surprised everyone with his larger-than-expected victory in the county judge's race. He defeated opponent John Raney by 2,722 votes in what was predicted to be a very close race.

Buddy Winn was elected county tax assessor by 7,493 votes. His opponent, Edward Valenta, earned only 24 percent of the vote.

Although the county usually votes the Democratic ticket, there are several Republican pockets, especially in the College Station area.

Precincts 10, 20 and 21 usually vote predominantly Republican because most of the registered voters are Texas A&M University students.

The only precinct among the three to vote the straight Republican ticket was

Precinct 20, voting for Tower, Mowery, Clements and Baker by an average 63 percent. Precinct 10 split the ticket with Republicans Tower and Clements receiving an average 57 percent of the vote and Democrats Gramm and White receiving an average 67 percent.

Most Republicans received the votes in Precinct 21, with a 57 percent vote of confidence. Gramm, the exception, got 62 percent.

Other predominantly Republican precincts are 8, 12 and 15. This year, however, the vote was split between the two parties.

Precinct 8 voted for Democrats Gramm and White by an average 62 percent margin. They responded less enthusiastically for Republicans Tower and Clements voting for them by an average 52 percent margin.

A little less confidence for their candidates was displayed by the Republican voters in Precinct 12. They voted for Republicans Tower and Clements by an average 52 percent margin. Democrats Gramm and White received an average 67 percent.

Precinct 15, which almost always votes Republican, decided otherwise this year and voted for Democrats Krueger, Gramm, Hill and White with an average 65 percent. This precinct has in the past

had the highest voter turnout. This year they were surpassed by Precinct 31, which had a voter turnout of 56.23 percent, or 6.47 percent over Precinct 15.

There were several uncontested races in the county: district judge, W.T. "Tom" McDonald Jr.; district attorney, Travis B. Bryan III; county court-at-law judge, Bradley Smith; county attorney, John Barron Jr.; district clerk, W.D. "Davis" Burley; county clerk, Frank Boriskie; county treasurer, Bill Elkins; county commissioner, precinct 2, Walter Wilcox; and county commissioner, precinct 4, Bill Stasney.

Brazos County voters thought the Texas constitution needed some changes and approved all nine proposed amendments with an average 70 percent of the vote. Citizens in the rest of the state, however, did not agree with them.

Texas rejected Amendment No. 2, which would have permitted local governments to issue revenue bonds to finance construction of industrial facilities that could be leased to private industry.

Another, Amendment No. 3, was being rejected by slim margins early this morning. If approved, it will authorize cities to issue increment bonds for redevelopment of blighted areas with the bonds paid for from higher taxes collected on the redeveloped property.

## Aggies vote consistently GOP

By DILLARD STONE  
Battalion Staff

Figures from Texas A&M University's on-campus polling station indicate Aggies maintained their usual tendency to vote Republican in Tuesday's election.

Precinct 20 in the Memorial Student Center counted 651 ballots.

In two close statewide races, the precinct reported overwhelming support for Republican candidates. U.S. Sen. John Tower captured 73.3 percent of the vote in his bid for re-election. His opponent, U.S. Rep. Bob Krueger, polled about 25.4 percent of the votes.

Republican gubernatorial candidate Bill Clements was equally well-endorsed, polling 72.8 percent against John Hill's showing of 25.8 percent.

In the race to fill the U.S. Sixth Congressional District seat vacated by retiring Rep. Olin Teague, Democrat Phil Gramm evidently won some support based on his appeal as an involved Aggie, but Republican opponent Wes Mowery still outdrew him by 10 votes — 50.8 to 49.2 percent margin.

In two other statewide races, the Aggie vote ran significantly against the statewide count. Republican Attorney General Candidate Jim Baker won in Precinct 20 with 60.8 percent, well over statewide winner Mark White's showing of 38.9 percent.

In the race to fill the unexpired Railroad Commissioner's term, statewide two-to-one victor Democrat John Poerner was outdrawn on campus by Republican James Lacy by virtually the same margin, 64.2 to 35.8 percent.

Aggies also voted Republican in the Brazos County races.

Republican candidates John Raney (county judge), Bill Owens (sheriff), and Edward Valenta (tax assessor-collector) all lost by significant differences in the county race while posting significant margins of victory on the Texas A&M campus.

The 651 ballots counted at Texas A&M represent 34.4 percent of the 1,893 voters registered in Precinct 20. County totals indicate that 48.2 percent of the registered voters in Brazos County voted in the off-year elections.

## Campaign manager feels agony of election defeat

By DOUG GRAHAM  
Battalion Staff

It was quiet in Wes Mowery's Brazos headquarters Tuesday night. The six campaign workers were quiet, sitting in a solemn circle around a television set. The announcer was reporting campaign results.

And the result was that their candidate, Wes Mowery, candidate for the 6th congressional district seat, was out for the count.

It was almost all over except for the crying.

And the area campaign manager, Russ Darbyshire, a graduate student at Texas A&M University, was watching the fruits of many months of work crumbling in black and white.

Slowly the workers left. First the bearded man, then the women, packing

the cakes and chips that anticipated a victory. They left one by one, until the weary 24-year-old campaign manager was alone with a radio, one Battalion reporter, a styrofoam cooler with ice, some beer and chips.

Darbyshire looked exhausted, having spent the last two weeks, he said, in continuous campaigning. He confessed confusion at his man's defeat, a little anger, and resignation.

"It's a complete turnaround," he said, explaining that earlier opinion polls indicated Mowery would do well.

He said he was disappointed. It was not anger he expressed at Mowery's opponent, Democrat Phil Gramm. He said Mowery was outspent. "It was a clean campaign," he said, "but we couldn't match money."

(Please see "Aggie" page 13.)