

Carter, Connally favorites, according to Texas survey

United Press International
AUSTIN — President Carter has the overwhelming support of Texas Democrats and independents while former Gov. John Connally holds the lead among Republicans, a statewide survey shows.

A Texas Monthly survey of 1,000 registered voters statewide showed Carter leading Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., by 63.8 percent to 28.3 percent.

Carter also was the preferred candidate of independent voters with 43 percent, while Brown and Kennedy both were attractive to only about 13 percent of the independents.

In the first Texas Monthly poll, Carter and Kennedy were running virtually even. Since November,

however, Carter has gained substantial support. Kennedy remained the Democratic choice only of minority groups in the poll taken Jan. 2-6.

On the GOP side, Connally has an impressive 54.5 percent of Republicans and 43.6 percent of independents supporting his candidacy. Ronald Reagan — the leading GOP candidate in recent national polls — is preferred by 27.6 percent of Texas Republicans and native George Bush remains a distant third.

Texas Monthly officials said the poll, based on telephone interviews, was of a large enough sample to give a reliable estimate of statewide opinion with a 3.1 percent margin of error.

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Bush only Republican candidate on Texas presidential primary ballot

United Press International
AUSTIN — With less than a week remaining before the filing deadline, George Bush is the only Republican presidential candidate who has qualified for a place on the Texas GOP primary ballot.

Nine other candidates have requested petition forms to collect signatures to place their names on the ballots, and Ronald Reagan and former Gov. John B. Connally are considered certain to obtain the necessary 5,000 signatures and file them before the 6 p.m. Monday

deadline to assure themselves of places on the ballot for the May 3 primary.

Others who requested the petition forms were Sen. Howard Baker, R-Tenn., Benjamin Fernandez of California, Harold Stassen of Minnesota; Rep. Phil Crane, R-Ill.; Austin newspaper columnist John Kelso; Gerald T. DeFelice of Connecticut; and Donald J. McNeil of New Hampshire.

"I don't think Stassen, DeFelice or McNeil will qualify," said Ann Prestige of the state GOP headquar-

ters. "All the rest are possible. I know all the other people have worked on it."

The petition forms were not mailed to Crane until Jan. 15, meaning he would have only three weeks to collect the 5,000 voter signatures.

Texas Democrats have not yet decided if they will have a presidential primary.

Will Garwood, who was appointed to the Supreme Court by Gov. Bill Clements, is the only Republican who had filed for statewide office through noon Tuesday, although

John Thomas Henderson said in a news release he will file before the Monday deadline as a candidate for the Republican nomination to the Railroad Commission. Henderson ran unsuccessfully as a Democrat in 1978.

Two Republicans have filed for the District 10 congressional seat now held by Democratic Rep. J. J. Pickle. They are Radcliffe J. Finley and Jack Bower, both of Austin.

Two Democratic members of the Supreme Court — Robert M. Campbell and Sears McGee — have filed for re-election and Houston District Judge James P. Wallace, a former state senator, has filed for the Democratic nomination to the Supreme Court place being vacated by the retirement of Judge Zollie Steakley.

Rep. Buddy Temple, D-Diboll, is the only Democrat who had filed by Tuesday for a place on the Railroad Commission. Temple is seeking the place now held by Commission

chairman John Poerner, who has called a Monday news conference to announce formally his re-election bid.

Commissioner Jim Nugent has said he will be a candidate for election and Jim Hightower already is campaigning against Nugent although neither has paid his filing fee.

The Democrats already are assured of two contested races for congressional district nominations.

Rep. Joe Wyatt Jr., D-Texas, who voluntarily committed himself for alcoholism treatment early this month has filed for re-election and is being challenged by former state Rep. Joe Salem of Corpus Christi. Several others also are reportedly considering that race.

Paul D. Rich of San Antonio has filed for the District 23 congressional seat now held by Rep. Abraham Kazen Jr. who has filed for re-election.

Professor's mistake leads to drug arrests

United Press International
LUBBOCK — A Texas Tech professor flying home from a Florida business trip picked up the wrong suit bag and unwittingly involved himself in a cocaine smuggling operation.

A copyright story last week in the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal said the misadventure resulted in two arrests in Tennessee and the seizure of an estimated \$200,000 worth of cocaine. It may also have given drug agents a foothold in breaking an extensive narcotics trafficking operation in the South, the newspaper said.

The professor, who requested anonymity, described his role in the case as "inconsequential."

Like any weary traveler, the man said he was "disgusted" last week when he arrived at Lubbock International Airport and found he had pick-

ed up someone else's bag. "I'm not exactly sure where the mixup occurred," the Lubbock man said, adding that he had changed planes about four times between Florida and Texas.

He said that when he boarded his final flight from Dallas to Lubbock, he noticed his bag seemed heavier than usual. He decided to inspect it in Lubbock, he said.

"I unzipped it a little and it didn't even look like my clothes. I was disgusted."

However, agents from the Drug Enforcement Administration couldn't have been happier when the professor showed them 100 small packets of cocaine which were inside the suit bag.

A day later, the real owner of the bag telephoned the Tech professor. "He just said he had some important papers and stuff in there and

would lose his job if he didn't get it back," the professor said. "I wanted my bag back too."

The distraught owner made arrangements with the professor and Lubbock airport officials for the transfer of the bag to Nashville, Tenn. The man did not know, however, that all of the cocaine packets inside except one were fakes, and that an undercover narcotics agent from Lubbock was accompanying the bag.

The Texas drug agent cooperating with Tennessee authorities watched as two men approached the bag at the Nashville airport. Both were arrested immediately.

Tennessee authorities said the investigation would continue and declined further comment.

Additional arrests are expected, the newspaper said.



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