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## Elections to test Reagan's course

**United Press International**  
The 1982 election campaign, more sharply focused on pocketbook "fears and hopes" than any in recent decades, wound down today with experts forecasting less than landslide gains for the Democrats in Congress and the states.

Elections in the middle of presidential terms traditionally turn on local issues, but this recession-year campaign became, with President Reagan's participation, a referendum on Republican stewardship of the economy and the federal "safety net" of social programs.

At stake in Tuesday's voting were 33 seats in the Senate, the entire 435-seat House and 36 governorships, as

well as thousands of other state and local offices.

Of these, the spotlight was on Congress, where Reagan's GOP held a four-seat Senate majority and, with the frequent aid of conservative "Boll Weevil" Democrats, a thin working majority in the House.

This mix during the 97th Congress repeatedly carried the day for the administration's aggressive attacks on federal spending and its "supply side" theory of tax cuts and deregulation to stimulate business.

White House pollster Richard Wirthlin said the election hinged on whether voters were persuaded by their "fears and hopes" — their apprehension about high joblessness

or their hope that the Reagan program would bring down unemployment as it has done with inflation and interest rates.

Reagan, in a weekend blitz of GOP-purchased television commercials, said his program was "lifting our economy out of the mess created over the past several decades. We are on the road back."

Democrats called this "trickle-down" economics — helping the rich in hopes that the poor would benefit eventually — and mocked the Republican campaign slogan, "Stay the course," with demands for a "mid-course correction."

The Democrats hit hardest on the charge that the Reagan program was

unfair, sacrificing jobs — illustrated by the current 10.1 percent unemployment rate — to cut inflation and slashing programs for the poor and handicapped while pumping new funds into a military buildup.

While the economy provided the main grist for the campaign mill, Social Security also popped back into the picture in the final throes. The Democrats darkly predicted that Reagan was plotting a "November surprise" — a post-election plan to make severe changes in the Social Security program.

Reagan responded sharply to this in his five-minute TV spots: "Others have tried to frighten the elderly about Social Security. Well, they are

wrong, too. And they know it. As long as I am president, we will protect the solvency of Social Security. And we will protect the benefits of those who depend on it."

In a televised national Democratic campaign speech, former Secretary of State Edmund Muskie again hammered at the economic theme.

In a paid broadcast statement, Muskie urged voters to "decide whether we stay the course for a privileged few or say America can do better for us all."

He said voters face "a choice of whether we let our people continue to suffer the worst economic times since the Great Depression, or whether we set as our highest and most urgent

priority putting America back to work."

Many of the weekend predictions — by Republicans as well as Democrats — saw a GOP loss in the House of 20 seats or more. A 50-state survey by United Press International showed Democrats likely to pick up between 14 and 24 House seats, two seats or more in the Senate, and five or more governorships.

In the House, an addition of 20 or more to the existing 52-vote Democratic House majority could seriously jeopardize the Reagan coalition of 1981-82, which repeatedly required solid support from the 191 Republicans and about 30 defecting "Boll Weevils."

## Election '82

### Campaigns keep heating up as voting draws near

by Robert McGlohon

Battalion Staff

Once again the day of accounting draws near. On Tuesday, voters across the nation will go to the polls to choose their state, local and national representatives.

Heated campaigns will grind to a halt; mudslinging will stop; and when the votes have been counted, the leaders for the next few years will take their respective offices.

After the day is done, the decisions will have been made and the reins of

government will be placed in the hands of the victors.

Here is a list of candidates for contested local and statewide races:

#### U.S. Senator

**Jim Collins, Rep.**

Collins, a resident of Dallas, has been a member of the U.S. House of Representatives since 1968. Collins says

government spending must be cut and taxes need to be lowered. He also supports strengthening the defense and wants to stop forced school busing.

**Lloyd Bentsen, Dem.**

Bentsen, a Houston resident, is the incumbent and has held his present position since 1971. He has been a Hidalgo County judge (1945-48) and a member of the U.S. House of Representatives (1948-54).

Bentsen says government spending is too high and taxes should be cut. But he says the Federal Reserve Board must reverse its tight money policy. He also opposes efforts to cut

social security benefits.

The main issue of the race seems to be whether Bentsen is a liberal or not. Collins says he is. Bentsen says he's not.

Also running are **John E. Ford (Libertarian)** and **Lineaus Hooper Larette (Citizens' Party)**.

#### U.S. Rep., District 6

**Phil Gramm (Dem.)** is running for re-election. **Ron Hard (Libertarian)** is his only opponent.

#### Governor

**William Clements, Rep.**

Clements is a resident of Dallas and was the founder (1947) of SEDCO, Inc., one of the world's largest offshore drilling companies. Clements served as U.S. deputy secretary of defense from 1973-77. In 1978, he was elected governor, the first Republican to hold the office in 105 years.

Clements says one of the most serious long range problems in Texas is a potential water shortage. He also says it is important to improve public education and to intensify efforts to reduce the drug problem in Texas.

**Mark White, Dem.**

White, Texas attorney general and former Texas secretary of state, is an

Austin resident and a former member of the Texas National Guard. In addition to his present term as attorney general, White served for three years as assistant attorney general.

White says that his first priority is improvement of public education. He says the decline in the quality of Texas' public education is due to a lack of financial support. White also says he wants to reduce electric bills by eliminating the fuel adjustment charge.

Both candidates have said they are running on their records. Consequently, both have attacked each other's performance in office.

Also running are **David Hutzelman (Libertarian)** and **Bob Potetz (Citizens' Party)**.

## Polls reflect images, public preferences

by Phyllis Henderson

Battalion Staff

Polling — an art that many politicians are trying to turn into an inexact science — is becoming a major factor in campaign strategy.

Candidates running for such offices as district judge and president of the United States have come to rely on polls to legitimize their campaigns, get information to formulate their campaign strategy and perhaps most importantly, to get contributions.

Polls can be used effectively to legitimize a candidacy, Texas A&M political science professor David Hill said.

"It has come to the point where candidates feel they have to do polls to be perceived in their own mind, and with the public and the press, as a viable and serious candidate," Hill said.

"The press is impressed by a candidate who has done a poll — even though the thing may be jury-rigged."

Political science professor Norman Luttbeg agreed.

"Very few politicians will take the risk of not using polls for information purposes — especially if the other guy does," he said.

And conducting a poll isn't

enough, Hill said. The candidate also must hire well-known and respected pollsters, he said.

"It's not just doing the poll," he said. "The pollster you pick will tell the press and the public — the sophisticated lay public — how serious you are."

"If you hire a college professor from Texas — although he may be entirely competent — that doesn't indicate you are as serious as if you hire Pat Caddell."

"The very hiring of a pollster can become a very critical image-making factor."

And the image a candidate portrays is an important part of the campaign strategy.

Bill Dunn, deputy press secretary for Democratic gubernatorial candidate Mark White, said: "Perception makes a big difference."

When Republican senatorial candidate Jim Collins released a poll early in the campaign that showed White leading Gov. William Clements, it gave White's campaign a boost, Dunn said.

"It made a big difference in how people perceived Mark as a serious candidate," he said.

See POLLING page 12

## Republicans aiming for the top in race

by Daniel Puckett

Battalion Staff

Having a choice on the November ballot — between Democratic and Republican candidates — is relatively new to Texans, but they can expect to have at least two names on the ballot for the foreseeable future.

Spokesmen for both parties agree that the Republican Party is here to stay, no matter what happens Tuesday.

Texans will decide then whether to re-elect the first Republican governor they've had in a century. And the governor's race seems to involve much more than the re-election of one man.

When William Clements was elected governor, his victory was hailed — and cursed — as the beginning of a true two-party system in Texas. Many said the Democratic monopoly on statewide elective offices had been broken for good.

But now Clements is running neck-and-neck with Democratic challenger Mark White. Both parties are confident of victory. And both think defeat would be much harder on the Republicans than on the Democrats.

## GOP sweeps up in mock election

by Connie Edelman

Battalion Reporter

If the results of the MSC Political Forum mock election are good predictors, the Republicans will be riding high after Tuesday's general election.

In Thursday's mock vote, the Republicans won every office in which they have a candidate running.

The mock election was held in conjunction with Political Awareness Day, and 753 people voted.

Jay Simmons, special events coordinator for Political Forum, said that if the turnout is low in the general elections Tuesday, the Republicans probably will be winners again. But if the turnout is large, he said, the Democrats will have a better chance of victory.

The Libertarian party also had a relatively good showing in the mock election. In the race for state senator, Libertarian Don Stallman received 17.7 percent of the votes. And Libertarian Ron Hard earned 15.5 percent

in the U.S. Representative race.

Political Forum held the election to determine general group opinion and to remind people to vote in the Nov. 2 general elections.

Republican Gov. William P. Clements Jr. won 60.4 percent of the votes in the gubernatorial race, with Democratic candidate Mark White collecting 31.4 percent of the votes.

Republican Jim Collins received 51.8 percent of the votes for U.S. senator, while Democrat Lloyd Bentsen was close behind with 43.8 percent.

In the lieutenant governor race, 52.6 percent of the votes went to Republican George W. Strake Jr. and 44.3 percent went to Democrat Bill Hobby.

In a close race, Republican Bill Meier won with 51.1 percent of the votes for attorney general over Democrat Jim Mattox, who captured 48.6 percent of the ballots.



photo by Rose Marie Delano

The giant armadillo didn't get this railcar, carrying Miller Lite beer, which was headed for Houston when it derailed early Saturday

morning at the Wellborn Drive-University Drive overpass, spilling eight thousand cases.

## Train derails, cargo is spilled

by Jennifer Carr and Robert McGlohon

Battalion Staff

Eight thousand cases of Miller Lite beer were dumped on University Drive at the Wellborn overpass when a Missouri-Pacific train derailed early Saturday morning.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Sam Saxon said four cars and the caboose left the tracks at 12:15 a.m.

No one was injured in the accident. The dangling railroad car was pulled back onto the tracks, but not before its contents were spilled onto University Drive. The street was closed until 3 p.m. Saturday while several off-duty College Station police officers assisted in the clean-up.

Jake Cangelose, Brazos county civil defense director, said in an earlier interview that train derailments are always a possibility. Several years ago a train derailed in Bryan carrying vinyl chloride. But because the train was traveling so slowly the cars were not punctured and damage was slight.

Trains are limited to traveling 10 mph while in the Bryan-College Station area.

In the event of an accident, Cangelose said, the fire department deals with the accident while the police department handles crowd control. If the derailment involves toxic chemicals, the Emergency Response Team is called in to handle the situation.

ERT consists of the fire and police chiefs of Bryan and College Station, the Texas A&M police chief, the county sheriff, the local director of public safety and civil defense directors in the area.

College Station fire chief Douglas Landua said that chemists from the University, mayors and city managers from both cities and the railroad emergency team could be called in to help in an emergency.

Fire and police departments in the surrounding areas also would be called to help if a derailed train car was carrying chemicals, he said.

Thomas R. Parsons, director of security and traffic at Texas A&M University said the University is well prepared for an emergency and would have no problems getting the word out if an evacuation was necessary.

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### forecast

Today's Forecast: High in the low 80s, low in the high 60s. Partly cloudy today with a 20 percent chance of rain.

### almanac

Today is Monday, Nov. 1, the 305th day of 1982 with 60 to follow.

Today is All Saints Day.

The moon is full.

The morning stars are Mercury, Venus and Saturn.

The evening stars are Mars and Jupiter.

Those born on this date are under the sign of Scorpio.

J.W. Packard, American inventor, manufacturer and philanthropist, was born Nov. 1, 1863.

On this date in history:

In 1864, the U.S. Post Office Department introduced the money order.