

State education groups hope for reform measures

DALLAS (AP) — Education groups keeping a close eye on the state Board of Education hope the new elected body will make another look at some school reform measures, and the teacher appraisal system on the list.

Ermalee Boice, assistant executive director for programs for the Texas State Teachers Association, said the current appraisal system does not allow teachers enough flexibility. And that, she said, hurts creativity and professionalism.

"It prescribes a method of teaching," Boice said. "The teachers are very much excluded from making decisions."

James Crow, associate executive director of the Texas Association of School Boards, said his group also will be urging the Board of Education to examine the teacher appraisal system.

The teachers' organization endorsed candidates in 13 contested and non-contested races Tuesday. Nine of the TSTA candidates emerged victorious. It was the first time Texans have elected the state board in four years.

The 15-member panel became an appointed body after sweeping education reforms were passed in 1984 and Gov. Mark White selected members of the board. The reforms called for the return

to an elected board.

Boice said she believes the TSTA endorsements carried weight and attributed some endorsed candidates' losses to coattails of contenders in races higher on the ballot.

"We had anticipated that there would be a coattail effect, and we saw that even in the state Board (of Education) races," Boice said.

Sliding by their opponents and landing seats on the new elected board were two appointed incumbents, Democrat Mary Helen Berlanga, who defeated Republican Fransan Boatright in District 2, and Democrat Carolyn Crawford, who downed Republican Glenn Arnett Jr. in District 7.

But incumbent Democrat Paul Dunn of Levelland lost to Republican Monte Hsieh of Lubbock in District 15.

Appointed incumbents returning to the board are Geraldine Miller, R-Dallas, in District 12 and Dr. Emmett Conrad, D-Dallas, in District 13. Neither faced opposition.

In other uncontested races, Democrat Rene Nunez of El Paso won the seat in District 1, while Democrat Ray Alexander of Houston gained the post in District 4.

Contested races without incumbents saw Democrat Esteban Sosa downing Republican Mary Beth Williamson in District 3; Republican John Shields defeating Democrat John Sullivan in District 5; Republican Robert Cummings routing Democrat Donna Ellis in District 6; and Democrat Mary Perkins beating Republican Charles Whiteside in District 8.

Also, Bob Aikin, a Democrat, outdistanced Dee Hilton, a Republican, in District 9; Democrat Will Davis emerged over Republican Dorothy Chandler in District 10; Republican Jane Nelson defeated Democrat Dorothy Adkins in District 11; and Democrat William Hudson downed Republican Donald Dorsett in District 14.

TSTA supported Nunez, Berlanga, Sosa, Sullivan, Crawford, Perkins, Aikin, Davis, Adkins, Miller, Conrad, Dorsett and Dunn.

Another education organization, Texas for Education, Excellence and Schools, which includes Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby and Dallas billionaire and education reform leader H. Ross Perot, had backed eight candidates — seven Democrats and one Republican. Four of the candidates won and four lost.

The school board association does not endorse candidates, but Crow said

TASB hopes the new board will communicate with local school districts.

"They've done a good job of communicating with school district people, and we hope that continues," Crow said.

New board members can expect to hear from education groups about the teacher career ladder, which increases compensation as teachers move to higher ladder levels.

Hance vows to draw state into oil scene

DALLAS (AP) — Victorious over his Democratic opponent, Railroad Commissioner Kent Hance vowed to keep Texas moving toward more involvement in the world oil scene.

And one of his first orders of business was to schedule a Thursday meeting in Austin of a handful of non-OPEC oil-producing nations and states.

Hance, who made highly publicized trips to meetings of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries in Vienna, Austria, faced criticism from opponent Clint Hackney for attending

the international gatherings.

Despite that, Hance downed Hackney Tuesday by a 55-to-45 percent margin, or 2.7 million votes to 2.2 million votes. The two were vying for the remaining two years of the unexpired term of Mack Wallace, who stepped down from the three-member panel last year.

The other incumbent on the commission, Democrat Jim Nugent, held on to his post as well, defeating Republican challenger Ed Emmett with 2.8 million votes, or 56 percent, to Emmett's 2 million votes, or 41 percent.

A Republican appointed last year to Wallace's unexpired term, Hance, 45, said his attending OPEC meetings and pushing for Texas involvement in the international oil market contributed to his win.

"I think the public likes for somebody to stand up for Texas," he said. "I think in that respect, it helped."

Hance, a former congressman and state senator, will welcome the state and foreign officials attending the meeting Thursday.

Nations planning to send representa-

tives to the gathering are Mexico and Oman, according to Hance and officials in his Railroad Commission office. States expected to be represented are Texas, Oklahoma, California, New Mexico, Alaska and Colorado.

"(We're) trying to establish a dialogue and see if there are things we agree on," Hance said after his victory Tuesday night. He and his aides have characterized the meeting as a "round table" discussion before the next OPEC meeting, scheduled for later this month.

Texas highway funding amendment receives most votes

AUSTIN (AP) — The top vote-getter in the general election in Texas wasn't aligned with any political party.

Proposition 1, an amendment to the Texas Constitution saying federal highway funds must be used for roads, garnered nearly 3.6 million votes, or 86.9 percent to 13.1 percent with 99 percent of the precincts reporting Wednesday.

"Roads are neither Democrat nor Republican," Don Ward, president of the Texas Good Roads-Transportation Association, said. "Roads are roads."

All three amendments on the state ballot passed by substantial margins.

Proposition 2 creates the "Rainy Day Fund." It calls for any state budget surpluses to be set aside for spending in

other years when revenues fall short of projections.

Proposition 3, dubbed the "Texas Growth Fund," grants more investment flexibility to trustees of the state's two education funds and two state-employee pension funds, including permission to invest in the growth fund.

With 99 percent of the precincts re-

porting, Proposition 2 passed 61.5 percent to 38.5 percent, while Proposition 3 won 63.3 percent to 36.7 percent.

In addition to being the top vote-getter on the ballot, Proposition 1 was the first amendment to ever gain more than 3 million votes, Ward said.

Proposition 1 guarantees all federal highway money reimbursed to Texas for

highway projects is used for those projects.

"People understand that when they fill up their gas at the gas pump there is a tax there that goes toward improving roads," Ward said.

Ward said Texas Good Roads spent around \$600,000 in television ads for two weeks before the election to get their

message out.

The three propositions resulted from last year's bruising legislative session, where lawmakers were faced with a staggering \$6 billion deficit and a record \$5.7 billion tax increase.

Gov. Bill Clements, Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby and House Speaker Gib Lewis supported all three amendments.

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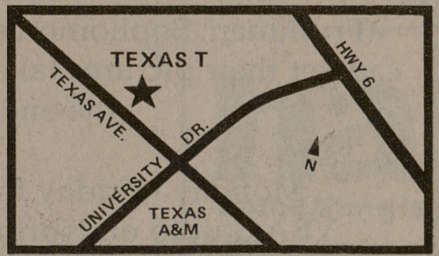
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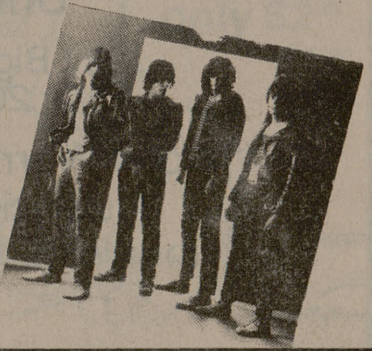
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