

Bullock, Mosbacher

Lt. gov. candidates disagree on issues

By KEVIN M. HAMM Of The Battalion Staff

Voters will have to choose in the lieutenant governor's race between Bob Bullock, an experienced Texas politician, and Rob Mosbacher, an experienced businessman who says his independence from state politics is an asset.

"I'm not part of the Austin crowd, and I'm proud of it," Mosbacher told delegates at the GOP state convention. "It's time for an outsider's independence. It's time for a lieutenant governor who can say 'no' to the Austin special interest crowd."

Bullock says his political experience — beginning in the Texas House of Representatives in the 1950s to his present position as state comptroller — uniquely qualifies him for office.

"There's not a person in political office today — city, county, local or state — who has the experience I've had in state government," he said. "I have experience getting the job done."

Bullock also served as an assistant attorney general, an aide to former Gov. Preston Smith and Texas secretary of state.

Mosbacher is president of Mosbacher Energy Company, an independent oil and gas exploration and production company. His state government experience includes acting as chairman of the Texas Department of Human Services and chairman of the Governor's Welfare Reform Task Force.

He also worked on the staff of former U.S. Sen. Howard Baker.

Education

Both candidates express concern about public education in Texas, a system with more than 3 million students and 1,000 local districts that spends about \$13 billion annually.

Bullock says the future of Texas depends on education.

"The school bell is ringing, not just for this school year but for a generation of young Texans — and how we answer that bell will determine their future and the future of Texas," Bullock said.

Bullock says bringing "quality and accountability" to the system would be his top priority if elected. His plan includes the following:

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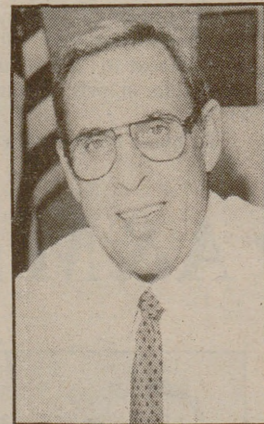
- raising teachers' salaries and providing health insurance and additional benefits
giving local school boards, administrators and teachers flexibility in subject and teaching methods
making sure teachers and students have the latest technology at their disposal
giving schools incentives instead of mandates to produce results
having the state shoulder a larger share of total school costs to help keep local property taxes down
providing counselors and teacher training for elementary schools to identify at-risk students for early prevention of dropouts, drug abuse and child abuse.

"I will demand above all accountability for what we get for our money," he said. "The responsibility rests solely on state government because only the state has the resources, the authority and the constitutional obligation to run an efficient and productive system."

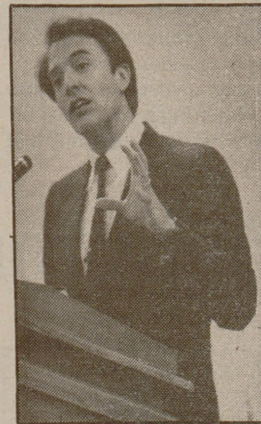
Mosbacher says performance is the key to education. "My vision for the future of Texas' public schools contains one recurring theme — improved performance," Mosbacher said. "All our efforts and special programs will only be successful when we strive to be the best — when our performance outmatches even our personal standards."

Mosbacher's reforms include the following:

- increasing parental involvement, community-based efforts and the attention of the business community
increasing cooperation between state, federal, local and non-profit agencies in providing social, health and educational services for families and children in need
increasing school funding and making sure all sources of revenue are tapped
reducing state mandates and empowering educators with the flexibility and autonomy needed to educate students
addressing the problems of drugs, violence and lack of discipline through education and treatment so teachers can focus on the education process itself
retraining the existing work force to bridge the gap between skill levels of high school graduates and



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those needed for entry level jobs in an increasingly technical workplace

"Texans will not compete successfully in the international marketplace unless we have a well-trained, well-educated and highly motivated work force," Mosbacher said. "Our people are our most important resource, and that makes education our top state priority."

Economic development

Economic development in Texas also is a priority for each candidate.

Bullock says business can produce jobs and profits when state government conducts its affairs with predictability, decency and vision.

He believes future economic well-being and education inextricably are linked. The state has an obligation to prepare people, from elementary school to university classrooms, to "make the most of a changing, global marketplace," Bullock says.

It also is important to support small and new businesses by increasing funding for the Small Business Development Centers, which provide management, technical and planning assistance, he says.

The state's highway system must be maintained and upgraded as required for businesses' transportation needs, Bullock says. Government also must cut red tape and "take a reasonable approach in business regulatory matters," he says.

Mosbacher says he believes his business background will enable him to spur the current expansion in the Texas economy.

"My goal is to bring growth and jobs to businesses of all sizes in every corner of the state," he said. "There are techniques available to the state to promote eco-

nomical development that do not call for expensive programs or entrenched bureaucracy."

One such program Mosbacher supports is the Texas Business Enhancement Fund, which he helped draft. The program is a source of funds provided by private lenders which small businesses can tap into.

He says Texas should make additional contributions to smaller businesses by expanding the state's small

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business assistance network, increasing support for opening markets through international trade and supporting emerging firms with the potential to significantly expand job opportunities.

Mosbacher also says he believes Texas must protect its business environment to attract more businesses.

"A business climate is perhaps the unique feature that makes a state attractive to a company as a place to expand or locate," he said.

Texans will not be able to rely "solely on hard work" anymore in an increasingly competitive workforce, he says.

"Education and training have become a fundamental part of economic development," Mosbacher said.

Health care

Bullock says he believes the emphasis on health care should be "redirected to preventive medicine." Citing "the state's miserly program of prenatal health care for low-income pregnant women," he says studies indicate every dollar not spent on prenatal care costs \$3 in treating preventable birth defects, affecting 20,000 babies a year in Texas.

The state also should take advantage of many federal programs that would help ease health care costs now paid by cities and counties, Bullock says.

He also took issue with rural hospital closings, saying the state should help these hospitals find funding from alternative revenue sources. University medical schools and the Higher Education Coordinating Board should be given resources and incentives to attract the quality medical personnel these rural areas need, Bullock says.

The state also must find alternatives to nursing home care for the increasing number of elderly, such as home and community services, he says.

The problem of rising health insurance costs, both for citizens and small businesses, also needs to be addressed, Bullock says, citing the more than two million Texans without health insurance.

Mosbacher's solution to the state's health care woes is summed up in his "Discovery Health Care Plan."

Organized through a non-profit coalition of small businesses, this plan would emphasize prevention and "wellness through education." Coverage under this plan would cost \$60 per month and would cover all items required by the Texas Insurance Code.

Coverage would be limited to \$10,000 annually and \$25,000 for lifetime participation, but could be expanded by purchasing additional coverage.

There is no deductible under the plan, but members would pay a small fee for each procedure.

"The plan will reduce the cost of uncompensated care through direct payment for services and an emphasis on prevention and wellness," the plan states. "Healthier people spend less time in the health care system and consequently reduce costs to the system."

Also running for lieutenant governor is Tom Owens, a Libertarian from Midland.

"This looks like a good year for Libertarian candidates statewide because of voter dissatisfaction with Washington," Owens said.

New attorney general to make history

AUSTIN (AP) — Democrat Dan Morales and Republican J.E. "Buster" Brown are battling for the Texas attorney general's post — and a place in history.

State records show there never has been an Hispanic attorney general in Texas, and a Republican hasn't held the post since Reconstruction.

Their history-making potential is one of several similarities between the candidates, who are far apart philosophically.

Both are state lawmakers who have sponsored anticrime measures: Brown, 49, is a senator from Lake Jackson who has been vice chairman of the Senate Criminal Justice Committee. Morales, 34, is a representative from San Antonio who has headed the House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee.

Both are former prosecutors: Brown worked in Brazoria County, and Morales in Bexar County.

And both agree their differences far outweigh any resemblance.

"That's sort of like Nolan Ryan and I both played Little League baseball. But that sure doesn't make our records in baseball equal," said Brown.

Morales is equally confident: "I am satisfied that the record that I have put together compares favorably to that of my opponent."

Their basic disagreement is over the role of the state's top lawyer.

Morales describes an activist attorney general, who addresses public policy issues and works with lawmakers. Matters such as education, criminal justice and mental health have been entangled in lawsuits in Texas, he notes.

"What good lawyers do for private clients is not simply sit around the office and wait to get sued," Morales said.

But Brown says Democratic incumbent Attorney General Jim Mattox, a self-described "people's lawyer," has made the office too political with his activist style.

The attorney general should defend the state's laws in court and leave policy-making to the Legislature, Brown said.

"We've got to get somebody in that office that the public will have confidence in as a lawyer," he said. "I think the people of Texas want a conservative ... that will restore the credibility of that office."

The attorney general is involved in antitrust, consumer, environmental and public health lawsuits. The office gives advisory opinions on legal matters, and administers the child support enforcement program.

District and county attorneys have the primary re-

sponsibility for criminal cases, but the attorney general can provide assistance at their request.

Brown, calling himself the underdog, has attacked Morales on several issues in the campaign.

Touting his own legal experience, Brown has challenged Morales to release a list of cases he has tried before juries.

Morales said he has tried such cases, but hasn't released a list. Former Bexar County District Attorney Sam Millsap Jr. said Morales was one of his best prosecutors.

Brown has been a lawyer longer. He worked as a Brazoria County prosecutor for nearly four years before going into private practice in 1972.

Morales worked as a Bexar County prosecutor in 1983-85, after a year of private practice in Houston. Since becoming a lawmaker, he says he has provided free legal services to constituents.

Brown also has criticized Morales for sponsoring a \$5.7 billion tax increase in 1987, and for voting this summer against a sales tax increase Brown supported for public schools.

Morales says important services were financed by the 1987 tax increase. He opposed the latest sales tax increase, he said, because the levy is regressive and too high.

Treasurer, comptroller races tight and ugly

DALLAS (AP) — If Texas voters thought the gubernatorial race had cornered the mud market, they haven't been watching the battles for state comptroller and treasurer.

As the election nears, campaign issues are taking a back seat to accusations of mismanagement of personal and public finances, special interests and even phony names.

Despite all the venom, the candidates say they are not running negative campaigns.

In the comptroller's race, Democrat John Sharp and Republican Warren G. Harding Jr. are arguing about Harding's name.

Meanwhile, in the treasurer's race Republican Kay Bailey Hutchison and

the younger Harding has also dismissed allegations that he tried to sell securities to Texas banks at the same time his father was arranging for them to receive state deposits.

"This is old information which was unconvincing before a grand jury in 1982 and will be unconvincing to Texas voters in 1990," Harding said. "John Sharp has already tarnished his own reputation by being Michael Dukakis' state campaign chairman, and now he wants to tarnish Warren Harding's reputation by lies and distortion."

Harding says his opponent is a professional politician who has lost touch with Texas the private sector.

"He wouldn't know a private sector job if he saw it," said Harding, who once worked as an auditor for the comptroller's office and as deputy clerk in Travis County.

Sharp began his public service career as a state representative in 1978. In 1982 he became a state senator and served until 1986 when he won a seat on the Texas Railroad Commission.

Harding last ran for office in 1988 when he lost a Dallas County Republican primary race to Dallas County Tax Assessor David Childs.

As far as issues are concerned, both men say they are against any new taxes. Instead, they propose general reductions in state spending.

Harding, who now works as a financial consultant in Dallas, says he plans to cut the tax collector's budget by 10 percent by reducing the number of field offices from 30 to 13.

He also proposes a review of the comptroller's franking privilege as a way to cut spending.

Sharp, who credits himself with reducing the Railroad Commission's spending from \$37 million to \$31 million, says he can do the same for the comptroller's office.

If elected, Sharp says he would propose the state invest in private manage-

The elder Harding pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor count of official misconduct, and withdrew from politics.

See Treasurer/Page 7B

Accusations dominate races Ag and land commissioner races mix glitz with mud

LUBBOCK (AP) — If Hollywood were to write the script, the race for agriculture commissioner between Democratic incumbent Jim Hightower and Republican challenger Rick Perry would best be described as the "Urban Cowboy" against the farmer from "Top Gun."

But there is nothing Hollywood about the battle for land commissioner, pitting incumbent Democrat Gary Mauro against GOP challenger Wes Gilbreath — just plenty of good fashion mudslinging.

Hightower's white Stetson hat and cowboy boots hardly disguise his progressive big city ideas, quick vocal cadence and ability to lure big-time entertainers to stump for him, including actor Robert Redford and blues singer Taj Mahal.

He is favored to win a third consecutive term as agriculture commissioner largely because he is expected to dominate in cities like Houston, Dallas and San Antonio, where campaign officials claim his name recognition is around 75 percent.

He registers significantly less support with the rural farmers and ranchers his office regulates.

Perry, on the other hand, is a third-term state representative from Haskell, where he has spent a lifetime toughening callouses farming cotton, wheat and raising cattle.

Despite the rural background, Perry is a former Air Force pilot whose suave demeanor and good looks have helped him gather campaign support from the likes of Kim Dawson, an internationally known modeling agent in Dallas.

The differences between the two candidates are as distinct as rows in a plowed field.

Perry is a conservative who sees the future of Texas in mainstream crops, cotton, feed grains and beef, that already produce about 95 percent of

the jobs and profits in agriculture.

Hightower is a former journalist and a populist who champions the small farmer and the diversification of crops. His vision is of an agricultural system that requires fewer pesticides and results higher profits for the farmer.

Hightower has been accused of using his office to develop a populist party in Texas. And his reputation for speaking out against mainstream agriculture has drawn the ire of the Texas Farm Bureau, who helped recruit six candidates to oppose him in the Democratic primary.

The Farm Bureau, which does not align with a political party, even sought Texas Rangers pitcher Nolan Ryan to run against Hightower.

"Jim Hightower has never farmed," said Perry, whose campaign has raised over \$1 million, nearly \$250,000 more than Hightower. "He has no understanding of the industry he regulates."

Hightower says Perry's claims of being an experienced rancher are ridiculous.

"He is sort of all chaps and very little ranch," Hightower said. "He doesn't have any cattle. He is really a banker and a Realtor. On his own campaign filings, he reports less than \$2,000 in income from agriculture."

Both men have accused the other of illicit use of state funds.

Hightower has nicknamed his opponent "Sky King" because Perry alone accounted for almost half of the private aircraft mileage reimbursed to the 150 House members in 1989.

Perry has defended those expenses as legitimate state business.

Perry calls Hightower a "crook." He alleges his opponent charged taxpayers \$1,057 for use of a state plane to speak at a fund-raiser for U.S. Rep.

See Ag-Land/Page 8B