

SUMMARY OF TEXAS 1998 STATEWIDE & LEGISLATIVE RACES

By Mark Dixon
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Total 1998 dollars: \$120,796,396

Statewide Total: \$87,927,942

Legislative Total: \$32,868,454

The 1998 Texas elections covered all 150 House seats, 16 of 31 seats in the Senate, and 11 statewide offices. The following table shows the totals raised for the House and Senate races combined and the total raised for each statewide seat.

In all, 35 of 166 Legislative races were open; 1 Senate, 34 House, and 8 of the 11 statewide (Attorney General, Agriculture Commissioner, State Auditor, Lieutenant Governor, Public Lands Commissioner, Railroad Commissioner, Supreme Court Place 1, and Supreme Court Place 3).

TOTAL \$	Incumbents	Challengers	Open Races	Winners	General Losers	Primary Losers
Statewide	\$26,545,039	\$4,996,292	\$56,386,612	\$61,644,719	\$22,089,296	\$4,193,928
Legislative	\$19,437,053	\$6,766,811	\$6,664,590	\$25,566,822	\$5,729,052	\$1,572,580
TOTAL	\$45,982,092	\$11,763,103	\$63,051,201	\$87,211,540	\$27,818,348	\$5,766,508

CANDIDATES	Republican	Democratic	Third Party	TOTAL	Incumbents	Challengers
Statewide	20	14	0	34	3	6
Legislative	148	137	5	290	133	68
TOTAL	168	151	5	324	136	74

Texas has no limits on campaign contributions made by businesses, individuals or PACs.

The Texas Legislature operates on a biennial system, meeting every other year in the odd-numbered years. It meets for a maximum of 140 days. The governor has the authority to convene a special session of the legislature during each biennium if the need arises.

WINNERS	Republican	Democratic	Incumbents	Challengers	Open
Statewide	11	0	2	1	8
Legislative	81	85	124	10	32
TOTAL	92	85	126	11	40

THE SENATE

For 125 years, the Democrats had a majority in the Texas Senate. In 1996, the Republicans gained the majority and held 17 Senate seats compared to 14 seats for the Democrats. In the 1998 elections, the Democrats won back one seat. During the 76th Legislature of 1999, Democrats had 15 Senate seats and Republicans had 16.

AVG TOTAL DOLLARS	Incumbents	Challengers	Open Races	Winners	General Losers	Primary Losers
Senate Repubs	\$450,484	\$91,466	\$416,096	\$456,397	\$185,295	\$175,220
Senate Demos	\$337,316	\$643,731	\$5,655	\$493,834	\$286,910	\$0

Of the 16 Senate races held in 1998, incumbents won 14. The one open race in the Senate was for District 11, which was won by Republican Mike Jackson. The only race in which the incumbent lost was in Senate District 4. In that race, the winner, Democrat David Bernsen, raised \$1,432,939; Republican incumbent Michael Galloway raised \$362,878 and Republican Bill Leigh, who lost in the primary, raised \$175,220. In terms of fundraising, this was by far the most hotly contested race. Compare the \$1.4 million raised by Bernsen to the averages raised by all the candidates below.

The 2000 Senate elections could prove to be even more heated and expensive than the 1998 races because two important tasks will fall on the shoulders of the Senate. The 2001 Senate will play a key role in redrawing legislative borders. This redistricting can have an outcome on the party breakdown of future legislatures as well as the Texas congressional delegation. Also, if George Bush is elected president and Lieutenant Governor Rick Perry takes over as governor, the Senate will fill the empty post of lieutenant governor with one of its members, chosen by simple majority vote.

THE HOUSE

Democrats also had a majority in the Texas House of Representatives for more than 125 years. The 1996 and 1998 elections did not disrupt this pattern. In 1996 Democrats had an 82 to 68 lead over the Republicans. In 1998, the Democrats lost some ground, giving up four seats to the Republicans, but maintained their majority by holding 78 seats to the Republicans 72. While a few third-party candidates ran, none won any legislative or statewide races. For the House, as in the Senate, the 2000 races are key because of redistricting that will be decided in 2001.

AVG TOTAL DOLLARS	Incumbents	Challengers	Open Races	Winners	General Losers	Primary Losers
House Repubs	\$94,534	\$81,357	\$88,832	\$109,762	\$102,864	\$23,617
House Demos	\$125,142	\$34,671	\$53,445	\$129,491	\$40,750	\$23,677

STATEWIDE ELECTIONS

In 1994, George W. Bush was elected governor of Texas. In 1996, all statewide races were won by Republican candidates. In 1998, Gov. Bush was re-elected and Democrats again won no

statewide offices. This was a dramatic victory for Republicans, considering that Texas historically has been governed by Democrats, both in the legislature as well as statewide offices.

The following tables show total contributions raised in 1998 by gubernatorial candidates and average totals raised by all other statewide office candidates.

GUBERNATORIAL TOTALS	Incumbent	Challenger	Winner	General Loser
George Bush - R	\$25,035,884		\$25,035,884	
Garry Mauro - D		\$3,493,145		\$3,493,145

STATEWIDE AVG TOTALS	Incumbents	Challengers	Open Races	Winners	General Losers	Primary Losers
All Other SW Cands - R	\$1,144,427	\$495,244	\$2,721,619	\$3,660,883	None	\$515,499
All Other SW Cands - D	\$364,727	\$17,165	\$1,662,177	None	\$2,008,118	\$23,227

Note that George W. Bush out-raised his Democratic rival, Garry Mauro, by more than 7-to-1. Incidentally, the money Bush raised in his gubernatorial races is separate from money raised in his presidential race. Texas law bars donations made in state campaigns from being used in national races. The fundraising contacts made in the 94 and 98 elections are what enabled him to break all records with his astronomic fundraising in his 2000 presidential bid. This vast network of donors, most based in Texas, became Bush's "Pioneers".

TOP FIVE	GEORGE BUSH	CONTRIBUTORS
Contributor	Business	Total Contributions
PSEL PAC	Oil & Gas PAC	\$117,000
A R Sanchez Jr	Sanchez Oil & Gas	\$101,000
Robert C McNair Sr	Cogen Technologies - Energy	\$100,000
Thomas Loeffler	Lawyer	\$96,000
George C Hixon	Hixon Properties - Real Estate	\$95,000
	TOTAL	\$509,000

TOP FIVE	GARRY MAURO	CONTRIBUTORS
Contributor	Business	Total Contributions
Billy B Goldberg	Communications & Electronics	\$233,000
Lucien Flourney	Oil & Gas	\$140,000
Andrew A Schatte	Bsl Golf Corporation	\$138,000
Reaud Morgan & Quinn	Lawyers	\$90,000
Tilman J Fertitta	Landry's Seafood Restaurants	\$63,200
	TOTAL	\$664,200

Who Gave to George Bush?	
Economic Sector	% of Bush's Total
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	24.3%
Energy & Natural Resources	17.4%
General Business	13.7%
Lawyers & Lobbyists	9.3%
Communications & Electronics	7.3%
Health	7.0%
Other -Educators, Civil Servants, Military	4.9%
Agriculture	4.5%
Construction	3.7%
Political Party	3.3%
Transportation	3.1%
Ideology & Single Issue PACs	0.8%
Labor	0.3%
Defense	0.3%
Candidate Contributions	0.1%
Small Contributions	0.0%

Notice the disparity in money raised by the Republican winners of the general election in the statewide races compared to the Democratic losers of that election.

CANDIDATE & PARTY	STATEWIDE OFFICE	WINNER/LOSER	TOTAL RAISED
RICK PERRY - R	LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR	W	\$12,395,439
JOHN SHARP - D	LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR	L	\$7,864,085
JOHN CORNYN - R	ATTORNEY GENERAL	W	\$6,069,982
JIM MATTOX - D	ATTORNEY GENERAL	L	\$3,314,734
CAROLE KEETON RYLANDER - R	AUDITOR	W	\$4,179,041
PAUL HOBBY - D	AUDITOR	L	\$5,824,596
DAVID DEWHURST - R	PUBLIC LAND COMMISSIONER	W	\$4,794,853
RICHARD RAYMOND - D	PUBLIC LAND COMMISSIONER	L	\$682,653
TONY GARZA - R	RAILROAD COMMISSIONER	W	\$2,586,481
JOE B HENDERSON - D	RAILROAD COMMISSIONER	L	\$68,126
SUSAN COMBS - R	SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE	W	\$1,439,695
L P (PETE) PATTERSON - D	SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE	L	\$187,438

By adding the money raised by candidates that ran in the statewide general election we come up with the percentages show below.

PARTY	\$W TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
Republican	\$56,491,375	72%
Democrat	\$21,434,777	28%
TOTAL	\$77,926,152	100%

WHO GAVE TO THE LEGISLATURE

The following table shows which economic sectors gave the most money to legislative candidates in 1998 and the breakdown of how much each party received of that money. Contributions in the database that could not be identified are not included in this table.

SECTOR	REPUB / DEMO %	1998 CONTRIB TOTALS	% of TOTAL
Lawyers & Lobbyists	53 / 47	\$13,084,695	16.5%
Finance Insurance & Real Estate	74 / 26	\$12,086,907	15.0%
Energy & Natural Resources	78 / 22	\$9,246,110	11.5%
Candidates	59 / 41	\$8,955,700	11.1%
Political Parties	61 / 39	\$6,898,546	8.6%
General Business	72 / 28	\$6,854,816	8.5%
Health	71 / 29	\$4,937,668	6.1%
Communication & Electronics	68 / 32	\$3,693,152	4.6%
Construction	72 / 28	\$3,433,187	4.3%
Agriculture	77 / 23	\$2,560,847	3.2%
Other - Education, Military, Public Employees	67 / 33	\$2,533,075	3.2%
Transportation	65 / 35	\$1,958,919	2.4%
Ideology & Single Issue Groups	87 / 13	\$1,601,019	2.0%
Labor Unions	16 / 84	\$1,548,803	1.9%
Small Contributions	47 / 53	\$598,866	0.7%
Defense	96 / 4	\$374,650	0.5%

The sectors from the previous table are further divided into specific industries in the National Institute on Money & State Politics coding system. The next tables shows how much was given by the top 10 contributing industries and top contributors.

TOP TEN INDUSTRIES	REPUB / DEMO %	TOTAL \$	% of 1998 TOTAL
Lawyers & Lobbyists	53 / 47	\$13,084,695	16.3%
Candidate Self-Finance	59 / 41	\$8,955,700	11.1%
Oil & Gas	78 / 22	\$6,637,626	8.3%
Party Committees	60 / 40	\$5,393,557	6.7%
Health Professionals	70 / 30	\$3,930,270	4.9%
Real Estate	72 / 28	\$3,292,789	4.1%
Miscellaneous Finance	87 / 13	\$2,120,914	2.6%
General Contractors	78 / 22	\$2,072,043	2.6%
Insurance	72 / 28	\$2,045,148	2.5%
Securities & Investment	75 / 25	\$1,771,072	2.2%
TOTAL	70 / 30	\$49,303,815	61.3%

INCUMBENTS & TOP DOLLAR

Fewer than **3%** of Texas candidates, 5 of 177, won without advantage of incumbency or of raising the most money.

167 of 177 winning candidates, **94%**, had the advantage of raising the most money.

122 of 177 winning candidates, **69%**, had the advantage of being the incumbent.

97% of Texas winning candidates, 172 of 177, had the advantage of being an incumbent, of raising the most money or both.