



The Legislative Report



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Primary runoff election results

Texans turned out—or rather didn't—on Tuesday to vote on a few primary runoff elections to see who would go on to represent them in the general elections this November. It is estimated that 60% fewer voters turned out across the state than did for the primaries in March, and most winners won their runoffs with fewer votes than they received in the March primary election. Here are the notable results of races involving current incumbents.

In the Republican primary runoffs for Texas State Board of Education, both Tom Maynard of Florence and Pam Little of Fairview won their runoffs and will be on the November ballot.

In the Texas Senate, Molly Cook beat Texas House Representative Jarvis Johnson to compete for Senator-now-Mayor of Houston John Whitmire's vacant senate seat.

In the Texas House, incumbents Dade Phelan (R-Beaumont) and Gary VanDeaver (R-New Boston) won their runoffs and will be on the ballot in November.

House incumbents Shawn Thierry (D-Houston), Justin Holland (R-Rockwall), John Kuempel (R-Seguin), DeWayne Burns (R-Cleburn), Frederick Frazier (R-McKinney), Lynn Stucky (R-Denton), and Stephanie Klick (R-Fort Worth) lost their runoffs.

[Read more in this recap from the Texas Tribune.](#)

Morath approves five new charter applications

Commissioner Mike Morath announced this week that he has approved the following five Generation 29 charter applicants:

1. Infinite Minds (Arlington);
2. Pathway Academy (Big Spring);
3. The Texas Girls School (Austin);
4. Unparalleled Preparatory Academy (Manor); and

5. Visionary STEM Academy (Terrell).

He declined to approve the following charters applicants:

1. Entrepreneur High (San Antonio)
2. Frank Liu Academy for Music and Arts (Houston)
3. Houston L.E.A.D. (Houston)

The State Board of Education will meet the week of June 24 and will consider these applications. The Board has the ability to veto the commissioner's decisions. Public comment will be taken prior to the final vote.

SBOE opens instructional material public comment period

The State Board of Education (SBOE) this week announced the start of the public comment period for instructional materials submitted as part of the Instructional Materials Review and Approval (IMRA) process. HB 1605 established the new IMRA process, which charges the SBOE with reviewing and approving high-quality instructional materials (HQIM) that fully cover the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).

TEA noted that the first IMRA cycle included 25 publishers that submitted 142 products for review and that all materials are being reviewed by independent teams of teachers, parents and other curriculum experts. The SBOE is now encouraging members of the public to submit written comments, report suspected factual errors and share any suitability concerns by Friday, August 16, 2024.

[View the list of materials submitted for review, copies of the instructional materials, SBOE feedback forms, and SBOE-approved IMRA rubrics.](#)

TEA unveils open education resource textbooks

TEA announced this week the availability of Texas Open Education Resources (OER) textbooks for public review. HB 1605 directed the TEA to develop a set of optional, state-owned instructional materials for use in Texas classrooms. TEA noted the materials were designed to be aligned with the state standards and available free of charge.

There are two sets of Texas OER textbooks: OER K-5 Reading & Language Arts and OER K-8/Algebra. TEA is submitting these Texas OER textbooks to the SBOE's IMRA 2024 process (referenced above). The public will have the opportunity to review and offer comments on these products during this review process by visiting the [SBOE's IMRA webpage](#).

[Learn more about HB 1605, the IMRA process, and OER Materials.](#)