

# Texas 2018 General Election Report for Blanco County Texas

November 20, 2018 (Updated)

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Results for the 2018 General Election are now official. This report is based on completion of the 2018 Canvass by the Blanco County Clerk. The only change to vote counts from the November 13 report is the addition of 4 mail-in ballots received after election day. For this this report additional data from the Texas Secretary of State, The Texas Tribune, and the New York Times has been referenced. An analysis of the potential number of delegates we may be awarded for the 2020 Texas Democratic Party Convention has been added.

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## Overview

We can look at the 2018 General Election results from two perspectives – who won and what we achieved as Democrats. Certainly these views are linked but each reveals a different lesson. Who won defines a point in time. What we achieved illustrates momentum and provides insights into what the future may hold.

Blanco County has become increasingly conservative since the early 1990's. Coming into 2018, we knew that as hard as we might work, Blanco County would remain Republican after this election. But we also knew that Blanco County is benefiting from clear demographic trends as Texas becomes more urban, more progressive, more diverse, and more Democratic. Indeed, this momentum resulted in victories in the Texas House, U.S. House, and judicial races that did not seem possible a year ago. The momentum is real. Our ongoing work is to capitalize on this progressive wave that can bring positive change to Blanco County.

This trend produced some notable results in 2018. **Erin Zwiener won the contest for Texas House District 45** to represent Blanco and Hays Counties, defeating Ken Strange by 3% overall. This win was propelled by the aforementioned demographic changes, which are having a major impact on Hays County. Blanco County results were 25.5% for Zwiener and 74.5% for Strange. However, it is important to note that the Zwiener campaign gave Blanco County Democrats a goal of 1200 votes and **we exceed that goal with 1461 votes.**

Democrats lost races for U.S. Congressional District 21 and U.S. Senate; however, we exceeded our Blanco County Democratic turnout goals in both races:

- Beto O'Rourke's campaign for Senate gave us a goal of 1300 votes. **We exceeded the goal with 1567 votes.**
- Joseph Kopser's campaign for U.S. Congress gave us a goal of 1260 votes. **We exceed the goal with 1511.**

Judicial races usually do not garner much attention. This year, there was an unusually strong and active group of Democratic candidates, including a high proportion of women running for the bench. This strength produced **four Democratic victories for the Texas 3<sup>rd</sup> Court of Criminal Appeals that has jurisdiction over Blanco County.** The winners include Edward Smith, Chari Kelly, Thomas Baker, and Gisela Triana. Democrats now hold the majority on seven of the 14 Criminal Appeals Courts.

These positive results would not have occurred were it not for the many hundreds of hours that Blanco County Democrats gave to the effort. We organized, raised money, phone-banked, block-walked, worked the polls, talked to our friends and neighbors, displayed signs, paraded, represented Democrats at Market Days (and sold more than a few grassroots Beto T-shirts), and we voted. It is this effort that has given life to the Democratic momentum in Blanco County. Everyone who contributed should be proud of these results. More importantly, we should know that ongoing efforts will continue to propel positive changes as independents, progressives, and Democrats see results.

**Detailed County Details**

Details of every race in Blanco County are available at the [Blanco County Elections](#) site, and the [Texas Secretary of State Elections](#) County results site (select Blanco County from the drop down menu).

Total votes by Precinct are presented below.

**Early Vote (Based on US Senate Race)**

Precinct	Dem Votes	Rep Votes	Other Votes	Total Votes	Rank	Dem % of Total Votes	Rank
102	209	651	8	868	3	24.1%	5
201	317	846	11	1174	1	27.0%	4
302	208	391	8	607	4	34.3%	2
303	55	200	1	256	5	21.5%	6
304	41	75	0	116	6	35.3%	1
401	298	715	5	1018	2	29.3%	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1128</b>	<b>2878</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>4039</b>		<b>27.9%</b>	

**Election Day Vote (Based on US Senate Race)**

Precinct	Dem Votes	Rep Votes	Other Votes	Total Votes	Rank	Dem % of Total Votes	Rank
102	132	388	12	532	1	24.8%	3
201	73	241	6	320	3	22.8%	5
302	58	141	1	200	4	29.0%	1
303	27	89	1	117	5	23.1%	4
304	16	62	0	78	6	20.5%	6
401	133	381	4	518	2	25.7%	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>1302</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1765</b>		<b>24.9%</b>	

**Total Vote Count (Based on US Senate Race)**

Precinct	Dem Votes	Rep Votes	Other Votes	Total Votes	Rank	Dem % of Total Votes	Rank
102	341	1039	20	1400	3	24.4%	5
201	390	1087	17	1494	2	26.1%	4
302	266	532	9	807	4	33.0%	1
303	82	289	2	373	5	22.0%	6
304	57	137	0	194	6	29.4%	2
401	431	1096	9	1536	1	28.1%	3
VBM Received After day of election	3	1	0	4	null	75.0%	null
<b>Total</b>	<b>1570</b>	<b>4181</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>5808</b>		<b>27.0%</b>	

Precinct 401 produced the highest number of Democratic votes. Precinct 302 produced the highest percentage of votes for Democrats.

**Democrats Early Vote % by Precinct**

Precinct	102	201	302	303	304	401	Total
EV %	61.3%	81.3%	78.2%	67.1%	71.9%	69.1%	71.8%
Rank	6	1	2	5	3	4	

**Republicans Early Vote % by Precinct**

Precinct	102	201	302	303	304	401	Total
EV %	62.7%	77.8%	73.5%	69.2%	54.7%	65.2%	68.8%
Rank	5	1	2	3	6	4	

After the 2018 Democratic Runoff we observed that the 55% early vote result could be improved. We Focused considerable GOTV effort to increase this percentage. All but one Precinct outperformed the Runoff result. Overall we improved early voting by 17% and outperformed the Republicans by 3.1%.

### Analysis of Blanco County Results

Beto O’Roarke received 1570 votes for 27% of the 2018 vote in Blanco County. **This Democratic vote total is an all-time high for Blanco County** (based on online records from the Secretary of State beginning in 1992). **Twenty seven percent of the total vote is the highest Democratic percentage since 2010**, the mid-term election during President Obama’s first term. The table below shows the available historical results.

<b>Total Votes (Based on Major Dem Candidate Receiving Most Votes)</b>					
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Democratic</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Dem %</b>
<b>1988 (Pres. Yr.)</b>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
<b>1990 (Mid-term Yr.)</b>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
<b>1992</b>	3109	891	1370	<b>848</b>	28.7%
<b>1994</b>	2431	1516	915	0	<b>62.4%</b>
<b>1996</b>	3255	1092	2097	66	33.5%
<b>1998</b>	2604	1183	1389	32	45.4%
<b>2000</b>	3767	811	2777	179	21.5%
<b>2002</b>	3053	1164	1801	88	38.1%
<b>2004</b>	4584	1267	3277	40	27.6%
<b>2006</b>	3250	938	2206	106	28.9%
<b>2008</b>	4939	1467	3418	54	29.7%
<b>2010</b>	3966	1200	2589	177	30.3%
<b>2012</b>	4912	1281	3408	223	26.1%
<b>2014</b>	3608	874	2622	112	24.2%
<b>2016</b>	5685	1244	<b>4212</b>	229	21.9%
<b>2018</b>	<b>5808</b>	<b>1570</b>	4181	57	27.0%
<b>2018 Records</b>	<b>All-time High</b>	<b>All-time High</b>			

For perspective, the last year a Democratic candidate won a majority of the vote in Blanco County in a national or statewide race was in 1994. That year, Bob Bullock ran for Lt. Governor, Dan Morales for Attorney General, and John Sharp for Comptroller of Public Accounts. All won Blanco County and the election. Ann Richards led the Democratic ticket and lost both statewide and in Blanco County to George W. Bush. That year marks the beginning of the Republican ascendancy in Texas.

In 2018, Blanco County Democrats set a goal of achieving at least 30% Democratic votes compared to total votes. We fell short of this goal. There is little doubt that two factors contributed to this result.

- The Blanco County Democrats became much more active in 2018. This caught the attention of the County’s Republican Party, which then replaced its chairman prior to the completion of the incumbent’s full term. Blanco County Republicans also began to mimic certain Democratic activities and strategies, including attendance at Market Days, membership in the local Chambers of Commerce, and political ads in the newspapers. Political rancor of individual Republicans extended to many instances of vandalism and theft of Democratic campaign signs.
- The second factor was the over-the-top saber rattling of President Trump regarding perceived immigration threats from Central America. This fired-up the ultra-conservative base, including many Blanco County Republicans, and propelled them to vote.

High 2018 voter interest is also shown in an examination of the voter registration and voting percentages.

Blanco County Voter Registration and Voting						
YEAR	Reg Voters	Growth	Voted	Voted %	Early Vote	EV %
1988 (Pres. Yr.)	3785		2719	71.8%	446	16.4%
1990 (Mid-term Yr.)	3624	-4.3%	2371	65.4%	365	15.4%
1992	3831	5.7%	3103	81.0%	739	23.8%
1994	4019	4.9%	2490	62.0%	559	22.5%
1996	4835	20.3%	3316	68.6%	843	25.4%
1998	5318	10.0%	2615	49.2%	418	16.0%
2000	5990	12.6%	3767	62.9%	1262	33.5%
2002	6250	4.3%	3051	48.8%	778	25.5%
2004	6548	4.8%	4584	70.0%	2076	45.3%
2006	6716	2.6%	3352	49.9%	984	29.4%
2008	6935	3.3%	4939	71.2%	2565	37.0%
2010	6956	0.3%	3966	57.0%	1634	23.5%
2012	7195	3.4%	4972	69.1%	2548	35.4%
2014	7390	2.7%	3608	48.8%	1462	19.8%
2016	8033	8.7%	5685	70.8%	3745	46.6%
2018	8504	5.9%	5826	68.5%	4053	47.7%
2018 Records	All-time High		All-time High	Mid-term High	All-time High	All-time High

As the table illustrates, **Blanco County had an all-time high number of total voters.** Note that this is an unusually high vote total for a mid-term election. We not only surpassed the 2014 mid-term vote count, but also the 2016 Presidential election vote count. This result is an indication of the growth of the Blanco Democratic party but also the political intensity felt by many Republican voters. This intensity will affect how we proceed in building toward the 2020 Presidential election.

**Texas Successes** (Note: this section has not been updated to reflect changes to undecided elections)

Election results in Texas reflect a general trend toward increased voter participation and increased influence from urban and suburban voters who tend to lean more Democratic. Per the Texas Tribune, “More people voted — over 8.3 million — than have ever turned out for midterm elections in Texas. About 72 percent of those votes were cast before Election Day. And instead of one in three voters turning out, the norm in these races, more than half of the registered voters took part this time.” That result bodes well for the Democratic Party, but only if the we continue to reflect the values of those voters and build voter turnout.

In Texas, specific gains for Texas Democrats include:

- Flipped 2 seats for the U.S. Congress – Fletcher (D7) and Allred (D32)
- Flipped 2 seats in the Texas Senate –
  - State Senator-elect Nathan Johnson (16)
  - State Senator-elect Beverly Powell (10)
- Gained 11 seats in the Texas House including the defeat of 7 Republican incumbents –
  - State Representative-elect Ana-Maria Ramos (102)
  - State Representative-elect John Turner (114)
  - State Representative-elect Terry Meza (105)

- State Representative-elect Julie Johnson (115)
- State Representative-elect John Bucy (136)
- State Representative-elect Rhetta Andrews Bowers (113)
- State Representative-elect Vikki Goodwin (47)
- State Representative-elect James Talarico (52)
- State Representative-elect Jon E. Rosenthal (135)
- State Representative-elect Michelle Beckley (65)
- State Representative-elect Erin Zwiener (45)

Note: Texas House races remain undecided and could further boost these results

- Flipped four State Appeals Courts to Democratic majorities, with Democrats now holding majorities on seven of the 14 courts.
- Elected the first two Latinas to the U.S. Congress from Texas: Sylvia Garcia, and Veronica Escobar

Detailed Texas results are available at the [New York Times Texas Election Results](#) site and the [Texas Secretary of State](#) site.

**National Successes** (Note: this section has not been updated to reflect changes to undecided elections)

Nationally, Democrats had significant success in the U.S. House of Representatives. As of this date, we have gained 31 seats in the House and will now hold the majority. Eleven seats remain undecided as of this report. Democrats gained 7 gubernatorial seals nationally and will have Governors in 23 states.

More National results are available at the [New York Times Election 2018](#) site.

**2018 Impact on Blanco County Delegates to the 2020 TDP Convention (new)**

The 2018 increase in Democratic voter participation could result in Precincts 102 and 302 having their own Delegates in 2020. This is another signal of our overall success in 2018 and means that four (up from two in 2018) of our precincts may have direct representation in 2020.

**Delegate Estimate (Based on Vote for Governor – Lupe Valdez)**

Precinct	2018 Votes	Divided by 225	2018 Potential Earned Delegates (225 = 1)	2018 Paired Delegates (2 counties = 1)	Potential Total Delegates	2014 Earned Delegates	Paired and Chair Delegates	Total Delegates	Potential Net Gain
102	298	1.3	1		1	0	0.5	0.5	0.5
201	323	1.4	1		1	1		1	0
302	236	1.0	1		1	0	0.5	0.5	0.5
303	65	0.3	0	0.5	0.5	0	0.5	0.5	0
304	49	0.2	0	0.5	0.5	0	0.5	0.5	0
401	380	1.7	1		1	1		1	0
County Chair		null		1	1		1	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1351</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>

This analysis is based on the formula that TDP used to calculate delegates for the 2018 TDP Convention. That formula may change so the above is a “what-if” analysis to show progress compared to the 2014 Gubernatorial election that was used as the basis in 2018.

The result of this analysis is shown in the table above and indicates that we could gain two Earned Delegates due to increased voter participation in Precincts 102 and 302. That gain would be partially offset by the loss of one Paired Delegate that is awarded to groups of two precincts that were below the 225 mark. Under that formula, we would be awarded one Paired Delegate in 2020.