

LONE STAR PROJECT

Fighting Back... with Facts



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March 4, 2008

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The Tom Craddick Primary

Today's Texas Primary is an early test for "Toxic Tom" Craddick

While the media and most voters focus on Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton, it will also be important to check out another primary, the "Craddick Primary."



Republicans hold a narrow five seat margin over Democrats in the Texas State House. Beginning with the daring and audacious "Killer D's" stand in Ardmore, Oklahoma, in 2003, Texas House Democratic leaders have time and again confounded the short tempered and mean-spirited Republican Speaker Tom Craddick. Although outnumbered on the floor, Texas House Democrats have often outmaneuvered Craddick on key legislative initiatives on major issues, skillfully using House Rules and parliamentary tactics to block Republican initiatives and reveal the Speaker's extreme agenda.

Texas Democrats have been picking up ground in recent elections. Overcoming a gerrymandered State House map, Democrats have captured eight GOP held seats since 2003, bringing them just five short of an outright majority.

Tom Craddick holds power through a fragile coalition of ideological Republicans and a handful of Democrats who hang with him in exchange for plum committee assignments and proximity to power. He is a Tom DeLay style authoritarian whose insistence that he holds "absolute authority" has alienated enough Republicans that they are willing to join key Democratic leaders to topple him.

A number of Craddick's supporters face tough primaries today and could lose. At the same time, Craddick has mobilized his financial backers to direct funds to allies in both parties' primaries to punish his opponents and protect his allies. **A loss of just one or two seats could end Toxic Tom's "autoCraddick" rule.**

2008 "Craddick Primary" Score Card

	Craddick Win	Craddick Loss
<p>HD 4: Republican Primary Republicans Betty Brown (I) v. Wade Gent Note: <i>Betty Brown is a key Craddick ally who is in an unexpectedly tough race against Wade Gent.</i> Gent Win = Craddick Loss</p>		
<p>HD 8: Republican Primary Republicans Byron Cook (I) v. James Vickery Note: <i>Byron Cook opposes Craddick and influences other Republican Members</i> Vickery Win = Craddick Win</p>		
<p>HD 17: Democratic Primary Democrats Donnie Dippel v. Latreese Cooke Note: <i>Dippel opposes Craddick. Cooke was recruited in the race by Craddick ally Ron Wilson. An expected victory by Dippel is bad news for Craddick and a big win for House Democratic leaders.</i> Cooke Win = Craddick Win</p>		
<p>HD 27: Democratic Primary Democrats Dora Olivo (I) v. Ron Reynolds Note: <i>Olivo and Reynolds both oppose Craddick. This campaign is more about local Ft. Bend County than anything else.</i></p>		
<p>HD 36: Democratic Primary Democrats Kino Flores (I) v. Sandra Rodriguez Note: <i>Flores makes no apologies for his loyalty to Craddick. A Rodriguez win is a devastating loss for Craddick.</i> Flores Loss = Craddick Loss</p>		
<p>HD 43: Democratic Primary Democrats Juan Escobar (I) v. Tara Rios Ybarra Note: <i>Craddick allies have poured money into Ybarra's campaign. A win for Escobar is bad news for Craddick and a big win for House Democratic leaders.</i> Ybarra Win = Craddick Win</p>		
<p>HD 46: Democratic Primary Democrats Dawnna Dukes (I) v. Brian Thompson Note: <i>Dukes has refused to end her support for Craddick and faces a tough challenge from Thompson, a 28 year old Anglo. A Thompson win would be a huge loss for Craddick, and a narrow Dukes win would serve as a warning to other Craddick Ds.</i> Dukes Loss = Craddick Loss</p>		
<p>HD 52: Republican Primary</p>		

<p>Note: <i>There is a crowded Republican primary to replace Mike Krusee. The winner will likely go to a run-off, and then any Republican will have to face Diana Maldonado, a strong Democratic candidate, in this swing district in November.</i></p>		
<p>HD 55: Republican Primary Note: <i>There is a crowded Republican primary to replace Diane Delisi. The race will likely go to a run-off, and then any Republican will have to face Sam Murphey, a strong Democratic candidate in this Republican-leaning district.</i></p>		
<p>HD 73: Republican Primary Republicans Nathan Macias (I) v. Doug Miller Note: <i>A loss by Macias is bad news for Craddick and Jim Leininger.</i></p>		
<p>HD 77: Democratic Primary Democrats Paul Moreno (I) v. Marisa Marquez Note: <i>Moreno is a solid "no" on Craddick, and Marquez claims to be the same. But Marquez's heavy campaign funding from El Paso Republicans makes most observers believe she would eventually end up on Craddick's team. A win for Moreno is bad news for Craddick and good news for House Democratic leaders.</i></p>		
<p>HD 78: Republican Primary Republicans Pat Haggerty (I) v. Dee Margo Note: <i>Haggerty strongly opposes Craddick. Margo was recruited by Craddick and has been endorsed by Rick Perry. Even if Margo wins the primary, he will likely lose the general election in this Democratic leaning district,</i> Margo Win = Craddick Win (Until general election)</p>		
<p>HD 78: Democratic Primary Democrats Joe Moody v. Louis Irwin Note: <i>Moody is the best general election candidate of the two and brings deep roots as the son of popular judge Bill Moody, the leading statewide Democratic vote getter in the 2006 general election. A Moody win puts this race "on the board" for November.</i></p>		
<p>HD 96: Republican Primary Republicans Bill Zedler (I) v. Lee Jackson Note: <i>Zedler is a Craddick supporter; Jackson's loyalty is unknown. Either candidate will have to face Chris Turner, a strong Democratic candidate, in November. This district is a prime pick-up opportunity for Democrats.</i></p>		
<p>HD 99: Republican Primary Republicans Charlie Geren (I) v. Tom Annunziato Note: <i>Geren is a strong opponent of Craddick. Annunziato is deeply indebted to Craddick funding sources.</i> Annunziato Win = Craddick Win</p>		

<p>HD 101: Republican Primary Republicans Thomas Latham (I) v. Mike Anderson Note: <i>Either Republican will have to face Robert Miklos, a strong Democratic challenger, in this swing district in the fall.</i></p>		
<p>HD 105: Democratic Primary Democrats Jim Rea v. Bob Romano Note: <i>An expected win by Rea puts this swing district in play for the general election, and is a big win for House Democratic leaders.</i></p>		
<p>HD 140: Democratic Primary Democrats Kevin Bailey (I) v. Armando Walle Note: <i>Bailey is a Craddick D and favored committee chairman. A Walle win is a big loss for Craddick.</i> Walle Win = Craddick Loss</p>		
<p>HD 146: Democratic Primary Democrats Borris Miles (I) v. Al Edwards Note: <i>Miles is a solid Democratic member being challenged by the Craddick ally he replaced two years ago. Miles' personal challenges may impact this race and make it close.</i> Edwards Win = Craddick Win</p>		
<p>HD 147: Democratic Primary Democrats Garnet Coleman (I) v. LaRonda Torry Note: <i>Torry was recruited into the race by Craddick henchman Ron Wilson. A Coleman win will be a further repudiation of Craddick in this district.</i></p>		
<p>HD 148: Democratic Primary Democrats Jessica Farrar (I) v. Jose Medrano Note: <i>Farrar is an active member of the House Democratic leadership and her re-election will be another blow to Craddick.</i></p>		

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