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TURNOUT IS DOWN ACROSS PARTY

Democrat turnout is notably lower— John Reynolds, *The Texas Tribune*

Much of the partisan analysis of Tuesday's primary elections parceled out across social media has focused on trying to spin Wendy Davis' victory in the Democratic gubernatorial primary as a loss. Davis won 79 percent of her party's vote, but Republican critics have noted that her totals (if not her percent of the vote) ran well below what Bill White received four years ago.

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TWO MORE ABORTION CLINICS SENATE BLOCKS MILITARY SEX CLOSE DOWN WITHIN STATE ASSAULT BILL FROM PASSAGE

19 clinics have closed since simmer— Alexa Ura, *The Texas Tribune*

Whole Woman's Health announced late Wednesday that it is closing two abortion clinics — one in the already underserved Rio Grande Valley and another in Beaumont — as a result of strict abortion regulations passed by the Legislature last year.

"We are devastated to announce that we're closing our clinics in McAllen and Beaumont this week," a post on the abortion provider's Facebook account says. "After serving women in these communities for over 10 years, Texas politicians have forced us to shut our doors."

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Claire McCaskill lead charge against— Helene Cooper, *The New York Times*

The Senate on Thursday rejected a controversial bipartisan bill to remove military commanders from decisions over the prosecution of sexual assault cases in the armed forces, delivering a defeat to advocacy groups that argued that wholesale changes are necessary to combat an epidemic of rapes and sexual assaults in the military.

The measure, pushed by Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Democrat of New York, received 55 votes — five short of the 60 votes needed for advancement to a floor vote — after a fellow Democrat, Senator Claire McCaskill of Missouri, led the charge to block its advancement.

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NEW RASMUSSEN POLL SHOWS ABBOTT LEADING DAVIS BY 11

Poll mirrors recent Tribune roll—Christy Hoppe, The Dallas Morning News

Republican governor nominee Greg Abbott leads Democrat Wendy Davis, 53-41 percent, in a new poll by Rasmussen Reports, a national Republican-affiliated polling organization.

In an electronic telephone poll of 500 likely voters conducted the March 4 and 5 — the day of and the day after the primary — voters were supporting the candidates much along the lines of their party preference. Each candidate garnered 91 percent of the voters from their respective parties. Pollsters said that it was surprising how many voters already expressed opinions of who they would vote for eight months out from the November general election.

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MAYOR JULIAN CASTRO AND SEN. DAN PATRICK TO DEBATE

Two will feud over immigration— Kolten Parker, San Antonio Express-News

Mayor Julián Castro did not waste any time Tuesday night in renewing his debate challenge to Republican lieutenant governor candidate Dan Patrick.

Minutes after Patrick's four-way race was deemed a runoff with incumbent Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, the San Antonio mayor tweeted: “Congratulations, @danpatrick. Your anti-immigrant extremism impressed GOP voters. I said we'd debate after 3/4. So: 3/26, 4/14, 4/15 or 4/21?”

Logan Spence, a spokesman for Patrick, said the debate will “come together soon” and that he is working with representatives for Castro to finalize the date.

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WENDY DAVIS WILL APPEAR WITH OBAMA ON CAMPAIGN

Goes against earlier snafu—Wayne Slater, The Dallas Morning News

Democrat Wendy Davis says when Barack Obama visits Austin next month for a symposium on civil rights, she won't avoid a joint appearance with the president like some candidates in her party. “I'm definitely planning on being at the celebration,” Davis said Thursday of the upcoming gathering at the LBJ Presidential Library. “I'm excited about greeting our president there, and our former presidents.”

Some vulnerable lawmakers, including those in Louisiana and North Carolina, have avoided the president in states where his policies on health care and other matters aren't popular.

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STRAUS EXPECTED TO REMAIN THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

Moderate Speaker, conservative House—Tim Eaton, Austin American-Statesman

Another wave of tea party-approved Republicans might be getting ready to serve in the Texas House, but Speaker Joe Straus isn't likely to look at them as much of a threat to his leadership.

A handful of members loyal to Straus, who is considered a center-right Republican, were ousted Tuesday night by more conservative challengers.

Plus, a few ultra-conservatives won open seats. And other candidates on the right wing of the Republican Party made it into runoffs.

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THE DAMNED THIRD PAGE

^{new}
The Houston Post

VAN DE PUTTE IS THE FUTURE OF TEXAS

She could out-Wendy Wendy—Andy Kroll, Mother Jones

The Houston New Post is an exclusive service of Minutes before midnight last June 25, after state Sen. Wendy Davis concluded her 12-and-a-half-hour *Texpatriate* (www.texpate.com). We strive to bring you the biggest news, from around the State, every business day. Articles are property of the individual author and publication, not of the Post. Any opinions expressed are similarly those of only the author. While *Texpatriate* will offer endorsements, the Post will never take sides in an ongoing dispute or take political positions.

Presented by: *Sophia Arena, Olivia Arena, George Bailey, Luis Fayad, Noah M. Horwitz and Andrew Scott Romo*

Today, 59-year-old Van de Putte once again finds herself alongside Davis, who's running for governor. She is the Democratic nominee for lieutenant governor of Texas and will face either incumbent David Dewhurst or hard-right conservative state Sen. Dan Patrick in November. (Dewhurst and Patrick will compete in a May 27 runoff to pick the GOP nominee.)

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Upper limit of 200 words, all submissions will be published!

THE EDITOR'S RANT

Noah M. Horwitz

Well...I still am at a loss for words. So let me just sum up some interesting things that happened. When I got up early this morning, it was cold, so I ran up four flights of stairs to my apartment in order to could grab my coat. But then, by mid-day it was warm again, so I threw my coat in my car. By the end of the day, it was cold again, so I had to shiver walking back to my place after my editor's meeting at the Daily Texan office. That's five blocks, just by the way, which is no small distance for a car snob like me.

Why am I telling you all this? Mainly in order to illustrate the point that Texas weather cannot make up its mind when it comes to the weather. As far as I can tell, the same holds true for our elections. Some fella named Jim Hogan was nearly nominated Agriculture Commissioner because he had a simple name.

No doubt, this principle was applied in less obvious ways on the other side of the aisle. In one of the Court of Criminal Appeals races, a man named Newell beat a man named Kirkendall. Christian and Sitton beat out the big choice of the Bush family, Malachi Boyuls. Surprise, surprise, said no one.

My last name is Horwitz, which is actually pretty simple, as it is spelled exactly as it is spelled. When people spell it "Horowitz," they are individuals with a little too much familiarity with Jewish names, and thus assume I am too lazy to pronounce the second "O," as (admittedly) many awful people do.. But does the general public know this? I don't think so.

Whatever, I'll be voting for Kinky anyways. That is simple enough.