



Austin Landline Report May 2018

Campaigning is heating up for the May 22nd primary run-off elections. Early voting is May 14th-18th. As a reminder, the hottest races in our areas of interest are by far in Congressional races. Bech Bruun, who we have endorsed, is working hard to win his race to replace Blake Farenthold. We first met Bech many years ago as chief of staff for State Rep. Todd Hunter. Bech is an attorney, originally from Corpus Christi, who resigned after a distinguished tenure as chair of the Texas Water Development Board. If you are in the area, please try to attend an event for Bech in Lockhart on May 9th at Kreuz Market at 5:30 p.m.

In the race for Lamar Smith's Congressional seat, Ted Cruz's candidate, Chip Roy, is in a run-off with Matt McCall, a perennial candidate. The Democrats also have a hotly contested run-off featuring a decorated former career military officer, West Point grad and successful businessman, Joseph Kopser, versus an unknown woman. Though the election of a Democrat is highly unlikely in that district, Kopser has raised more money than any candidate in either party. He is also a former board member of the Texas Association of Business. If he wins the nomination and an off-year backlash strengthens, Kopser could put up a good fight in the general election.

Now that most primaries are over, legislative committees are starting to hold interim hearings. In mid-April, the House Transportation Committee held hearings on highway construction finance, which is a bigger topic of discussion with the governor's putting a hiatus on toll road funding. The House Land and Resource Management Committee will hold a hearing on eminent domain reform on May 9th in Houston. STPRA board member Eric Opiela will testify on our behalf.