



Austin Landline Report November 2018

There were no surprises at the state level from the November 6th elections. At the Congressional level the incumbents won and Michael Cloud handily re-confirmed his recent election to represent Nueces and Victoria Counties. Exceptions were defeats of Republican Congressmen Sessions and Culberson in the Dallas and Houston areas, respectively.

Republicans maintained their dominant majority in the Legislature, but Democrats made serious in-roads, especially in the Dallas area. Democrats had a net gain of 12 seats in the Texas House, moving the 95-55 split to 83-67. An important member of the Texas House Freedom Caucus and a group of other Dallas area Republicans were defeated as were four in Central Texas. Those changes shift calculations for House lawmakers who will elect a new speaker in January. Democrats had been hoping that pickups in the midterm elections would boost their bargaining power - and they seem to have gotten their wish.

In the Texas Senate, incumbents Don Huffines and Konni Burton were unseated by Democratic challengers. But the GOP still holds 19 seats in the Senate - enough to bring legislation to the floor without any support from Democrats, and more than enough to pass it.