



Austin Landline Report August 2019

Like all of America, Austin is consumed by news of the mass murders in El Paso and Dayton, Ohio and speculation on what or if Congress and the legislature are going to act in some way soon to address the issue. As everyone who has been following the news knows, ideas and speculation from every corner abound. Only time will tell how reactions are manifested.

In the meantime, there is much talk about the self-inflicted wound by Speaker Dennis Bonner in an embarrassing tape-recorded meeting that has come to light. On Tuesday, Bonnen finally admitted to proposing political attacks on incumbent Republicans by a group known as Empower Texans in exchange for granting that group favors during the next legislative session. Bonnen has asked for forgiveness from House members, which may or may not occur to a level to allow him to maintain his status as Speaker, but the other remaining question may be the legal ramifications of his offer.

More intrigue in another realm has also happened in the last two weeks with announced retirements of four incumbent Republican members of Congress from Texas. Notably, one such announcement was from Midland Congressman Mike Conaway, the ranking member of the House Agriculture Committee and another from Will Hurd, the only Republican representing a southern border district and the only African-American Republican in the House.