



## **Austin Landline Report September 2020**

### **Elections**

Significant contested races in South Texas and statewide in the November 3rd general election are:

M.J. Hegar (D) - opposing incumbent U.S. Sen. John Cornyn

Monica De La Cruz (R) - opposing incumbent U.S. House Rep. Vicente Gonzalez

Tony Gonzales (R) - opposing Gina Ortiz Jones (D) in an open seat for U.S. House District 23

Chrysta Castañeda (D) - opposing Jim Wright (R) in an open seat for Railroad Commissioner

State Rep. Roland Gutierrez (D) - opposing incumbent State Sen. Pete Flores in Senate District 19

State Senators Chuy Hinojosa (D) McAllen and Judith Zaffirini (D) Laredo and State Rep. Ryan Guillen (D) Rio Grande City also face opposition on November 3rd.

### **State Legislature**

The House and Senate committees are now finishing collection of written testimony and their staffs will issue their interim reports later this fall. There is much speculation on how the regular session next year will be conducted, possibly incorporating new rules that allow remote testimony.

The general consensus is that the session will be dominated by budget concerns and the COVID response, with redistricting being delayed for a special session in late summer. In the meantime, our legislative working group that includes Susan Kibbe, Eric Opiela, and Joe and Charles Maley continues to meet virtually and in person with office-holders and their staffs and our issues committees to prepare for the session.