

The TIPRO Telegram

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**Texas
Independent
Producers and
Royalty Owners
Association**

MERCURIAL RESULTS IN TEXAS ELECTION PRIMARIES - HOW WILL RESULTS EFFECT INDEPENDENTS?

Some incumbents fared well in the Texas Primaries and some did not. With Texas Governor Rick Perry winning the Republican primary after a contentious battle between he and Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, industry knows where he stands. Perry now faces Democratic Gubernatorial Primary winner Bill White who handily defeated a pack of opponents. As a former U.S. Deputy Secretary of Energy and former Mayor of Houston, the energy capital, how would the independent oil and gas producing industry in Texas fare under his administration should he win?

Texas Railroad Commission Chairman Victor Carrillo was unsuccessful in winning his Republican primary to remain as a candidate for the position. David Porter, a CPA from Giddings won the primary. Porter's priorities, according to his website are: "The safety and health of the people living and working near oil wells and pipelines; The safety and preservation of ground and surface water; Making sure all regulations adopted are cost efficient to burden the private sector the least amount necessary to accomplish the needed safety objectives; and provide a strong voice for Texas energy."

Houston oil and gas lawyer Jeff Weems is the Democratic contender for Texas Railroad Commission since he was unopposed in his first ever election run.

TIPRO's Executive Vice President Rich Varela said, "As the political landscape changes, so must TIPRO's efforts. We will go through the process of educating new legislative members and Commissioners as soon as we have a final count on all the changes."

TIPRO's Vice President of Public Affairs Donna Warndorf said, "The elections mean the first of several big changes for our industry in Texas. We do not yet know if it will involve a party change but we will have at least one new Railroad Commissioner in 2011 after Chairman Carrillo's loss. There will also be changes on the House Energy Resources Committee. Rep. Tara Rios Ybarra's loss means the vacancy on the committee of a Democrat supportive of the industry, which may be difficult to replace. This week's elections also saw the defeat of long time friend of industry Rep. Tommy Merritt. These results and those in the fall, coupled with announced retirements, will have a cumulative effect on the composition of the new Legislature."

TIPRO will keep members up-to-date on Texas' legislative and regulatory fronts. For more information, please contact TIPRO headquarters at 512.477.4452 or go to www.tipro.org.