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MEMORANDUM

TO: Texas Candidate Information Subscribers

FROM: Dana Chiodo

DATE: January 16, 2008

RE: 2008 Election Outlook

STATEWIDE

Eleven Republicans and six Democrats are on the Presidential ballot in Texas. It remains to be seen if there will still be active presidential primaries by the March 4th Texas primary election. Republicans on the ballot are: Hugh Cort, Rudy Guiliani, Mike Huckabee, Duncan Hunter, Alan Keyes, John McCain, Ron Paul, Mitt Romney, Fred Thompson, and Hoa Tran. Democrats are: Joe Biden, Christopher Dodd, Hillary Clinton, John Edwards, Barack Obama, and Bill Richardson.

The only statewide offices that are up for election this year include: The U.S. Senate seat currently held by Senator John Cornyn (R-Austin); one Railroad Commission seat; Supreme Court Chief Justice and two other Supreme Court seats; and three Court of Criminal Appeals seats. January 2nd was the deadline for candidates to file for the March 4th primaries and the November General Election. Democrats have fielded candidates in all but three of the statewide contests.

There are only two Republican primary contests (other than the presidential election) on the statewide ballot. Senator John Cornyn (R-Austin) is being challenged by Mansfield consultant Larry Kilgore. Court of Criminal Appeals Justice Paul Womack (R-Georgetown) is being challenged by State District Judge Robert Francis (R-Coppell). Other than the presidential contest, there are three Democratic Primary races on the statewide ballot: For the opportunity to take on Senator John Cornyn in November, there is a four-way race between Houston State Representative Rick Noriega, Corpus Christi teacher Ray McMurrey, perennial candidate Gene Kelly, of Universal City; and another perennial candidate Rhett Smith of San Antonio (who ran as a Republican for Governor in 2006). There is a three-way Democratic Primary race to determine who will take on Railroad Commissioner Michael Williams (R-Austin): Hamilton mobility specialist Mark Thompson, Austin retiree Dale Henry, and San Antonio attorney Art Hall. Two Democrats are vying for Supreme Court Place 7 to take on Dale Wainwright (R-Austin)

in the general election: Sam Houston, an attorney from Houston and Dallas attorney Baltasar D. Cruz. Two Democrats are running in Supreme Court Place 8 to determine who will meet Justice Phil Johnson (R-Austin) in November: Linda Reyna Yanez of Edinburg, Justice of the 13th Court of Appeals, and District Judge Susan Criss of Galveston.

TEXAS CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS

All 32 members of the Texas congressional delegation are up for re-election this time, and all 32 are seeking re-election (19 Republicans and 13 Democrats). Two incumbent Members of Congress have Primary Election opposition: Ron Paul (R-Clute); and Silvestre Reyes (D-El Paso). 22 incumbents have General Election opposition: Joe Barton (R-Ennis); John Culberson (R-Houston); Kevin Brady (R-The Woodlands); Kay Granger (R-Fort Worth); Mac Thornberry (R-Clarendon); Ruben Hinojosa (D-Mercedes); Chet Edwards (D-Waco); Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Houston); Randy Neugebauer (R-Lubbock); Charlie Gonzalez (D-San Antonio); Nick Lampson (D-Stafford); Ciro Rodriguez (D-San Antonio); Kenny Marchant (R-Carrollton); Lloyd Doggett (D-Austin); Michael Burgess (R-Irving); Solomon Ortiz (D-Corpus Christi); Henry Cuellar (D-Laredo); Gene Green (D-Houston); Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-Dallas); John Carter (R-Round Rock); and Pete Sessions (R-Dallas). Two incumbents have both Primary and General Election contests: Sam Johnson (R-Plano); and Ralph Hall (R-Rockwall).

The most exciting race is in Congressional District 22 where Congressman Nick Lampson (D-Beaumont) succeeded former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay (R-Sugar Land) in a 60% Republican district. There are 10 Republicans battling it out to see who will take on Lampson. Other potentially interesting General Election contests are: Congressional District 10 where Congressman Michael McCaul (R-Austin) is in a 58% Republican district; and District 23 where Congressman Ciro Rodriguez (D-San Antonio) is in a 53.3%-Republican district. Congressman Chet Edwards (D-Waco) is in a 62% Republican district, but he continually prevails with the help of Texas A&M students, who traditionally vote Republican in other races, but vote for Edwards who is an Aggie alumnus.

Interesting Congressional Primary races:

Congressional District 3 – Congressman Sam Johnson (R-Plano) has two opponents in the Republican Primary – Retired airline pilot Harry Pierce and author Wayne Avellant. Two Democrats are also in the race – McKinney attorney Tom Daley, and Plano retiree Ron Minkow. This district is 64.47%-Republican, so it is likely to stay in the “R” column.

Congressional District 4 – Congressman Ralph Hall (R-Rockwall) has four Republican Primary challengers – Gene Christensen of Celina, NASCAR Team President; Kevin George, a Celina business owner; Kathy Seei, former Mayor of Frisco; and Joshua Kowert, a student from Sherman. Two Democrats also filed – VaLinda Hathcox of

Sulphur Springs, who ran statewide for Land Commissioner in 2006, and Glenn Melancon of Sherman, who challenged Hall in 2006. This district is 61.88%-Republican.

Congressional District 10 – Congressman Michael McCaul (R-Austin) is unopposed in the Republican Primary, but two Democrats are battling it out to see who will take on McCaul in November – Dan Grant of Austin, a foreign policy expert who supervised elections in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kosovo; and Larry Joe Doherty, an attorney specializing in legal malpractice cases who hosted the television series “Texas Justice.” This district is 58.15%-Republican.

Congressional District 22 – Congressman Nick Lampson (D-Stafford) succeeded Tom DeLay in Congress. There is a field of ten Republicans vying for the opportunity to take on Lampson in the General election – Kevin Bazzy, a Houston Army/Intelligence Analyst; Cynthia Dunbar, a Richmond attorney; Dean Hrbacek, former mayor of Sugar Land; Brian Klock of Nassau Bay, a financial advisor with Merrill Lynch and a commander in the U.S. Naval reserves; John Manlove, former mayor of Pasadena; Pete Olson of Sugarland, an attorney and former staffer to Senators Phil Gramm and John Cornyn; Ryan Rowley, a Houston computer professional; Shelley Sekula Gibbs, a physician who served DeLay’s unexpired term in 2006; James Squier, family court judge in Harris County; and Robert Talton of Pasadena, an attorney and state representative. This district is 59.86%-Republican.

In addition to the General Election in Districts 10 and 22, other interesting Congressional General Election races:

Congressional District 17 – Congressman Chet Edwards (D-Waco) is a Democrat in the most Republican district held by a Democratic congressman in Texas. It is 62.07%-Republican and the Republican numbers are increasing. This district includes President Bush’s ranch in Crawford. Edwards’ Republican opponent is Rob Curnock, a Waco business owner, who is a former sports and news anchor at KWTX-TV (ran in the Republican Primary in this district in 2000 and 2002 but was not the Republican nominee).

Congressional District 23 – Congressman Ciro Rodriguez (D-San Antonio), who returned to Congress by defeating Congressman Henry Bonilla after the court-ordered redistricting in 2006, represents this 53.3%-Republican district. The Republican Primary will determine whether San Antonio businessman Quico Canseco or Bexar County Commissioner Lyle Larson will take on Rodriguez in November. Either will be a formidable challenger.

TEXAS SENATE

15 of the 31 members of the Texas Senate are up for election this year. All 15 of the incumbent Senators are seeking re-election. That is unusually high. (In 2006, four Senators did not seeking re-election.) Seven are unopposed (without major party

opposition): Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa (D-McAllen); Royce West (D-Houston); Troy Fraser (R-Horseshoe Bay); Leticia Van de Putte (D-San Antonio); Eddie Lucio, Jr. (D-Brownsville); Robert Duncan (R-Lubbock) and Kel Seliger (R-Amarillo). Two Senators have Primary election contests: Tommy Williams (R-The Woodlands) and Craig Estes (R-Wichita Falls). *Note: Senator Judith Zaffirini’s Democratic primary opponent dropped out of the race.* Six Senators have General Election contests: Mario Gallegos (D-Houston); Chris Harris (R-Arlington); Kim Brimer (R-Fort Worth); Mike Jackson (R-La Porte); John Carona (R-Dallas); and Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo). No members of the Texas Senate have both Primary and General Election contests.

The Senate currently has 20 Republicans and 11 Democrats. Senators not up for re-election this year include: Kevin Eltife (R-Tyler); Bob Deuell (R-Greenville); Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville); Steve Ogden (R-Bryan); Dan Patrick (R-Houston); Florence Shapiro (R-Plano); Jane Nelson (R-Flower Mound); Rodney Ellis (D-Houston); Kirk Watson (D-Austin); John Whitmire (D-Houston); Kyle Janek (R-Houston); Glenn Hegar (R-Katy); Carlos Uresti (D-San Antonio); Kip Averitt (R-Waco); Jeff Wentworth (R-San Antonio); and Eliot Shapleigh (D-El Paso).

Senate Primary Contests:

Senate District 4 – Senator Tommy Williams (R-The Woodlands) is being challenged by former Senator Michael Galloway (R-The Woodlands). Galloway is an oil and gas producer. He served as state senator from 1995-1998. He ran again for Senate in this district in 2002 when Williams was first elected. Galloway lost to Williams in the Republican Primary run-off by 898 votes (6218 to 5320).

Senate District 11 – Galveston attorney Joe Jaworski (grandson of Watergate prosecutor Leon Jaworski) and Houston systems engineer Bryan Hermann are facing off in the Democratic primary to determine who will take on Senator Mike Jackson (R-La Porte) in this 59.8%-Republican district.

Senate District 30 – Senator Craig Estes (R-Wichita Falls) is being challenged in the Republican primary by Denton realtor/developer Charles Stafford, who is a member of the Denton ISD board of trustees.

In addition to the General Election contest in Senate District 11, two other Senate General Election races are interesting:

Senate District 10 – Senator Kim Brimer (R-Fort Worth) is being challenged by Wendy Davis (D-Fort Worth). She is a former Fort Worth city council member who resigned to make this race and is CEO of Republican Title, Fort Worth Division. This district is 55.77%-Republican.

Senate District 21 – Senator Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) is being challenged by former Webb County Judge Louis Bruni. Bruni is expected to put personal money into his campaign. A Laredo attorney/rancher, Rene Barrientos had planned to run against

Zaffirini in the Democratic Primary, but he withdrew from the race. This district is 56%-Democratic.

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

All 150 of the House districts are up for election this year. The House currently has 79 Republicans and 71 Democrats.

8 incumbents are not seeking re-election (that compares to 13 in 2006 and 4 in 2004) including Representatives Robby Cook (D-Eagle Lake); Mike O'Day (R-Pearland); Mike Krusee (R-Round Rock); Dianne White Delisi (R-Temple); Fred Hill (R-Richardson); Robert Puente (D-San Antonio); Robert Talton (R-Pasadena); and Rick Noriega (D-Houston). The open seat match-ups include:

House District 17 – Representative Robby Cook (D-Eagle Lake) is not seeking re-election. Two Democrats are facing off in the Primary – Donnie Dippel, owner of CHB Consulting, a small business specializing in agriculture consulting, from La Grange; and Latreese Cooke of Bastrop, founder and executive director of a non-profit organization. The Republican candidate is Tim Kleinschmidt, a Lexington attorney, who ran against Cook in 2006. This district is 54.18%-Republican.

House District 29 – Representative Mike O'Day (R-Pearland) is not seeking re-election. Three Republicans are running – Gary Bucek, a real estate partner and chair of the Pearland Chamber of Commerce; Craig Kelsay, a Pearland tax consultant and former auditor for the comptroller; and Randy Weber, a Pearland businessman and former Pearland city council member. The lone Democrat is Kevin Murphy, a Pearland attorney. The district is 60.75%-Republican.

House District 52 – Representative Mike Krusee (R-Round Rock) is not seeking re-election. Four Republicans have filed – Bryan Daniel, an insurance executive with Agricultural Workers Mutual Auto Insurance; Dee Hobbs, assistant Williamson County Attorney; John B. Gordon, former Williamson County Republican Party chair; and Viv Sullivan, communications coordinator for Mobile Loaves & Fishes and member of the Round Rock ISD board of trustees. The only Democrat is Diane Maldonado, an employee of the state comptroller and president of the Round Rock ISD board of trustees. This district is 56.43%-Republican.

House District 55 – Representative Dianne White Delisi (R-Temple) is not seeking re-election. Four candidates are running in the Republican Primary – John Alaniz, president of a property management firm in Temple; Michael Pearce, founder of MVP Educational Products in Harker Heights; Ralph Sheffield, owner of Las Casas Restaurant in Temple and former president of Texas Restaurant Association; and Martha Tyroch, Temple city council member and mayor pro tempore. Sam Murphey of Harker Heights, long-time aide to Congressman Chet Edwards is the only Democrat in the race. This district is 65.57%-Republican.

House District 112 – Representative Fred Hill (R-Richardson) is not seeking re-election. Three Republicans are in the race – Angie Chen Button, marketing manager for Texas Instruments and member of Dallas Area Rapid Transit board; Randall Dunning, software developer for Nortel Networks and former mayor of Garland; and James Shepherd, an attorney and former Richardson city council member and president of Richardson ISD Board of Trustees. The Democrat is Sandra Phuong VuLe, a Garland attorney. This district is 61.96%-Republican.

House District 119 – Representative Robert Puente (D-San Antonio) is not seeking re-election. Only one candidate filed, so Rolando “Roland” Gutierrez, a San Antonio attorney and city council member is the representative-elect. This district is 61.08%-Democratic.

House District 144 – Representative Robert Talton (R-Pasadena) is running for Congress in district 22. Three Republicans filed to replace him – John Hughey of Houston; Ken Legler, owner and president of Houston Wire Works; and Fred Roberts, an insurance consultant and member of Pasadena ISD board of trustees. One Democrat, Joel Redmond, a mortgage broker from Pasadena is in the race. This district is 58.37%-Republican.

House District 145 – Representative Rick Noriega (D-Houston) is running for U.S. Senate. Two Democrats have filed – Houston city council member Carol Alvarado; and Elias De la Garza owner of an insurance agency in Houston. Patricia Rodriguez of Houston is the Republican candidate. This district is 65.45%-Democratic.

17 incumbent members of the House have primary opponents (compared to 18 in 1006 and 16 in 2004) including Democrats: Kino Flores of Mission, Rene Oliveira of Brownsville, Aaron Pena of Edinburg, Juan Escobar of Kingsville, Dawnna Dukes of Austin, Paul Moreno of El Paso, Roberto Alonzo of Dallas, Kevin Bailey of Houston, Borris Miles of Houston, and Garnet Coleman of Houston; and Republicans: Byron Cook of Corsicana, Charlie Howard of Sugar Land, Charles “Doc” Anderson of Waco, Jerry Madden of Plano, Buddy West of Odessa, Delwin Jones of Lubbock, and Corbin Van Arsdale of Houston.

The most interesting primary races are:

House District 8 – Representative Byron Cook (R-Corsicana) is being challenged in the Republican Primary by Bobby Vickery of Frost, environmental manager for Republic Services and former member of the Frost ISD board of trustees.

House District 36 – Representative Kino Flores (D-Mission) has a Democratic Primary opponent, Sandra Rodriguez of Mission. She is former trustee for Pharr-San Juan-Alamo ISD.

House District 40 – Representative Aaron Pena (D-Edinburg) is in a rematch with his 2004 Democratic challenger, Eddie Saenz of Edinburg. Saenz is president of J.E. Saenz & Associates, Inc., a civil engineering/surveying/data mapping firm. Saenz got 36.35% of the vote in the 2004 election.

House District 43 – Representative Juan Escobar (D-Kingsville) is being challenged in the primary by Tara Rios Ybarra, a South Padre Island Dentist and member of the South Padre Island city council.

House District 46 – Representative Dawnna Dukes (D-Austin) has a Democratic Primary challenger – Brian Thompson, an attorney with McGinnis Lochridge & Kilgore in Austin.

House District 56 – Representative Charles “Doc” Anderson (R-Waco) is being challenged in the Republican Primary by Waco attorney Jonathan Sibley, son of former Senator David Sibley (R-Waco).

House District 67 – Representative Jerry Madden (R-Plano) has a Republican Primary challenger – Jon Cole of Plano, marketing director for Total Physician Review.

House District 81 – Representative Buddy West (R-Odessa) gave an early indication that he would not seek re-election, but later decided to run. He has three Republican Primary challengers – Jesse Gore, an Odessa insurance agent; Tryon Lewis, former district judge and former Ector County Republican Party Chair; and Randy Rivas, member of the Ector ISD board of trustees.

House District 130 – Representative Corbin Van Arsdale (R-Houston) is being challenged in the Republican Primary by Tomball business owner Allen Fletcher, chair of the Greater Tomball Chamber of Commerce. Court Koenning, who ran Senator Dan Patrick’s 2006 campaign is managing Fletcher’s campaign.

House District 140 – Representative Kevin Bailey (D-Houston) has a Democratic Primary race against Armando Walle, former community liaison for Congressman Gene Green. Congressman Green has endorsed and is actively helping Walle in this race. The district’s Hispanic voting age population is 67.2%.

House District 146 – Representative Borris Miles (D-Houston) is in a rematch with former State Representative Al Edwards (D-Houston), who Miles defeated in the 2006 Democratic Primary. Edwards is hoping to return the favor this time.

53 incumbent members of the House have general election opposition (compared to 45 in 2006 and 43 in 2004) including Democrats: Stephen Frost of Atlanta, Mark Homer of Paris, Chuck Hopson of Jacksonville, Jim McReynolds of Lufkin, Juan Garcia of Corpus Christi, Solomon Ortiz, Jr. of Corpus Christi, Abel Herrero of Robstown, Veronica Gonzales of McAllen, Patrick Rose of Dripping Springs, Valinda Bolton of Austin, Donna Howard of Austin, Elliott Naishtat of Austin, Mark Strama of Austin, Pete

Gallego of Alpine, Chente Quintanilla of El Paso, Joe Heflin of Crosbyton, Lon Burnam of Fort Worth, Paula Hightower Pierson of Arlington, Dan Barrett of Fort Worth, Kirk England of Grand Prairie, Allen Vaught of Dallas, Yvonne Davis of Dallas, David McQuade Leibowitz of San Antonio, Joe Farias of San Antonio, Ellen Cohen of Houston, Senfronia Thompson of Houston, Ana Hernandez of Houston and Hubert Vo of Houston; and Republicans: Wayne Christian of Center, John Otto of Dayton, Mike Hamilton of Mauriceville, Dan Gattis of Georgetown, John Zerwas of Fulshear, Rob Orr of Burleson, Sid Miller of Stephenville, Jim Keffer of Eastland, Larry Phillips of Sherman, Tan Parker of Flower Mound, Myra Crownover of Denton, Tom Craddick of Midland, John Smithee of Amarillo, Kelly Hancock of North Richland Hills, Todd Smith of Bedford, Vicki Truitt of Southlake, Tony Goolsby of Dallas, Linda Harper-Brown of Irving, Dan Branch of Dallas, Joe Driver of Garland, Patricia Harless of Houston, Jim Murphy of Houston, Gary Elkins of Houston, Dwayne Bohac of Houston, and Debbie Riddle of Houston. In 23 of these races, the incumbents are in safe districts with a voting profile of more than 60% in the incumbent's political party. The other races are outlined below.

House District 1 – Representative Stephen Frost (D-Atlanta) is being challenged by Republican George Lavender, a salesman from Texarkana. This district is 51.25%-Republican.

House District 3 – Representative Mark Homer (D-Paris) is in a re-match with his 2006 and 2004 General Election opponent Kirby Hollingsworth (R-Mount Vernon), owner of Liberty Mobile Home Service. Hollingsworth came within 219 votes of defeating Homer in 2004 but lost by 5,600 votes in 2006 (14,032 to 19,632). Homer is a Democrat in a leaning-Republican district that is 55.6%-Republican.

House District 9 – Representative Wayne Christian (R-Center) has a General Election contest against Pineland teacher Kenneth Franks in this 58.42%-Republican district.

House District 11 – Representative Chuck Hopson (D-Jacksonville) is a Democrat in a 63.37%-Republican district. Brian K. Walker, an attorney from Tatum, who ran in the Republican Primary in this district in 2006, is the Republican candidate.

House District 12 – Representative Jim McReynolds (D-Lufkin) is in a swing district that is 56.77%-Republican. He is being challenged by Republican Van Brookshire, a facilities construction manager from Coldspring. Brookshire ran for Texas Senate in District 3 in 2000 and for Congress in 2002.

House District 18 – Representative John Otto (R-Dayton) is in a 59.1%-Republican district that is getting more Republican with each election cycle, so this is likely the last time this district will be in the leading-Republican category. His general election opponent is Arlan Foster, a correction officer from Dayton.

House District 19 – Representative Mike “Tuffy” Hamilton (R-Mauriceville) is being challenged by Larry Hunter, an attorney from Vidor. This district is a swing district that is 56.17% Republican.

House District 32 – Representative Juan Garcia, a Corpus Christi attorney and retired Naval Aviator is being challenged by former Democratic State Representative Todd Hunter, who is running as a Republican. This district has a Hispanic voting age population of 33.2%. It is a leaning-Republican district at 58.1% Republican.

House District 33 – Representative Solomon Ortiz, Jr. (D-Corpus Christi) is being challenged by Republican Raul Torres, a Corpus Christi CPA in this 55.65%-Democratic district.

House District 41 – Representative Veronica Gonzales (D-McAllen) is being challenged by attorney Javier Villalobos (R-McAllen). This district is a swing district at 50.28%-Democratic.

House District 45 – Representative Patrick Rose (D-Dripping Springs) is being challenged by businessman Matt Young(R-Wimberley). This district is 53.0% Republican. Rose won this district in 2006 when it was 53.9%-Republican; in 2004 when it was 54.97%-Republican; and in 2002 when it was-53.19% Republican.

House District 47 – Representative Valinda Bolton’s (D-Austin) Republican opponent is Donna Keel, a government auditor and sister-in-law to former Representative Terry Keel (R-Austin), who held this seat prior to Bolton’s election in 2006. This is a swing district that is 50.05%-Republican.

House District 48 – Representative Donna Howard (D-Austin) is being challenged by either Pam Waggoner (R-Leander), president of Waggoner Insurance Group and member of the Leander ISD board of trustees; or Dr. Joseph Donnelly (R-Austin), a physician. Waggoner and Donnelly are meeting each other in the Republican Primary. This is a swing district that is 51.57%-Republican.

House District 50 – Representative Mark Strama (D-Austin) will have a General Election contest against Republican Jerry J. Mikus, Jr., a financial advisor who ran in the Republican Primary in this district in 2002. This district is a swing district that was 51.48%-Republican in 2006 but is now 52.17%-Democratic.

House District 74 – Representative Pete Gallego (D-Alpine) is being challenged by Republican Thomas (T.C.) Kincaid, Jr., a rancher and real estate appraiser from Fort Stockton. This district is a swing district that is 50.68%-Democratic. The Democratic numbers in this district have been steadily decreasing. In 2006, it was 53.92%-Democratic; in 2004, it was 54.58%-Democratic; and in 2002, it was 56.06%-Democratic.

House District 85 – Representative Joe Heflin (D-Crosbyton) is a Democrat in one of the most Republican House districts represented by a Democrat. It is 61.45%-Republican. Heflin’s Republican opponent is Hamlin attorney Isaac M. Castro, a member of Hamlin ISD board of trustees and Jones County Republican Party chair.

House District 93 – First term Representative Paula Hightower Pierson (D-Arlington), who is a title company executive and a former Arlington city council member is being challenged by Bill Burch (R-Arlington), a residential real estate investor. This district is 52.77%-Republican.

House District 97 – On December 18, 2007, Representative Dan Barrett (D-Fort Worth) was elected as the newest member of the Texas House. He won a special election to succeed Representative Anna Mowery (R-Fort Worth). There is a four-way race in the Primary to determine who the Republican nominee will be: former State Representative Bob Leonard, a Fort Worth attorney; Clint Roberts, a Fort Worth businessman; Dr. Mark Shelton, a Fort Worth physician with a specialty in pediatric infectious diseases; and James Dean Shull, an attorney and Benbrook city council member. Leonard, Shelton, and Shull ran in last year's special election. Shelton lost to Barrett in the run-off.

House District 102 –Representative Tony Goolsby (R-Dallas) is being challenged by Democrat Carol Kent of Dallas. This district is 56.98% Republican.

House District 105 – Representative Linda Harper-Brown (R-Irving) has a General Election challenge from either IBM retiree Bob Romano (D-Irving), who ran against Harper-Brown in 2006, or attorney Jim Rea (D-Irving). This district is 56.48%-Republican.

House District 106 – Representative Kirk England (D-Grand Prairie) switched from Republican to Democrat on September 19, 2007, so he is seeking re-election as a Democrat for the first time. His General Election opponent is Karen K. Wiegman, a homemaker from Grand Prairie. This district is 53.62%-Republican. The Republican numbers have been steadily decreasing in this district – in 2006, it was 55.33%-Republican; in 2004, it was 55.65%-Republican; and in 2002, it was 57.24%-Republican.

House District 107 – First term Representative Allen Vaught (D-Dallas), an attorney and Army Reserve officer is in a rematch with former Representative Bill Keffer (R-Dallas) in the November General Election. This district is 54.48%-Republican. When Vaught won in 2006, it was 57.85%-Republican.

House District 108 –Representative Dan Branch (R-Dallas) is being challenged by attorney Emil Reichstadt (D-Dallas). This district is 57.47%-Republican district.

House District 117 –Representative David McQuade Leibowitz (D-San Antonio) will have a General Election contest against San Antonio salesman John V. Garza in this 51.25%-Democratic district.

House District 118 – Representative Joe Farias (D-San Antonio) has a General Election challenge from Donny A. “Don” Green, a manager from San Antonio. This district is 54.45%-Democratic.

House District 133 – Representative Jim Murphy (D-Houston) is in a rematch with Houston consultant Kristi Thibaut. The district is 57.8%-Republican. In 2006, Murphy got 55.77% of the vote and Thibaut received 41.73%. A Libertarian candidate pulled 2.48%.

House District 134 – First term State Representative Ellen Cohen (D-Houston) will run in the General Election against either Carlos Obando or Doc. Joe Agris both of Houston. This district is 53.53%-Republican. It was 55.88%-Republican when Cohen won it in 2006.

House District 138 – Representative Dwayne Bohac (R-Houston) will be challenged in the November General Election by Ginny Stogner McDavid. She ran as Ginny Stogner for Congress in District 22 in 2000. Her husband, Mark McDavid, ran against Bohac in 2006. Bohac got 58.42% of the vote to McDavid's 38.71% (a Libertarian got 2.85%). This district is 58.25%-Republican.

House District 149 – Representative Hubert Vo (D-Houston) is being challenged by Greg Meyers (R-Houston), founder of GSK Dental Inc., a dental products company and member of Houston ISD board of trustees. This is a 52.93%-Republican district. In 2004, when Vo defeated House Appropriations Committee chair Talmadge Heflin (R-Houston), the district was 56.25%-Republican. In 2006, when Vo defeated Heflin again in a rematch, the district was 54.63%-Republican.

12 incumbent House members face both primary and general election contests (compared to 14 in 2006 and 14 in 2004) including Democrats: Dora Olivo of Missouri City, and Jessica Farrar of Houston (both are in solid Democratic districts, so if they can survive the Primary, they will most likely be re-elected); and Republicans: Betty Brown of Athens, Phil King of Weatherford, Nathan Macias of Bulverde, Pat Haggerty of El Paso, Bill Zedler of Arlington, Charlie Geren of Fort Worth, Thomas Latham of Sunnyvale, Frank Corte of San Antonio, Joe Crabb of Kingwood, and John Davis of Houston (all of whom have districts that are over 60% Republican except Pat Haggerty, whose district is only 50.82%-Republican; Bill Zedler's which is 56.68%-Republican; and Thomas Latham's which is 54.68%-Republican).

The most interesting races for incumbents in this category are:

House District 4 – Representative Betty Brown (R-Athens) is in a rematch with attorney Wade Gent (R-Forney). In 2006, Gent came within 578 votes of Brown (out of 11,534 votes cast). This district is 63.9% Republican, so it is likely to be decided in the Primary; however, Crandall teacher Victor Morales, who ran for U.S. Senate against Phil Gramm in 1996 (and ran for Congress in District 28 in 2006) filed as a Democrat in this race.

House District 27 – Representative Dora Olivo (D-Missouri City) is being challenged in the Democratic Primary by Ronald Reynolds, an attorney from Missouri City who represents the NAACP of Fort Bend County. The Republican candidate is Steve Host, who started Richmond Coffee Station, Host Insurance Agency, and Texas Fidelity

Mortgage. The voting age population in this district is 29.7% Hispanic, 32.8% Black, 33.4% Anglo, and 4.1% other. It is 59.73%-Democratic.

House District 61 - Representative Phil King (R-Weatherford) is being challenged in the Republican Primary by Joe Tison, Mayor of Weatherford and former Weatherford ISD board of trustees member. The Democrat is Charles William Randolph, a train dispatcher from Decatur. This is a 69.55% Republican district.

House District 73 – Representative Nathan Macias (R-Bulverde) has a tough Republican Primary Election challenge from Doug Miller (R-New Braunfels), former mayor of New Braunfels and past president of New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce. This district is 75.2%-Republican, so Democrat Daniel Boone, a psychologist from Canyon Lake doesn't have much of a chance, although he does have a good ballot name.

House District District 78 – Representative Pat Haggerty (R-El Paso) has a Republican Primary challenge from Dee Margo, CEO of JDW Insurance Company and chair of the El Paso Chamber of Commerce. Margo ran for Texas Senate in District 29 in 2006 against Eliot Shapleigh. The district is 50.82%-Republican. Two candidates are vying to be the Democratic nominee – Louis Irwin, a biology professor at University of Texas at El Paso; and Joseph Moody, assistant district attorney and son of 2006 Supreme Court Candidate Bill Moody.

House District 96 – Representative Bill Zedler (R-Arlington) is being challenged in the Republican Primary by Fort Worth Police officer Lee Jackson. The Democratic candidate is Chris Turner of Burleson, former district director for Congressman Chet Edwards. This district is 56.68% Republican.

House District 101 – Representative Thomas Latham (R-Sunnyvale) is being challenged in the Republican Primary by Mike Anderson, a real estate professional and recent Mayor of Mesquite (resigned in August 2007 to run for state representative). The Democrat is Robert Miklos of Mesquite, an attorney with Hughes & Luce, specializing in real estate litigation. This district is a swing district that is 54.68%-Republican.

60 members are returning to the House without major party opposition (compared to 59 in 2006 and 72 in 2004) including Democrats: Allan Ritter of Nederland, Joe Deshotel of Port Arthur, Craig Eiland of Texas City, Ryan Guillen of Rio Grande City, Yvonne Gonzalez Toureilles of Alice, Eddie Lucio, III of Rancho Viejo, Mando Martinez of Weslaco, Richard Raymond of Laredo, Eddie Rodriguez of Austin, Jim Dunnam of Waco, David Farabee of Wichita Falls, Norma Chavez of El Paso, Joe Pickett of El Paso, Tracy King of Batesville, Marc Veasey of Fort Worth, Terri Hodge of Dallas, Rafael Anchia of Dallas, Helen Giddings of Dallas, Barbara Mallory Caraway of Dallas, Trey Martinez Fischer of San Antonio, Ruth Jones McClendon of San Antonio, Mike Villarreal of San Antonio, Jose Menendez of San Antonio, Joaquin Castro of San Antonio, Alma Allen of Houston, Scott Hochberg of Houston, Sylvester Turner of Houston and Harold Dutton of Houston; and Republicans: Dan Flynn of Van, Bryan Hughes of Mineola, Leo Berman of Tyler, Tommy Merritt of Longview, Jim Pitts of

Waxahachie, Lois Kolkhorst of Brenham, Fred Brown of College Station, Rob Eissler of The Woodlands, Brandon Creighton of Conroe, Larry Taylor of Friendswood, Dennis Bonnen of Angleton, Geannie Morrison of Victoria, Edmund Kuempel of Seguin, Harvey Hilderbran of Kerrville, Jimmie Don Aycock of Killeen, Burt Solomons of Carrollton, Brian McCall of Plano, Rick Hardcastle of Vernon, Ken Paxton of McKinney, Susan King of Abilene, Drew Darby of San Angelo, Carl Isett of Lubbock, David Swinford of Dumas, Warren Chisum of Pampa, Jodie Laubenberg of Wylie, Diane Patrick of Arlington, Will Hartnett of Dallas, Jim Jackson of Carrollton, Joe Straus of San Antonio, Wayne Smith of Baytown, Bill Callegari of Katy, and Beverly Woolley of Houston.