

*CBS Evening News with Tony Dokoupil*

03/04/26

6:31:18 p.m. [TEASE]

8 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; Showdown in Texas]

TONY DOKOUPIL: And a Lone Star showdown, as President Trump says he'll decide who should drop out of a razor-sharp Republican race.

(...)

6:42:16 p.m.

1 minute and 10 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Primary Showdown]

DOKOUPIL: Now to the first results of 2026. In Texas, two powerful Republicans vying for a U.S. Senate seat were forced into a runoff. The winner will face Democrat James Talarico, who defeated Congresswoman Jasmine Crockett. For more, here's senior White House political correspondent Ed O'Keefe. Ed, good evening.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Texas Senate Showdown]

ED O'KEEFE: Tony, Democrats believed that their candidate could be the one to finally help them win a statewide race here for the first time since the 1990s. The 36-year-old Talarico from here in the Austin area won his race by casting himself as a Christian progressive and record-setting turnout helped him, thanks to a coalition of traditional Democratic voters, Latinos, new primary voters, and Republicans switching sides. Among the Republicans, Senator John Cornyn now faces a late may runoff against more conservative, MAGA-friendly state Attorney General Ken Paxton, who has faced years of investigations and impeachment attempts. President Trump didn't weigh in during the first round of the primary. Today, he said he will soon endorse his preference and that the candidate he doesn't choose should drop out in the name of party unity, Tony.

DOKOUPIL: All right, Ed, thank you very much.