

*NBC Nightly News with Tom Llamas*

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[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; Tense Texas Battle Heads to Runoff]

TOM LLAMAS: It was the most expensive Senate primary in U.S. history. Now, it's heading to a runoff. Today, President Trump announced he's finally ready to endorse in the bitter Texas Senate race in Texas amid new momentum for Texas Democrats, who haven't won a Senate seat there in decades. Melanie Zanona reports.

MELANIE ZANONA: The dramatic Republican primary in Texas is not quite over with President Trump hoping to bring the bitter and expensive ordeal to an end with John Cornyn facing Ken Paxton in a May runoff. GOP leaders warning President Trump that scandal-plagued Paxton could cost them the seat.

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER JOHN THUNE (R-SD) [on FNC's *The Story with Martha MacCallum*, 03/04/26]: I have spoken with the President today about Texas. I hope the President will endorse John Cornyn.

ZANONA: President Trump said Wednesday, he will be endorsing someone soon and asked the other candidate to immediately drop out of the race.

SENATOR JOHN CORNYN (R-TX): I refuse to allow a flawed, self-centered, and shameless candidate like Ken Paxton to risk everything we worked so hard to build.

TEXAS ATTORNEY GENERAL KEN PAXTON (R): For too long, John Cornyn has turned his back on us.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; Key Takeaways From Texas Primary Elections]

ZANONA: All while Democrats selected State Rep. James Talarico over Congresswoman Jasmine Crockett. Talarico has leaned on his Christian faith and pointed to his electability, highlighting the record-breaking voter turnout in the state.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE JAMES TALARICO (D): The number of Texans who have never voted before, but showed up in this election is unprecedented.

ZANONA: In the House, a tough night for incumbents. Dan Crenshaw, a war hero and the only House Republican without a Trump endorsement lost. And Republican Congressman Tony Gonzales is heading to a runoff amid allegations he had an affair with a staffer who died by suicide. The House Ethics Committee announcing today he's investigating. Gonzales says he "welcome[s] the opportunity to present all the facts to the committee." Before the primary, sources told NBC News that President Trump was likely to endorse Cornyn as long as he kept

the race close, which he did, Tom.

LLAMAS: Melanie, thank you.