

*CBS Evening News with Tony Dokoupil*

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1 minute and 57 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Texas Primary Election]

TONY DOKOUPIL: With the midterm elections a little more than five months away now, there was a closely watched primary yesterday in the great state of Texas. The state's attorney general, Ken Paxton, ousted four-term Senator John Cornyn, making him the third Republican incumbent to lose this month after failing to earn President Trump's endorsement. Our Ed O'Keefe spoke with Paxton's Democratic opponent.

TEXAS ATTORNEY GENERAL KEN PAXTON (R): We just sent a Texas-sized message to Washington. [CHEERS]

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; Texas-Sized Upset in Primary Race]

ED O'KEEFE: And now comes a Texas-sized bare-knuckled race for the Senate. Ken Paxton ignited the MAGA base and rode President Trump's endorsement to victory, but many Republicans fear his indiscretions could cost them in November.

SENATOR TED CRUZ (R-TX) [on *The Verdict with Ted Cruz*, 05/27/26]: Do not take this general election for granted.

O'KEEFE: As state attorney general, Paxton was impeached three years ago and later acquitted, arrested for investment fraud in 2015, and accused of adultery by his wife last year.

TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE JAMES TALARICO (D): We're living in an era of corruption.

O'KEEFE: Corruption is a big focus of Paxton's opponent, the 37-year-old Democrat James Talarico.

TALARICO: The real fight in this country is not left versus right. It's top versus bottom. We're all getting screwed. None of us can afford anything.

O'KEEFE: Talarico is a seminarian who calls himself a Christian progressive. The Republicans call him a radical for comments like this when discussing transgender rights:

TALARICO [on 10/15/21]: God is nonbinary. [on 05/27/26] I think I was being intentionally provocative with that statement.

O'KEEFE [TO TALARICO]: Do you regret describing it that way or talking about God that way?

TALARICO: There are some statements that I have made that I — that I certainly regret. But Ken Paxton is intentionally clipping my cringey comments to distract from his career of corruption.

O'KEEFE: Paxton has declined multiple CBS News requests for an interview. This race is expected to shatter spending records. President Trump today said he's keeping close tabs and plans to come campaign here for Paxton, Tony.

DOKOUPIL: And, Ed, I'm sure you will be back as well. Thank you very much.