

CBS Mornings

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7:00:20 a.m. [TEASE]

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GAYLE KING:plus a big victory for President Trump in a key Senate primary.

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7:07:35 a.m.

2 minutes and 34 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; Paxton Routs Cornyn in Texas GOP Primary]

VLADIMIR DUTHIERS: Now to a big win for a Trump-backed candidate in the Texas Senate primary. Attorney General Ken Paxton crushed longtime Senator John Cornyn, who President Trump called “disloyal.” It’s another sign of the President’s stronghold on the GOP, but some Republicans are worried about the result. Ed O’Keefe is in Austin. Ed, good morning.

ED O’KEEFE: Vlad, as they say, everything is bigger in Texas, and this was for sure the definition of a big thumping last night, a huge upset for four-term Senator John Cornyn, but another big win for President Trump, setting up what now is going to be one of the most expensive, high-stakes contests of this campaign here.

TEXAS ATTORNEY GENERAL KEN PAXTON (R): Tonight, we just said a Texas-sized message to Washington.

O’KEEFE: Ken Paxton, the Texas Attorney General, knocked out four-term Senator John Cornyn, the second time this month a sitting Republican Senator has lost a primary.

SENATOR JOHN CORNYN (R-TX): I trust the voters of Texas, and they made their decision.

O’KEEFE: In big part because of one factor:

PAXTON: One person, though, I think you might know, President Donald J. Trump, President

O’KEEFE: Trump backed Paxton, citing his loyalty and alignment with the MAGA movement.

PAXTON: When everybody in Washington told him to abandon me and abandon the people of Texas, he didn’t listen.

O’KEEFE: Paxton has faced years of investigations and an impeachment attempt, rooted in multiple allegations of personal and official corruption. He’s denied it all.

PAXTON: I will be the Democrats’ number one target in November.

O'KEEFE: His Democratic opponent, James Talarico, wasted no time Tuesday night.

TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE JAMES TALARICO (D): The most corrupt politician in America just became the Republican nominee for the United States Senate. [SCREEN WIPE] It's time to come together: The People versus Ken Paxton.

O'KEEFE: Talarico is a state representative. He's amassed tens of millions of dollars, hoping to win back a Senate seat for Democrats for the first time since 1988. A one-time seminarian, he calls himself a Christian progressive. Paxton calls him radical.

PAXTON: James Talarico is a threat to everything we hold dear in the state and in this country. He's a threat to our security and our safety.

O'KEEFE: Now, to give you a sense of how expensive this general election could be. They've already spent \$130 million in advertising in this state with Republicans amongst themselves. Talarico has raised tens of millions of dollars more. Very likely this is going to be one of the most expensive contests of the year, and ultimately could be the one that determines who controls the Senate after November, Nate.

NATE BURLESON: Right about that, Ed. Thank you.