



## Punch #55

### Texas House: Reps vital to El Paso's future

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El Paso's state legislative delegation is our link to Austin, our chance to initiate, create and change policy, and our chance to make El Paso's wishes and needs known. A strong, united delegation is essential to El Paso, so it is important to make informed choices in those races.

□ State representative, District 78 -- The headline race for El Paso this year is in the Republican Primary contest for state representative, District 78, with incumbent Pat Haggerty going against Dee Margo.

The El Paso Times recommends that voters return Pat Haggerty to Austin.

Haggerty has experience and seniority, both of which can pay important dividends in Austin when wheeling and dealing on legislation.

One of Haggerty's most valuable accomplishments was his role in bringing a veterans' home to El Paso. In an area with such a considerable veterans' population, and during a time when veterans' treatment is being seriously questioned, Haggerty came through.

However, Haggerty's most recent shining moment came when he stood up against House Speaker Tom Craddick, a mini-dictator who, among his other accomplishments, held up funding for El Paso's medical school.

We need people like Haggerty in Austin, people who will fight for what is right and risk political damage by doing the right thing, standing up for the right causes, and working for what is in El Paso's best interests.

We need a representative who is not in the pockets of the moneyed interests. We need someone with years of

experience in his district and who understands his district's and El Paso's needs on a basic, grass-roots level.

Pat Haggerty is the choice for District 78 in the Republican Primary.

□ **State representative, District 77 -- Veteran legislator and dean of the Texas House Paul Moreno should be returned to office by voters in the Democratic Primary.**



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Moreno has consistently taken up the cause of the poor and the underserved. He admittedly chooses to work behind the scenes most of the time and has done so successfully in areas such as public education.

He is also known as the "Conscience of the Texas House" because he doesn't hesitate to speak out loudly when he perceives that legislative matters aren't heading down the right path.

It would be to El Paso's benefit if Moreno took a more upfront and proactive role in creating and passing legislation. El Paso needs the leverage his seniority and contacts provide.

Moreno's tenure and passion for the underdog are needed in the House. Democrats should vote to return him for another session.

State representative, District 78 -- Democrats should choose Joseph E. Moody as their challenger who will battle a Republican in the November elections. Moody grew up in District 78 and didn't have to move there to become a viable candidate. He said, "It's not just time to make a difference, it's time to make changes."

Good.

He said District 78 is becoming more and more progressive and more Democratic over the years. The election will prove the truth of that, but Moody's brashness and self-confidence are well-received.

Moody wants to work to improve the education system and the associated property taxes. He maintains that the state has shirked its responsibility when it comes to health care and education.

Moody's progressive thinking is welcome. Democrats should vote for Joseph Moody in the primary.