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THIS WEEK IN POLITICS

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By Alan Greenblatt

Prominent officials in Arkansas and Texas turned back conservative challenges to their authority in Republican primaries Tuesday.

In Texas, state House Speaker Joe Straus and most of his allies survived a primary fight brought by conservatives who complained that Straus is too liberal. Some Republicans complain that Straus -- who's less hardline than his Senate counterpart -- has been insufficiently loyal to some conservative causes, such as school choice.

Right-wing groups, including Empower Texans, spent heavily on primary challenges against Straus and his allies. All told, an eye-popping \$8 million was spent on just the four races that involved Straus and three members of his leadership team.

One of them, state Rep. Byron Cook, prevailed by just 222 votes. Most, though, enjoyed healthier margins. State Rep. Charlie Geren achieved a comparatively comfortable win over Bo French, a former business partner of "American Sniper" Chris Kyle, whose widow complained that French had cheated her in business. KEEP READING >> <http://marketing.erepublic.com/acton/ct/16245/s-0685-1603/Bct/q-0b40/l-sf-contact-0013:abb4/ct8_0/1?sid=4E11wv09Z>

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One of the nation's most prominent libertarian legal activists is the newest member of the Arizona Supreme Court.

[Where Have All the Democratic Ag Commissioners Gone?](http://marketing.erepublic.com/acton/ct/16245/s-0685-1603/Bct/q-0b40/l-sf-contact-0013:abb4/ct10_0/1?sid=4E11wv09Z)

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At one time, the statewide office was mostly held by conservative Democrats. Now Republicans dominate.

Stuck in a State of Disarray, Maine Politics Stand Still

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Divided government is always challenging, but what's happening in Maine right now -- where Gov. Paul LePage and the legislature are barely on speaking terms -- is an exercise in extreme political hostility.

'It Should Be on HBO Boxing': Cuomo vs. de Blasio

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New York governors and mayors have often squabbled, but no one can remember a time when relations were worse -- and costing New York City so much.

The Secret Promises That Candidates Make

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People running for public office fill out a lot of questionnaires for interest groups. The public ought to know what the candidates are saying.

The 5 Principles of Integrity in Elections

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As this election year unfolds, our voting process will face intense scrutiny. A commitment to ethics is essential.