Student 1

POLS 2306

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**Texas Current Events Essay: 2014 Gubernatorial Race**

In the *Wall Street Journal* article, it highlights how Attorney General Greg Abbott is almost double digits ahead of Texas Senator Wendy Davis. This comes as a surprise to several Democrats because they thought she would be the candidate to be the first Democrat to win a Texas statewide race in almost 2 decades. Greg Abbott has shown to be an exceptionally skilled candidate by avoiding major gaffes and kept a low profile.

President Obama and his supporters are working with Wendy David to try and turn Texas blue. Davis’ campaign is emphasizing education and reaching out to Hispanic voters-a rapidly growing demographic in Texas. However, these efforts are looking to be futile because polls show there is little interest in politics this year. Numerous Texas Democrats suggest Davis’s campaign is facing an uphill battle.

This article relates to several concepts in *Inside Texas Politics*. For instance, Wendy Davis came to national prominence through her unsuccessful efforts to **filibuster** an anti-abortion bill (**p. 227**). A filibuster is when a senator holds the floor and prevents the chamber from moving forward on legislation. In other words, they try to “talk” a bill to “death.” Davis’s filibuster received national media attention; however, it does not seem to be helping her electoral prospects. Second, this article touched upon **partisan identification** (**p. 227**). Texas has become a blue state to a red state in recent years. Texans are conservative, religious, and overwhelmingly Republican. The partisan context is a significant reason for Wendy Davis’s low poll numbers. Voters who identify as a Republican will most likely not support a Democratic gubernatorial candidate.

Finally, the article indirectly refers to Texas’s **plural executive** (**p. 52**). Texas directly elects several cabinet positions such as Attorney General, Land Commissioner, Agriculture Commissioner. Other states (i.e., Maine) have these positions appointed by the governor. This concept is referenced by the article because they state no Democrat has won a statewide position in almost two decades. Additionally, the interview Democratic candidates for some of these executive branch positions to comment on the Davis’s campaign.

Overall, this article highlights how Wendy Davis’s campaign will most likely not be successful. Greg Abbott will most likely win because he is a qualified challenger, and the state is overwhelmingly Republican. Additionally, this article relates to several concepts within our textbook.

**References**

Koppel, Nathan. 2014. “Wendy Davis Struggles to Gain Traction in Texas Governor’s Race.” *Wall Street Journal*, October 5. https://www.wsj.com/articles/wendy-davis-struggles-to-gain-traction-in-texas-governors-race-1412546361.

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