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Rice University's Dr. Robert Stein presents synopsis of mid-term elections to BAHEP members

Robert M. Stein, Ph.D., Rice University's expert on urban politics, public policy, and voting behavior, shared his outlook on the 2018 mid-term elections before a large luncheon gathering of members of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership on Nov. 13th at the Hilton Houston NASA Clear Lake.

Stein began by asking, "Let me give you a question and answer that question with a lot of ambiguity, which is what academics do. What happened?" He noted the obvious and

said that the election was unusual. However, was it what political scientists sometimes call a deviating election? He really didn't think so and explained, "There are three variables — three things that matter. One is trends — trends and the demography of the state. The demography of the state includes, age, race, ethnicity, people who move in, people who move out, people who die, and who replaces those people who die. The second variable is what I call candidates. Candidates really do matter. A good candidate is a man or

woman who has run before, has raised money, and has gotten voters' support. The third variable is the brand. The brand is the party brand and the brand that President Trump now owns."

Reviewing the facts

Stein reviewed the facts of the recent election explaining, "At the state and congressional levels, Democrats picked up two congressional seats, and 12 Texas House seats changed hands from the Republicans to the Democrats giving the Democrats 67 seats and 83 for the Republicans. There were county-wide sweeps of district judges in Fort Bend, Dallas, and Harris counties.

Of the eight congressional races that Republicans won with incumbents, not one of them had a margin of more than 53 percent. They were barely able to beat challengers. What's even more interesting, of the 17 Texas House seats that Republicans were able to retain with margins of less than 53 percent, 11 of the Democratic candidates they faced were women. My point is demography. This is not your grandfather's state. It's not your grandfather's city. It's not your

grandfather's precinct."

Historic voter turnout

He noted that in Democratic precincts and counties, this election was historic for turnouts — 92 percent of the turnout for the 2016 election. Republican precincts and counties averaged 97 to 98 percent of the Republican turnout in the 2016 election.

Stein said that historically Republicans have always done well in the mid-terms. It's the Democrats who didn't do well. They just didn't show up. In this mid-term, they showed up.

In June, July, and August, there were about 100,000 new voters registered in Harris County. Over half were under the age of 35. Stein explained, "Those who move into the state are bringing with them partisan preferences, and, no, they don't change. This simple demography that's going on in this state is like a glacier. It just moves slowly every year. If the future of Texas



Robert M. Stein, Ph.D., presents a synopsis of the 2018 mid-term elections to a luncheon gathering of members the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership on Nov. 13, 2018, at the Hilton Houston NASA Clear Lake.

ply reflects what is out there. This is not a change that has happened quickly, but once it starts changing, you can't reverse that. It's not about candidates or even about issues."

Stein concluded his presentation with a prediction saying, "I think that the Republicans are going to have to find new candidates. The problem now is that more voters are leaving that electorate and being replaced by the offspring of children who were born 20, 30, 40 years ago. They do not replace that electorate. That doesn't even include Republicans and Independents who may have swung.

"Looking at 2020, I would expect to see more retirements. A new census will take place in 2020, and a tight redistricting will follow. I would even argue that it would be better if Texas didn't get three new seats. There are just not enough Republican voters to support 29 (out of potentially 39) congressional seats. It's hard enough to redistrict with 36 and protect important committee chairmen."

has partially become diversified — blacks, gays, lesbians, Hispanics — and your party isn't on that side of history, it's going to be hard."

He continued, "It's possible that this was just a bad election, and Republicans are going to recover. Let me say that this may not be the case. The country and the state are becoming more diversified, and the Republican Party is not. Now, that's a challenge.

"Am I saying that Texas is becoming Democratic? No. It's a red state, but it's a competitive state that sim-



City of Houston Council Member Dave Martin (left) and Bob Mitchell, president of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, enjoy a quick conversation with other BAHEP luncheon attendees prior to Stein's presentation on the mid-term elections.

BAHEP welcomes investment services firm, medical center, and commercial real estate group

Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.

Since its founding in 1971, Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. has grown from a small discount brokerage to a leading investment services firm with more total assets than any publicly traded investment services firm in the U.S., the #1 custodian for independent advisors, and a leader in asset management and retirement planning. The Webster, Texas, office of the firm has recently joined the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership.

BAHEP President Bob Mitchell commented,

"Investing in the future is one of the most important financial decisions one can make. Most of us need guidance in navigating the world of investments, and Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. has been providing such guidance successfully for almost five decades. We are happy to welcome Schwab's Webster office as one of our newest members."

Danny Jones is a vice president and senior financial consultant with Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. and will represent the Webster office within BAHEP. He said, "At Schwab we always put the client first. Schwab was built around this simple idea, and, from my perspective, Schwab and BAHEP have this trait very much in common. I look forward to working together."

Jones also offered more about Schwab saying, "At Schwab, we set out to challenge the status quo and look for ways to offer our clients more value and a better experience. We believe in the power of investing, are champions of investors, and look at the world through our clients' eyes in every perspective of what we do. We offer investors a contemporary, full-service approach to build and manage their wealth. We help investors, employers, and employees take ownership of their financial futures."

Schwab's clients include families, business owners,

and institutions. The Webster office is located at 19205 Gulf Freeway. For additional information, call 281.486.2514 or visit www.schwab.com.

CHI St. Luke's Health Patients Medical Center

The healthcare sector of the Bay Area Houston region has seen significant growth over the past several years. From I-45 and Beltway 8

vital to a community's quality of life, and having exceptional healthcare close to home is very important. CHI St. Luke's Health Patients Medical Center provides many essential services, and we gladly welcome the facility to our membership."

Steven Foster, CEO, and Kellie Spellman, Director of Business Development and Marketing, will represent Patients Medical Center within BAHEP. Foster

diagnostic imaging, outpatient rehab services, and sleep disorders.

CHI St. Luke's Health Patients Medical Center is located at 4600 E. Sam Houston Parkway South, Pasadena, Texas 77505 near the intersection of Beltway 8 and Crenshaw Road. For additional information, visit www.CHISLukesPMC.org or call 713.948.7000.

Criss Cross Commercial Group

Criss Cross Commercial Group develops, manages, and leases commercial real estate. The company's primary focus is small-tenant, convenience, and service-oriented retail properties. The firm has recently joined the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership.

"Business is definitely booming in Bay Area Houston," said BAHEP President Bob Mitchell. He



traveling south, the region offers services that could once only be found in the Texas Medical Center or on Galveston Island. Adding its services to the region since 2007, CHI St. Luke's Health Patients Medical Center provides inpatient and outpatient medical and surgical services to residents of Pasadena, Deer Park, La Porte, Baytown, and Clear Lake. The facility has become one of the newest members of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership.

BAHEP President Bob Mitchell noted, "Our region has much to offer its residents, businesses, and industries. Healthcare is so

commented, "There are many excellent healthcare facilities in our area, but we believe that Patients Medical Center's strength lies not only in its expert care but also in its size and central location, which provide our patients with the services they need along with ease of access. Kellie and I look forward to engaging with BAHEP and furthering our support of the healthcare requirements of the region."

Patients Medical Center includes 61 licensed private beds with the latest surgical and endoscopic technology and two convenient emergency room locations to address any community healthcare need.

Patients Medical Center offers a range of primary and specialized services — wound care, general surgery, gastroenterology, occupational health, heart and vascular, women's services,



added, "Firms with the expertise of Criss Cross Commercial Group serve to keep the economy moving while returning value to their clients. They are an important and necessary cog in the wheel of economic development, and we look forward to working together on behalf of the region."

Executive Director Ryan Dennard of Criss Cross Commercial Group stated, "Since 2003, Criss Cross Commercial Group has

been partnering with our businesses to help them reach their dreams and become successful entrepreneurs. All of this takes a great deal of teamwork, and I know that it also takes a great deal of teamwork within BAHEP to accomplish its goals. I'm excited to join BAHEP, an organization whose work has helped to fuel the success of many, many businesses across the region."

Criss Cross Commercial Group's primary clients are small-space retail businesses, including national, regional, and local companies. The company also develops and maintains relationships with commercial real estate brokers who are conduits to many of those client relationships.

Dennard spoke more of Criss Cross saying, "Our experience includes land development, ground-up development, and value-add redevelopment and asset repositioning. The company also offers and arranges limited asset-backed financing for value-add transactions. Our firm has the ability to combine creative deal structures,

where necessary, with sophisticated transaction due diligence and analysis. The company's decision making in its retail real estate efforts is demand-driven, based on maximizing revenue opportunities for business users of those assets."

Criss Cross Commercial Group is located at 12621 Featherwood Drive, Suite 330, Houston, Texas 77034. For additional information, call the office at 713.956.6625 or visit www.crisscrosscg.com.

BUSINESS to BUSINESS is a monthly Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership publication in partnership with THE DAILY NEWS. BAHEP is a member-driven organization that provides the leadership to stimulate regional economic development and employment in southeastern Texas. Its members include more than 265 business partners encompassing 13 cities, Galveston and Harris counties, the Houston Airport System, and Port Houston. For membership information, contact Membership Director Harriet Pilgrim at 832.536.3250.

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