

Fort Bend County, Texas: A Case Study in Demographic & Political Change

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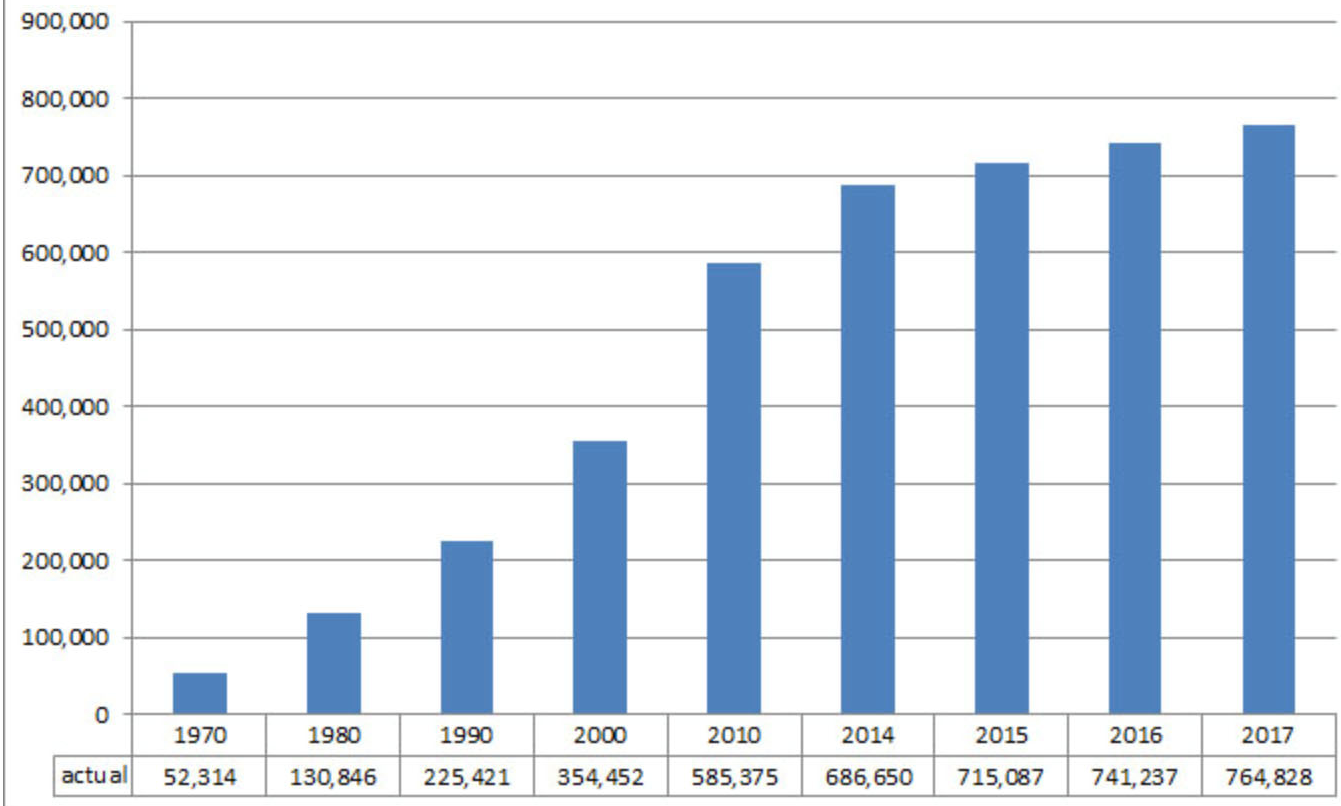
Fort Bend County, Texas



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HOBBY SYMPOSIUM SERIES 2018

Population Growth 1970 - 2017 (est.)



*source United States Census Bureau

Racial/Ethnic Change in Fort Bend County: 2000 – 2017

Year	2000	2010	2017
Total Population	354,452	585,375	764,828
White/Anglo %	46%	36%	33%
African American %	20%	22%	22%
Hispanic/Latino %	21%	24%	25%
Asian American %	12%	18%	20%

Two Party Vote in Top of the Ticket Contests in Fort Bend County: 1996 - 2018

Year	Contest	GOP Vote	DEM Vote	GOP % Advantage
1996	President	49,945	38,163	+ 13.4%
1998	Lt. Governor	32,478	26,262	+ 10.6%
2000	President	73,567	47,569	+ 21.4%
2002	U.S. Senator	49,453	37,395	+ 13.8%
2004	President	93,625	68,722	+ 15.4%
2006	U.S. Senator	57,530	37,594	+ 21.0%
2008	President	103,206	98,328	+ 2.4%
2010	Governor	71,658	65,432	+ 4.6%
2012	President	116,126	101,144	+ 6.8%
2014	Governor	73,749	56,825	+ 13.0%
2016	President	117,291	134,686	- 7.0%
2018	U.S. Senator	111,423	142,399	- 12.2%

Source: Office of Texas Secretary of State

Down-Ballot Results in County-Wide Race in Fort Bend County: 2008 – 2018

Year	Number of Contested Races	Races Won By GOP	Races Won By DEM
2008	2	2	0
2010	8	8	0
2012	5	5	0
2014	5	5	0
2016	4	4	0
2018	12	0	12

Source: Election Office, Fort Bend County

Fort Bend County Summary Points

- Changing demographics + strong immediate stimuli can drive very big short-term shifts in electoral behavior. We saw that in California in the 1990s; now Fort Bend in the 2010s.
- The 2018 Democratic success was not just at top-of-the-ticket as was the case in 2016. Rather, overall turnout was up, and straight-ticket Democratic voting carried every county-wide nominee in Fort Bend to victory.
- Nationally, the 2016 exit poll showed Asian American voters breaking for Hillary Clinton by 65% to 27%. In 2018 congressional midterm Democrats had a 77% to 23% edge. Preliminary analysis in Fort Bend supports the same shift.

Fort Bend County Summary Points

(continued)

- The Asian American vote in Texas and nationwide is still small (around four percent), but both are growing rapidly and Asian voters are strategically located in suburban districts in large metropolitan areas like Houston, Dallas and Austin. And their presence overlaps with the suburban, educated female voters who moved sharply away from the GOP in 2016 and 2018.
- All the Democratic gains in Texas in 2018 were in these suburban districts. Plus, Republicans held on to many other districts, but by much smaller margins than expected.
- Given high likelihood the GOP will rally behind President Trump in 2019/2020, there is good reason to think the shifts observed among Asian American voters since 2015 will continue in 2018.