

EDITORIALS

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Endorsements For Key Local Races Preferred

Early voting in the March 2 primary races begins Tuesday and lasts through Feb. 26. The Tyler Paper offers these endorsements for selected local primary races:

State Representative, District 11

State Rep. Chuck Hopson is clearly the strongest candidate in the District 11 race. We believe his return to Austin will benefit East Texas.

Hopson, a conservative Democrat until last fall when he switched parties, is being challenged in the Republican primary by two opponents, Dr. Michael Banks and Allen Cain.

Both seem to be well-intentioned, but they both show a lack of understanding of the office and both seem to be running on the platform of being more Republican than Hopson.

Hopson's experience and effectiveness will be vital to East Texas, particularly as the state begins the process of redistricting and grapples with a budget shortfall that could top \$17 billion.

Hopson has proven himself to be a savvy, serious state representative, accessible to the public and to the media, and accountable to the voters.