

What's the Big Deal with the Railroad Commission? Why so many candidates?

The Texas Railroad Commission has nothing to do with the railroads, but... here is the big deal.

The Railroad Commission is responsible for:

Oil and Gas Industry (*including enforcement of environmental regulations, permitting wells, ensuring the safety of groundwater, and supervising pipelines.*)

Alternative Fuels

Mining and Exploration (*Texas is the largest consumer of coal in the United States and in 2013 was the sixth largest coal-producing state.*)

Pipeline Safety

Safety in the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) Industry

The Commission has three commissioners, each elected for a six year term. One commissioner is elected every two years. So every two years, there are a group of candidates interested in the influential position.

(FYI: Railroads in Texas are regulated by a number of entities: Texas Department of Transportation, National Transportation Safety Board, Amtrak and the Federal Railroad Administration.)

Texas Railroad website: <http://www.rrc.state.tx.us/about-us/>

