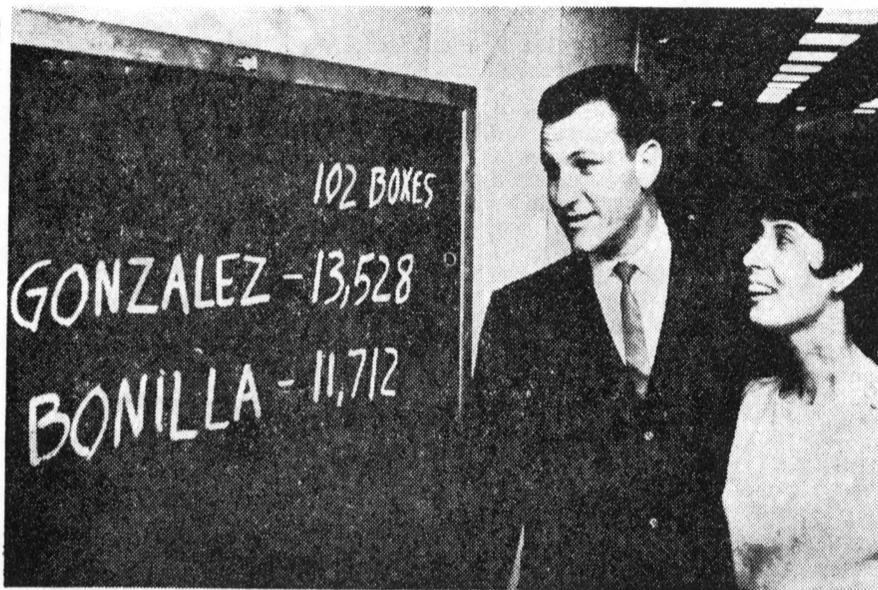


# Gonzalez Captures House Nomination



**AL GONZALEZ AND HIS WIFE LOOK AT INCOMPLETE RETURNS**  
... he won state representative nomination by an edge of 2,054 votes

## Newcomer To Test Scoggins

By SPENCER PEARSON

A heavy westside turnout at the polls yesterday gave Al Gonzalez victory in the Democratic primary runoff election over incumbent Tony Bonilla.

Gonzalez edged Bonilla with nearly 54 per cent of the vote in the bitterly fought race.

Complete, but unofficial returns from the county's 103 boxes including the absentee vote, gave Gonzalez 14,074 votes to 12,020 for Bonilla—a margin of 2,054 ballots.

Gonzalez carried 52 boxes, while Bonilla carried 50 plus the absentee box.

### Westside Vote Heavy

Voting was comparatively heavy among the Westside boxes and Precincts 13 and 35 at Robstown, most of which went for Gonzalez. A number of Westside boxes voted more than 50 per cent of the potential.

On the other hand, Southside boxes had a light turnout, many of the larger ones voting less than one-third of the potential. Bonilla carried most of the Southside boxes, but not with as wide a margin as Gonzalez carried the Westside boxes.

The heaviest vote in the county was in Precinct 13 at Robstown, where 1,063 out of a possible 2,092 cast ballots. The precinct gave 602 votes to Gonzalez and 448 to Bonilla.

In Precinct 35 at Robstown, 985 voted, with Gonzalez getting 513 votes to Bonilla's 472.

Precinct 65, a Southside box, has 1,760 eligible voters, but only 502 votes, giving Bonilla 302 votes to 191 for Gonzalez. Bonilla lives in the precinct.

### To Face Scoggins

With the Democratic nomination in his pocket, Gonzalez will face Republican Charles Scoggins, a former state representative, in the No. 8 general election.

Gonzalez was jubilant over his victory in his first political race.

"This has been a very happy day for me, and I wish to thank all of the voters of Nueces County who expressed their confidence in me," he said.

"I shall not let them or my party down in November."

Gonzalez said, "The hundreds of persons from all parts of the county and from all walks of life who made this victory possible, I am sure, will be working with the same enthusiasm, the same dedication and the same energy in November."

"In giving me such a broad base of support and such an outstanding vote of confidence, the people of Nueces County

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have given me a mandate without commitments," he said.

"I pledge sincerely to be guided by a constant determination to be fully informed on all issues, to seek opinions and guidance from all concerned, and to make my own decisions based on what I believe is best for all the people of Nueces County."

### Gracious Loser

Bonilla, who said he had expected to win, accepted defeat graciously.

"I'm grateful to the many wonderful people of Nueces County who supported me," he said. "My wife and children and I are happy that I have had the opportunity to serve in Austin—the biggest honor I ever received."

"I will continue to actively participate in the civic and political organizations that will help our community prosper."

"I feel that, because of the type of campaign waged against me, I am a better man, I am closer to my family and I am a better Christian. From this standpoint, I'm a very happy man tonight, despite defeat."

Asked if he would support Gonzalez in the November general election, he said, "I have not looked beyond this race, because I expected to win."

Gonzalez and Bonilla did little campaigning in the south side of the city, concentrating their efforts among west side voters.

### Radio Campaigns

Both carried on a heavy campaign in radio broadcasts in Spanish prior to the election.

Much of the fight was between Gonzalez supporters and Bonilla.

Bonilla and Dr. Hector P. Garcia, long-time Latin American political leader, attacked each other a number of times during the entire political campaign.

The heat generated by the

race was indicated by a statement from Santos de la Paz, publisher of La Verdad, a Spanish-English newspaper which supported Bonilla.

De la Paz said he would support Scoggins in the November general election. De la Paz said he is not a Republican but will vote for Scoggins on the grounds that he is the better man.

Gonzalez, 29, is the owner of Certified Placement Specialists, an employment agency.

He is a native of Corpus Christi, a graduate of Corpus Christi Academy and holds a BBA degree from Texas A&I College. He formerly was an amateur boxer, fighting under the name of Peaches Gonzalez, and was chairman of the 1966 Golden Gloves.

He is a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, the Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Lions Club.

He and his wife, Sharron, and their son, Randal, 3, live at 1121 Bradshaw.

*Thanks for your part in making this possible!  
Sincerely  
An*