

OPINION

How can Texas be relevant in this election?

Faithful letter writer J. Ronald "Star" Carey of Canyon Lake, a retired Army brigadier general, recently sent the New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung's editorial an email suggesting the newspaper survey readers on this question:

What will it take to put Texas in play (in the presidential elections)?

"Since it is given that (Republican Mitt) Romney will win the state, then that means we will get no attention during the next several weeks from either party," Carey wrote. "But, what if the Democrats did something(s) that put us up for grabs?

"Imagine the turmoil that would cause. The thought is delicious."

Indeed, it is.

Texas is one of, if not the, most important and influential states in the nation, yet the Lone Star State hasn't been a major player in recent presidential elections because Republicans and Democrats alike know what the outcome here will be before the candidates are even announced.

Let's face it, folks. You could put lipstick on a pig, put it on the Republican ticket, and the hog probably would have a better-than-average shot at beating even the brightest, most qualified Democrat just because the porker has the GOP's backing.

You might scoff at that proposition, but the real-life situation is almost that surreal.

And that's not good for Texas or the nation. Competition is healthy. Steel sharpens steel.

Mr. Carey has a great idea, and the Herald-Zeitung is pleased to provide a forum for this debate. So ...

What can Democrats could do to make Texas competitive in the presidential election?

You can submit your responses to: Presidential Survey, Herald-Zeitung, P.O. Drawer 311328, New Braunfels, TX 78130; fax (830) 606-3413; in person at 549 Landa St., New Braunfels; or email Managing Editor Shawn Lewis at slewis@herald-zeitung.com. (For time's sake, email is the best method.)

You also can comment 24 hours a day, seven days a week on this editorial at herald-zeitung.com/opinion/editorials.