The results of past elections in recent history are not necessarily predictors of future ones. Lucky for Texas Democrats. But in a couple of other contests at the top of the statewide ballot, the Republicans have increased their margins over Democrats in each election during the last two decades. It’s a steep hill the Democrats are climbing this year. It’s not that they can’t win just that they’re working against a deeply ingrained voting pattern. Republicans not only swept every statewide election starting in 1996, but their margins have been growing steadily. The margins in the top four state races on the ballot every four years when state offices are on the ballot have