

SULPHUR SPRINGS, Texas — A Texas state senator was chosen Saturday as the GOP nominee for John Ratcliffe's former seat in Congress, which he vacated to become President Donald Trump's director of national intelligence.

GOP activists in the rural and heavily Republican 4th Congressional District picked state Sen. Pat Fallon in a party meeting in Sulphur Springs, Texas.

Choosing the nominee fell to a group called the congressional district executive committee because Ratcliffe's confirmation to the intelligence post came after the March primary elections in Texas.

Trump nominated Ratcliffe just months after abruptly ending an earlier effort to install him amid bipartisan criticism that the Texas Republican was unqualified for the post. A sharply divided Senate confirmed Ratcliffe in May, with Democrats unanimously opposing him over fears that he would politicize the intelligence community's work.

Fallon will face Democrat Russell Foster in a race that is not expected to be competitive. Ratcliffe won reelection in the district with more than 75% of the vote in 2018.

Atlanta, Texas, Mayor Travis Ransom had been considered a contender for the district nomination. Bowie County resident Bob Worthen also campaigned for the nomination.