



ReconMR | A&M TEXAS POLL

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Texas Poll:

Early Look at Statewide Races: Too Close to Call

US Senate: **Talarico 46%** **Paxton 46%**
Governor: **Abbott 49%** **Hinojosa 43%**
Lt. Governor: **Patrick 49%** **Goodwin 44%**
Attorney General: **Middleton 45%** **Johnson 40%**

Voters Say Last Year's Redistricting Was Bad for Democracy 51-38%;
Voters Favor Republicans on the Generic Congressional Ballot 49-43%

Cost of Living Top Issue Followed by Water Supply, Border Security

Trump – Who Carried Texas by 13 Points in '24 – Has Negative Favorability (45-51%) and Job Approval (48-52%) Ratings; Voters Approve of Trump's Job Securing the Border, 57-40%; Disapprove President's Work on Affordability 57-41%

In an early look at November's statewide races, Governor Greg Abbott (R) leads State Representative Gina Hinojosa (D) by six points, according to the inaugural Texas Poll of likely Texas voters released today. The [Texas Poll](#), a new partnership between the Texas A&M Bush School and [ReconMR](#), similarly finds the races for Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General are both three-point races. State Representative James Talarico (D) and Ken Paxton (R) are tied at 46-46%. Voters favor Republicans for Congress over Democrats by six points, 49-43%.

Voters say that last year's redistricting was bad rather than good for democracy, 51-38%. When asked to name the most important and second most important issues facing Texans, 61% say the cost of living is one of their top two issues, followed by water supply, 33%, border security, 27%, the war in Iran, 24%, crime, 23%, and disaster preparedness, 9%. President Donald Trump has a negative 48-52% job approval rating and a similarly negative favorability rating, 45-51%. Likely voters approve of Trump's job securing the border, 57-40%, and are split on his ability to make Americans proud to be Americans 50-47%. Voters disapprove of his job making prices affordable, 57-41%, and ending wars, 53-44%.

“Just a couple weeks after many Texas voters cast their primary ballots, it appears that we’re poised – at least at this point – for competitive statewide races this November. Democrats and Republicans are standing firm with their parties,” ReconMR Senior Research Analyst Lindsey Hendren said. “Independent voters favor the Democratic candidates in the four statewide races. Republican candidates lead among men by between 9 and 17 points. It will be worth watching independents and how that gender gap plays out as the election draws closer.”

More voters have a favorable view of Talarico, compared with Paxton; Talarico has a 39-34% favorability rating and Paxton’s favorability rating is 34-52%. Abbott has a favorability rating of 46-48% and Hinojosa has a 31-18% favorability rating (52% have either never heard of her or don’t know enough about

her to have an opinion). The candidates for Attorney General and Lieutenant Governor are even more unknown. State Senator Mayes Middleton (R) has a favorability rating of 23-23% (54% unsure); State Senator Nathan Johnson (D) 12-13% (75% unsure). Incumbent Lt. Governor Dan Patrick (R) has a favorability rating of 32-40%; State Representative Vikki Goodwin (D) 14-11% (75% are unsure).

“Voters favor Republicans for Congress over Democrats, 49-43%,” Hendren said. “Young voters are more in favor of a Democratic candidate, 63-31%. Among voters ages 65 and older, 56% would vote for the Republican and 39% the Democrat.

“As we look towards the general election, it’s important to note that Texas is among many states that have recently redrawn their congressional maps for partisan advantage – either for the Republicans or the Democrats. The Supreme Court’s April ruling upheld the Texas Legislature’s effort. Half (51%) of voters say that this redistricting is bad for democracy, while 38% say it is good. Partisanship sharply divides views: 71% of Republicans say the new map is good for democracy, compared with just 3% of Democrats,” Hendren said.

2026 Elections in Texas					
If the election was held today, who would you vote for if the candidates were:					
		Total	Dems	Reps	Ind/Oth
Senator	Ken Paxton	46%	0%	87%	36%
	James Talarico	46%	97%	8%	50%
	Someone else	3%	1%	2%	5%
Representative in Congress	The Republican	49%	0%	95%	39%
	The Democrat	43%	99%	2%	45%
	Someone else	1%	1%	0%	2%
Governor	Greg Abbott	49%	1%	93%	40%
	Gina Hinojosa	43%	94%	4%	47%
	Someone else	2%	1%	1%	3%
Attorney General	Mayes Middleton	45%	1%	87%	33%
	Nathan Johnson	40%	91%	4%	42%
	Someone else	2%	2%	1%	2%
Lieutenant Governor	Dan Patrick	49%	2%	92%	40%
	Vikki Goodwin	44%	95%	5%	49%
	Someone else	1%	1%	0%	2 %
Texas Poll: June 9, 2026					

Cost of Living Tops Most Important Issues Facing Texans

When asked, 61% of voters say the cost of living is one of the top two most important issues to them (40% say single most important issue). Water supply and border security are also important issues for likely voters. A third say water supply is among the top two most important issues (16% single most important) and 27% say border security (16% say it is the single most important). Nearly all, 98%, say cost of living is very (86%) or somewhat (12%) important. Similarly, 97% say water supply is very or somewhat important to them. And large majorities, 85%, say border security is very or somewhat important. “Cost of living remains the defining issue in both America and Texas,” Veteran pollster and Texas A&M Visting Professor Clifford Young said.

Most Important Issue Facing Texans				
Single and Second Most Important Issues				
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind/Oth
Cost of living	61%	77%	46%	64%
Water supply	33%	39%	28%	33%
Border security	27%	6%	49%	21%
War in Iran	24%	25%	24%	23%
Crime	23%	14%	30%	23%
Disaster preparedness	9%	15%	5%	11%
Other	17%	19%	13%	17%
Texas Poll: June 9, 2026				

“Cost of living ranks as a top concern for both Democrats (77%) and Republicans (46%). By contrast, concern about border security is far more concentrated among Republicans, with just 6% of Democrats citing it as a top concern, compared with 49% of Republicans,” Young said.

“Cost of living is especially salient among younger Texas voters. Nearly three-quarters of voters under 35 (72%) and those ages 35–49 (72%) identify it as their top two most important issues. That figure declines to 60% among voters ages 50–64 and 54% among those 65 and older,” Young said. “This pattern is not surprising, as younger voters are generally less financially secure and face greater affordability pressures.”

Trump’s Approval & Favorability Ratings Both Underwater

In the 2024 election, President Trump carried Texas by 13 points. Now, his approval rating is 48-52% among voters. Trump’s favorability mirrors his approval at 45-51%.

“Midterm elections are shaped by both local conditions and the national political environment, and presidential approval remains one of the clearest indicators of that broader climate,” Texas A&M Professor of Political Science Kirby Goidel said.

“While President Trump remains more popular in Texas than he is nationally, our survey finds that more Texans disapprove than approve of his performance. The divisions are particularly pronounced across demographic groups. Men, older voters, rural Texans, and white voters remain more supportive of the president, while women and younger voters express considerably less support,” Goidel said.

The issue-specific ratings are equally revealing. Texans give President Trump his strongest marks on border security, but his weakest ratings on making prices more affordable. That suggests concerns about everyday economic conditions

Trump Administration: Second Term, Year Two					
Tell me whether you approve or disapprove of Trump's handling of each of these issues in the 2 nd year of his 2 nd term:					
		Total	Dem	Rep	Ind/Oth
Securing America's border with Mexico	Approve	57%	14%	93%	51%
	Disapprove	40%	83%	6%	45%
	In the middle	2%	2%	1%	2%
Ending wars around the world	Approve	44%	8%	77%	34%
	Disapprove	53%	92%	20%	61%
	In the middle	1%	0%	2%	2%
Making prices more affordable for average Americans	Approve	41%	10%	70%	32%
	Disapprove	57%	89%	28%	64%
	In the middle	2%	0%	2%	3%
Making Americans proud to be Americans	Approve	50%	7%	90%	40%
	Disapprove	47%	92%	8%	56%
	In the middle	1%	0%	1%	2%
Texas Poll: June 9, 2026					

continue to weigh heavily on voters, even in a state where Republicans maintain significant electoral advantages.”

Odds & Ends

- Voters are sour on the direction of the country. By 57-39%, voters say the country is headed in the wrong direction, rather than on the right track. Voters are less negative on the direction of Texas. By 45-44%, voters think Texas is headed in the wrong direction. Half (49%) of Texans say the fiscal condition of Texas is excellent or good, 47% say it's only fair or poor.
- Governor Greg Abbott has an approval rating that is slightly positive 50-48%. Hurricane season has just begun and voters view his response to natural disasters negatively. Half of voters, 51%, say he's doing only a fair or poor job responding to them; 47% say excellent or good.
- Senator Ted Cruz has a 44-51% favorability rating, Senator Jon Cornyn 30-48%, and ICE 45-50%.
- Owner of the Dallas Cowboys, Jerry Jones, has an 18-30% favorability rating.

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This Texas Poll was conducted by ReconMR from June 1-4, 2026, among 807 Likely Texas Voters. Of the 807 respondents, all were contacted through a dual frame (landline and cell phone) mode. Telephone calls were conducted in English and Spanish and respondent sampling was initiated by asking for the listed name. The landline telephone sample and the cell phone sample were obtained from L-2 database of registered voters. All coding of open-ended responses were conducted by human coders. Data from collection modes were weighted to balance sample demographics to match estimates for Texas's population using data from the state voter file, on age, region, race/ethnicity, education, party identification, a combined measure of stated and derived vote likelihood, and gender to ensure representativeness. It has an overall margin of error of +/- 4 percentage points, including the design effects resulting from weighting. Sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error and there may be other unmeasured error in this or any other public opinion poll. ReconMR conducts political, economic, social, and cultural research across the United States. ReconMR, an independent, non-partisan research institute, subscribes to the American Association of Public Opinion Research Code of Professional Ethics and Practices. For survey crosstabs: [TexasPollCrosstabs](#)