



# TEXAS CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 9 ELECTION 2026



Hobby School of Public Affairs  
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON



## Texas Congressional District 9 Election 2026

October 2026

The Hobby School of Public Affairs at the University of Houston conducted a representative survey of voters who are expected to cast a ballot in the November 2026 Texas Congressional District 9 election. Voters were contacted via SMS text message and directed to an online survey platform with the option to answer the survey in English or Spanish. The survey was fielded between October 3 and October 7, 2026. The overall sample population of 677 (margin of error of +/- 3.77%) Texas Congressional District 9 likely voters was adjusted via multidimensional calibration weighting using demographic, historical electoral, and geographic benchmarks.

This report provides likely voters' favorable and unfavorable evaluations of the candidates and vote intention in the Texas Congressional District 9 general election, along with the vote intention among Congressional District 9 likely voters in the Texas U.S. Senate and gubernatorial elections.

Texas Congressional District 9 (TX-9) was one of the five Democratic-held congressional districts targeted during the 2025 mid-decade redistricting process in Texas. The boundaries of the district were changed dramatically, with only 3% of the constituents of the new TX-9 (based on the 2025 map) that is being used for the 2026 election presently living in the old (based on the 2021 map) version of TX-9 currently represented by Democratic Congressman Al Green.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the November 2026 Texas Congressional District 9 election, Republican Alex Mealer (48%) leads Democrat Leticia Gutierrez (42%) by 6 percentage points among likely voters, with 10% undecided.

Mealer is viewed favorably by 42% of TX-9 likely voters, and unfavorably by 35%, with 23% not knowing enough about her to have an opinion.

Gutierrez is viewed favorably by 28% of TX-9 likely voters, and unfavorably by 33%, with 39% not knowing enough about her to have an opinion.

President Donald Trump is viewed favorably by 46% of TX-9 likely voters, and unfavorably by 53%, with 1% not knowing enough about him to have an opinion.

In the November 2026 Texas U.S. Senate election, Republican Ken Paxton leads Democrat James Talarico by 1 percentage point among TX-9 likely voters. In the November 2024 Texas U.S. Senate election, Republican Ted Cruz bested Democrat Colin Allred by 12 percentage points in TX-9.

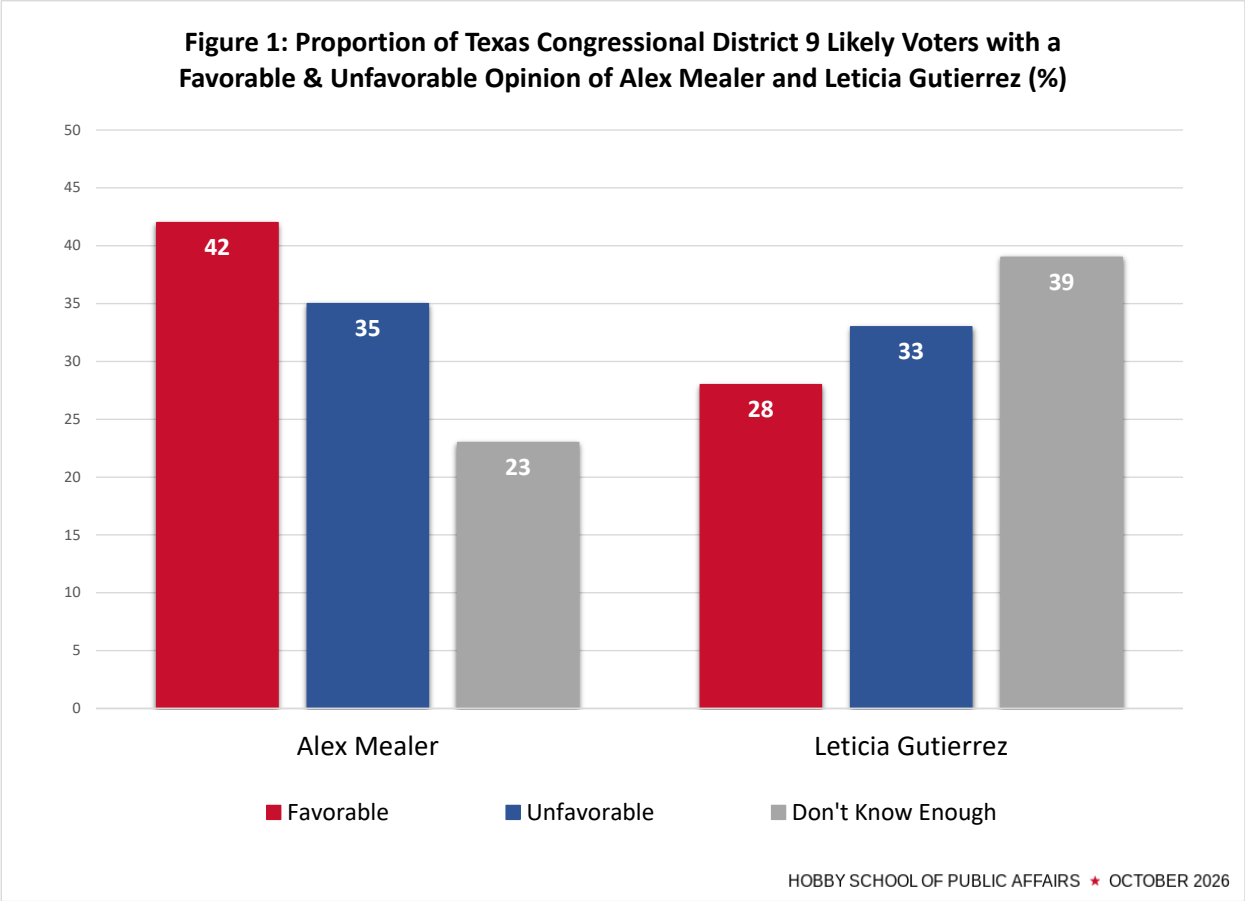
In the November 2026 Texas gubernatorial election, Republican Greg Abbott leads Democrat Gina Hinojosa by 4 percentage points among TX-9 likely voters. In the November 2022 Texas gubernatorial election, Abbott bested Democrat Beto O'Rourke by 13 percentage points in TX-9.

**SURVEY POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS**

Women account for 55% of these TX-9 likely voters, men for 44%, and those whose gender identity is something else for 1%. White Texans represent 49% of these likely voters, Latino Texans 39% and Black Texans 9%, with the remaining 3% spread among those with another ethnic/racial identity or a multiracial identity. More than one-sixth (18%) of the population is between the ages of 18 and 34, 30% are between the ages of 35 and 54, and 52% are age 55 and older. A little more than two-fifths (44%) of the respondents have a four-year college degree, while 56% do not. The distribution of partisan identifiers among these likely voters is 47% Republican, 39% Democrat and 9% Independent, with 4% identifying with another party or group, and 1% unsure of their partisanship. More than four-fifths (82%) of these likely voters live in Harris County, while 18% live in Liberty County. Congressional District 9 is one of nine congressional districts within the boundaries of Harris County but encompasses all of Liberty County.

**THE NOVEMBER 2026 TEXAS CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 9 (TX-9) ELECTION**

Two candidates are on the ballot in the November 2026 Texas Congressional District 9 (TX-9) election: Republican Alex Mealer and Democrat Leticia Gutierrez. Figure 1 provides the proportion of TX-9 likely voters who have a favorable and unfavorable opinion of these two candidates, along with the proportion who do not know enough about Mealer and Gutierrez to have an opinion of them. This question was asked before any mention was made of Mealer and Gutierrez’s respective partisanship.



Mealer is viewed favorably by 42% of TX-9 likely voters and unfavorably by 35%, with 23% not knowing enough about her to have an opinion. Gutierrez is viewed favorably by 28% of TX-9 likely voters and unfavorably by 33%, with 39% not knowing enough about her to have an opinion.

The TX-9 likely voters were also asked about whether they have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of President Donald Trump, with 46% having a favorable opinion and 53% an unfavorable opinion, and 1% not knowing enough to have an opinion.

Finally, the nearly one-fifth of TX-9 likely voters who live in Liberty County were asked if they have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Jay Knight (the county judge of Liberty County). Close to one-half (48%) of likely voters do not know enough about Knight to have an opinion of him, while 32% have a favorable opinion and 20% an unfavorable opinion. The margin of error for this Liberty County analysis is +/- 8.80%).

Figure 2 provides the vote intention among likely voters in the November 2026 TX-9 election. Mealer (48%) leads Gutierrez (42%) by 6 percentage points, with 10% of likely voters still unsure of whom they would vote for in this contest.

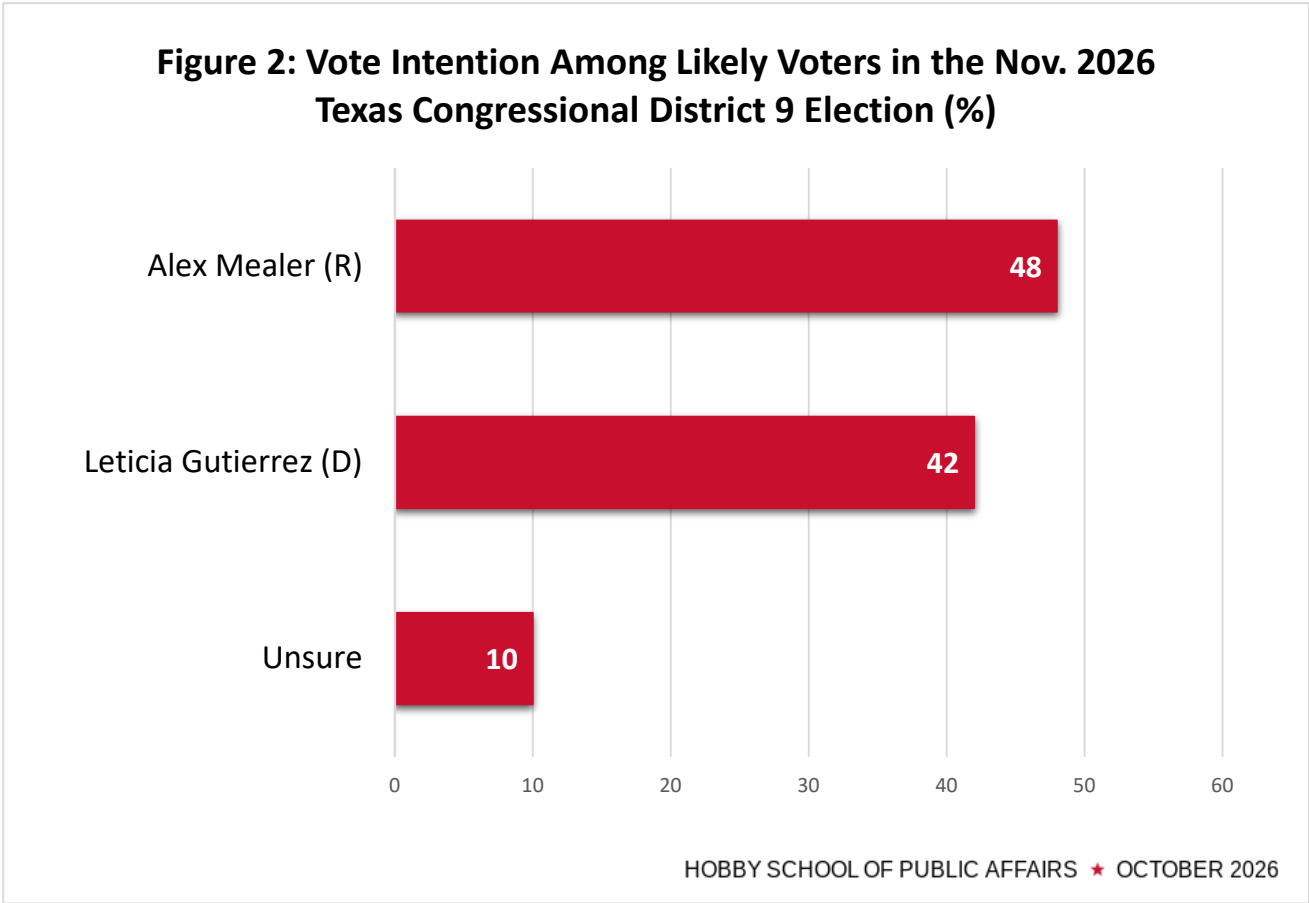


Table 1 provides the vote intention of likely voters in the TX-9 election, broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, age, education, county of residence, partisanship, and vote intention in the 2026 Texas U.S. Senate and Texas gubernatorial elections.

**Table 1: Vote Intention in the Nov. 2026 Texas Congressional District 9 Election, Among Key Sub-Groups (%)**

| Socio-Demographic               | Sub-Group              | Mealer | Gutierrez | Unsure |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|--------|-----------|--------|
| Overall                         |                        | 48     | 42        | 10     |
| Gender                          | Women                  | 44     | 47        | 9      |
|                                 | Men                    | 54     | 35        | 11     |
| Ethnicity/Race                  | White                  | 64     | 30        | 6      |
|                                 | Latino                 | 34     | 54        | 12     |
|                                 | Black                  | 15     | 69        | 16     |
| Age                             | 18-34                  | 24     | 52        | 24     |
|                                 | 35-54                  | 45     | 47        | 8      |
|                                 | 55+                    | 58     | 36        | 6      |
| Education                       | 4 Yr College Degree    | 44     | 45        | 11     |
|                                 | No 4 Yr College Degree | 52     | 39        | 9      |
| County of Residence             | Harris                 | 44     | 45        | 11     |
|                                 | Liberty                | 65     | 28        | 7      |
| Partisanship                    | Democratic             | 0      | 90        | 10     |
|                                 | Independents/Others    | 65     | 17        | 18     |
|                                 | Republican             | 82     | 11        | 7      |
| 2026 U.S. Senate Vote Intention | Paxton                 | 95     | 1         | 4      |
|                                 | Talarico               | 2      | 85        | 13     |
| 2026 Governor Vote Intention    | Abbott                 | 92     | 2         | 6      |
|                                 | Hinojosa               | 2      | 87        | 11     |

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Mealer (54%) leads Gutierrez (35%) by 19 percentage points among men, while the two candidates are very closely matched in regard to their support among women voters, at 44% and 47%, respectively.

Mealer (64%) leads Gutierrez (30%) by 34 percentage points among White likely voters, while Gutierrez (54%) holds a 20 percentage point lead over Mealer (34%) among Latino likely voters and a 54 percentage point lead among Black likely voters (69% to 15%, respectively).

Gutierrez leads Mealer among likely voters between the ages of 18 and 34 (52% to 24%), while Mealer leads Gutierrez among likely voters age 55 and older (58% to 36%). Gutierrez (47%) and Mealer (45%) are effectively deadlocked among likely voters between the ages of 35 and 54. Of note, almost one in four (24%) likely voters between the ages of 18 and 34 remain undecided in this contest.

Mealer (52%) leads Gutierrez (39%) by 13 percentage points among likely voters who do not possess a four-year college degree, while the two candidates are deadlocked among likely voters with a four-year college degree, at 44% to 45%, respectively.

Gutierrez (45%) and Mealer (44%) enjoy equal levels of support among the slightly more than four-fifths of TX-9 likely voters who live in Harris County, while Mealer (65%) holds a 37 percentage point lead over Gutierrez (28%) among the slightly less than one-fifth of TX-9 likely voters who live in Liberty County.

Nine out of ten (90%) Democratic likely voters intend to vote for Gutierrez, and 0% for Mealer, while 82% of Republican likely voters intend to vote for Mealer and 11% for Gutierrez. Mealer (65%) leads Gutierrez (17%) among the combined group of TX-9 likely voters who identify as Independents or with another party or group or are unsure about their partisan identification.

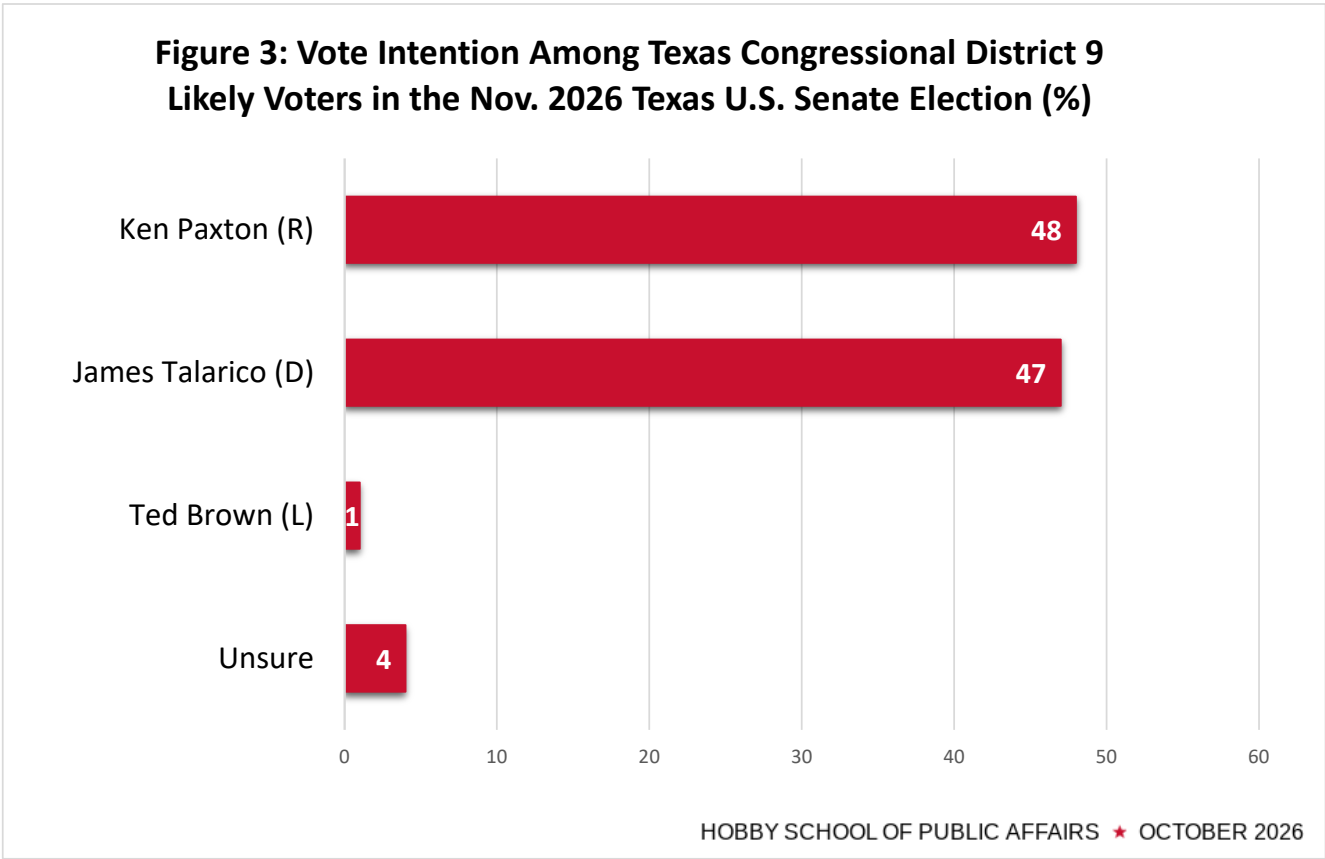
Mealer is supported by 95% of likely voters who intend to vote for Republican Ken Paxton in the November 2026 Texas U.S. Senate election and by 92% of likely voters who intend to vote for Republican Greg Abbott in the Texas gubernatorial election. Gutierrez is supported by 85% of likely voters who intend to vote for Democrat James Talarico in the U.S. Senate election and by 87% of likely voters who intend to vote for Democrat Gina Hinojosa in the gubernatorial election. Conversely, 1% of Paxton voters and 2% of Abbott voters intend to vote for Gutierrez, while 2% of Talarico voters and 2% of Hinojosa voters intend to vote for Mealer. Of note, in contrast to the 4% and 6% of Paxton and Abbott voters who, respectively, remain undecided in the TX-9 race, 13% of Talarico voters and 11% of Hinojosa voters are still undecided about for whom they will vote in this contest.

**VOTE INTENTION OF TX-9 LIKELY VOTERS IN TWO 2026 STATEWIDE ELECTIONS**

These Texas Congressional District 9 likely voters were also asked about their vote intention in two marquee statewide elections: Texas U.S. Senate and Texas Governor.

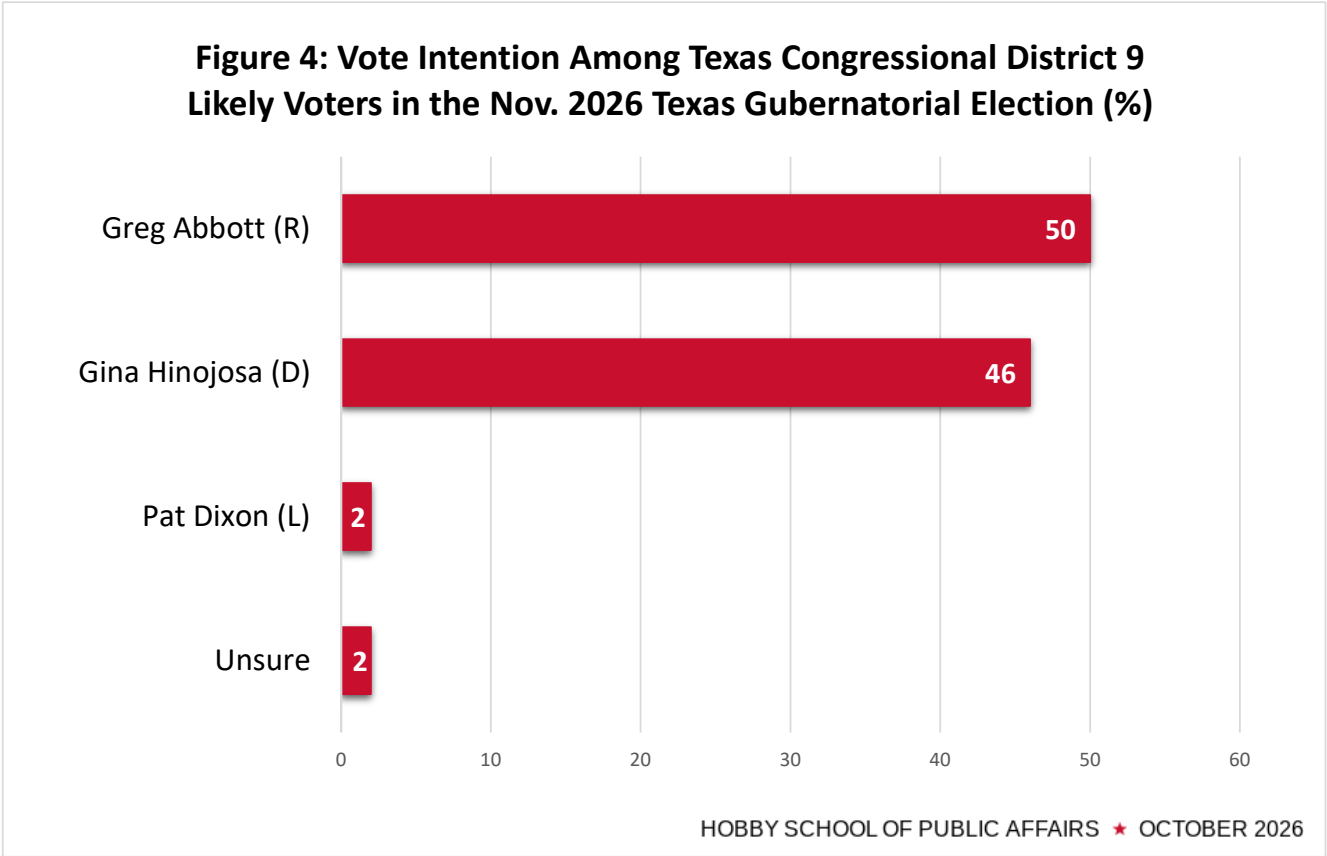
**Texas U.S. Senate.** There are three candidates on the ballot in the November 2026 Texas U.S. Senate election: Republican Ken Paxton, Democrat James Talarico and Libertarian Ted Brown. Paxton is viewed favorably by 42% of TX-9 likely voters and unfavorably by 56%, while Talarico is viewed favorably by 48% and unfavorably by 50%. Only 2% of TX-9 likely voters don’t know enough about both Paxton and Talarico to have an opinion of them.

Figure 3 provides the vote intention of TX-9 likely voters in the Texas U.S. Senate election. Paxton (48%) leads Talarico (47%) by 1 percentage point, with 1% supporting Brown and 4% still unsure. In the November 2024 Texas U.S. Senate election, Republican Ted Cruz bested Democrat Colin Allred by 11.6 percentage points in TX-9 (using the boundaries in force for this fall), while Cruz defeated Allred statewide by 8.5 percentage points.



**Texas Governor.** There are three candidates on the ballot in the November 2026 Texas gubernatorial election: incumbent Republican Greg Abbott, Democrat Gina Hinojosa and Libertarian Pat Dixon. Abbott is viewed favorably by 49% of TX-9 likely voters and unfavorably by 50%, and Hinojosa is viewed favorably by 43% and unfavorably by 42%. While only 1% of likely voters do not know enough about Abbott to have an opinion of him, 15% still don't know enough about Hinojosa to have an opinion of her.

Figure 4 provides the vote intention in the November 2026 Texas gubernatorial election among TX-9 likely voters. Abbott (50%) leads Hinojosa (46%) by 4 percentage points, with 2% supporting Dixon and 2% unsure about whom they would vote for in this statewide race. In the November 2022 Texas gubernatorial election, Abbott bested Democrat Beto O'Rourke by 12.9 percentage points in TX-9 (using the boundaries in force this fall), while Abbott defeated O'Rourke statewide by 10.9 percentage points.



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## **RECOMMENDED CITATION**

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