REPUBLICAN PRIMARIES 2026

TEXAS CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS 9 & 38
TEXAS HOUSE DISTRICTS 126 & 138

VOTE

Hobby School of Public Affairs
UNIVERSITY OF **HOUSTON**

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Republican Primaries 2026
Texas Congressional Districts 9 & 38 and Texas House Districts 126 & 138
February 2026

The Hobby School of Public Affairs at the University of Houston conducted four representative surveys of likely March 2026 Republican primary voters in Texas Congressional Districts 9 and 38 and Texas House of Representative Districts 126 and 138 to assess their preferences and opinions about candidates in these four respective Republican primary elections. A person's likelihood of voting in the Republican primary was determined based on a combination of their prospective intention to participate combined with their record of past primary election participation in 2024 and in 2022.

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 surveys were fielded between February 3 and February 10. Representative of voters who are likely to participate in these primaries, the sample population for the Congressional District 9 survey is 400 (with a margin of error of +/- 4.90%), the sample population for the Congressional District 38 survey is 800 (with a margin of error of +/- 3.46%), the sample population for the Texas House District 126 survey is 300 (with a margin of error of +/- 5.66%), and the sample population for the Texas House District 138 survey is 300 (with a margin of error of +/- 5.66%).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the Texas Congressional District 9 Republican primary, Alex Mealer leads Briscoe Cain by 8 percentage points among likely voters, 34% to 26%, followed by Dan Mims (10%), Steve Stockman (4%) and Dwayne Stovall (4%), with four other candidates having a combined 3%, and 19% undecided.

Mealer is viewed favorably by 52% of likely voters and unfavorably by 25%, while Cain is viewed favorably by 43% and unfavorably by 40%. Fewer than half of likely voters know enough about the other seven candidates to have an opinion of them.

In the Texas Congressional District 38 Republican primary, 50% of likely voters are unsure about whom they would vote for, while 22% intend to vote for Jon Bonck, 10% for Shelly deZevallos, 8% for Michael Pratt, 3% for Larry Rubin and 3% for Carmen Maria Montiel, with the five other candidates combined having a vote intention of 4%.

Less than half of the likely voters in Texas Congressional District 38 know enough about the candidates to have an opinion about them.

In the Texas House of Representatives District 126 Republican primary, Stan Stanart leads Kelly Peterson by 7 percentage points, 31% to 24%, with Polly Looper in third place with 9% and 36% undecided.

In the Texas House of Representatives District 138 Republican primary, incumbent Lacey Hull leads Josh Flynn by 36 percentage points, 49% to 13%, with Natalie Blasingame in third place with 12% and 26% undecided.

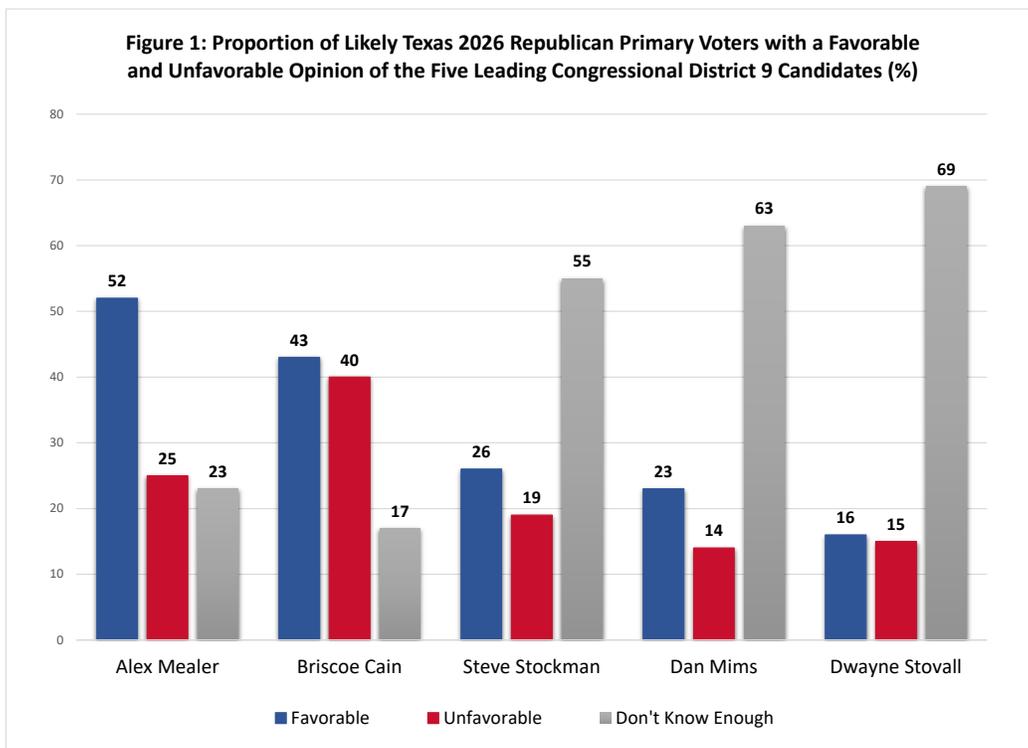## MARCH 2026 TEXAS CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 9 REPUBLICAN PRIMARY

Nine candidates are on the ballot in the March 2026 Texas Congressional District 9 Republican primary: Jaimy Blanco, Briscoe Cain, Michael Curran, Alex Mealer, Dan Mims, Crystal De León Sarmiento, Steve Stockman, Dwayne Stovall, and Terry Lee Thain.

Congressional District 9 Republican Primary Population Demographics

White likely voters account for 76% of this population of Texas 2026 Republican primary likely voters, Latino likely voters for 19%, Black likely voters for 2%, and others for 3%. Women represent 51% of this population and men 49%. Two-thirds (67%) of these likely voters are age 55 and older, while 26% are between the ages of 35 and 54, and 7% are between the ages of 18 and 34. A little more than two-fifths (43%) of these likely voters possess a four-year college degree while 57% do not. Republicans account for 76% of this population, Independents for 15% and Democrats for 5%, with 3% identifying as something else, and 1% unsure about their partisanship. More than four-fifths (82%) of these likely voters reside in Harris County and a little less than one-fifth (18%) in Liberty County.

Congressional District 9 Republican Primary Candidate Favorable & Unfavorable Evaluations

Figure 1 provides the proportion of likely Congressional District 9 Republican primary voters with a favorable and unfavorable opinion of the five leading candidates, along with the proportion who do not know enough about the candidate to have an opinion, one way or another. Note, in the survey this favorability question was asked after the vote intention question.

Figure 1: Proportion of Likely Texas 2026 Republican Primary Voters with a Favorable and Unfavorable Opinion of the Five Leading Congressional District 9 Candidates (%)

A little more than one-half (52%) of likely Republican primary voters has a favorable opinion of Mealer, more than twice the proportion who have an unfavorable opinion (25%), with 23% of likely primary voters not knowing enough about her to have an opinion. A little more than two-fifths (43%) of likely primary voters have a favorable opinion of Cain while two-fifths (40%) have an unfavorable opinion, with the remaining 17% of likely voters not knowing enough about him to have an opinion.

While both Cain and Mealer are relatively well-known by Congressional District 9 likely Republican primary voters, with 83% and 77% knowing enough about them, respectively, to have an opinion, more than half of the likely primary voters don't know enough about the other three leading candidates to have an opinion of them. Between 55% (Stockman) and 69% (Stovall) of likely voters are not familiar with these three candidates, with Mims in between at 63%. Stockman is viewed favorably by 26% of likely primary voters and unfavorably by 19%, Mims is viewed favorably by 23% and unfavorably by 14%, and Stovall is viewed favorably by 16% and unfavorably by 15%.

The net-favorability scores (percentage favorable minus percentage unfavorable) for these five candidates range from highs of 27% for Mealer and 9% for Mims to lows 1% for Stovall and 3% for Cain, with Stockman in between at 7%.

Congressional District 9 Republican Primary Vote Intention

Figure 2 provides the vote intention among likely voters in the 2026 Texas Congressional District 9 Republican primary election. Mealer is in first place with 34%, eight percentage points ahead of Cain at 26%. Mims is in third place with 10%, followed by Stockman and Stovall who each have a vote intention of 4%. The other four candidates have a combined vote intention of 3%, and 19% of likely voters remain unsure about whom they would vote for in this contest.

Figure 2. Vote Intention Among Likely March 2026 Texas Republican Primary Voters in the Texas Congressional District 9 Primary Race (%)

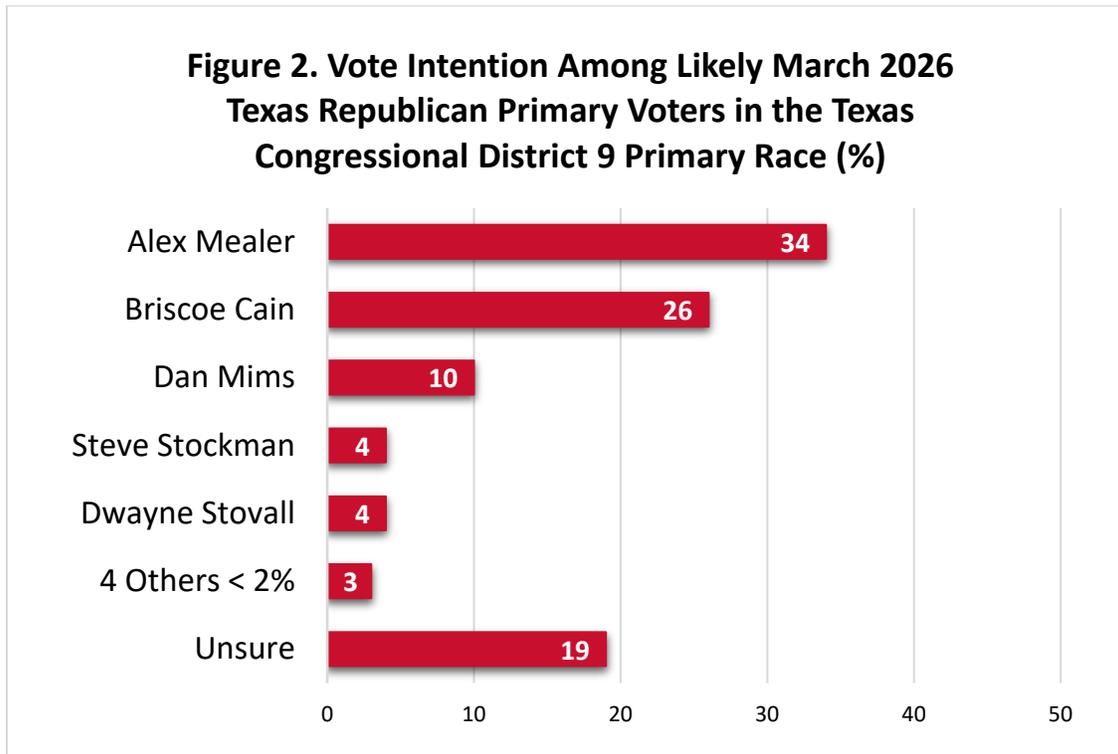| Candidate	Percentage
Alex Mealer	34
Briscoe Cain	26
Dan Mims	10
Steve Stockman	4
Dwayne Stovall	4
4 Others < 2%	3
Unsure	19

Table 1 provides the vote intention in the 2026 Texas Congressional District 9 Republican primary election, broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, age, education, partisanship, and county. Overall, there are not any noteworthy socio-demographic sub-group differences in vote intention for the candidates, with one exception. While Cain holds a 1 percentage point advantage over Mealer among likely voters 55 and older, Mealer holds a 21 percentage point advantage among those who are under 55.

Table 1. Vote Intention in the March Republican Texas Congressional District 9 Primary, Among Key Groups (%)

Socio-Demographic	Sub-Group	Mealer	Cain	Mims	Unsure
Overall		34	26	10	19
Gender	Women	32	26	10	21
	Men	35	26	9	17
Ethnicity/Race	White	35	27	10	17
	Latino	31	21	8	25
Age	18 to 34	43	18	6	18
	35 to 54	35	16	14	23
	55 and Older	31	32	9	18
Education	4 Year College Degree	33	23	10	25
	No 4 Year College Degree	34	29	9	14
Partisanship	Republican	35	29	10	16
	Independent/Democrat	31	18	9	29
County	Harris	34	26	10	20
	Liberty	32	27	7	17

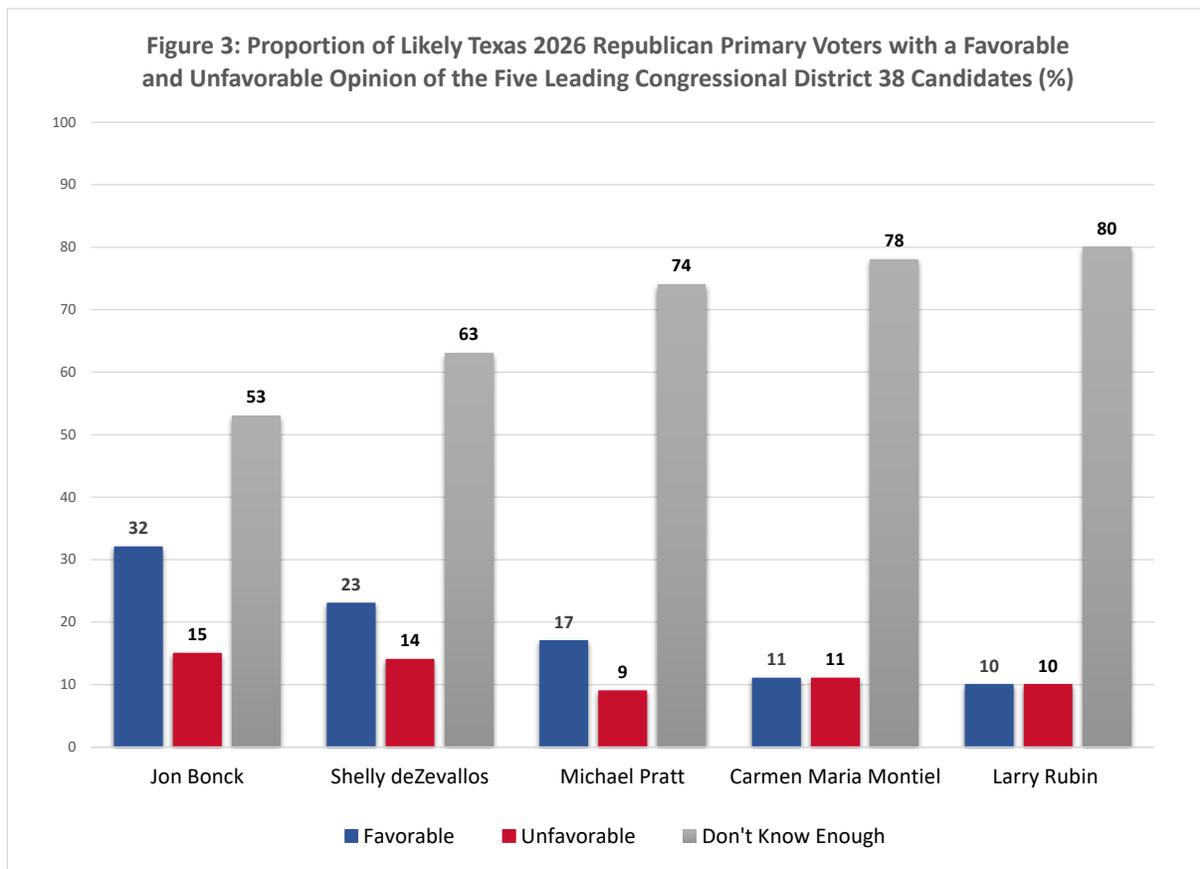# MARCH 2026 TEXAS CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 38 REPUBLICAN PRIMARY

Ten candidates are on the ballot in the March 2026 Texas Congressional District 38 Republican primary: Avery Ayers, Jon Bonck, Shelly deZevallos, Craig Goralski, Barrett McNabb, Carmen Maria Montiel, Michael Pratt, Larry Rubin, Jennifer Sundt, and Jeff Yuna.

Congressional District 38 Republican Primary Population Demographics

White likely voters account for 83% of this population of Texas 2026 Republican primary likely voters, Latino likely voters for 10%, Black likely voters for 2%, and others for 5%. Women represent 51% of this population and men 49%. Two-thirds (67%) of these likely voters are age 55 and older, while 25% are between the ages of 35 and 54, and 8% are between the ages of 18 and 34. A little more than three-fifths (64%) of these likely voters possess a four-year college degree while 36% do not. Republicans account for 74% of this population, Independents for 20% and Democrats for 2%, with 4% identifying as something else. All likely voters live in Harris County as the district's boundaries are entirely within the county's borders.

Congressional District 38 Republican Primary Candidate Favorable & Unfavorable Evaluations

Figure 3 provides the proportion of likely Congressional District 38 Republican primary voters with a favorable and unfavorable opinion of the five leading candidates, along with the proportion who do not know enough about the candidate to have an opinion, one way or another. Note, in the survey this favorability question was asked after the vote intention question.

Figure 3: Proportion of Likely Texas 2026 Republican Primary Voters with a Favorable and Unfavorable Opinion of the Five Leading Congressional District 38 Candidates (%)

Unlike the case in Congressional District 9, where more than three out of four likely voters knew enough about the two leading candidates (Mealer and Cain) to have an opinion of them, less than half of likely voters know enough about the two leading Congressional District 38 candidates to have an opinion, with 53% and 63% not knowing enough about Bonck and deZevallos, respectively. In a similar vein, 74%, 78% and 80% of likely primary voters don't know enough about Pratt, Montiel and Rubin, respectively, to have an opinion of them.

Focusing on the favorable and unfavorable evaluations of these five candidates, the favorable evaluations range from highs of 32% for Bonck and 23% for deZevallos to lows of 11% for Montiel and 10% for Rubin, with Pratt in between at 17%. Unfavorable evaluations range from highs of 15% for Bonck and 14% for deZevallos to lows of 9% for Pratt and 10% for Rubin, with Montiel in between at 11%.

The net-favorability scores (percentage favorable minus percentage unfavorable) for these five candidates range from highs of 17% for Bonck and 9% for deZevallos to lows of 0% for Montiel and 0% for Rubin, with Pratt in between at 8%.

Congressional District 38 Republican Primary Vote Intention

Figure 4 provides the vote intention among likely voters in the 2026 Texas Congressional District 38 Republican primary election. One half (50%) of likely voters are unsure about whom they would support. Among the 10 candidates, Bonck is in first place with 22%, followed by deZevallos with 10% and Pratt with 8%. Rubin and Montiel each have a vote intention of 3%, while the five other candidates combined have a vote intention of 4%.

Figure 4. Vote Intention Among Likely March 2026 Texas Republican Primary Voters in the Texas Congressional District 38 Primary Race (%)
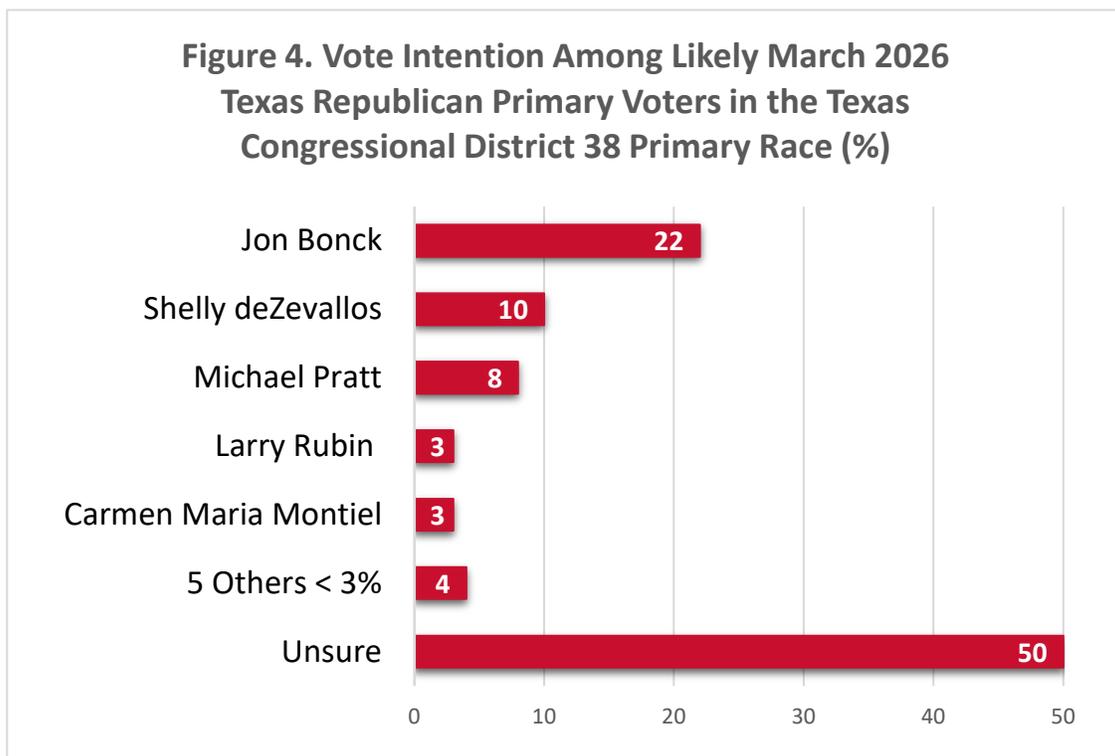
Table 2 provides the vote intention in the 2026 Texas Congressional District 38 Republican primary election, broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, age, education, partisanship, and county. Overall, there are not any noteworthy socio-demographic sub-group differences in vote intention for the candidates.
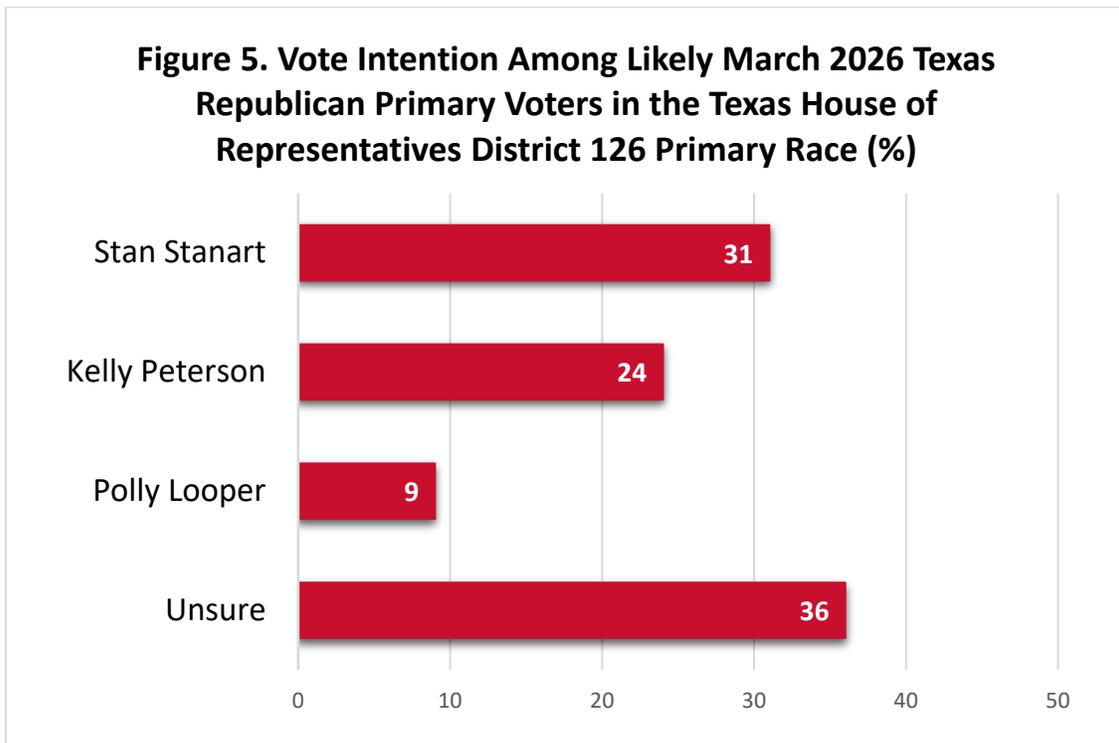
Table 2. Vote Intention in the March Republican Texas Congressional District 38 Primary, Among Key Groups (%)

Socio-Demographic	Sub-Group	Bonck	deZevallos	Pratt	Unsure
Overall		22	10	8	50
Gender	Women	23	8	6	54
	Men	21	11	9	47
Ethnicity/Race	White	22	10	7	52
	Latino	23	10	8	42
Age	18 to 34	15	4	17	56
	35 to 54	16	10	9	56
	55 and Older	25	10	6	48
Education	4 Year College Degree	16	12	6	55
	No 4 Year College Degree	30	5	10	42
Partisanship	Republican	27	10	8	45
	Independent/Democrat	10	8	7	65

Three candidates are on the ballot in the March 2026 Texas House District 126 Republican primary: Polly Looper, Kelly Peterson, and Stan Stanart.
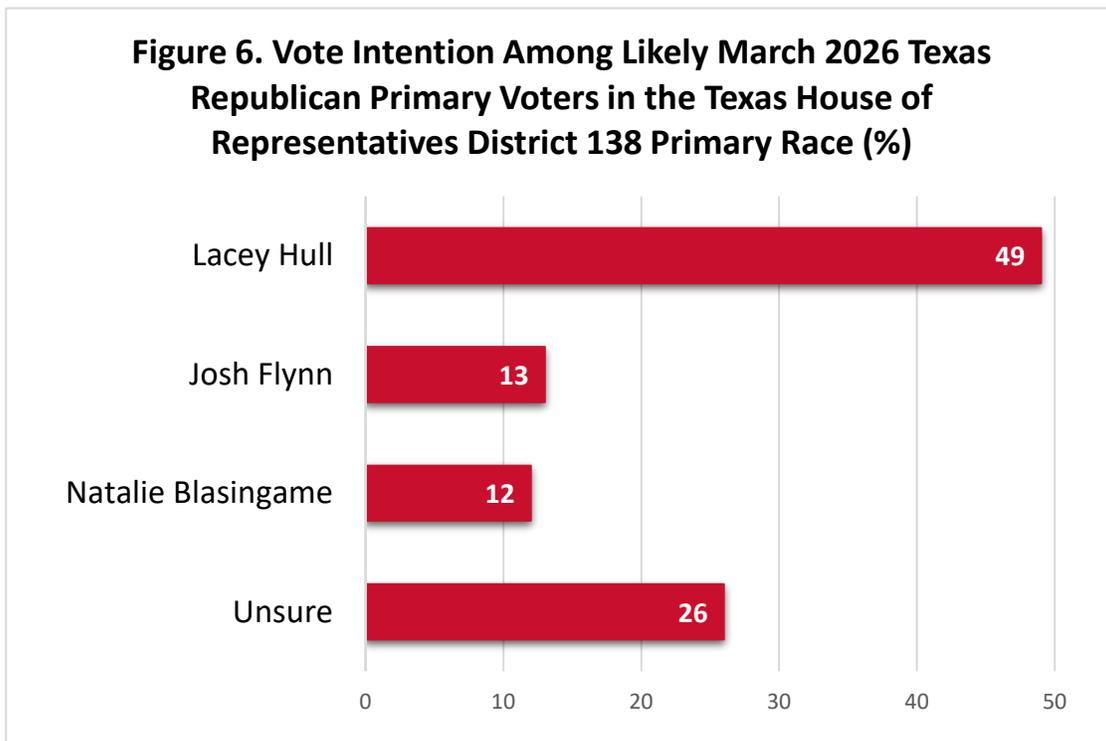
Figure 5 provides the vote intention among likely voters in the 2026 Texas House District 126 Republican primary election. Stanart is in first place with 31%, followed by Peterson with 24% and Looper with 9%. Stanart and the second place Peterson are separated by 7 percentage points. A little more than one-third (36%) of likely primary voters in House District 126 remain unsure about whom they would vote for in this contest.

Figure 5. Vote Intention Among Likely March 2026 Texas Republican Primary Voters in the Texas House of Representatives District 126 Primary Race (%)

MARCH 2026 TEXAS HOUSE DISTRICT 138 REPUBLICAN PRIMARY

Three candidates are on the ballot in the March 2026 Texas House District 138 Republican primary: Natalie Blasingame, Josh Flynn, and incumbent Lacey Hull.

Figure 6 provides the vote intention among likely voters in the 2026 Texas House District 126 Republican primary election. Hull is in first place with 49%, followed by Flynn with 13% and Blasingame with 12%. Hull and the second place Flynn are separated by a gap of 36 percentage points. A little more than one-fourth (26%) of likely primary voters in House District 126 remain unsure about whom they would vote for in this contest.

Figure 6. Vote Intention Among Likely March 2026 Texas Republican Primary Voters in the Texas House of Representatives District 138 Primary Race (%)

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RECOMMENDED CITATION

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