TEXAS VOTES 2026

STATEWIDE RACES
FAVORABILITY
ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

Hobby School of Public Affairs
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

Hobby School of Public Affairs
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

Texas Votes 2026

Statewide Races, Favorability & Election Administration

October 2026

The Hobby School of Public Affairs at the University of Houston conducted a representative survey of Texas voters who are expected to cast a ballot in the November 2026 midterm elections. 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 10 and October 14, 2026. With a margin of error of +/- 2.19 percentage points, the overall sample population of 2,000 Texas likely voters was adjusted via multidimensional calibration weighting using demographic, historical electoral, and geographic benchmarks.

This report analyzes the vote intention among Texas likely voters in the November 2026 statewide elections for Texas U.S. Senator, Texas Governor, Texas Lieutenant Governor, Texas Attorney General, Texas Comptroller, Texas Land Commissioner, Texas Agriculture Commissioner, and Texas Railroad Commissioner. Also examined are the favorable and unfavorable evaluations of the Democratic and Republican Party candidates in these contests as well as of President Donald Trump. Lastly, opinions regarding the direction in which Texas and the United States are headed and opinions about election administration are explored.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

59% of Texas likely voters believe things in the United States are headed in the wrong direction.

55% of Texas likely voters believe things in Texas are headed in the wrong direction.

54% of Texas likely voters have an unfavorable opinion of President Trump, and 46% a favorable opinion.

In the Texas U.S. Senate election, Democrat James Talarico (48%) leads Republican Ken Paxton (46%) by 2 percentage points, with 3% supporting Libertarian Ted Brown and 3% undecided.

Talarico is backed by 98% of Democrats, 60% of Independents, and 6% of Republicans.

Paxton is backed by 88% of Republicans, 32% of Independents, and 1% of Democrats.

Paxton is viewed favorably by 41% of likely voters and unfavorably by 57%.

Talarico is viewed favorably by 47% of likely voters and unfavorably by 50%.

In the Texas Governor election, Republican Greg Abbott (49%) leads Democrat Gina Hinojosa (46%) by 3 percentage points, with 2% supporting Libertarian Pat Dixon and 3% undecided. 0% and 13% of likely voters don’t know enough about Abbott and Hinojosa to have an opinion of them, respectively.

In the Texas Lieutenant Governor election, Republican Dan Patrick (47%) leads Democrat Vikki Goodwin (42%) by 5 percentage points, with 3% supporting Libertarian Anthony Cristo and 1% supporting the Green Party's Kevin McCormick, and with 7% undecided. 12% and 59% of likely voters don't know enough about Patrick and Goodwin to have an opinion of them, respectively.

In the Texas Attorney General election, Republican Mayes Middleton (47%) leads Democrat Nathan Johnson (42%) by 5 percentage points, with 3% supporting Libertarian Tom Oxford and 8% undecided. 50% and 71% of likely voters don't know enough about Middleton and Johnson to have an opinion of them, respectively.

In the Texas Comptroller election, Republican Don Huffines (47%) leads Democrat Sarah Eckhardt (40%) by 7 percentage points, with 2% supporting Libertarian V. Alonzo Echavarria-Garza and 0.4% supporting the Green Party's Shela Faizi, and with 11% undecided. 42% and 70% of likely voters don't know enough about Huffines and Eckhardt to have an opinion of them, respectively.

In the Texas Land Commissioner election, Republican Dawn Buckingham (47%) leads Democrat Benjamin Flores (40%) by 7 percentage points, with 2% supporting Libertarian Neill Snider and 11% undecided. 73% and 78% of likely voters don't know enough about Buckingham and Flores to have an opinion of them, respectively.

In the Texas Agriculture Commissioner election, Republican Nate Sheets (46%) leads Democrat Clayton Tucker (40%) by 6 percentage points, with 2% supporting Libertarian Austin Kelly and 12% undecided. 74% and 76% of likely voters don't know enough about Sheets and Tucker to have an opinion of them, respectively.

In the Texas Railroad Commissioner election, Republican Bo French (45%) leads Democrat Jon Rosenthal (43%) by 2 percentage points, with 2% supporting Libertarian Arthur DiBianca and 10% undecided. 52% and 72% of likely voters don't know enough about French and Rosenthal to have an opinion of them, respectively.

25% of Texas likely voters are very confident that the November 2026 election will be conducted fairly and accurately, while 45% are somewhat confident, 22% not too confident, and 8% not at all confident.

50% of Texas likely voters are very confident that all U.S. citizens who want to vote in the November 2026 election will be able to do so, while 27% are somewhat confident, 17% not too confident, and 6% not at all confident.

86% of Texas likely voters support requiring all voters to show a photo ID when voting in person.

76% of Texas likely voters support automatically registering all U.S. citizens to vote.

60% of Texas likely voters support allowing any eligible voter to vote by mail.

52% of Texas likely voters support having federal law enforcement officers at polling locations.

48% of Texas likely voters support removing people from the voter rolls who have not voted recently and have not responded to requests to confirm their registration.

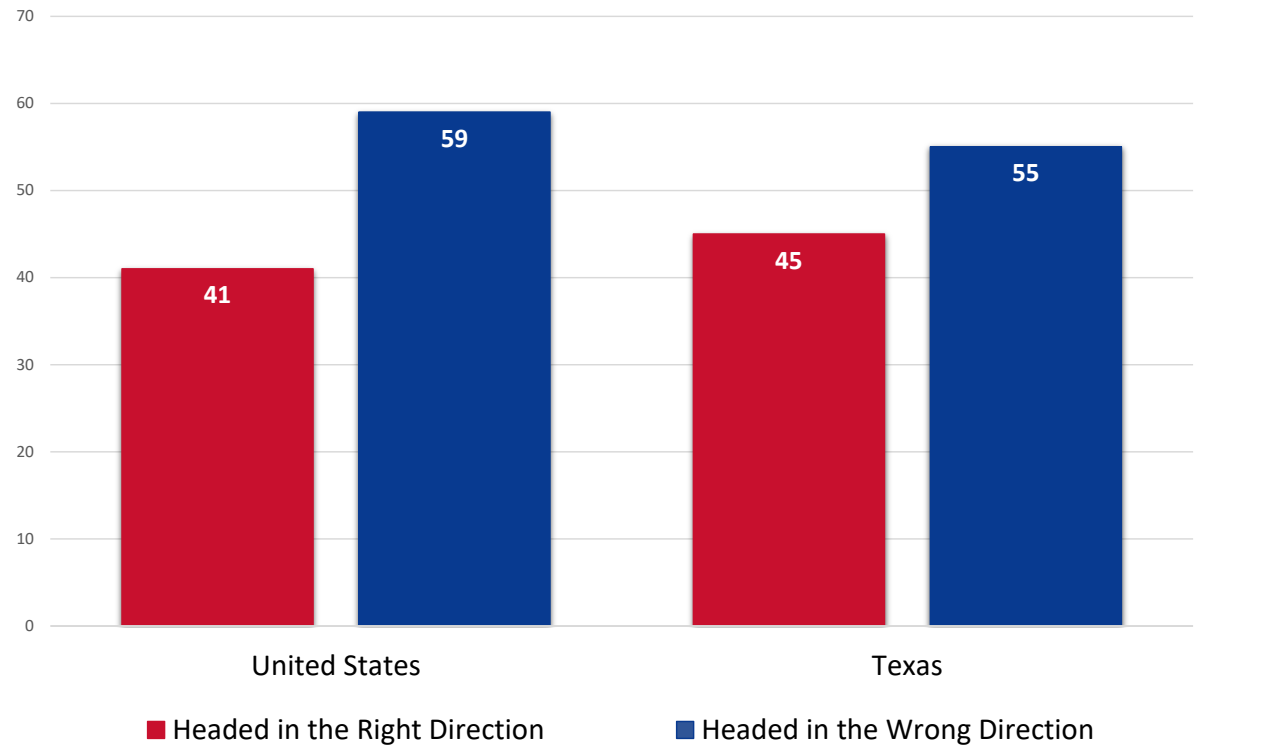
SURVEY POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS

Women account for 54% of these Texas likely voters, men for 45%, and those whose gender identity is something else for 1%. White Texans represent 60% of these likely voters, Latino Texans 23%, and Black Texans 12%, with the remaining 5% spread among those with another ethnic/racial identity or a multiracial identity. Almost one-fifth (18%) of the population is between the ages of 18 and 34, 31% is between the ages of 35 and 54, and 51% is age 55 and older. The proportion of likely voters with a four-year college degree (44%) is 12 percentage points less than the proportion of likely voters who do not possess a four-year degree (56%). The distribution of partisan identifiers among these likely voters is 42% Republican, 31% Democratic and 23% Independent, with 4% identifying with another party or group or unsure of their partisanship. Based on a variable provided by L2, a leading voter data firm, that is calculated using an advanced analysis of U.S. Census data, 42% of these likely voters are classified as living in an urban area of the state, 38% in a suburban area, and 20% in a rural area.

THE DIRECTION IN WHICH TEXAS AND THE UNITED STATES ARE HEADED

These Texas likely voters were asked if they believe things in Texas and in the United States are generally headed in the right direction, or if they are generally headed in the wrong direction. Figure 1 provides the proportion who believe Texas and the United States are headed in each of these two different directions.

Figure 1: The Direction November 2026 Texas Likely Voters Think Things in the United States and in Texas are Generally Headed (%)



HOBBY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS ★ OCTOBER 2026

A majority of these likely voters believe that things in both the United States (59%) and in Texas (55%) are generally heading in the wrong direction. In contrast, 41% and 45% of these likely voters believe things are generally heading in the right direction in the United States and in Texas, respectively.

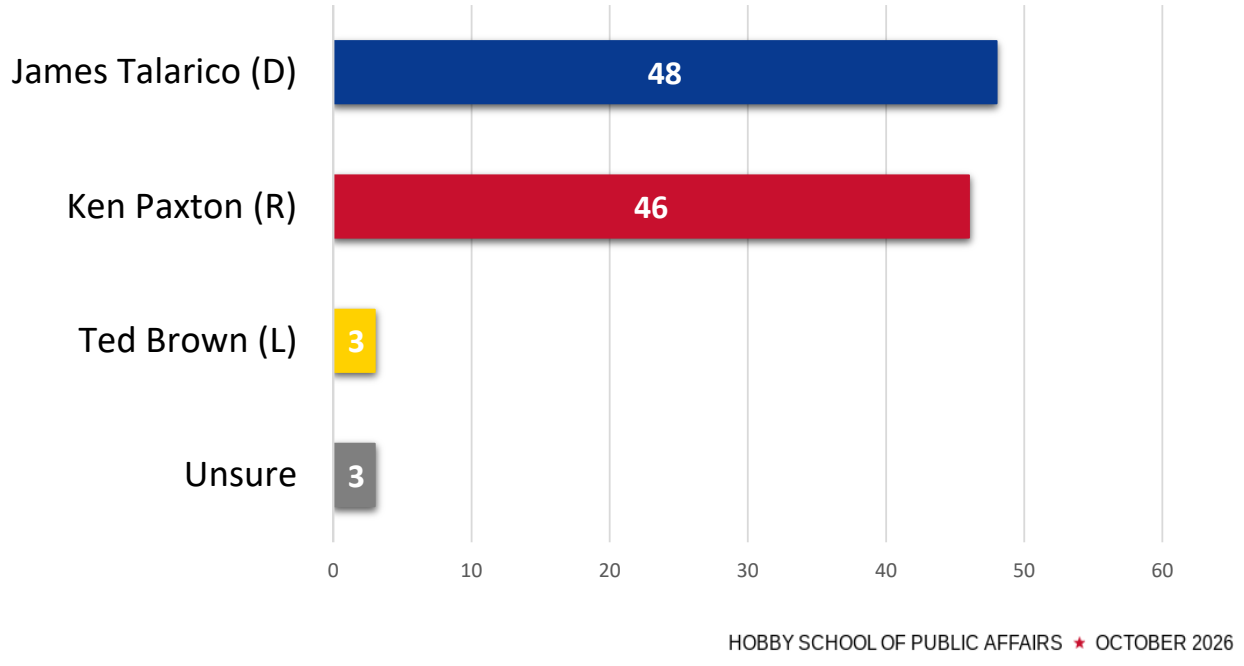
There is a strong partisan split regarding the direction in which these likely voters believe Texas and the United States are headed. While 98% and 96% of Democrats respectively believe things in the United States and Texas are headed in the wrong direction (2% and 4% in the right direction), 77% and 83% of Republicans believe things in the United States and Texas are headed in the right direction (23% and 17% in the wrong direction). In between are Independents, more than two-thirds of whom believe things are generally headed in the wrong direction in the United States (72%) and in Texas (67%).

THE NOVEMBER 2026 TEXAS U.S. SENATE ELECTION

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 41% of likely voters and unfavorably by 57%, with 2% not knowing enough about him to have an opinion. Talarico is viewed favorably by 47% of likely voters and unfavorably by 50%, with 3% not knowing enough about him to have an opinion.

Figure 2 provides the vote intention among likely voters in the November 2026 Texas U.S. Senate election. Talarico (48%) leads Paxton (46%) by 2 percentage points, with 3% of likely voters backing Brown and 3% still unsure about for whom they would vote.

Figure 2: Vote Intention Among Likely Voters in the November 2026 Texas U.S. Senate Election (%)



The likely voters were asked if their vote in the Texas U.S. Senate election was a vote in support of Donald Trump, in opposition to Donald Trump, or not about Donald Trump. Almost three-fifths (59%) of Paxton voters said their vote was in support of Donald Trump, while 41% said their vote was not about Trump, and 0% said that their vote was in opposition to Trump. More than two-thirds (68%) of Talarico voters said their vote was in opposition to Trump, while 32% said their vote was not about Trump, and 0% said that their vote was in support of Trump.

Table 1 provides the vote intention in the November 2026 Texas U.S. Senate election, broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, age, education, region of residence, partisanship, and 2026 gubernatorial vote intention.

Table 1: Vote Intention in the November 2026 Texas U.S. Senate Election, Among Key Sub-Groups (%)

Socio-Demographic	Sub-Group	Talarico	Paxton	Brown	Unsure
Overall		48	46	3	3
Gender	Women	53	43	2	2
	Men	42	51	4	3
Ethnicity/Race	White	40	55	3	2
	Latino	54	40	3	3
	Black	85	10	1	4
Age	18-34	71	19	5	5
	35-54	52	43	3	2
	55+	38	58	1	3
Education	4 Yr College Degree	56	38	4	2
	No 4 Yr College Degree	42	53	2	3
Urban-Rural Residence	Urban	60	36	1	3
	Suburban	47	48	3	2
	Rural	27	64	4	5
Partisanship	Democratic	98	1	0	1
	Independents	60	32	4	4
	Republican	6	88	3	3
2026 Governor Vote Intention	Abbott	3	92	2	3
	Hinojosa	98	1	1	0
	Dixon	26	20	35	19

HOBBY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS ★ OCTOBER 2026

Talarico's three highest non-party related leads over Paxton are among Black likely voters (85% to 10%), likely voters between the ages of 18 and 34 (71% to 19), and among likely voters living in urban areas (60% to 36%). Paxton's three highest non-party related leads over Talarico are among likely voters in rural areas (64% to 27%), likely voters age 55 and older (58% to 38%), and among White likely voters (55% to 40%).

Talarico (98%) enjoys the support of a significantly larger proportion of Texas Democrats than Paxton (88%) enjoys among Texas Republicans. And, while only 1% of Democrats intend to vote for Paxton, 6% of Republicans intend to vote for Talarico, with another 3% (compared to 0% of Democrats) planning to vote for Brown. Independents are almost twice as likely to intend to vote for Talarico (60%) than for Paxton (32%). While 98% of voters who intend to vote for Gina Hinojosa in the Texas gubernatorial election also intend to vote for Talarico, 92% of voters who intend to vote for Greg Abbott in that same election also intend to vote for Paxton.

THE NOVEMBER 2026 TEXAS GOVERNOR ELECTION

There are three candidates on the ballot in the November 2026 Texas Governor election: incumbent Republican Greg Abbott, Democrat Gina Hinojosa, and Libertarian Pat Dixon. Abbott is viewed favorably by 49% of likely voters and unfavorably by 51%, with 0% not knowing enough about him to have an opinion. Hinojosa is viewed favorably by 43% of likely voters and unfavorably by 44%, with 13% not knowing enough about her to have an opinion.

Figure 3 provides the vote intention among likely voters in the November 2026 Texas gubernatorial election. Abbott (49%) leads Hinojosa (46%) by 3 percentage points, with 2% of likely voters backing Dixon and 3% still unsure about whom they would vote for.

Figure 3: Vote Intention Among Likely Voters in the November 2026 Texas Governor Election (%)

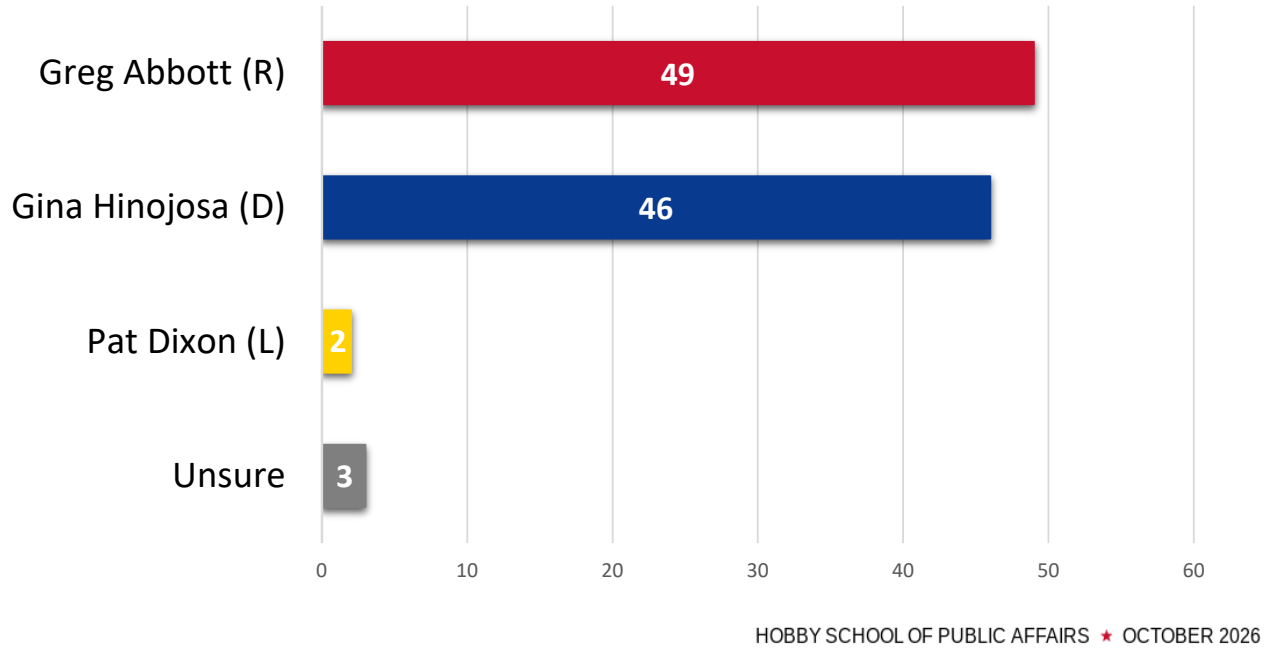


Table 2 provides the vote intention in the November 2026 Texas gubernatorial election, broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, age, education, region of residence, partisanship, and 2026 U.S. Senate vote intention.

Table 2: Vote Intention in the November 2026 Texas Gubernatorial Election, Among Key Sub-Groups (%)

Socio-Demographic	Sub-Group	Abbott	Hinojosa	Dixon	Unsure
Overall		49	46	2	3
Gender	Women	44	51	2	3
	Men	55	39	3	3
Ethnicity/Race	White	59	37	1	3
	Latino	42	51	5	2
	Black	11	85	0	4
Age	18-34	23	67	6	4
	35-54	45	50	2	3
	55+	60	36	1	3
Education	4 Yr College Degree	43	52	2	3
	No 4 Yr College Degree	54	41	2	3
Urban-Rural Residence	Urban	39	57	1	3
	Suburban	51	43	3	3
	Rural	66	27	4	3
Partisanship	Democratic	1	96	1	2
	Independents	36	55	4	5
	Republican	93	4	1	2
2026 U.S. Senate Vote Intention	Paxton	97	1	1	1
	Talarico	3	93	1	3
	Brown	50	14	29	7

HOBBY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS ★ OCTOBER 2026

Abbott's three highest non-party leads over Hinojosa are among rural likely voters (66% to 27%), voters age 55 and older (60% to 36%), and White likely voters (59% to 37%). Hinojosa's three highest non-party leads over Abbott are among Black likely voters (85% to 11%), likely voters between the ages of 18 and 34 (67% to 23%), and among likely voters in urban areas (57% to 39%).

Abbott receives the support of 93% of Republicans while Hinojosa is supported by 96% of Democrats, with 1% of Democrats and 4% of Republicans intending to vote for Abbott and Hinojosa, respectively. Hinojosa leads Abbott 55% to 36% among Independents.

THE NOVEMBER 2026 TEXAS LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR ELECTION

There are four candidates on the ballot in the November 2026 Texas Lieutenant Governor election: incumbent Republican Dan Patrick, Democrat Vikki Goodwin, Libertarian Anthony Cristo, and the Green Party's Kevin McCormick. Patrick is viewed favorably by 41% of likely voters and unfavorably by 47%, with 12% not knowing enough about him to have an opinion. Goodwin is viewed favorably by 22% of likely voters and unfavorably by 19%, with close to three-fifths (59%) of likely voters not knowing enough about her to have an opinion.

Figure 4 provides the vote intention among likely voters in the November 2026 Texas Lieutenant Governor election. Patrick (47%) leads Goodwin (42%) by 5 percentage points, with 3% of likely voters backing Cristo, 1% backing McCormick, and 7% still unsure about for whom they would vote.

Figure 4: Vote Intention Among Likely Votes in the November 2026 Texas Lieutenant Governor Election (%)

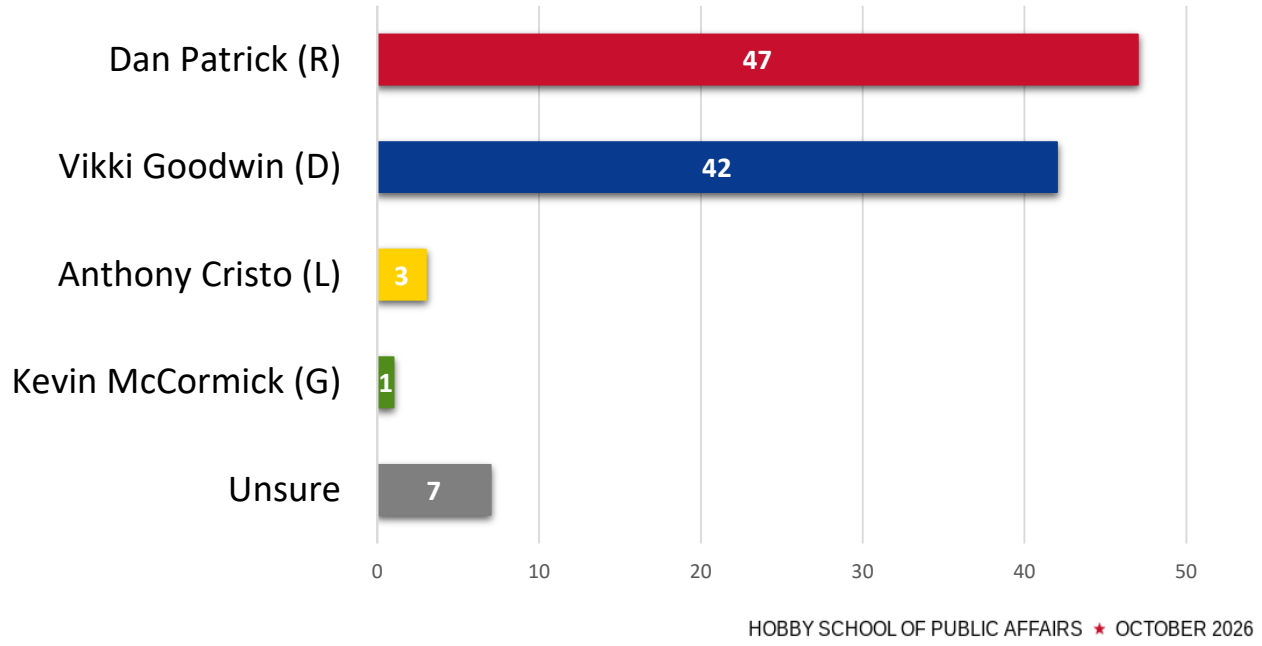


Table 3 provides the vote intention in the November 2026 Texas lieutenant governor election, broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, age, education, region of residence, partisanship, 2026 U.S. Senate vote intention, and 2026 gubernatorial vote intention.

Table 3: Vote Intention in the November 2026 Texas Lieutenant Governor Election, Among Key Sub-Groups (%)

Socio-Demographic	Sub-Group	Patrick	Goodwin	Cristo	McCormick	Unsure
Overall		47	42	3	1	7
Gender	Women	44	47	2	1	6
	Men	51	36	4	1	8
Ethnicity/Race	White	56	34	3	1	6
	Latino	41	47	3	2	7
	Black	11	79	1	0	9
Age	18-34	19	64	6	0	11
	35-54	43	44	3	2	8
	55+	59	34	2	1	4
Education	4 Yr College Degree	41	48	3	0	8
	No 4 Yr College Degree	52	38	3	1	6
Urban-Rural Residence	Urban	36	52	3	1	8
	Suburban	49	41	3	1	6
	Rural	65	25	4	1	5
Partisanship	Democratic	0	94	0	1	5
	Independents	31	47	6	2	14
	Republican	90	4	3	0	3
2026 U.S. Senate Vote Intention	Paxton	95	0	2	1	2
	Talarico	2	87	1	1	9
	Brown	35	5	46	0	14
2026 Governor Vote Intention	Abbott	94	1	2	0	3
	Hinojosa	0	89	2	1	8
	Dixon	11	35	34	12	8

HOBBY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS ★ OCTOBER 2026

Patrick's three highest non-party leads over Goodwin are among rural likely voters (65% to 25%), voters age 55 and older (59% to 34%), and White likely voters (56% to 34%). Goodwin's three highest non-party leads over Patrick are among Black likely voters (79% to 11%), likely voters between the ages of 18 and 34 (64% to 19%), and among likely voters in urban areas (52% to 36%).

Patrick receives the support of 90% of Republicans while Goodwin is supported by 94% of Democrats, with 0% of Democrats and 4% of Republicans intending to vote for Patrick and Goodwin, respectively. Goodwin leads Patrick 47% to 31% among Independents.

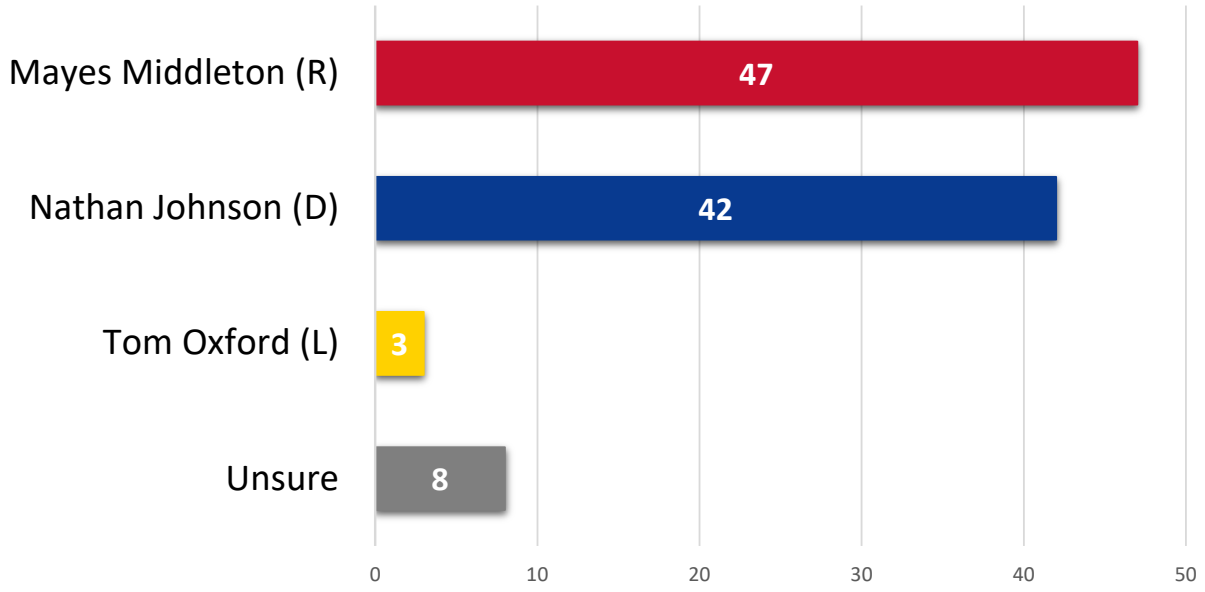
Of note, while only 2% and 3% of likely voters who intend to vote for Paxton and Abbott, respectively, are undecided about whom they will vote for in the lieutenant governor election, 9% and 8% of Talarico and Hinojosa voters remain undecided in this contest, respectively.

THE NOVEMBER 2026 TEXAS ATTORNEY GENERAL ELECTION

There are three candidates on the ballot in the November 2026 Texas Attorney General election: Republican Mayes Middleton, Democrat Nathan Johnson, and Libertarian Tom Oxford. Middleton is viewed favorably by 25% of likely voters and unfavorably by 25%, with 50% not knowing enough about him to have an opinion. Johnson is viewed favorably by 16% of likely voters and unfavorably by 13%, with more than two-thirds (71%) of likely voters not knowing enough about him to have an opinion.

Figure 5 provides the vote intention among likely voters in the November 2026 Texas Attorney General election. Middleton (47%) leads Johnson (42%) by 5 percentage points, with 3% of likely voters backing Oxford and 8% still unsure about for whom they would vote.

Figure 5: Vote Intention Among Likely Voters in the November 2026 Texas Attorney General Election (%)



HOBBY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS ★ OCTOBER 2026

Table 4 provides the vote intention in the November 2026 Texas attorney general election, broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, age, education, region of residence, partisanship, 2026 U.S. Senate vote intention, and 2026 gubernatorial vote intention.

Table 4: Vote Intention in the November 2026 Texas Attorney General Election, Among Key Sub-Groups (%)

Socio-Demographic	Sub-Group	Middleton	Johnson	Oxford	Unsure
Overall		47	42	3	8
Gender	Women	43	47	1	9
	Men	52	36	4	8
Ethnicity/Race	White	55	34	3	8
	Latino	43	46	3	8
	Black	10	82	0	8
Age	18-34	23	61	5	11
	35-54	43	46	3	8
	55+	57	34	1	8
Education	4 Yr College Degree	40	48	3	9
	No 4 Yr College Degree	52	38	2	8
Urban-Rural Residence	Urban	36	55	1	8
	Suburban	49	39	4	8
	Rural	64	23	4	9
Partisanship	Democratic	1	94	0	5
	Independents	30	47	8	15
	Republican	90	3	1	6
2026 U.S. Senate Vote Intention	Paxton	94	0	1	5
	Talarico	2	87	2	9
	Brown	40	9	34	17
2026 Governor Vote Intention	Abbott	90	2	1	7
	Hinojosa	2	88	2	8
	Dixon	32	2	55	11

HOBBY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS ★ OCTOBER 2026

Middleton's three highest non-party leads over Johnson are among rural likely voters (64% to 23%), voters age 55 and older (57% to 34%), and White likely voters (55% to 34%). Johnson's three highest non-party leads over Middleton are among Black likely voters (82% to 10%), likely voters between the ages of 18 and 34 (61% to 23%), and among likely voters in urban areas (55% to 36%).

Middleton receives the support of 90% of Republicans while Johnson is supported by 94% of Democrats, with 1% of Democrats and 3% of Republicans intending to vote for Middleton and Johnson, respectively. Johnson leads Middleton 47% to 30% among Independents.

THE NOVEMBER 2026 TEXAS COMPTROLLER ELECTION

There are four candidates on the ballot in the November 2026 Texas Comptroller election: interim incumbent Republican Don Huffines, Democrat Sarah Eckhardt, Libertarian V. Alonzo Echavarria-Garza, and the Green Party's Shela Faizi. Huffines is viewed favorably by 32% of likely voters and unfavorably by 26%, with 42% not knowing enough about him to have an opinion. Eckhardt is viewed favorably by 16% of likely voters and unfavorably by 14%, with more than two-thirds (70%) of likely voters not knowing enough about her to have an opinion.

Figure 6 provides the vote intention among likely voters in the November 2026 Texas Comptroller election. Huffines (47%) leads Eckhardt (40%) by 7 percentage points, with 2% of likely voters backing Echavarria-Garza, 0% (technically 0.4%) backing Faizi and 11% still unsure about for whom they would vote.

Figure 6: Vote Intention Among Likely Voters in the November 2026 Texas Comptroller Election (%)

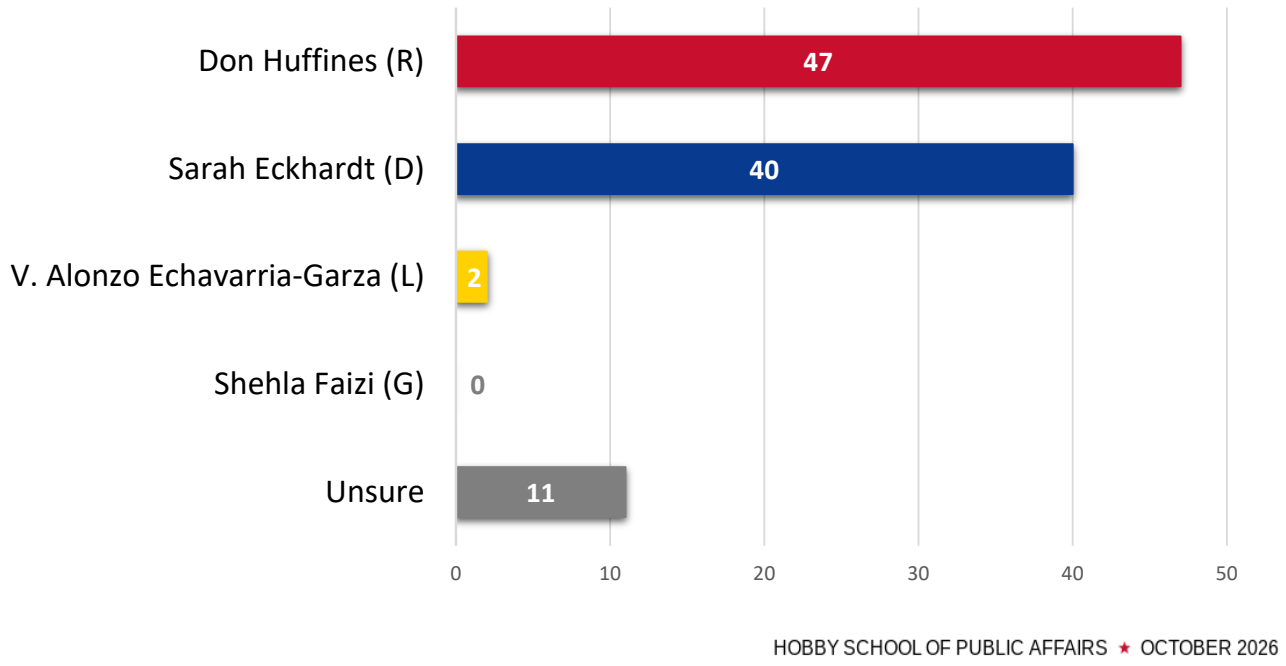


Table 5 provides the vote intention in the November 2026 Texas comptroller election, broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, age, education, region of residence, partisanship, 2026 U.S. Senate vote intention, and 2026 gubernatorial vote intention.

Table 5: Vote Intention in the November 2026 Texas Comptroller Election, Among Key Sub-Groups (%)

Socio-Demographic	Sub-Group	Huffines	Eckhardt	Echavarria-Garza	Faizi	Unsure
Overall		47	40	2	0	11
Gender	Women	42	45	1	1	11
	Men	53	33	3	0	10
Ethnicity/Race	White	56	32	2	0	10
	Latino	42	42	3	1	12
	Black	10	80	0	0	10
Age	18-34	23	57	6	0	14
	35-54	44	43	2	1	10
	55+	58	32	1	0	9
Education	4 Yr College Degree	40	46	3	0	11
	No 4 Yr College Degree	53	35	2	1	10
Urban-Rural Residence	Urban	36	50	2	1	11
	Suburban	49	48	2	0	11
	Rural	67	22	3	0	8
Partisanship	Democratic	0	92	0	1	7
	Independents	32	42	4	1	21
	Republican	91	2	2	0	5
2026 U.S. Senate Vote Intention	Paxton	94	0	1	0	5
	Talarico	3	82	1	1	13
	Brown	41	4	41	0	14
2026 Governor Vote Intention	Abbott	92	0	1	0	7
	Hinojosa	2	83	2	1	12
	Dixon	43	20	29	1	8

HOBBY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS ★ OCTOBER 2026

Huffines' three highest non-party leads over Eckhardt are among rural likely voters (67% to 22%), voters age 55 and older (58% to 32%), and White likely voters (56% to 32%). Eckhardt's three highest non-party leads over Huffines are among Black likely voters (80% to 10%), likely voters between the ages of 18 and 34 (57% to 23%), and among likely voters in urban areas (50% to 36%).

Huffines receives the support of 91% of Republicans while Eckhardt is supported by 92% of Democrats, with 0% of Democrats and 2% of Republicans intending to vote for Huffines and Eckhardt, respectively. Eckhardt leads Huffines 42% to 32% among Independents.

Of note, while only 5% and 7% of likely voters who intend to vote for Paxton and Abbott, respectively, are undecided about whom they will vote for in the comptroller election, 13% and 12% of Talarico and Hinojosa voters remain undecided in this contest, respectively.

THE NOVEMBER 2026 TEXAS LAND COMMISSIONER ELECTION

There are three candidates on the ballot in the November 2026 Texas Land Commissioner election: incumbent Republican Dawn Buckingham, Democrat Benjamin Flores, and Libertarian Neill Snider. Buckingham is viewed favorably by 13% of likely voters and unfavorably by 14%, with almost three-fourths (73%) of likely voters not knowing enough about her to have an opinion. Flores is viewed favorably by 10% of likely voters and unfavorably by 12%, with more than three-fourths (78%) of likely voters not knowing enough about him to have an opinion.

Figure 7 provides the vote intention among likely voters in the November 2026 Texas Land Commissioner election. Buckingham (47%) leads Flores (40%) by 7 percentage points, with 2% of likely voters backing Snider and 11% still unsure about for whom they would vote.

Figure 7: Vote Intention Among Likely Voters in the November 2026 Texas Land Commissioner Election (%)

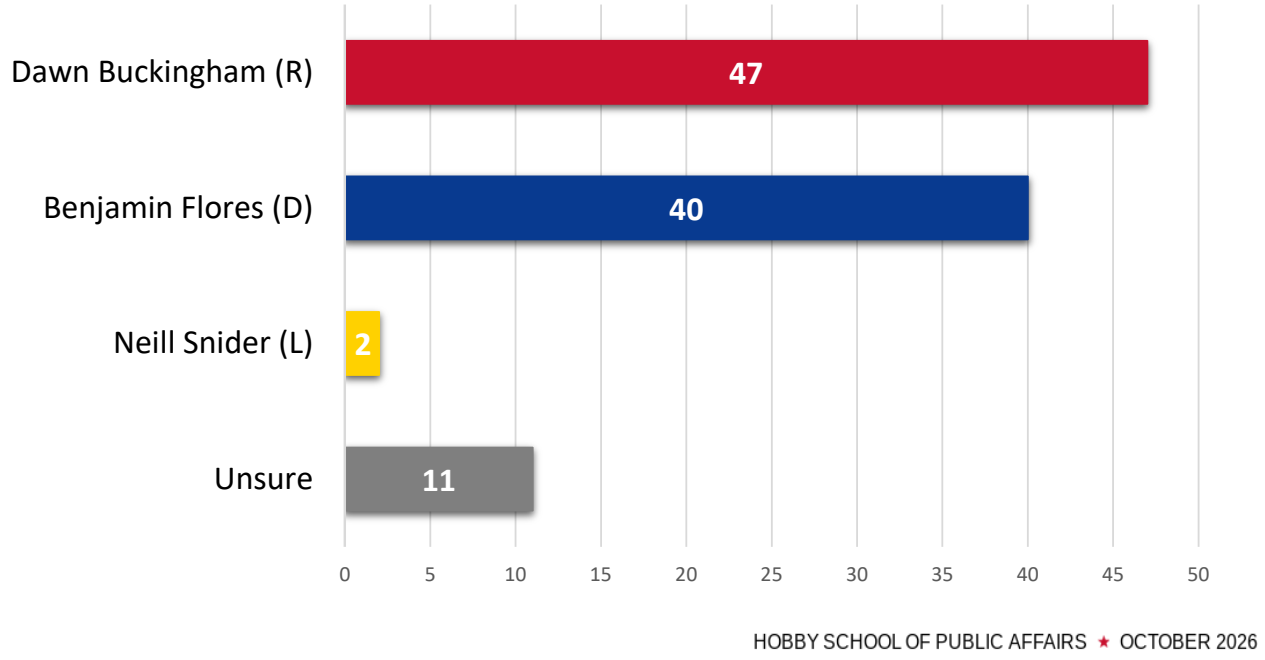


Table 6 provides the vote intention in the November 2026 Texas land commissioner election, broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, age, education, region of residence, partisanship, 2026 U.S. Senate vote intention, and 2026 gubernatorial vote intention.

Table 6: Vote Intention in the November 2026 Texas Land Commissioner Election, Among Key Sub-Groups (%)

Socio-Demographic	Sub-Group	Buckingham	Flores	Snider	Unsure
Overall		47	40	2	11
Gender	Women	42	46	1	11
	Men	52	33	3	12
Ethnicity/Race	White	55	31	2	12
	Latino	43	46	2	9
	Black	10	80	0	10
Age	18-34	23	57	5	15
	35-54	44	43	1	12
	55+	57	32	2	9
Education	4 Yr College Degree	41	45	2	12
	No 4 Yr College Degree	52	36	2	10
Urban-Rural Residence	Urban	36	51	1	12
	Suburban	49	37	3	11
	Rural	64	22	3	11
Partisanship	Democratic	1	92	0	7
	Independents	31	42	5	22
	Republican	91	1	1	7
2026 U.S. Senate Vote Intention	Paxton	92	0	1	7
	Talarico	4	82	1	13
	Brown	41	8	28	23
2026 Governor Vote Intention	Abbott	90	1	1	8
	Hinojosa	3	84	1	12
	Dixon	40	26	19	15

HOBBY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS ★ OCTOBER 2026

Buckingham's three highest non-party leads over Flores are among rural likely voters (64% to 22%), voters age 55 and older (57% to 32%), and White likely voters (55% to 31%). Flores' three highest non-party leads over Buckingham are among Black likely voters (80% to 10%), likely voters between the ages of 18 and 34 (57% to 23%), and among likely voters in urban areas (51% to 36%).

Buckingham receives the support of 91% of Republicans while Flores is supported by 92% of Democrats, with 1% of Democrats and 1% of Republicans intending to vote for Buckingham and Flores, respectively. Flores leads Buckingham 42% to 31% among Independents.

Of note, while 7% and 8% of likely voters who intend to vote for Paxton and Abbott, respectively, are undecided about whom they will vote for in the land commissioner election, 13% and 12% of Talarico and Hinojosa voters remain undecided in this contest, respectively.

THE NOVEMBER 2026 TEXAS AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER ELECTION

There are three candidates on the ballot in the November 2026 Texas Agriculture Commissioner election: Republican Nate Sheets, Democrat Clayton Tucker, and Libertarian Austin Kelly. Sheets is viewed favorably by 14% of likely voters and unfavorably by 12%, with almost three-fourths (74%) of likely voters not knowing enough about him to have an opinion. Tucker is viewed favorably by 13% of likely voters and unfavorably by 11%, with more than three-fourths (76%) of likely voters not knowing enough about him to have an opinion.

Figure 8 provides the vote intention among likely voters in the November 2026 Texas Agriculture Commissioner election. Sheets (46%) leads Tucker (40%) by 6 percentage points, with 2% of likely voters backing Kelly and 12% still unsure about for whom they would vote.

Figure 8: Vote Intention Among Likely Voters in the November 2026 Texas Agriculture Commissioner Election (%)

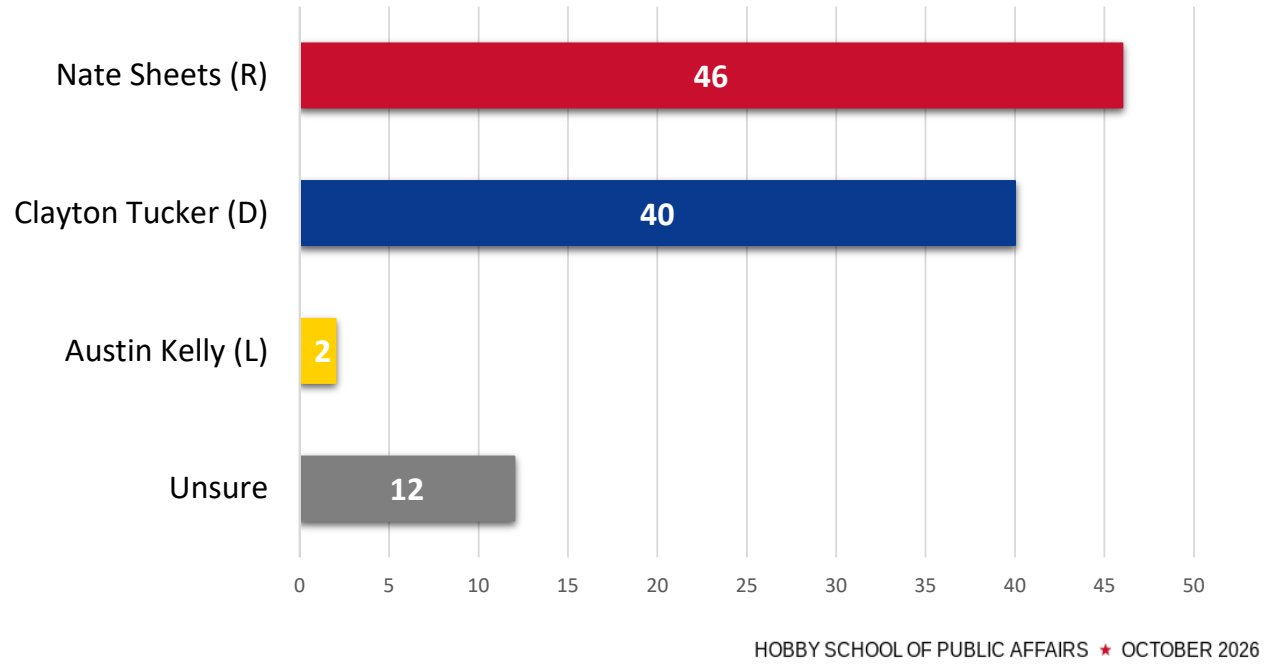


Table 7 provides the vote intention in the November 2026 Texas agriculture commissioner election, broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, age, education, region of residence, partisanship, 2026 U.S. Senate vote intention, and 2026 gubernatorial vote intention.

Table 7: Vote Intention in the November 2026 Texas Agriculture Commissioner Election, Among Key Sub-Groups (%)

Socio-Demographic	Sub-Group	Sheets	Tucker	Kelly	Unsure
Overall		46	40	2	12
Gender	Women	42	46	1	11
	Men	51	34	3	12
Ethnicity/Race	White	55	31	2	12
	Latino	40	46	2	12
	Black	10	82	0	8
Age	18-34	20	60	6	14
	35-54	43	42	1	14
	55+	56	33	1	10
Education	4 Yr College Degree	40	44	2	14
	No 4 Yr College Degree	51	37	2	10
Urban-Rural Residence	Urban	36	51	1	12
	Suburban	48	38	2	12
	Rural	63	24	4	9
Partisanship	Democratic	1	94	0	5
	Independents	30	41	5	24
	Republican	88	2	2	8
2026 U.S. Senate Vote Intention	Paxton	91	0	2	7
	Talarico	4	82	1	13
	Brown	38	6	32	24
2026 Governor Vote Intention	Abbott	88	0	2	10
	Hinojosa	3	85	1	11
	Dixon	21	39	29	11

HOBBY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS ★ OCTOBER 2026

Sheets' three highest non-party leads over Tucker are among rural likely voters (63% to 24%), voters age 55 and older (56% to 33%), and White likely voters (55% to 31%). Tucker's three highest non-party leads over Sheets are among Black likely voters (82% to 10%), likely voters between the ages of 18 and 34 (60% to 20%), and among likely voters in urban areas (51% to 36%).

Sheets receives the support of 88% of Republicans while Tucker is supported by 94% of Democrats, with 1% of Democrats and 2% of Republicans intending to vote for Sheets and Tucker, respectively. Tucker leads Sheets 41% to 30% among Independents.

THE NOVEMBER 2026 TEXAS RAILROAD COMMISSIONER ELECTION

There are three candidates on the ballot in the November 2026 Texas Railroad Commissioner election: Republican Bo French, Democrat Jon Rosenthal, and Libertarian Arthur DiBianca. French is viewed favorably by 20% of likely voters and unfavorably by 28%, with 52% of likely voters not knowing enough about him to have an opinion. Rosenthal is viewed favorably by 16% of likely voters and unfavorably by 12%, with more than two-thirds (72%) of likely voters not knowing enough about him to have an opinion.

Figure 9 provides the vote intention among likely voters in the November 2026 Texas Railroad Commissioner election. French (45%) leads Rosenthal (43%) by 2 percentage points, with 2% of likely voters backing DiBianca and 10% still unsure about for whom they would vote.

Figure 9: Vote Intention Among Likely Voters in the November 2026 Texas Railroad Commissioner Election (%)

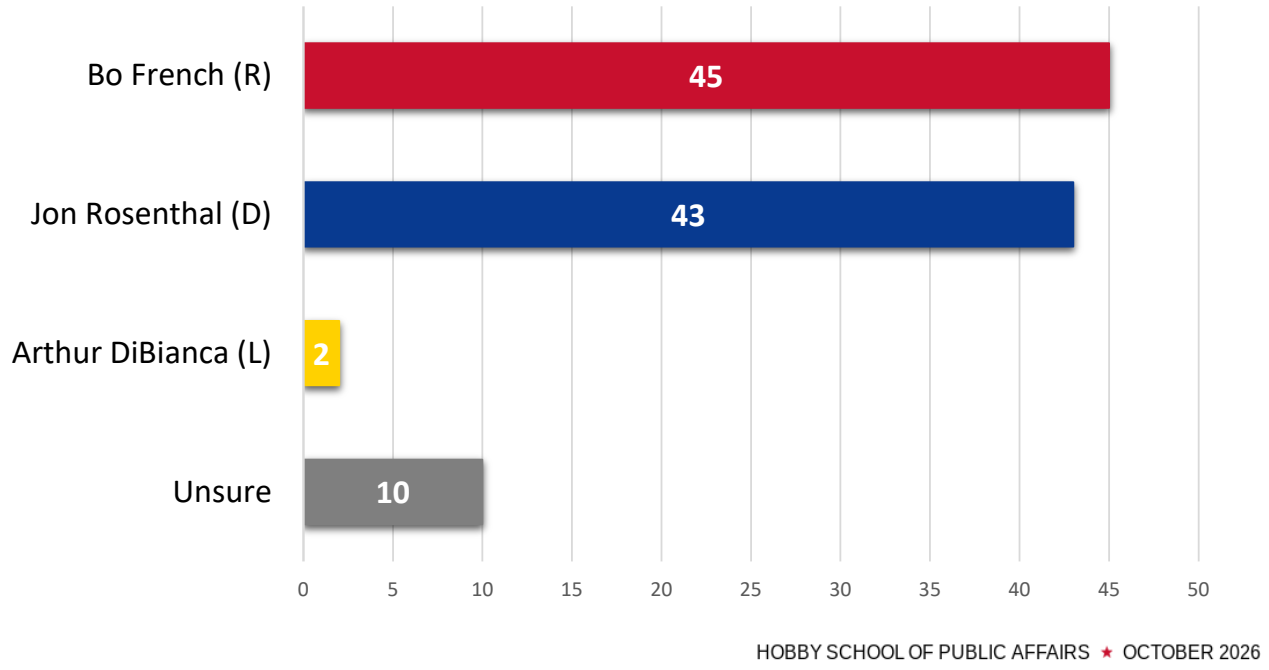


Table 8 provides the vote intention in the November 2026 Texas railroad commissioner election, broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, age, education, region of residence, partisanship, 2026 U.S. Senate vote intention, and 2026 gubernatorial vote intention.

Table 8: Vote Intention in the November 2026 Texas Railroad Commissioner Election, Among Key Sub-Groups (%)

Socio-Demographic	Sub-Group	French	Rosenthal	DiBianca	Unsure
Overall		45	43	2	10
Gender	Women	41	48	1	10
	Men	50	37	3	10
Ethnicity/Race	White	54	35	2	9
	Latino	41	46	2	11
	Black	10	81	0	9
Age	18-34	20	61	4	15
	35-54	42	47	2	9
	55+	56	34	1	9
Education	4 Yr College Degree	37	50	3	10
	No 4 Yr College Degree	51	38	1	10
Urban-Rural Residence	Urban	33	55	1	11
	Suburban	48	40	2	10
	Rural	64	23	3	10
Partisanship	Democratic	1	95	0	4
	Independents	29	48	3	20
	Republican	87	4	2	7
2026 U.S. Senate Vote Intention	Paxton	91	1	1	7
	Talarico	2	87	1	10
	Brown	32	14	26	28
2026 Governor Vote Intention	Abbott	87	3	2	8
	Hinojosa	1	88	1	10
	Dixon	44	21	18	17

HOBBY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS ★ OCTOBER 2026

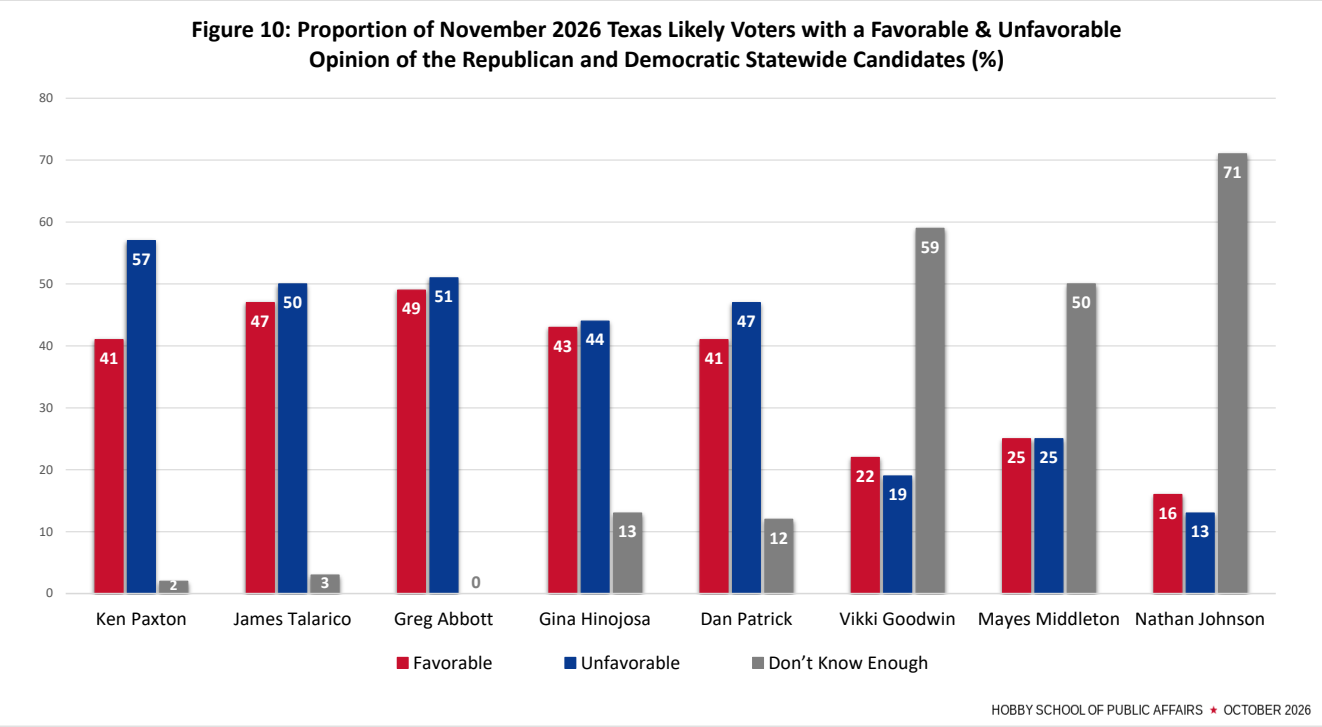
French's three highest non-party leads over Rosenthal are among rural likely voters (64% to 23%), voters age 55 and older (56% to 34%), and White likely voters (54% to 35%). Rosenthal's three highest non-party leads over French are among Black likely voters (81% to 10%), likely voters between the ages of 18 and 34 (61% to 20%), and among likely voters in urban areas (55% to 33%).

French receives the support of 87% of Republicans while Rosenthal is supported by 95% of Democrats, with 1% of Democrats and 4% of Republicans intending to vote for French and Rosenthal, respectively. Rosenthal leads French 48% to 29% among Independents.

LIKELY VOTER FAVORABLE & UNFAVORABLE EVALUATIONS OF THE STATEWIDE CANDIDATES

These likely voters were asked if they have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each one of the 16 Democratic and Republican candidates running for a non-judicial statewide office in the Texas November 2026 general election, or, if they do not know enough about the candidate to have an opinion of them, one way or another. These questions were asked before any information identifying the partisan affiliation of the candidates was provided.

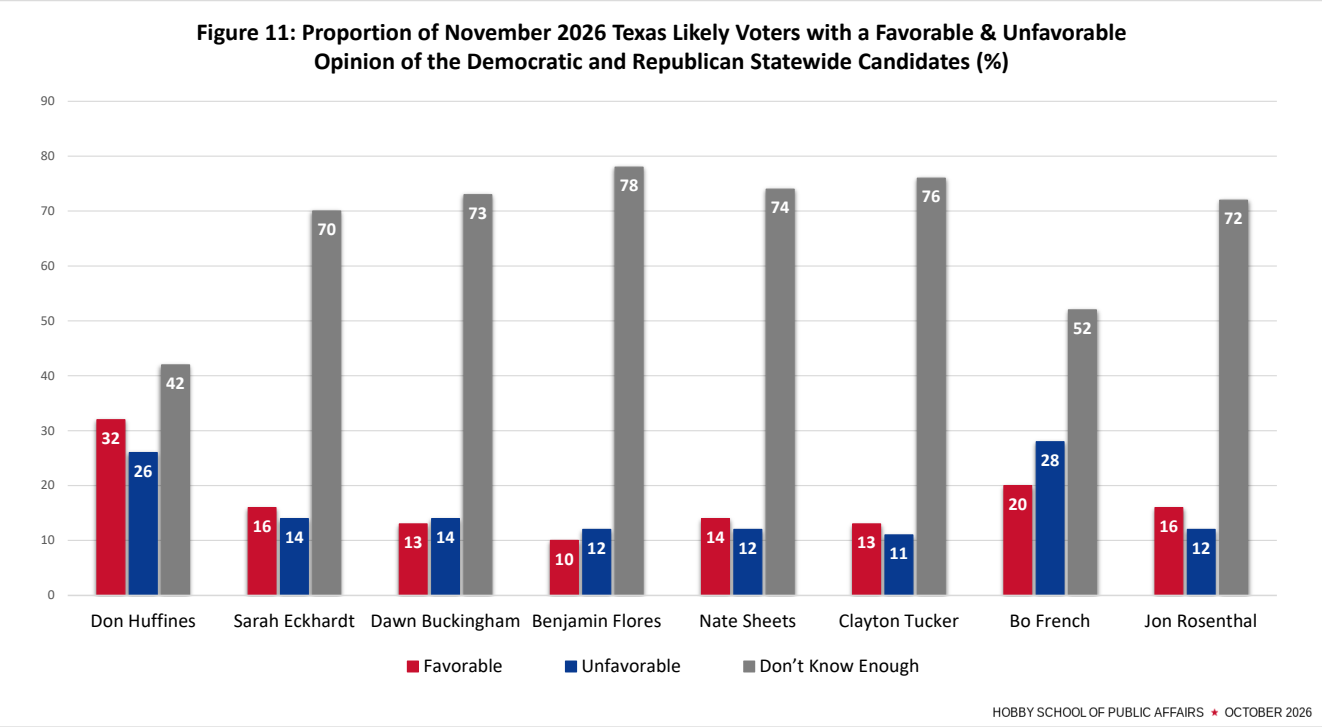
Figure 10 provides the proportion of November 2026 likely voters with a favorable and unfavorable opinion of the Republican and Democratic candidates running for the positions of U.S. Senator, Texas Governor, Texas Lieutenant Governor and Texas Attorney General, along with the proportion of likely voters who do not know enough about the candidate to have an opinion of them.



Three of these candidates are known quantities in the eyes of virtually all likely voters, with a mere 0% (Abbott), 2% (Paxton) and 3% (Talarico) not knowing enough about them to have an opinion. Close to nine out of ten likely voters are also familiar with Patrick and Hinojosa, while 50% and 71% of likely voters don't know enough about the two respective attorney general candidates, Middleton and Johnson, to have an opinion of them.

The candidates' net-favorability ratings (percentage favorable minus percentage unfavorable) range from highs of +3% (Goodwin) and +3% (Johnson) to lows of -16% Paxton and -6% (Patrick), with Middleton (0%), Hinojosa (-1%), Abbott (-2%) and Talarico (-3%) in between.

Figure 11 provides the proportion of November 2026 likely voters with a favorable and unfavorable opinion of the Republican and Democratic candidates running for the positions of Texas Comptroller, Texas Land Commissioner, Texas Agriculture Commissioner, and Texas Railroad Commissioner, along with the proportion of likely voters who don't know enough about the candidate to have an opinion of them.

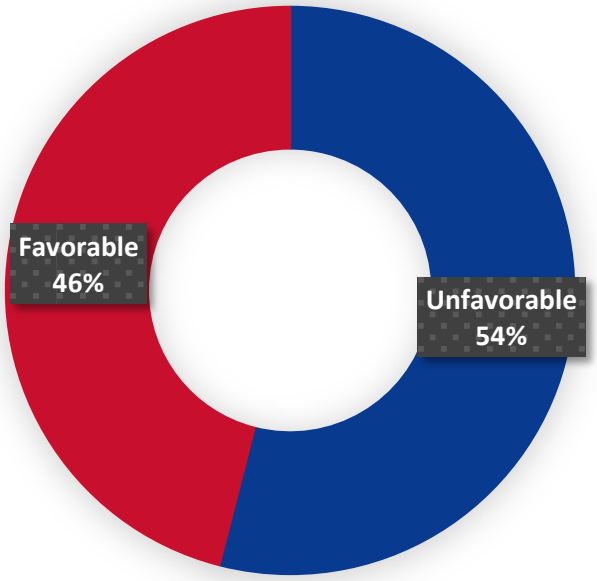


More than two-thirds of likely voters do not know enough about six of these eight candidates to have an opinion of them, with proportions for these six ranging from highs of 78% (Flores) and 76% (Tucker) to lows of 70% (Eckhardt) and 72% (Rosenthal), with Buckingham (73%) and Sheets (74%) in between. In a modest contrast, both Huffines (42%) and French (52%) are unknown to a significantly smaller proportion of likely voters.

The candidates' net-favorability ratings (percentage favorable minus percentage unfavorable) range from highs of +6% (Huffines) and +4% (Rosenthal) to lows of -8% (French) and -2% (Flores), with Eckhardt (+2%), Sheets (+2%), Tucker (+2%) and Buckingham (-1%) in between.

Finally, Figure 12 provides the proportion of Texas likely voters with a favorable and unfavorable opinion of President Donald Trump. More than one-half (54%) of likely voters have an unfavorable opinion of Trump, compared to 46% who have a favorable opinion, and 0% who report not knowing enough about the president to have an opinion of him.

Figure 12: Proportion of November 2026 Texas Likely Voters with a Favorable & Unfavorable Opinion of President Donald Trump (%)



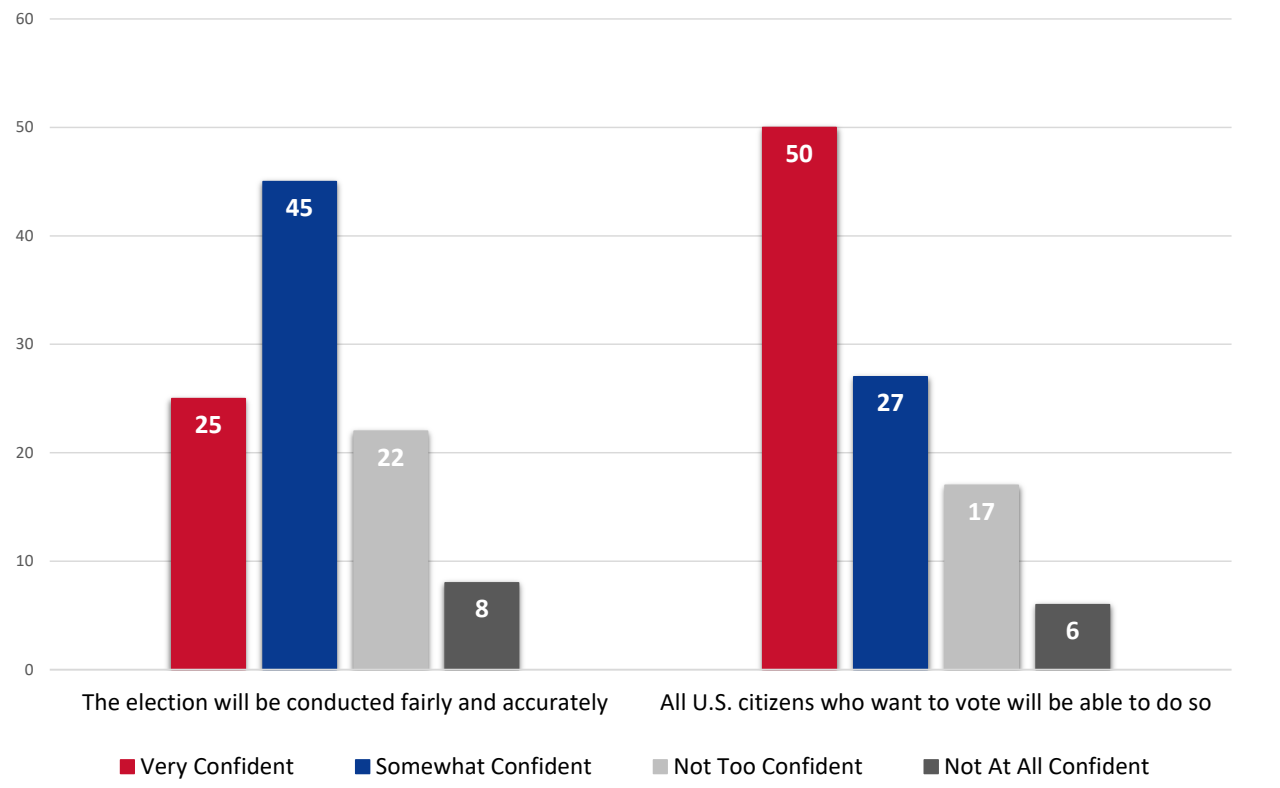
HOBBY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS ★ OCTOBER 2026

LIKELY VOTER CONFIDENCE IN THE NOVEMBER 2026 ELECTION PROCESS

These likely voters were asked how confident, if at all, they are that in the gubernatorial and congressional midterm election this November: 1) the election will be conducted fairly and accurately, and 2) all U.S. citizens who want to vote in the election will be able to do so. The response options included very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, and not at all confident.

Figure 13 reveals that 70% of likely voters are either very confident (25%) or somewhat confident (45%) that the November 2026 election will be conducted fairly and accurately, while 22% are not too confident and 8% are not at all confident. Republicans (80%) are notably more likely to be either very confident (29%) or somewhat confident (51%) than are Democrats (60%), 18% of whom are very confident and 42% of whom are not confident. Independents (68%) are in between, with 28% very confident and 40% somewhat confident.

Figure 13: Texas Likely Voter Confidence that the November 2026 Election Will Be Conducted Fairly and Accurately and that All U.S. Citizens Will Be Able to Vote (%)



HOBBY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS ★ OCTOBER 2026

Figure 13 also reveals that 77% of likely voters are either very confident (50%) or somewhat confident (27%) that all U.S. citizens who want to vote in the election will be able to do so, with 17% not too confident and 6% not at all confident. Republicans (98%) are dramatically more likely to be either very confident (80%) or somewhat confident (18%) than are Democrats (53%), 13% of whom are very confident and 40% of whom are somewhat confident. Independents (73%) are in between, with 46% very confident and 27% somewhat confident.

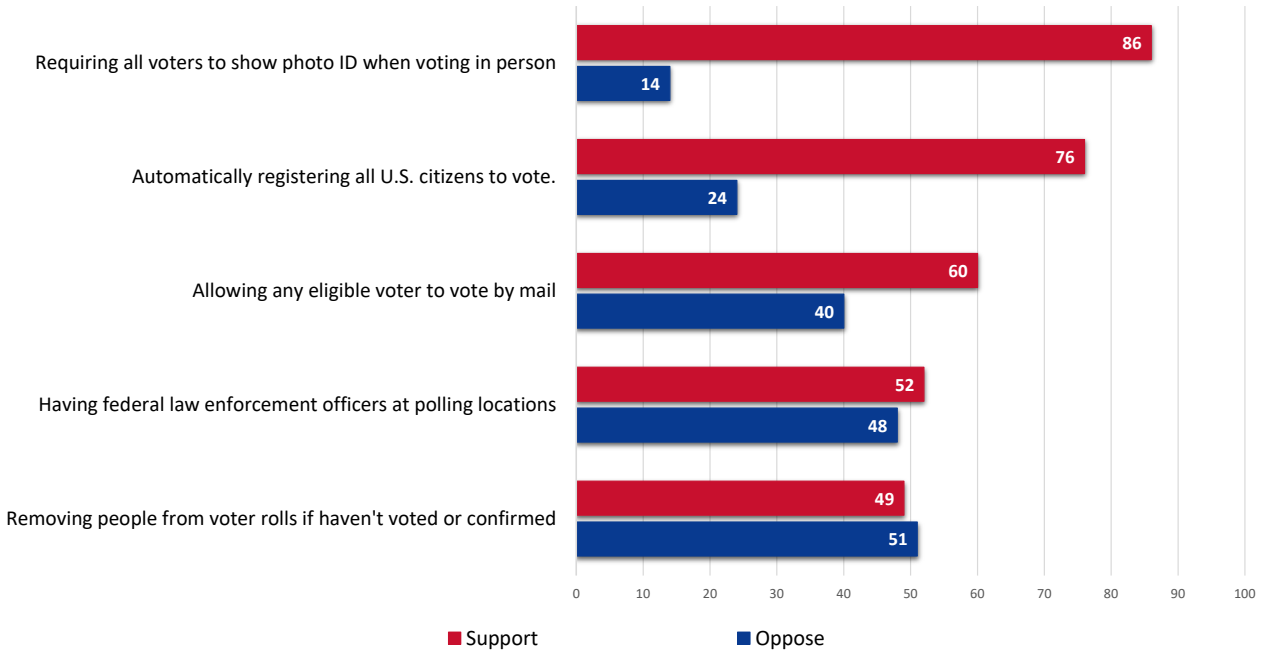
LIKELY VOTER SUPPORT FOR AND OPPOSITION TO FIVE ELECTION ADMINISTRATION POLICIES

These likely voters were asked if they support (strongly or somewhat) or oppose (strongly or somewhat) five election administration policies. They also had the option of answering that they were unsure. The five policies included the following:

- Automatically registering all U.S. citizens to vote.
- Removing people from voter registration lists if they have not voted in recent elections and have not responded to requests to confirm their registration.
- Requiring all voters to show government-issued photo identification when voting in person.
- Allowing any eligible voter to vote by mail.
- Having federal law enforcement officers present at polling locations.

Figure 14 provides the proportion of likely voters who support and oppose each of these policies, excluding from the analysis the small proportion (ranging from 1% to 5%) who responded that they were unsure.

Figure 14: Support For and Opposition To Five Election Policies Among Texas Likely Voters (%)



HOBBY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS ★ OCTOBER 2026

Close to nine out of ten (86%) of Texas likely voters support (71% strongly and 15% somewhat) requiring all voters to show photo ID when voting in person, a policy opposed by only 14% of likely voters (6% strongly and 8% somewhat). Significantly more Republicans (99%) than Democrats (65%) support this policy, with Independents (86%) in between. It Is important to note, however, that close to two out of every three Democrats support this policy.

More than three out of four (76%) Texas likely voters support (55% strongly and 21% somewhat) automatically registering all U.S. citizens to vote, a policy opposed by only 24% (14% strongly and 10% somewhat). Significantly more Democrats (95%) than Republicans (62%) support this policy, with Independents (75%) in between. It is important to note, however, that more than three-fifths of Republicans support this policy.

Three-fifths (60%) of Texas likely voters support (44% strongly and 16% somewhat) allowing any eligible voter to vote by mail, while 40% oppose this policy (27% strongly and 13% somewhat). Significantly more Democrats (96%) than Republicans (31%) support this policy, with Independents (75%) in between.

Just over one-half (52%) of Texas likely voters support (36% strongly and 16% somewhat) having federal law enforcement officers present at polling locations, while 48% oppose this policy (38% strongly and 10% somewhat). Significantly more Republicans (88%) than Democrats (15%) support this policy, with Independents (40%) in between.

Just under one-half (49%) of Texas likely voters support (30% strongly and 19% somewhat) removing people from voter registration lists if they have not voted in recent elections and have not responded to requests to confirm their registration, while 51% oppose this policy (34% strongly and 17% somewhat). Significantly more Republicans (80%) than Democrats (13%) support this policy, with Independents (41%) in between.

PRIMARY INVESTIGATORS & REPORT AUTHORS

Renée Cross, Senior Executive Director; Researcher, Hobby School of Public Affairs

Mark P. Jones, James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy's Fellow in Political Science, Rice University; Senior Research Fellow, Hobby School of Public Affairs

RESEARCH TEAM

Maria Perez Arguelles, Research Assistant Professor, Hobby School of Public Affairs

Savannah Sipole, Research Associate, Hobby School of Public Affairs

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Diana Benitez, Program Director, Web & Graphic Design, Hobby School of Public Affairs

Victoria Cordova, Executive Director of Communications, Hobby School of Public Affairs

Jeannie Kever, Communications Consultant

Celeste Zamora, Communications Manager, Hobby School of Public Affairs

PHOTO CREDIT

Cover photograph by Jonathan Cutrer (cutrerphoto.com). Cropped from original.

RECOMMENDED CITATION

University of Houston Hobby School of Public Affairs, October 2026, “Texas Votes 2026: Statewide Races, Favorability & Election Administration”