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BARBARA JORDAN

PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH
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THE NOVEMBER 2026 ELECTIONS IN TEXAS: U.S. SENATE, GOVERNOR & LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

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The Barbara Jordan Public Policy Research and Survey Center at Texas Southern University conducted a survey of Texas registered voters to better understand their political attitudes, preferences and opinions on a wide variety of public policy and political topics. The survey was conducted in English and Spanish between April 22 and May 6, 2026. The respondents were matched to a sampling frame on gender, age, race/ethnicity and education, and are representative of the Texas registered voter population. The November 2026 election analysis in this report focuses on a subset of 1,223 (margin of error of +/- 2.80%) of the YouGov respondents from the broader survey population who, based on their responses to a series of questions about their retrospective and prospective voting behavior, are considered likely to participate in the November 2026 midterm election.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In a November 2026 Texas U.S. Senate election with John Cornyn as the Republican nominee, 45% of likely voters would cast a ballot for Cornyn and 44% for Democrat James Talarico, with 3% backing Libertarian Ted Brown and 8% undecided.

In a November 2026 Texas U.S. Senate election with Ken Paxton as the Republican nominee, 45% of likely voters would cast a ballot for Paxton and 45% for Democrat James Talarico, with 2% backing Libertarian Ted Brown and 8% undecided

90% of Cornyn voters would vote for Paxton if he were the GOP nominee for U.S. Senate in November, while 2% would vote for Talarico and 2% for Brown, with 6% undecided.

91% of Paxton voters would vote for Cornyn if he were the GOP nominee for U.S. Senate in November, while 0% would vote for Talarico and 3% for Brown, with 6% undecided.

Talarico is viewed favorably by 46% of likely voters and unfavorably by 35%, with 19% not knowing enough about him to have an opinion.

Paxton is viewed favorably by 42% of likely voters and unfavorably by 48%, with 10% not knowing enough about him to have an opinion.

Cornyn is viewed favorably by 37% of likely voters and unfavorably by 49%, with 14% not knowing enough about him to have an opinion.

Donald Trump is viewed favorably by 48% of likely voters and unfavorably by 51%, with 1% not knowing enough about him to have an opinion.

In the November 2026 Texas gubernatorial election, 49% of likely voters intend to vote for Republican Greg Abbott and 43% for Democrat Gina Hinojosa, with 3% backing Libertarian Pat Dixon and 5% undecided.

87% of Abbott voters would vote for Cornyn in the November 2026 U.S. Senate race, while 3% would vote for Talarico and 3% for Brown, with 7% undecided.

87% of Abbott voters would vote for Paxton in the November 2026 U.S. Senate race, while 3% would vote for Talarico and 2% for Brown, with 8% undecided.

Abbott is viewed favorably by 51% of likely voters and unfavorably by 48%, with 1% not knowing enough about him to have an opinion.

Hinojosa is viewed favorably by 42% of likely voters and unfavorably by 26%, with 32% not knowing enough about her to have an opinion.

In the November 2026 Texas lieutenant governor election, 47% of likely voters intend to vote for Republican Dan Patrick and 40% for Democrat Vikki Goodwin, with 3% backing Libertarian Anthony Cristo, 1% supporting the Green Party's Kevin McCormick, and 9% undecided.

Patrick is viewed favorably by 42% of likely voters and unfavorably by 43%, with 15% not knowing enough about him to have an opinion.

Goodwin is viewed favorably by 30% of likely voters and unfavorably by 18%, with 52% not knowing enough about her to have an opinion.

NOVEMBER 2026 TEXAS LIKELY VOTER DEMOGRAPHICS

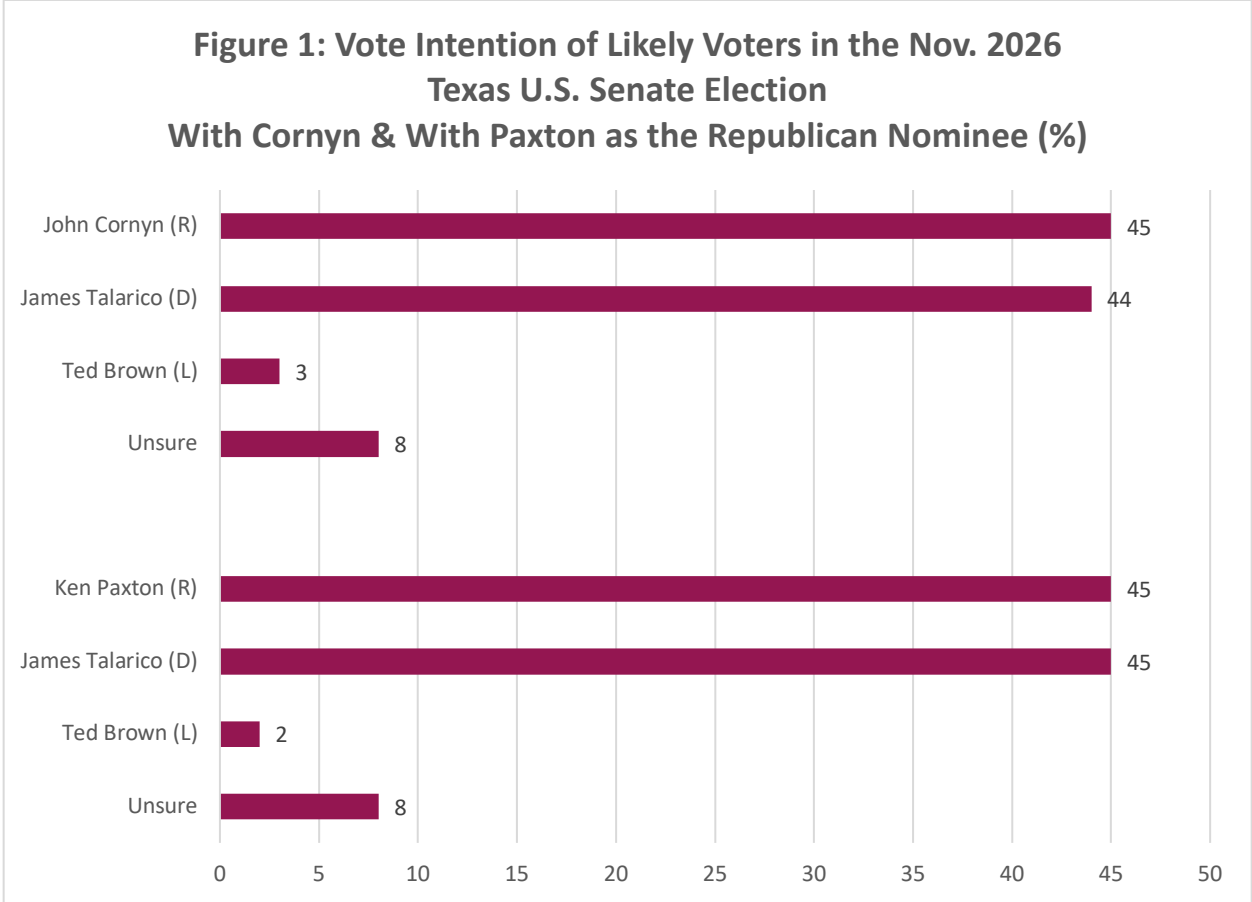
White likely voters account for 55% of this population of November 2026 Texas likely voters, Latino likely voters for 25%, Black likely voters for 13%, and others for 7%. Women represent 51% of this population and men 49%. Regarding generations, 33% of this population belongs to the combined Silent Generation (born between 1928-1945) and Baby Boomer (1946-1964) cohort, 26% to Generation X (Gen-X) (1965-1980), 26% to the Millennial (1981-1996) generation, and 15% to Generation Z (Gen-Z) (1997-2012). The highest level of educational attainment of 40% of the population is a four-year college degree or a post-graduate degree, of 42% of the population is a two-year college degree or some college, and of 18% of the population is a high school degree or less. Republicans account for 49% of this population, Democrats for 39% and Independents for 11%, with 1% unsure of their partisan identification. In the 2024 presidential election, among those who cast a ballot that year, 56% voted for Republican Donald Trump and 43% for Democrat Kamala Harris, with 1% supporting a third-party candidate.

NOVEMBER 2026 TEXAS U.S. SENATE ELECTION UNDER TWO GOP CANDIDATE SCENARIOS

On May 26, U.S. Senator John Cornyn will face off against Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton in the Texas Republican primary runoff election, with the winner becoming the GOP standard bearer who will compete in the November 2026 Texas U.S. Senate election against Texas State Representative James Talarico, the Democratic Party nominee, and Ted Brown, the Libertarian Party nominee.

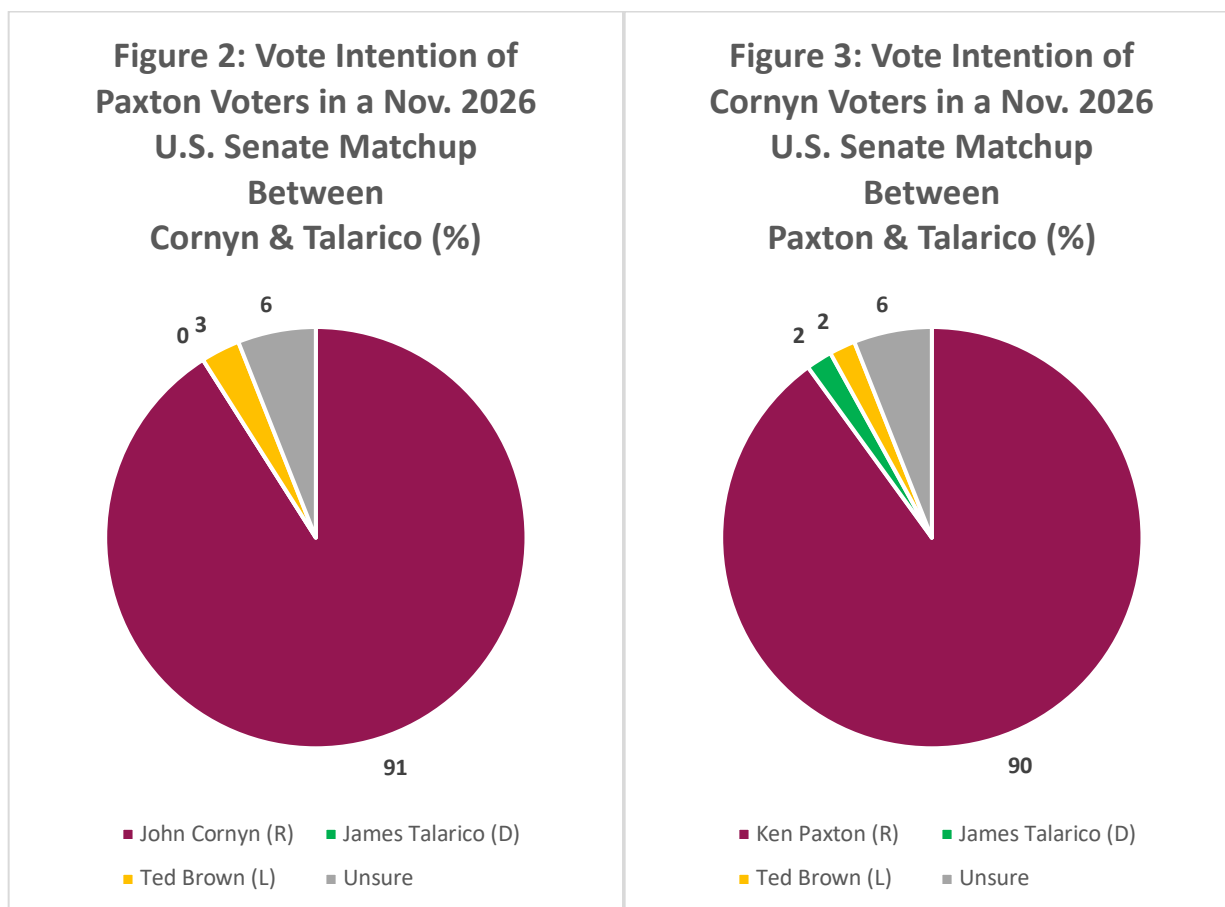
Talarico is viewed favorably by 46% of November 2026 Texas likely voters and unfavorably by 35%, with 19% of likely voters not knowing enough about him to have an opinion. Paxton is viewed favorably by 42% of these likely voters and unfavorably by 48%, with 10% of likely voters not knowing enough about him to have an opinion. Cornyn is viewed favorably by 37% of these likely voters and unfavorably by 49%, with 14% not knowing enough about him to have an opinion. As a base of comparison, President Donald Trump is viewed favorably by 48% of these likely voters and unfavorably by 51%, with 1% having no opinion.

Figure 1 contains the vote intention of November 2026 Texas likely voters in the U.S. Senate election under two scenarios, one where John Cornyn is the GOP nominee and one where Ken Paxton is the GOP nominee. Likely voters were asked, if the November Texas U.S. Senate election was held today, and these were the candidates, for whom would you vote?



Under the first scenario, Cornyn and Talarico are in a statistical tie, with 45% of likely voters intending to vote for Cornyn and 44% for Talarico, with 3% preferring Brown and 8% unsure how they would vote. Under the second scenario, Paxton and Talarico are in a literal tie, each with a vote intention of 45%, with 2% backing Brown and 8% unsure.

An analysis of the behavior of Paxton voters under the scenario of a Cornyn-Talarico matchup in November (see Figure 2) and of Cornyn voters under the scenario of a Paxton-Talarico matchup in November (see Figure 3) reveals that 91% of Paxton voters would cast a ballot for Cornyn and that 90% of Cornyn voters would cast a ballot for Paxton. The remaining 9% of Paxton voters are split among the 0% (technically 0.4%) who would vote for Talarico, the 3% who would vote for Brown, and the 6% who are unsure how they would vote. The remaining 10% of Cornyn voters are split among the 2% who would vote for Talarico, the 2% who would vote for Brown, and the 6% are unsure how they would vote.



In the 2026 Texas gubernatorial election (see the next section below for more details), the Republican nominee, Texas Governor Greg Abbott, leads the Democratic nominee, Texas State Representative Gina Hinojosa, by 6 percentage points, 49% to 43%. In the two hypothetical U.S. Senate contests featuring Cornyn and Paxton as the Republican nominee, respectively, 87% of the Abbott voters intend to vote for Cornyn and 87% intend to vote for Paxton. More than one-half (7%) of the 13% of Abbott voters who presently do not intend to vote for Cornyn in

November are unsure about for whom they would vote in a Cornyn vs. Talarico contest, while 3% would vote for Talarico and 3% for Brown. More than one-half (8%) of the 13% of Abbott voters who presently do not intend to vote for Paxton in November are unsure about for whom they would vote in a Paxton vs. Talarico contest, while 3% would vote for Talarico and 2% for Brown.

Table 1 provides the vote intention in the two November 2026 U.S. Senate race scenarios (Cornyn vs. Talarico, Paxton vs. Talarico), broken down by ethnicity/race, gender, generation, education and partisanship.

Table 1. Vote Intention in Two Hypothetical Nov. 2026 U.S. Senate Elections, Among Key Sub-Groups (%)

Socio Demographic	Sub-Group	Cornyn vs. Talarico		Paxton vs. Talarico	
		Cornyn	Talarico	Paxton	Talarico
Overall		45	44	45	45
Ethnicity/Race	White	55	34	55	35
	Latino	43	47	40	48
	Black	11	79	11	81
Gender	Women	41	48	38	49
	Men	50	39	51	41
Generation	Silent/Boomer	51	38	54	39
	Gen-X	43	47	40	48
	Millennial	48	43	48	43
	Gen-Z	32	50	29	53
Education	High School	49	40	49	40
	2-Yr/Some College	46	41	48	41
	4-Yr/Advanced	42	48	40	50
Partisanship	Democratic	1	95	1	96
	Independent	18	40	20	45
	Republican	86	3	85	4

White likely voters are notably more likely to intend to vote for Cornyn (55%) and Paxton (55%) than for Talarico (34%, 35%), while Black likely voters are notably more likely to vote for Talarico (79%, 81%) than for Cornyn (11%) and Paxton (11%). Latino likely voters moderately favor Talarico over his two potential Republican rivals, with Talarico holding an 8-percentage point lead against Paxton (48% to 40%) and a 4-percentage point lead against Cornyn (47% to 43%) among Latino voters.

Both Cornyn (50%) and Paxton (51%) enjoy a significant lead over Talarico (39%, 41%) among men (11 and 10 percentage points, respectively), while Talarico (48%, 49%) bests Cornyn (41%) and Paxton (38%) among women by significant 7 and 11 percentage point margins, respectively.

Cornyn (51%) and Paxton (54%) have a healthy lead over Talarico (38%, 39%) among members of the Silent Generation/Baby Boomer generational cohort, while Talarico (50%, 53%) holds healthy leads over Cornyn (32%) and Paxton (29%) among members of Generation Z. Talarico and the two Republican candidates are effectively deadlocked among Gen-Xers and Millennials, with Talarico modestly ahead among Gen-Xers and the two Republicans modestly ahead of Talarico among Millennials.

Educational differences in support for the candidates are less stark, although, on average, likely voters who do not have a four-year college degree are more likely to intend to vote for the Republican nominee (Cornyn or Paxton) in November of 2026 while those with a four-year college degree are more likely to intend to vote for Talarico, with the education gap slightly larger if Paxton is the GOP nominee rather than Cornyn.

An overwhelming majority of likely voters who identify as Democrats intend to vote for Talarico (95%, 96%) rather than for Cornyn (1%) or Paxton (1%) in the hypothetical U.S. Senate races, with a mere 3% in both contests undecided and 1% intending to vote for Libertarian Ted Brown if Cornyn is the GOP nominee and 0% for Brown if Paxton is the GOP nominee.

While an overwhelming majority of likely voters who identify as Republicans intend to vote for Cornyn (86%) and Paxton (85%), this proportion is significantly lower than the proportion of Democrats who intend to vote for Talarico in a contest against either Cornyn (95%) or Paxton (96%). If Cornyn is the Republican nominee, 3% of Republicans would vote for Talarico, with 4% casting a ballot for Brown and 7% unsure for whom they would vote. If Paxton is the Republican nominee, 4% of Republicans would vote for Talarico, with 3% casting a ballot for Brown and 8% unsure for whom they would vote.

Talarico holds a 40% to 18% lead over Cornyn among Independents, with 13% intending to vote for Brown and more than one-in-four (29%) unsure for whom they would vote in November. Talarico holds a 45% to 20% lead over Paxton among Independents, with 7% intending to vote for Brown and more than one-in-four (28%) unsure for whom they would vote in November.

NOVEMBER 2026 TEXAS GOVERNOR ELECTION

The field for the November 2026 Texas gubernatorial election is set, with three-term Republican Governor Greg Abbott being challenged by Democratic Texas State Representative Gina Hinojosa and Libertarian Pat Dixon. Likely voters were asked, if the Texas gubernatorial election was held today, and these were the candidates, for whom would you vote?

Figure 4 provides the vote intention of Texas likely voters in the November 2026 gubernatorial election, with Abbott (49%) leading Hinojosa (43%) by 6 percentage points, and with 3% of likely voters intending to vote for Dixon and 5% unsure of for whom they would vote in this contest.

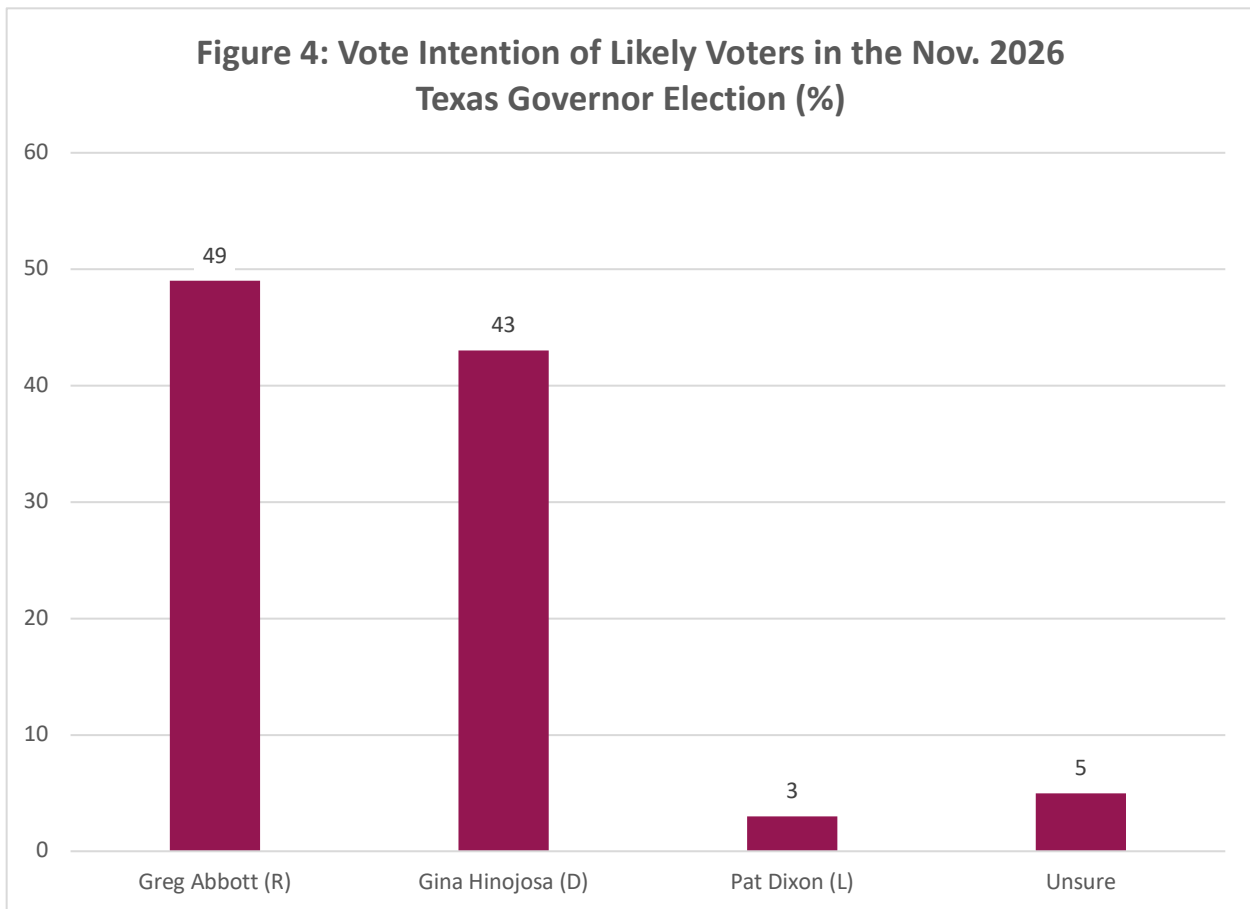


Table 2 provides the vote intention in the November 2026 Texas gubernatorial election, broken down by ethnicity/race, gender, generation, education and partisanship.

Socio Demographic	Sub-Group	Abbott	Hinojosa	Dixon	Unsure
Overall		49	43	3	5
Ethnicity/Race	White	59	33	3	5
	Latino	47	47	2	4
	Black	14	81	1	4
Gender	Women	44	48	2	6
	Men	55	39	3	3
Generation	Silent/Boomer	60	37	1	2
	Gen-X	46	47	4	3
	Millennial	49	41	3	7
	Gen-Z	32	53	3	12
Education	High School	53	39	4	4
	2-Yr/Some College	50	42	2	6
	4-Yr/Advanced	47	47	2	4
Partisanship	Democratic	1	95	1	3
	Independent	32	45	8	15
	Republican	91	3	3	3

Abbott (59%) holds a 26-percentage point lead over Hinojosa (33%) among White likely voters, while Hinojosa (81%) holds a 67-percentage point lead over Abbott (14%) among Black likely voters. The two candidates are tied among Latino likely voters at 47% each.

Abbott (55%) maintains a substantial 16-percentage point lead over Hinojosa (39%) among men, while Hinojosa (48%) holds a narrower 4-percentage point lead over Abbott (44%) among women.

Abbott's largest generational lead over Hinojosa is among members of the Silent Generation/Baby Boomer cohort (60% to 37%), while Hinojosa's largest generational lead over Abbott is among Gen-Z (53% to 32%). Abbott and Hinojosa are much more evenly matched among Gen-Xers (46% to 47%) and Millennials (49% to 41%), respectively.

Abbott holds a significant lead over Hinojosa among likely voters who do not have a four-year college degree, with the two deadlocked among likely voters whose highest level of educational attainment is a four-year college degree or an advanced degree.

More than nine out of ten Democrats and Republicans intend to vote for Hinojosa (95%) and Abbott (91%), respectively. Among the 5% of Democrats who do not intend to vote for Hinojosa at the present time, 1% intend to vote for Abbott, 1% for Dixon and 3% are undecided. Among the 9% of Republicans who do not intend to vote for Abbott at the present time, 3% intend to vote for Hinojosa, 3% for Dixon and 3% are undecided. Independents moderately favor Hinojosa (45%) over Abbott (32%), with, 15% still unsure of for whom they will vote in November, and 8% planning to vote for Dixon.

Abbott is viewed favorably by 51% of likely voters and unfavorably by 48%, with only 1% reporting that they do not know enough about Abbott to have an opinion of him. Hinojosa is viewed favorably by 42% of likely voters and unfavorably by 26%, with, though, almost one-third (32%) of November 2026 likely voters not knowing enough about Hinojosa to have an opinion of her, one way or another.

NOVEMBER 2026 TEXAS LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR ELECTION

Three of the four candidates who will be on the November 2026 ballot in Texas for the position of lieutenant governor have been determined: three-term Republican incumbent Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick, Libertarian Anthony Cristo and the Green Party's Kevin McCormick. While the Democratic Party's candidate for lieutenant governor will not be known until after the May 26 Democratic primary runoff election, the most likely Democratic nominee is Texas State Representative Vikki Goodwin, who is competing against union leader Marcos Vélez in the May 26 runoff. Likely voters were asked, if the Texas lieutenant governor election was held today, and these were the candidates, for whom would you vote?

Figure 5 provides the vote intention of Texas likely voters in the November 2026 lieutenant governor election, with Patrick (47%) leading Goodwin (40%) by 7 percentage points, with 3% and 1% of likely voters intending to vote for Cristo and McCormick, respectively, and with 9% of likely voters unsure at the present time about for whom they would vote in this contest.

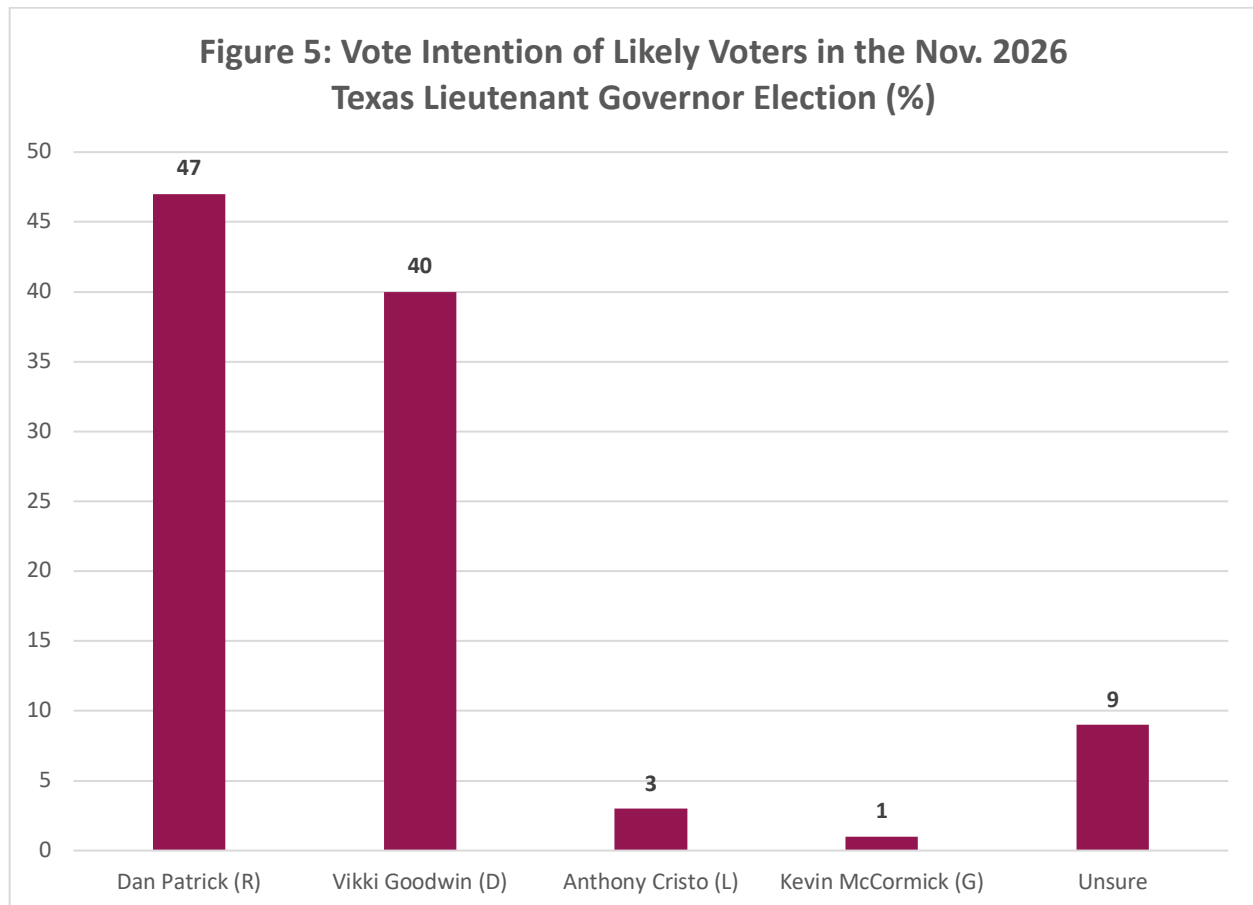


Table 3 provides the vote intention in the November 2026 Texas lieutenant governor election, broken down by ethnicity/race, gender, generation, education and partisanship.

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

Socio Demographic	Sub-Group	Patrick	Goodwin	Cristo	McCormick	Unsure
Overall		47	40	3	1	9
Ethnicity/Race	White	56	30	3	1	9
	Latino	43	42	4	1	10
	Black	12	78	0	2	8
Gender	Women	40	44	2	2	12
	Men	53	35	4	1	7
Generation	Silent/Boomer	58	34	1	0	7
	Gen-X	44	42	5	2	7
	Millennial	48	38	2	2	10
	Gen-Z	29	49	4	2	16
Education	High School	53	35	2	1	9
	2-Yr/Some College	47	38	3	1	10
	4-Yr/Advanced	44	44	3	2	8
Partisanship	Democratic	0	89	1	2	8
	Independent	26	33	12	3	26
	Republican	88	2	2	1	7

Patrick (56%) holds a 26-percentage point lead over Goodwin (30%) among White likely voters, while Goodwin (78%) holds a 66-percentage point lead over Patrick (12%) among Black likely voters. Patrick (43%) and Goodwin (42%) are effectively tied among Latino likely voters.

Patrick (53%) maintains a substantial 18-percentage point lead over Goodwin (35%) among men, while Goodwin (44%) holds a much narrower 4-percentage point lead over Patrick (40%) among women.

Patrick's largest generational lead over Goodwin is among members of the Silent Generation/Baby Boomer cohort (58% to 34%), while Goodwin's largest generational lead over Patrick is among Gen-Z (49% to 29%). Patrick and Goodwin are much more evenly matched among Gen-Xers (44% to 42%), while Patrick holds a 10-percentage point lead over Goodwin among Millennials (48% to 38%).

Patrick enjoys a significant lead over Goodwin among likely voters who do not have a four-year college degree, with the two deadlocked among likely voters whose highest level of educational attainment is a four-year college degree or an advanced degree.

Almost nine out of ten Democrats and Republicans intend to vote for Goodwin (89%) and Patrick (88%), respectively. Among the 11% of Democrats who do not intend to vote for Goodwin at the present time, 0% intend to vote for Patrick, 2% for Cristo and 1% for McCormick, with 8% undecided. Among the 12% of Republicans who do not intend to vote for Patrick at the present time, 2% intend to vote for Goodwin, 2% for Cristo and 1% for McCormick, with 7% undecided. Independents moderately favor Goodwin (33%) over Patrick (26%), with, though, more than one-in-four (26%) Independents still unsure of for whom they will vote in November, and 12% intending to vote for Cristo and 3% for McCormick

Patrick is viewed favorably by 42% of likely voters and unfavorably by 43%, with 15% of November 2026 Texas likely voters not knowing enough about Patrick to have an opinion of him. Goodwin is viewed favorably by 30% of likely voters and unfavorably by 18%, with, though, more than half (52%) of November 2026 Texas likely voters not knowing enough about Goodwin to have an opinion of her.




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