

HARRIS COUNTY 2025

TEXAS CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 18



Hobby School of Public Affairs
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON



Harris County 2025:
Texas Congressional District 18
July 2025

The Hobby School of Public Affairs at the University of Houston conducted a survey of Harris County registered voters to assess their preferences and opinions about a wide range of salient local issues and public officials. The survey was fielded between July 9 and July 18, 2025 by contacting Harris County registered voters via SMS text messages through which they were directed to an online survey platform with the option to answer the survey in English or Spanish. Representative of the Harris County population of registered voters, the analysis population of 2,300 has a margin of error of +/- 2.04%. Within this overall Harris County survey population, representative samples also were collected for Harris County's four county commissioner precincts, with analysis populations of 550 for Precincts 2, 3, and 4 (margin of error of +/-4.18%) and of 650 for Precinct 1 (+/- 3.84%).

This report also utilizes a unique survey population drawn from this larger survey project (and augmented by additional targeted sampling of likely voters) to analyze the candidate evaluations and vote intention of Harris County registered voters who are likely to vote in the November 2025 Texas Congressional District 18 (TX-18) special election. The size of the analysis population of TX-18 likely voters is 400, with a margin of error of +/- 4.90%.

The overall study includes three reports in addition to this report on the TX-18 special election. The first report examines Harris County registered voters' opinions on the direction in which the county is headed, the most important problems facing Harris County, the impact of factors on the quality of life in their neighborhood, the job performance of county elected officials, and on potential candidates for the position of Harris County Judge. The second report gauges the level of enthusiasm among Harris County registered voters for a destination theme park and for a motor speedway being built in Harris County and for Houston obtaining a Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) team and a National Hockey League (NHL) team as well as their level of support for using public funds to renovate NRG Stadium and the Astrodome. The third and final report assesses Harris County registered voters' concerns about the potential impact of severe summer weather as well as their evaluation of CenterPoint's efforts to harden the region's electrical grid over the past year.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Approximately 100 days before the November 4, 2025 Texas Congressional District 18 special election, four candidates are effectively deadlocked in their respective bids to obtain one of the two positions in an all but certain runoff election that will be held in either January or February of 2026.

Democrats Christian Menefee and Amanda Edwards are tied with a vote intention of 19%, enjoying a modest advantage over Republican Carmen Maria Montiel and Democrat Jolanda Jones who are tied at 14%. The field of the six most visible candidates who were included on this test ballot is rounded out by George Foreman IV, who is running under the Independence Party label, with 4%, and Democrat

Isaiah Martin with a vote intention of 3%. More than one in four (27%) of these likely voters remain undecided about for whom they will vote in the TX-18 special election.

SURVEY POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 18 (TX-18) LIKELY VOTERS

Black likely voters account for 42% of this survey population, White likely voters for 38%, Latino likely voters for 16%, and others for 4%. Women represent 56% of this population and men 44%. More than three-fifths (62%) of this population of likely voters is age 55 or older, while 27% is between the ages of 35 and 54, and 11% is between the ages of 18 and 34. A little more than two-thirds (68%) of these likely voters have a four-year college degree while slightly less than one-third (32%) do not. Democrats account for 62% of this population of likely voters, Republicans for 21% and Independents for 14%, with 3% either unsure of their partisan identification or identifying with another party or group.

FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE EVALUATIONS OF SIX TX-18 CANDIDATES

As of July 9, when the fielding of the survey began and as of the writing of this report on July 27, 23 people had filed statements of candidacy in TX-18 with the U.S. Federal Election Commission (16 using the Democratic Party label, 3 using the Republican Party label, 2 as Independents, 1 using the Independence Party label, and 1 using the label of Other).

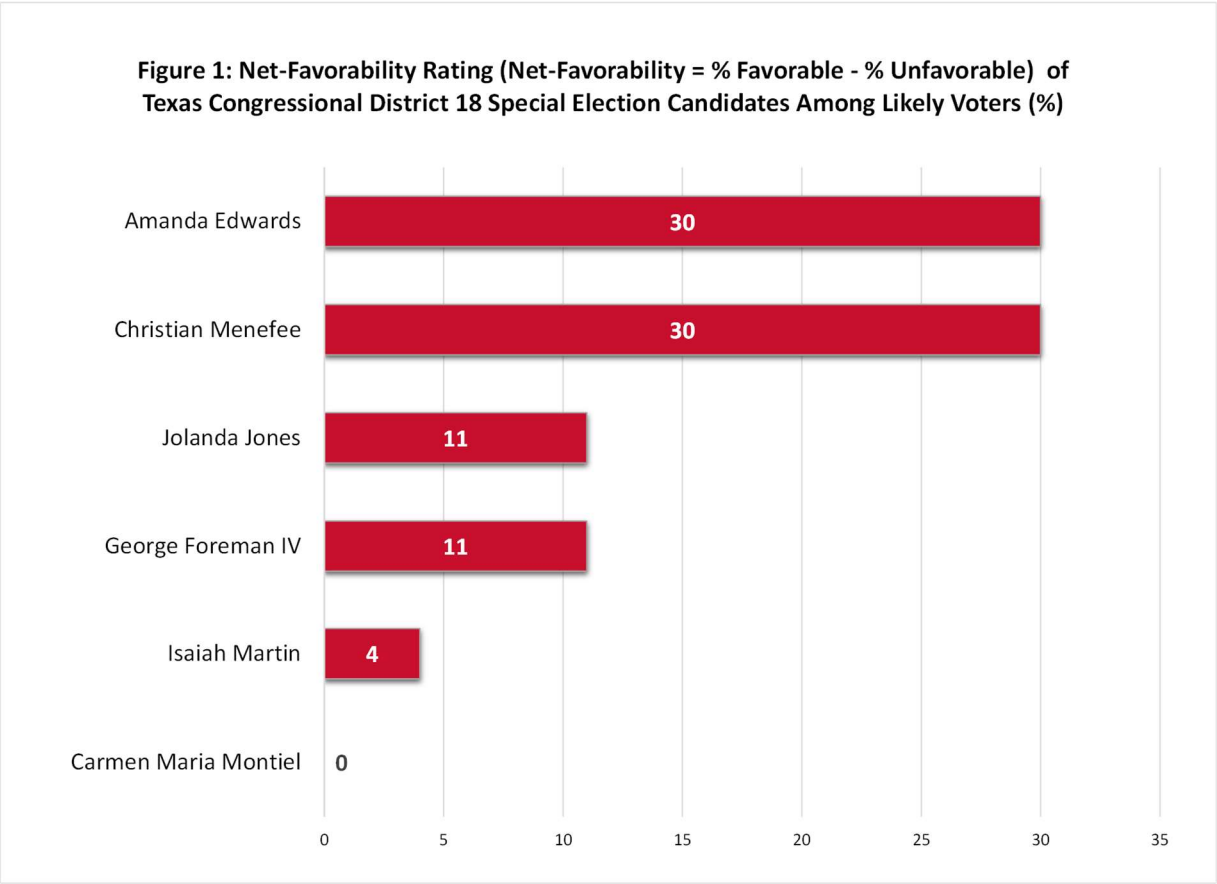
The names of the six most visible candidates at the time of the fielding of the survey, which were presented to the likely voters to be evaluated, included the following: Amanda Edwards (Democratic Party), George Foreman IV (Independence Party), Jolanda Jones (Democratic Party), Isaiah Martin (Democratic Party), Christian Menefee (Democratic Party), and Carmen Maria Montiel (Republican Party). The partisan labels of the candidates were not included in the initial survey question in which likely voters were asked if they had a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the candidate but were included in the subsequent vote intention question.

The TX-18 likely voters were asked if they had a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each of these six TX-18 candidates, or, if they did not know enough about the candidate to have an opinion. Table 1 reveals that the proportion of TX-18 likely voters with a favorable opinion of these candidates ranges from highs of 43% (Edwards), 40% (Menefee) and 38% (Jones) to lows of 22% (Foreman), 16% (Martin) and 11% (Montiel). The proportion of likely voters with an unfavorable opinion of these candidates ranges from a high of 27% (Jones) to a set of lows clustered in a narrow band of between 10% (Menefee) and 13% (Edwards), with Foreman (11%), Montiel (11%) and Martin (12%) in between. The proportion of TX-18 likely voters who do not know enough about the candidates to have an opinion of them ranges from highs of 78% (Montiel), 72% (Martin) and 67% (Foreman) to lows of 50% (Menefee), 44% (Edwards) and 35% (Jones). Of note, even the best-known candidate (Jones) is unknown to more than a third of TX-18 likely voters.

Table 1: Favorable & Unfavorable Evaluations of TX-18 Special Election Candidates (%)

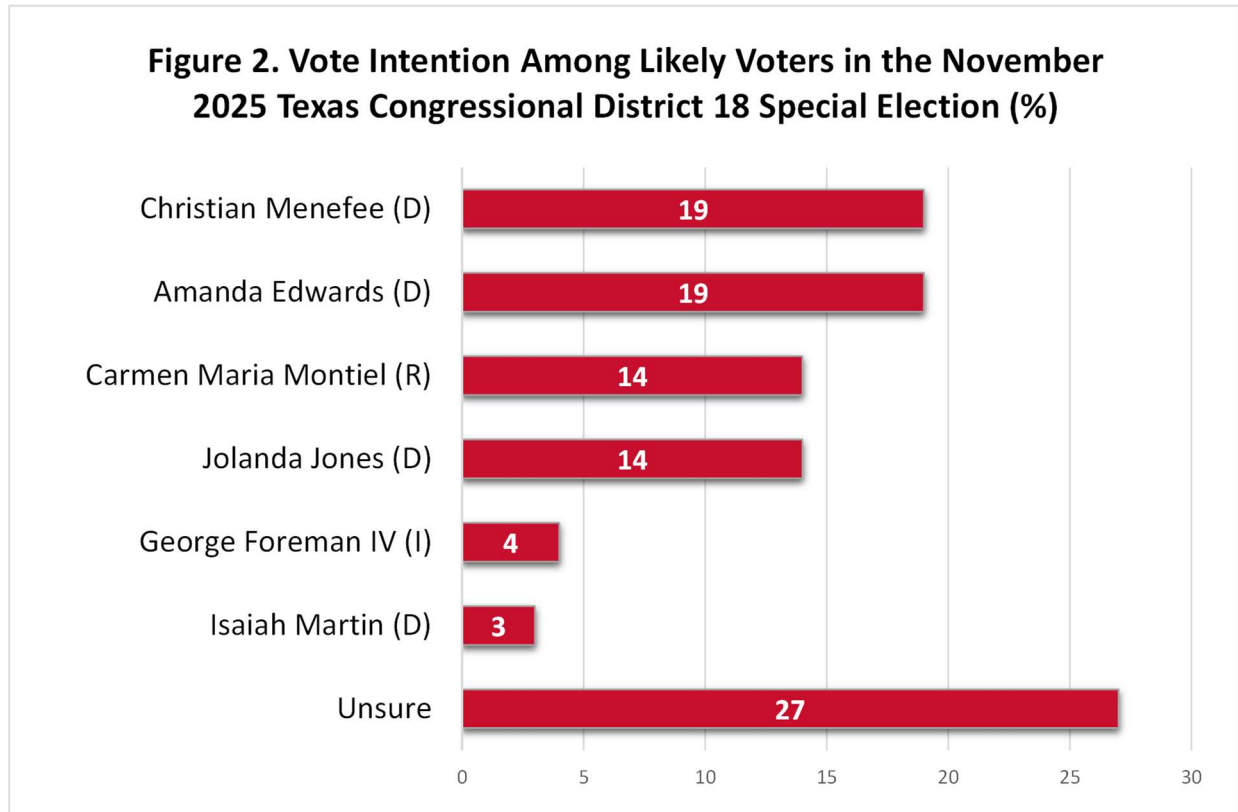
Candidate	Favorable	Unfavorable	Don't Know
Amanda Edwards	43	13	44
Christian Menefee	40	10	50
Jolanda Jones	38	27	35
George Foreman IV	22	11	67
Isaiah Martin	16	12	72
Carmen Maria Montiel	11	11	78

Figure 1 provides the net-favorability rating (percentage favorable minus percentage unfavorable) for each one of these six TX-18 candidates. Edwards (30%) and Menefee (30%) have the highest net-favorability ratings while Martin (4%) and Montiel (0%) have the lowest net-favorability ratings, with Jones (11%) and Foreman (11%) in between.



VOTE INTENTION FOR THE NOVEMBER 2025 TEXAS CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 18 SPECIAL ELECTION

Figure 2 provides the vote intention of likely voters in the November 2025 Texas Congressional District 18 special election. The likely voters were given the option of casting a ballot for one of the six highest profile candidates (Edwards, Foreman, Jones, Martin, Menefee, Montiel) or of responding that they were unsure of how they would vote if the election were held today.



The two candidates with the highest vote intention are Democrats Christian Menefee (19%) and Amanda Edwards (19%), followed closely by Republican Carmen Maria Montiel (14%) and Democrat Jolanda Jones (14%). They are followed by George Foreman IV (4%), who is running under the Independence Party banner, and Democrat Isaiah Martin (3%). A little more than three months prior to election day, more than one in four likely voters (27%) remain unsure about for whom they would vote in this contest.

Among the 27% of likely voters who are undecided, an overwhelming majority report that they don't know enough about the six candidates to have an opinion about them. More than three out of four of these undecided voters don't know enough about Edwards (76%), Foreman (80%), Menefee (80%), Montiel (86%) and Martin (87%) to have an opinion about them, and even the best-known candidate among these undecided likely voters, Jones, is unknown to almost two-thirds of them (65%). Among these undecided likely voters with an opinion of the candidate, Jones is viewed favorably by 21% and unfavorably by 14%, Edwards is viewed favorably by 17% and unfavorably by 7%, Menefee is viewed favorably by 15% and unfavorably by 5%, Foreman is viewed favorably by 13% and unfavorably by 7%, Martin is viewed favorably by 8% and unfavorably by 5%, and Montiel is viewed favorably by 4% and unfavorably by 10%.

Table 2 provides the vote intention for the four candidates with the highest vote intention (Menefee, Edwards, Montiel, Jones) along with that for Foreman and Martin combined (Others) and the proportion who are unsure about their vote intention, broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, age, education, and partisanship

Table 2: Vote Intention in the Texas Congressional District 18 Special Election, by Sub-Group (%)

Socio-Demographic	Sub-Group	Menefee	Edwards	Montiel	Jones	Others	Unsure
Overall		19	19	14	14	7	27
Gender	Women	18	22	9	16	5	30
	Men	21	14	21	12	8	24
Ethnicity/Race	White	19	18	21	7	7	28
	Latino	8	14	21	14	5	38
	Black	24	21	5	21	6	23
Age	18 to 34	9	2	9	14	5	61
	35 to 54	20	24	13	11	5	27
	55+	21	19	16	15	7	22
Education	College Degree	24	21	14	10	6	25
	No College Degree	9	14	16	20	7	34
Partisanship	Democratic	24	24	0	21	5	26
	Independent	23	14	5	7	9	42
	Republican	2	4	62	1	10	21

The vote intention for the four leading candidates among women likely voters ranges from a high of 22% (Edwards) to a low of 9% (Montiel). The vote intention among men ranges from a high of 21% (Menefee and Montiel) to a low of 12% (Jones).

The vote intention of Black likely voters is split relatively evenly among Menefee (24%), Edwards (21%) and Jones (21%), with Montiel (5%) receiving only minimal support from Black voters. The vote intention of White likely voters is split relatively evenly among Montiel (21%), Menefee (19%) and Edwards (18%), with Jones (7%) receiving only minimal support from White voters.

While there are not any noteworthy differences in vote intention for the six candidates based on age, likely voters under the age of 35 are much more likely to be undecided at the present time than are their elders, with 61% of the youngest likely voters unsure about their vote intention compared to 27% of those between the ages of 35 and 54 and 22% of those age 55 and older.

The vote intention for the four leading candidates among likely voters with a four-year college degree ranges from a high of 24% (Menefee) to a low of 10% (Jones), with these positions reversed among those likely voters who do not have a four-year college degree, 9% vs. 20%, respectively.

The vote intention of Democratic likely voters is split relatively evenly among Menefee (24%), Edwards (24%) and Jones (21%), while 0% of Democratic likely voters intend to vote for Montiel. The vote intention of Republican likely voters is overwhelmingly (62%) for Montiel, the only Republican listed on the test ballot. After Montiel, the candidate with the highest vote intention among Republicans is Foreman (8%), with more than one-in-five (21%) Republicans undecided.

More than half (56%) of the Republicans who responded that they intend to vote for Montiel also reported that they do not know enough about her to have either a favorable or unfavorable opinion. Her vote intention at the present time should therefore be interpreted as being based at least in part on her partisan label (Republican) and status as the only Republican on the test ballot, suggesting that her vote intention could both go down (to the extent to which other Republicans are on the November 2025 ballot) or go up (if advertising and other outreach result in a lion's share of GOP voters perceiving her as the only or most legitimate and viable Republican candidate).

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RECOMMENDED CITATION

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