

# TEXAS PRIMARIES 2026

Republican & Democratic U.S. Senate Primaries  
& Evaluations of President Trump



Hobby School of Public Affairs  
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON



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### Republican & Democratic U.S. Senate Primaries & Evaluations of President Trump

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The Hobby School of Public Affairs at the University of Houston conducted a statewide survey of likely Texas voters to assess their preferences and opinions about candidates and issues in the 2026 elections. The survey focused on three distinct populations of Texas voters: likely November 2026 General Election voters, likely March 2026 Republican primary voters, and likely March 2026 Democratic primary voters. A person's likelihood of voting in the November 2026 General Election and in the Republican and Democratic March 2026 party primaries was determined based on a combination of their prospective intention to participate combined with their record of past election participation in 2024 and in 2022.

The survey was conducted in English and Spanish between January 20 and January 31, 2026. Representative of the respective Texas likely voter populations, the respondents were matched by YouGov to a sampling frame on gender, age, race/ethnicity and education. The study population for the November 2026 General Election analysis consists of 1,502 likely voters (with a margin of error of +/- 2.53%), the study population for the March 2026 Republican primary analysis consists of 550 likely voters (with a margin of error of +/- 4.18%), and the study population for the March 2026 Democratic primary analysis consists of 550 likely voters (with a margin of error of +/- 4.18%).

The results of this survey will be presented in two separate reports. This first report examines the vote intention in the 2026 Republican and Democratic Texas U.S. Senate primaries, the vote intention in the November 2026 U.S. Senate General Election, and evaluations of President Donald Trump and his job performance. The second report will analyze vote intention in other March 2026 statewide primaries and in the November 2026 General Election, including coverage of the Republican primaries for attorney general, comptroller, agriculture commissioner and railroad commissioner, of the Democratic primaries for governor and attorney general, and of the November 2026 General Election for governor and lieutenant governor.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the March 2026 Republican Texas U.S. Senate primary, 38% of likely voters intend to vote for Ken Paxton, 31% for John Cornyn, 17% for Wesley Hunt and 2% for other candidates, with 12% undecided.

In three hypothetical May 2026 primary runoffs featuring different pairs of these three candidates, Paxton holds a 51% to 40% advantage over Cornyn and a 56% to 33% advantage over Hunt, while Cornyn holds a 46% to 39% lead over Hunt, with 9%, 11% and 15% of the likely voters undecided, respectively.

72% of Republican primary voters have a favorable opinion of Paxton and 22% an unfavorable opinion, 70% have a favorable opinion of Hunt and 10% an unfavorable opinion, and 61% have a favorable opinion of Cornyn and 30% an unfavorable opinion.

While 94% and 91% of Republican primary voters know enough about Paxton and Cornyn, respectively, to have an opinion of them, only 80% know enough about Hunt to have an opinion of him.

89% of Republican primary voters have a favorable opinion of President Donald Trump, 87% a favorable opinion of Vice President JD Vance, 86% a favorable opinion of Texas Governor Greg Abbott, and 83% a favorable opinion of U.S. Senator Ted Cruz.

55% of Republican primary voters say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate in the Texas Republican U.S. Senate primary if the candidate was endorsed by President Trump, while 9% say they would be less likely to vote for a Trump-endorsed candidate, with the remaining 36% reporting that a Trump endorsement would have no impact on their primary vote decision.

In the March 2026 Democratic Texas U.S. Senate primary, 47% of likely voters intend to vote for Jasmine Crockett, 39% for James Talarico and 2% for Ahmad Hassan, with 12% undecided.

84% of likely Democratic primary voters have a favorable opinion of Crockett and 8% an unfavorable opinion, while 79% and 6% have favorable and unfavorable opinions of Talarico, respectively.

92% and 85% of likely Democratic primary voters know enough about Crockett and Talarico to have an opinion of them, respectively.

Six hypothetical matchups were examined for the November 2026 U.S. Senate General Election featuring different combinations of the three Republican (Cornyn, Hunt, Paxton) and two Democratic (Crockett, Talarico) candidates as well as Libertarian Ted Brown. The vote intention in these six races is as follows:

- Paxton (45%), Crockett (43%), Brown (4%), Unsure (8%)
- Paxton (46%), Talarico (44%), Brown (3%), Unsure (7%)
- Cornyn (45%), Crockett (43%), Brown (5%), Unsure (7%)
- Cornyn (44%), Talarico (43%), Brown (5%), Unsure (8%)
- Hunt (46%), Crockett (43%), Brown (3%), Unsure (8%)
- Hunt (46%), Talarico (42%), Brown (3%), Unsure (9%).

Overall, the size of the Republican lead in these six hypothetical races ranges very narrowly from a high of 4% (Hunt vs. Talarico) to a low of 1% (Cornyn vs. Talarico), suggesting that, at least at the present time (and prior to the fall campaign), there is little difference between the respective Republican and Democratic candidates in regard to their performance in November.

The proportion of November likely voters with a favorable opinion of these five U.S. Senate candidates ranges from highs of 45% (Crockett) and 43% (Talarico) to lows of 38% (Cornyn and Hunt), with Paxton in between at 41%.

The proportion of November likely voters with an unfavorable opinion of these five U.S. Senate candidates ranges from highs of 48% (Cornyn and Paxton) to lows of 27% (Hunt) and 23% (Talarico), with Crockett in between at 36%.

The proportion of November likely voters who know enough about these five U.S. Senate candidates to have an opinion of them ranges from highs of 89% (Paxton) and 86% (Cornyn) to lows of 66% (Talarico) and 65% (Hunt), with Crockett in between at 81%.

Texas November likely voters are split evenly between those who approve (49%) and disapprove (50%) of President Trump's overall handling of his job as president.

Texas November likely voters' approval and disapproval of President Trump's handling of five key issue areas ranges from net-positive to net-negative:

- Immigration and border security: 51% approve and 47% disapprove
- Foreign policy: 47% approve and 50% disapprove
- Jobs and the economy: 47% approve and 51% disapprove
- International trade and tariffs: 44% approve and 52% disapprove
- Inflation and the cost of living: 43% approve and 55% disapprove.

In November 2024, 56% of these November 2026 likely voters cast a ballot for Donald Trump and 43% voted for Kamala Harris. When asked in January 2026 how would they vote if they could turn back time and vote again, 51% said they would vote for Trump while Harris's support remained at 43%, with the remainder voting for minor party candidates (2%), reporting that they wouldn't vote (2%), or unsure (2%).

## DEMOGRAPHICS FOR THE REPORT'S THREE ANALYSIS POPULATIONS

The report utilizes three distinct survey populations of likely voters: November 2026 General Election likely voters, March 2026 Republican primary likely voters and March 2026 Democratic primary likely voters. A person's likelihood of voting in November 2026 and in the March 2026 party primaries was determined based on a combination of their prospective intention to participate combined with their record of past general election and primary election participation in 2024 and in 2022. The study population for the November 2026 General Election analysis consists of 1,502 likely voters (with a margin of error of +/- 2.53%), the study population for the March 2026 Republican primary analysis consists of 550 likely voters (with a margin of error of +/- 4.18%), and the study population for the March 2026 Democratic primary analysis consists of 550 likely voters (with a margin of error of +/- 4.18%).

### November 2026 General Election Population Demographics

White likely voters account for 56% of this population of Texas November 2026 likely voters, Latino likely voters for 26%, Black likely voters for 13%, and others for 5%. Women represent 52% of this population and men 48%. 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 41% of the population is a four-year college degree or a post-graduate degree, of 31% of the population is a two-year college degree or some college, and of 28% of the population is a high school degree or less. Republicans (i.e., those who self-identify as Republicans) account for 47% of this population, Democrats for 41% 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.

#### **March 2026 Republican Primary Population Demographics**

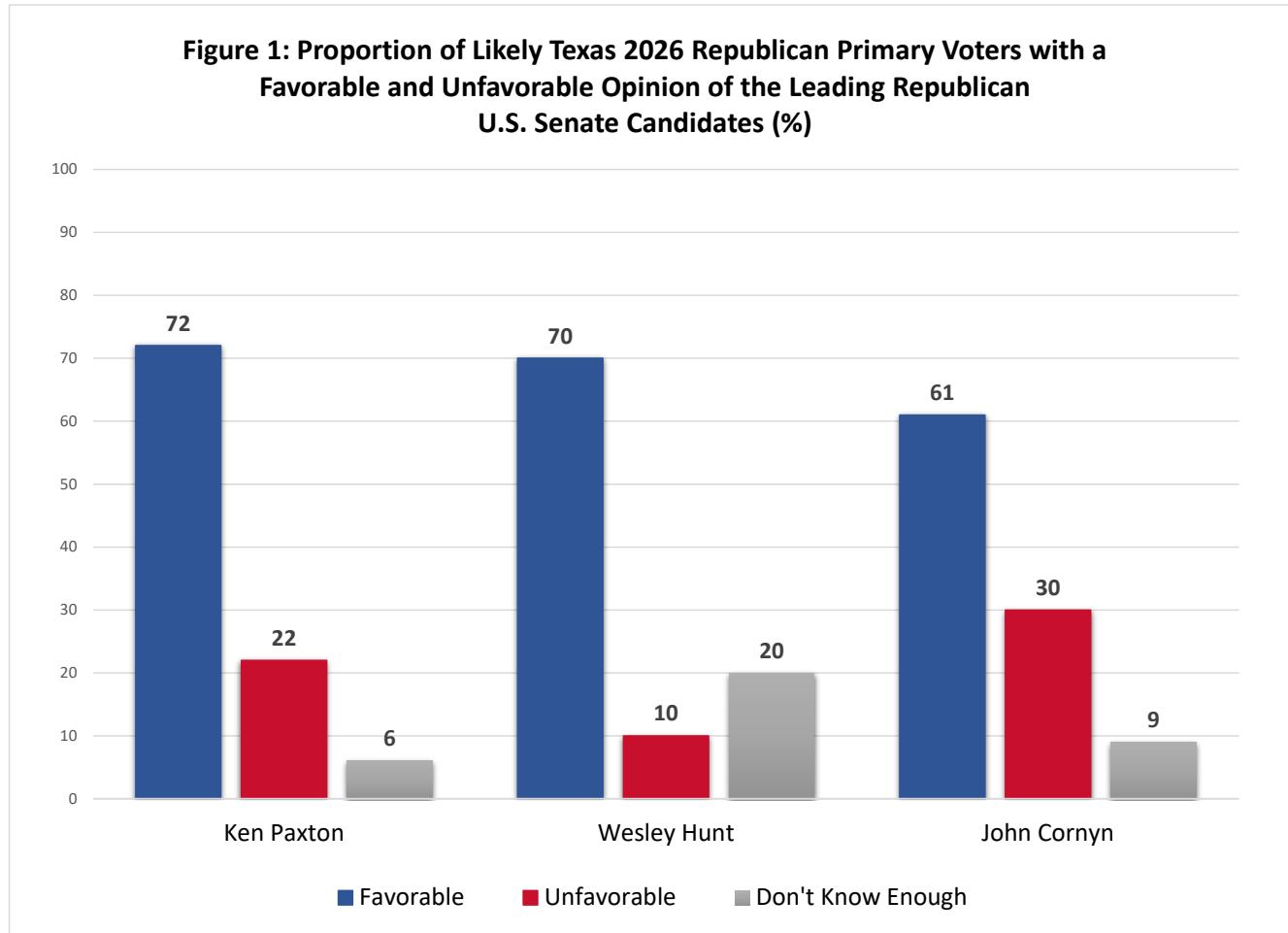
White likely voters account for 68% of this population of Texas March 2026 Republican primary likely voters, Latino likely voters for 24%, Black likely voters for 2%, and others for 6%. Men represent 55% of this population and women 45%. Regarding generations, 41% of this population belongs to the combined Silent Generation (born between 1928-1945) and Baby Boomer (1946-1964) cohort, 28% to Generation X (Gen-X) (1965-1980), and 31% to a combined Millennial (1981-1996) and Generation Z (Gen-Z) (1997-2012) cohort. The highest level of educational attainment of 38% of the population is a four-year college degree or a post-graduate degree, of 34% of the population is a two-year college degree or some college, and of 38% of the population is a high school degree or less. Republicans account for 89% of this population, Independents for 6% and Democrats for 5%.

#### **March 2026 Democratic Primary Population Demographics**

White likely voters account for 44% of this population of Texas March 2026 Democratic primary likely voters, Latino likely voters for 28%, Black likely voters for 23%, and others for 5%. Women represent 60% of this population and men 40%. Regarding generations, 35% of this population belongs to the combined Silent Generation (born between 1928-1945) and Baby Boomer (1946-1964) cohort, 25% to Generation X (Gen-X) (1965-1980), and 40% to a combined Millennial (1981-1996) and Generation Z (Gen-Z) (1997-2012) cohort. The highest level of educational attainment of 46% of the population is a four-year college degree or a post-graduate degree, of 30% of the population is a two-year college degree or some college, and of 24% of the population is a high school degree or less. Democrats account for 89% of this population, Independents for 5%, Republicans for 5% and those who are unsure about their partisanship for 1%.

## THE 2026 REPUBLICAN TEXAS U.S. SENATE PRIMARY

Figure 1 provides the proportion of likely March 2026 Texas Republican primary voters who have a favorable and an unfavorable opinion of the three leading Republican U.S. Senate candidates (U.S. Senator John Cornyn, U.S. Congressman Wesley Hunt, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton), as well as the proportion who don't know enough about the candidates to have an opinion of them, one way or another.



Paxton is viewed favorably by 72% of likely Republican primary voters and unfavorably by 22%, with 6% not knowing enough about Paxton to have an opinion of him. Hunt is viewed favorably by 70% of likely Republican primary voters and unfavorably by 10%, with 20% not knowing enough about Hunt to have an opinion of him. Cornyn is viewed favorably by 61% of likely Republican primary voters and unfavorably by 30%, with 9% not knowing enough about Cornyn to have an opinion of him. Among the three candidates, Hunt has the highest net-favorability rating (percentage favorable minus percentage unfavorable) at 60%, and Cornyn has the lowest net-favorability rating at 31%, with Paxton in-between at 50%.

Figure 2 provides the vote intention of likely Republican primary voters in the March 2026 Republican Texas U.S. Senate primary election. Paxton (38%) leads Cornyn (31%) by 7 percentage points, while Cornyn leads Hunt (17%) in the battle for second place (and a ticket to a very likely May runoff) by 14 percentage points. Combined the five other candidates on the ballot have a vote intention of 2% (led by Sara Canady with 0.87%) and 12% of likely voters remain undecided.

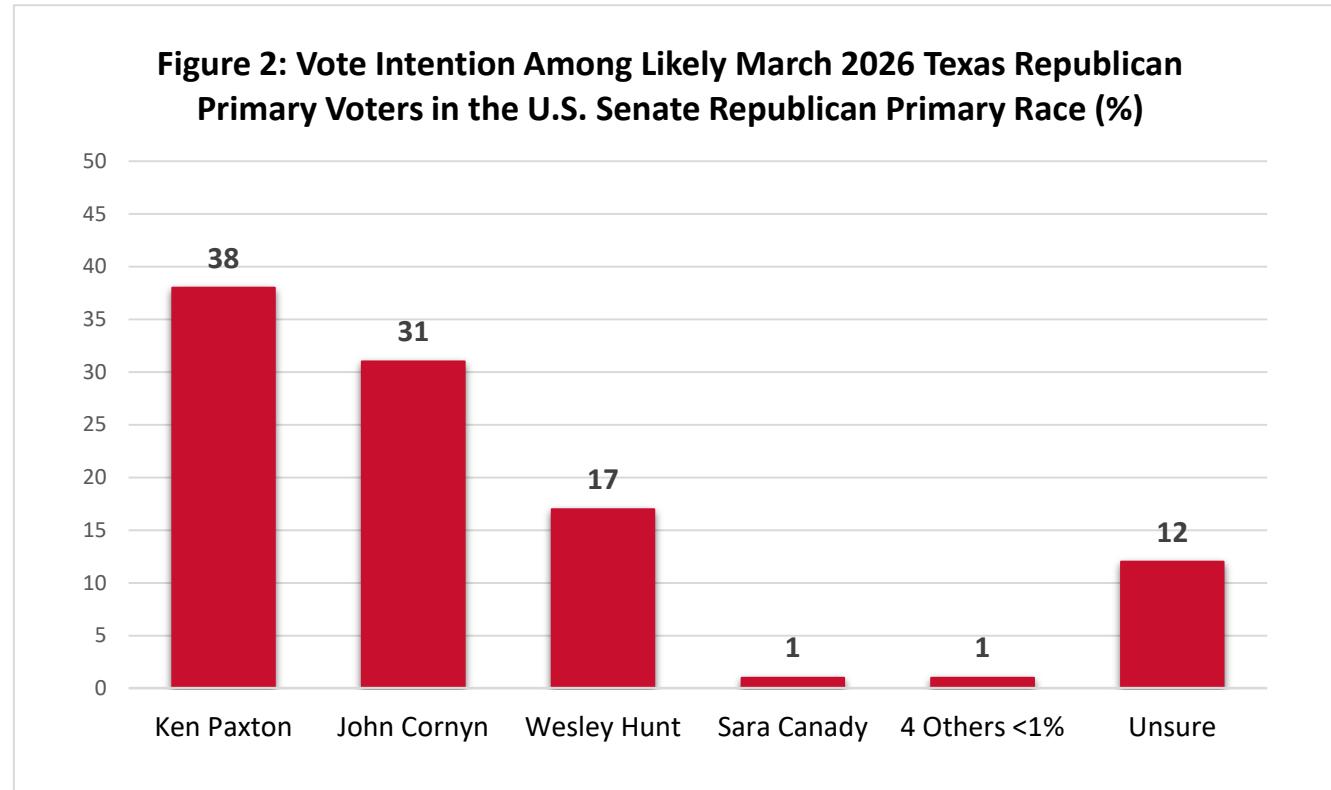


Table 1 provides the vote intention in the March 2026 Republican Texas U.S. Senate primary, broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, generation, education and partisanship. Overall, there are not any noteworthy sub-group differences in vote intention for the three candidates, with two very modest exceptions. The first exception is related to gender and the proportion of voters who remain undecided about for whom they will vote in the March primary, with women (18%) more likely than men (6%) to still be unsure about for whom they will vote. The second exception is related to education, with Paxton's 11 percentage point (40% to 29%) lead over Cornyn among those who do not have a four-year or advanced degree greater than Paxton's 3 percentage point (37% to 34%) lead over Cornyn among those likely Republican Primary voters who hold a four-year or advanced degree.

**Table 1. Vote Intention in the Texas U.S. Senate Republican Primary, Among Key Groups (%)**

Socio-Demographic	Sub-Group	Paxton	Cornyn	Hunt	Unsure
Overall		38	31	17	12
Gender	Women	38	30	11	18
	Men	39	31	21	6
Ethnicity/Race	White	39	29	17	13
	Latino	36	43	12	6
Generation	Silent/Boomer	43	30	19	7
	Gen-X	36	30	18	15
	Millennial/Gen-Z	36	34	12	14
Education	High School	37	31	19	10
	2-Yr/Some College	42	27	17	13
	4-Yr/Advanced	37	34	15	12
Partisanship	Republican	40	31	17	11
	Independent/Democrat	28	26	15	21

Table 2 contains the proportion of Republican primary voters who cite 12 qualities in a U.S. Senate candidate as one of the top three they are looking for in a Republican U.S. Senate candidate this year. The 12 candidate qualities included authoritative, compassionate, fighter, good communicator, government experience, honest, moral, pragmatic, problem-solver, respectful, uncompromising, and willing to compromise. The option of responding “something else” was also provided.

**Table 2: Proportion of Republican Primary Voters Who Cite the Quality in a Candidate as One of the Top Three They Are Looking For (%)**

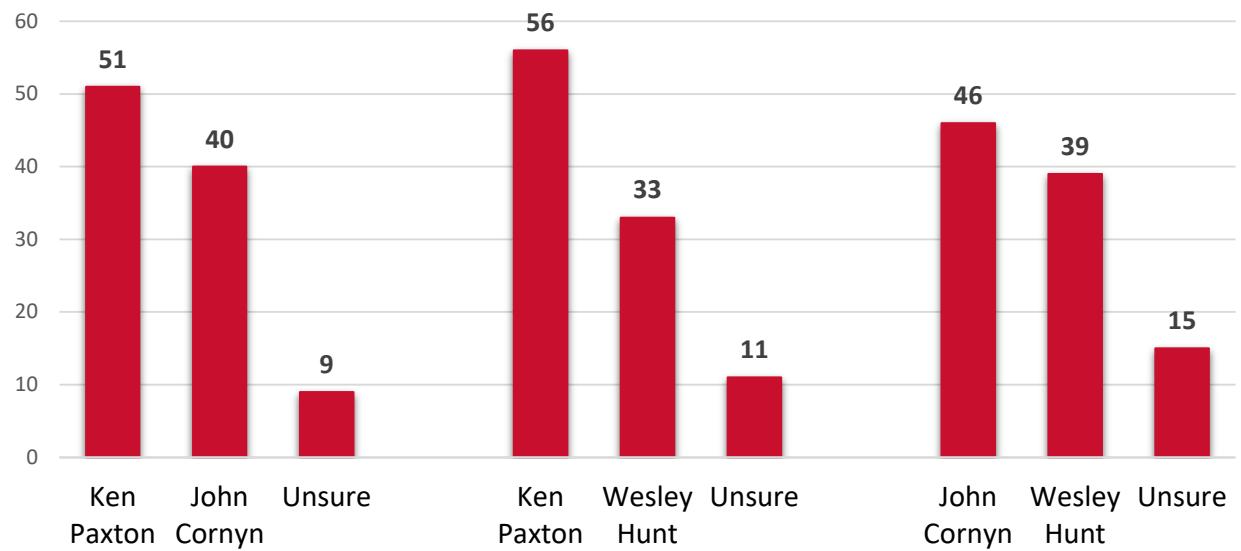
Quality	All Primary Voters	Paxton Voters	Cornyn Voters	Voters
Honest	64	61	68	70
Problem-Solver	44	43	42	44
Moral	39	38	40	38
Fighter	30	42	21	36
Respectul	24	15	29	25
Government Experience	20	17	31	8
Good Communicator	17	16	16	20
Willing to Compromise	14	9	19	11
Uncompromising	13	21	4	17
Pragmatic	12	10	12	8
Compassionate	11	12	6	9
Authoritative	10	12	10	9
Something Else	4	4	1	5

One-quarter or more of Republican primary voters list five qualities as being among the top three qualities that they are looking for in a Republican U.S. Senate candidate. Close to two-thirds (64%) of Republican primary voters said that being honest is one of the top three qualities they look for in a candidate, followed, at some distance, by the qualities of being a problem-solver (44%), moral (39%), a fighter (30%) and respectful (24%). In sharp contrast fewer than one in five Republican primary voters listed six qualities as being among the top three qualities they are looking for in a Republican U.S. Senate candidate: good communicator (17%), willing to compromise (14%), uncompromising (13%), pragmatic (12%), compassionate (11%), and authoritative (10%). In between, and listed by 20%, is the quality of government experience.

Table 2 also provides the proportion of Paxton, Cornyn and Hunt voters who listed each quality as one of the top three qualities they are looking for in a Republican U.S. Senate candidate. The proportions listed by each candidate's voters largely mirror those of the broader population of Republican primary voters with limited inter-candidate differences. The most noteworthy difference among the candidates is in the quality of being a fighter, which 42% of Paxton voters, but only 21% of Cornyn voters, list as being one of their top three qualities. The second and third most noteworthy differences are related to the qualities of being respectful and having government experience. While 29% of Cornyn voters list being respectful as a top three quality and 31% list government experience, the same is true for only 15% and 17% of Paxton voters, respectively. Only 8% of Hunt voters list government experience as a top three quality.

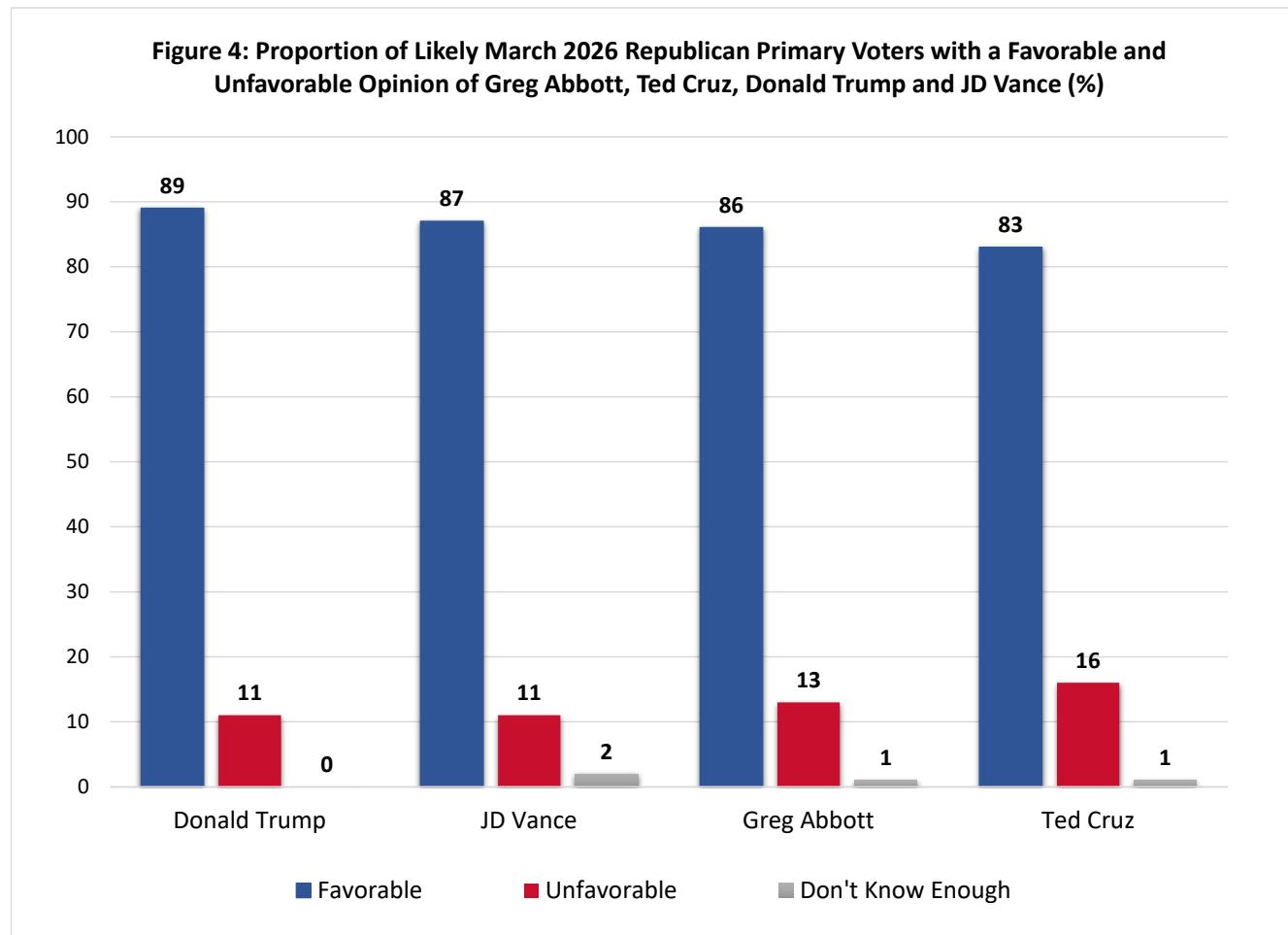
Given the high likelihood that no candidate will win more than 50% of the vote in the March 3 primary, with the top two candidates in March facing off in a May 26 runoff, Figure 3 provides the vote intention of likely runoff voters in three hypothetical runoffs featuring the three leading Republican U.S. candidates. In a runoff between Paxton and Cornyn, Paxton holds a 51% to 40% lead over Cornyn, with 9% undecided. In a runoff between Paxton and Hunt, Paxton holds a 56% to 33% lead over Hunt, with 11% undecided. In a runoff between Cornyn and Hunt, Cornyn holds a 46% to 39% lead over Hunt, with 15% undecided.

**Figure 3: Vote Intention Among Likely May 2026 Republican Primary Voters in Three Hypothetical Texas U.S. Senate Runoffs (%)**



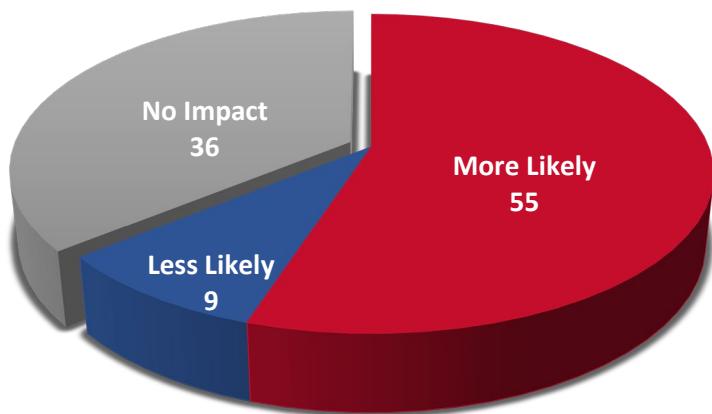
In a Paxton-Cornyn May primary runoff, 48% of March Hunt voters say they would vote for Paxton while 35% say they would vote for Cornyn. In a Paxton-Hunt May primary runoff, 44% of Cornyn voters say they would vote for Paxton while 43% say they would vote for Hunt. In a Cornyn-Hunt May primary runoff, 46% of Paxton voters say they would vote for Hunt while 39% say they would vote for Cornyn.

Figure 4 contains the proportion of likely March 2026 Republican primary voters who have a favorable and unfavorable opinion of four leading Republican politicians: Texas Governor Greg Abbott, U.S. Senator Ted Cruz, President Donald Trump, and Vice President JD Vance. All four politicians are simultaneously very well-known and very popular among Republican primary voters. Close to nine out of ten (89%) Republican primary voters have a favorable opinion of Trump, 87% a favorable opinion of Vance, 86% a favorable opinion of Abbott, and 83% a favorable opinion of Cruz. Conversely, only between 11% (Trump, Vance) and 16% (Cruz) have an unfavorable opinion of these Republican leaders, with Abbott in between at 13%.



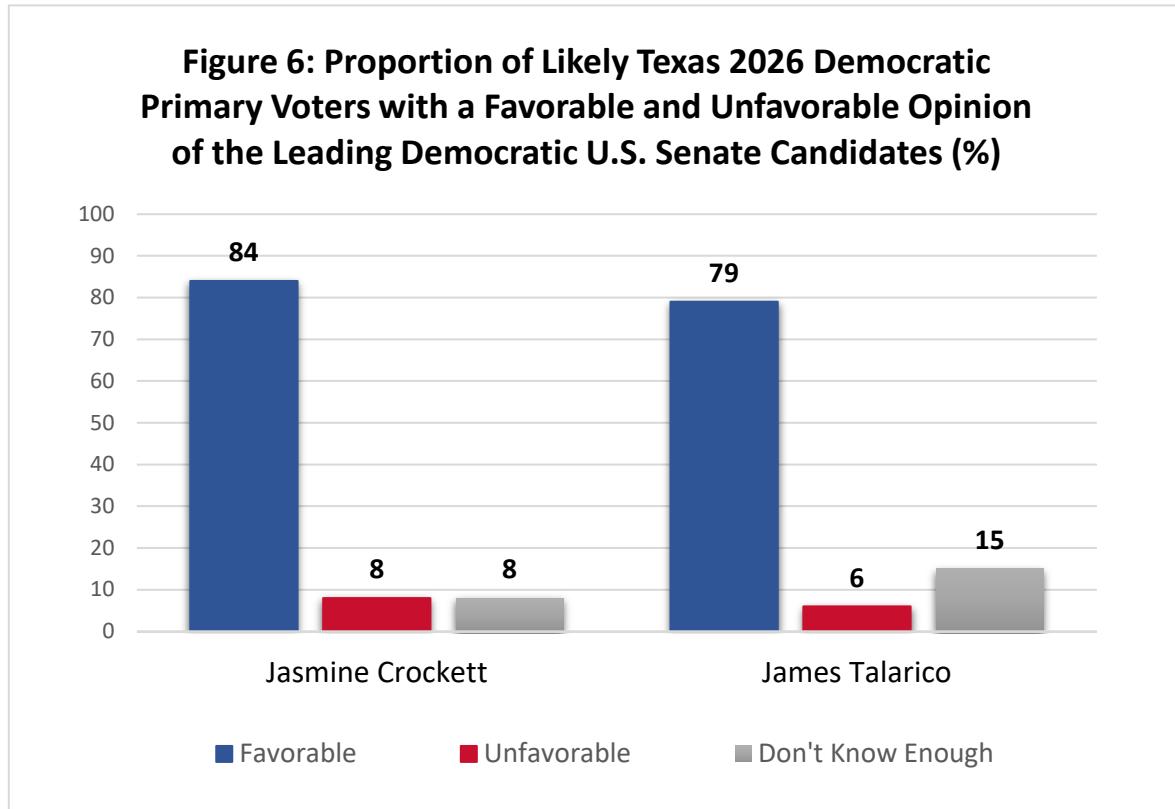
Trump's high level of favorability makes his endorsement the most coveted among Republican candidates in Texas (to date Trump has not endorsed a senate candidate). Figure 5 underscores the value of a Trump endorsement in the 2026 Republican Texas U.S. Senate primary, with 55% of likely March 2026 Republican primary voters saying a Trump endorsement of a U.S. Senate candidate would make it more likely that they would vote for that candidate, compared to 9% who say it would make them less likely to vote for the candidate, and 36% who say that a Trump endorsement would have no impact on their vote decision in the 2026 Republican Texas U.S. Senate primary.

**Figure 5: Impact of a Trump Endorsement on the Likelihood that Texas 2026 Republican Primary Voters Would Vote for the Trump-Endorsed Candidate (%)**



## THE 2026 DEMOCRATIC TEXAS U.S. SENATE PRIMARY

Figure 6 provides the proportion of likely March 2026 Texas Democratic primary voters who have a favorable and an unfavorable opinion of the two leading Democratic U.S. Senate candidates (U.S. Congresswoman Jasmine Crockett and Texas State Representative James Talarico), as well as the proportion who don't know enough about the candidates to have an opinion of them, one way or another.



An overwhelming majority of Democratic primary voters have a favorable opinion of both Crockett (84%) and Talarico (79%), while fewer than one in ten have an unfavorable opinion of Crockett (8%) and Talarico (6%), respectively. Crockett is modestly better known than Talarico, with 92% of Democratic primary voters knowing enough about Crockett to have an opinion of her, compared to 85% who know enough about Talarico to have an opinion of him. Of note, while the net-favorability ratings among Republican primary voters for the three leading Republican candidates are 60% (Hunt), 50% (Paxton) and 31% (Cornyn), Crockett and Talarico possess notably higher net-favorability ratings among their primary voters than their GOP peers possess among their primary voters, at 76% and 73%, respectively.

Figure 7 displays the vote intention of likely voters in the March 2026 Democratic primary. Crockett leads with 47%, 8 percentage points greater than Talarico's 39%, with Ahmad Hassan receiving the support of 2% of likely voters and 12% unsure of how they would vote in this contest.

**Figure 7: Vote Intention Among Likely March 2026 Texas Democratic Primary Voters in the U.S. Senate Democratic Primary Race (%)**

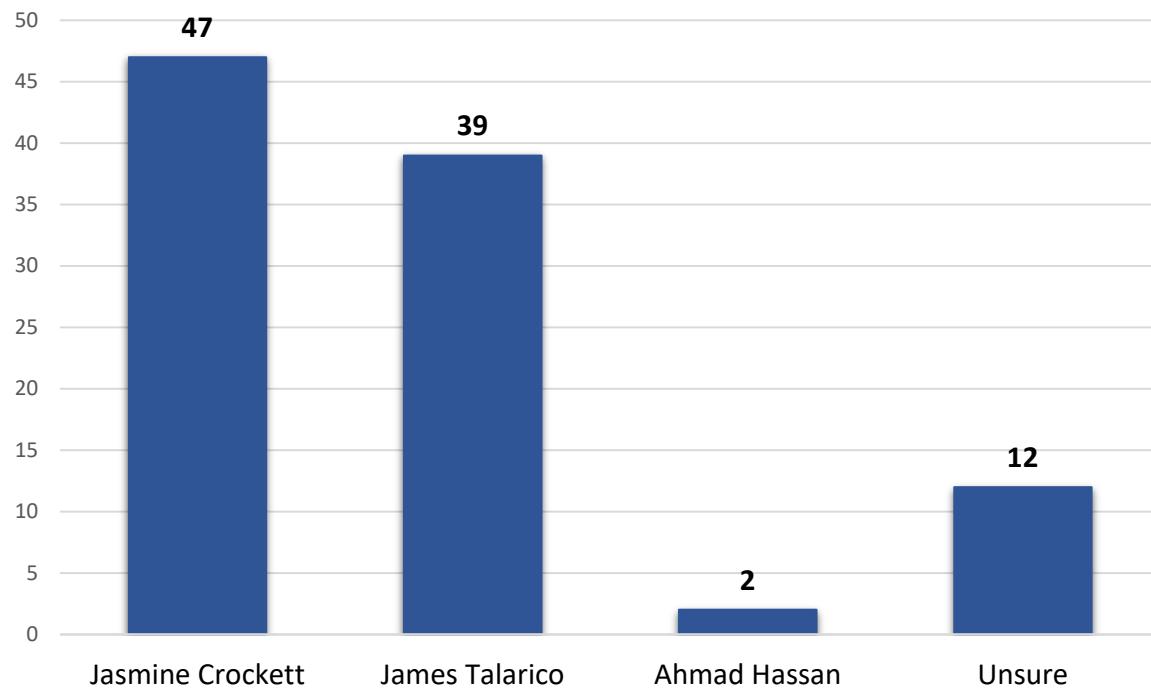


Table 3 provides the vote intention in the March 2026 Democratic Texas U.S. Senate primary, broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, generation, education and partisanship. The most noteworthy differences in support for Crockett and Talarico revolve around ethnicity/race, education and gender.

**Table 3. Vote Intention in the Texas U.S. Senate Democratic Primary, Among Key Groups (%)**

Socio-Demographic	Sub-Group	Crockett	Talarico	Unsure
Overall		47	39	12
Gender	Women	47	36	15
	Men	48	42	8
Ethnicity/Race	White	34	53	11
	Latino	46	37	15
	Black	71	13	11
Generation	Silent/Boomer	44	42	13
	Gen-X	42	39	18
	Millennial/Gen-Z	52	36	7
Education	High School	56	31	12
	2-Yr/Some College	55	29	12
	4-Yr/Advanced	38	49	12
Partisanship	Democratic	47	39	11
	Independent/Republican	48	31	19

Talarico holds a significant 19 percentage point advantage over Crocket among White Democratic primary voters (53% to 34%) while Crockett holds an even more significant 58 percentage point advantage over Talarico among Black Democratic primary voters (71% to 13%). The two candidates enjoy relatively even levels of support among Democratic Latino primary voters, with Crockett having a modest 46% to 37% lead over Talarico. Crockett's advantage among Latino Democratic primary voters stems from her robust support among Latino women (49% to 29%), in contrast to Talarico's narrow lead among Latino men (48% to 42%).

Crockett is the preferred candidate over Talarico among Democratic likely voters who do not possess a four-year or advanced degree (55% to 30%), while Talarico is the preferred candidate over Crockett among Democratic likely voters whose highest level of educational attainment is either a four-year degree or an advanced degree (49% to 38%).

Crockett's advantage over Talarico among women is 11 percentage points (47% to 36%), almost twice the size of her 6 percentage point (48% to 42%) lead over Talarico among men. Of note, as was the case with Republican primary voters, 15% of women Democratic primary voters remain unsure about for whom they will vote in this contest compared to 8% of men.

Table 4 contains the proportion of likely Democratic primary voters who cite 12 qualities in a U.S. Senate candidate as one of the top three they are looking for in a Democratic U.S. Senate candidate this year. The 12 candidate qualities included authoritative, compassionate, fighter, good communicator, government experience, honest, moral, pragmatic, problem-solver, respectful, uncompromising, and willing to compromise. The option of responding “something else” was also provided.

**Table 4: Proportion of Democratic Primary Voters Who Cite the Quality in a Candidate as One of the Top Three They Are Looking For (%)**

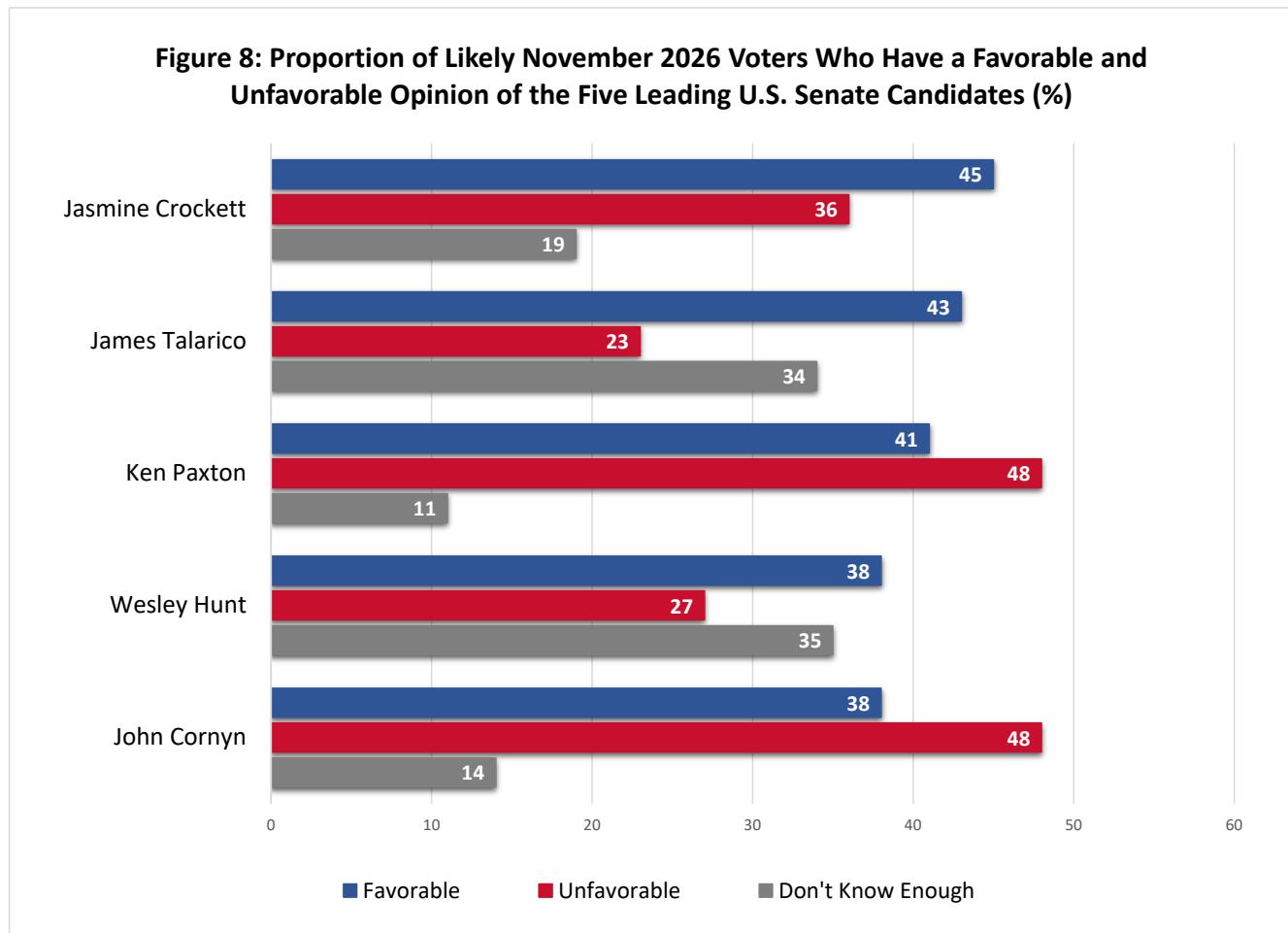
Quality	All Primary Voters	Crockett Voters	Talarico Voters
Honest	53	50	55
Problem-Solver	41	42	40
Moral	37	34	42
Good Communicator	30	32	30
Fighter	30	36	26
Respectul	28	24	27
Compassionate	26	25	26
Government Experience	20	24	13
Willing to Compromise	13	13	14
Pragmatic	9	6	15
Uncompromising	6	7	5
Authoritative	5	6	6
Something Else	2	1	2

More than one-quarter of likely Democratic primary voters list seven qualities as being among the top three qualities which they are looking for in a Democratic U.S. Senate candidate. As was the case with the Republican primary voters, the top three qualities among Democratic primary voters are the qualities of being honest (53%), a problem-solver (41%), and moral (37%). The four qualities desired in a candidate by the next largest proportion of Democratic primary voters are being a good communicator (30%), a fighter (30%), respectful (28%) and compassionate (26%). Fewer than one in five Democratic primary voters list four traits as being among the top three which they are looking for in a U.S. Senate candidate: willing to compromise (13%), pragmatic (9%), uncompromising (6%) and authoritative (5%). In between, at 20%, is the quality of government experience.

Table 4 also provides the proportion of Crockett and Talarico voters who listed each quality as one of the top three qualities they are looking for in a Democratic U.S. Senate candidate. The proportions listed by each candidate's voters largely mirror those of the broader population of Democratic primary voters with limited differences among the candidates. The only two (very modest) differences of note are that Crockett voters are slightly more likely than Talarico voters to cite being a fighter (36% to 26%) as a top three quality they are looking for in a candidate and Talarico voters are slightly more likely than Crockett voters to cite being moral (42% to 34%) as a top three quality they are looking for.

## THE NOVEMBER 2026 TEXAS U.S. SENATE ELECTION

Figure 8 displays the proportion of November 2026 likely voters with a favorable and unfavorable opinion of the five leading 2026 Texas U.S. Senate candidates (Republicans John Cornyn, Wesley Hunt and Ken Paxton and Democrats Jasmine Crockett and James Talarico), as well as the proportion of likely November voters who don't know enough about the candidates to have an opinion of them.



Close to one-half (45%) of likely November voters have a favorable opinion of Crockett, while 43% have a favorable opinion of Talarico, 41% have a favorable opinion of Paxton, 38% have a favorable opinion of Hunt, and 38% have a favorable opinion of Cornyn. In contrast, 48% of likely voters have an unfavorable opinion of Cornyn and Paxton, followed by Crockett (37%), Hunt (27%), and Talarico (23%). Finally, while 89%, 86% and 81% of likely November voters know enough about Paxton, Cornyn and Crockett to have an opinion of them, respectively, only 65% and 66% know enough about Hunt and Talarico to have an opinion of them, respectively. Among these five candidates, Talarico has the highest net-favorability rating (20%), followed by Hunt (11%), Crockett (9%), Paxton (-7%) and Cornyn (-10%).

Table 5 provides the November 2026 vote intention of likely voters in six hypothetical U.S. Senate pairings featuring Republican candidates Ken Paxton, John Cornyn and Wesley Hunt, Democratic candidates Jasmine Crockett and James Talarico, and Libertarian candidate Ted Brown, the latter of whom is included in all scenarios since unlike the case for the Texas Republican Party and for the Texas Democratic Party, which both have multiple candidates competing for the party's U.S. Senate nomination, Brown is the Texas Libertarian Party's sole candidate.

**Table 5: Vote Intention Among Likely Voters in Six Hypothetical November 2026 Texas U.S. Senate Races (%)**

Hypothetical Races	Vote Intention (%)
Ken Paxton (R)	45
Jasmine Crockett (D)	43
Ted Brown (L)	4
Unsure	8
Ken Paxton (R)	46
James Talarico (D)	44
Ted Brown (L)	3
Unsure	7
John Cornyn (R)	45
Jasmine Crockett (D)	43
Ted Brown (L)	5
Unsure	7
John Cornyn (R)	44
James Talarico (D)	43
Ted Brown (L)	5
Unsure	8
Wesley Hunt (R)	46
Jasmine Crockett (D)	43
Ted Brown (L)	3
Unsure	8
Wesley Hunt (R)	46
James Talarico (D)	42
Ted Brown (L)	3
Unsure	9

Paxton bests both Crockett (45% to 43%) and Talarico (46% to 44%) by two percentage points, with Libertarian Ted Brown receiving 4% of the vote in the former contest and 3% in the latter, and 8% of voters unsure how they would vote in the former contest and 7% in the latter.

Cornyn bests Crockett (45% to 43%) and Talarico (44% to 43%) by two and one percentage points, with Libertarian Ted Brown receiving 5% of the vote in both contests, and with 7% of voters unsure how they would vote in the former contest and 8% in the latter.

Hunt bests Crockett (46% to 43%) and Talarico (46% to 42%) by three and four percentage points, with Libertarian Ted Brown receiving 3% of the vote in both contests, and with 8% of voters unsure how they would vote in the former contest and 9% in the latter.

Figure 9 underscores the narrow range of the Republican vote advantage across these six hypothetical races, ranging from a high of 4% in a Hunt vs. Talarico race to a low of 1% in a Cornyn vs. Talarico race. It is important to note that these estimates are made nine months prior to the November election, and there is a tremendous amount of campaigning which will take place between now and then, with, in particular, the potential for more than \$100 million dollars being spent on negative advertisements targeting the respective Republican and Democratic General Election candidates.

**Figure 9: The Republican Candidate's Margin of Victory Over Their Democratic Rival Among Likely Voters in Six Hypothetical November 2026 Races (%)**

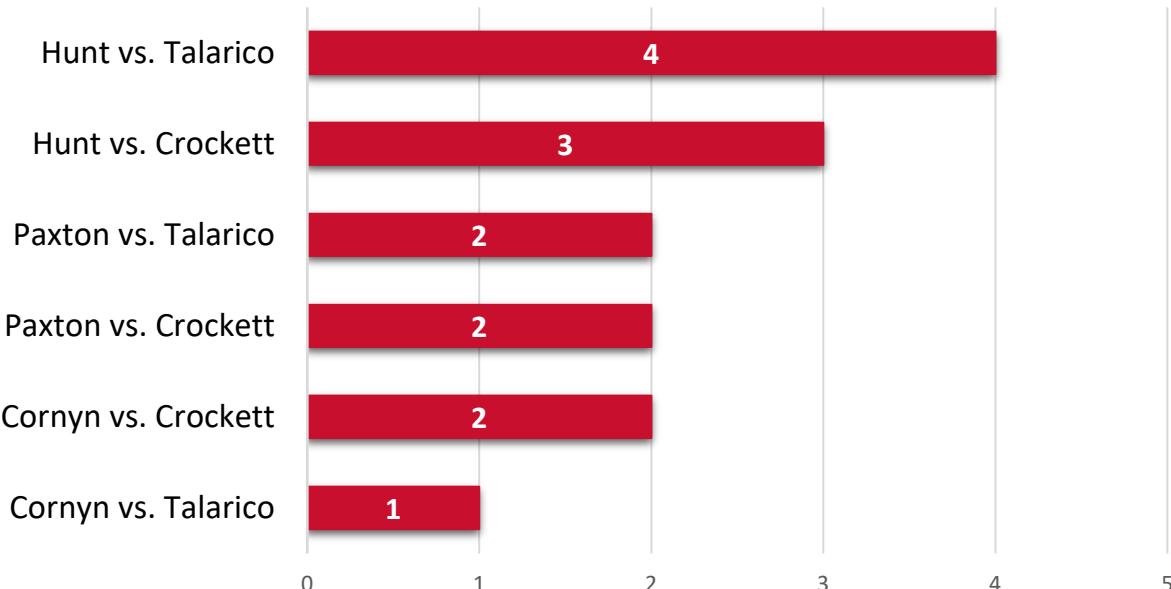


Table 6 provides a list of the issues identified by these likely General Election voters as the two most important policy issues for their November 2026 vote decision. Nearly one-half of likely voters (46%) say that inflation and the cost of living is one of the two most important issues for their 2026 vote decision, followed by 29% who say one of the top two most important issues is jobs and the economy.

**Table 6. The Two Most Important Policy Issue For the November 2026 Vote Decision of Texas Likely Voters (%)**

Issue	All Likely Voters	Republicans	Democrats	Independents
Inflation and the Cost of Living	46	50	39	52
Jobs and the Economy	29	32	25	31
Threats to Democracy	26	11	44	18
Immigration and Border Security	25	38	11	19
Health Care	19	16	22	16
Civil Rights	14	3	26	19
National Security and Foreign Policy	12	17	6	11
Economic Inequality	10	6	14	10
Violent Crime	8	11	4	6
Federal Budget Deficit	5	9	2	10
Abortion	5	7	3	5
Climate Change	3	1	6	3

The next two most mentioned top two policy issues are listed by a quarter of likely voters, with however, very sharp partisan differences. Overall, 26% of likely voters say threats to democracy are one of the two issues they are giving the most weight to in November 2026 when deciding how to vote, but Democratic likely voters (44%) are significantly more likely than Republican likely voters (11%) to prioritize this issue. Conversely, while overall 25% of likely voters say immigration and border security is one of the two most important issues for their 2026 vote decision, Republican likely voters (38%) are significantly more likely than Democratic likely voters (11%) to list it as one of their top two priorities when voting in November.

No other issue was listed as a top two policy issue for voting in November 2026 by more than one-fifth of the likely voters, with the issues ranging as the top priority for between 19% (health care) and 3% (climate change) of these likely voters, with civil rights (14%), national security and foreign policy (12%), economic inequality (10%), violent crime (8%), the federal budget deficit (5%), and abortion (5%) in between. Of note, while one in four (26%) Democratic likely voters say civil rights is one of the two most important issues for them when voting this fall, the same is only true for 3% of Republican likely voters.

## POLITICIAN AND PUBLIC POLICY EVALUATIONS

Figure 10 provides the proportion of likely November 2026 voters who have a favorable and unfavorable opinion of President Donald Trump, Vice President JD Vance, U.S. Senator Ted Cruz and Texas Governor Greg Abbott. The favorable proportions for these four political figures range in a narrow band from a high of 51% (Abbott) to a low of 48% (Cruz), just as the unfavorable proportions also range in a narrow band from a high of 50% (Cruz) to a low of 46% (Vance).

**Figure 10: Proportion of Likely November 2026 Voters Who Have a Favorable and Unfavorable Opinion of Greg Abbott, Ted Cruz, JD Vance and Donald Trump (%)**

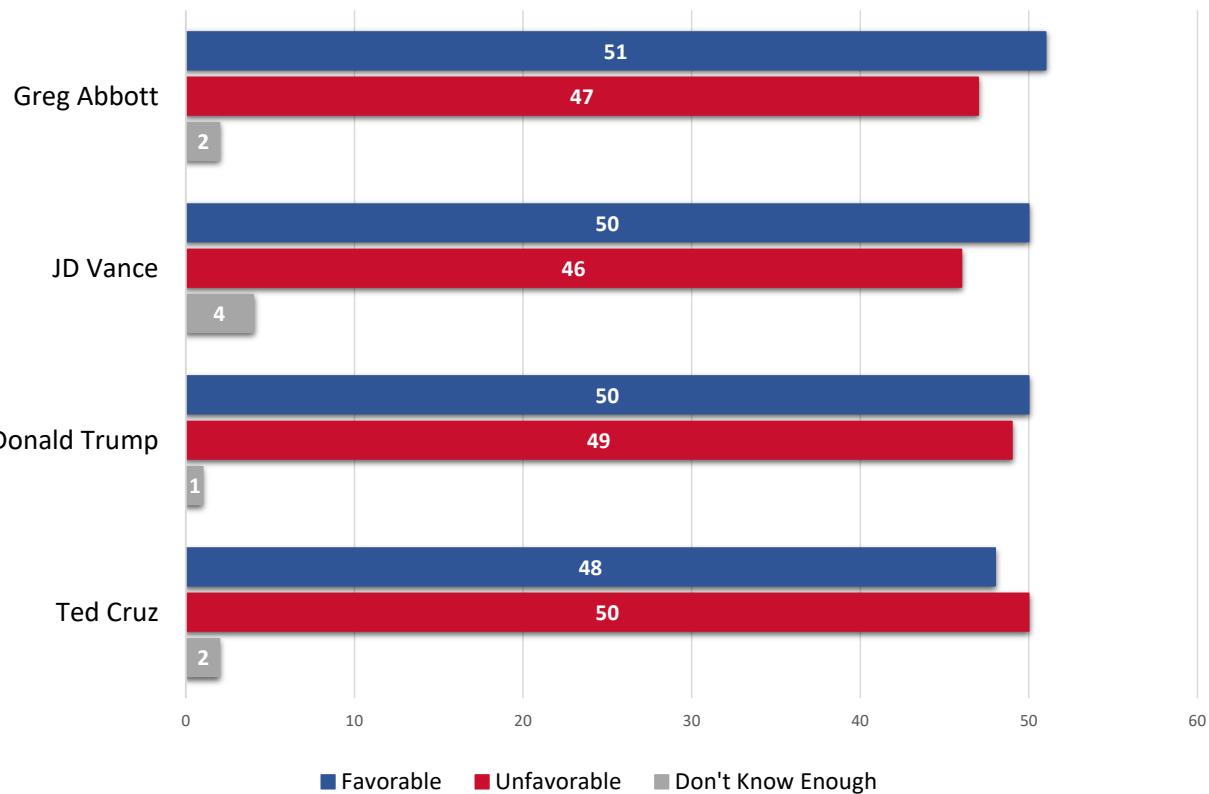
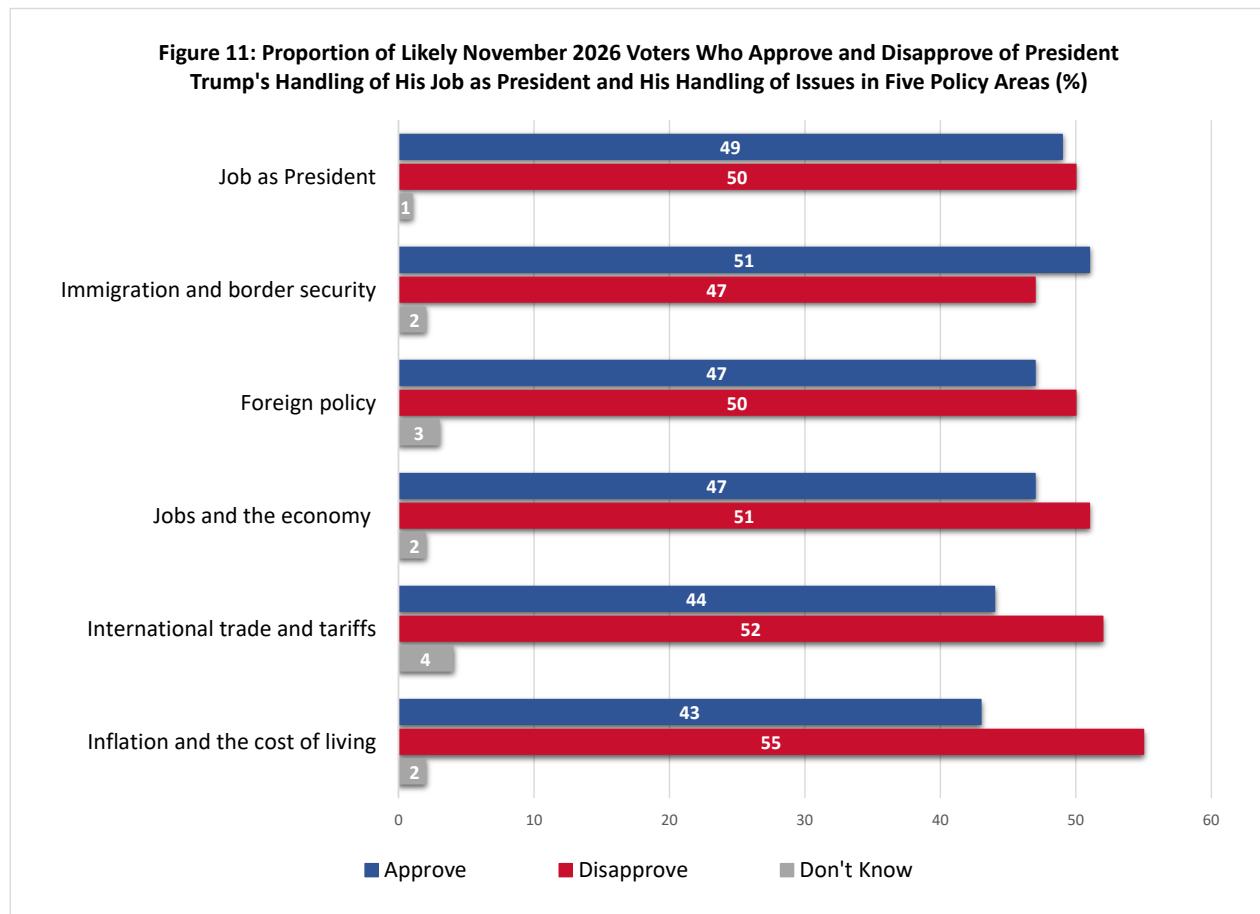
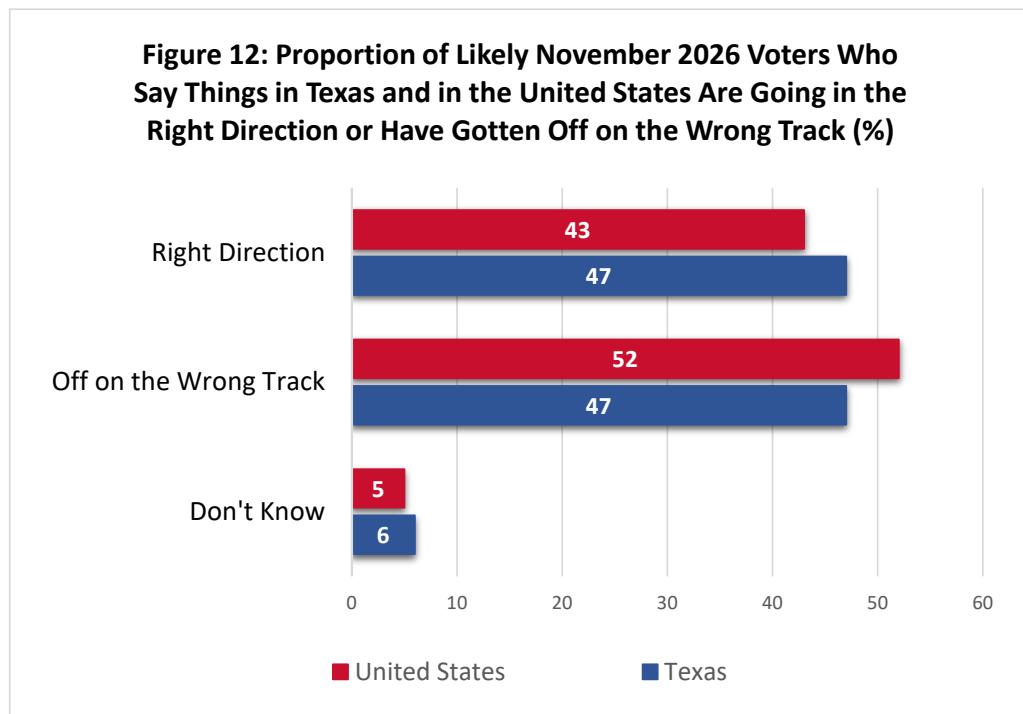


Figure 11 provides the proportion of likely November 2026 voters who approve and disapprove of President Trump's handling of his job as president and of his handling of public policy in the issue areas of foreign policy, immigration and border security, inflation and the cost of living, international trade and tariffs, and jobs and the economy.



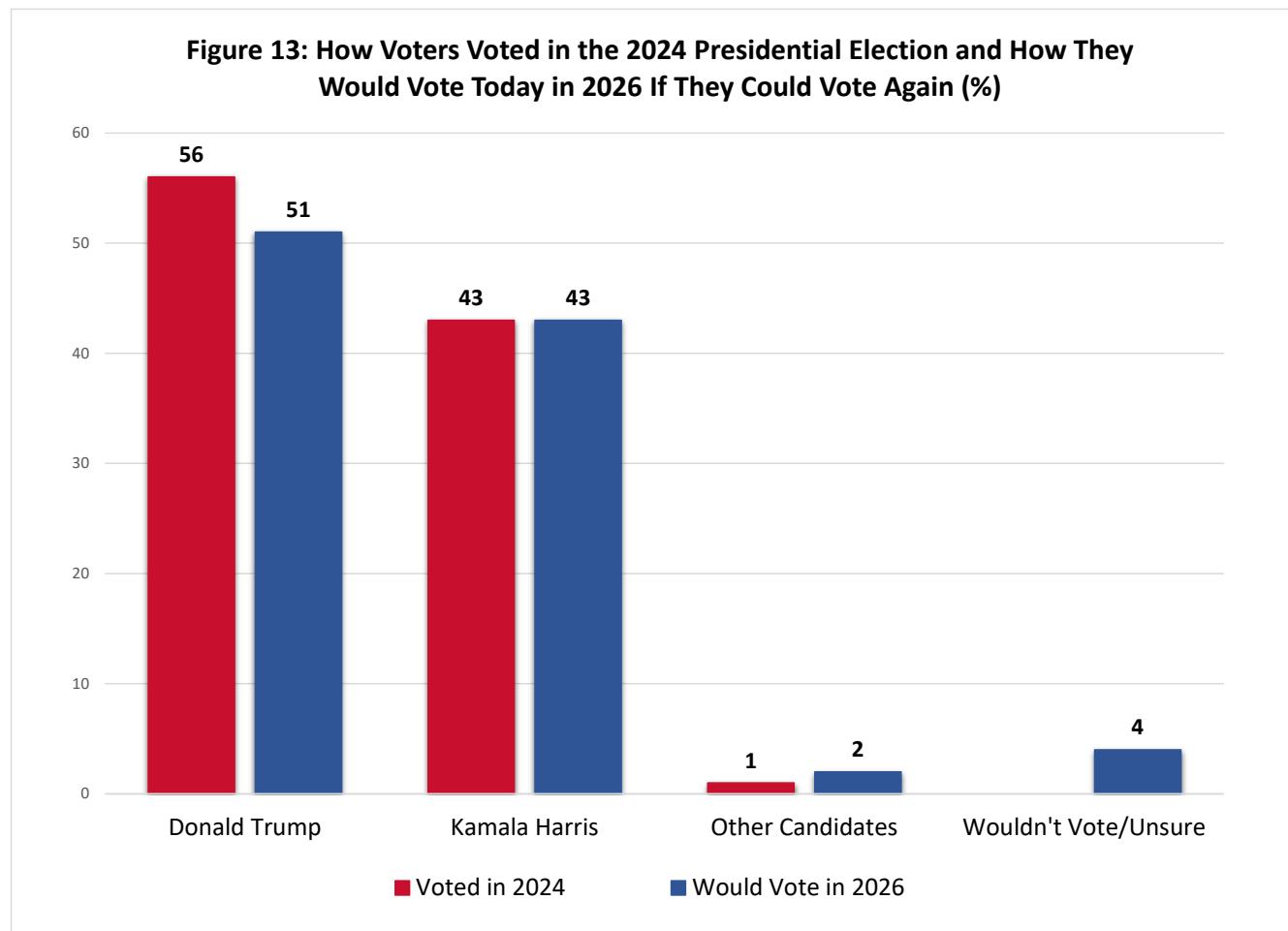
Texans are evenly divided between those who approve (49%) and disapprove (50%) of President Trump's handling of his job as president. In regard to the five policy issue areas, only in one instance, immigration and border security, do more Texans approve (51%) than disapprove (47%) of President Trump's handling of the issue. In regard to the other four issues President Trump is underwater, with the proportion disapproving higher than the proportion approving, by margins that range from as low as -3% (foreign policy, 47% vs. 50%) and 4% (jobs and the economy, 47% vs. 51%) to as high as 8% (international trade and tariffs, 44% vs. 52%) and 12% (inflation and the cost of living, 43% vs. 55%).

Figure 12 provides the proportion of likely November 2026 voters who say things in Texas and in the United States are going in the right direction and the proportion who say things in Texas and the United States have gotten off on the wrong track. Texas likely voters are split evenly between those who believe things in Texas are headed in the right direction (47%) and those who believe things in Texas are off on the wrong track (47%), while significantly more of these Texans believe things in the United States are off on the wrong track (52%) than believe that things in the United States are going in the right direction (43%).



A substantial proportion of these likely voters cast a ballot in the November 2024 presidential election, with that decision previously recorded prior to this survey being administered. These November 2026 likely voters were asked a question about if, today (January 2026), they could go back in time and vote again in the 2024 presidential election, how would they vote.

As shown in Figure 13, 56% of these likely voters cast a ballot for Donald Trump in 2024, 43% voted for Kamala Harris and 1% voted for other candidates. When asked in January 2026 how they would vote in the 2024 presidential election if they could vote again, 51% said they would vote for Trump, 43% said they would vote for Harris, 2% said they would vote for other candidates (e.g., Libertarian Chase Oliver or the Green Party's Jill Stein), 2% said they would not vote, and 2% were unsure how they would vote. In sum, while within this population Trump defeated Harris by 13 percentage points in November of 2024, if the election had been held again in January of 2026 Trump would have still defeated Harris, but this time by only 8 percentage points.



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