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Texas Poll:

Hinojosa Now Leads Abbott by 4 Points; Talarico Widens Lead to 6 Points

US Senate: Talarico 49% Paxton 43% (from 47-43% in July)

Governor: Hinojosa 49% Abbott 45% (from Abbott 46-45% in July)

Attorney General: Middleton 45% Johnson 44% (from 46-44% in July)

Lt. Governor: Goodwin 47% Patrick 46% (from 48-46% in July)

Texans Favor Abbott on Border & Safety; Favor Hinojosa on Affordability & Water
Voters Say Both Abbott and Hinojosa Are ‘Qualified’ & ‘In Touch with Texas Values’;
Majorities Say Hinojosa is ‘Honest’ & ‘Authentic’; Majorities Say Abbott Is Not

In the race for Governor of Texas, Democratic State Rep. Gina Hinojosa now leads the incumbent Republican, Governor Greg Abbott, by four points, 49-45%, after trailing Abbott by a single point in July, according to a new Texas Poll of likely Texas voters released today. Democratic State Rep. James Talarico extends his lead over Republican Attorney General Ken Paxton for U.S. Senate to six points, 49-43%, from 47-43% in July.

If the election for Governor of Texas was held today, who would you vote for if the candidates were:								
	September				July			
	Total	DEM	REP	IND/OTH	Total	DEM	REP	IND/OTH
The Republican, Greg Abbott	45%	1%	90%	27%	46%	2%	92%	36%
The Democrat, Gina Hinojosa	49%	98%	4%	65%	45%	95%	3%	49%
Someone else/Wouldn't vote	3%	0%	2%	5%	4%	0%	5%	6%
Don't know/Refused	4%	0%	4%	4%	5%	3%	1%	9%
ReconMR Texas Poll								

“Hinojosa has opened a small four-point lead over Abbott. He had a six-point lead in June, and led by a point in July” ReconMR Senior Research Analyst Lindsey Hendren said. “The movement over the last three months is largely seen by looking at independent voters who now favor Hinojosa by 38 points, 65-27%, up from 13 points, 49-36%, in July.”

“Hinojosa leads by wide margins in Austin, Dallas/Ft. Worth, and San Antonio/South Texas, while Abbott has a large lead in the rural parts of the state” Hendren said.

“Interestingly, while voters narrowly favor Hinojosa for election, they don’t think she’ll win the election. When asked who they think will win the election for governor, 62% say Abbott. Nearly a third of voters who say they’ll vote for Hinojosa think Abbott will ultimately win the election,” Hendren said.

Hinojosa’s favorability rating is 48-27%, up from 43-25% in July, while Abbott has a negative 45-53% (46-50% in July) favorability rating, mirroring his negative 45-53% job approval rating (47-51% in July).

“Hinojosa’s lead in the horserace is borne out by her gradually increasing favorability ratings as Abbott’s favorability and job approval ratings tick down,” Hendren said.

Voters say that Hinojosa would do a better job than Abbott on making prices more affordable (51-44%) and managing the water supply in Texas (49-43%). Voters are more divided on who’d be better at managing the construction of data centers; 45% say Hinojosa and 42% say Abbott. Abbott leads Hinojosa on the issues of securing America’s border with Mexico (53-39%) and keeping Texans safe (49-44%). Texans say Hinojosa is in touch with Texas values (52%), authentic (55%), honest (51%), and qualified to be the governor of Texas (53%). Voters say Abbott is qualified to be the governor of Texas (56%) and in touch with Texas values (50%). However, only 45% think he’s authentic and 41% say he’s honest.

“When it comes to issues, voters say Hinojosa would do a better job than Abbott on making prices more affordable, managing the water supply in Texas, and managing the construction of data centers. Voters say Abbott would do a better job securing the border with Mexico – by a large margin – and say he’d do a better job keeping Texans safe,” Hendren said.

% who say this characteristic “does” describe the candidate		
	Abbott	Hinojosa
In touch with Texas Values	50%	52%
Authentic	45%	55%
Honest	41%	51%
Qualified to be Governor of Texas	56%	53%
ReconMR Texas Poll – September 17, 2026		

“Voters have a split image of Abbott and Hinojosa. More voters feel that Abbott is qualified to be Governor, while at the same time viewing Hinojosa as more authentic and honest than Abbott, with both on similar footing on being in touch with Texas

Values.”

Talarico’s Lead Widens from Four Points to Six Points

Paxton has a negative 38-55% favorability rating, down slightly from 40-52% in July, while Talarico’s favorability rating is 50-39%, up from 46-39% in July. In June, a quarter of voters didn’t have an opinion about Talarico; now it’s just 10% of voters. The movement in favorability ratings is consistent with the movement in vote choice.

“The race for US Senate is heating up as Talarico extends his lead over Paxton,” Hendren said. “This movement can also be seen by looking at independent voters who now favor Talarico by 40 points, 64-24%, up from 23 points, 53-30% in July.”

When asked who they think will win the election for the Senator of Texas, 48% say Talarico and 45% say Paxton.

“Paxton’s Senate bid is being undermined by defections from within his own party. While nearly all Democrats say they are supporting Talarico, just under 9 in 10 Republicans say they are supporting Paxton. However, when asked who they want to control the Senate after November, nearly all voters say they want their respective party to win, highlighting Paxton’s weakness among his own party,” Hendren said.

Odds & Ends

- The race for Attorney General tightens as Republican State Senator Mayes Middleton leads Democratic State Senator Nathan Johnson by one point, 45-44%, from 46-44% in July. The Democrat, State Rep. Vikki Goodwin, maintains her lead over the Republican incumbent Dan Patrick, 47-46%.
- A majority (55%) of voters oppose Flock cameras, which share license plate/vehicle information with law enforcement – including large majorities of Democrats (69%) and independents (67%). A majority of Republicans (53%) support them.
- By 44-27%, voters say Texas' moratorium on new large data centers is the right decision, including a majority of Democrats (53%) and a plurality of independents (45%) and Republicans (38%).
- Six in 10 voters – including majorities of Democrats (75%) and independents (72%) – oppose the recent enforcement of a ban of THC in Texas; half of Republicans support it.
- Texans continue to say the country is headed in the wrong direction, rather than on the right track, 61-34%. Vast majorities of Democrats and independents say it is headed in the wrong direction, while a majority of Republicans say it is on the right track. Voters are also sour on the direction of Texas. By 55-37%, voters think Texas is headed in the wrong direction.
- President Donald Trump's job approval rating remains underwater at 44-55%, virtually unchanged from July. Trump's favorability, also unchanged, mirrors his approval at 44-53%.
- On the generic Congressional ballot, voters favor Republicans over Democrats, but only by one point, 47-46%, down from two points in July and six points in June. Independents now favor Democrats by 34 points, 60-26%, which has more than doubled from 50-34% in July.
- Texas voters favor Democrats over Republicans for control of the U.S. Senate by only one point, 49-48%. Independents favor Democrats by 40 points, 67-27%.

This ReconMR Texas Poll was conducted September 8 - 11, 2026, among 614 Likely Texas Voters. Of the 614 respondents, 365 were contacted through a dual-frame (landline and cell phone) mode and 249 completed via text to web. Telephone calls were conducted in English and Spanish, and respondent sampling was initiated by asking for the voter listed on the voter file by name. Telephone sampling was conducted via a stratified dual frame probability sample of landline and cell phone telephone numbers weighted to reflect known population patterns. The landline telephone sample and the cell phone sample was obtained from L2 Voter Database. Coding of open-ended responses was done by a single human coder. Data from collection modes were weighted to balance sample demographics to match estimates for Texas's population using data from the state voter file, on age, region, race/ethnicity, education, party identification, a combined measure of stated and derived vote likelihood, and gender to ensure representativeness. For the sample that answered the entire survey (n=451), it has an overall margin of error of +/- 5.0 percentage points, including the design effects resulting from weighting. For the sample that answered the core questions (n=614), it has an overall margin of error of +/- 4.3 percentage points, including the design effects resulting from weighting. Sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error and there may be other unmeasured error in this or any other public opinion poll. ReconMR conducts political, economic, social, and cultural research across the United States. ReconMR, an independent, non-partisan research institute, subscribes to the American Association of Public Opinion Research Code of Professional Ethics and Practices. For crosstabs and TI disclosure elements, click [here](#). For more information, call Lindsey Hendren, PhD at (803) 409-8030.



Texas Poll Trends – September 2026

Q. 1 Is Texas on the right track, or is it headed in the wrong direction?

DATE	RIGHT TRACK	WRONG DIRECTION	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
Sept 2026	37	55	9
July 2026	44	49	7
June 2026	44	45	11
HIGHEST EVER	44 (7/26, 6/26)	55 (9/26)	11 (6/26)
LOWEST EVER	37 (9/26)	45 (6/26)	7 (7/26)

Q. 2 Is the United States on the right track, or is it headed in the wrong direction?

DATE	RIGHT TRACK	WRONG DIRECTION	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
Sept 2026	34	61	5
July 2026	37	58	5
June 2026	39	57	4
HIGHEST EVER	39 (6/26)	61 (9/26)	5 (9/26, 7/26)
LOWEST EVER	34 (9/26)	57 (6/26)	4 (6/26)

Q. 3 If the election for Senator of Texas was held today, who would you vote for if the candidates were the Republican, Ken Paxton, the Democrat, James Talarico, or someone else? (Names of candidates were rotated.)

DATE	PAXTON	TALARICO	OTHER/ NO VOTE	DON'T KNOW/ NO OPINION
Sept 2026	43	49	4	4
July 2026	43	47	4	6
June 2026	46	46	4	5
HIGHEST EVER	46 (6/26)	49 (9/26)	4 (9/26, 7/26, 6/26)	6 (7/26)
LOWEST EVER	43 (9/26, 7/26)	46 (6/26)	4 (9/26, 7/26, 6/26)	4 (9/26)

Q. 4 If the election for your representative in Congress was held today, would you vote for the Democrat or the Republican? (Names of parties were rotated.)

DATE	DEMOCRAT	REPUBLICAN	OTHER/ NO VOTE	DON'T KNOW/ NO OPINION
Sept 2026	46	47	1	6
July 2026	45	47	1	6
June 2026	43	49	1	7
HIGHEST EVER	46 (9/26)	49 (6/26)	1 (9/26, 7/26, 6/26)	7 (6/26)
LOWEST EVER	43 (6/26)	47 (9/26, 7/26)	1 (9/26, 7/26, 6/26)	6 (9/26, 7/26)

Q. 5 If the election for Governor of Texas was held today, who would you vote for if the candidates were the Republican, Greg Abbott, the Democrat, Gina Hinojosa, or someone else? (Names of candidates were rotated.)

DATE	ABBOTT	HINOJOSA	OTHER/ NO VOTE	DON'T KNOW/ NO OPINION
Sept 2026	45	49	3	4
July 2026	46	45	4	5
June 2026	49	43	3	5
HIGHEST EVER	49 (6/26)	49 (9/26)	4 (7/26)	8 (9/26)
LOWEST EVER	45 (9/26)	43 (6/26)	3 (9/26, 6/26)	5 (7/26, 6/26)

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Q. 6 If the election for Attorney General of Texas was held today, who would you vote for if the candidates were the Republican, Mayes Middleton, the Democrat, Nathan Johnson, or someone else? (Names of candidates were rotated.)

DATE	MIDDLETON	JOHNSON	OTHER/ NO VOTE	DON'T KNOW/ NO OPINION
Sept 2026	45	44	3	8
July 2026	46	44	3	8
June 2026	45	40	4	11
HIGHEST EVER	46 (7/26)	44 (9/26, 7/26)	4 (6/26)	11 (6/26)
LOWEST EVER	45 (9/26, 6/26)	40 (6/26)	3 (9/26, 7/26)	8 (9/26, 7/26)

Q. 7 If the election for Lieutenant Governor of Texas was held today, who would you vote for if the candidates were the Republican, Dan Patrick, the Democrat, Vikki Goodwin, or someone else? (Names of candidates were rotated.)

DATE	PATRICK	GOODWIN	OTHER/ NO VOTE	DON'T KNOW/ NO OPINION
Sept 2026	46	47	2	5
July 2026	46	48	2	4
June 2026	49	44	2	5
HIGHEST EVER	49 (6/26)	48 (7/26)	2 (9/26, 7/26, 6/26)	5 (9/26, 6/26)
LOWEST EVER	46 (9/26, 7/26)	44 (6/26)	2 (9/26, 7/26, 6/26)	4 (7/26)

Q. 8 Do you approve or disapprove of the job that Greg Abbott is doing as governor? FOLLOW UP: Is that strongly or somewhat?

DATE	STRONGLY APPROVE	SOMEWHAT APPROVE	SOMEWHAT DISAPPROVE	STRONGLY DISAPPROVE	DON'T KNOW/ NO OPINION
Sept 2026	28	17	7	46	2
July 2026	29	18	10	41	2
June 2026	27	23	10	38	3
HIGHEST EVER	29 (7/26)	23 (6/26)	10 (7/26, 6/26)	46 (9/26)	3 (6/26)
LOWEST EVER	27 (6/26)	17 (9/26)	7 (9/26)	38 (6/26)	2 (9/26, 7/26)

Q. 9 Do you approve or disapprove of the job that Donald Trump is doing as President? FOLLOW UP: Is that strongly or somewhat?

DATE	STRONGLY APPROVE	SOMEWHAT APPROVE	SOMEWHAT DISAPPROVE	STRONGLY DISAPPROVE	DON'T KNOW/ NO OPINION
Sept 2026	31	13	6	49	1
July 2026	33	12	5	49	1
June 2026	33	15	5	47	1
HIGHEST EVER	33 (7/26, 6/26)	15 (6/26)	6 (9/26)	49 (9/26, 7/26)	1 (ALL)
LOWEST EVER	31 (9/26)	12 (7/26)	5 (7/26, 6/26)	47 (6/26)	1 (ALL)

Q. 10 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Greg Abbott?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
Sept 2026	45	53	3
July 2026	46	50	3
June 2026	46	48	6
HIGHEST EVER	46 (7/26, 6/26)	53 (9/26)	6 (6/26)
LOWEST EVER	45 (9/26)	48 (6/26)	3 (9/26, 7/26)

Q. 11 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Ken Paxton?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
Sept 2026	38	55	7
July 2026	40	52	9
June 2026	34	52	13
HIGHEST EVER	40 (7/26)	55 (9/26)	13 (6/26)
LOWEST EVER	34 (6/26)	52 (7/26, 6/26)	7 (9/26)

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Q. 12 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Donald Trump?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
Sept 2026	44	53	3
July 2026	44	54	2
June 2026	45	51	4
HIGHEST EVER	45 (6/26)	54 (7/26)	4 (6/26)
LOWEST EVER	44 (9/26, 7/26)	51 (6/26)	2 (7/26)

Q. 13 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Dan Patrick?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
Sept 2026	38	47	15
July 2026	38	46	15
June 2026	32	40	28
HIGHEST EVER	38 (9/26, 7/26)	47 (9/26)	28 (6/26)
LOWEST EVER	32 (6/26)	40 (6/26)	15 (9/26, 7/26)

Q. 14 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Vikki Goodwin?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
Sept 2026	31	13	57
July 2026	29	14	56
June 2026	14	11	75
HIGHEST EVER	31 (9/26)	14 (7/26)	75 (6/26)
LOWEST EVER	14 (6/26)	11 (6/26)	56 (7/26)

Q. 15 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about James Talarico?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
Sept 2026	50	39	10
July 2026	46	39	15
June 2026	39	34	26
HIGHEST EVER	50 (9/26)	39 (9/26, 7/26)	26 (6/26)
LOWEST EVER	39 (6/26)	34 (6/26)	10 (9/26)

Q. 16 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Gina Hinojosa?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
Sept 2026	48	27	25
July 2026	43	25	31
June 2026	31	18	52
HIGHEST EVER	48 (9/26)	27 (9/26)	52 (6/26)
LOWEST EVER	31 (6/26)	18 (6/26)	25 (9/26)

Q. 17 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Nathan Johnson?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
Sept 2026	25	14	61
July 2026	26	13	61
June 2026	12	13	75
HIGHEST EVER	26 (7/26)	14 (9/26)	75 (6/26)
LOWEST EVER	12 (6/26)	13 (7/26, 6/26)	61 (9/26, 7/26)

Q. 18 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Mayes Middleton?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
Sept 2026	34	22	44
July 2026	32	23	44
June 2026	23	23	54
HIGHEST EVER	34 (9/26)	23 (7/26, 6/26)	54 (6/26)
LOWEST EVER	23 (6/26)	22 (9/26)	44 (9/26, 7/26)

Poll Trend Notes:

Trends reflect questions asked at least twice since the first Texas Poll in June 2026.
 “Highest Ever” and “Lowest Ever” are provided at the bottom of each question.