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# **BARBARA JORDAN**

PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH  
AND SURVEY CENTER

## **2026 TEXAS U.S. SENATE VOTE INTENTION, SUPPORT FOR ESAS AND PROPERTY TAX RELIEF, & PRES. TRUMP'S JOB PERFORMANCE**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Barbara Jordan Public Policy Research and Survey Center at Texas Southern University conducted a representative survey of 1,200 Texas registered voters from May 9 to 19, 2025.

Nine out of 10 likely 2026 Texas Republican primary voters know enough about Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton (93%) and U.S. Senator John Cornyn (90%) to take a position on to what extent they would consider voting for them in the March 2026 GOP U.S. Senate primary, compared to only 61% who say they know enough about Congressman Wesley Hunt.

Paxton (43%) leads Cornyn (34%) in a two-way primary, with 23% of likely GOP primary voters unsure how they would vote.

Paxton (45%) leads Hunt (25%) in a two-way primary, with 30% of likely GOP voter primary voters unsure how they would vote.

Cornyn (39%) leads Hunt (31%) in a two-way primary, with 30% of likely GOP voter primary voters unsure how they would vote.

Paxton (34%) leads Cornyn (27%) and Hunt (15%) in a three-way primary, with 24% of likely GOP primary voters unsure how they would vote.

49% of likely GOP primary voters would be more likely to vote for a U.S. Senate candidate in the 2026 Republican primary who was endorsed by Pres. Donald Trump, 13% would be less likely, and 38% say a Trump endorsement would have no effect on their vote.

85% of likely GOP primary voters have a favorable opinion of Pres. Trump, 78% of Gov. Greg Abbott, 77% of U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, 68% of Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, 68% of AG Paxton, and 57% of U.S. Sen. Cornyn.

Nine potential November 2026 Texas U.S. Senate candidate pairings were evaluated featuring three Republican candidates (AG Paxton, U.S. Sen. Cornyn, U.S. Rep. Hunt) and three Democratic candidates (former U.S. Rep. Colin Allred, U.S. Rep. Joaquin Castro, former U.S. Rep. Beto O'Rourke). The vote intention for each is:

- Cornyn (48%) v. Castro (41%), Cornyn (48%) v. O'Rourke (43%), Cornyn (48%) v. Allred (44%).
- Hunt (48%) v. Castro (42%), Hunt (49%) v. O'Rourke (43%), Hunt (47%) v. Allred (44%).
- Paxton (47%) v. Castro (44%), Paxton (49%) v. O'Rourke (45%), Paxton (48%) v. Allred (46%).

The largest Republican lead in vote intention is 7% in the Cornyn v. Castro trial heat.

The smallest Republican lead in vote intention is 2% in the Paxton v. Allred trial heat.

The average lead of the three Republican candidates over their Democratic rivals is 6% for Cornyn, 5% for Hunt and 3% for Paxton.



The average deficit of the three Democratic candidates vis-à-vis their Republican rivals is 3% for Allred, 5% for Castro and 5% for O'Rourke.

More than eight out of 10 Texas voters know enough about O'Rourke (92%), Paxton (88%), Cornyn (86%) and Allred (83%) to have either a favorable or unfavorable opinion of them, compared to only 60% and 47% who know enough about Castro and Hunt, respectively.

Donald Trump defeated Kamala Harris by 14% in Nov. 2024 among the Texas voters surveyed. When asked to revisit their November vote in May, Trump's advantage dropped to 8%, with only 86% of the Texans who voted for him in 2024 saying they would do so again six months later.

64% of Texans support the Texas Legislature's decision in 2025 to pass legislation (SB-2) creating Education Savings Accounts (ESAs), while 36% oppose this decision.

66% of Black, 65% of Latino and 62% of White Texans support the passage of SB-2.

69% of Texans in urban counties and 62% in rural counties support the passage of SB-2.

78% of Republicans, 68% of Independents and 45% of Democrats support the passage of SB-2.

78% of White Republicans, 74% of Latino Republicans, 56% of Black Democrats, 54% of Latino Democrats, and 31% of White Democrats support the passage of SB-2.

89% of Texans support the property tax relief legislation passed by the Texas Legislature in 2025.

53% of Texans approve and 47% disapprove of how Pres. Trump is handling his job as president.

56% of Texans approve and 44% disapprove of how Pres. Trump is handling immigration & border security.

55% of Texans approve and 45% disapprove of how Pres. Trump is handling the reduction of the size of the federal government.

51% of Texans approve and 49% disapprove of how Pres. Trump is handling foreign policy.

49% of Texans approve and 51% disapprove of how Pres. Trump is handling the economy.

45% of Texans approve and 55% disapprove of how Pres. Trump is handling tariffs & trade policy.

51% of Texans have a favorable opinion of Gov. Abbott, 51% of Pres. Trump, 47% of U.S. Sen. Cruz, 43% of Lt. Gov. Patrick, 42% of AG Paxton, and 38% of U.S. Sen. Cornyn.

In the 2026 Republican Comptroller primary Christi Craddick is viewed favorably by 43% of GOP primary voters and unfavorably by 15%, with 42% not knowing enough about her to have an opinion while Don Huffines is viewed favorably by 38% of GOP primary voters and unfavorably by 16%, with 46% not knowing enough about him to have an opinion.



## **2026 TEXAS U.S. SENATE VOTE INTENTION, SUPPORT FOR ESAS AND PROPERTY TAX RELIEF, & PRES. TRUMP'S JOB PERFORMANCE**

The Barbara Jordan Public Policy Research and Survey Center at Texas Southern University conducted a representative online survey of 1,200 (margin of error of +/- 2.8%) Texas registered voters between May 9 and May 19, 2025, in English and Spanish, via a YouGov panel. For more information on the methodology employed, see the methodology section at the end of the report.

This report contains six main sections. The first section examines vote intention and candidate evaluations among likely GOP primary voters in the March 2026 Texas Republican U.S. Senate primary election. The second section extends this analysis by looking at vote intention and candidate evaluations in the November 2026 Texas U.S. Senate general election. The third section examines support among Texans for Educational Savings Account (ESA) legislation passed during the 2025 regular session of the Texas Legislature and the fourth section examines support among Texans for the property tax relief legislation passed during the 2025 regular session. The fifth section focuses on approval among Texans of President Donald Trump's job performance overall, and of his handling of policy in five distinct areas. The sixth section provides Texans' evaluations of high-profile Republican elected officials as well as examines to what extent 2024 presidential election voters are experiencing buyer's remorse six months later.

### **SURVEY POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS**

White Texans account for 55% of this survey population, Latino Texans for 26%, Black Texans for 13%, Asian American Texans for 3% and others for 3%. Women represent 54% of this population, and men 46%. Regarding generations, 34% of this population belongs to the combined Silent Generation (born between 1928-1945) and Baby Boomer (1946-1964) cohort, 26% to Generation X (1965-1980), 25% to the Millennial generation (1981-1996), and 15% to Generation Z (1997-2012). The highest level of educational attainment of 39% of the population is a four-year college degree or a post-graduate degree, of 32% of the population is a two-year college degree or some college, and of 29% of the population is a high school degree or less. Republicans account for 47% of this population, Democrats for 39% and Independents for 12%, with 2% unsure of their partisan identification.

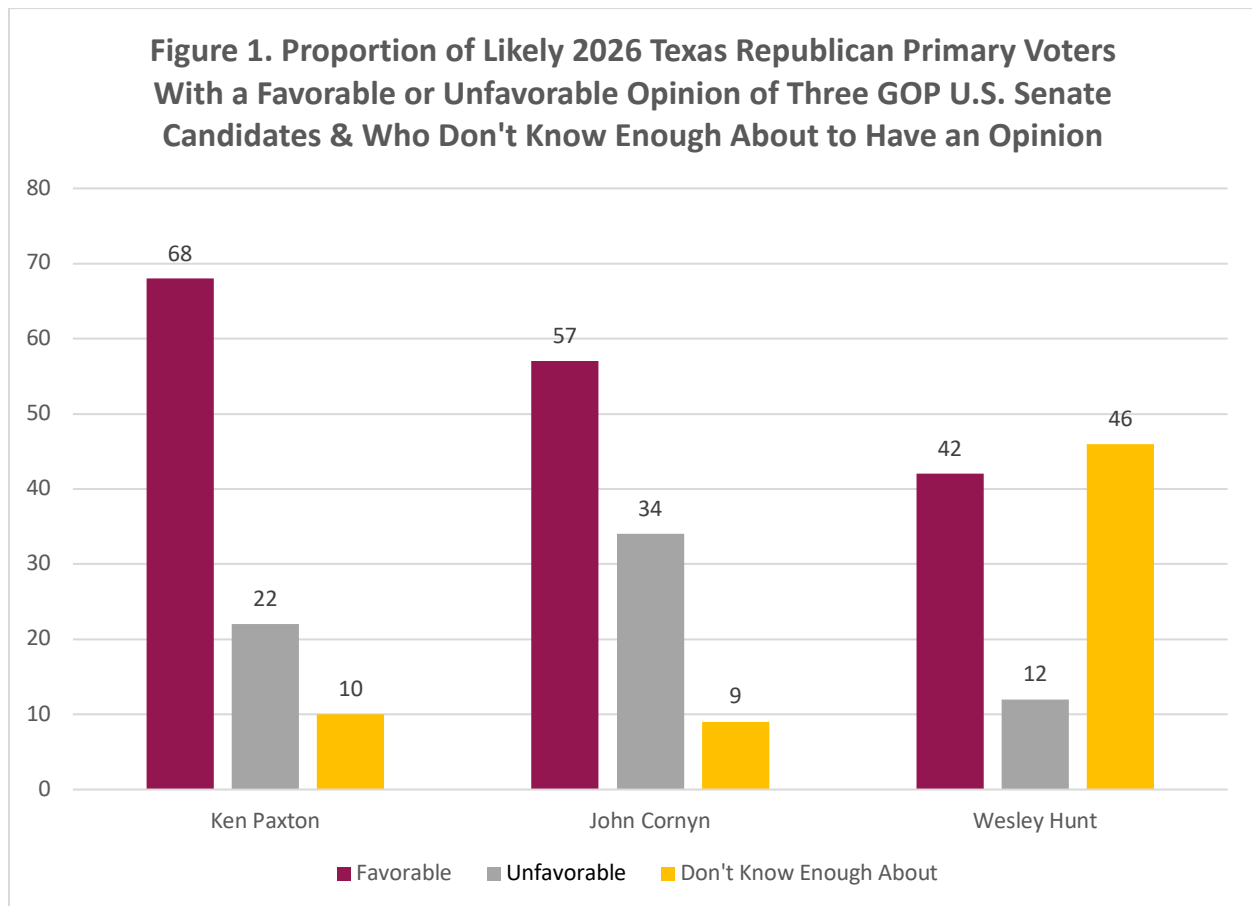
### **THE 2026 TEXAS REPUBLICAN U.S. SENATE PRIMARY**

To better understand the dynamics of the 2026 Texas Republican Party U.S. Senate primary, the opinions and vote intention of a subset of likely 2026 Republican primary voters were analyzed. This population of 510 likely 2026 GOP primary voters (with a margin of error of +/- 4.3%) utilized in this section was determined based on a combination of the voters' recent primary voting history and their stated likelihood of turning out to vote in the March 2026 Texas Republican primary.



Two high profile Republicans have already filed to run in the 2026 Texas GOP U.S. Senate primary, U.S. Senator John Cornyn and Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton. In addition, Houston Congressman Wesley Hunt has signaled he may run as well, with Hunt, as well as independent groups supporting him, spending a considerable amount of money promoting the congressman statewide.

These Republican primary voters were asked if they have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Cornyn, Hunt and Paxton, or if they did not know enough about the respective elected official to have an opinion of them, one way or another. Figure 1 shows that more than two-thirds of these likely 2026 GOP primary voters (68%) have a favorable opinion of Paxton, while 57% have a favorable opinion of Cornyn, and 42% have a favorable opinion of Hunt. Conversely, 34% have an unfavorable opinion of Cornyn, 22% have an unfavorable opinion of Paxton, and 12% have an unfavorable opinion of Hunt. While nine out of ten likely Texas Republican primary voters know enough about Cornyn (91%) and Paxton (90%) to have an opinion of them, the same is true for only 54% in regard to Hunt, with 46% of Republican primary voters not knowing enough about the Houston congressman to have an opinion of him.



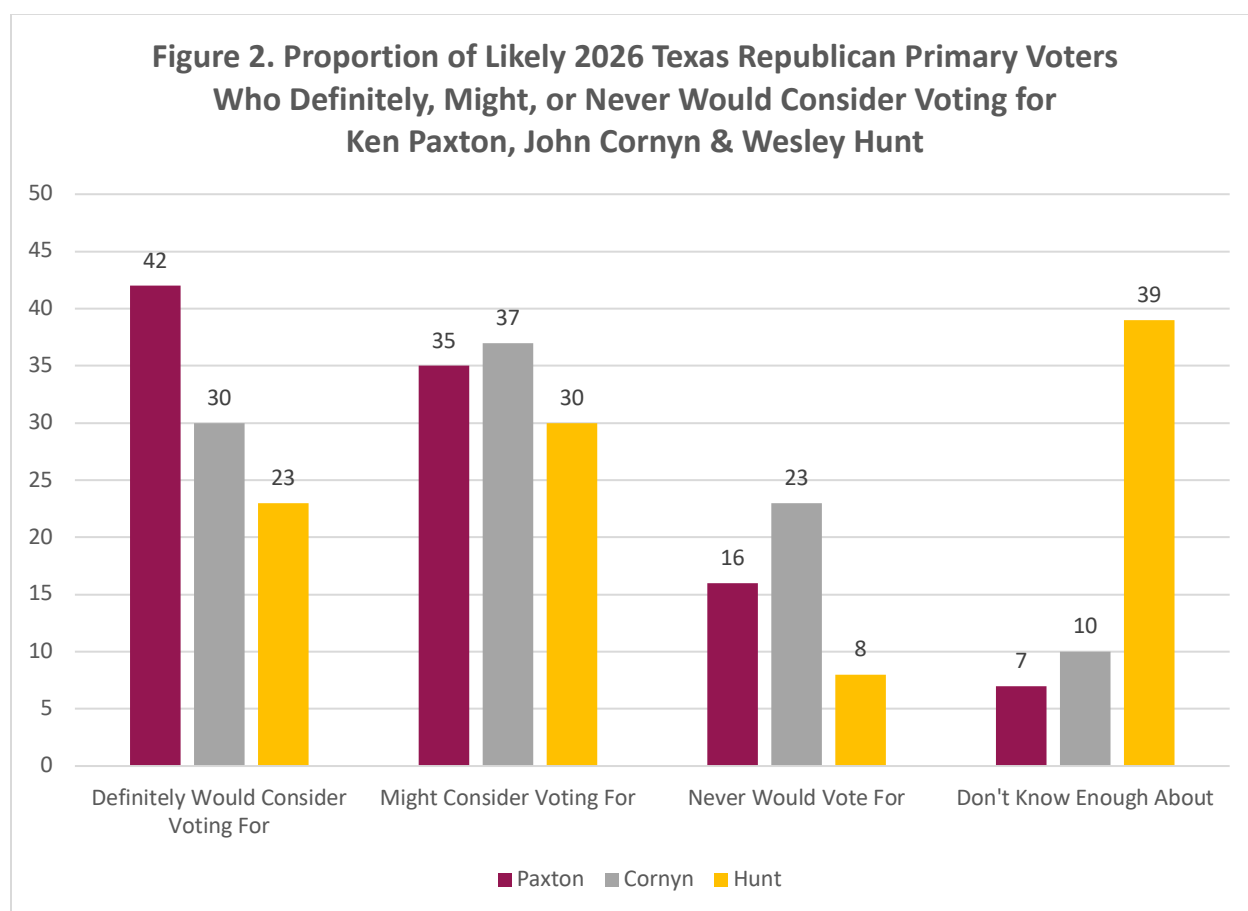
The net-favorability rating for the candidates is calculated by subtracting the proportion of likely GOP primary voters with an unfavorable opinion of the candidate from the proportion with a



favorable opinion of the candidate. Of the three candidates, Paxton has the highest net-favorability rating (46%) and Cornyn has the lowest (23%), with Hunt in between (30%).

These likely Republican primary voters were also asked the following question: “Independently of who else is running, please indicate for these potential 2026 Republican U.S. Senate candidates if they are someone you definitely would consider voting for in the primary, someone you might consider voting for in the primary, someone you never would vote for in the primary, or someone you don’t know enough about to have an opinion either way.”

Figure 2 reveals that two-fifths (42%) of these likely Republican primary voters indicate they definitely would consider voting for Paxton in the March 2026 GOP primary, with another 35% saying they might consider voting for the attorney general (see Figure 2). Close to one in six (16%) of these Republican primary voters never would vote for Paxton, and 7% say they don’t know enough about him to have an opinion.

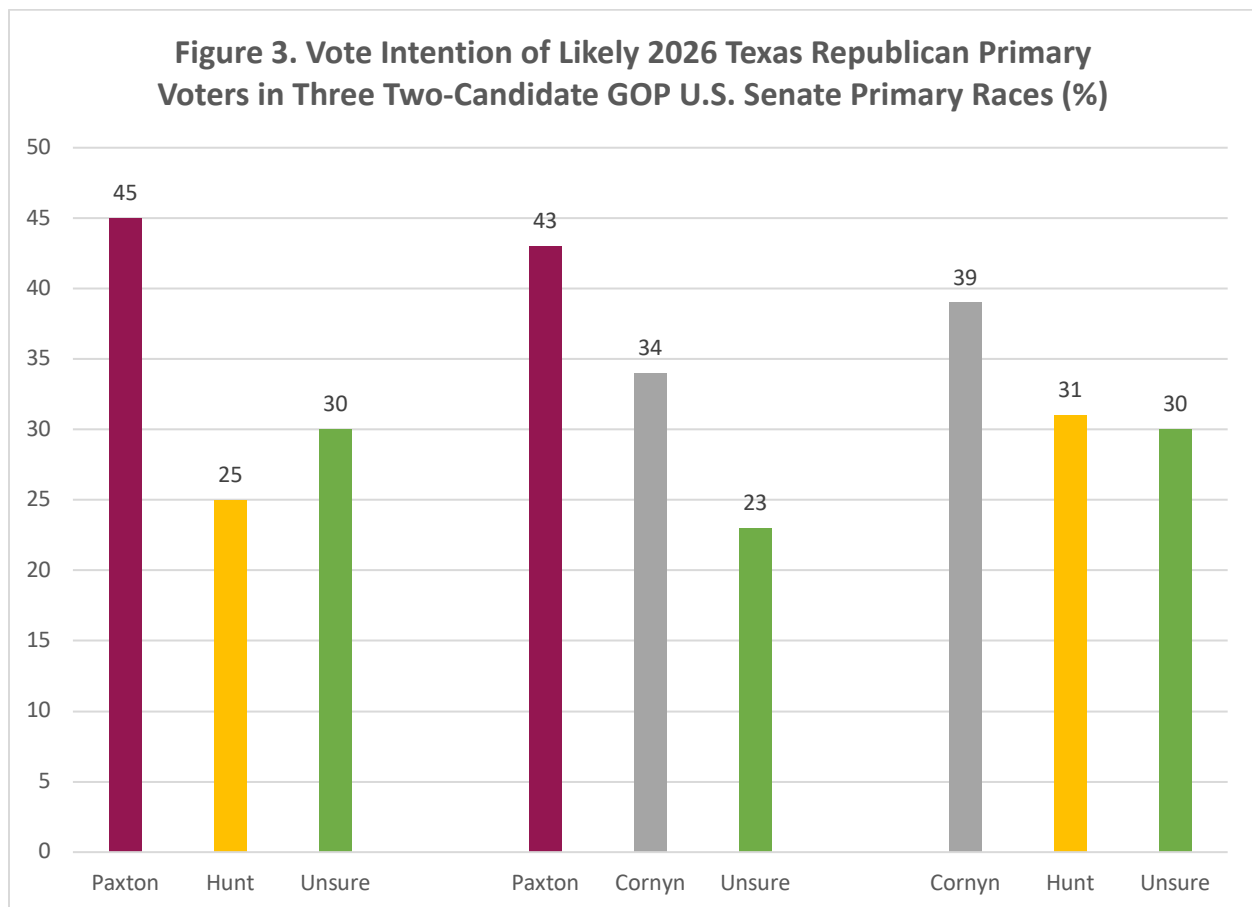


Almost one-third (30%) of these likely Republican primary voters indicate they definitely would consider voting for Cornyn in the March 2026 GOP primary, with another 37% saying they might consider voting for the senator. About one in four (23%) of these Republican primary voters never would vote for Cornyn, and 10% say they don’t know enough about him to have an opinion.



One-quarter (23%) of these likely Republican primary voters indicate they definitely would consider voting for Hunt in the March 2026 GOP primary, with another 30% saying they might consider voting for the congressman. Fewer than one in ten (8%) Republican primary voters never would vote for Hunt, and 39% (approximately four times the proportions for Paxton and Cornyn) say they don't know enough about Hunt to have an opinion of him.

Likely 2026 Republican primary voters were randomly presented with three scenarios of a two-candidate face-off in the March 2026 Texas GOP primary: Cornyn vs. Paxton, Paxton vs. Hunt, and Cornyn vs. Hunt. Figure 3 provides the vote intention for the two respective candidates in each of these three hypothetical matches, along the proportion of likely primary voters who responded that they were unsure how they would vote if these were the two options.



In a primary contest between Cornyn and Paxton, 43% of likely primary voters say they would vote for Paxton while 34% say they would vote for Cornyn, with 23% unsure how they would vote. Among the 23% who responded that they were unsure how they would vote in a Paxton-Cornyn face-off, 16% and 12% said they would definitely consider voting for Paxton and Cornyn respectively, 39% & 39% said they might consider voting for Paxton and Cornyn respectively, 25% and 22% said they never would vote for Paxton and Cornyn respectively, and 20% and 27% said they did not know enough about Paxton and Cornyn respectively to have an opinion.



In a primary contest between Paxton and Hunt, 45% of likely primary voters say they would vote for Paxton while 25% say they would vote for Hunt, with 30% unsure how they would vote. Among the 30% who responded that they were unsure how they would vote in a Paxton-Hunt face-off, 18% and 8% indicated they would definitely consider voting for Paxton and Hunt respectively, 37% & 22% said they might consider voting for Paxton and Hunt respectively, 24% and 12% said they never would vote for Paxton and Hunt respectively, and 21% and 58% said they did not know enough about Paxton and Hunt respectively to have an opinion.

In a primary contest between Cornyn and Hunt, 39% of likely primary voters say they would vote for Cornyn while 31% say they would vote for Hunt, with 30% unsure how they would vote. Among the 30% who responded that they were unsure how they would vote in a Cornyn-Hunt face-off, 11% and 7% indicated they would definitely consider voting for Cornyn and Hunt respectively, 37% and 23% said they might consider voting for Cornyn and Hunt respectively, 30% and 12% said they never would vote for Cornyn and Hunt respectively, and 22% and 58% said they did not know enough about Cornyn and Hunt respectively to have an opinion.

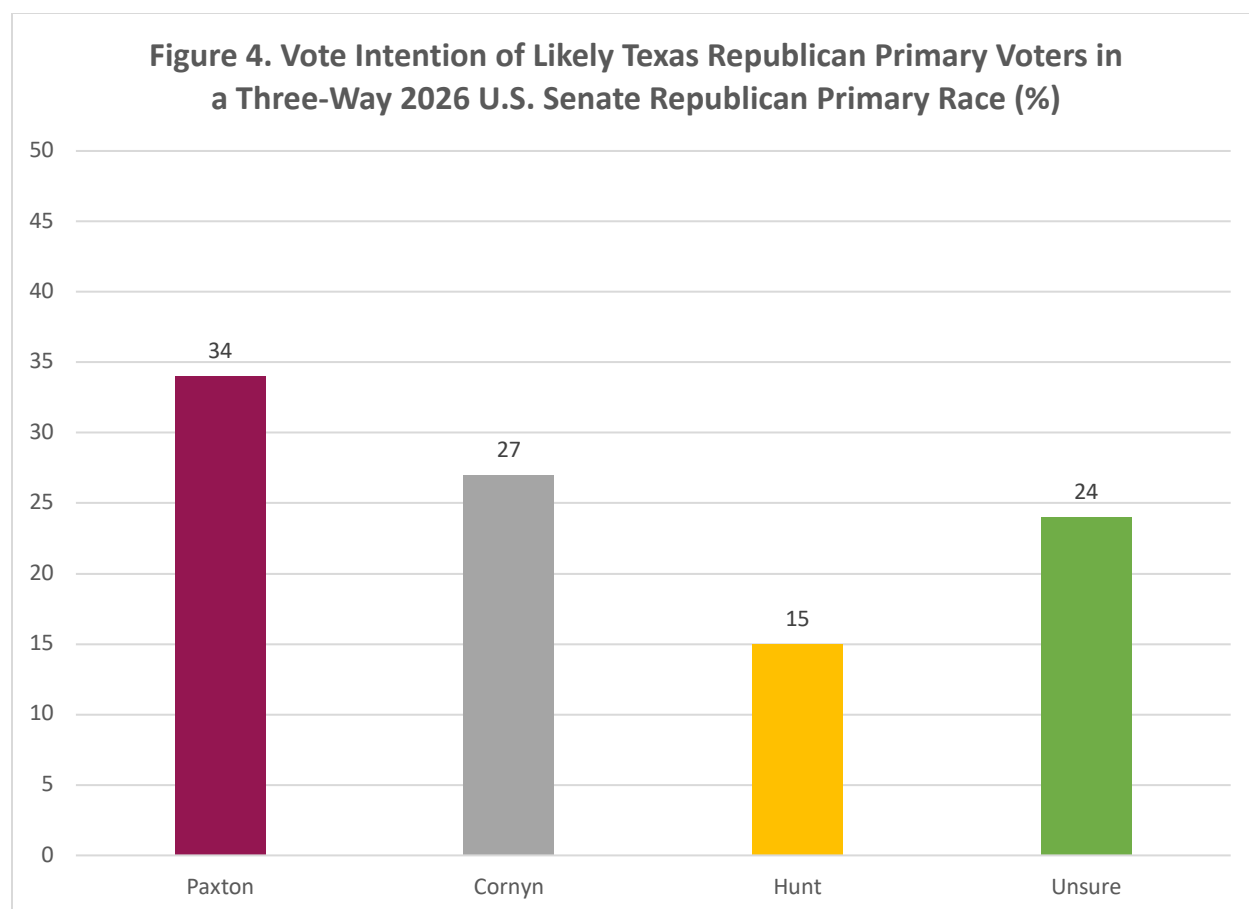


Figure 4 provides the vote intention of likely Republican primary voters in a hypothetical three-way primary featuring Paxton, Cornyn and Hunt. Under this scenario, Paxton's vote intention is 34%, Cornyn's is 27% and Hunt's is 15%, with 24% of these voters unsure about for whom they would cast their ballot. Among this latter 24% who responded that they were unsure, 12%, 6%



and 5% say they would definitely consider voting for Paxton, Cornyn and Hunt respectively, 36%, 42% and 23% say they might consider voting for Paxton, Cornyn and Hunt respectively, 29%, 27% and 11% report that they never would vote for Paxton, Cornyn and Hunt respectively, and 23%, 25% and 61% said they did not know enough about Paxton, Cornyn and Hunt respectively to have an opinion.

These likely primary voters also were asked the following question: “If Donald Trump were to endorse a candidate in the 2026 Republican U.S. Senate primary, would that: make you more likely to vote for the Trump-endorsed candidate, make you less likely to vote for the Trump-endorsed candidate, or have no impact on your likelihood of voting for the Trump-endorsed candidate?” In the survey half of the respondents randomly received this question with the “make you more likely” response option first while the other half of the respondents randomly received this question with the “make you less likely” response option first.

**Figure 5. Impact of a Donald Trump Endorsement of a 2026 Texas U.S. Senate Candidate on the Likelihood GOP Primary Voters Would Vote for the Endorsed Candidate (%)**

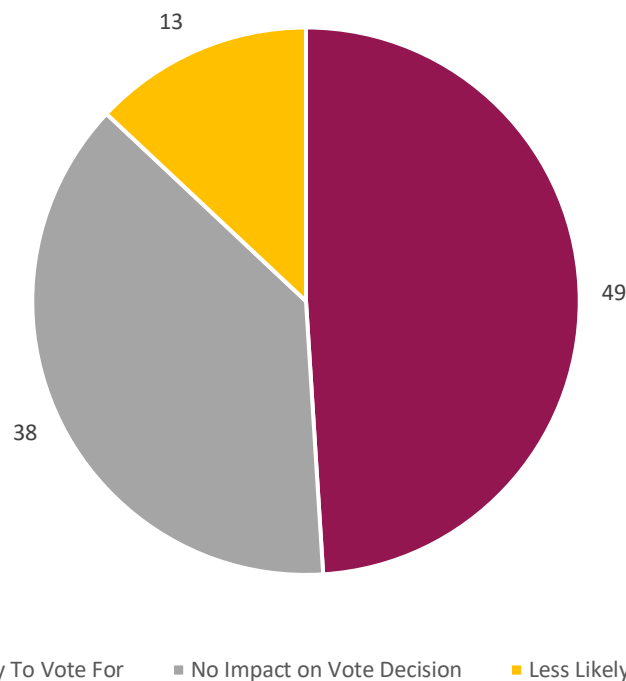


Figure 5 provides the distribution of the impact of an endorsement by President Donald Trump on the likelihood that a Republican primary voter would vote for the endorsed candidate. Nearly half (49%) of these Republican primary voters report that they would be more likely to vote for a Trump-endorsed candidate in the 2026 Texas Republican U.S. Senate primary, while 13% would be less likely to vote for a Trump-endorsed candidate, and close to two-fifths (38%) say that a



Trump endorsement would have no impact on their likelihood of voting for a candidate in the 2026 GOP primary.

Table 1 highlights that President Trump is viewed favorably by more likely 2026 Texas Republican primary voters than any other Republican evaluated, with 85% holding a favorable opinion of the president, compared to 78% who hold a favorable opinion of Texas Governor Greg Abbott, 77% who hold a favorable opinion of U.S. Senator Ted Cruz, 68% who hold a favorable opinion of Texas Lt. Governor Dan Patrick, 68% who hold a favorable opinion of Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, 57% who hold a favorable opinion of U.S. Senator John Cornyn, and 35% who hold a favorable opinion of Texas House Speaker Dustin Burrows. The net-favorability ratings of these seven Republican politicians among likely 2026 GOP primary voters range from highs of 71% (Trump), 58% (Abbott) and 56% (Cruz) to lows of 15% (Burrows) and 23% (Cornyn), with Paxton and Patrick in between at 46% each.

**Table 1. Favorability Evaluations of Six GOP Elected Officials Among GOP Primary Voters (%)**

<b>Elected Official</b>	<b>Favorable</b>	<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>Don't Know Enough</b>	<b>Net-Favorability</b>
Donald Trump	85	14	1	71
Greg Abbott	78	20	2	58
Ted Cruz	77	21	2	56
Dan Patrick	68	22	10	46
Ken Paxton	68	22	10	46
John Cornyn	57	34	9	23
Dustin Burrows	35	20	45	15

The decisions by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton to run for the U.S. Senate and by Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar to become Chancellor of the Texas A&M University system have opened up two positions in the state's plural executive branch in the 2026 election, the first time that more than one of the six plural executive branch positions have not had an incumbent running for re-election since 2014.

Table 2 provides the proportion of these likely 2026 Republican primary voters who have a favorable and unfavorable opinion of five potential Republican candidates for these positions, as well as the proportion of likely GOP primary voters who don't know enough about the potential candidates to have an opinion of them. Included in the table are the two top-tier candidates who have filed to run for the position of Texas Comptroller, Texas Railroad Commissioner Christi Craddick and former Texas State Senator Don Huffines, and three potential candidates for the position of Texas Attorney General, State Senator Joan Huffman, State Senator Bryan Hughes and State Senator Mayes Middleton (only Middleton has filed to date).



**Table 2. Favorability Evaluations of Five Potential Candidates Among GOP Primary Voters (%)**

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Favorable</b>	<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>Don't Know Enough</b>	<b>Net-Favorability</b>
Christi Craddick	43	15	42	28
Don Huffines	38	16	46	22
Joan Huffman	30	12	58	18
Bryan Hughes	29	12	59	17
Mayes Middleton	28	11	61	17

In regard to the race for Texas Comptroller, more than two-fifths of the likely Republican primary voters do not know enough about Craddick (42%) or Huffines (46%) to have an opinion of them. Among those with an opinion, 42% have a favorable opinion of Craddick and 38% have a favorable opinion of Huffines, with 15% and 16% having an unfavorable opinion of Craddick and Huffines, respectively. Overall, Craddick has a modestly higher net-favorability rating (percentage favorable minus percentage unfavorable) than Huffines, 28% vs. 22%.

The three potential Texas Attorney General candidates are indistinguishable in regard to the proportion of likely Republican primary voters who have a favorable and unfavorable opinion of them as well as the proportion who don't know enough about them to have an opinion. This latter group is far and away the most numerous, with 61%, 59% and 58% of these likely 2026 GOP primary voters not knowing enough about Middleton, Hughes and Huffman, respectively, to have an opinion of them, favorable or unfavorable.

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

In this section we assess the vote intention in the November 2026 Texas U.S. Senate election under nine distinct two-candidate (one Republican v. one Democrat) scenarios involving three potential Republican nominees and three potential Democratic nominees. The three potential Republican nominees are the political figures covered in the previous section on the 2026 Republican primary: U.S. Senator John Cornyn, Congressman Wesley Hunt, and Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton. The three potential Democratic nominees are: former congressman and 2024 Democratic Texas U.S. Senate nominee Colin Allred, former congressman and 2022 Texas Democratic gubernatorial nominee and 2018 Democratic Texas U.S. Senate nominee Beto O'Rourke, and Congressman Joaquin Castro.

Table 3 provides the proportion of Texas registered voters who cast a ballot in the 2024 Texas U.S. Senate election who have a favorable and unfavorable opinion of each of these six potential U.S. Senate candidates, as well as the proportion of these voters who do not know enough about the potential candidate to have an opinion along with the potential candidates' respective net-favorability rating (percentage favorable minus percentage unfavorable).



**Table 3. Favorability Evaluations of 6 Potential 2026 U.S. Senate Candidates Among Voters (%)**

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Favorable</b>	<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>Don't Know Enough</b>	<b>Net-Favorability</b>
Colin Allred	45	38	17	7
Ken Paxton	44	44	12	0
Beto O'Rourke	43	49	8	-6
John Cornyn	39	47	14	-8
Joaquin Castro	34	27	40	7
Wesley Hunt	28	19	53	9

Allred (45%) has the highest proportion of 2024 Texas voters with a favorable opinion of him, followed closely by Paxton (44%) and O'Rourke (43%). In the next tier of candidates, 39% of these Texas voters have a favorable opinion of Cornyn, 34% of Castro and 28% of Hunt.

O'Rourke (49%) has the highest proportion of these Texas voters with an unfavorable opinion of him, followed closely by Cornyn (47%) and Paxton (44%). In the next tier of candidates, 38% of these Texas voters have an unfavorable opinion of Allred, 27% of Castro and 19% of Hunt.

Hunt (53%) and Castro (40%) are significantly less well-known by these Texas voters than the other four potential candidates. Only 8% of these Texas voters don't know enough about O'Rourke to have an opinion of him, with 12%, 14% and 17% not knowing enough about Paxton, Cornyn and Allred, respectively, to have an opinion of them.

The net-favorability ratings of these six potential 2026 U.S. Senate candidates range from highs of 9% (Hunt), 7% (Allred) and 7% (Castro) to lows of 0% (Paxton), -6% (O'Rourke), and -8% (Cornyn).

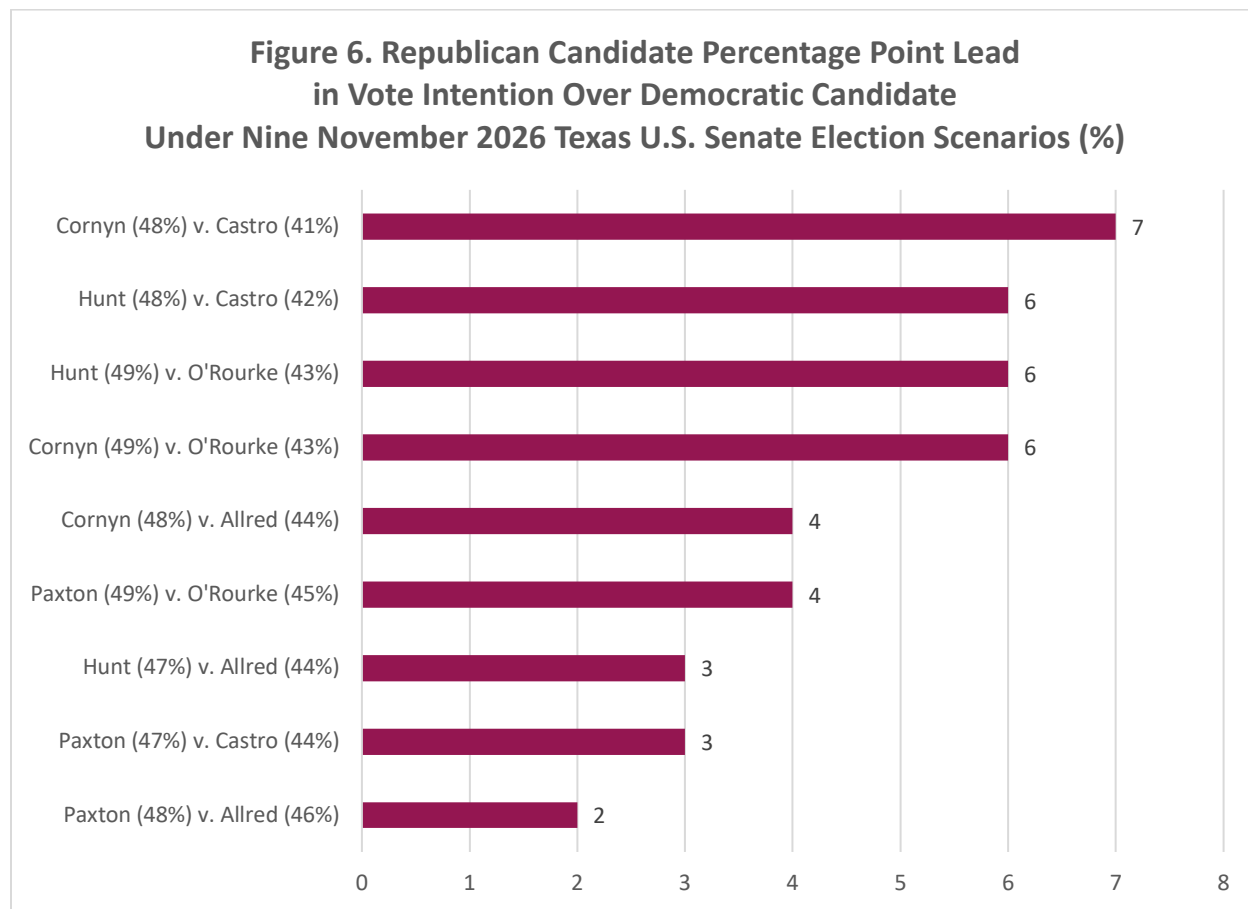
The survey respondents were randomly presented with nine two-candidate scenarios (one Republican v. one Democrat), with the option of responding that they would vote for one of the two candidates or that they were unsure of how they vote. The analysis here of the November 2026 U.S. Senate vote intention is restricted to those registered voters who cast a ballot in the November 2024 Texas U.S. Senate election. Among this subset of registered voters, in the November 2024 election 52% reported having voted for Republican Ted Cruz, 46% for Democrat Colin Allred and 2% for Libertarian Ted Brown. The actual vote result in this 2024 contest according to the Texas Secretary of State was 53% for Cruz, 45% for Allred, and 2% for Brown.

Figure 6 provides, for each of the nine two-candidate election scenarios, the percentage point lead in vote intention held by the Republican candidate along with the actual vote intention for the Republican and Democratic candidates among Texans who voted in the 2024 Texas U.S. Senate election (in parentheses). The proportion of voters who answered that they were unsure (which is not explicitly provided in the figure) in these nine trial heats falls within a limited band from a low of 6% to a high of 11%.



The Republican candidates' advantage in vote intention over their respective Democratic rival ranges from highs of 7% (Cornyn v. Castro) and 6% (Hunt v. Castro, Hunt v. O'Rourke, Cornyn v. O'Rourke) to lows of 2% (Paxton v. Allred) and 3% (Paxton v. Castro, Hunt v. Allred), with the pairings of Paxton vs. O'Rourke and Cornyn v. Allred in between at 4%.

Cornyn's average lead over the three Democratic candidates is 6%, Hunt's average lead is 5% and Paxton's average lead is 3%. Allred's average deficit vis-à-vis the three Republican candidates is 3%, Castro's average deficit is 5% and O'Rourke's average deficit is 5%.



None of the three Republican candidates were able to retain 100% of the vote of Texans who voted for Ted Cruz in the 2024 U.S. Senate race (the remainder either responded that they were unsure, or, less commonly, that they intended to vote for the Democratic candidate). The highest proportion of Cruz votes retained by a Republican candidate was in the trial heat between Paxton and O'Rourke where 90% of Cruz voters said they intend to vote for Paxton (7% were unsure and 3% intend to vote for O'Rourke) while the lowest proportion of Cruz votes retained by the Republican candidate was in the trial heat between Hunt and Allred where 85% of Cruz voters said they intend to vote for Hunt (13% were unsure and 2% intend to vote for Allred).



## **SUPPORT FOR THE EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNT (ESA) LEGISLATION PASSED IN 2025**

In the survey the respondents were provided a detailed summary of the ESA legislation which was passed in the Texas Legislature during the 2025 regular session (i.e., Senate Bill 2) and then asked whether they support or oppose the Texas Legislature's decision to create ESAs. The exact language used in the survey instrument (which is far more detailed than that which is included in most surveys measuring support for school choice/voucher legislation) is in italics below.

*This spring the Texas Legislature passed legislation creating Education Savings Accounts (ESAs). Starting in the 2026-27 school year ESAs can be used by parents to pay for private school tuition and tutors.*

*Most families participating in 2026-27 will receive approximately \$10,300 per child, except for those with a child with a disability who will receive an amount equal to what the state would have spent on special education services for the student if they had attended public school (up to \$30,000).*

*Home-schoolers can receive \$2,000 a year.*

*ESA funds can only be paid to accredited private schools that have operated for at least two years. The use of ESA funds will be monitored and regulated by the Texas Comptroller.*

*The legislation allocates \$1 billion dollars in the state budget for the ESA program over the next two years. If the number of applications exceeds the number which can be funded, students will be prioritized in this order (and within the four groups by lottery):*

*1st. Students with a disability from families with an income below \$160,750 (family of 4).*

*2nd. Students from families with an income below \$64,300 (family of 4).*

*3rd. Students from families with an income between \$64,300 and \$160,750 (family of 4).*

*4th. Students from families with an income above \$160,750 (family of 4).*

*Do you support or oppose the Texas Legislature's decision to create Education Savings Accounts (ESAs)?*

Figure 7 underscores that 64% of these Texas registered voters support the Texas Legislature's decision during the 2025 regular session to create Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) while 36% oppose this decision.



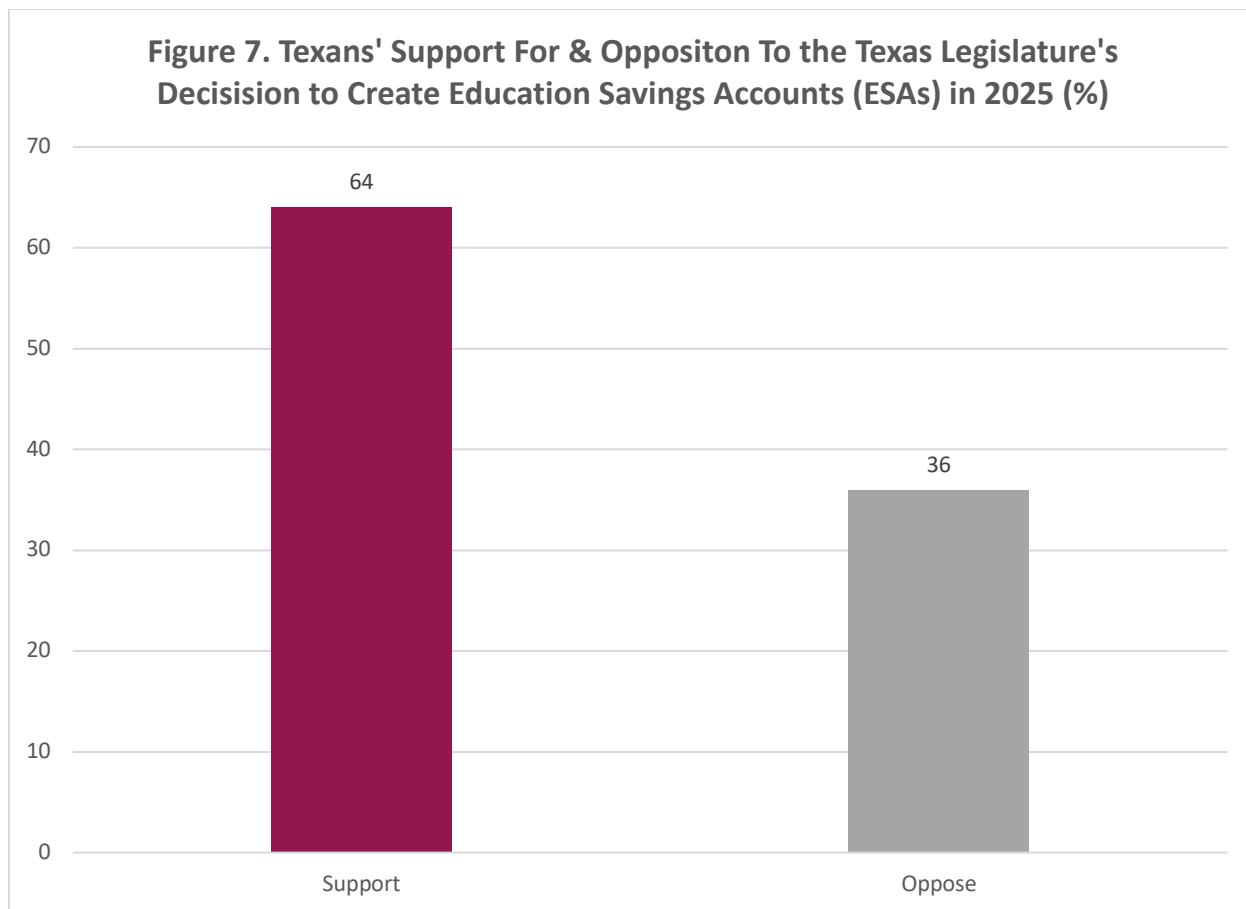


Table 2 provides the level of support for and opposition to the decision by the Texas Legislature to pass the ESA legislation this past spring, broken down by ethnicity/race, gender, generation, level of educational attainment, family income, the presence or absence of children under the age of 18 in the home, region of residence, and partisanship. The table reveals that with one exception (Texas Democrats), an absolute majority of the members of 23 of these 24 different socio-demographic sub-groups support the adoption of the ESA legislation.

There do not exist any significant differences in support for the ESA legislation based on ethnicity or race, with 66% of Black Texans, 65% of Latino Texans, and 62% of White Texans supporting Senate Bill 2 (SB-2). Similarly, the wealthiest Texans with a family income of \$150,000 or more are not significantly more likely to support the ESA legislation than are the least wealthy Texans with a family income of less than \$70,000 (65% vs. 60%).

While residents of the state's principal urban counties (i.e., Bexar, Dallas, Harris, Tarrant, Travis) are neither significantly more nor less likely to support the decision to pass the ESA legislation than residents of the state's rural counties (69% vs. 62%), the Texans in these urban counties are significantly more likely to support the ESA legislation than Texans in the adjacent suburban counties (e.g., Collin, Denton, Fort Bend, Montgomery, Williamson), 69% vs. 54%.



**Table 4. Support For & Opposition To the 2025 ESA Legislation Among Key Sub-Groups (%)**

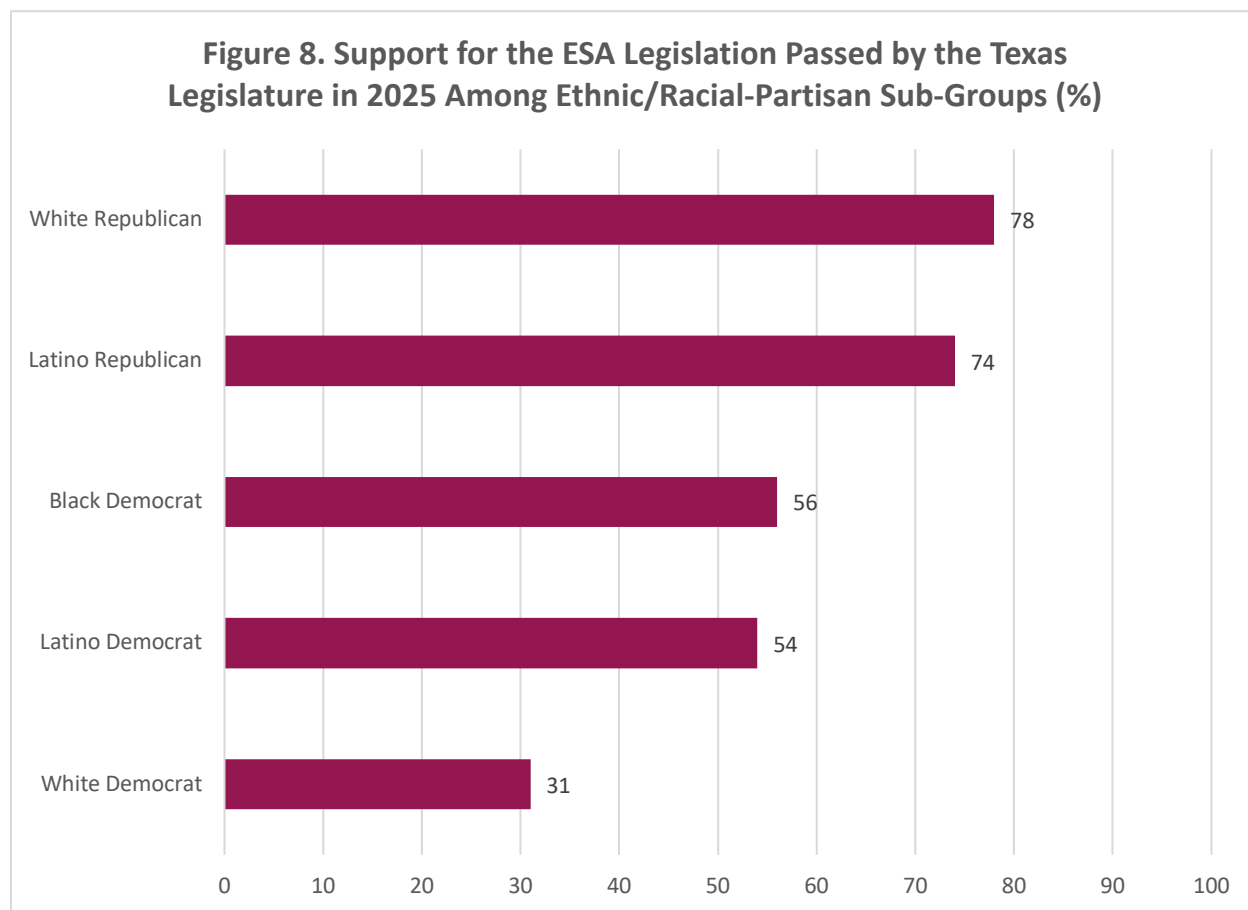
<b>Socio-Demographic</b>	<b>Sub-Group</b>	<b>Support</b>	<b>Oppose</b>
Ethnicity/Race	White	62	38
	Latino	65	35
	Black	66	34
Gender	Women	60	40
	Men	68	32
Generation	Silent/Boomer	58	42
	Generation X	52	48
	Millennial	72	28
	Generation Z	84	16
Education	High School	68	32
	Some College/2-Yr	68	32
	4-Yr/Advanced	56	44
Income	Less than \$70k	60	40
	\$70k to \$150k	66	34
	150k or More	65	35
Children Under 18	Present in Home	69	31
	Not Present in Home	61	39
Region (County)	Urban County	69	31
	Suburban County	54	46
	Regional Hub County	57	43
	Rural County	62	38
Partisan ID	Republican	78	22
	Independent	68	32
	Democrat	45	55

Men (68%) are significantly more likely than women (60%) to support the passage of the ESA legislation, just as Texans with a child under the age of 18 in their home (69%) are significantly more likely to support SB-2 than are those Texans who do not have a child under the age of 18 in their home (60%). Texans whose highest level of educational attainment is either a four-year degree or an advanced degree are significantly less likely to support the passage of the ESA legislation than are Texans whose highest level of educational attainment is less than a four-year college degree (56% vs. 68%). And, the youngest Texans belonging to Generation Z (84%) and to the Millennial generation (72%) are significantly more likely to support the decision to pass SB-2 than are their elders who belong to Generation X (52%) and, to a lesser extent, to the combined Baby Boomer and Silent Generation cohort (58%).

Support for the ESA legislation is much higher among Texas Republicans (78%) and Texas Independents (68%) than among Texas Democrats (45%). However, within the aggregate Democratic proportion of 45% exists a wide degree of variance in support depending on the ethnicity or race of the Texas Democrat. Figure 8 reveals that while an absolute majority of Black (56%) and Latino (54%) Democrats support the Texas Legislature's decision to pass SB-2, less than



one-third of White Democrats (31%) share this opinion, with more than two-thirds of White Democrats (69%) opposing the decision made by the Texas Legislature in 2025 to pass the ESA legislation.



In contrast to the wide variance in support for the ESA legislation among Texas Democrats depending on their ethnicity/race, Texas Republican support for the ESA legislation is relatively homogenous, with 78% of White Republicans and 74% of Latino Republicans supporting the legislation. There were not enough Black Republicans surveyed to allow for a reliable analysis of this sub-population, however among the Black Republicans in the survey population support for the ESA legislation is nearly universal (95%). This finding is in line with prior Barbara Jordan Public Policy Research and Survey Center surveys with Black oversamples which have consistently found overwhelming support among Black Republicans for ESA legislation.

#### **SUPPORT FOR PROPERTY TAX RELIEF LEGISLATION PASSED IN 2025**

The survey respondents were asked to what extent they support or oppose the Texas Legislature's decision to cut property taxes during the 2025 regular session. The exact language of the survey question used was: "This spring the Texas Legislature included approximately \$50 billion dollars in the state budget for property tax relief (i.e., to cut property taxes), primarily for



Texas homeowners, but also for Texas businesses. Do you support or oppose the Texas Legislature’s decision to cut property taxes?”

Figure 9 highlights that almost nine out of ten Texas registered voters support the passage of property tax relief legislation by the Texas Legislature in 2025, with 89% supporting the legislation and 11% opposing it.

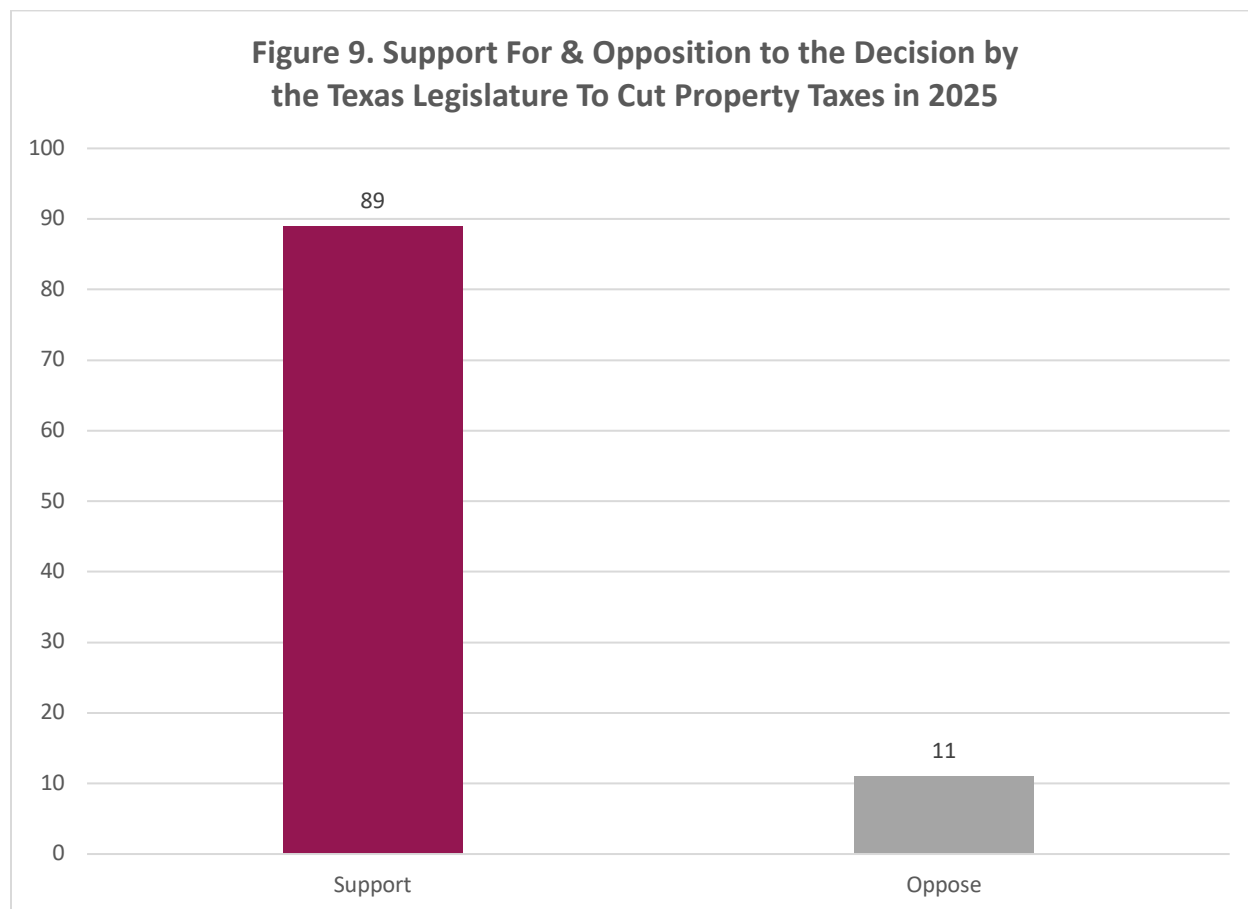


Table 5 provides the level of support for and opposition to the decision by the Texas Legislature to pass property tax legislation this past spring, broken down by ethnicity/race, gender, generation, level of educational attainment, income, whether the respondent owns or rents their home, and partisanship.

The table reveals that more than three-quarters of every single socio-demographic sub-group supports the legislation as well as that, with one exception, there do not exist any significant socio-demographic sub-group differences in support for or opposition to the Texas Legislature’s decision to cut property taxes in 2025. The once exception is partisan, with Texas Republicans (98%) significantly more likely than Texas Democrats (79%) to support the property tax relief passed this year by the Texas Legislature, although it is important to note that more than three out of four Texas Democrats support the property tax relief legislation.



**Table 5. Support For & Opposition To 2025 Property Tax Relief Among Key Sub-Groups (%)**

<b>Socio-Demographic</b>	<b>Sub-Group</b>	<b>Support</b>	<b>Oppose</b>
Ethnicity/Race	White	90	10
	Latino	89	11
	Black	86	14
Gender	Women	88	12
	Men	91	9
Generation	Silent/Boomer	94	6
	Generation X	87	13
	Millennial	89	11
	Generation Z	82	18
Education	High School	91	9
	Some College/2-Yr	90	10
	4-Yr/Advanced	87	13
Income	Less than \$70k	89	11
	\$70k to \$150k	92	8
	More than \$150k	83	17
Own or Rent Home	Own Home	91	9
	Rent Home	84	16
Partisan ID	Republican	98	12
	Independent	86	14
	Democrat	79	21

**APPROVAL OF PRES. TRUMP’S JOB PERFORMANCE OVERALL & IN SPECIFIC POLICY AREAS**

In the survey the respondents were asked if they approved or disapproved of the way President Donald Trump is handling: his job as president, tariffs and trade policy, the economy, immigration and border security, reducing the size of the federal government, and foreign policy.

Figure 10 provides the proportion of Texas registered voters who approve and disapprove of President Trump’s handling of his job as president along and of federal government policy in five specific policy areas. As only a small proportion of the respondents answered “don’t know” for these six response items (3% on average), the don’t know responses are excluded from the analysis in this section.

An absolute majority of Texas registered voters approve of President Trump’s handling of immigration and border security (56%), handling of reducing the size of the federal government (55%), and handling of foreign policy (51%). An absolute majority (53%) also approve of his handling of his job as president overall (53%). In contrast, a majority of these Texans disapprove of President Trump’s handling of tariffs and trade policy (55%) and his handling of the economy (51%).

Trump’s performance in the area of tariffs and trade policy represents his weakest flank in the eyes of Texas registered voters. A majority of Texans (55%) believe that the Trump Administration



implemented tariffs and fees hurt the U.S. economy, while 45% believe they help the U.S. economy.

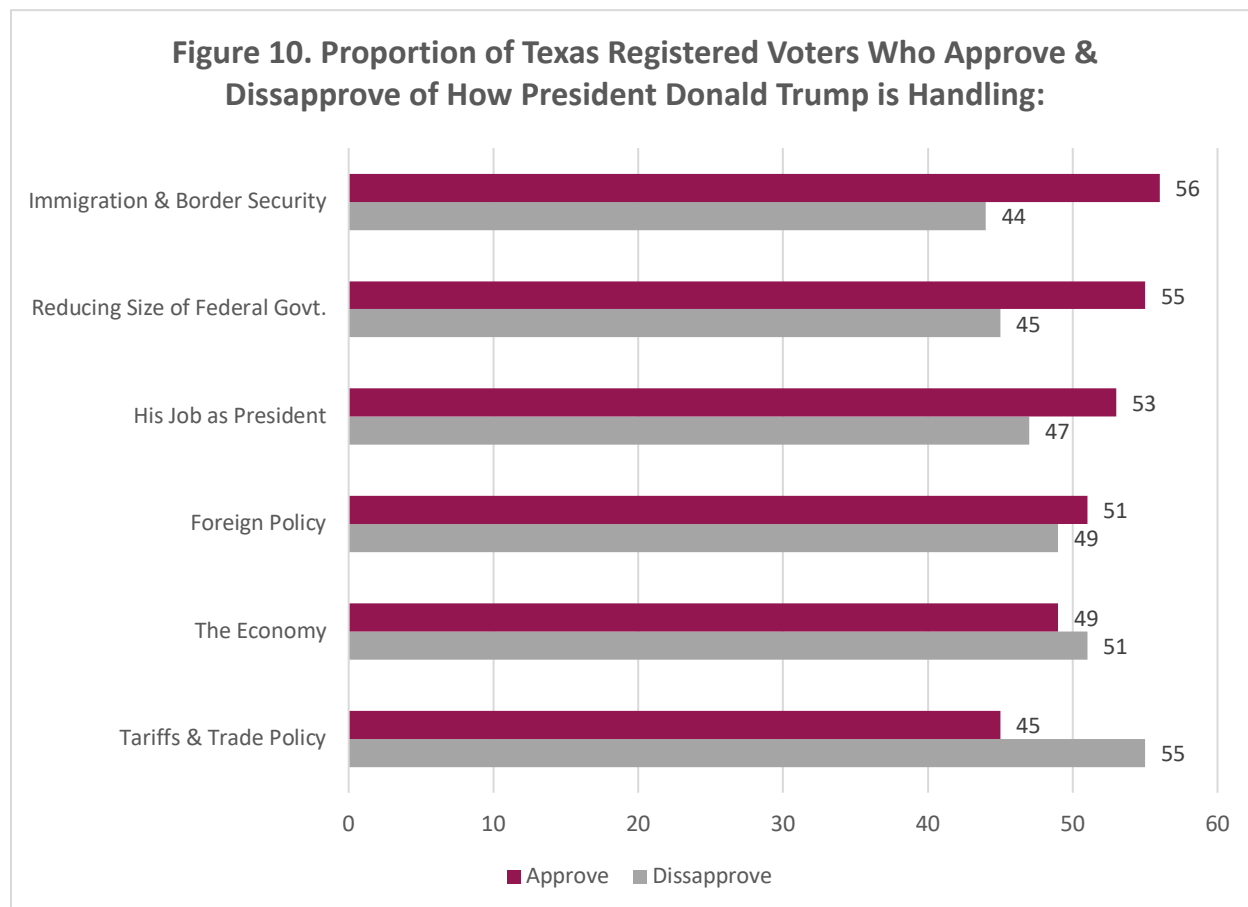




Table 6 provides the proportion of respondents supporting President Trump’s job performance overall and in five policy areas, broken down by ethnicity/race, gender, generation, level of educational attainment, partisanship, and 2024 presidential vote.

Table 6. Support for Pres. Trump's Handling of His Job As President and of Specific Policy Areas Among Key Sub-Groups (%)							
			Immigration	Reduce Size			Tariffs &
		Job as	& Border	of Federal	Foreign	The	Trade
Socio-Demographic	Sub-Group	President	Security	Government	Policy	Economy	Policy
Overall		53	56	55	51	49	45
Ethnicity/Race	White	62	67	66	62	59	55
	Latino	47	50	49	47	45	41
	Black	22	30	21	16	18	10
Gender	Women	48	52	49	47	45	41
	Men	58	60	61	56	53	50
Generation	Silent/Boomer	56	61	59	57	54	52
	Generation X	51	57	52	49	47	42
	Millennial	52	51	57	47	47	42
	Generation Z	46	51	45	48	46	38
Education	High School	57	60	59	56	53	50
	Some College/2-Yr Degree	53	58	56	53	51	48
	4-Yr Degree/Advanced	48	52	52	46	45	39
Partisan ID	Republican	92	94	93	89	86	81
	Independent	43	46	48	39	38	28
	Democrat	9	13	13	10	9	8
2024 Presidential Vote	Donald Trump	87	98	89	86	83	78
	Kamala Harris	10	17	13	11	10	8
	Did Not Vote	38	43	45	31	30	24

The proportion of Texas registered voters who approve of President Trump’s handling of his job as president varies significantly by ethnicity/race, with 62% of White Texans, but only 47% of Latino Texans and 22% of Black Texans approving of how the president is handling his job today. In regard to the five policy areas, an absolute majority of White Texans approve of how President Trump is handling policy in all five areas, ranging from a high of 67% who approve of his handling



of immigration and border security policy to a low of 55% who approve of his handling of tariffs and trade policy. Approval of President Trump's handling of policy in these five areas among Latino Texans ranges from a high of 50% who approve of Trump's handling of immigration and border security policy to a low of 41% who approve of his handling of tariffs and trade policy. Only a minority of Black Texans approve of President Trump's handling of policy in these five areas, ranging from a high of 30% who approve of Trump's handling of immigration and border security policy to a low of 10% who approve of his handling of tariffs and trade policy.

Men (58%) are significantly more likely than women (48%) to approve of President Trump's handling of his job as president. The notable gender gap also exists across the five specific policy areas, with the difference between men and women largest in regard to Trump's handling of reducing the size of the federal government (61% vs. 49%) and smallest for Trump's handling of immigration and border security policy (60% vs. 52%) and Trump's handling of the economy (53% vs. 48%).

There do not exist any significant generational or educational attainment related differences in approval of President Trump's overall job performance or handling of policy in the five specific policy areas, with one minor exception. Texas registered voters whose highest level of educational attainment is a high school degree or less are significantly more likely to approve of President Trump's handling of tariffs and trade policy than are those Texans whose highest level of educational attainment is a four-year degree or an advanced degree, 50% vs. 39%.

Table 4 underscores the strong partisan and presidential vote split in approval of President Trump's job performance and handling of policy in the five specific areas, with a high degree of correlation between partisan identification and 2024 presidential vote. Given this high correlation, here we focus on the level of approval among those Texans who voted for Donald Trump and for Kamala Harris in the 2024 presidential election.

Trump voters are dramatically more likely than Harris voters to approve of both President Trump's overall handling of this job as president (87% vs. 10%), as well as President Trump's handling of policy in the five specific policy areas. There does however exist some noteworthy variance in the proportion of Trump voters who approve of his handling of policy in the five areas. For instance, while 98% of Trump voters approve of the president's handling of immigration and border security policy and 89% of his reducing the size of the federal government, only 78% approve of his handling of tariffs and trade policy and 83% of his handling of the economy. Relatively small proportions of Harris voters approve of President Trump's handling of policy in the five specific areas, ranging from a high of 17% who approve of the president's handling of immigration and border security policy to a low of 8% who approve of President Trump's handling of tariffs and trade policy.



## FAVORABILITY OF REPUBLICAN ELECTED OFFICIALS AMONG TEXAS REGISTERED VOTERS

Table 7 provides the proportion of Texas registered voters with a favorable opinion of President Donald Trump, U.S. Senator Ted Cruz, U.S. Senator John Cornyn, Texas Governor Greg Abbott, Texas Lt. Governor Dan Patrick, and Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton. Also provided is the proportion of Texas registered voters who don't know enough about the respective Republican elected official to have an opinion of them along with their respective net-favorability rating (percentage favorable minus percentage unfavorable).

**Table 7. Favorability Evaluations of Six Republican Elected Officials Among Texas RVs (%)**

<b>Elected Official</b>	<b>Favorable</b>	<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>Don't Know Enough</b>	<b>Net-Favorability</b>
Greg Abbott	51	45	4	6
Donald Trump	51	47	2	4
Ted Cruz	47	49	4	-2
Dan Patrick	43	39	18	4
Ken Paxton	42	42	16	0
John Cornyn	38	44	18	-6

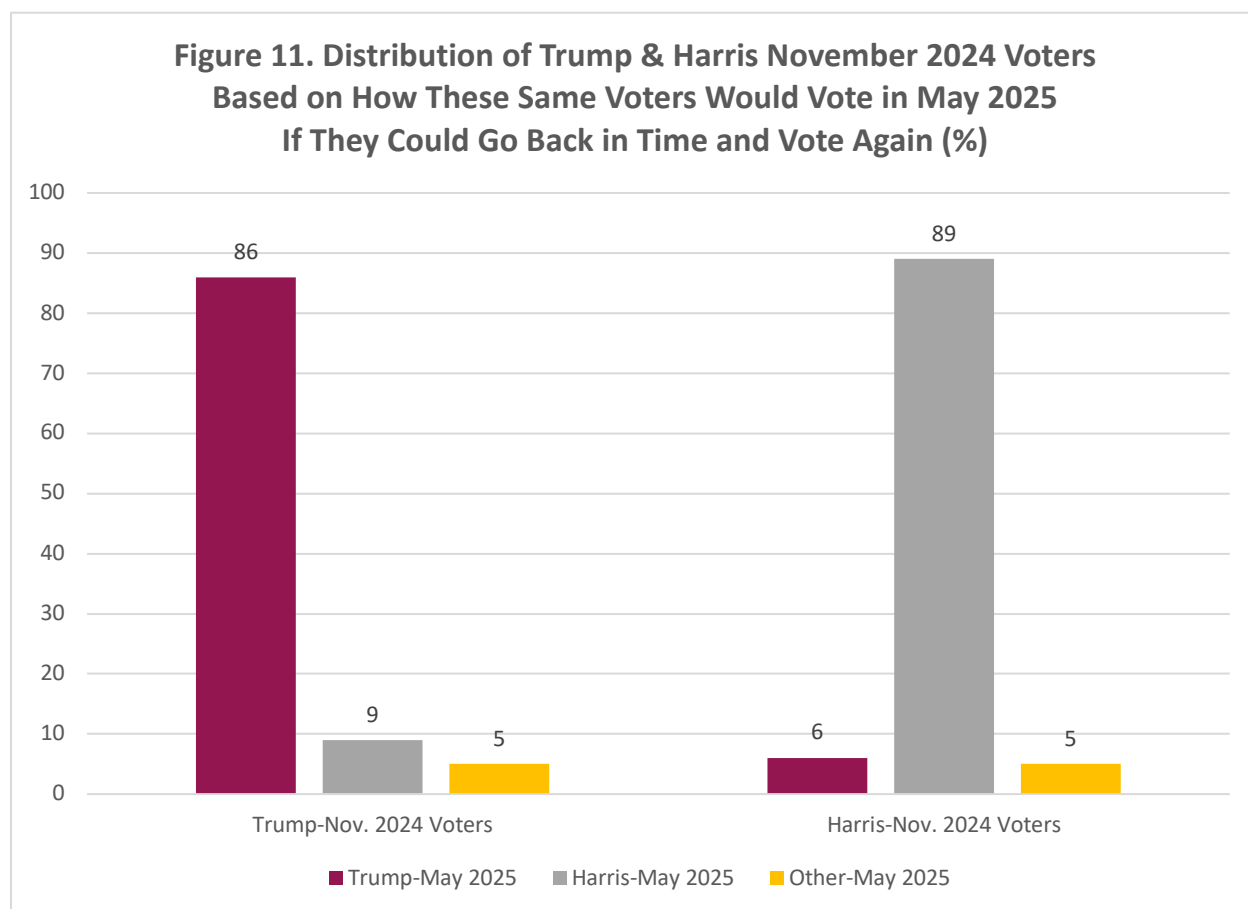
Slightly more than one-half of Texas registered voters have a favorable opinion of Abbott (51%) and Trump (51%), while more than two-fifths have a favorable opinion of Cruz (47%), Patrick (43%) and Paxton (42%), with just under two-fifths having a favorable opinion of Cornyn (38%). While fewer than one in twenty Texas registered voters do not know enough about Trump (2%), Abbott (4%) and Cruz (4%) to have an opinion of them, close to one in five don't know enough about Cornyn (18%), Patrick (18%) or Paxton (16%) to have an opinion of them. Among these six Republican elected officials Abbott has the highest net-favorability rating (6%), followed by Trump (4%) and Patrick (4%). Cornyn has the lowest net-favorability rating (-6%), followed by Cruz (-2%) and Paxton (0%).

Finally, Texans who voted in the 2024 presidential election were asked: "Regardless of how you voted in the November 2024 presidential election, if you could vote again today, for whom would you vote: Donald Trump (Republican), Kamala Harris (Democrat), Chase Oliver (Libertarian), Jill Stein (Green), Would not vote for anyone, Unsure." These same Texans had previously been asked, relatively soon after the November 2024 election, for whom they voted in that contest.

Among the respondents who voted in the November 2024 election, 56% report having voted for Trump, 42% for Harris and 2% for other candidates. The actual 2024 results reported by the Texas Secretary of States were: Trump (56.1%), Harris, (42.5%) and others (1.4%). When asked in May of 2025, if they could vote again, how would they vote, 51% reported that they would vote for Trump, 43% reported they would vote for Harris, 2% reported they would vote for other candidates, 2% would not vote for anyone, and 2% were unsure about how they would vote. In sum, Trump went from having a 14 percentage point lead over Harris among these Texas voters in the November 2024 election to having an 8 percentage point lead in May of 2025.



Figure 11 provides the distribution of the May 2025 vote intention of the November 2024 Trump and Harris voters. Trump retains the vote intention of 86% of those Texas voters who cast a ballot for him in November, while 9% of these November Trump voters say that if they could vote again, they would vote for Harris. The remaining 5% are distributed among those Trump voters who say they would not vote for anyone (2%), that they would vote for a third-party candidate (1%), or that they are unsure how they would vote (2%). Harris retains the vote intention of 89% of those Texas voters who cast a ballot for her in November of 2024, while 6% of these November 2024 Harris voters say that if they could vote again, they would vote for Trump. The remaining 5% are distributed among those Harris voters who say they would not vote for anyone (2%), that they would vote for a third-party candidate (1%), or who that they are unsure how they would vote (2%).



## METHODOLOGY & WEIGHTING

YouGov interviewed 1451 registered voters in Texas who were then matched down to a sample of 1200 to produce the final dataset. The respondents were matched to a sampling frame on gender, age, race, and education. The sampling frame is a politically representative "modeled frame" of Texas registered voters, based upon the American Community Survey (ACS) public use microdata file, public voter file records, the 2020 Current Population Survey (CPS) Voting and



Registration supplements, the 2020 National Election Pool (NEP) exit poll, and the 2020 CES surveys, including demographics and 2020 presidential vote.

The matched cases were weighted to the sampling frame using propensity scores. The matched cases and the frame were combined and a logistic regression was estimated for inclusion in the frame. The propensity score function included age, gender, race/ethnicity, years of education, and home ownership status. The propensity scores were grouped into deciles of the estimated propensity score in the frame and post-stratified according to these deciles.

The weights were then post-stratified on 2020 and 2024 presidential vote choice as well as a four-way stratification of gender, age (4-categories), race (4-categories), and education (4-categories), to produce the final weight.



The background of the entire page is a collage of American flags and circular buttons with the word 'VOTE' and stars. The flags are in various orientations, some partially visible. The buttons are also in various orientations, some showing the word 'VOTE' clearly. The overall color scheme is patriotic, with red, white, and blue.A small sunburst graphic with thin lines radiating from a central point, positioned above the name.

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