



**Survey of Texas Likely Voters
Sept. 18 to Sept. 28, 2026**

N = 850 Texas likely voters

The sample has an adjusted margin of error of +/-4.5 percentage points, adjusted for design effects

See <http://uml.edu/polls> for full questionnaire/topline results and detailed methodology disclosure.

Survey design and analysis by John Cluverius, director of survey research, and Rodrigo Castro Cornejo, associate director, University of Massachusetts Lowell Center for Public Opinion.

Do you have a question about this poll? If so, reach out to us on social media via Bluesky or Instagram(@umlcpo)

HIGHLIGHTS

Talarico and Paxton tied, 45% to 45%, Abbott and Hinojosa about even 48% to 44%

Neither of the premier statewide races in Texas has a clear leader, according to a new poll from the University of Massachusetts Lowell Center for Public Opinion and YouGov. In the race for U.S. Senate, state Rep. James Talarico is tied with Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, 45% to 45%. Two percent of respondents in the U.S. Senate poll say they will vote for the Libertarian Party candidate, Ted Brown, 1% say they will vote for another candidate and 7% are undecided.

In the race for governor, incumbent Gov. Greg Abbott is about even with state Rep. Gina Hinojosa. Forty-eight percent of respondents in the poll say they will vote for Abbott and 44% say they will vote for Hinojosa. One percent say they will vote for the Libertarian Party candidate, Pat Dixon, 1% say they will not vote and 6% are undecided.

The poll reveals pros and cons for Republicans and Democrats in Texas. President Donald Trump's approval rating is 47%, with 53% of respondents disapproving of the job he is doing as president, a relatively strong showing for a president in the middle of his second term, but with slightly lower net job approval than Trump had in October 2020, at the time of the last UMass Lowell poll conducted in Texas. Abbott's job approval rating in Texas stands at 52%, similar to his job approval rating of 56% recorded in the same October 2020 UMass Lowell poll.

83% of Texans blame Trump administration policies for higher fuel and utility prices

More than four-fifths of likely Texas voters in the poll say the war in Iran (72%) or tariffs (11%) are the factors most responsible for higher fuel and utility prices. Eight percent of respondents name gas taxes as most responsible for pain at the meter and the pump, 5% say environmental regulations, and 4% say Artificial Intelligence (AI) data centers.

The war in Iran garners low support from Texans, with 69% of respondents saying the government spends too much on it, while only 25% say the country is spending the right amount and 5% say the government is spending too little. Fifty-five percent oppose additional military aid to Israel, while 45% support it.

Fifty-six percent of respondents in the poll say that it has become somewhat or much harder to pay for basic necessities in the last six months, while 34% say things have stayed about the same and only 10% say it's become easier.

Texans opposed to AI

Opposition to AI data centers remains high in Texas. Sixty-five percent of Texans surveyed, including a majority of all gender, age and racial categories in the survey, oppose construction of an AI data center in their community

This is translating into meaningful policy opposition as well, as 56% of Texans support a statewide ban on building new data centers or expanding existing ones, while 44% oppose such a ban.