



ReconMR | A&M TEXAS POLL

For Immediate Release:

Contact:

Website/Socials:

Friday, August 7, 2026

Lindsey Hendren: Lindsey.Hendren@ReconMR.com or 803-409-8030

ReconMRTXPolling.com / @ReconMRTXPolls

Texas Poll:

Statewide Races: Remain Close, With Movement Toward Dems Since June

US Senate: Talarico 47% Paxton 43% (from **46-46%** in June)

Governor: Abbott 46% Hinojosa 45% (from **49-43%** in June)

Attorney General: Middleton 46% Johnson 44% (from **45-40%** in June)

Lt. Governor: Goodwin 48% Patrick 46% (from **Patrick 49-44%** in June)

Voters Favor Paxton on Border; Favor Talarico on Affordability, Iran, Water, Safety
Talarico: 'In Touch with Texas Values,' 'Authentic,' 'Honest'; Paxton: 'Tough' & 'Corrupt'

*57% of Voters – Including Large Majorities of Democrats & Independents – Say Tactics
Used by ICE 'Have Gone Too Far'; Majority of Reps Say They've 'Been About Right'*

Reps, Dems, Inds All Agree that Our Country's Best Days Are Still Ahead

In the race for US Senate, State Rep. James Talarico, the Democrat, now leads Attorney General Ken Paxton, the Republican, by four points, 47-43%, from a tied race, 46-46%, in June, according to a new Texas Poll of likely Texas voters released today. Republican Governor Greg Abbott had a six-point lead over his Democratic challenger, State Rep. Gina Hinojosa in June, and the two are now running neck-and-neck with Abbott one point ahead, 46-45%.

In the race for Attorney General between two State Senators, Republican Mayes Middleton leads Democrat Nathan Johnson by two points, 46-44%, narrowed from 45-40% in June. The race for Lt. Governor has the Democrat, State Rep. Vikki Goodwin, leading the Republican incumbent, Dan Patrick, 48-46%; Patrick had been up 49-44% in June. Voters favor Republicans for Congress over Democrats by two points, 47-45%, down from six points, 49-43%, in June.

"In one of the most watched US Senate races in the nation, Talarico has opened a small four-point lead over Paxton, after the two were tied in June," ReconMR Senior Research Analyst Lindsey Hendren said. "The movement over the last two months is largely seen by looking at independent voters who now favor Talarico by 23 points, 53-30%, up from 14 points, 50-36%, in June."

“Talarico increased his lead with women to 13 points from nine points in June, and he also narrowed Paxton’s lead among men from 10 points in June to now six points,” Hendren said. “Talarico leads by wide margins in the Austin and Dallas/Ft. Worth regions, while Paxton has a large lead in the rural parts of the state, and the Houston and San Antonio regions are currently very closely divided.”

Paxton has a negative 40-52% favorability rating, up from 34-52% in June, while Talarico’s favorability rating is 46-39%, up a little from 39-34% in June.

Voters say that Talarico would do a better job than Paxton on making prices more affordable (51-38%), the war in Iran (50-39%), keeping Texans safe (50-43%), and managing the water supply in Texas (49-39%). Paxton leads Talarico on the issue of securing America’s border with Mexico, 48-44%. Texans say Talarico is in touch with Texas values (51%), authentic (53%), **not** corrupt (60%), and honest (55%) but **not** tough (44%). Voters say Paxton is tough (53%) but corrupt (55%), and **not** in touch with Texas values (49%), authentic (53%), or honest (55%).

“When it comes to issues, voters say Talarico would do a better job than Paxton on making prices more affordable, dealing with the war in Iran, keeping Texans safe, and managing the water supply. The only issue voters think Paxton will do better at – and only barely – is securing the border with Mexico,” Veteran pollster and Texas A&M Visiting Professor Clifford Young said.

“The good news for Talarico is that voters think he is honest, authentic, in touch with Texas values, and that he’s not corrupt. The bad news for him is that voters by a narrow margin don’t think he’s tough,” Young said. “For Paxton, the good news is voters think he’s tough. But the bad news is that a majority or plurality of voters say that Paxton is not honest, authentic, or in touch with Texas values. And even worse, by a 55-35% margin, voters say Paxton is corrupt.”

Abbott Sees Lead over Hinojosa Shrink from Six Points to Now a Single Point

Abbott has a negative favorability rating of 46-50% (down slightly from 46-48% in June), and he has a negative 47-51% job approval rating, down from 50-48% in June. Hinojosa’s favorability rating is now 43-25%, up from 31-18% in June. In June, more than half of voters didn’t have an opinion about Hinojosa; now it’s less than one-third of voters.

“The Governor's race looks much more competitive than it did in June, suggesting that Democrats could have opportunities in several statewide contests,” Texas A&M Professor of Political Science Kirby Goidel said. “At the same time, these races are still taking shape. Governor Abbott is well-known to nearly all Texan likely voters who give him near breakeven favorability and job performance ratings. On the other hand, many voters are still forming opinions about Gina Hinojosa. Nearly one in three likely voters – 31 percent - said they did not know enough about Hinojosa to form an opinion.”

“This dynamic is even clearer in the Lieutenant Governor's race. Despite the fact that a majority of likely voters - 56% - still do not know enough about Vikki Goodwin to form an opinion, she appears to hold a narrow lead over Dan Patrick. That suggests many voters are making decisions based primarily on the broader political context and party cues rather than the candidates themselves.”

“As the campaign unfolds and voters become more familiar with the Democratic candidates, and weigh the candidates’ stances on the issues, the dynamics of the race could shift considerably,” Goidel said.

Voters: Tactics Used by ICE ‘Gone Too Far’; Majority Oppose the Way ICE Arrests Immigrants

Likely voters say the tactics used by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials have gone too far rather than not far enough, 57-11%, while 29% say they’ve been about right. Additionally, Texans oppose the way ICE agents are working to arrest people they suspect of being immigrants living illegally in the United States, 53-41%.

“Lorenzo Salgado Araujo was fatally shot by an ICE agent last month in Houston. The weeks following this shooting led to protests as Texans request answers and accountability,” Hendren said. “So, it’s not particularly surprising that a majority of Texans – including 95% of Democrats and 66% of independents – think the tactics used by ICE have gone too far. A majority of voters from every region – except the rural part of the state, where it is a plurality, not a majority – think ICE tactics have gone too far.

“When it comes to how ICE arrests suspected immigrants living here illegally, a clear majority of Texans – including 94% of Democrats and 61% of independents – oppose the way they do it. Republicans, however, overwhelmingly support the way ICE makes arrests, 86-8%,” Hendren said.

Odds & Ends

- In the race for Lt. Governor, Republican Patrick had led by five points in June; however, now Goodwin has a narrow two-point lead. Her lead among independents doubled from nine points in June, 49-40%, to 18 points today, 54-36%. Patrick has a negative 38-46% favorability rating (from 32-40% in June), while Goodwin’s is 29-14%, up from 14-11%, although a majority of voters still have no opinion of Goodwin.
- Voters favor Republicans over Democrats for Congress, but only by two points, 47-45%, down from six points, 49-43% in June. Independents had favored Democrats by six points, 45-39%, but that has now bulged to sixteen points, 50-34%.
- Nearly two-thirds (65%) of likely voters support the State of Texas passing legislation to regulate the impact of new data centers on the state’s infrastructure.

- Voters are sour on the direction of the country. By 58-37%, voters say the country is headed in the wrong direction, rather than on the right track. Voters are less negative on the direction of Texas. By 49-44%, voters think Texas is headed in the wrong direction.
- President Donald Trump's approval rating is 45-54%, down from 48-52% in June. Trump's favorability mirrors his approval at 44-54%.

Methodology

This Texas Poll / Texas A&M Bush School Poll was conducted July 27 - 30, 2026, among 619 Likely Texas Voters. Of the 619 respondents, 455 were contacted through a dual frame (landline and cell phone) mode (164 completed via text to web). Telephone calls were conducted in English and Spanish and respondent sampling was initiated by asking for the listed name. The landline telephone sample and the cell phone sample were obtained from L-2 database of registered voters. All coding of open-ended responses were conducted by human coders. 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=453), it has an overall margin of error of +/- 5.5 percentage points, including the design effects resulting from weighting. For the sample that answered the core questions (n=619), it has an overall margin of error of +/- 4.7 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 our TI Disclosure elements, please reference our crosstabs here: [Crosstabs](#).



ReconMRTXPolling.com

Texas Poll Trends – July 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
July 2026	44	49	7
June 2026	44	45	11
HIGHEST EVER	44 (7/26, 6/26)	49 (7/26)	11 (6/26)
LOWEST EVER	44 (7/26, 6/26)	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
July 2026	37	58	5
June 2026	39	57	4
HIGHEST EVER	39 (6/26)	58 (7/26)	5 (7/26)
LOWEST EVER	37 (7/26)	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
July 2026	43	47	4	6
June 2026	46	46	4	5
HIGHEST EVER	46 (6/26)	47 (7/26)	4 (7/26, 6/26)	6 (7/26)
LOWEST EVER	43 (7/26)	46 (6/26)	4 (7/26, 6/26)	5 (6/26)

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
July 2026	45	47	1	6
June 2026	43	49	1	7
HIGHEST EVER	45 (7/26)	49 (6/26)	1 (7/26, 6/26)	7 (6/26)
LOWEST EVER	43 (6/26)	47 (7/26)	1 (7/26, 6/26)	6 (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
July 2026	46	45	4	5
June 2026	49	43	3	5
HIGHEST EVER	49 (6/26)	45 (7/26)	4 (7/26)	5 (7/26, 6/26)
LOWEST EVER	46 (7/26)	43 (6/26)	3 (6/26)	5 (7/26, 6/26)

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
July 2026	46	44	3	8
June 2026	45	40	4	11
HIGHEST EVER	46 (7/26)	44 (7/26)	4 (6/26)	11 (6/26)
LOWEST EVER	45 (6/26)	40 (6/26)	3 (7/26)	8 (7/26)

Texas Pulse Poll Trends – July 2026 – Page 2

- 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
July 2026	46	48	2	4
June 2026	49	44	2	5
HIGHEST EVER	49 (6/26)	48 (7/26)	2 (7/26, 6/26)	5 (6/26)
LOWEST EVER	46 (7/26)	44 (6/26)	2 (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
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)	41 (7/26)	3 (6/26)
LOWEST EVER	27 (6/26)	18 (7/26)	10 (7/26, 6/26)	38 (6/26)	2 (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
July 2026	33	12	5	49	1
June 2026	33	15	5	47	1
HIGHEST EVER	33 (7/26, 6/26)	15 (6/26)	5 (7/26, 6/26)	49 (7/26)	1 (7/26, 6/26)
LOWEST EVER	33 (7/26, 6/26)	12 (7/26)	5 (7/26, 6/26)	47 (6/26)	1 (7/26, 6/26)

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

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

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

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

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
July 2026	44	54	2
June 2026	45	51	4
HIGHEST EVER	45 (6/26)	54 (7/26)	4 (6/26)
LOWEST EVER	44 (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
July 2026	38	46	15
June 2026	32	40	28
HIGHEST EVER	38 (7/26)	46 (7/26)	28 (6/26)
LOWEST EVER	32 (6/26)	40 (6/26)	15 (7/26)

Texas Pulse Poll Trends – July 2026 – Page 3

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
July 2026	29	14	56
June 2026	14	11	75
HIGHEST EVER	29 (7/26)	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
July 2026	46	39	15
June 2026	39	34	26
HIGHEST EVER	46 (7/26)	39 (7/26)	26 (6/26)
LOWEST EVER	39 (6/26)	34 (6/26)	15 (7/26)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
July 2026	43	25	31
June 2026	31	18	52
HIGHEST EVER	43 (7/26)	25 (7/26)	52 (6/26)
LOWEST EVER	31 (6/26)	18 (6/26)	31 (7/26)

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

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

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

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