

The image shows the Texas State Capitol building in Austin, Texas, with a prominent red semi-transparent overlay. The building's dome and the Statue of Liberty on top are visible. A paved walkway leads towards the building, flanked by trees and street lamps. The text is centered over the red area.

Texas Policy & Politics 2022
Candidates, Issues & Favorability

HOBBY
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON

July 2022

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The Hobby School of Public Affairs at the University of Houston conducted an online survey of Texas registered voters to identify their preferences and opinions regarding the 2022 general election candidates and abortion policy. The survey was fielded between June 27 and July 7, 2022, in English and Spanish, with 1,169 YouGov respondents who are registered to vote in Texas, resulting in a confidence interval of +/-2.9%. The respondents were matched to a sampling frame on gender, age, race/ethnicity, presidential vote history, and education and are representative of the population of Texas registered voters. The survey went into the field three days after the U.S. Supreme Court released its decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson* overruling *Roe v. Wade* (1973) and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* (1992), the two U.S. Supreme Court decisions that had governed abortion policy in the United States over the last half century.

The results of the survey will be presented in a series of three reports. This report examines the vote intention of Texans for the 2022 Texas gubernatorial, lieutenant governor and attorney general elections as well as analyzes the influence of a wide range of issues on Texas voters' gubernatorial vote decision along with the favorability ratings of all statewide non-judicial candidates.

Using similar methodology to that employed for this survey, in late October of 2020 the Hobby School projected that Donald Trump would defeat Joe Biden by 5.3% in Texas. This was one of only two public polls out of 24 conducted between October 1 and November 2, 2022 to project a Trump margin of victory of 5% or greater (the other public poll projected a 5% margin of victory). In the actual November 2, 2022 election, Trump's margin of victory over Biden in Texas was 5.6%.

Executive Summary

In the race for governor, Republican Greg Abbott leads Democrat Beto O'Rourke by 5% among likely voters, 49% to 44%, with 5% undecided and 2% intending to vote for Libertarian Mark Tippetts.

More than nine out of 10 Abbott (95%) and O'Rourke (92%) voters are certain about their vote choice, while 5% and 8% indicate they might change their mind between now and November.

Abbott holds a 27% (60% to 33%) lead over O'Rourke among white voters while O'Rourke holds a 72% (80% to 8%) lead over Abbott among Black voters and a 9% (51% to 42%) lead among Latino voters.

O'Rourke has a 6% (49% to 43%) lead over Abbott among women, while Abbott enjoys a 18% (56% to 38%) lead over O'Rourke among men.

Older Texans belonging to the Silent Generation/Baby Boomer cohort and to Generation X favor Abbott over O'Rourke by margins of 18% (57% to 39%) and 9% (52% to 43%) respectively, while O'Rourke is the candidate of choice among younger Texans belonging to the Millennial/Generation Z cohort, with a 15% (51% to 36%) advantage over Abbott.

Virtually every Texas Democrat (96%) intends to vote for O'Rourke compared to 1% who intend to vote for Abbott, and virtually every Texas Republican (91%) intends to vote for Abbott, compared to 2% who intend to vote for O'Rourke. Texas Independents are more evenly divided, with 48% intending to vote for Abbott and 32% for O'Rourke.

When asked to what extent 15 issues would be important to their gubernatorial vote choice, more than three-fourths of Texas likely voters listed these five policies as being extremely or very important: inflation (84%), crime and public safety (83%), economic growth (78%), government spending and taxes (78%), and health care costs (76%).

Only three issues are extremely or very important to less than half of likely Texas voters when deciding who to vote for in the 2022 gubernatorial election: climate change (48%), COVID-19 policies (47%), and LGBTQ rights (36%).

Four issues are extremely or very important to more than nine out of ten Abbott voters when making their gubernatorial vote decision: inflation (96%), immigration and border security (94%), crime and public safety (92%), and government spending and taxes (91%).

Three issues are extremely or very important to more than nine out of ten O'Rourke voters when making their gubernatorial vote decision: voting rights (94%), gun control (92%), and health care costs (90%).

In the race for lieutenant governor, Republican Dan Patrick leads Democrat Mike Collier by 5% among likely voters, 48% to 43%, with 9% undecided.

More than nine out of 10 Patrick (96%) and Collier (92%) voters are certain about their vote choice, while 4% and 8% indicate they might change their mind between now and November.

In the race for attorney general, Republican Ken Paxton leads Democrat Rochelle Mercedes Garza by 5% among likely voters (46% to 41%), with 9% undecided and 4% intending to vote for Libertarian Mark Ash.

More than nine out of 10 Paxton (94%) and Garza (91%) voters are certain about their vote choice, while 6% and 9% indicate they might change their mind between now and November.

The generic Republican U.S. House candidate leads the generic Democratic U.S. House candidate by 6% among likely voters (49% to 43%), with 6% undecided.

Among likely voters, Abbott is viewed favorably by 50% and unfavorably by 47%.

Among likely voters, O'Rourke is viewed favorably by 45% and unfavorably by 50%.

A majority of likely Texas voters do not know enough about the six statewide Democratic executive branch candidates other than O'Rourke to have either a favorable or unfavorable opinion of them. The proportions of likely voters who do not know enough about these candidates to have an opinion are 51% (Rochelle Mercedes Garza, attorney general), 55% (Mike Collier, lieutenant governor), 74% (Jay Kleberg, land commissioner), 75% (Susan Hays, agriculture), 77% (Janet Dudding, comptroller) and 79% (Luke Warford, railroad commissioner).

Among Texas registered voters, Greg Abbott is viewed favorably by 49% and unfavorably by 47%; Donald Trump is viewed favorably by 48% and unfavorably by 51%, while Ted Cruz is viewed favorably by 47% and unfavorably by 49%.

Among the best known political figures, the Republican with the lowest proportion of Texas registered voters holding a favorable opinion of them is John Cornyn (28%). Cornyn is also viewed unfavorably by a higher proportion of Texans (54%) than any other Republican.

Among Texas registered voters, Beto O'Rourke is viewed favorably by 44% and unfavorably by 49%, while Joe Biden is viewed favorably by 41% and unfavorably by 58%.

Survey Population Demographics

Whites account for 54% of the survey population of registered voters, Latinos 29%, Blacks 13%, and others 4%. Women account for 53% of the population and men for 47%. Regarding generations, 37% of the population belongs to the combined Silent Generation (born between 1928-1945) and Baby Boomers (1946-1964) cohort, 28% to Generation X (Gen-X) (1965-1980), and 35% to the combined Millennial (1981-1996) generation and Generation Z (1997-2014) cohort. The highest level of educational attainment of the respondents ranges from high school or less (30%), to some college or a two-year degree (31%) to a four-year degree or postgraduate degree (39%). More than two-fifths of the population identifies as Republican (46%) or as Democrat (41%), with 11% identifying as Independent, and 2% unsure of their identification. In the 2020 presidential election, 47% of the respondents voted for Donald Trump, 39% voted for Joe Biden, 2% voted for other candidates, and 12% did not vote. Among those who cast a ballot in 2020, 53% voted for Trump, 45% for Biden, and 2% for other candidates.

The 2022 Texas Gubernatorial Election

Table 1 provides the vote intention among three distinct voting populations for the four Texas gubernatorial candidates who will be on the ballot this fall: Republican Greg Abbott, Democrat Beto O’Rourke, Libertarian Mark Tippetts, and the Green Party’s Delilah Barrios. Also included is the proportion of voters who at the present time report they do not know who they would vote for in November.

Table 1: 2022 Gubernatorial Election Vote Intention: Registered, Likely Voters & Almost Certain Voters

Candidate	Registered Voters	Likely Voters	Almost Certain Voters
Greg Abbott (Republican)	47	49	51
Beto O'Rourke (Democrat)	42	44	43
Mark Tippetts (Libertarian)	2	2	1
Delilah Barrios (Green)	0	0	0
Don't Know	9	5	5

The three voting populations are all registered voters, likely voters (subsequent analysis focuses almost exclusively on this population), and the most likely voters (who indicated that they were “almost certain” to vote in the fall). Among registered voters, Abbott leads O’Rourke by 5% (47% to 42%), among likely voters Abbott also leads O’Rourke by 5% (49% to 44%), while among the almost certain voters Abbott leads O’Rourke by 8% (51% to 43%). Tippetts’ level of support ranges from 2% (registered voters and likely voters) to 1% (almost certain voters), while Barrios’ support rounds to 0% in all three populations, though her actual vote intention is greater than zero in all three populations: 0.4%, 0.2%, and 0.2% respectively. Between 1 in 10 (registered voters) and 1 in 20 (likely and almost certain voters) do not know who they plan to vote for in November.

Table 2 provides the proportion of Abbott and O’Rourke likely voters who indicate that they are certain about their gubernatorial vote choice and who indicate that they might change their mind regarding their gubernatorial vote choice between now and the November 8 election. An overwhelming majority of both Abbott (95%) and O’Rourke (92%) voters are certain about their gubernatorial vote choice, with a mere 5% (Abbott) and 8% (O’Rourke) saying they might change their mind about voting for the respective candidates. And, of this small proportion of uncertain voters, an overwhelming majority still say it is either very likely (70% for Abbott and 41% for O’Rourke) or somewhat likely (28% for Abbott and 59% for O’Rourke) that they will in the end vote for the same candidate in November who they intend to vote for now.

Table 2: 2022 Gubernatorial Election (Likely Voters): Percent Certain & Who Might Change Mind

Candidate Voters Intend to Vote For	Certain	Might Change Mind
Greg Abbott (Republican)	95	5
Beto O'Rourke (Democrat)	92	8

Table 3 provides the support for the four gubernatorial candidates among likely voters broken down by the ethnicity/race of the voter: white, Latino, and Black. Abbott holds a 27 percentage point advantage over O'Rourke among white voters, 60% to 33%, while O'Rourke holds a lead (72 percentage points) more than two and a half times that size among Black voters, 80% to 8%. In between, O'Rourke possesses a 51% to 42% lead over Abbott among Latino voters.

Table 3: Ethnicity/Race and 2022 Gubernatorial Vote Intention (%)

Candidates	Likely Voters	Whites	Latinos	Blacks
Greg Abbott (Republican)	49	60	42	8
Beto O'Rourke (Democrat)	44	33	51	80
Mark Tippetts (Libertarian)	2	1	2	1
Delilah Barrios (Green)	0	0	0	0
Don't Know/Unsure	5	5	3	11

Table 4 reveals a strong gender gap regarding vote intention for Abbott and O'Rourke. O'Rourke holds a 6 percentage point lead over Abbott among women (49% to 43%), while Abbott holds an 18 percentage point lead over O'Rourke among men (56% to 38%).

Table 4: Gender and 2022 Gubernatorial Vote Intention (%)

Candidates	Likely Voters	Women	Men
Greg Abbott (Republican)	49	43	56
Beto O'Rourke (Democrat)	44	49	38
Mark Tippetts (Libertarian)	2	1	2
Delilah Barrios (Green)	0	0	0
Don't Know/Unsure	5	7	4

Table 5 underscores sharp generational differences when considering gubernatorial vote intention. Members of the combined Silent and Baby Boomer generations back Abbott by a 57% to 39% margin over O'Rourke, while Abbott also enjoys the backing of Generation X over O'Rourke (52% to 43%), albeit with a margin (9%) that is half the size of Abbott's margin among this generation's elders. In contrast, O'Rourke is favored over Abbott by members of the combined Millennial/Generation Z generations, 51% to 36%.

Table 5: Generation and 2022 Gubernatorial Vote Intention (%)

Candidates	Likely Voters	Boomers/Silent	Gen-X	Millennial/Gen-Z
Greg Abbott (Republican)	49	57	52	36
Beto O'Rourke (Democrat)	44	39	43	51
Mark Tippetts (Libertarian)	2	1	2	3
Delilah Barrios (Green)	0	0	0	1
Don't Know/Unsure	5	3	3	9

Table 6 provides the vote intention among likely voters based on their highest level of educational attainment. Abbott holds a lead over O'Rourke among all three educational groups, but this lead is narrow among those Texans whose highest level of educational attainment is either a four-year degree or an advanced degree (3%, 49% to 46%) or a two-year degree or some college (1%, 47% to 46%). In contrast, Abbott's lead among voters whose highest level of educational attainment is a high school degree or less is a much more substantial 13%, 52% to 39%.

Table 6: Educational Attainment and 2022 Gubernatorial Vote Intention (%)

Candidates	Likely Voters	High School or Less	2-yr/Some College	4-yr/Advanced
Greg Abbott (Republican)	49	52	47	49
Beto O'Rourke (Democrat)	44	39	46	46
Mark Tippetts (Libertarian)	2	1	2	2
Delilah Barrios (Green)	0	0	0	0
Don't Know/Unsure	5	8	5	3

Table 7 highlights the very strong relationship between partisan identification and vote intention. Virtually every Texas Democrat (96%) intends to vote for O'Rourke, compared to 1% who intend to vote for Abbott, and virtually every Texas Republican (91%) intends to vote for Abbott, compared to 2% who intend to vote for O'Rourke. Texas Independents are more evenly divided, with 48% intending to vote for Abbott and 32% for O'Rourke, with the remainder either planning to vote for minor party candidates (7% for Tippetts and 1% for Barrios) or still not knowing who they will vote for (12%).

Table 7: Partisan ID and 2022 Gubernatorial Vote Intention (%)

Candidates	Likely Voters	Democrats	Independents	Republicans
Greg Abbott (Republican)	49	1	48	91
Beto O'Rourke (Democrat)	44	96	32	2
Mark Tippetts (Libertarian)	2	0	7	1
Delilah Barrios (Green)	0	0	1	0
Don't Know/Unsure	5	3	12	6

The Importance of 15 Issues for the Gubernatorial Vote Decision

The survey respondents were asked whether 15 distinct issues would be extremely important, very important, somewhat important or not at all important to them when making their 2022 gubernatorial vote decision. The 15 issues include the following: abortion, climate change, COVID-19 policy (including mask and vaccine mandates), crime and public safety, economic growth, government spending and taxes, gun control, health care costs (including prescription drugs), immigration and border security, inflation, K-12 education, LGBTQ rights, racial equity and equality, transportation infrastructure, and voting rights. Table 8 provides the proportion of respondents who identified the issue as being extremely important or very important to their gubernatorial vote decision for four populations: registered voters, likely voters, Abbott likely voters, and O'Rourke likely voters.

Table 8: Importance of Issue to Gubernatorial Vote Decisions: Percent Listing as Extremely or Very Important

Issue	Registered Voters	Likely Voters	Abbott Likely Voters	O'Rourke Likely Voters
Inflation	83	84	96	71
Crime & Public Safety	82	83	92	72
Economic Growth	77	78	89	67
Government Spending & Taxes	76	78	91	66
Health Care Costs	76	76	65	90
Voting Rights	72	73	57	94
K-12 Education	72	73	72	79
Immigration & Border Security	71	73	94	51
Gun Control	67	69	50	92
Abortion	64	66	49	87
Transportation Infrastructure	54	55	49	66
Racial Equity & Equality	53	54	23	89
Climate Change	49	48	15	85
COVID-19 Policies	46	47	33	65
LGBTQ Rights	34	36	10	68

Since there are no significant differences among registered voters and likely voters, the focus is solely on likely voters in this paragraph. More than three-fourths of likely voters indicate that the following issues are extremely or very important to their 2022 gubernatorial vote decision: inflation (84% of likely voters), crime and public safety (83%), government spending and taxes (78%), economic growth (78%), and health care costs (76%). A majority of Texans indicate that eight other issues are extremely important or very important to their 2022 gubernatorial vote decision, ranging from highs of 73% (immigration and border security, K-12 education, voting rights) to lows of 54% (racial equity and equality), 55% (transportation infrastructure), and 66% (abortion). Only three issues are extremely or very important to a less than half of likely Texas voters when deciding who to vote for in the 2022 gubernatorial election: climate change (48%), COVID-19 policies (47%) and LGBTQ rights (36%).

Four issues are extremely or very important to more than nine out of ten Abbott voters: inflation (96%), immigration and border security (94%), crime and public safety (92%), and government spending and taxes (91%). Three issues are extremely or very important to more than nine out of ten O'Rourke voters: voting rights (94%), gun control (92%), and health care costs (90%).

Far fewer O’Rourke voters prioritize the issues of inflation (71%), immigration and border security (51%), crime and public safety (72%), and government spending and taxes (66%) than is the case for Abbott voters. But, that said, with the exception of immigration and border security, these issues play an extremely or very important role in the vote calculus of two-thirds or more of O’Rourke voters.

Far fewer Abbott voters prioritize the issues of voting rights (57%), gun control (50%), and health care costs (65%) than is the case for O’Rourke voters. That said, all three issues are extremely important or very important to the vote calculus of at least half of Abbott voters.

Table 9 provides the proportion of white, Latino and Black likely voters who listed each of the 15 issues as being extremely or very important to their 2022 gubernatorial vote decision. There do not exist significant ethnic/racial differences in the prioritization of the issues rated as most important by the general voting public: inflation, crime and public safety, economic growth, and government spending and taxes. Variance in importance is more notable among several of the issues with lower proportions of the general voting public rating them as extremely or very important to their vote decision, with the differences especially sharp between Black and white likely voters. For example, significantly more Black than white likely voters list the following policies as being extremely or very important to their 2022 gubernatorial vote decision: racial equity and equality (84% vs. 45%), climate change (75% vs. 39%), COVID-19 policies (69% vs. 38%), gun control (83% vs. 64%) and voting rights (88% vs. 71%). And, while 59%, 69% and 56% of Latino voters prioritize climate change, transportation infrastructure and COVID-19 policies, respectively, when making their vote decision, the same is true for only 39%, 50% and 38% of white voters.

Table 9: Ethnicity/Race & Importance of Issue to Gubernatorial Vote Decisions: Percent Listing as Extremely or Very Important

Level of Importance Among Three Populations of Likely Voters (%)

Issue	Whites	Latinos	Blacks
Inflation	83	88	90
Crime & Public Safety	80	86	88
Economic Growth	77	82	85
Government Spending & Taxes	79	80	79
Health Care Costs	71	83	86
Voting Rights	71	76	88
K-12 Education	71	80	76
Immigration & Border Security	76	76	59
Gun Control	64	73	83
Abortion	63	68	72
Transportation Infrastructure	50	69	56
Racial Equity & Equality	45	63	84
Climate Change	39	59	75
COVID-19 Policies	38	56	69
LGBTQ Rights	30	45	42

Table 10 provides the proportion of women and men who listed each of the 15 issues as being extremely or very important to their 2022 gubernatorial vote decision. There exist relatively few significant gender differences regarding the importance placed on the 15 issues in determining the 2022 gubernatorial vote decision. Women are however notably more likely than men to prioritize the issues of gun control (76% vs. 61%), health care costs (82% vs. 70%), racial equity and equality (60% vs. 48%), and abortion (70% vs. 61%). Men are notably more likely than women to prioritize the issues of economic growth (85% vs. 73%) and transportation infrastructure (61% vs. 52%).

**Table 10: Gender & Importance of Issue to Gubernatorial Vote Decisions:
Percent Listing as Extremely or Very Important**

Level of Importance Among Two Populations (%)

Issue	Women	Men
Inflation	82	87
Crime & Public Safety	83	83
Economic Growth	73	85
Government Spending & Taxes	79	80
Health Care Costs	82	70
Voting Rights	77	70
K-12 Education	74	75
Immigration & Border Security	71	76
Gun Control	76	61
Abortion	70	61
Transportation Infrastructure	52	61
Racial Equity & Equality	60	48
Climate Change	52	46
COVID-19 Policies	48	46
LGBTQ Rights	40	32

Table 11 provides the proportion of Silent/Baby Boomer, Gen-X and Millennial/Gen-Z voters who listed each of the 15 issues as being extremely or very important to their 2022 gubernatorial vote decision. There do not exist any significant generational differences in the prioritization of the issues rated as most salient by the general voting population: inflation, crime and public safety, economic growth, government spending and taxes, health care costs, voting rights, and K-12 education. The sharpest differences in issue importance that do exist are between the members of the Millennial/Generation Z cohort and the Silent/Baby Boomer and Generation X cohorts. The younger voters are much more likely to prioritize LGBTQ rights (51% vs. 26% and 33%), climate change (65% vs. 39% and 42%) and racial equity and equality (69% vs. 48% and 45%) than are the Silent/Baby Boomer and Generation X cohorts, respectively.

Table 11: Generation & Importance of Issue to Gubernatorial Vote Decisions: Percent Listing as Extremely or Very Important

Level of Importance Among Three Populations (%)

Issue	Silent/Boomer	Generation X	Millennial/Gen-Z
Inflation	85	86	82
Crime & Public Safety	88	82	78
Economic Growth	79	80	78
Government Spending & Taxes	83	82	74
Health Care Costs	77	72	78
Voting Rights	77	72	73
K-12 Education	76	70	76
Immigration & Border Security	79	74	67
Gun Control	66	64	75
Abortion	63	61	72
Transportation Infrastructure	58	49	60
Racial Equity & Equality	48	45	69
Climate Change	39	42	65
COVID-19 Policies	45	43	52
LGBTQ Rights	26	33	51

The 2022 Texas Lieutenant Governor Election

Table 12 provides the vote intention among three distinct populations for the two lieutenant governor candidates who will be on the ballot this fall: Republican Dan Patrick and Democrat Mike Collier. Also included is the proportion of voters who indicate that at the present time they do not know who they would vote for in November.

Table 12: 2022 Lt. Governor Election Vote Intention: Registered & Likely Voters

Candidates	Registered Voters	Likely Voters	Almost Certain Voters
Dan Patrick (Republican)	45	48	50
Mike Collier (Democrat)	41	43	42
Don't Know	14	9	8

Patrick enjoys a 4 percentage point lead over Collier among registered voters (45% to 41% with 14% undecided), a 5 percentage point lead over Collier among likely voters (48% to 43% with 9% undecided) and an 8 percentage point lead over Collier among the most likely “almost certain” voters (50% to 42% with 8% undecided).

Table 13 reveals that 96% of Patrick voters and 92% of Collier voters are certain they will vote for Patrick and Collier respectively in November. A mere 4% of Patrick voters and 8% of Collier voters say they might change their mind between now and November. Of this small proportion of uncertain voters, an overwhelming majority still say it is either very likely (32% for Patrick and 6% for Collier) or somewhat likely (51% for Patrick and 83% for Collier) that they will in the end vote for the same candidate in November who they intend to vote for now.

Table 13: 2022 Lt. Governor Election (Likely Voters): Percent Certain & Who Might Change Mind

Candidate Voters Intend to Vote For	Certain	Might Change Mind
Dan Patrick (Republican)	96	4
Mike Collier (Democrat)	92	8

Table 14 provides the support for the two lieutenant governor candidates among likely voters broken down by the ethnicity/race of the voter: white, Latino, and Black. Patrick holds a 24 percentage point advantage over Collier among white voters, 58% to 34%, while Collier holds a 58 percentage point advantage over Patrick among Black voters, 71% to 13%. In between, Collier holds a 52% to 39% lead over Patrick among Latino voters.

Table 14: Ethnicity/Race and 2022 Lt. Governor Vote Intention (%)

Candidates	Likely Voters	Whites	Latinos	Blacks
Dan Patrick (Republican)	48	58	39	13
Mike Collier (Democrat)	43	34	52	71
Don't Know/Unsure	9	8	9	16

Table 15 reveals a strong gender gap regarding vote intention for Patrick and Collier, like that seen in the gubernatorial contest. Collier holds a 6 percentage point lead over Patrick among women (48% to 42%), while Patrick holds a 16 percentage point lead over Collier among men (54% to 38%).

Table 15: Gender and 2022 Lt. Governor Vote Intention (%)

Candidates	Likely Voters	Women	Men
Dan Patrick (Republican)	48	42	54
Mike Collier (Democrat)	43	48	38
Don't Know/Unsure	9	10	8

Table 16 underscores sharp generational differences when considering vote intention of likely voters in the lieutenant governor race. Members of the combined Silent and Baby Boomer generations back Patrick by a 56% to 40% margin over Collier, while Patrick also enjoys the backing of Generation X over Collier (50% to 43%), albeit with a margin (7%) that is less than half the size of Patrick’s margin among the members of the Silent Generation/Baby Boomer cohort (16%). In contrast, Collier’s vote intention among Millennials/Generation Z is 11 percentage points greater than that of Patrick (48% to 37%), with substantially more members of this youngest generational cohort still undecided (15%) about their 2022 lieutenant governor vote choice.

Table 16: Generation and 2022 Lt. Governor Vote Intention (%)

Candidates	Likely Voters	Boomers/Silent	Gen-X	Millennials/Gen-Z
Dan Patrick (Republican)	48	56	50	37
Mike Collier (Democrat)	43	40	43	48
Don't Know/Unsure	9	4	7	15

Table 17 provides the vote intention in the lieutenant governor race among likely voters based on their highest level of educational attainment. Patrick holds a 14 percentage point lead over Collier (52% to 38%) among voters whose highest level of educational attainment is a high school degree or less and a narrower 7 percentage point lead (49% to 42%) among likely voters whose highest level of educational attainment is a two-year degree or some college. In contrast, Collier enjoys a 4 percentage point lead over Patrick (48% to 44%) among likely voters whose highest level of educational attainment is a four-year degree or an advanced degree.

Table 17: Educational Attainment and 2022 Lt. Governor Vote Intention (%)

Candidates	Likely Voters	High School or Less	2-yr/Some College	4-yr/Advanced
Dan Patrick (Republican)	48	52	49	44
Mike Collier (Democrat)	43	38	42	48
Don't Know/Unsure	9	10	9	8

Table 18 highlights once again the strong relationship between partisan identification and vote intention, this time in the race for lieutenant governor. Nine out of ten Texas Democrats (92%) intend to vote for Collier, compared to 3% who intend to vote for Patrick. Nine out of ten Texas Republicans (89%) intend to vote for Patrick, compared to 3% who intend to vote for Collier. Texas Independents are relatively evenly divided, with 41% intending to vote for Patrick, and 33% for Collier, and more than one in four (26%) still undecided.

Table 18: Partisan ID and 2022 Lt. Governor Vote Intention (%)

Candidates	Likely Voters	Democrats	Independents	Republicans
Dan Patrick (Republican)	48	3	41	89
Mike Collier (Democrat)	43	92	33	3
Don't Know/Unsure	9	5	26	8

The 2022 Texas Attorney General Election

Table 19 provides the vote intention among three distinct populations for the three attorney general candidates who will be on the ballot this fall: Republican Ken Paxton, Democrat Rochelle Mercedes Garza, and Libertarian Mark Ash. Also included is the proportion of voters who indicate that at the present time they do not know who they would vote for in November.

Table 19: 2022 Attorney General Election Vote Intention: Registered & Likely Voters

Candidates	Registered Voters	Likely Voters	Almost Certain Voters
Ken Paxton (Republican)	43	46	49
Rochelle Garza (Democrat)	40	41	40
Mark Ash (Libertarian)	5	4	4
Don't Know	12	9	7

Paxton holds a 3 percentage point lead over Garza among registered voters (43% to 40%, with 12% undecided and 5% supporting Ash), a 5 percentage point lead over Garza among likely voters (46% to 41%, with 9% undecided and 4% supporting Ash) and a 9 percentage point advantage over Garza among the “almost certain” voters (49% to 40%, with 7% undecided and 4% supporting Ash).

Table 20 reveals that 94% of Paxton voters and 91% of Garza voters are certain they will vote for Paxton and Garza, respectively, in November. Only 6% and 9% of Paxton and Garza voters say they might change their mind between now and November. Of this small proportion of uncertain voters, a large majority still say it is either very likely (22% for Paxton and 17% for Garza) or somewhat likely (41% for Paxton and 64% for Garza) that they will in the end vote for the same candidate in November who they intend to vote for now. Among the small share of the likely voters (4%) who intend to vote for Ash, slightly less than half are certain about their November vote choice (46%) and slightly more than half say they might change their mind about voting for Ash between now and November. Only 18% and 8% of these uncertain Ash voters say it is somewhat likely they would vote for Paxton or Garza, respectively, in November (none say it is very likely), suggesting that most of the Ash voters who might change their mind are deliberating between voting for Ash and not voting for anyone rather than between voting for Ash and either Paxton or Garza.

Table 20: 2022 Attorney General Election (Likely Voters): Percent Certain & Who Might Change Mind

Candidate Voters Intend to Vote For	Certain	Might Change Mind
Ken Paxton (Republican)	94	6
Rochelle Garza (Democrat)	91	9
Mark Ash (Libertarian)	46	54

Table 21 provides the support for the attorney general candidates among likely voters broken down by the ethnicity/race of the voter: white, Latino, and Black. Paxton holds a 27 percentage point advantage over Garza among white voters, 58% to 31%, while Garza holds a 63 percentage point advantage over Paxton among Black voters, 72% to 9%. In between, Garza holds a 50% to 38% lead over Paxton among Latino voters.

Table 21: Ethnicity/Race and 2022 Attorney General Vote Intention (%)

Candidates	Likely Voters	Whites	Latinos	Blacks
Ken Paxton (Republican)	46	58	38	9
Rochelle Garza (Democrat)	41	31	50	72
Mark Ash (Libertarian)	4	3	4	5
Don't Know/Unsure	9	8	8	14

Table 22 reveals a strong gender gap regarding vote intention for Paxton and Garza, like that seen in the contests for governor and lieutenant governor. Garza holds a 5 percentage point lead over Paxton among women (45% to 40%), while Paxton holds a 16 percentage point lead over Garza among men (53% to 37%).

Table 22: Gender and 2022 Attorney General Vote Intention (%)

Candidates	Likely Voters	Women	Men
Ken Paxton (Republican)	46	40	53
Rochelle Garza (Democrat)	41	45	37
Mark Ash (Libertarian)	4	4	4
Don't Know/Unsure	9	11	6

Table 23 underscores sharp generational differences when considering vote intention of likely voters in the attorney general race. Members of the combined Silent and Baby Boomer generations back Paxton by a 54% to 38% margin over Garza while Paxton also enjoys the backing of Generation X over Garza (48% to 41%), albeit with a lead (7%) that is less than half the size of Paxton’s lead among the members of the Silent Generation/Baby Boomer cohort (16%). In contrast, Garza’s vote intention among Millennials/Generation Z is 8 percentage points greater than that of Paxton (44% to 36%), with substantially more members of this youngest generational cohort still undecided (14%) about their 2022 attorney general vote choice.

Table 23: Generation and 2022 Attorney General Vote Intention (%)

Candidates	Likely Voters	Boomers/Silent	Gen-X	Millennials/Gen-Z
Ken Paxton (Republican)	46	54	48	36
Rochelle Garza (Democrat)	41	38	41	44
Mark Ash (Libertarian)	4	2	5	6
Don't Know/Unsure	9	6	6	14

Table 24 provides the vote intention in the attorney general race among likely voters based on their highest level of educational attainment. Paxton holds a 15 percentage point lead over Garza (50% to 35%) among voters whose highest level of educational attainment is a high school degree or less and a narrower 8 percentage point lead (47% to 39%) among likely voters whose highest level of educational attainment is a two-year degree or some college. In contrast, Garza enjoys a 4 percentage point lead over Paxton (47% to 43%) among likely voters whose highest level of educational attainment is a four-year degree or an advanced degree.

Table 24: Educational Attainment and 2022 Attorney General Vote Intention (%)

Candidates	Likely Voters	High School or Less	2-yr/Some College	4-yr/Advanced
Ken Paxton (Republican)	46	50	47	43
Rochelle Garza (Democrat)	41	35	39	47
Mark Ash (Libertarian)	4	5	3	5
Don't Know/Unsure	9	10	11	5

Table 25 highlights once again the strong relationship between partisan identification and vote intention, this time in the race for attorney general. Nine out of ten Texas Democrats (90%) intend to vote for Garza, compared to 2% who intend to vote for Paxton, and 86% of Texas Republicans intend to vote for Paxton, compared to 2% who intend to vote for Garza. Paxton holds a 20 percentage point lead over Garza among Texas Independents (45% to 25%), with 13% of Independents intending to vote for Ash and another 17% still undecided.

Table 25: Partisan ID and 2022 Attorney General Vote Intention (%)

Candidates	Likely Voters	Democrats	Independents	Republicans
Ken Paxton (Republican)	46	2	45	86
Rochelle Garza (Democrat)	41	90	25	2
Mark Ash (Libertarian)	4	2	13	4
Don't Know/Unsure	9	6	17	8

The 2022 Generic Congressional Ballot in Texas

Table 26 provides the vote intention among three distinct populations for Republican and Democratic candidates across the state’s 38 U.S. House districts. Also included is the proportion of voters who report that at the present time they do not know who they would vote for in November and those who intend to vote but say they will not be voting for either a Republican or a Democrat.

Table 26: Congressional Vote Intention in Texas

Candidates	Registered Voters	Likely Voters	Almost Certain Voters
Republican	47	49	51
Democrat	42	43	41
Neither R nor D	3	2	2
Don't Know	8	6	6

The generic Republican congressional candidate enjoys a 5 percentage point lead over the generic Democratic congressional candidate statewide among registered voters (47% to 42% with 8% undecided), a 6 percentage point lead among likely voters (49% to 43% with 6% undecided) and a 10 percentage point advantage among the most likely “almost certain” voters (51% to 41% with 6% undecided).

The 14 2022 Republican & Democratic Texas Executive Branch Candidates

Table 27 provides the proportion of Texas likely voters with a favorable (strongly and somewhat) and unfavorable (strongly and somewhat) opinion of the 14 Republican and Democratic candidates running for statewide executive office in 2022. It also includes the proportion of likely Texas voters who say that as of late June/early July, they did not know enough about the candidate to have an opinion about them, one way or another. In the survey question the respondents were not provided with either the office the candidate is seeking nor their party affiliation.

Table 27: Favorability of 2022 Statewide Republican & Democratic Candidates Among Likely Voters (%)
(Percent Strongly Favorable or Strongly Unfavorable in Parentheses)

Election Contest	Candidate	Favorable	Unfavorable	Don't Know Enough
Governor	Greg Abbott (R)	50 (28)	47 (38)	3
	Beto O'Rourke (D)	45 (28)	50 (45)	5
Lt. Governor	Dan Patrick (R)	43 (23)	41 (32)	16
	Mike Collier (D)	29 (11)	16 (9)	55
Attorney General	Ken Paxton (R)	43 (23)	43 (34)	14
	Rochelle Mercedes Garza (D)	31 (13)	18 (12)	51
Comptroller	Glenn Hegar (R)	20 (6)	17 (8)	63
	Janet T. Dudding (D)	10 (3)	13 (7)	77
Land Commissioner	Dawn Buckingham (R)	19 (9)	12 (6)	69
	Jay Kleberg (D)	13 (4)	13 (7)	74
Agriculture Commissioner	Sid Miller (R)	24 (9)	16 (10)	60
	Susan Hays (D)	11 (3)	14 (7)	75
Railroad Commissioner	Wayne Christian (R)	18 (7)	13 (7)	69
	Luke Warford (D)	9 (4)	12 (6)	79

The table reveals that more than one-half of Texas likely voters do not know enough about 10 of the 14 candidates to have an opinion about them. The only candidates who are well-known to these voters are the Republican and Democratic gubernatorial candidates, Greg Abbott and Beto O'Rourke, and the Republican lieutenant governor and attorney general candidates, incumbents Dan Patrick and Ken Paxton.

Abbott is viewed favorably by 50% of likely voters (very favorably by 28%) and unfavorably by 47% of likely voters (very unfavorably by 38%). O'Rourke is viewed favorably by 45% of likely voters (very favorably by 28%) and unfavorably by 50% of likely voters (very unfavorably by 45%). Patrick and Paxton are each viewed favorably by 43% of likely voters and unfavorably by 41% and 43%, respectively.

Among the Democratic candidates not named Beto, the proportion of likely voters who do not know enough about the candidate to have an opinion ranges from lows of 51% for Rochelle Mercedes Garza (attorney general) and 55% for Mike Collier (lieutenant governor) to highs of 77% for Janet Dudding (comptroller) and 79% for Luke Warford (railroad commissioner), with Jay Kleberg (land commissioner) and Susan Hays (agriculture commissioner) in between at 74% and 75%, respectively.

The net favorability (percentage favorable minus percentage unfavorable) ratings for the seven statewide Democratic candidates range from highs of +13% (Collier and Garza) to lows of -5% (O'Rourke) and -3% (Dudding, Hays, and Warford).

Among the four down ballot Republican statewide candidates (all of whom but one, Dawn Buckingham, are incumbents running for re-election), the proportion of likely voters who do not know enough about the candidate to have an opinion ranges from lows of 60% for Sid Miller (agriculture commissioner) and 63% for Glenn Hegar (comptroller) to highs of 69% for Buckingham (land commissioner) and Wayne Christian (railroad commissioner).

The net favorability (percentage favorable minus percentage unfavorable) ratings for the seven statewide Republican candidates range from highs of +8% (Miller) and +7% (Buckingham) to lows of 0% (Paxton) and +2% (Patrick).

Favorability of the Best Known Political Figures Among Texans

Table 28 provides the distribution of the proportion of Texas registered voters who have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the 10 political figures measured in the survey about whom at least three-quarters of the population knew enough to have an opinion. Greg Abbott is viewed favorably by 49% of Texas registered voters and unfavorably by 47%. Donald Trump is viewed favorably by 48% and unfavorably by 51%, while Ted Cruz is viewed favorably by 47% and unfavorably by 49%. The Republican with the lowest proportion of Texas registered voters holding a favorable opinion of them is John Cornyn (28%). Cornyn is also viewed unfavorably by a higher proportion of Texans (54%) than any other Republican.

Table 28: Favorability and Unfavorability of the Best-Known Political Figures Among Registered Voters (%)

(Percent Strongly Favorable and Strongly Unfavorable in Parentheses)

Political Figures	Favorable	Unfavorable	Don't Know Enough
Greg Abbott	49 (27)	47 (38)	4
Donald Trump	48 (25)	51 (44)	1
Ted Cruz	47 (25)	49 (40)	4
Beto O'Rourke	44 (25)	49 (42)	7
Ken Paxton	41 (20)	40 (31)	19
Joe Biden	41 (17)	58 (50)	1
Dan Patrick	40 (20)	39 (30)	21
Kamala Harris	36 (15)	60 (49)	4
Nancy Pelosi	32 (13)	61 (50)	7
John Cornyn	28 (7)	54 (32)	18

Beto O'Rourke is the most popular Democrat among registered voters, with 44% holding a favorable view of him and 49% an unfavorable view. The proportion with a favorable view of O'Rourke is slightly higher than the proportion that hold Joe Biden in a favorable light (41%) and the proportion with an unfavorable view of O'Rourke is notably lower than the proportion of Texas registered voters who view Biden unfavorably (58%). The Democrat with the lowest proportion of Texas registered voters holding a favorable opinion of them is Nancy Pelosi (32%). Pelosi is also viewed unfavorably by a higher proportion of Texas registered voters (61%) than any other Democrat.

Table 29 examines the favorability of the best known Republican political figures among those Texas registered voters who identify as Republican. An overwhelming majority of these Texas Republicans have a favorable view of Abbott (85%), Trump (85%), and Cruz (83%), and with one exception, all the political figures have a net-favorability rating among Texas Republicans that is greater than 50%, ranging from a high for Abbott of +73% to a low of +54% for Paxton. The one exception is Cornyn, who is viewed favorably and unfavorably by the same proportion of Texas Republicans (43%), with a net favorability rating among Texas Republicans of 0%.

Table 29: Favorability and Unfavorability of the Best-Known Republican Political Figures Among Texas Republicans (%)

(Percent Strongly Favorable and Strongly Unfavorable in Parentheses)

Political Figure	Favorable	Unfavorable	Don't Know Enough
Greg Abbott	85 (50)	12 (4)	3
Donald Trump	85 (50)	15 (7)	0
Ted Cruz	83 (49)	13 (5)	4
Ken Paxton	70 (39)	16 (6)	14
Dan Patrick	70 (38)	12 (6)	18
John Cornyn	43 (12)	43 (20)	14

Table 30 reveals that O'Rourke (90%) is viewed more favorably by Texas Democrats than Biden (86%), Kamala Harris (75%), and Pelosi (68%). Furthermore, O'Rourke's net favorability among Texas Democrats (+84%) is significantly higher than that of Biden (+72%), Harris (+55%), and Pelosi (+45%).

Table 30: Favorability and Unfavorability of the Best-Known Democratic Political Figures Among Texas Democrats (%)

(Percent Strongly Favorable and Strongly Unfavorable in Parentheses)

Political Figure	Favorable	Unfavorable	Don't Know Enough
Beto O'Rourke	90 (57)	6 (1)	4
Joe Biden	86 (40)	14 (3)	0
Kamala Harris	75 (35)	20 (4)	5
Nancy Pelosi	68 (30)	23 (7)	9

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