



April 29, 2026

New Poll: Talarico Leads Both Cornyn and Paxton in Texas Senate General Election

PRESS CONTACT

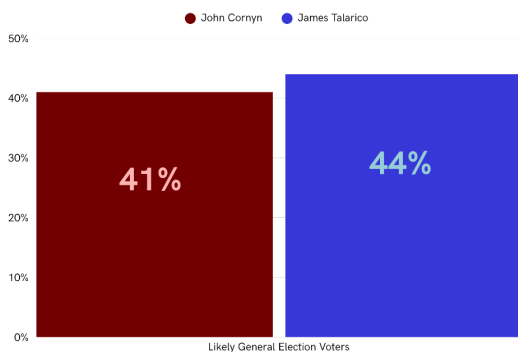
Caroline Bankoff
caroline@slingshotstrat.com
702-936-1179

Texas Public Opinion Research (TPOR) today released a new poll of likely Texas general election voters, surveying their attitudes on the 2026 races for U.S. Senate, Governor, and Attorney General.

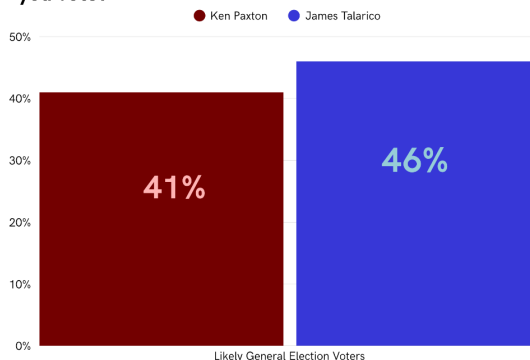
The survey of 1,018 likely general election voters was conducted from April 17 to April 20, 2026 and has a margin of error of ±3.3 percentage points. The full topline is available [here](#), and crosstabs are available upon request.

The takeaway: In head-to-head matchups for U.S. Senate, Democrat James Talarico leads both John Cornyn (+3) and Ken Paxton (+5), powered by leading margins with moderates and independents.

If the 2026 general election for U.S. Senate in Texas were held today and the candidates were Republican John Cornyn and Democrat James Talarico, for whom would you vote?



If the 2026 general election for U.S. Senate in Texas were held today and the candidates were Republican Ken Paxton and Democrat James Talarico, for whom would you vote?



The Top Ten Findings:

1. **Talarico leads Cornyn 44% to 41%.** Talarico's three-point lead is powered by Black voters (+51), Latino voters (+32), and college-educated voters (+10). 11% are undecided.

Cornyn vs. Talarico Horserace

	All voters	Rep	Dem	Ind	White	Black	Latino/a	Non-College	College
John Cornyn	41%	77%	2%	29%	51%	14%	25%	42%	40%
James Talarico	44%	7%	88%	51%	36%	65%	57%	39%	50%
Undecided	11%	11%	7%	15%	8%	16%	14%	14%	6%
Would not vote in that race	4%	5%	3%	6%	4%	6%	4%	5%	4%

2. **Talarico leads Paxton 46% to 41%.** Talarico's five-point lead is driven by the same coalition: Black voters (+56), Latino voters (+27), and college-educated voters (+14). 9% are undecided.

Paxton vs. Talarico Horserace

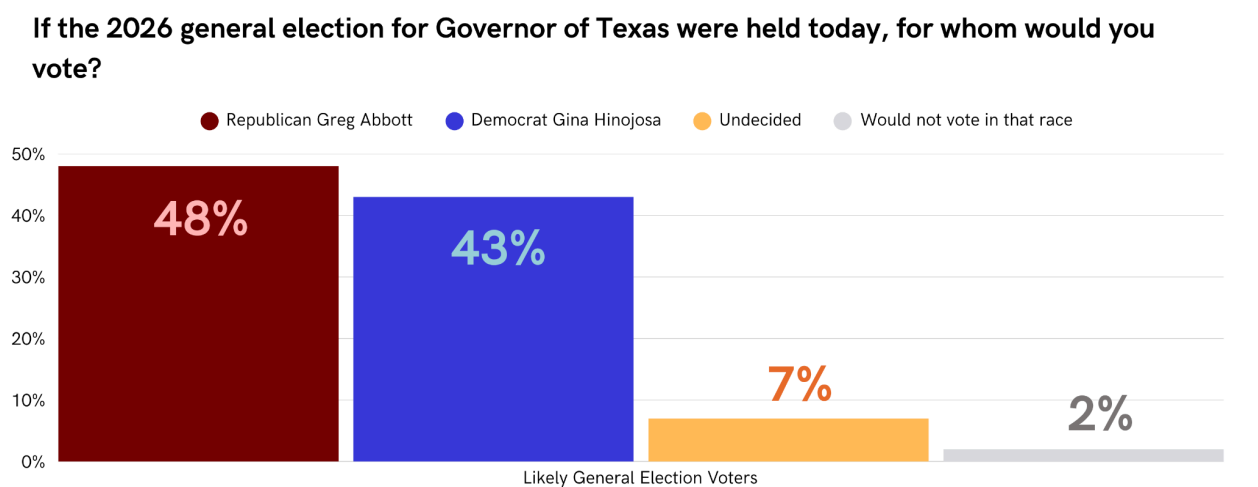
	All voters	Rep	Dem	Ind	White	Black	Latino/a	Non-College	College
Ken Paxton	41%	78%	3%	28%	50%	13%	30%	44%	39%
James Talarico	46%	9%	89%	53%	38%	69%	57%	40%	53%
Undecided	9%	9%	5%	15%	8%	14%	10%	12%	5%
Would not vote in that race	4%	4%	3%	4%	4%	4%	2%	4%	3%

3. **Moderate voters break decisively for Talarico.** Talarico leads Cornyn among moderate voters by 43 points (62% to 19%) and Paxton by 49 points (65% to 16%).
4. **Independents break for Talarico by more than 20 points.** 51% of independents back Talarico over Cornyn (29%), a 22-point margin. Against Paxton, Talarico leads with independents 53% to 28%.
5. **17% of self-identified "somewhat conservative" voters say they would back Talarico over Cornyn.** Against Paxton, that number rises to 19%.
6. Both Cornyn and Paxton draw their strongest support from **white, non-college-educated, and rural voters.** Talarico leads college-educated voters by 10 points against Cornyn and 14 against Paxton, while the Republicans hold only single-digit advantages with non-college voters (+3 for Cornyn; +4 for Paxton).

7. **Cornyn (-15) and Paxton (-10) post the lowest net favorability ratings** of any public figure tested. Both underperform a generic “Republican candidate running for office” (+9), Greg Abbott (+2), and Donald Trump (-2). Hinojosa (+11) and Talarico (+7) both post solidly positive favorability.

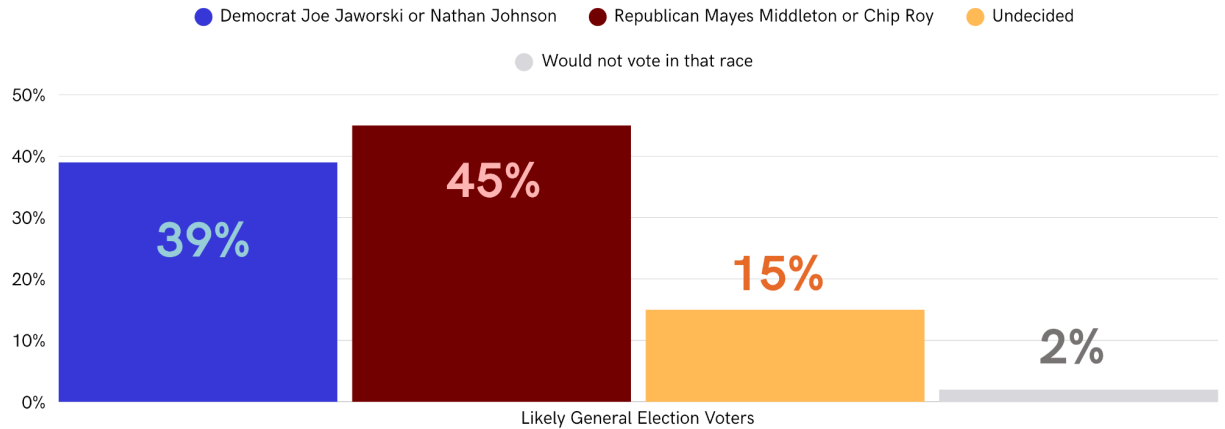
Here is a list of people, groups, and ideas. For each, please indicate whether you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable impression of that person, group, or idea	NET FAVORABLE	TOTAL FAVORABLE	TOTAL UNFAVORABLE	NOT SURE
Gina Hinojosa	+11	31%	20%	48%
A Republican candidate running for office	+9	49%	40%	11%
James Talarico	+7	41%	34%	26%
Republicans in the Texas State Legislature	+3	49%	46%	6%
Vikki Goodwin	+3	11%	8%	81%
Greg Abbott	+2	48%	46%	6%
The Republican Party	+2	49%	47%	4%
J.D. Vance	+1	47%	46%	7%
Nathan Johnson	+1	9%	8%	82%
Joe Jaworski	+1	11%	10%	79%
Mike Collier	0	10%	10%	80%
Donald Trump	-2	48%	50%	2%
Dan Patrick	-3	34%	37%	29%
A Democratic candidate running for office	-4	42%	46%	12%
Elon Musk	-6	44%	50%	6%
Democrats in the Texas State Legislature	-8	42%	50%	8%
Ken Paxton	-10	36%	46%	17%
The Democratic Party	-12	42%	54%	5%
John Cornyn	-15	33%	48%	19%

8. **Abbott leads Hinojosa 48% to 43% in the Governor's race.** Hinojosa keeps the race competitive by leading independents by 13 points and moderates by 32 points, and pulling 14% of somewhat conservative voters. She holds strong margins with Black (+57), Latino (+22), young (+49 with voters 18-24), and college-educated (+5) voters.



9. **The Attorney General race is single digits.** Republicans Mayes Middleton or Chip Roy lead Democrats Joe Jaworski or Nathan Johnson 45 to 39%, with Democrats leading independents by 9 points and moderates by 33 points.

If the 2026 general election for Attorney General of Texas were held today, for whom would you vote?



10. **Affordability is the top issue in Texas.** 21% of likely voters cite affordability and the cost of living as the issue elected officials should prioritize most – more than double the next-closest issue. Affordability ranks first across Black (23%), Latino (23%), and white (21%) voters. Immigration (10%), healthcare access (9%), and economic growth (9%) follow.

Please rank the top two issues that you think elected officials should prioritize in 2026:	
Affordability and the Cost of Living	21%
Immigration	10%
Healthcare Access and Costs	9%
Economic Growth and Job Creation	9%
Democracy and Voting Rights	8%
Abortion and Reproductive Health Issues	3%
Infrastructure and Electric Grid	3%
Oil and Gas Production	3%
Climate Change and the Environment	2%
Regulating Artificial Intelligence	2%