



# 2026 TEXAS PRIMARY



# MARCH 3, 2026 TEXAS PRIMARY- KEY OUTCOMES AND STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Texas voters delivered decisive results in several statewide contests on March 3, with almost 4.5 million Texans casting ballots, including a Democratic U.S. Senate nomination and a high-profile Republican runoff between incumbent U.S. Senator John Cornyn and Attorney General Ken Paxton. The outcomes set the stage for one of the most closely watched general election cycles in recent Texas history.

While many races were resolved outright, several major contests will advance to runoff elections on May 26, 2026. The Republican Senate primary, the most expensive in Texas history, moves to a runoff after neither Cornyn nor Paxton surpassed the 50 percent threshold. The race remains fluid following statements from former President Donald Trump, who says he intends to endorse one candidate and encouraged the non-endorsed candidate to withdraw.

Across the ballot, incumbents largely maintained their footing in statewide executive and legislative contests, though select congressional and state House races produced notable upsets and competitive runoffs. With multiple high-dollar contests unresolved and several open-seat dynamics emerging, the May 26 runoff elections will play a decisive role in shaping the November general election landscape.

Runoff elections will take place May 26, 2026. The voter registration deadline is April 27, and early voting will run May 9–22. The general election is scheduled for November 3, 2026.

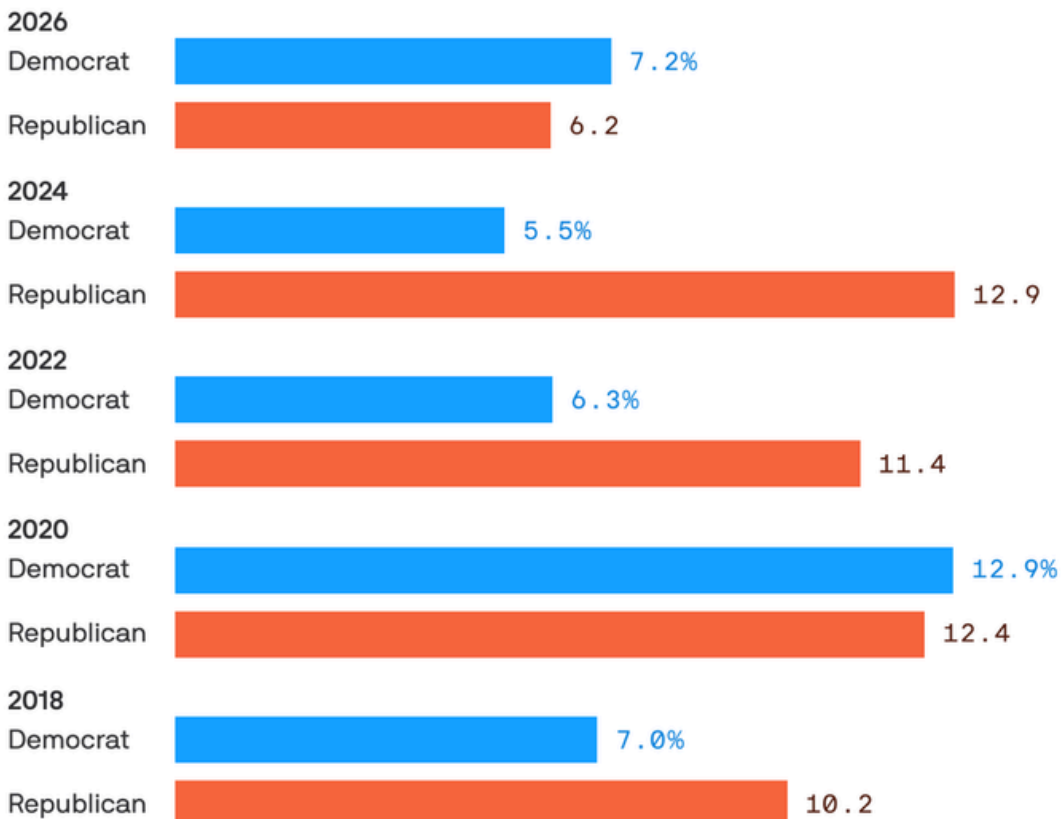


## Early Voting Context

Early voting reflected robust participation across parties, with approximately 2.3 million voters casting ballots in the Democratic primary and 2.2 million in the Republican primary. This level of engagement represents unusually strong early turnout for Democrats compared to past cycles and underscores an energized electorate heading into competitive primaries and upcoming May 26 runoff elections.

### Early voting turnout in March primaries

Share of registered voters to vote early in gubernatorial and presidential election years; As of March 2, 2026



Data: [Texas Secretary of State](#); Chart: Axios Visuals

# BY THE NUMBERS

With most precincts reporting statewide, key outcomes from the March 3 Texas primaries include:

- U.S. Senate (R): Senator John Cornyn (41.7%) and Attorney General Ken Paxton (41.0%) advance to a May 26 runoff; Congressman Wesley Hunt finished third with 13.4%. The Republican Senate primary became the most expensive in Texas history, with more than \$122 million in combined spending.
- U.S. Senate (D): State Representative James Talarico won the Democratic nomination with 53%, defeating U.S. Representative Jasmine Crockett (47%).
- Governor: Governor Greg Abbott secured the Republican nomination with roughly 83%, while State Representative Gina Hinojosa won the Democratic nomination with approximately 60%.
- Lieutenant Governor (R): Dan Patrick won the Republican primary with roughly 85% of the vote. The Democratic primary advances to a runoff.
- Attorney General (R): State Senator Mayes Middleton and U.S. Representative Chip Roy advance to a May 26 runoff.
- Comptroller: Don Huffines, (R) won outright over Comptroller Kelly Hancock.
- Railroad Commissioner (R): No candidate secured a majority, sending the top two candidates to a runoff.
- Texas Legislature: 16 of 31 Senate seats were on the ballot, along with all 150 seats in the Texas House of Representatives. Most incumbents secured their party nominations, though several high-profile House primaries produced notable upsets and competitive contests.
- U.S. House: Several districts will proceed to runoff elections, including TX 23 (R), TX 33 (D), and TX 35 (R & D). In one of the night's most notable congressional outcomes, State Representative Steve Toth defeated incumbent U.S. Representative Dan Crenshaw in the TX 2 Republican primary. In TX 15 Bobby Pulido secured the Democratic nomination outright.

These results underscore the scale, spending, and competitive dynamics of this primary cycle, setting the stage for the May 26 runoff elections and the November general election.

# FEDERAL RACES: U.S. CONGRESS/U.S. HOUSE

## U.S. Senate

### *Republican Primary — Headed to Runoff*

- John Cornyn — 41.7%
- Ken Paxton — 41.0%
- Wesley Hunt — 13.4% (eliminated)

The Cornyn–Paxton matchup now advances to a runoff after neither candidate secured a majority. The race has already broken spending records and is expected to intensify significantly heading into May.

### *Democratic Primary — Decided*

- James Talarico — 53% (winner)
- Jasmine Crockett — 47%

State Representative James Talarico prevailed by roughly seven points. Texas Democrats have not won a statewide race since 1994, making the general election an uphill battle.

## U.S. House Races

Several key Congressional primaries in Texas were decided on March 3, while others will move to runoff elections. Notable results include:

- Incumbent Henry Cuellar won the Democratic nomination in TX 28, avoiding a runoff and securing his place on the November ballot.
- In TX 2, Republican incumbent Dan Crenshaw was defeated in the primary, with Steve Toth advancing as the GOP nominee.
- In TX 9, State Representative Briscoe Cain advanced to a runoff and will face Alex Mealer, who formerly ran for Harris County Judge, in the Republican primary after no candidate secured a majority.
- In TX 23, no candidate received a majority in the Republican primary; the top two candidates, Brandon Herrera and incumbent Tony Gonzalez, will face off in the May 26 runoff.
- In TX 29, U.S. Representative Sylvia Garcia maintained her seat defeating former Texas House member Jarvis Johnson.
- In TX 33, incumbent Julie Johnson and former U.S. Representative Colin Allred advanced to a Democratic runoff.
- In TX 35, both parties will hold runoff elections after no candidate secured a majority in their respective primaries. Noteworthy, is that this is one of the redistricted seats which was formerly held by U.S. Representative Greg Casar who won his primary in the new TX 37.

Several of these districts were significantly reshaped during the most recent redistricting cycle, contributing to competitive primary environments and runoff outcomes.

# BY THE NUMBERS-

## U.S. CONGRESS: KEY U.S. HOUSE RACES

Office	Party	Candidate	%	Status
CD 2	Republican	Rep. Steve Toth	56%	Winner
	Republican	Dan Crenshaw (i)	41%	Defeated
CD 15	Democrat	Bobby Pulido	68%	Winner
CD 23	Republican	Tony Gonzales (i)	42%	Runoff (May 26)
	Republican	Brandon Herrera	43%	Runoff (May 26)
CD 30	Democrat	Freddy Haynes III	75%	Winner
	Democrat	Everett Jackson	38%	Defeated
CD 33	Democrat	Julie Johnson (i)	33%	Runoff (May 26)
	Democrat	Colin Allred	44%	Runoff (May 26)
CD 35	Republican	John Lujan	33%	Runoff (May 26)
	Republican	Carlos De La Cruz	27%	Runoff (May 26)
	Democrat	Maureen Galindo	29%	Runoff (May 26)
		Johnny Garcia	27%	Runoff (May 26)

# TEXAS STATE LEGISLATURE RACES

## Texas State Senate

- 16 of 31 Senate seats were contested. Most incumbents advanced easily.
- Three former House members won TX Senate seats. They include:
  - Dennis Paul, SD 11 replacing Senator Mayes Middleton who is running for Attorney General.
  - David Cook former TX House member who secured nomination for SD 22, vacated by longtime Senator Brian Birdwell who announced his retirement last year and is awaiting confirmation for a federal Pentagon role as Assistant Secretary of Defense.
  - Trent Ashby, another former TX House member who won the primary to replace Senator Robert Nichols, who also announced his retirement.
- SD 2 (R): Bob Hall (i): Won against his primary challenge.
- SD 5 (R): Charles Schwertner (i): Won the primary with roughly 75% of the vote.
- SD 21 (D): Judith Zaffirini (i): Defeated her challenger with roughly 73%.
- Five open seats created additional competitive dynamics.

## Texas House of Representatives

There were 25 open seats on the ballot, most incumbents ultimately retaining their seats, including notable victories for Republicans Rep. Angelia Orr, (HD 13) and Rep. Ken King (HD 88). Despite early concerns about several competitive races, notable upsets include Republicans Cecil Bell Jr. (HD 3) and Stan Kitzman (HD 85), as well as Democrat Chris Turner (HD 101). High-profile contests, including battles over casino gambling and tort reform, also shaped several outcomes. Open-seat victories included Armin Mizani, R, (HD 98), Jorge Borrego, R, (HD 118), and Samantha Lopez-Resendez, D, in HD 50, which became open following James Talarico's decision to pursue higher office. Marc LaHood, (R), (HD 121) prevailed in an expensive GOP primary that had already surpassed \$3 million in spending by early February, while Mark Dorazio, (R), (HD 122) maintained his seat.

# BY THE NUMBERS- TEXAS STATE LEGISLATURE RACES

## Texas Senate: Key Races

Office	Party	Winner/Advancing	%	Status
SD 2	Republican	Bob Hall (i)	79.00%	Winner
	Republican	Jason Eddington	21.00%	Defeated
SD 2	Democrat	Keenan Colbert	--	Winner
SD 5	Republican	Charles Schwertner (i)	75.00%	Winner
	Republican	Larry Nance	14.00%	Defeated
SD 5	Democrat	Paul Thommason	51.30%	Winner
	Democrat	Kevin Nelson	48.70%	Defeated
SD 11	Republican	Dennis Paul	--	Winner
SD 11	Democrat	Shannon. Dicely	74.70%	Winner
	Democrat	Cameron Rollwitz	25.30%	Defeated
SD 21	Democrat	Judith Zaffirini (i)	73.10%	Winner
	Democrat	Cortney Jones	26.90%	Defeated
SD 21	Republican	Julie Dahlberg	--	Winner

## Texas House of Representatives: Key Races

Office	Party	Winner/Advancing	%	Status
HD 3	Republican	Cecil Bell Jr. (i)	44.90%	Defeated
	Republican	Kristen Plaisane	55.10%	Winner
HD 13	Republican	Angelia Orr (i)	55.80%	Winner
	Republican	Kathaleen Wall	44.20%	Defeated
HD 85	Republican	Stan Kitzman (i)	42.80%	Defeated
	Republican	Dennis Geesaman	57.20%	Winner
HD 88	Republican	Ken King (i)	53.90%	Winner
	Republican	John Browning	46.10%	Defeated
HD 98	Democrat	Armin Mizani	53.20%	Winner
	Democrat	Fred Tate	43.30%	Defeated
HD 101	Democrat	Chris Turner	47.30%	Defeated
	Democrat	Junior Ezeonu	52.70%	Winner
HD 118	Republican	Jorge Borrego	52.50%	Winner
	Republican	Desi Martinez	27.00%	Defeated
HD 121	Republican	Marc LaHood	73.60%	Winner
	Republican	David McArthur	26.40%	Defeated
HD 122	Republican	Mark Dorazio	74.60%	Winner
	Republican	Willie Ng	25.40%	Winner

## Statewide Races

- Governor (R): Greg Abbott; Democratic challenger Gina Hinojosa.
- Lieutenant Governor (R): Dan Patrick; Democratic primary advances to runoff.
- Attorney General (R): Mayes Middleton vs. Chip Roy in runoff.
- Comptroller: Republican Don Huffines won outright over incumbent Kelly Hancock.
- Railroad Commissioner (R): Top two candidates advance to runoff.
- Agriculture Commissioner (R): Nate Sheets defeated the incumbent Sid Miller.



# BY THE NUMBERS- STATEWIDE RACES

Office	Party	Winner/Advancing	%	Status
<b>Governor</b>	Republican	Greg Abbott (i)	81.80%	Won
<b>Governor</b>	Democratic	Gina Hinojosa	58.50%	Won
<b>Lt. Governor</b>	Republican	Dan Patrick (i)	84.70%	Won
<b>Lt. Governor</b>	Democratic	Vikki Goodwin	48.00%	Runoff (5/26/2026)
<b>Lt. Governor</b>	Democratic	Marcos Velez	31.50%	Runoff (5/26/2026)
<b>Attorney General</b>	Republican	Mayes Middleton	39.10%	Runoff (5/26/2026)
<b>Attorney General</b>	Republican	Chip Roy	31.60%	Runoff (5/26/2026)
<b>Attorney General</b>	Democrat	Nathan Johnson	48.10%	Runoff (5/26/2026)
<b>Attorney General</b>	Democrat	Joe Jaworski	26.40%	Runoff (5/26/2026)
<b>Comptroller</b>	Republican	Don Huffines	57.00%	Won
<b>Comptroller</b>	Democrat	Sarah Eckhart	64.00%	Won
<b>Agriculture Commissioner</b>	Republican	Nate Sheets	53.00%	Won
<b>Land Commissioner</b>	Democrat	Benjamin Flores	53.00%	Facing Buckingham in November
<b>Land Commissioner</b>	Republican	Dawn Buckingham (i)	--	
<b>Railroad Commissioner</b>	Republican	Jim Wright	32.07%	Runoff (5/26/2026)
<b>Railroad Commissioner</b>	Republican	Bo French	31.77%	Runoff (5/26/2026)
<b>Railroad Commissioner</b>	Democrat	Jon Rosenthal	--	Facing French or Wright in November

# Runoffs — May 26, 2026

Key contests advancing to runoff elections include:

## Federal & Statewide

- U.S. Senate (R): John Cornyn vs. Ken Paxton
- Attorney General (R): Mayes Middleton vs. Chip Roy
- U.S. House: TX-23 (R); TX-33 (D); TX-35 (R & D); TX-9 (D)
- Lieutenant Governor (D): Vikki Goodwin and second-place finisher
- Texas Senate: SD-19 (R) advances to runoff; Democratic nomination secured

## Selected Texas House Runoffs

- HD-1 (R); HD-37 (D); HD-40 (R); HD-41 (D & R); HD-49 (D); HD-97 (D); HD-125 (D); HD-131 (D); HD-149 (D)

These runoffs will determine the final nominees for several pivotal races ahead of the November general election.

## Full Election Results

For complete results from the March 3 Texas primary, including all statewide, congressional, legislative, and local races, visit the Texas Secretary of State official election results portal: <https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/historical/index.shtml> – select **Election Night Returns** tab at the top.

With several high-profile primaries resolved and others heading to runoff elections on May 26, the following takeaways highlight key outcomes, emerging trends, and implications for the November general election.

## Key Takeaways/Closing

- High-Stakes Republican Contests: Cornyn–Paxton U.S. Senate primary and Attorney General GOP primary highlight intraparty tension.
- Democratic Milestones: James Talarico’s U.S. Senate nomination marks a rare statewide Democratic victory.
- Incumbent Vulnerability: Congressional and state House upsets reveal areas where challengers gained ground.
- Redistricting Impact: Newly drawn districts, including TX 33 and TX 35, produced runoff contests and competitive dynamics.
- Early Voting Engagement: Robust turnout across parties signals an engaged electorate, setting the stage for competitive races in May and November.
- Shifting Voter Influence: Younger voters, latino voters, and women voters played a key role in several victories, underscoring their growing influence in shaping Texas electoral outcomes.