



For Immediate Release: **Tuesday, October 13, 2026**
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Texas Poll:

Talarico Maintains Small Lead Over Paxton

US Senate: Talarico 48% Paxton 44% (from 49-43% in September)

Governor: Abbott 48% Hinojosa 47% (from Hinojosa 49-45% in September)

Congressional Generic Ballot: Dem 47% Rep 46% (from 46-47% in Sept)

**Texans Oppose How ICE Agents Arrest People, 54-42%
56% of Voters Say Tactics Used by ICE 'Have Gone Too Far'**

State Representative James Talarico (D) continues to lead Attorney General Ken Paxton (R) in the race for U.S. Senate, 48-44%, little changed from 49-43% in September, according to a new poll of likely Texas voters released today ReconMR. Incumbent Republican Governor Greg Abbott and his Democratic opponent, State Representative Gina Hinojosa, are separated by a single point, with Abbott up, 48-47%, after trailing Hinojosa by four points, 45-49%, in September.

“A Texas Democrat has not won an election to the U.S. Senate since 1988. With less than a month until Election Day, Talarico holds a small four-point lead over Paxton, 48-44%, after leading by six points last month,” ReconMR Senior Research Analyst Lindsey Hendren said. “Not surprisingly, both candidates are holding on to their partisan bases, as Talarico leads among Democrats 92-2% and Paxton leads among Republicans 87-7%. Likely independent voters favor Talarico by two-to-one, 60-30%.”

If the election for Senator of Texas was held today, who would you vote for if the candidates were:				
	Total	DEM	REP	IND/OTH
The Republican, Ken Paxton	44%	2%	87%	30%
The Democrat, James Talarico	48%	92%	7%	60%
Someone else/Wouldn't vote	3%	1%	3%	3%
Don't know/Refused	5%	5%	3%	7%
ReconMR Texas Poll – October 13, 2026				

“Talarico holds a commanding 74-21% lead in Austin, but trails Paxton by 18 points in rural Texas. Talarico still leads by 18 points in San Antonio/South Texas (56-38%); however, it's down from his 33-point lead in

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September. They are running virtually even in Houston and Talarico holds a slight advantage in Dallas-Fort Worth,” Hendren said.

Talarico has a 48-43% favorability rating, down slightly from 50-39% in September, while Paxton has a 40-55% favorability rating, up slightly from 38-55% in September.

“Can Texas Democrats – with a lot of help from outside money – flip a Republican-held Senate seat? Maybe. There’s still plenty of time between now and election day. The race for Senate will come down to three things: turnout, turnout, turnout.”

Abbott Regains One-Point ‘Lead’

Abbott’s job approval rating remains underwater at 48-51%, a slight shift from 45-53% in September. His favorability rating is 46-50%, from 45-53%. Hinojosa has a 44-37% favorability rating, with 20% not knowing enough to have an opinion. In September, it was 48-27-25%.

“In an unusual predicament for the three-term governor, Abbott enters the final weeks of the campaign locked in the tightest of battles with Hinojosa, leading her by a single point, 48-47%,” Hendren said. “The race remains much more competitive than many anticipated earlier this year, or even just a few months ago. Abbott leads among Republicans 92-5%, and Hinojosa leads 94-2% among Democrats and 57-34% among likely independent voters. So while Hinojosa has work to do in becoming more known to voters, Abbott needs to cut into Hinojosa’s lead among independent voters if he’s to have another term as Texas Governor.

If the election for Governor of Texas was held today, who would you vote for if the candidates were:				
	Total	DEM	REP	IND/OTH
The Republican, Greg Abbott	48%	2%	92%	34%
The Democrat, Gina Hinojosa	47%	94%	5%	57%
Someone else/Wouldn't vote	2%	1%	1%	3%
Don't know/Refused	3%	3%	1%	6%
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“Abbott has a 25-point lead in rural Texas, while Hinojosa leads 75-22% in Austin, 52-44% in Houston, and 53-42% in San Antonio/South. They’re tied at 48% among likely voters in Dallas-Fort Worth,” Hendren said.

ICE Not Faring Well with Likely Texas Voters

ICE’s favorability rating with voters is negative 43-53%. Voters oppose the way ICE is working to arrest people: 54-42% and similarly 56% think ICE’s tactics have gone too far.

“When it comes to ICE, partisanship informs views, with independents siding more with Democrats,” Hendren said. “Democrats and independents view ICE unfavorably, don’t like the way they are working, and think ICE tactics have gone

Views on ICE					
		Total	DEM	REP	IND/OTH
ICE	Favorable	43%	1%	85%	31%
	Unfavorable	53%	97%	13%	65%
Work to arrest people	Support	42%	1%	84%	28%
	Oppose	54%	99%	12%	67%
ICE tactics	Too far	56%	99%	16%	69%
	Not far enough	11%	0%	23%	5%
	About right	29%	0%	56%	22%
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too far. Republicans say the exact opposite: they’re favorable toward ICE, support the way they are working, and think tactics have been about right.”

Odds & Ends

- Voters are sour on the direction of the state and the country. By 50-39%, voters say the state of Texas is headed in the wrong direction, rather than being on the right track. By an even larger 58-37%, voters think the United States as a whole is headed in the wrong direction.
- The generic Congressional ballot remains too close to call. Currently, likely voters favor Democrats by one point, 47-46%. In September, they favored Republicans by a point, 47-46%.
- Texas voters also favor Democrats – barely – over Republicans for control of the U.S. Senate by two points, 49-47%.
- U.S. President Trump has a 44-54% favorability rating, unchanged from September. His job approval rating is 45-54%, virtually unchanged from September. Currently, 49% say they strongly disapprove of the job Trump is doing as President.

This ReconMR Texas Poll was conducted October 5 - 8, 2026, among 617 Texas Likely Voters. Of the 617 respondents, 617 were contacted through a dual-frame (landline and cell phone) mode (217 completed via text-to-web). Telephone calls were conducted in English and Spanish and respondent sampling was initiated by asking for the voter listed on the voter file by name. Telephone sampling was conducted via a stratified dual frame probability sample of landline and cell phone telephone numbers weighted to reflect known population patterns. The landline telephone sample and the cell phone sample were obtained from the L2 Voter Database. Duplicate responses are identified by their response ID and removed from the sample. Coding of open-ended responses was done by a single human coder. Data from collection modes were weighted to balance sample demographics to match estimates for Texas's population using data from L2's state voter file, on party, age, region, race/ethnicity, education, and gender to ensure representativeness. It has an overall margin of error of +/- 4.4 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.



Texas Poll Trends – October 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
Oct 2026	39	50	11
Sept 2026	37	55	9
July 2026	44	49	7
June 2026	44	45	11
HIGHEST EVER	44 (7/26, 6/26)	55 (9/26)	11 (6/26, 10/26)
LOWEST EVER	37 (9/26)	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
Oct 2026	37	58	5
Sept 2026	34	61	5
July 2026	37	58	5
June 2026	39	57	4
HIGHEST EVER	39 (6/26)	61 (9/26)	5 (9/26, 7/26)
LOWEST EVER	34 (9/26)	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
Oct 2026	44	48	3	5
Sept 2026	43	49	4	4
July 2026	43	47	4	6
June 2026	46	46	4	5
HIGHEST EVER	46 (6/26)	49 (9/26)	4 (9/26, 7/26, 6/26)	6 (7/26)
LOWEST EVER	43 (9/26, 7/26)	46 (6/26)	3 (10/26)	4 (9/26)

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
Oct 2026	47	46	1	6
Sept 2026	46	47	1	6
July 2026	45	47	1	6
June 2026	43	49	1	7
HIGHEST EVER	47 (10/26)	49 (6/26)	1 (ALL)	7 (6/26)
LOWEST EVER	43 (6/26)	46 (10/26)	1 (ALL)	6 (10/26, 9/26, 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
Oct 2026	48	47	2	3
Sept 2026	45	49	3	4
July 2026	46	45	4	5
June 2026	49	43	3	5
HIGHEST EVER	49 (6/26)	49 (9/26)	4 (7/26)	8 (9/26)
LOWEST EVER	45 (9/26)	43 (6/26)	2 (10/26)	3 (10/26)

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Q. 6 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
Oct 2026	31	16	8	42	2
Sept 2026	28	17	7	46	2
July 2026	29	18	10	41	2
June 2026	27	23	10	38	3
HIGHEST EVER	31 (10/26)	23 (6/26)	10 (7/26, 6/26)	46 (9/26)	3 (6/26)
LOWEST EVER	27 (6/26)	16 (10/26)	7 (9/26)	38 (6/26)	2 (10/26, 9/26, 7/26)

Q. 7 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
Oct 2026	30	14	4	49	1
Sept 2026	31	13	6	49	1
July 2026	33	12	5	49	1
June 2026	33	15	5	47	1
HIGHEST EVER	33 (7/26, 6/26)	15 (6/26)	6 (9/26)	49 (10/26, 9/26, 7/26)	1 (ALL)
LOWEST EVER	30 (10/26)	12 (7/26)	4 (10/26)	47 (6/26)	1 (ALL)

Q. 8 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Greg Abbott?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
Oct 2026	46	50	3
Sept 2026	45	53	3
July 2026	46	50	3
June 2026	46	48	6
HIGHEST EVER	46 (10/26, 7/26, 6/26)	53 (9/26)	6 (6/26)
LOWEST EVER	45 (9/26)	48 (6/26)	3 (10/26, 9/26, 7/26)

Q. 9 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Ken Paxton?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
Oct 2026	40	55	5
Sept 2026	38	55	7
July 2026	40	52	9
June 2026	34	52	13
HIGHEST EVER	40 (10/26, 7/26)	55 (10/26, 9/26)	13 (6/26)
LOWEST EVER	34 (6/26)	52 (7/26, 6/26)	5 (10/26)

Q. 10 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Donald Trump?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
Oct 2026	44	54	2
Sept 2026	44	53	3
July 2026	44	54	2
June 2026	45	51	4
HIGHEST EVER	45 (6/26)	54 (10/26, 7/26)	4 (6/26)
LOWEST EVER	44 (10/26, 9/26, 7/26)	51 (6/26)	2 (10/26, 7/26)

Q. 11 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about James Talarico?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
Oct 2026	48	43	9
Sept 2026	50	39	10
July 2026	46	39	15
June 2026	39	34	26
HIGHEST EVER	50 (9/26)	43 (10/26)	26 (6/26)
LOWEST EVER	39 (6/26)	34 (6/26)	9 (10/26)

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Q. 12 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Gina Hinojosa?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
Oct 2026	44	37	20
Sept 2026	48	27	25
July 2026	43	25	31
June 2026	31	18	52
HIGHEST EVER	48 (9/26)	37 (10/26)	52 (6/26)
LOWEST EVER	31 (6/26)	18 (6/26)	20 (10/26)

Q. 13 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about ICE (the Federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency)?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
Oct 2026	43	53	3
June 2026	45	50	5
HIGHEST EVER	45 (6/26)	53 (10/26)	5 (6/26)
LOWEST EVER	43 (10/26)	50 (6/26)	3 (10/26)

Q. 14 What is your preference for the outcome of this year's U.S. Senate elections?

DATE	REPUBLICAN CONTROL	DEMOCRATIC CONTROL	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
Oct 2026	47	49	3
Sept 2026	48	49	3
July 2026	47	49	4
HIGHEST EVER	48 (9/26)	49 (10/26, 9/26, 7/26)	4 (7/26)
LOWEST EVER	47 (10/26, 7/26)	49 (10/26, 9/26, 7/26)	3 (10/26, 9/26)

Q. 15 Regardless of who you are voting for, who do you think will win the election for the Senator of Texas?

DATE	KEN PAXTON	JAMES TALARICO	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
Oct 2026	46	44	9
Sept 2026	45	48	7
HIGHEST EVER	46 (10/26)	48 (9/26)	9 (10/26)
LOWEST EVER	45 (9/26)	44 (10/26)	7 (9/26)

Q. 16 Regardless of who you are voting for, who do you think will win the election for the Governor of Texas?

DATE	GREG ABBOTT	GINA HINOJOSA	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
Oct 2026	62	29	9
Sept 2026	62	32	6
HIGHEST EVER	62 (10/26, 9/26)	32 (9/26)	9 (10/26)
LOWEST EVER	62 (10/26, 9/26)	29 (10/26)	6 (9/26)

Q. 17 Do you support or oppose the way in which Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, commonly known as ICE agents, are working to arrest people they suspect of being immigrants living illegally in the United States?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	IN THE MIDDLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
Oct 2026	42	54	1	2
July 2026	41	53	4	1
HIGHEST EVER	42 (10/26)	54 (10/26)	4 (7/26)	2 (10/26)
LOWEST EVER	41 (7/26)	53 (7/26)	1 (10/26)	1 (7/26)

Q. 18 Thinking about the tactics used by ICE, do you think they have gone too far, not gone far enough or that they have been about right?

DATE	GONE TOO FAR	NOT GONE FAR ENOUGH	ABOUT RIGHT	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
Oct 2026	56	11	29	4
July 2026	57	11	29	2
HIGHEST EVER	57 (7/26)	11 (10/26, 7/26)	29 (10/26, 7/26)	4 (10/26)
LOWEST EVER	56 (10/26)	11 (10/26, 7/26)	29 (10/26, 7/26)	2 (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.