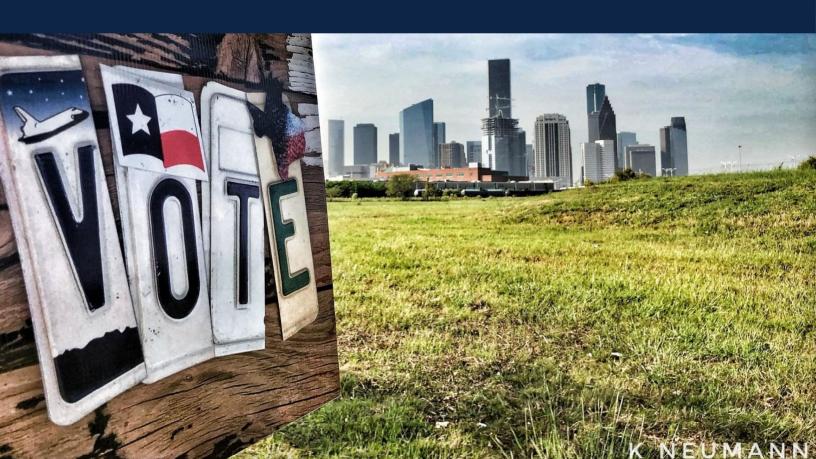
# TEXAS VOTES 2024

Harris County: Elections & Democracy







# Texas Votes 2024 Harris County: Elections & Democracy October 2024

The Hobby School of Public Affairs at the University of Houston conducted an online survey of likely Texas voters, with an oversample of Harris County voters, to assess their preferences and opinions about candidates and issues in the November 2024 election. The survey was fielded between September 26 and October 10, 2024, in English and Spanish, via a YouGov panel of registered voters who were considered likely to vote in the 2024 General Election. The likely voters were selected using a series of questions related to past and expected future voting behavior. The statewide analysis population of 1,329, with a margin of error of +/- 2.69%, was matched to a sampling frame on gender, age, race/ethnicity, education and partisanship, and is representative of the Texas likely voter population. The same process was followed for the analysis population of 491 Harris County likely voters, contained within this larger statewide population, which was utilized for all of the analysis contained in this report, with this population representative of the 2024 Harris County likely voter population. The margin of error for this report's Harris County population of 491 likely voters is +/- 4.42%. With a population of greater than 4.8 million, Harris County is the third most populous county in the United States, with more residents than 26 states.

The Texas Votes 2024 study includes five reports. This first report focused on the statewide races for president, U.S. Senate and the Texas Railroad Commission, along with issues influencing vote intention, and candidate favorability. The second report focused on county-wide non-judicial elections and candidates in Harris County along with policy issues affecting Harris County that are of concern to voters. The third report examined statewide attitudes toward election integrity and administration, threats to democracy, and election reforms. This fourth report examines Harris County voters' opinions about election integrity, administration and reforms. The fifth report will explore attitudes about electricity infrastructure and distribution in Harris County.

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

38% of Harris County likely voters are very confident that the 2024 presidential election will be conducted fairly and accurately in Harris County.

38% of Harris County likely voters are somewhat confident that the 2024 presidential election will be conducted fairly and accurately in Harris County.

18% of Harris County likely voters are not too confident that the 2024 presidential election will be conducted fairly and accurately in Harris County.

6% of Harris County likely voters are not at all confident that the 2024 presidential election will be conducted fairly and accurately in Harris County.

88% of Kamala Harris voters, but only 63% of Donald Trump voters, are either very or somewhat confident that the 2024 presidential election will be conducted fairly and accurately in Harris County.

37% of Trump voters, but only 12% of Harris voters, are either not too or not at all confident that the 2024 presidential election will be conducted fairly and accurately in Harris County.

32% of Harris County likely voters consider voter suppression to be a major problem in Harris County, while 36% consider it to be a minor problem and 32% do not consider it to be a problem.

36% of Harris and 26% of Trump voters consider voter suppression to be a major problem in Harris County.

43% of Trump voters, but only 23% of Harris voters, consider voter suppression to not be a problem in Harris County.

32% of Harris County likely voters consider election fraud to be a major problem in Harris County, while 31% consider it to be a minor problem and 37% do not consider it to be a problem.

43% of Trump voters, but only 24% of Harris voters, consider election fraud to be a major problem in Harris County.

50% of Harris voters, but only 20% of Trump voters, do not consider election fraud to be a problem in Harris County.

45% of Harris County likely voters believe that the state's election rules make it neither too hard nor too easy to register and to vote, while 30% believe that Texas's election rules make it too easy and 25% believe the rules make it too hard.

39% of Harris voters believe the state's election rules make it too hard to register and to vote, while 38% believe that they make it neither too hard nor too easy and 23% believe the rules make it too easy.

53% of Trump voters believe the state's election rules make it neither too hard nor too easy to register and to vote, while 40% believe that the rules make it too easy and 7% say they make it too hard.

More than one-half of Harris County likely voters believe voter suppression (54%), an insufficient number of adequately trained poll workers (52%), and foreign interference (51%) represent either a very serious or somewhat serious threat to Texas having a safe, secure and accurate election this fall.

41% of Harris County likely voters consider a potential lack of paper for voting machines to represent either a very serious (19%) or somewhat serious (22%) threat to Texas having a safe, secure and accurate election this fall.

55% of Trump voters and 32% of Harris voters consider a potential lack of paper for voting machines to represent either a very serious or somewhat serious threat to Texas having a safe, secure and accurate election this fall.

When asked, "Once every state has officially certified its vote for president, do you think the loser of the presidential election has an obligation to accept the results and concede, or not?" 74% of Harris County likely voters believe that under these circumstances the losing presidential candidate has an obligation to accept the results and concede, with 10% disagreeing and 16% indicating that they were unsure.

77% of Harris County likely voters believe that all Texans should be required to show a state-approved photo ID in order to be able to vote in person, while 13% do not.

91% of Trump voters and 66% of Harris voters believe that all Texans should be required to show a state-approved photo ID in order to be able to vote in person, while 5% and 19%, respectively, do not.

64% of Harris County likely voters believe that all Texans should be allowed to register to vote online, while 23% do not.

79% of Harris voters and 46% of Trump voters believe all Texans should be allowed to register to vote online, while 9% and 41%, respectively, do not.

52% of Harris County likely voters believe that all Texans should be able to vote by mail for any reason, while 36% do not.

75% of Harris voters and 23% of Trump voters believe that all Texans should be able to vote by mail for any reason, while 15% and 64%, respectively, do not.

Comparable proportions of Harris County likely voters are either very or somewhat confident that the 2024 presidential election nationwide (74%), in Texas (80%), and in Harris County (76%) will be conducted fairly and accurately.

57% of Harris County likely voters plan to vote in-person early and another 10% plan to vote early by mail.

Nearly one-third (31%) of Harris County likely voters plan to vote on Election Day, while 2% remained unsure about when they would vote.

# HARRIS COUNTY LIKELY VOTER POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS

White likely voters account for 45% of this population of Harris County likely voters, Latino likely voters for 28%, Black likely voters for 21%, and others for 6%. Women represent 52% of this population, men 47%, and those who identify as non-binary or other 1%. Regarding generations, 33% of this population belongs to the combined Silent Generation (born between 1928-1945) and Baby Boomer (1946-1964) cohort, 23% to Generation X (Gen-X) (1965-1980), 28% to the Millennial (1981-1996) generation, and 16% to Generation Z (1997-2012). The highest level of educational attainment of 42% of the population is a four-year college degree or a post-graduate degree, of 31% of the population is a two-year college degree or some college, and of 27% of the population is a high school degree or less. Democrats account for 51% of this population, Republicans for 37% and Independents for 11%, with 1% unsure of their partisan identification. In the 2020 presidential election, among those who cast a ballot that year (16% did not), 55% of these likely voters voted for Democrat Joe Biden and 43% for Donald Trump, with 2% supporting a third-party candidate. In the 2022 Texas gubernatorial election, among those who cast a ballot (22% did not), 55% voted for Democrat Beto O'Rourke and 44% for Republican Greg Abbott, with 1% supporting a third-party candidate.

#### CONFIDENCE IN A PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CONDUCTED FAIRLY & ACCURATELY BY REGION

The Harris County likely voters were asked how confident, if at all, they are that the presidential election this November will be conducted fairly and accurately nationwide, in Texas, and in Harris County. The response options were very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, and not at all confident.

Table 1 and Figure 1 provide the results. Overall, 74% of Harris County likely voters have some confidence (40% very confident and 34% somewhat confident) that the presidential election in the United States this year will be conducted fairly and accurately. This proportion is comparable to both the 80% who believe the election will be conducted fairly and accurately in Texas (38% very confident and 42% somewhat confident) and the 76% who believe the election will be conducted fairly and accurately in Harris County (38% very confident and 38% somewhat confident).

Table 1. Confidence That the Presidential Election Will Be Conducted Fairly & Accurately In \_\_\_\_\_\_. (%)

Jurisdiction	Very Confident	Somewhat Confident	Not Too Confident	Not At All Confident
The United States	40	34	20	6
Texas	38	42	16	4
Harris County	38	38	18	6

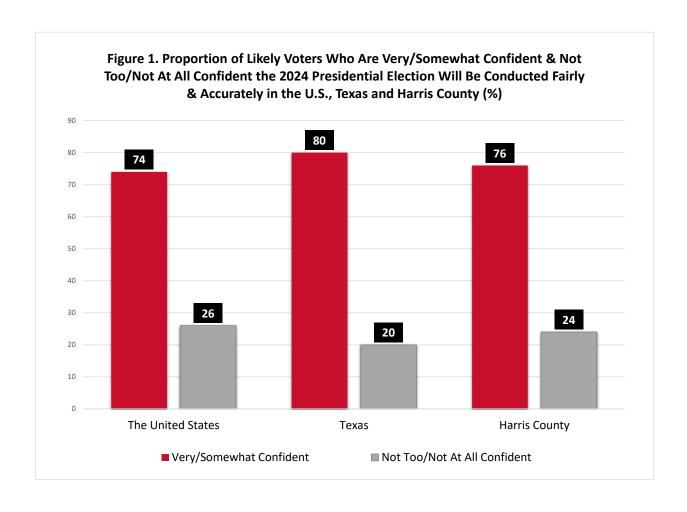


Table 2 provides the combined proportion of Harris County likely voters who are very and somewhat confident that the 2024 presidential election in the United States, in Texas, and in Harris County will be conducted fairly and accurately, broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, generation, education, partisanship and 2024 presidential vote intention (Donald Trump or Kamala Harris).

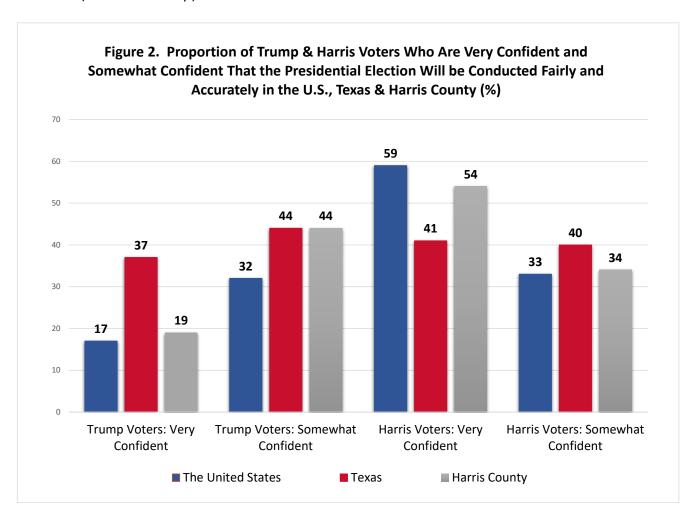
Table 2. Proportion of Key Socio-Demographic Groups Who Are Very/Somewhat Confident Elections Will Be Conducted Fairly & Accurately In \_\_\_\_\_. (%)

Socio-Demographic	Sub-Group	United States	Texas	Harris County
Overall		74	80	76
Gender	Women	75	80	80
Gender	Men	73	81	73
	White	71	82	77
Ethnicity/Race	Latino	75	83	76
	Black	81	77	82
	Silent/Boomer	61	73	67
Generation	Generation X	73	80	81
Generation	Millennial	86	86	83
	Generation Z	82	85	81
	High School	72	80	81
Education	Some College/2 Yr Degree	71	75	70
	4 Yr Degree/PostGrad	77	84	77
	Democratic	91	81	89
Partisanship	Independent	68	79	64
	Republican	50	80	63
2024 Vote Intention	Trump	49	81	63
2024 VOIE IIILEIILIOII	Harris	92	81	88

The most prominent differences in Table 2 are related to the highly correlated categories of partisan identification and 2024 presidential vote intention. Given the strong similarity between the two categories, here, as well as in the remainder of this report, only the 2024 presidential vote intention will be discussed in detail.

Table 2 does not reveal any noteworthy non-partisan differences socio-demographic in regard to confidence in the conduct of elections at the national, Texas and Harris County levels.

Figure 2 provides a more detailed breakdown related to the likely voters' 2024 presidential vote intention (Harris vs. Trump).



While 92% of Harris voters are confident (59% very and 33% somewhat) that the 2024 presidential election will be conducted fairly and accurately nationwide, the same is true for only 49% of Trump voters (17% very confident and 32% somewhat confident). In contrast to the 43 percentage point gap that separates Harris and Trump voters in regard to their confidence in elections nationwide, the confidence level for Texas is the same with 81% of Trump voters (37% very confident and 44% somewhat confident) and 81% of Harris voters (41% very confident and 40% somewhat confident) in agreement about the state conducting the presidential election fairly and accurately. In contrast, the gap separating Harris and Trump vis-à-vis elections in Harris County is 25 percentage points: 88% of Harris voters, but only 63% of Trump voters, are either very or somewhat confident that the presidential election in Harris County will be conducted fairly and accurately this year. Furthermore, while 54% of Harris voters are very confident, the same is true for only 19% of Trump voters (with 34% and 44% somewhat confident, respectively).

#### THE PROBLEMS OF VOTER SUPPRESSION & ELECTION FRAUD BY REGION

The Harris County respondents were asked, in separate questions, if they believe that voter suppression and election fraud are a major problem, a minor problem, or not a problem nationwide, in Texas, and in Harris County. Tables 3 and 4 contain the results regarding voter suppression and election fraud, respectively.

As shown in Table 3, comparable proportions of likely Harris County voters believe voter suppression is a major problem in the United States (43%) and in Texas (39%), just as comparable proportions believe voter suppression is not a problem in the United States (20%) and in Texas (24%). A somewhat smaller proportion of Harris County likely voters (32%) believe voter suppression is a major problem in Harris County than nationwide (43%), and, a larger proportion of Harris County likely voters (32%) believe voter suppression is not a problem in Harris County than is the case nationwide (20%) or in Texas (24%).

Table 3. Likely Voter Opinion on Voter Suppression: A Major, Minor or Not a Problem In \_\_\_\_\_. (%)

Jurisdiction	Major Problem	Minor Problem	Not a Problem
United States	43	37	20
Texas	39	37	24
Harris County	32	36	32

Table 4 shows that Harris County likely voters are notably more likely to believe that election fraud is a major problem nationwide (43%) than in Texas (26%), with their opinion about Harris County relatively equidistant between these two extremes (32%). Comparable proportions of Harris County likely voters believe election fraud is not a problem in the United States (28%), in Texas (33%), and in Harris County (37%).

Table 4. Likely Voter Opinion on Election Fraud: A Major, Minor or Not a Problem In \_\_\_\_\_\_. (%)

Jurisdiction	Major Problem	Minor Problem	Not a Problem
United States	43	29	28
Texas	26	41	33
Harris County	32	31	37

Tables 5 and 6 provide the proportion of Harris County likely voters who consider voter suppression to be a major problem (Table 5) and to not be a problem (Table 6) in the United States, in Texas and in Harris County, broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, generation, education, partisanship and 2024 presidential vote intention.

Table 5 underscores that the most salient differences related to voter suppression being seen as a major problem revolve around partisanship and 2024 presidential vote intention, with the latter two variables highly correlated. Harris voters are significantly more likely than Trump voters to believe that voter suppression is a major problem in the United States (50% vs. 35%), and, especially, in Texas (52% vs. 19%). However, while more Harris (36%) than Trump (26%) voters believe voter suppression is a major problem in Harris County, this difference is not statistically significant.

Table 5. Proportion of Key Socio-Demographic Groups That View Voter Suppression as a Major Problem In :

Socio-Demographic	Sub-Group	United States	Texas	Harris County
Overall		43	38	32
Condor	Women	49	42	35
Gender	Men	37	34	28
	White	39	39	30
Ethnicity/Race	Latino	42	37	39
	Black	51	40	39
	Silent/Boomer	40	42	37
Generation	Generation X	43	38	29
Generation	Millennial	44	35	27
	Generation Z	47	38	33
	High School	47	32	36
Education	Some College/2 Yr Degree	42	47	33
	4 Yr Degree/PostGrad	41	37	28
	Democratic	50	55	38
Partisanship	Independent	37	21	19
	Republican	36	20	26
2024 Vote Intention	Trump	35	19	26
2024 Vote intention	Harris	50	52	36

There are not any significant non-partisan related differences in belief that voter suppression is a major problem in the United States, Texas or Harris County.

Table 6 reveals the most salient differences related to voter suppression being seen as not a problem revolve around partisanship and 2024 presidential vote intention. Trump voters are significantly more likely than Harris voters to believe that voter suppression is not a problem in the United States (32% vs. 10%), in Texas (42% vs. 11%), and in Harris County (43% vs. 23%).

Table 6. Proportion of Key Socio-Demographic Groups That View Voter Suppression as Not a Problem In \_\_\_\_\_\_. (%)

Socio-Demographic	Sub-Group	United States	Texas	Harris County
Overall		20	24	32
Condor	Women	15	34	28
Gender	Men	26	42	37
	White	24	30	36
Ethnicity/Race	Latino	23	27	39
	Black	10	10	19
	Silent/Boomer	27	33	41
Generation	Generation X	20	25	33
Generation	Millennial	20	21	33
	Generation Z	4	11	13
	High School	16	24	33
Education	Some College/2 Yr Degree	20	23	32
	4 Yr Degree/PostGrad	22	25	32
	Democratic	8	9	20
Partisanship	Independent	33	32	43
	Republican	31	43	46
2024 Vote Intention	Trump	32	42	43
2024 Vote Intention	Harris	10	11	23

There are not any significant non-partisan related differences in belief that voter suppression is not a problem in the United States, Texas or Harris County.

Table 7 highlights that the most salient differences in regard to election fraud being a major problem revolve around partisanship and 2024 presidential vote intention. More than three out of five Trump voters (64%), compared to only 28% of Harris voters, view election fraud as a major problem nationwide, and more than two out of five Trump voters (43%) view election fraud as a major problem in Harris County, compared to only 24% of Harris voters. Conversely, there are not any salient differences in the proportion of Trump and Harris voters who consider election fraud to be a major problem in Texas (26% and 25%, respectively).

Table 7. Proportion of Key Socio-Demographic Groups That View Election Fraud as a Major Problem In \_\_\_\_\_\_. (%)

Socio-Demographic	Sub-Group	United States	Texas	Harris County
Overall		43	26	32
Condor	Women	41	30	32
Gender	Men	46	21	32
	White	42	22	28
Ethnicity/Race	Latino	37	24	29
	Black	46	34	35
	Silent/Boomer	44	21	37
Generation	Generation X	42	27	26
Generation	Millennial	40	26	27
	Generation Z	46	32	36
	High School	51	28	37
Education	Some College/2 Yr Degree	43	26	33
	4 Yr Degree/PostGrad	38	24	27
	Democratic	27	26	24
Partisanship	Independent	49	17	23
	Republican	64	28	46
2024 Vote Intention	Trump	64	26	43
2024 VOLE IIILEIILIOII	Harris	28	25	24

There are no significant non-partisan related differences in belief that election fraud is a major problem in the United States, in Texas or in Harris County.

Table 8 reveals strong partisan and 2024 presidential vote intention differences in regard to the proportion of Harris County likely voters who do not consider election fraud to be a problem nationwide, in Texas and in Harris County. While more than two-fifths (43%) of Harris voters believe election fraud is not a problem nationwide, the same is true for only 8% of Trump voters. Similarly, while one-half (50%) of Harris voters consider election fraud to not be a problem in Harris County, the same is true for only 20% of Trump voters. Similar, albeit not as stark, significant differences are seen in regard to Texas (43% vs. 19%, respectively).

Table 8. Proportion of Key Socio-Demographic Groups That View Election Fraud as Not a Problem In \_\_\_\_\_\_. (%)

Socio-Demographic	Sub-Group	United States	Texas	Harris County
Overall		28	33	37
Condor	Women	29	30	36
Gender	Men	27	36	38
	White	30	35	37
Ethnicity/Race	Latino	28	36	41
	Black	26	27	36
	Silent/Boomer	30	35	38
Generation	Generation X	29	34	36
Generation	Millennial	28	35	40
	Generation Z	25	25	31
	High School	19	28	33
Education	Some College/2 Yr Degree	30	34	38
	4 Yr Degree/PostGrad	33	35	39
	Democratic	42	43	50
Partisanship	Independent	28	31	39
	Republican	8	18	19
2024 Vote Intention	Trump	8	19	20
2024 VOLE IIILEIILION	Harris	43	43	50

There are not any noteworthy gender, ethnic/racial, generational or education differences in the proportion of likely voters who consider election fraud to not be a problem nationwide, in Texas or in Harris County.

# **DIFFICULTY IN REGISTERING TO VOTE & VOTING IN TEXAS**

The respondents were asked if they would say that Texas's election rules make it too hard to register and to vote, too easy to register and to vote, or neither too hard nor too easy to register and to vote. A don't know/unsure option was also provided, although the 9% who utilized this response option are excluded from the analysis in this section.

Figure 3 reveals that a little less than half (45%) of Harris County likely voters believe that it is neither too hard nor too easy to register to vote in Texas, while 30% say it is too easy and 25% say it is too hard.

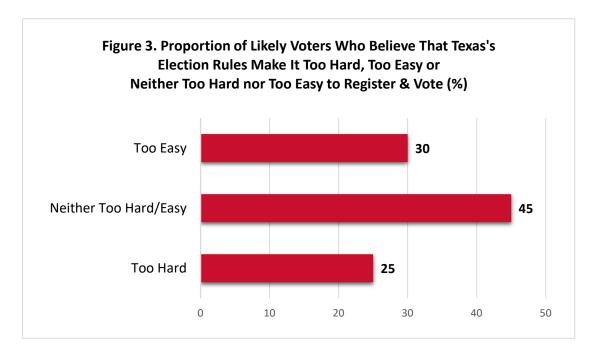


Table 9 provides the proportion of Harris County likely voters (excluding don't know responses) who believe it is too hard, too easy, or neither too hard nor too easy to register and vote in Texas, broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, generation, education, partisanship, and 2024 presidential vote intention.

Table 9. Proportion of Likely Voters Who Believe Texas's Election Rules' Impact on Ability to Register to Vote and to Vote (%)

Socio-Demographic	Sub-Group	Too Hard	Neither Too Hard/Easy	Too Easy
Overall		25	45	30
Gender	Women	27	45	28
Gender	Men	24	45	31
	White	26	48	26
Ethnicity/Race	Latino	25	37	38
	Black	22	51	27
	Silent/Boomer	29	48	23
Generation	Generation X	28	44	28
Generation	Millennial	23	39	38
	Generation Z	20	47	33
	High School	14	45	41
Education	Some College/2 Yr Degree	31	49	20
	4 Yr Degree/PostGrad	29	42	29
	Democratic	36	40	24
Partisanship	Independent	21	25	54
	Republican	8	38	54
2024 Vote Intention	Trump	7	53	40
2024 Vote Intention	Harris	39	38	23

As was the case in the prior sections, the principal differences revolve around partisanship and 2024 presidential vote intention. Almost two-fifths (39%) of Harris voters, but only 7% of Trump voters, say it is too hard to register and to vote in Texas. Conversely, Trump voters are significantly more likely than Harris voters to believe it is neither too hard nor too easy to register and vote in Texas (53% vs. 38%) and that it is too easy to register and to vote in Texas (40% vs. 23%).

There are no noteworthy gender, ethnicity/race, generation or education differences in the proportion of Harris County likely voters who believe it is too hard, too easy, or neither too hard nor too easy to register and vote in Texas.

# THREATS TO A SAFE, SECURE AND ACCURATE 2024 ELECTION IN TEXAS

The respondents were asked to evaluate how much of a threat they think ten election-related factors represent to Texas having a safe, secure and accurate election in 2024. The ten factors included the following: a lack of paper for voting machines, an insufficient number of adequately trained poll workers, ballot harvesting, election fraud, foreign interference in the election, suppression of individuals from voting, the use of election-day vote centers, the use of mail-in/absentee ballots, voter roll maintenance, and voting machines malfunctioning. The response options were very serious, somewhat serious, not too serious, not a threat, and don't know.

Table 10 provides the distribution of the responses of Harris County likely voters regarding the level of threat they believe each of these ten factors represent for the 2024 elections in Texas.

Table 10. Threat Represented by Issue to Texas Having a Safe, Secure & Accurate Election in 2024 (%)

Potential Threats	Very	Somewhat	Not Too	Not a	Don't
1 otential Timeats	Serious	Serious	Serious	Threat	Know
Voter Suppression	32	22	19	19	8
Election Fraud	27	20	19	28	6
Foreign Interference in Election	23	28	24	18	7
Ballot Harvesting	25	22	14	23	16
Voter Roll Maintenance	22	27	22	16	13
Mail/Absentee Ballots	26	20	18	28	8
Voting Machines Malfunctioning	23	20	28	21	8
Insufficient Trained Poll Workers	20	32	25	15	8
Lack of Paper for Voting Machines	19	22	23	25	11
Use of Election-Day Vote Centers	15	19	23	32	11

The six potential threats seen as very serious by the largest proportion of Harris County likely voters are voter suppression (32%), election fraud (27%), mail/absentee ballots (26%), ballot harvesting (25%), foreign interference in the election (23%), and voting machines malfunctioning (23%). The six potential threats seen as either very serious or somewhat serious by the largest proportion of likely voters are voter suppression (54%), an insufficient number of trained poll workers (52%), foreign interference in the election (51%), voter roll maintenance (49%), election fraud (47%), and ballot harvesting (47%).

The six potential threats viewed as not a threat by the largest proportion of likely voters are the use of election-day voter centers (32%), the use of mail/absentee ballots (28%), election fraud (28%), a lack of paper for voting machines (25%), voting machines malfunctioning (21%), and voter suppression (19%). The six potential threats seen as either not a threat or as a not too serious threat by the largest proportion of likely voters are the use of election-day vote centers (55%), voting machines malfunctioning (49%), a lack of paper for voting machines (48%), election fraud (47%), mail/absentee ballots (46%), and foreign interference (42%).

Table 11 provides the proportion of Harris County likely voters who consider the top five threats found in Table 10 to be either very serious or somewhat serious, broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, generation, education, partisanship and 2024 presidential vote intention.

Table 11: The Proportion of Key Socio-Demographic Groups Who Think the Threat is Very Serious or Somewhat Serious to Texas Having a Safe, Secure & Accurate Election in 2024: Top Five Threats (%)

Socio-Demographic	Sub-Group	Voter	Insufficient	Foreign	Voter Roll	Election
30cio-Deiliographic	Sub-Group	Suppression	Poll Workers	Interference	Maintenance	Fraud
Overall		54	52	51	49	47
Gender	Women	58	52	55	49	46
Gender	Men	54     52     51       58     52     55       49     52     46       51     54     50       50     50     51       56     45     45       48     53     49       56     54     53       57     51     51       61     48     53       48     51     45       r Degree     54     52     53	44	48		
	White	51	54	50	53	46
Ethnicity/Race	Latino	50	50	51	44	49
	Black	56	45	45	42	39
	Silent/Boomer	48	53	49	56	47
Generation	Generation X	56	54	53	48	44
Generation	Millennial	57	51	51	46	43
	Generation Z	61	48	53	43	56
	High School	48	51	45	41	50
Education	Some College/2 Yr Degree	54	52	53	56	47
	4 Yr Degree/PostGrad	58	52	53	50	44
	Democratic	67	46	52	43	30
Partisanship	Independent	41	44	33	48	41
Р	Republican	41	63	54	59	71
2024 Vote Intention	Trump	28	63	51	59	72
2024 Vote intention	Harris	57	45	51	41	29

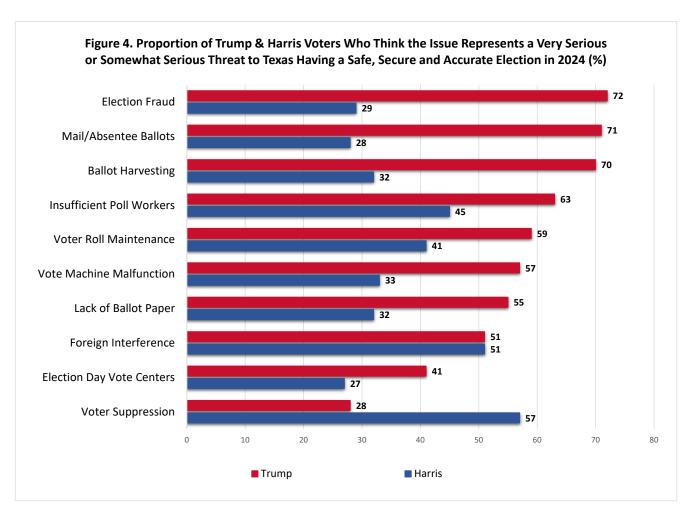
Table 12 provides the proportion of Harris County likely voters who consider the bottom five threats from Table 10 to be either very serious or somewhat serious, broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, generation, education, partisanship and 2024 presidential vote intention.

Table 12: The Proportion of Key Socio-Demographic Groups Who Think the Threat is Very Serious or Somewhat Serious to Texas Having a Safe, Secure & Accurate Election in 2024: Top Five Threats (%)

Socio-Demographic	Sub Croun	Ballot	Mail/Absentee	Vote Machine	Lack of Ballot	Election Day
30cio-Demographic	Sub-Group	Harvesting	Ballots	Malfunction	Paper	Vote Centers
Overall		47	46	43	41	34
Gender	Women	44	47	46	43	38
Gender	Men	Harvesting         Ballots         Malfunction           47         46         43           44         47         46           51         46         39           48         43         39           52         49         41           38         39         50           r         49         52         44           41         40         43           44         47         40         43           59         40         39         44           72 Yr Degree         48         46         49           46         45         40         45           33         28         35           46         39         34           69         74         55           70         71         57	39	28		
	White	48	43	39	42	27
Ethnicity/Race	Latino	52	49	41	38	38
	Black	38	39	50	41	38
	Silent/Boomer	49	52	44	45	32
Congration	Generation X	41	40	43	41	34
Generation	Millennial	44	47	40	37	36
	Generation Z	59	40	39	37	33
	High School	48	46	49	44	40
Education	Some College/2 Yr Degree	48	49	41	40	30
	4 Yr Degree/PostGrad	46	45	40	40	31
	Democratic	33	28	35	33	30
Partisanship	Independent	46	39	34	25	17
	Republican	69	74	55	56	44
2024 Vote Intention	Trump	70	71	57	55	41
	Harris	32	28	33	32	27

Both Table 11 and Table 12 reveal strong partisan differences among the respondents based on their partisan identification and 2024 presidential vote intention, with, as was the case previously, the focus in this section on the latter measure of partisanship.

Figure 4 summarizes the partisan differences and similarities (based on the 2024 presidential vote intention) in the belief that each of the 10 factors represents a very serious or somewhat serious threat to Texas having a safe, secure and accurate election in 2024.



Trump voters are dramatically more likely than Harris voters to consider three issues to represent a very serious or somewhat serious threat to Texas elections in 2024: election fraud (72% vs. 29%), mail/absentee ballots (71% vs. 28%), and ballot harvesting (70% vs. 32%). Trump voters are also significantly more likely than Harris voters to consider five other factors to be a very serious or somewhat serious threat to Texas elections in 2024: an insufficient number of adequately trained poll voters (63% vs. 45%), voter roll maintenance (59% vs. 41%), voting machines malfunctioning (57% vs. 33%), a lack of paper for voting machines (55% vs. 32%) and the use of election-day vote centers (41% vs. 27%), although in this latter case, less than one-half of Trump voters consider it to be either a very serious or a somewhat serious threat.

Harris voters are significantly more likely than Trump voters to consider voter suppression to represent a threat to Texas elections in 2024 (57% vs. 28%).

There are not any significant partisan differences in the proportion of Trump and Harris voters who view foreign interference in elections (51% and 51%) as either a very serious or a somewhat serious threat to Texas elections in 2024.

Other than the partisan differences already discussed, in Tables 11 and 12 there by and large are not any noteworthy gender, ethnic/racial, generation or education differences in the belief that the factor represents a threat to Texas elections this year.

#### **CONCESSION BY THE LOSING PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE**

The respondents were asked, "Once every state has officially certified its vote for president, do you think the loser of the presidential election has an obligation to accept the results and concede, or not?" The response options were yes, no and don't know/unsure.

Figure 5 displays the results to this question, with 74% of Harris County likely voters believing that under these circumstances the losing presidential candidate has an obligation to accept the results and concede, with 10% disagreeing and 16% indicating that they were unsure.

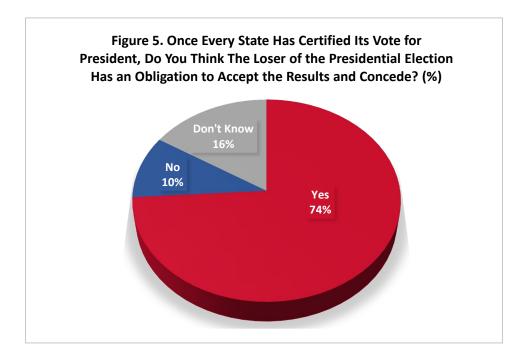


Table 13 provides the distribution of the responses of these likely voters to the question regarding the losing candidate's obligation to concede, broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, generation, education, partisanship and 2024 presidential vote intention.

Table 13: Key Socio-Demographic Groups' Response to Does Losing Presidential Candidate Have an Obligation to Accept Results and Concede? (%)

Socio-Demographic	Sub-Group	Yes	No	Don't Know	
Overall		74	10	16	
Gender	Women	78	6	16	
	Men	70	14	16	
Ethnicity/Race	White	75	12	13	
	Latino	71	11	18	
	Black	78	4	18	
Generation	Silent/Boomer	66	15	19	
	Generation X	77	9	14	
	Millennial	76	8	16	
	Generation Z	80	8	12	
Education	High School	69	9	22	
	Some College/2 Yr Degree	73	9	18	
	4 Yr Degree/PostGrad	79	11	10	
Partisanship	Democratic	90	2	8	
	Independent	63	15	22	
	Republican	56	21	23	
2024 Vote Intention	Trump	54	21	25	
	Harris	89	2	9	

Once again, the only prominent differences are partisan in nature, with 89% of Harris voters, but only 54% of Trump voters, responding yes, that the losing presidential candidate has an obligation to accept the election results and concede. In contrast 21% of Trump voters answered no and 25% were unsure, compared to 2% and 9% of Harris voters with these responses, respectively.

# POSITION VIS-À-VIS VOTER PHOTO ID, NO-EXCUSE MAIL BALLOTS, & ONLINE REGISTRATION

The respondents were asked if they believed all Texans should be:

- Required to show a state-approved photo ID before voting in-person.
- Able to vote by mail for any reason.
- Allowed to register to vote online.

The response options were yes, no, and don't know/unsure.

Figure 6 displays the responses to these three questions. More than three-fourths (77%) of Harris County likely voters believe that all Texans should be required to provide a state-approved photo ID before voting in-person (which is presently the law of the land in Texas, with a few exceptions for those who affirm they cannot obtain a photo ID), compared to 13% who do not believe all Texans should have to provide a photo ID and 10% who were unsure. A little more than one-half (52%) of Harris County likely voters believe that all Texans (and not just those age 65 and older, as is presently the case) should be able to vote by mail for any reason (i.e., no-excuse absentee voting), while 36% disagree and 12% are unsure. Almost two-thirds (64%) of Harris County likely voters believe that all Texans should be allowed to register to vote online (which is presently not the case for anyone in Texas), while 23% disagree and 13% are unsure.

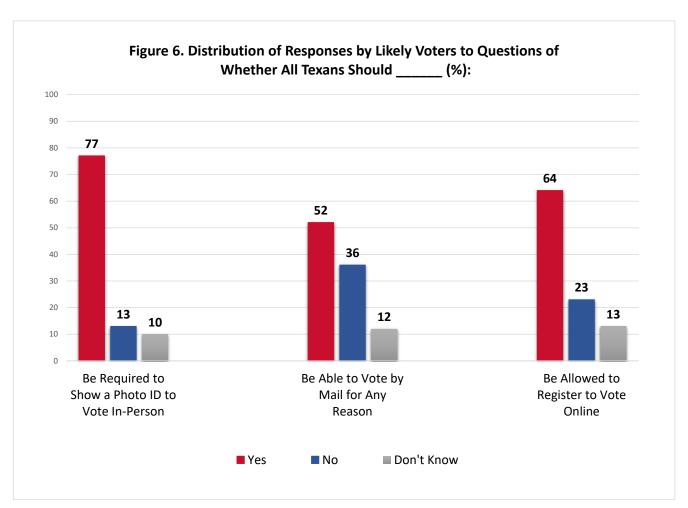


Table 14 provides the proportion of Harris County likely voters who responded yes and no to these three questions, broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, generation, education, partisanship and 2024 presidential vote intention. As was the case in prior sections, the only noteworthy differences revolve around partisanship/2024 presidential vote intention, rather than around gender, ethnicity/race, generation or education.

Table 14. Key Socio-Demographic Groups and Response to Do You Believe That All Texans Should Be \_\_\_\_\_? (%):

	Sub-Group	Required to Show a Photo		Able to Vote by Mail for		Allowed to Register to Vote	
Socio-Demographic		ID to Vote In-Person		Any Reason		Online	
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Overall		77	13	52	36	64	23
Gender	Women	79	12	53	33	63	22
	Men	75	14	50	40	66	25
Ethnicity/Race	White	76	15	49	41	59	27
	Latino	78	11	50	39	68	22
	Black	72	13	64	21	71	15
Generation	Silent/Boomer	83	9	42	50	53	37
	Generation X	78	14	46	39	58	25
	Millennial	72	16	57	29	75	11
	Generation Z	68	15	75	10	82	8
Education	High School	80	11	44	40	55	23
	Some College/2 Yr Degree	81	8	51	39	65	27
	4 Yr Degree/PostGrad	72	17	57	32	69	21
Partisanship	Democratic	67	19	75	15	80	11
	Independent	71	14	45	41	52	24
	Republican	92	4	21	66	46	41
2024 Vote Intention	Trump	91	5	23	64	46	41
	Harris	66	19	75	15	79	9

While an absolute majority of both Trump (91%) and Harris (66%) voters believe that all Texans should be required to show a state-approved photo ID in order to vote in person, the Trump proportion is substantially larger (by 25 percentage points). Nearly one in twenty (19%) Harris voters do not believe that all in-person voters in Texas should have to provide a photo ID in order to be able to vote, compared to 5% of Trump voters.

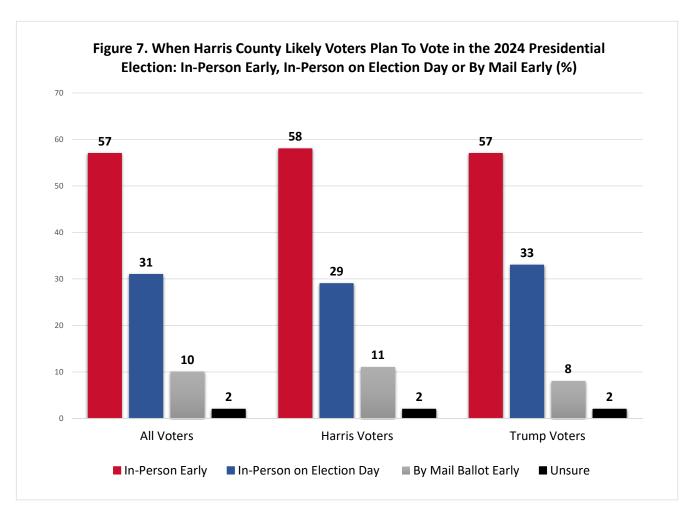
The sharpest partisan-oriented gap revolves around no-excuse mail voting. Three-fourths (75%) of Harris voters believe that all Texans should be able to vote by mail for any reason, compared to 23% of Trump voters. In contrast, 64% of Trump voters oppose no-excuse mail ballots for all Texans, while only 15% of Harris voters share this opinion.

Finally, 79% of Harris voters, but only 46% of Trump voters, think that all Texans should be allowed to register to vote online. In contrast, 41% of Trump voters, but only 9% of Harris voters, oppose Texans being able to register to vote online. It is worth noting however that a narrow plurality of Trump voters is in favor of all Texans being allowed to register to vote online.

# HARRIS COUNTY VOTING PLANS: EARLY IN-PERSON, EARLY BY MAIL, ELECTION DAY IN-PERSON

The respondents were also asked when and how they planned to vote this fall among the three options available to Texas voters: in-person early, in-person on Election Day, and by mail ballot early (with the latter primarily limited in Texas by statute to those who are 65 years of age and older). The respondents could also indicate that they remained unsure how they would vote.

Figure 7 reveals that 57% of Harris County likely voters plan to vote in-person early and another 10% plan to vote early by mail. Nearly one-third (31%) of Harris County likely voters plan to vote on Election Day, while 2% remained unsure about when they would vote. Comparable proportions of Harris County residents who intend to vote for Kamala Harris (58%) and Donald Trump (57%) plan to vote early in-person, while Trump voters are slightly more likely than Harris voters to intend to vote on Election Day (33% vs. 29%) and Harris voters are slightly more likely than Trump voters to intend to vote early by mail (11% vs. 8%).



# **CO-INVESTIGATORS**

Renée Cross, Senior Executive Director & Researcher, Hobby School of Public Affairs

Mark P. Jones, James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy's Fellow in Political Science, Rice University; Senior Research Fellow, Hobby School of Public Affairs

# **RESEARCH TEAM**

Maria P. Perez Argüelles, Research Associate, Hobby School of Public Affairs

Savannah Sipole, Research Associate, Hobby School of Public Affairs

# **PHOTO CREDIT**

Kiki Neumann Creations, kikineumanncreations.com

# **RECOMMENDED CITATION**

University of Houston Hobby School of Public Affairs, October 2024, "Texas Votes 2024: Harris County: Elections & Democracy"