

The background of the entire page is a photograph of the Texas State Capitol building in Austin, Texas. The building is a grand, classical structure with a prominent central dome topped by a statue. The dome is surrounded by a colonnade of columns. Below the dome is a large arched entrance. The building is flanked by trees and a paved walkway leads towards the entrance. The entire image has a semi-transparent red overlay.

Texas Legislative Issues 2025

Election Administration and Reforms Direction, Trust and Political Figures



Hobby School of Public Affairs
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON



Texas Legislative Issues 2025

Election Administration and Reforms • Direction, Trust and Political Figures

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The Hobby School of Public Affairs at the University of Houston conducted an online survey of Texans age 18 and older to assess their preferences and opinions about legislation being considered by the Texas Legislature during the 2025 regular session along with other salient political issues. The survey was fielded between January 13-21 2025, in English and Spanish, via a YouGov panel of Texas adults. Representative of the Texas adult population, the analysis population of 1,200, with a margin of error of +/- 2.83%, was matched to a sampling frame on gender, age, race/ethnicity and education.

The Texas Legislative Issues 2025 study includes six reports. The first report examined Texans' top priorities for using the state's \$24 billion dollar budget surplus and their positions on Education Savings Account (ESA) and sales tax exemption legislation. The second report focused on Texans' attitudes on immigration and border security. The third report examined the opinions of Texans on legislation which would legalize different forms of gambling and marijuana use in Texas. The fourth report analyzed Texans' opinions on proposed legislation in the policy areas of abortion and gun control. This report explores Texans' opinions on election administration in 2024, proposed election reforms and the direction of the country and Texas, along with their evaluations of 10 political figures. The final report will focus on the 2026 Republican Texas U.S. Senate primary.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

62% of Texans feel the 2024 elections in their county were run and administered very well, with 29% believing they were run somewhat well and 9% that they were run not too well or not at all well.

56% of Texans feel the 2024 elections in Texas were run and administered very well, with 34% believing they were run somewhat well and 10% that they were run not too well or not at all well.

47% of Texans feel the 2024 elections in the U.S. were run and administered very well, with 38% believing they were run somewhat well and 15% that they were run not too well or not at all well.

86% of Texans support legislation which would require proof of citizenship in order to be able to register to vote in Texas, including 94% of Republicans and 78% of Democrats.

83% of Texans support legislation which would prohibit Texas local government entities from using public funds to hire lobbyists, including 86% of Republicans and 80% of Democrats.

77% of Texans support legislation which would establish an independent redistricting commission in Texas to draw legislative districts, including 80% of Democrats and 74% of Republicans

77% of Texans support legislation which would replace Texas's partisan election of judges with a non-partisan process of judicial selection, including 79% of Republicans and 75% of Democrats.

70% of Texans support legislation which would allow Texans to register to vote online, including 86% of Democrats, but only 57% of Republicans.

65% of Texans support legislation which would allow Texans under the age of 65 to vote by mail for any reason, including 82% of Democrats, but only 45% of Republicans.

Fewer than one in three Texans trust the federal government (19%), Texas state government (31%), and their county (32%), city (32%) and ISD (31%) governments to do what is right most of the time.

54% of Texans believe things in Texas are headed in the right direction, while 46% believe they are headed off on the wrong track.

39% of Texans believe things in the United States are headed in the right direction, while 61% believe they are off on the wrong track.

50% of Republicans, but only 33% of Democrats, believe things in the United States are headed in the right direction.

76% of Republicans, but only 36% of Democrats, believe things in Texas are headed in the right direction.

56% of Texans have a favorable opinion of Texas Governor Greg Abbott (31% very favorable).

55% of Texans have a favorable opinion of President Donald Trump (38% very favorable).

53% of Texans have a favorable opinion of Elon Musk (26% very favorable).

SURVEY POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS

White Texans account for 45% of this survey population, Latino Texans for 36%, Black Texans for 12%, and others for 7%. Women represent 51% of this population, and men 49%. Regarding generations, 26% of this population belongs to the combined Silent Generation (born between 1928-1945) and Baby Boomer (1946-1964) cohort, 26% to Generation X (Gen-X) (1965-1980), 29% to the Millennial (1981-1996) generation, and 19% to Generation Z (Gen-Z) (1997-2012). The highest level of educational attainment of 32% of the population is a four-year college degree or a post-graduate degree, of 28% of the population is a two-year college degree or some college, and of 40% of the population is a high school degree or less. The annual household income of 41% of the population is less than \$50,000, that of 33% is between \$50,000 and \$100,000, and that of 26% of the population is greater than \$100,000 (these numbers do not include the 12% of the population who declined to report their family income). Republicans account for 44% of this population, Democrats for 36% and Independents for 17%, with 3% unsure of their partisan identification.

EVALUATING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE 2024 ELECTIONS: COUNTY, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

The survey respondents who voted in the November 2024 presidential election were asked:

How well do you think the elections this November were run and administered in: your county, Texas, the United States. The response options were very well, somewhat well, not too well, not at all well.

Table 1 displays the proportion of Texans who believe that the 2024 elections were run and administered very well, somewhat well, not too well, and not at all well in their county, in Texas and in the United States.

Table 1. Respondent Evaluation of How Well Elections Were Run and Administered in _____: (%)

Level of Election Administration	Very Well	Somewhat Well	Not Too Well	Not At All Well
Their County	62	29	7	2
Texas	56	34	8	2
United States	47	38	12	3

More than three-fifths (62%) of Texans say that their county elections were run and administered very well, 29% that they were run somewhat well, and fewer than one in ten (9%) of the opinion that elections in their country were run and administered either not too well (7%) or not at all well (2%).

Over one-half (56%) of Texans believe that Texas elections were run and administered very well, 34% that they were run somewhat well, and one in ten (10%) responding that elections in Texas were run either not too well (8%) or not at all well (2%).

Just under one-half (47%) of Texans think that the United States elections were run and administered very well, 38% that they were run somewhat well, and a little more than one in seven (15%) concluding that elections in the United States were run either not too well (12%) or not at all well (3%).

Table 2 contains the proportion of Texans who believe that elections in their county, in Texas, and in the United States in 2024 were run very well, broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, generation, level of educational attainment, family income, and partisanship.

Table 2. Proportion of Texans Who Believe Elections Were Run & Administered Very Well Among Key Socio-Demographic Groups (%)

Socio-Demographic	Sub-Group	County	Texas	United States
Overall		62	56	47
Gender	Women	59	52	49
	Men	65	60	46
Ethnicity/Race	White	65	59	48
	Latino	59	58	51
	Black	52	45	45
Generation	Silent/Boomer	69	63	45
	Generation X	64	55	43
	Millennial	53	50	50
	Generation Z	59	56	54
Education	High School	61	58	52
	Some College/2 Yr Degree	56	53	40
	4 Yr Degree/PostGrad	68	57	48
Income	Lower Income	59	56	51
	Middle Income	57	51	43
	Higher Income	67	61	50
Partisanship	Democratic	53	39	44
	Independent	51	48	39
	Republican	74	73	52

The principal sub-group differences in belief that the elections in these three jurisdictions were run very well revolve around partisanship. Republicans are significantly more likely than Democrats to believe that elections were run and administered well in their county (74% vs. 53%) and in Texas (73% vs. 39%), with however the difference between Republicans (52%) and Democrats (44%) not significant in regard to their evaluation of how elections were run and administered in the United States in 2024. Of note, even in Texas’s four most populous counties (Bexar, Dallas, Harris, Travis) where Democratic officials are responsible for running the elections, Republicans (65%) are moderately more likely than Democrats (54%) to say that elections were run and administered very well.

SUPPORT FOR & OPPOSITION TO 12 ELECTION & GOVERNMENT REFORM PROPOSALS

The survey respondents were asked three separate questions related to election and other government institutional reform proposals being considered by the Texas Legislature during the 2025 regular session. The questions along with the response options included the following:

1. *The Texas Legislature will consider several pieces of proposed legislation related to voter registration. Do you support or oppose the passage of legislation which would:*

- *Allow Texans to register to vote online.*
- *Require proof of citizenship in order to register to vote in Texas.*
- *Modify the voter registration process to provide Texans with the option of registering or re-registering as a member/affiliate of a political party.*
- *Prohibit any public official from both distributing a voter registration form to a person who did not request it as well as from using public funds to hire a third-party to distribute the form to someone who did not request it.*

2. *The Texas Legislature will consider several pieces of proposed legislation related to voting. Do you support or oppose the passage of legislation which would:*

- *Allow all Texans (not just those 65 and older as is presently the case) to vote by mail for any reason.*
- *Allow Texans to use their cell phone to consult candidate information while at a voting station inside of a polling place.*
- *Prohibit counties from having countywide voting on Election Day where voters can cast a ballot at any polling location in the county (this would not affect the ability of voters to cast a ballot at any early voting polling location countywide during the early voting period).*
- *Limit the ability to vote in a Texas party primary to those Texans who register as a member/affiliate of the party when registering to vote or when updating their voter registration.*

3. *The Texas Legislature will consider several pieces of proposed legislation related to elections, campaigns, and lobbying. Do you support or oppose the passage of legislation which would:*

- *Make it a crime for an independent school district supervisor or employee to use or authorize the use of public resources to distribute any communication that directly or indirectly advocates for or against a candidate, measure or political party.*
- *Replace the current method of electing judges in partisan elections with a system where non-partisan judges are initially appointed by the governor from a list of qualified candidates created by a bipartisan judicial commission. To be re-elected, judges would then need a majority vote in a retention election where voters are given the option of retaining or removing them from office.*

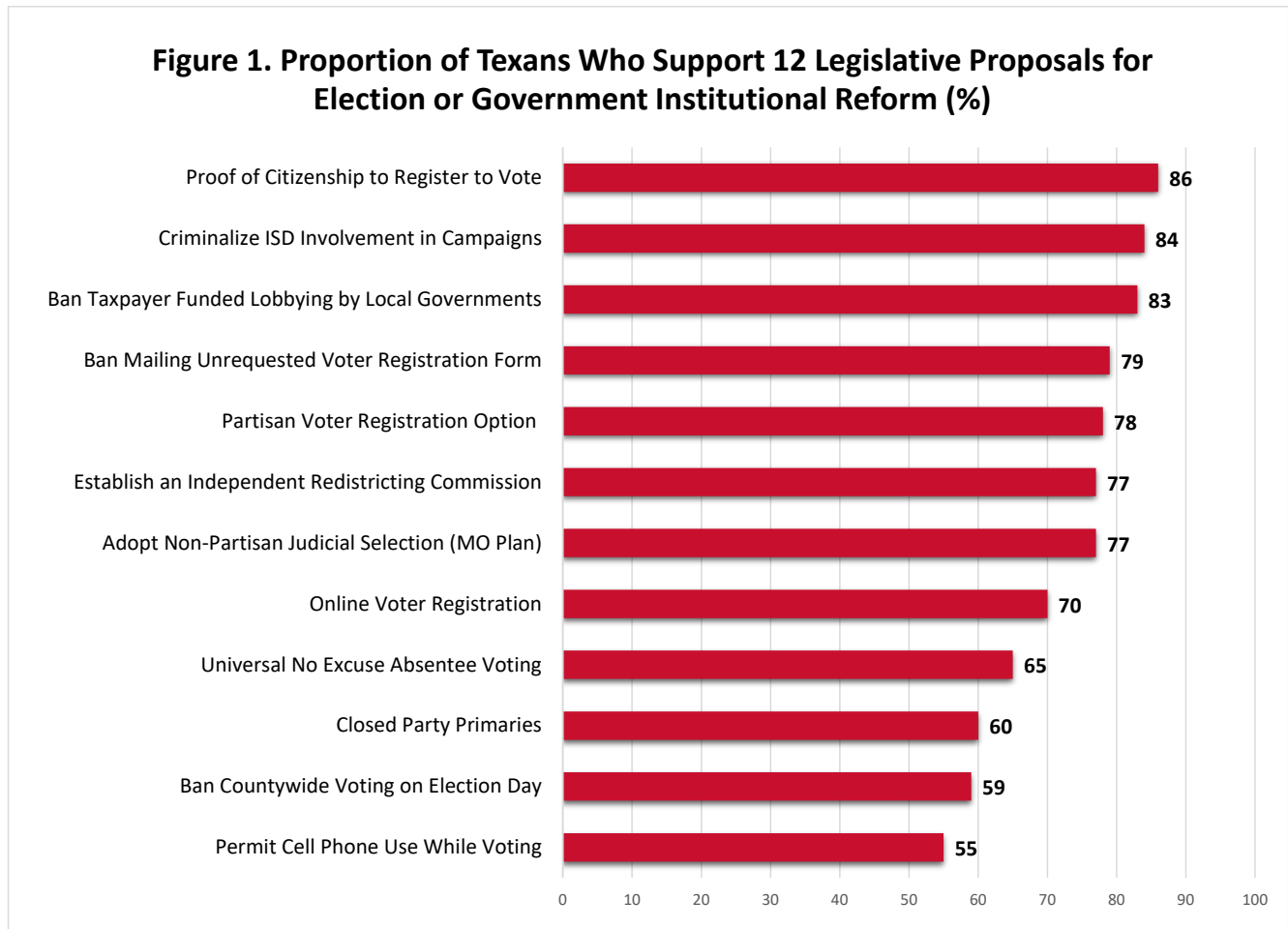
- *Establish an independent Texas Redistricting Commission to draw the districts used for the Texas Legislature and Texas U.S. House districts following every decennial U.S. census.*
- *Prohibit school districts, city governments, county governments and other local government bodies from using public funds to hire lobbyists.*

Table 3 contains the proportion of the population that strongly supports, somewhat supports, somewhat opposes, and strongly opposes each one of these 12 legislative proposals.

Table 3. Support For & Opposition To 12 Election and Government Reform Proposals (%)

Proposed Reform	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose
VOTER REGISTRATION				
Proof of Citizenship to Register to Vote	61	25	9	5
Ban Mailing Unrequested Voter Registration Form	47	32	13	8
Online Voter Registration	40	30	14	16
Partisan Voter Registration Option	30	48	15	7
VOTING				
Universal No Excuse Absentee Voting	34	31	15	20
Permit Cell Phone Use While Voting	24	31	21	24
Ban Countywide Voting on Election Day	24	35	22	19
Closed Party Primaries	22	38	24	16
GOVERNMENT				
Ban Taxpayer Funded Lobbying by Local Governments	55	28	11	6
Criminalize ISD Involvement in Campaigns	52	32	12	4
Adopt Non-Partisan Judicial Selection (MO Plan)	32	45	14	9
Establish an Independent Redistricting Commission	30	47	17	6

Figure 1 displays the proportion of the population that supports (strongly and somewhat) each one of the 12 reforms.



The legislation that has the highest level of support among Texans is the proposal to require proof of citizenship in order to be able to register to vote in Texas. Close to nine out of ten (86%) Texans support this proposal (61% strongly), with only 14% opposed (5% strongly).

The legislation that has the second highest level of support among Texans is the proposal to make it a crime for an ISD supervisor or employee to use or authorize the use of public resources to advocate for or against a candidate for elected office, a ballot measure or a political party. More than eight out of ten (84%) of Texans support this proposal (52% strongly), with only 16% opposed (4% strongly).

The legislation that has the third highest level of support among Texans is the proposal which would prohibit school districts, city governments and other local government bodies from using public funds to hire lobbyists, legislation which is commonly referred to by its proponents as a “ban on taxpayer-funded lobbying.” More than eight out of ten (83%) of Texans support this proposal (55% strongly), with only 17% opposed (6% strongly).

The legislation that has the least amount of support among Texans is the proposal to allow Texans to use their cell phone to consult candidate information while at a voting station inside a polling place. The population is split relatively equally in regard to their support for (55%) and opposition to (45%) this legislation, with equal proportions (24%) strongly supporting and strongly opposing the legislation.

The legislation that has the second least amount of support among Texans is the proposal to prohibit countywide voting on election day where voters can cast their ballot at any polling location in the country. While 59% of Texans support this proposal (24% strongly), 41% of Texans oppose it (19% strongly).

The legislation that has the third least amount of support among Texans is the proposal to restrict participation in the state's partisan primaries to those Texans who have registered as a member of the party when registering to vote or updating their registration, a proposal commonly referred to by its proponents as "closed party primaries." Three-fifths (60%) of Texans support this proposal and two-fifths (40%) oppose it, with 22% strongly supporting the legislation and 16% strongly opposing it.

Four additional reforms enjoy the support of more than three out of four Texans.

Nearly eight in ten (79%) Texans support legislation that would prohibit county authorities from sending, or hiring a third-party to send, voter registration forms out to potential registered voters if the person has not requested the form be sent.

More than three-fourths (78%) support providing Texans with the opportunity to register or re-register to vote as a member or affiliate of a political party.

More than three-fourths (77%) support legislation that would establish an independent redistricting commission in Texas to draw legislative districts after every decennial census.

More than three-fourths (77%) support legislation which would replace the current method of electing state judges in partisan elections with a system where non-partisan judges are initially appointed by the governor from a list of qualified candidates created by a bipartisan judicial commission and then are subject to retention elections to remain in office. This method of judicial election is commonly referred to by its proponents as the "Missouri Plan", named after the state that first adopted this method, which, today is the modal method of judicial selection among the 50 states.

Finally, approximately two-thirds of Texans support the two remaining proposals. The first proposal would allow Texans to register to vote online, legislation which enjoys the support of 70% of Texans. The second proposal is to allow all Texans to vote for mail for any reason, rather than just those 65 and older as is presently the case. This latter legislation, commonly referred to as "universal no-excuse absentee voting" by its proponents, is supported by 65% of Texans.

Table 4 contains the proportion of Texans who support the four voter registration reform proposals, broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, generation, level of educational attainment, family income, and partisanship.

Table 4. Support for Four Voter Registration Reform Proposals Among Key Socio-Demographic Groups (%)

Socio-Demographic	Sub-Group	Require Proof of Citizenship	Ban Mailing of Unsolicited Registration Forms	Partisan Voter Registration	Online Voter Registration
Overall		86	79	78	70
Gender	Women	87	76	78	69
	Men	86	81	78	71
Ethnicity/Race	White	90	82	72	66
	Latino	85	75	84	73
	Black	77	76	80	80
Generation	Silent/Boomer	92	75	69	55
	Generation X	86	74	75	68
	Millennial	83	80	83	79
	Generation Z	84	77	87	83
Education	High School	85	76	81	71
	Some College/2 Yr Degree	90	83	72	67
	4 Yr Degree/PostGrad	85	78	78	72
Income	Lower Income	88	79	79	76
	Middle Income	88	75	77	69
	Higher Income	81	80	80	67
Partisanship	Democratic	78	72	80	86
	Independent	85	78	75	71
	Republican	94	84	77	57

There are not any noteworthy gender, ethnic/racial, educational, or income related sub-group differences in support for these four proposals. In contrast, there are three salient partisan differences and two salient generational differences.

Republicans (94%) are significantly more likely than Democrats (78%) to support legislation that would mandate that a person provide proof of citizenship in order to register to vote in Texas. However, it is important to note that more than three out of four Democrats back this legislation.

Republicans (84%) are significantly more likely than Democrats (72%) to support legislation that would ban county officials from sending out unsolicited voter registration forms to potential registrants. However, more than two-thirds of Democrats also back this legislation.

Democrats (86%) are significantly more likely than Republicans (57%) to support legislation that would allow Texans to register to vote online. While a majority of Republicans support this legislation, a substantial minority (43%) opposes it, including 25% who strongly oppose its passage.

Gen-Zs (83%) and Millennials (79%) are significantly more likely to support legislation to permit online voter registration than are members of the Silent Generation/Baby Boomer cohort (55%). Gen-Zs (87%) are also significantly more likely than members of the Silent Generation/Baby Boomer cohort (69%) to support the creation of partisan voter registration in Texas.

Table 5 contains the proportion of Texans who support the four voting reform proposals, broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, generation, level of educational attainment, family income, and partisanship.

Table 5. Support for Four Voting Reform Proposals Among Key Socio-Demographic Groups (%)

Socio-Demographic	Sub-Group	No-Excuse Absentee Voting	Closed Party Primaries	Ban Countywide Voting	Cell Phones at Polls
Overall		65	60	59	55
Gender	Women	70	58	57	54
	Men	60	62	61	56
Ethnicity/Race	White	59	58	54	52
	Latino	70	63	65	56
	Black	76	64	72	63
Generation	Silent/Boomer	61	52	50	36
	Generation X	64	58	54	52
	Millennial	72	63	65	62
	Generation Z	78	67	79	80
Education	High School	64	59	64	54
	Some College/2 Yr Degree	63	57	52	51
	4 Yr Degree/PostGrad	68	63	59	59
Income	Lower Income	70	60	60	55
	Middle Income	59	57	57	49
	Higher Income	56	63	59	64
Partisanship	Democratic	82	54	56	64
	Independent	77	56	63	52
	Republican	45	66	60	48

The proposal to allow all Texans to vote by mail for any reason (universal no-excuse absentee voting) is the most divisive of the four proposals in terms of the number of salient sub-group differences in support for it. Women (70%) are significantly more likely than men (60%) to support this proposal, just as Black (76%) and Latino (70%) Texans are more likely to do so than white Texans (59%). Gen-Z Texans (78%) are significantly more likely than Silent Generation/Baby Boomer Texans (61%) to support this proposal, just as lower income Texans (70%) are notably more likely to do so than are higher (56%) and middle (59%) income Texans. Finally, Democrats (85%) are substantially more likely than Republicans (45%) to support this universal no-excuse absentee voting legislation.

By and large, there are not any noteworthy differences in support for the proposal to establish closed party primaries in Texas, with one exception related to partisanship. Republicans (66%) are notably more likely than Democrats (54%) to support this reform.

Along with a modest ethnic/racial difference, the most noteworthy sub-group difference in support for the ban on countywide voting is generational. More than three-fourths (79%) of Gen-Z supports this ban compared to around one-half of the members of the oldest two cohorts.

Finally, there are notable differences in sub-group support for the proposal to allow voters to use their cell phones to consult information on the candidates while voting which revolve around generation, income, and partisanship. Four-fifths (80%) of Gen-Z believes voters should be able to use their cell phones for informational purposes while voting, more than double the proportion of the members of the Silent Generation/Baby Boomer cohort (36%) and also substantially more than the proportion of Gen-X Texans (52%) who support this legislation. Higher income Texans (64%) are significantly more likely to support this proposal than are middle income Texans (49%), just as Democrats (64%) are significantly more likely to support it than are Republicans (48%).

Table 6 contains the proportion of Texans who support four government institutional reform proposals, broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, generation, level of educational attainment, family income, and partisanship.

Table 6. Support for Four Government Institutional Reform Proposals Among Key Socio-Demographic Groups (%)

Socio-Demographic	Sub-Group	Criminalize ISD Involvement in Campaigns	Ban Taxpayer Funded Lobbying	Non-Partisan Judicial Elections	Independent Redistricting Commission
Overall		84	83	77	77
Gender	Women	82	82	76	75
	Men	87	84	75	79
Ethnicity/Race	White	86	87	73	78
	Latino	83	77	81	73
	Black	80	86	75	78
Generation	Silent/Boomer	89	91	73	72
	Generation X	83	84	75	80
	Millennial	81	82	80	77
	Generation Z	84	73	80	80
Education	High School	83	80	79	75
	Some College/2 Yr Degree	85	85	74	76
	4 Yr Degree/PostGrad	85	86	76	80
Income	Lower Income	87	86	78	74
	Middle Income	85	84	76	81
	Higher Income	81	80	80	78
Partisanship	Democratic	82	80	75	80
	Independent	87	82	74	76
	Republican	86	86	79	74

With one minor exception, there are not any noteworthy sub-group differences related to gender, race, generation, education, income and partisanship in support for these four proposals. For example, in regard to partisanship, while slightly more Republicans than Democrats support criminalizing the involvement of ISD personnel in campaigns (86% vs. 82%), banning taxpayer funding lobbying (86% vs. 80%) and switching from partisan judicial elections to a non-partisan selection process (79% vs. 75%), these differences are not significant. The same is true in regard to support for the proposal to create an independent redistricting commission in Texas, where slightly more Democrats (80%) than Republicans (74%) support this legislation.

The one minor exception is related to generation and support for a ban on taxpayer funded lobbying. Members of the Silent/Generation (91%) are significantly more likely to support this proposal than are members of Gen-Z (73%), although almost three-quarters of Gen-Z backs this legislation.

TRUST IN GOVERNMENTS AT FIVE LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT

The survey respondents were asked about their trust in government.

How much of the time do you think you can trust the following governments today to do what is right?

- *The U.S. federal government in Washington D.C.*
- *The Texas state government in Austin*
- *The county government in your county*
- *The city government in your city*
- *Your local Independent School District (ISD)*

The response options included most of the time, only some of the time, never, and don't know.

Table 7 provides the proportion of the respondents choosing each of the first three response options (the don't know responses, which averaged 7%, are excluded from the analysis).

Table 7. How Much of the Time Do Respondents Trust These Governments To Do What is Right (%)

Government	Most of the Time	Some of the Time	Never
Federal Government	19	54	27
Texas State Government	31	51	18
Respondent's County Government	32	55	13
Respondent's City Government	32	54	14
Respondent's ISD	31	55	14

With the exception of the federal government (which only 19% of Texans trust to do what is right most of the time), slightly less than one-third (ranging from 31% to 32%) of Texans trust these different levels of government to do what is right most of the time. Just over one-half of Texans (ranging from 51% to 55%) trust all five levels of government to do what is right at least some of the time. Finally, comparable proportions of Texans (between 13% and 18%) trust all of the governments except the federal government to never do what is right, with more than one in four Texans (27%) never trusting the federal government to do what is right.

Table 8 provides the proportion of Democrats, Independents, and Republicans who trust each of the five levels of government (federal, Texas, their county, their city, their ISD) to do what is right most of the time, some of the time, and never. The table reveals that in only one instance there is a significant partisan difference in regard to trust in these five levels of government, with that difference involving trust in the government of the State of Texas. Republicans (43%) are significantly more likely than Democrats (18%) to trust the Texas state government to do what is right most of the time, while Democrats (27%) are significantly more likely than Republicans (9%) to trust the Texas state government to never do what is right.

Table 8. Partisanship & the Amount of Time Texans Trust Governments To Do What is Right (%)

Level of Government	Partisanship	Most of the Time	Some of the Time	Never
Federal	Overall	18	54	27
	Democrat	21	62	17
	Independent	11	48	41
	Republican	20	49	31
State	Overall	31	51	19
	Democrat	18	55	27
	Independent	26	46	28
	Republican	43	48	9
County	Overall	32	55	13
	Democrat	32	56	12
	Independent	20	56	24
	Republican	37	53	10
City	Overall	32	54	14
	Democrat	33	55	12
	Independent	23	51	26
	Republican	34	55	11
Independent School District	Overall	31	55	14
	Democrat	37	55	8
	Independent	21	54	25
	Republican	30	54	16

Of note, even in the four most populous Democratic-run counties (Bexar, Dallas, Harris, Travis), Democrats and Republicans do not differ significantly in regard to the proportion who trust the county to what is right most of the time (34% vs. 35%, respectively), only some of the time (54% vs. 54%), and never (12% vs. 11%).

THE DIRECTION OF THE UNITED STATES AND OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

The survey respondents were asked their opinion on the direction of the United States and of Texas.

1. *Would you say that things in the United States are going in the right direction, or have they gotten off on the wrong track?*

- *Right Direction*
- *Off on the Wrong Track*

2. *Would you say that things in Texas are going in the right direction, or have they gotten off on the wrong track?*

- *Right Direction*
- *Off on the Wrong Track*

Figure 2 provides the proportion of Texans who believe that things in the United States are going in the right direction (39%) and the proportion who believe things are off on the wrong track (61%), along with the proportion who believe things in Texas are going in the right direction (54%) and the proportion who believe things are off on the wrong track (46%). While significantly more Texans believe things in the United States are off on the wrong track rather than headed in the right direction, a narrow majority believe things in Texas are headed in the right direction.

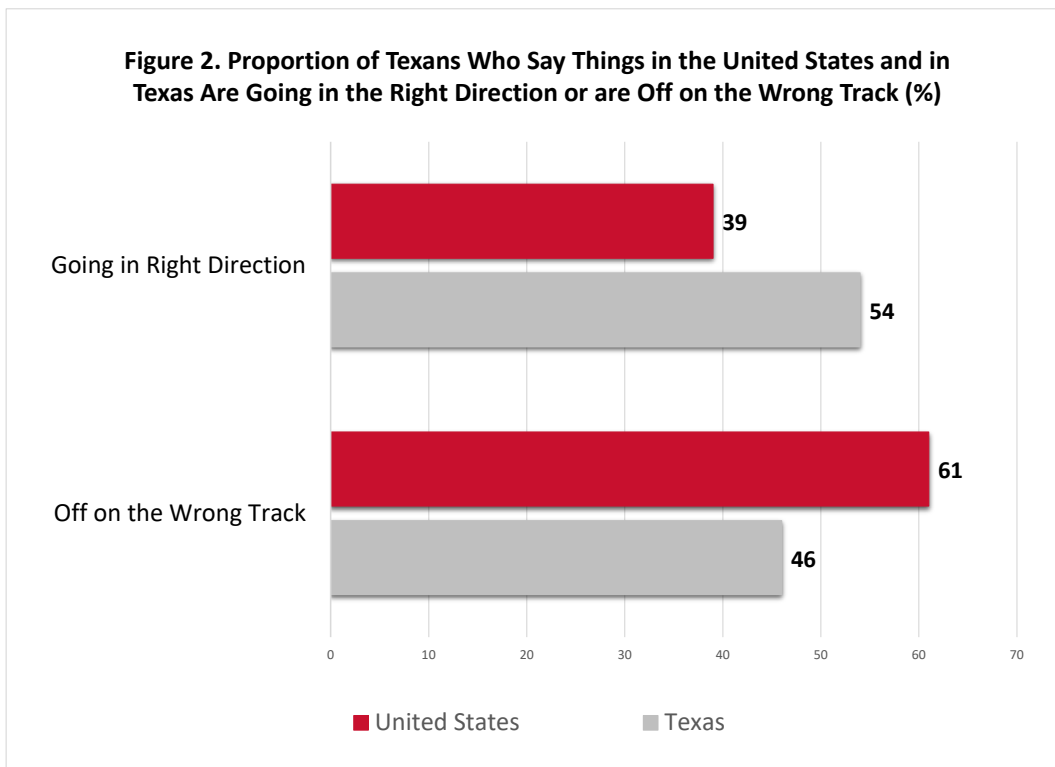


Table 9 contains the proportion of Texans who believe things in the United States and in Texas are headed in the right direction and are off on the wrong track, broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, generation, level of educational attainment, family income, and partisanship. There are significant sub-group differences related to gender, generation and partisanship, in contrast to a lack of notable sub-group differences revolving around ethnicity/race, education, and income.

Table 9. Proportion of Texans Who Believe the U.S. & Texas Are Headed in the Right Direction or Off on the Wrong Track Among Key Socio-Demographic Groups (%)

		United States		Texas	
Socio-Demographic	Sub-Group	Right Direction	Wrong Track	Right Direction	Wrong Track
Overall		39	61	54	46
Gender	Women	34	66	50	50
	Men	43	57	59	41
Ethnicity/Race	White	37	63	58	42
	Latino	41	59	53	47
	Black	42	58	50	50
Generation	Silent/Boomer	29	71	55	45
	Generation X	30	70	44	56
	Millennial	44	66	56	44
	Generation Z	54	46	63	37
Education	High School	39	61	54	46
	Some College/2 Yr Degree	32	68	49	51
	4 Yr Degree/PostGrad	43	57	60	40
Income	Lower Income	35	65	50	50
	Middle Income	39	61	59	41
	Higher Income	44	56	57	43
Partisanship	Democratic	33	67	36	64
	Independent	21	79	35	65
	Republican	50	50	76	24

Men are significantly more likely than women to believe that things in the United States (43% vs. 34%) and in Texas (59% vs. 50%) are headed in the right direction. Gen-Z Texans (54%) are significantly more likely than Texans belonging to the Silent Generation/Baby Boomer cohort (29%) to believe things in the United States are headed in the right direction, with, however the generational cohorts having comparable proportions who believe things in Texas are headed in the right direction (63% vs. 55%, respectively), although, Gen-Zs are notably more likely than Gen-X Texans (44%) to believe things in the Lone Star State are headed in the right direction.

Finally, Republicans (50%) are significantly more likely than Democrats (33%) to believe things in the United States are headed in the right direction. When the Hobby School asked likely voters this same question in October 2024, just 12% of Republicans said things in the United States were headed in the right direction, compared to 55% of Democrats. Three months later under a different presidential administration (i.e., Republican instead of Democratic), the proportion of Republicans who are bullish on conditions in the United States is up 38 percentage points while the proportion of bullish Democrats

is down by 22 percentage points. In regard to Texas, at the present time more than twice as many Republicans (76%) as Democrats (36%) believe things are headed in the right direction.

FAVORABLE & UNFAVORABLE EVALUATIONS OF 10 POLITICAL FIGURES

The respondents were asked:

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the following political figures, or, do you not know enough about them to have an opinion.

The (rotated) response options were:

- *Greg Abbott*
- *Colin Allred*
- *Dustin Burrows*
- *John Cornyn*
- *Ted Cruz*
- *Elon Musk*
- *Dan Patrick*
- *Ken Paxton*
- *Donald Trump*
- *JD Vance*

Table 10 provides the proportion of Texans who have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, and very unfavorable opinion of these 10 political figures, as well as the proportion who did not know enough about the political figure to have an opinion of them, one way or another.

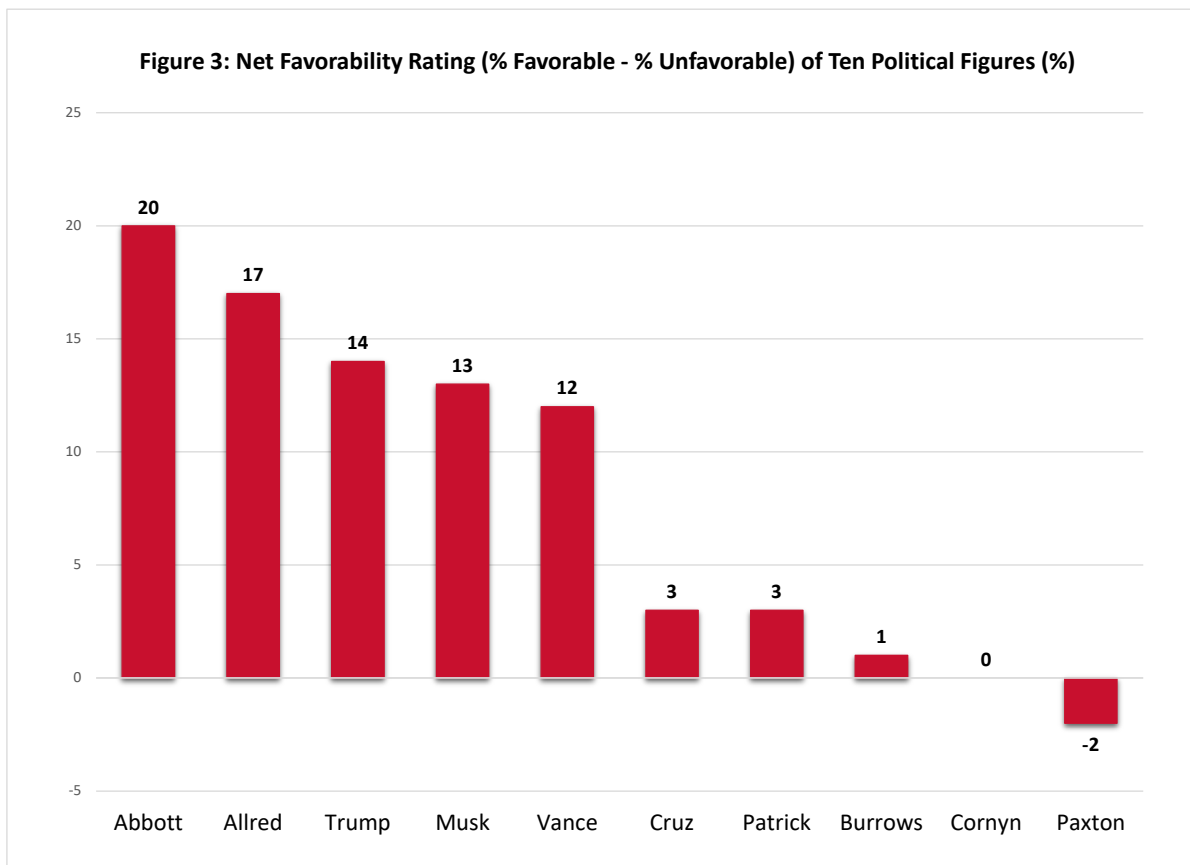
Table 10. Favorable & Unfavorable Evaluations of Political Figures (%)

Political Figure	Very Favorable	Somewhat Favorable	Very Unfavorable	Somewhat Unfavorable	Don't Know Enough
Donald Trump	38	17	8	33	4
Greg Abbott	31	25	9	27	8
Elon Musk	26	27	12	28	7
JD Vance	26	23	10	27	15
Ted Cruz	24	23	12	32	9
Colin Allred	19	29	11	20	21
Dan Patrick	15	21	11	22	31
Ken Paxton	14	22	12	26	26
John Cornyn	11	26	16	21	25
Dustin Burrows	5	14	10	8	63

More than half of Texans have a favorable opinion of Texas Governor Greg Abbott (56%), President Donald Trump (55%) and Elon Musk (53%), including 31%, 38% and 26% who have a very favorable opinion of them, respectively.

One-fourth or more of Texans do not know enough about U.S. Senator John Cornyn (25%), Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton (26%), Texas Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick (31%) and Texas House Speaker Dustin Burrows (63%) to have an opinion of them.

Figure 3 provides the net-favorability rating for these ten political figures. It is calculated by subtracting the proportion with an unfavorable evaluation (strong or somewhat) of the political figure from the proportion who has a favorable evaluation (strong or somewhat) of the political figure.



Five political figures have net favorability ratings in the positive double digits. They range from Abbott (+20%) and former Congressman and 2024 Democratic U.S. Senate nominee Colin Allred (+17%) to Musk (+13%) and Vice President JD Vance (+13%), with Trump (+14%) in between.

The remaining five political figures have net-favorability ratings which range from the highs of U.S. Senator Ted Cruz (+3%) and Patrick (+3%) to the lows of Cornyn (0%) and Paxton (-2%). While Burrows has a net favorability rating of +1%, it should be noted that 63% of Texans do not know enough about him to have an opinion.

Table 11 provides the proportion of Texans who have a favorable opinion of Abbott, Trump, Musk and Vance, broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, generation, level of educational attainment, family income, and partisanship.

Table 11. Proportion With a Favorable Evaluation of Abbott, Trump, Musk & Vance Among Key Socio-Demographic Groups (%)

Socio-Demographic	Sub-Group	Abbott	Trump	Musk	Vance
Overall		56	55	53	49
Gender	Women	53	52	47	43
	Men	58	58	59	54
Ethnicity/Race	White	61	62	60	56
	Latino	51	52	49	46
	Black	51	46	47	34
Generation	Silent/Boomer	59	59	56	58
	Generation X	53	53	48	42
	Millennial	52	52	48	47
	Generation Z	60	56	59	46
Education	High School	54	56	52	47
	Some College/2 Yr Degree	54	57	48	48
	4 Yr Degree/PostGrad	59	53	58	51
Income	Lower Income	52	55	50	43
	Middle Income	56	53	53	51
	Higher Income	61	59	59	56
Partisanship	Democratic	28	16	28	21
	Independent	40	45	38	31
	Republican	86	92	80	79

The most noteworthy sub-group differences in the proportion of sub-group members with a favorable opinion of these four political figures all revolve around partisanship. Republicans are significantly more likely than both Democrats and Independents to have a favorable evaluation of Abbott (86% vs. 28% and 40%, respectively), Trump (92% vs. 16% and 45%), Musk (80% vs. 28% and 38%), and of Vance (79% vs. 21% and 31%). The partisan gap between Republicans and Democrats is largest in evaluations of Trump (76 percentage points) and smallest in regard to Musk (62 percentage points).

Table 12 provides the proportion of Texans who have a favorable opinion of Allred, Cruz, Cornyn, Patrick, Paxton and Burrows, broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, generation, level of educational attainment, family income, and partisanship.

Table 12. Proportion With a Favorable Evaluation of Six Political Figures Among Key Socio-Demographic Groups (%)

Socio-Demographic	Sub-Group	Allred	Cruz	Cornyn	Patrick	Paxton	Burrows
Overall		48	47	37	36	36	19
Gender	Women	47	44	34	31	30	17
	Men	49	50	41	40	42	21
Ethnicity/Race	White	41	56	42	43	42	20
	Latino	50	41	31	29	32	17
	Black	61	36	42	31	24	25
Generation	Silent/Boomer	44	57	43	44	43	8
	Generation X	37	44	32	29	31	10
	Millennial	58	43	36	34	31	28
	Generation Z	52	36	37	44	35	30
Education	High School	50	46	35	31	33	15
	Some College/2 Yr Degree	41	43	32	34	33	15
	4 Yr Degree/PostGrad	51	51	43	43	41	27
Income	Lower Income	46	43	33	32	31	15
	Middle Income	52	50	39	36	40	17
	Higher Income	46	53	35	41	39	27
Partisanship	Democratic	68	18	25	19	17	18
	Independent	32	30	26	21	20	12
	Republican	31	79	53	56	58	23

The most noteworthy sub-group differences in the proportion of sub-group members with a favorable opinion of these political figures all revolve around partisanship. Republicans are significantly more likely than both Democrats and Independents to have a favorable evaluation of Cruz (79% vs. 18% and 30%, respectively), Cornyn (53% vs. 25% and 26%), Patrick (56% vs. 19% and 21%) and Paxton (58% vs. 17% and 20%). The partisan gap figures between Republicans and Democrats for these four political is largest in evaluations of Cruz (61 percentage points) and smallest in regard to Cornyn (28 percentage points).

Significantly more Democrats (68%) than Republicans (31%) and Independents (32%) have a favorable opinion of Allred. Due in large part to the fact that more than three-fifths of Texans do not know enough about Burrows to have an opinion of him, relatively comparable proportions of Republicans (23%), Democrats (18%) and Independents (12%) hold a favorable opinion of the new Speaker of the Texas House.

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RECOMMENDED CITATION

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