

Texas Voter Guide 2026

General election: Tuesday, November 3, 2026

I'm a Latina from California. My rule is simple: every fact carries its source, so you can check it and decide for yourself. Bracketed numbers [S#] refer to the source list at the end. Where I give my opinion, I say so.

This is **one statewide guide**: dates, ID, how to vote, every statewide race and statewide measure. For local and district races (Congress, Legislature, county, school districts), check your sample ballot at **VoteTexas.gov** or your county elections office.

1. Key dates

What	Date	Source
Last day to register	Monday, Oct. 5, 2026 (passed)	[S1]
In-person early voting	Monday, Oct. 19 - Friday, Oct. 30, 2026	[S1] [S3]
Last day to <i>apply</i> for a mail ballot (must be received , not postmarked)	Friday, Oct. 23, 2026	[S1]
Election Day	Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026, 7:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.	[S5]
Mail ballot receipt deadline	Nov. 3 at 7:00 p.m. (not postmarked), or Wednesday, Nov. 4 at 5:00 p.m. if postmarked by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day	[S1]

Early-voting hours. During early voting you may vote at *any* early-voting location in your county [S3]. The main location is open at least 9 hours each weekday; in the last week (Oct. 26–30) at least 12 consecutive hours. Saturday Oct. 24 at least 12 hours; Sunday Oct. 25 at least 6 hours. Never before 6 a.m. or after 10 p.m. (Sunday not before 9 a.m.) [S2]. Each county posts exact hours — check VoteTexas.gov.

On Election Day, if your county uses vote centers (Countywide Polling Place Program) you can vote at any center in the county; otherwise you must vote at your assigned precinct [S5].

2. ID to vote in person

Bring **one** of these seven photo IDs [S4]: Texas driver license (DPS); Texas Election Identification Certificate (DPS); Texas personal ID card (DPS); Texas handgun license (DPS); U.S. military ID with photo; U.S. citizenship certificate with photo; U.S. passport (book or card).

- Ages 18–69: ID may be expired **up to 4 years**. Age 70+: expired any length of time if otherwise valid. The citizenship certificate does not expire [S4].

- **If you don't have and can't reasonably obtain** one, you can sign a *Reasonable Impediment Declaration* at the polls and show a supporting document: voter registration certificate, utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, other government document with your name and address, or a certified birth certificate [S4].

3. Voting by mail

In Texas, mail voting is **only** for voters who [S6]: are 65+ on Election Day; are sick or disabled; expect to give birth within three weeks before or after Election Day; will be absent from their county for all of early voting and Election Day; are civilly committed (Ch. 841, Health & Safety Code); or are in jail but otherwise eligible.

On both the application **and** the carrier envelope you must write **one** number: your DPS driver license, personal ID, or EIC number; or, if you have none, the last 4 digits of your Social Security number — **not** your voter VUID [S7]. A helper's name, address and signature must be on the envelope [S7]. Applications had to be *received* by Oct. 23, 2026 [S1].

4. Statewide races on your ballot

Official candidate source: Texas Secretary of State sample ballot [S8]. (R) Republican · (D) Democrat · (L) Libertarian · (G) Green.

Where conservative groups stand. I list an endorsement only when I found it published by the group itself (or, where noted, in news coverage). All (R) candidates are the **Republican Party of Texas** nominees. "TRL" = Texas Right to Life PAC [S11]; "TLR" = Texans for Lawsuit Reform PAC [S12][S13]; "TVA" = Texas Values Action [S14]; "NRA" = NRA-PVF [S15].

Office	Candidates	Published conservative endorsements
U.S. Senate	Ken Paxton (R) · James Talarico (D) · Ted Brown (L)	Paxton: NRA-PVF "A" rating and endorsement [S15]; TVA "recommends" Paxton [S14]. Per The Texas Tribune, also endorsed by Donald Trump, Ted Cruz, Texas Farm Bureau, National Border Patrol Council and NFIB [S16]. <i>TRL's 2026 general-election list does not include him</i> [S11].
Governor	Greg Abbott (R) · Gina Hinojosa (D) · Pat Dixon (L)	Abbott: TRL [S11], TLR [S13], TVA [S14]
Lieutenant Governor	Dan Patrick (R) · Vikki Goodwin (D) · Anthony Cristo (L) · Kevin McCormick (G)	Patrick: TRL, TLR, TVA
Attorney General	Mayes Middleton (R) · Nathan Johnson (D) · Tom Oxford (L)	Middleton: TRL, TVA
Comptroller	Don Huffines (R) · Sarah Eckhardt (D) · V. Alonzo	Huffines: TRL, TVA

Office	Candidates	Published conservative endorsements
	Echavarria-Garza (L) · Shehla Faizi (G)	
Land Commissioner	Dawn Buckingham (R) · Benjamin Flores (D) · Neill Snider (L)	Buckingham: TRL, TLR, TVA
Agriculture Commissioner	Nate Sheets (R) · Clayton Tucker (D) · Austin R. Kelly (L)	Sheets: TRL, TVA
Railroad Commissioner (regulates oil & gas)	Bo French (R) · Jon Rosenthal (D) · Arthur DiBianca (L)	French: TVA
Supreme Court, Chief Justice	Jimmy Blacklock (R) · Maggie Ellis (D)	Blacklock: TRL, TLR, TVA
Supreme Court, Place 2 (unexpired)	James P. Sullivan (R) · Chari Kelly (D)	Sullivan: TLR, TVA
Supreme Court, Place 7	Kyle Hawkins (R) · Kristen Hawkins (D)	Kyle Hawkins: TVA; TLR also endorses him (its page labels him "Place 3"; the official ballot says Place 7)
Supreme Court, Place 8	Brett Busby (R) · Gisela D. Triana (D)	Busby: TLR, TVA
Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 3	Thomas Smith (R) · Okey Anyiam (D) · Mark Ash (L)	Smith: TRL, TVA
Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 4	Kevin Patrick Yeary (R) · Audra Riley (D)	Yeary: TRL, TVA
Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 9	John Messinger (R) · Holly Taylor (D)	Messinger: TRL, TVA
15th Court of Appeals, Chief Justice	Scott Brister (R) · Jerry Zimmerer (D)	Brister: TLR, TVA
15th Court of Appeals, Place 2	Scott K. Field (R) · Tom Baker (D)	Field: TLR
15th Court of Appeals, Place 3	April Farris (R) · Marc M. Meyer (D)	Farris: TLR

I found no published Texas State Rifle Association or LIBRE Initiative endorsements in these races, so none are listed.

5. Statewide measures / constitutional amendments

There are no statewide constitutional amendments or propositions on the Nov. 3, 2026 ballot. The Secretary of State's page for this election lists no amendment proclamation [S9], the statewide sample ballot has no propositions [S8], and the Texas Legislative Council's latest

amendment analyses are for the Nov. 4, **2025** election [S10]. There may be **local** propositions — check your county sample ballot.

6. Talarico vs. Paxton: what the record shows

James Talarico (D) is a state representative and former middle-school teacher in San Antonio [S16]. Ken Paxton (R) has been Texas attorney general since 2015 and previously served in the Legislature [S16].

Cost of living and taxes

- **Talarico** voted **for** 2023's SB 2 (2nd called session), the property-tax relief bill, which passed 133–4 (Record 31) [S27]. His site says he'll "cut taxes for working people, cap credit card interest rates" and lower costs "by making billionaires and giant corporations pay their fair share" [S18]. He calls for repealing Trump's tariffs [S16].
- **Paxton** calls himself "a strong fiscal conservative who will fight to cut taxes and stop the wasteful spending" [S23]. In April 2025 he said he "fully support[s]" President Trump's tariffs [S16].
- **Federal gas tax:** both want it ended — temporarily under Talarico, permanently under Paxton [S24].

Energy and electric bills

- **Talarico:** "all-of-the-above" strategy protecting oil and gas jobs while growing wind, solar, geothermal; make data centers pay for their own infrastructure; expand LIHEAP [S19][S24]. In 2021 he authored a bill to cut emissions 90% below 1990 levels by 2050 [S24].
- **Paxton:** "remove harmful regulations designed to hurt our energy companies" [S23]; as AG repeatedly sued the EPA over air and emissions rules [S24]. Supports making data centers pay their own infrastructure costs and ending their state sales-tax breaks; in 2013, as a state senator, he voted for that exemption, per The Texas Tribune [S24].

Border and immigration

- **Paxton:** "help President Trump finish the border wall" and deport "criminal illegal aliens"; says he sued the Biden administration more than 100 times [S23]. Called Big Bend wall construction "not smart border security" [S16]. Endorsed by the National Border Patrol Council [S16].
- **Talarico:** more Border Patrol agents and immigration judges, X-ray tech at ports of entry, prioritize deporting criminals, gang members and traffickers, ban masked ICE agents, and a path to citizenship for long-term residents, spouses and DREAMers [S17].
- **Recorded vote:** in 2025 Talarico voted **against** SB 8, requiring certain sheriffs to enter agreements with ICE; it passed 86–47 (Record 3502) [S26].

Schools and school choice

- **Talarico** voted **against** 2025's SB 2, creating education savings accounts (vouchers); it passed 86–61 (Record 300) [S25]. He voted **for** 2025's HB 2 (school finance), which passed 142–5 (Record 303) [S25]. His site says he "led the fight against private school vouchers" [S20].
- **Paxton:** I found no school-voucher proposal of his own on his campaign site; it speaks of protecting "parental rights" [S23]. (Note: the "Paxton" listed as an SB 2 author is state Sen. Angela Paxton, not Ken Paxton.)

Faith and family

- **Paxton:** as AG defended SB 10 (Ten Commandments in classrooms) before the Fifth Circuit, calling the ruling "a major victory for Texas and our moral values" [S31]. His campaign says he will "defend the unborn" [S23].
- **Talarico:** describes himself as a Christian and Presbyterian seminarian [S21]. Voted **against** SB 10 (passed 82–46, Record 3503) [S26]. Supports codifying *Roe v. Wade*, expanding the Child Tax Credit and paid family leave [S21]. Says he does "not support gender reassignment surgery for minors" [S16].

Public safety

- **Talarico:** "protect the Second Amendment while passing universal background checks"; passed a bill putting Narcan on school campuses; opposed permitless carry; supports legal adult marijuana [S22].
- **Paxton:** NRA "A" rating; opposes "universal" background checks [S15].

Also worth knowing (fair to both)

- **Paxton:** the Texas House impeached him in May 2023, with more than 70% of House Republicans voting to impeach [S28]. The Texas Senate **acquitted** him on all 16 articles on Sept. 16, 2023; no article reached the 21 votes needed [S29]. In his 2015 securities-fraud case, in March 2024 he accepted a pretrial intervention deal — 100 hours of community service, ethics courses, about \$271,000 restitution — **without entering a plea** [S30]. He has not been convicted of any crime.
- **Talarico:** The Texas Tribune reported in 2026 that megadonors and dark-money groups are boosting his anti-billionaire campaign, and that he reversed his position on trans athletes in girls' sports [S16].
- **Fundraising** (Texas Tribune, as of July 31): Talarico \$68.6M; Paxton \$14.3M [S16].

Polls among Hispanic voters

UT/Texas Politics Project: Talarico 54%, Paxton 41% among Latinos [S32]. ReconMR (Oct. 5–8): Talarico 50%, Paxton 41% among Hispanics [S33]. Cook Political Report/TelevisaUnivision (Sept.), per USA Today: 63%–30% [S34]. Polls aren't results — your vote is.

7. What happened in California

Official data. Conclusions are mine and labeled as opinion.

Indicator	California	Texas	Source
Regular gasoline, weekly avg. (Oct. 12, 2026)	\$6.104/gal	\$3.779/gal	EIA [S35][S36]
Residential electricity, July 2026	33.61¢/kWh	15.88¢/kWh	EIA [S37]
Median owner-occupied home value (2020–24)	\$734,700	\$283,800	Census [S38]
Median gross rent (2020–24)	\$2,036	\$1,403	Census [S38]
Price level (2024; U.S. = 100)	110.7	97.1	BEA [S40]
Supplemental Poverty Measure (accounts for housing costs), 2022–24 avg.	17.7% , among the highest	—	Census [S41]
Net domestic migration, Apr. 2020–Jul. 2025	–1,691,867	+812,735	Census [S39]
Population 2020 → 2025	39.56M → 39.36M (–0.5%)	29.15M → 31.71M (+8.8%)	Census [S38][S39]
State income tax	1%–12.3% (9.3% from \$72,724, single)	Banned by Texas Constitution	FTB [S42]; HJR 38 [S43]
State sales tax	7.25%	6.25%	CDTFA [S45]; Comptroller [S44]
Building permits, 2025	103,856	210,217	Census [S38]

Also true (so no one feels misled): median household income is higher in California (\$99,122 vs. \$78,476) and *official* poverty is lower (11.8% vs. 13.4%); and in Texas 19.2% of people under 65 lack health insurance vs. 6.9% in California [S38].

One-party rule. In California, Democrats hold 30 of 40 state Senate seats, 60 of 80 Assembly seats and the governorship [S46]. Texas is the mirror image: Republicans control the Legislature and governorship [S46], and no Democrat has won statewide since 1994 [S47]. *My opinion:* when a party doesn't have to compete, it stops being accountable — in any state. Check each candidate's record, not just the party label.

California, "sanctuary state": what the law does and doesn't do

- SB 54 (California Values Act) **bars state and local police** from using resources to enforce federal immigration law, with narrow exceptions [S48][S49].
- But in California Attorney General Rob Bonta's own words, SB 54 does **not** "prevent federal agencies from conducting immigration enforcement themselves" [S48].
- **What happened:** on June 6, 2025, ICE began raids across Los Angeles "at locations like Home Depot, a donut shop, and a clothing wholesaler," per a federal court [S50]. On Sept. 8, 2025, the U.S. Supreme Court stayed a court order limiting those stops in the L.A. area [S51]. In January 2026 the Los Angeles Times reported daily immigration operations documented across the city, from Boyle Heights to downtown [S52].

My opinion, as a Latina from California: for years our leaders talked "sanctuary." The actual law only limits local police; it doesn't stop ICE. Many families believed they were protected, and they weren't. Before you vote in Texas, ask every candidate what they can actually deliver.

Voter rolls (October 2026): on Oct. 15 the Justice Department sued California, alleging that more than 20,000 "likely noncitizens" (per a DHS analysis) are registered to vote and are mailed ballots, and that the state did not review the list in time [S59][S60]. California's Secretary of State says it was given 48 hours, the list was not provided to her office, and the federal government did not explain its methodology [S61]. These are allegations in a lawsuit; no court has ruled.

8. DataRepublican's findings

[@DataRepublican](#) (datarepublican.com) is a conservative analyst who publishes tools on federal funding networks to NGOs. **What follows is her analysis**, linked; I checked what I could against the primary record and marked it. Her interpretations are hers, not established fact.

1. **Southwest border crossings.** DataRepublican: monthly encounters fell 96%, from 301,981 in Dec. 2023 to 12,242 in Aug. 2026 ([post](#); [page](#)). ✓ **Verified** against CBP's Southwest Land Border Encounters file (FY23-FY26, August): Dec. 2023 = 301,981; Aug. 2026 = 12,242 (−95.9%) [S54]. Note: CBP's Jan. 2024 release gave 302,034 for Dec. 2023; CBP figures get revised [S55].
 2. **Texas-based unaccompanied-minor shelter networks.** Her Mass Migration Explorer traces federal money to networks including Southwest Key and BCFS ([post](#)). ✓ **Verified** on USAspending.gov: Southwest Key Programs (Austin) received HHS Administration for Children and Families grants such as 90ZU0456, \$404.6M (Nov. 2022-Jul. 2025); BCFS Health and Human Services received e.g. 90ZU0334, \$438.3M (Feb. 2020-Jul. 2024) [S56]. **To be fair:** USAspending shows large awards to these same organizations under administrations of both parties (e.g., 2014–2018 and 2017–2020) [S56].
 3. **FEMA migrant-shelter money in Texas.** She added Shelter and Services Program funds, including El Paso County contracts ([post](#)). ✓ **Verified** on FEMA.gov: FY2024 SSP-A Round 1 allocations included El Paso County \$4,542,014, City of El Paso \$2,042,014, Catholic Charities of San Antonio \$10,877,226, Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley \$7,421,965, among others [S57]. El Paso County Commissioners Court's Apr. 14, 2025 agenda included terminating three SSP grants [S58].
 4. **Her "1,275 organizations" and "150 awards (\$537M) terminated since Jan. 20, 2025"** ([post](#)): ✗ **Not independently verified** (requires her full dataset).
 5. Her June 2025 spreadsheet on federal awards and anti-ICE protests: she herself notes those links "have not been verified" ([post](#)). I don't use it as evidence of anything.
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9. Before you vote

- Check your registration and polling place at **VoteTexas.gov**.
- Bring your photo ID.
- For local races, use your county sample ballot.

- Read the sources. Don't take my word for it: check it, then decide.

— @ArriannaLo · a Latina from California

Sources

- [S1] Texas Secretary of State, *Important Election Dates*: <https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/important-election-dates.shtml> — "First Day of Early Voting by Personal Appearance | Monday, October 19, 2026"; "Last Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail (Received, not Postmarked) | Friday, October 23, 2026"; "Last Day of Early Voting by Personal Appearance | Friday, October 30, 2026".
- [S2] SOS, *Early Voting Reminders* (PDF): <https://www.sos.texas.gov/elections/forms/early-voting-reminders.pdf> — "The main early voting location must be open for at least 12 consecutive hours each weekday of the last week of early voting"; "At least 6 consecutive hours the last Sunday of early voting".
- [S3] SOS, press release 16 Oct. 2026: <https://www.sos.state.tx.us/about/newsreleases/2026/101626.shtml> — "During early voting, Texans may cast their ballots at any early voting polling location in their county of registration."
- [S4] VoteTexas.gov, ID: <https://www.votetexas.gov/voting/need-id.html> — "for voters aged 18-69, the acceptable form of photo identification may be expired no more than four years".
- [S5] VoteTexas.gov, *Where*: <https://www.votetexas.gov/voting/where.html> — "Election Day voting hours are 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at all polling places statewide."
- [S6] VoteTexas.gov, mail-ballot eligibility: <https://www.votetexas.gov/voting-by-mail/eligibility-requirements.html> — "Voting by mail in Texas is limited to voters who are: 65 years of age or older on Election Day; Sick or disabled; ..."
- [S7] VoteTexas.gov, voting by mail: <https://www.votetexas.gov/voting-by-mail/> — "you must provide ONE of the following numbers on your ballot by mail application (ABBM) and your mail ballot carrier envelope".
- [S8] SOS, sample ballot 2026 (PDF): <https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/forms/2026-sample-ballot.pdf> — "United States Senator ... Ken Paxton ... James Talarico ... Ted Brown".
- [S9] SOS, general election page 2026: <https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/laws/2026-november-general-election.shtml> (lista proclamación, calendario, sample ballot; sin proclamación de enmiendas).
- [S10] Texas Legislative Council, publications: <https://tlc.texas.gov/publications> — latest analyses: "Analyses of Amendments, Nov. 4, 2025".
- [S11] Texas Right to Life PAC, *2026 General Election Endorsements* (6 Oct. 2026): <https://texasrighttolifepac.com/2026-general-election-endorsements/> — "Governor — Greg Abbott ... Attorney General — Mayes Middleton ...".
- [S12] TLR PAC, *Judicial Endorsements*: <https://tlrpac.org/judicial-endorsements/> — "Jimmy Blacklock — Texas Supreme Court, Chief Justice; James Sullivan — Place 2; Kyle Hawkins — Place 3; Brett Busby — Place 8"; "Scott Brister — Fifteenth Court of Appeals, Chief Justice".
- [S13] TLR PAC, *Statewide Endorsements*: <https://tlrpac.org/statewide-endorsements/> — "Greg Abbott Governor; Dan Patrick Lt. Governor; Dawn Buckingham Land Commissioner".

- [S14] Texas Values Action, *Endorsements*: <https://txvaluesaction.org/endorsements/> — "U.S. Senate – We recommend Ken Paxton"; "Railroad Commissioner – Bo French".
- [S15] NRA-PVF: <https://www.nrapvf.org/campaigns/2026/defeat-talarico/> — "'A' RATED & NRA ENDORSED"; "Paxton opposes so-called 'universal' background check systems".
- [S16] The Texas Tribune, Senate candidate Q&A (13 Oct. 2026): <https://www.texastribune.org/2026/10/13/talarico-paxton-texas-us-senate-2026-election-q-and-a/> — "Paxton has called the construction plans 'not smart border security'"; "I do not support gender reassignment surgery for minors"; "It's time to repeal these crazy tariffs."
- [S17] Talarico, immigration: <https://jamestalarico.com/issue/immigration-border-security/> — "Prioritize the deportation of criminals, gang members, and human traffickers"; "Ban ICE agents from wearing masks".
- [S18] Talarico, cost of living: <https://jamestalarico.com/issue/taxes-cost-of-living/> — "he'll cut taxes for working people, cap credit card interest rates".
- [S19] Talarico, energy: <https://jamestalarico.com/issue/energy-environment/> — "an all-of-the-above strategy that protects good-paying oil and gas jobs".
- [S20] Talarico, education: <https://jamestalarico.com/issue/public-education/> — "Led the fight against private school vouchers".
- [S21] Talarico, faith & family: <https://jamestalarico.com/issue/freedom-family-faith/> — "James Talarico is a Christian and a Presbyterian seminarian"; "codify Roe v. Wade".
- [S22] Talarico, public safety: <https://jamestalarico.com/issue/public-safety-justice/> — "protect the Second Amendment while passing universal background checks".
- [S23] Paxton, issues: <https://www.kenpaxton.com/issues> — "help President Trump finish the border wall"; "a strong fiscal conservative who will fight to cut taxes"; "defend the unborn".
- [S24] The Texas Tribune / Capital & Main, energy (18 Oct. 2026): <https://www.texastribune.org/2026/10/18/paxton-talarico-energy-prices-senate-race-texas/> — "both Talarico and Paxton have called for the end of the federal gas tax. The ban would be temporary under Talarico and permanent under Paxton."; "In 2013, he voted as a Texas state senator for data centers to receive the same sales tax exemptions".
- [S25] Texas House Journal, 89R, Day 46 (17 Apr. 2025): <https://journals.house.texas.gov/hjrn/89r/pdf/89RDAY46FINAL.PDF> — "SB 2 was passed by (Record 300): 86 Yeas, 61 Nays ... Nays — ... Talarico"; "HB 2 was passed by (Record 303): 142 Yeas, 5 Nays" (Talarico among Yeas). Historial: <https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=89R&Bill=SB2>
- [S26] Texas House Journal, 89R, Day 73 (25 May 2025): <https://journals.house.texas.gov/hjrn/89r/pdf/89RDAY73FINAL.PDF> — "SB 10, as amended, was passed by (Record 3503): 82 Yeas, 46 Nays"; "SB 8 was passed by (Record 3502): 86 Yeas, 47 Nays" (Talarico among Nays in both).
- [S27] Texas House Journal, 88(2), Day 6 (13 Jul. 2023): <https://journals.house.texas.gov/hjrn/882/pdf/88C2DAY06FINAL.PDF> — "SB 2 was passed by (Record 31): 133 Yeas, 4 Nays" (Talarico among Yeas).
- [S28] The Texas Tribune, acquittal (16 Sept. 2023): <https://www.texastribune.org/2023/09/16/ken-paxton-acquitted-impeachment-texas-attorney-general/> — "a stark contrast to the more than 70% of House Republicans who impeached the attorney general in May."
- [S29] Senado de Texas, news 20230916a: <https://senate.texas.gov/news.php?id=20230916a> — "Attorney General Ken Paxton was acquitted Saturday of all sixteen articles of impeachment"; "the 21 votes needed to remove Paxton from office".

- [S30] The Texas Tribune, agreement (26 Mar. 2024): <https://www.texastribune.org/2024/03/26/ken-paxton-plea-deal-securities-fraud-felony/> — "Paxton, who will not have to enter a plea under the terms of the agreement"; "The amount of restitution totals about \$271,000".
- [S31] Texas Office of the Attorney General, press release (21 Apr. 2026): <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/news/releases/attorney-general-ken-paxton-successfully-defends-sb-10-and-ensures-ten-commandments-are-displayed> — "This is a major victory for Texas and our moral values".
- [S32] UT/Texas Politics Project: <https://texaspolitics.utexas.edu/blog/latest-ut-texas-politics-poll-finds-historic-levels-of-competition-in-texas-midterm-elections> — "Latinos: Talarico 54%, Paxton 41%".
- [S33] ReconMR Texas Poll, 5–8 Oct. 2026 (PDF): <https://sri.siena.edu/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/TXP004-Crosstabs.pdf> — column "Hispanic": Paxton 41 %, Talarico 50 %.
- [S34] USA Today (19 Oct. 2026): <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/elections/2026/10/19/latinos-shifting-to-democrats-texas-talarico/92218492007/> — "Talarico was leading Paxton among Hispanic voters by 63% to 30%, according to a Cook Political Report/TelevisaUnivision poll".
- [S35] EIA, California: https://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/pet_pri_gnd_dcus_sca_w.htm — Regular, 10/12/26: 6.104.
- [S36] EIA, Texas: https://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/pet_pri_gnd_dcus_stx_w.htm — Regular, 10/12/26: 3.779.
- [S37] EIA, Electric Power Monthly, Table 5.6.A: https://www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly/epm_table_grapher.php?t=epmt_5_06_a — "California 33.61 ... Texas 15.88" (residential, July 2026).
- [S38] Census, QuickFacts CA/TX: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/CA,TX/HSG495224> — "Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2020-2024 | \$734,700 | \$283,800".
- [S39] Census, Vintage 2025 (CSV): <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/dataset/2020-2025/state/totals/NST-EST2025-ALLDATA.csv> — sum of DOMESTICMIG2020-2025: CA –1,691,867; TX +812,735.
- [S40] BEA, Regional Price Parities 2024 (table on FRED): <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/release/tables?eid=233639&rid=403> — "California ... Regional Price Parities: All Items | 110.720"; press release BEA: <https://bea.gov/news/2026/real-personal-consumption-expenditures-state-and-real-personal-income-state-2024>
- [S41] Census (sep. 2025): <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2025/09/spm-below-official-poverty-rate.html> — "Maine had one of the nation's lowest SPM poverty rates (6.7%) and California one of the highest (17.7%)."
- [S42] California FTB, schedules 2025 (PDF): <https://www.ftb.ca.gov/forms/2025/2025-540-tax-rate-schedules.pdf> — Schedule X: "72,724 ... 371,479 ... + 9.30%"; "742,953 AND OVER ... + 12.30%".
- [S43] Texas Legislature, HJR 38 (86R): <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/86R/billtext/html/HJ00038F.htm> — "The legislature may not impose a tax on the net incomes of individuals".
- [S44] Texas Comptroller: <https://comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/sales/> — "Texas imposes a 6.25 percent state sales and use tax".
- [S45] CDTFA: <https://www.cdtfa.ca.gov/taxes-and-fees/sales-use-tax-rates.htm> — "The statewide tax rate is 7.25%."
- [S46] NCSL, *2025 State & Legislative Partisan Composition* (PDF): https://documents.ncsl.org/wwwncsl/Elections/Legis_Control_2025_8.29.25.pdf — "California 120 40 30 10 80 60 19 ...

Dem Dem Dem"; "Texas ... Rep Rep Rep".

- [S47] The Texas Tribune (6 Nov. 2024): <https://www.texastribune.org/2024/11/06/texas-republicans-elections-2024-trump-cruz/> — "No Democrat has won statewide office in Texas since 1994".
- [S48] California Attorney General, statement: <https://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-bonta-president-cannot-bully-california-carrying-out-his-mass> — "SB 54 prohibits state and local law enforcement from using taxpayer funds to enforce federal immigration law, subject to several narrow exceptions." "Nor does it prevent federal agencies from conducting immigration enforcement themselves".
- [S49] California Attorney General, SB 54 guidance: <https://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/preparation-new-threats-california%E2%80%99s-immigrant-communities-attorney-general> — "Nothing in SB 54 prohibits a California law enforcement agency from investigating, detaining, or arresting individuals for criminal activity under state or federal law."
- [S50] *Newsom v. Trump*, U.S. District Court, N.D. Cal. (PDF): https://oag.ca.gov/system/files/attachments/press-docs/gov.uscourts.cand_450934.225.0_3.pdf — "On June 6, 2025, Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") began immigration raids across Los Angeles, at locations like Home Depot, a donut shop, and a clothing wholesaler."
- [S51] U.S. Supreme Court, *Noem v. Vasquez Perdomo*, 25A169 (8 Sept. 2025): https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/24pdf/25a169_5h25.pdf — "The application for stay ... is granted. The July 11, 2025 order entered by the United States District Court for the Central District of California ... is stayed".
- [S52] Los Angeles Times (29 Jan. 2026): <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2026-01-29/how-immigration-enforcement-tactics-have-changed-in-los-angeles> — "daily immigration operations are being documented across the city, from street corners in Boyle Heights to downtown L.A."
- [S53] DataRepublican: <https://x.com/DataRepublican/status/2107829546611245346> ; <https://x.com/DataRepublican/status/2110532212550471981> ; <https://x.com/DataRepublican/status/1932710646111699189> ; <https://datarepublican.com/migration-explorer/tour/>
- [S54] CBP, Southwest Land Border Encounters FY23–FY26 (August), CSV: <https://www.cbp.gov/sites/default/files/2026-09/sbo-encounters-fy23-fy26-aug.csv> (page: <https://www.cbp.gov/document/stats/southwest-land-border-encounters>).
- [S55] CBP, press release, Dec. 2023: <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/national-media-release/cbp-releases-december-2023-monthly-update> — "CBP's total encounters along the southwest border in December were 302,034."
- [S56] USAspending.gov (API `spending_by_award`, accessed 19 Oct. 2026): 90ZU0456 Southwest Key Programs Inc, \$404,574,848, 2022-11-01 to 2025-07-18, ACF; 90ZU0334 BCFS Health and Human Services, \$438,286,807, 2020-02-01 to 2024-07-31, ACF; 90ZU0148 Southwest Key, \$546,037,309, 2014-10-01 to 2018-09-29; 90ZU0224 BCFS, \$495,367,571, 2017-02-01 to 2020-01-31. See: https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_90ZU0456_075 and https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_90ZU0334_075
- [S57] FEMA, SSP-A FY24: <https://www.fema.gov/grants/preparedness/shelter-services-program/fy24-awards/ssp-a> — "El Paso County | El Paso County, TX | \$4,542,014".
- [S58] El Paso County, agenda 14 Apr. 2025: <https://epcounty.primegov.com/Public/CompiledDocument?compileOutputType=1&meetingTemplateId=1750> — "Notice of Termination of Federal Emergency Management Agency Shelter & Services Program (SSP) Grant Number EMW-2023-SP-05054 in the amount of \$15,759,143.00 ..."

- [S59] Justice Department (OPA), Oct. 15, 2026: <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-sues-state-california-over-voter-list> — "today filed a complaint against the State of California over its voter list after determining that more than 20,000 people who are likely aliens are registered to vote in California."
- [S60] Complaint, *United States v. California*, No. 2:26-cv-12025 (C.D. Cal.): <https://www.justice.gov/opa/media/1466286/dl> — "On October 13, 2026, the Federal Government provided a list of over 20,000"; "asked California to conduct its review by today at noon".
- [S61] California Secretary of State, PR26-127 (Oct. 14, 2026): <https://www.sos.ca.gov/administration/news-releases-and-advisories/2026-news-releases-and-advisories/california-secretary-state-shirley-n-weber-phd-issues-statement-response-us-department-justice-letter> — "The USDOJ gave SOS 48 hours to obtain the list, investigate, and take action"; "did not provide the list to our office"; "They refused and provided California with nothing."