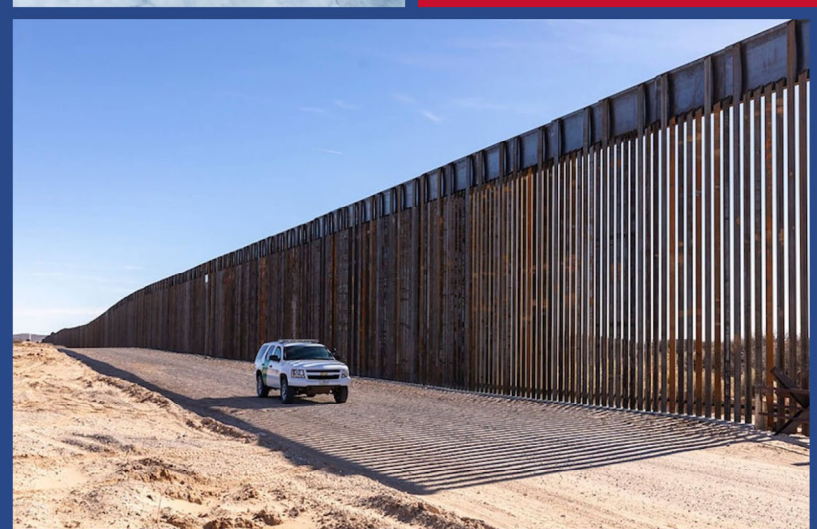




Texas 2022
Elections & Issues
Vote Intention

HOBBY
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON



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The Hobby School of Public Affairs at the University of Houston conducted an online survey of Texas registered voters to identify their preferences and opinions regarding 2022 primary candidates and policy issues. The survey was fielded between January 14 and 24, 2022 in English and Spanish, with 1,400 YouGov respondents who are registered to vote in Texas, resulting in a confidence interval of +/-2.2%. The respondents were matched to a sampling frame on gender, age, race/ethnicity, presidential vote history, and education and are representative of the population of Texas registered voters.

The results of the survey will be presented in a series of reports. This report examines the vote intention of Texans for the 2022 Republican and Democratic primaries and for the 2022 general election (governor).

Survey Population Demographics

Whites account for 52% of the survey population of registered voters, Latinos 32%, Blacks 12%, and others 4%. Women account for 53% of the population and men for 47%. In regard to generations, 36% of the population belongs to the combined Silent Generation (born between 1928-1945) and Baby Boomers (1946-1964) cohort, 26% to Generation X (Gen X) (1965-1980), and 38% to the combined Millennial (1981-1996) generation and Generation Z (1997-2012) cohort. The highest level of educational attainment of the respondents ranges from high school or less (29%), to some college or a two-year degree (32%) to a four-year degree or postgraduate degree (39%). Slightly more than two-fifths of the population identifies as Republican (42%) and as Democrat (42%), with 16% identifying as Independent. In the 2020 presidential election, 46% of the respondents voted for Donald Trump, 41% voted for Joe Biden, 2% voted for other candidates, and 12% did not vote. Among those who cast a ballot in 2020, 52% voted for Trump, 46% for Biden and 2% for other candidates.

The Republican Primary

This section examines the vote intention of Texas registered voters who indicated that they planned to vote in the 2022 Texas Republican primary. It provides a snapshot of the preferences of Republican primary voters approximately four weeks before in-person early voting begins (February 14) and approximately six weeks before election day (March 1).

Two populations are examined throughout the analysis. The first is all primary voters (every respondent who indicated they planned to vote in the Republican primary). The second is primary voters who indicated they were “almost certain” to vote in the 2022 Republican primary, that is, the most likely group of Republican primary voters.

More than two-thirds (70%) of the Republican primary voters (all primary voters) are white, with 21% Latino, 4% Black and 5% other. Women account for 52% of the GOP primary voters and men 48%. Close to half (48%) belong to the Silent Generation/Baby Boomer cohort, with the remainder split evenly

between Generation X (26%) and the Millennial/Generation Z cohort (26%). Nine out of ten (90%) of these GOP primary voters identify as Republican, 8% as Independent and 2% as Democrat.

Gubernatorial Primary

Table 1 provides the vote intention for all primary voters and almost certain primary voters for the 2022 Republican gubernatorial primary. The eight candidates on the primary ballot are Greg Abbott, Allen B. West, Don Huffines, Rick Perry (someone with the same name as the former governor), Chad Prather, Danny Harrison, Kandy Kaye Horn, and Paul Belew.

Table 1: The 2022 Republican Gubernatorial Primary

Candidates	All Primary Voters (%)	Almost Certain Primary Voters (%)
Greg Abbott	58	62
Allen B. West	11	14
Don Huffines	7	7
Rick Perry	3	2
Chad Prather	2	2
Danny Harrison	1	0
Kandy Kaye Horn	1	0
Paul Belew	0	0
Don't Know/Unsure	17	13

Almost three-fifths (58%) of all primary voters indicated they intend to vote for Abbott, followed by 11% for West, 7% for Huffines, 3% for Perry, 2% for Prather and either 1% or 0% for the remaining three candidates. Almost one in five (17%) remained undecided.

Among the most likely (almost certain) GOP primary voters, Abbott’s vote intention rises to 62% (up 4%), followed by West with 14% (up 3%), Huffines with 7%, and the remaining candidates with between 2% and 0%. A little more than one out of ten (13%) of these voters remained undecided.

These results suggest at the present time Abbott is very well-positioned to win the Republican Party primary in the first round, with potentially more than two-thirds of the vote. In a separate question, 82% of all Republican primary voters and 86% of almost certain Republican primary voters indicated they would consider voting for Abbott in the Republican Primary compared to only 13% and 11% respectively who indicated they would never consider voting for Abbott (the remaining 5% and 3% respectively indicated they didn’t know enough about Abbott to have a position either way).

Lieutenant Governor Primary

Table 2 provides the vote intention for all primary voters and almost certain primary voters for the 2022 Republican lieutenant governor primary. The six candidates on the ballot are Dan Patrick, Daniel Miller, Aaron Sorrells, Zach Vance, Todd M. Bullis, and Tracye Bradford.

Table 2: The 2022 Republican Lieutenant Governor Primary

Candidates	All Primary Voters (%)	Almost Certain Primary Voters (%)
Dan Patrick	52	61
Daniel Miller	4	4
Aaron Sorrells	3	1
Zach Vance	2	1
Todd M. Bullis	2	1
Trayce Bradford	1	1
Don't Know/Unsure	36	31

Among all primary voters, Patrick's vote intention is 52% followed by Miller (4%) and Sorrells (3%), with the remaining candidates at 2% or 1%, and 36% undecided.

Among the most likely (almost certain) GOP primary voters, Patrick's vote intention rises to 61% (up 9%), with his next closest rival (Miller) at 4%, and all of the other candidates at 1% (with 31% undecided).

These results suggest at the present time Patrick is a virtual lock to win the Republican primary in the first round, with potentially more than four-fifths of the vote.

Attorney General Primary

Table 3 provides the vote intention for all primary voters and almost certain primary voters for the 2022 Republican attorney general primary. The four candidates on the ballot are Ken Paxton, George P. Bush, Louie Gohmert, and Eva Guzman.

Table 3: The 2022 Republican Attorney General Primary

Candidates	All Primary Voters (%)	Almost Certain Primary Voters (%)
Ken Paxton	39	44
Louie Gohmert	13	15
George P. Bush	16	13
Eva Guzman	8	7
Don't Know/Unsure	24	21

Almost two-fifths (39%) of all primary voters indicated they intend to vote for Paxton, followed by Bush (16%), Gohmert (13%) and Guzman (8%), with one in four (24%) undecided.

Among the most likely (almost certain) GOP primary voters, Paxton’s vote intention rises to 44% (up 5%) and Gohmert’s rises to 15% (up 2%), while Bush’s falls to 13% (down 3%) and Guzman’s falls to 7% (down 1%), with one in five (21%) undecided.

These results suggest that, at least at the present time, Paxton is positioned to surpass the 50% threshold needed to avoid a May 24 runoff. In a separate question, 64% of all Republican primary voters and 71% of almost certain Republican primary voters indicated they would consider voting for Paxton, compared to only 14% and 11% respectively who indicated they would never consider voting for Paxton (the remaining 22% and 18% respectively indicated they did not know enough about Paxton to have a position either way). As a point of comparison, 40% and 37% of all and almost certain primary voters indicated they would consider voting for Bush, proportions that were not all that different from the proportion who indicated they would never consider voting for Bush (32% and 37%, respectively). These latter proportions underscore the notably greater antipathy (would never consider voting for) towards Bush among GOP primary voters (all, almost certain) compared to Paxton (14%, 11%), Gohmert (12%, 10%), and Guzman (15%, 16%).

Comptroller Primary

Table 4 provides the vote intention for all primary voters and almost certain primary voters for the 2022 Republican comptroller primary. The two candidates on the ballot are Glenn Hegar and Mark V. Goloby.

Table 4: The 2022 Republican Comptroller Primary

Candidates	All Primary Voters (%)	Almost Certain Primary Voters (%)
Glenn Hegar	28	34
Mark V. Goloby	8	5
Don't Know/Unsure	64	61

While more than three-fifths of all primary voters (64%) and almost certain primary voters (61%) are undecided, among those with a preference, Hegar’s vote intention is between three (28% vs. 8%) and six (35% vs. 5%) times greater than that of Goloby among all and almost certain GOP primary voters respectively. The results suggest that Hegar is well-positioned to win by a large margin on March 1.

General Land Commissioner Primary

Table 5 provides the vote intention for all primary voters and almost certain primary voters for the 2022 Republican general land commissioner primary. The eight candidates on the ballot in this open race (the only statewide executive contest where the incumbent is not running for re-election) are Dawn Buckingham, Jon Spiers, Victor Avila, Weston Martinez, Rufus Lopez, Tim Westley, Don W. Minton, and Ben Armenta.

Table 5: The 2022 Republican General Land Commissioner Primary

Candidates	All Primary Voters (%)	Almost Certain Primary Voters (%)
Dawn Buckingham	4	5
Jon Spiers	3	3
Victor Avila	4	2
Weston Martinez	3	2
Rufus Lopez	3	1
Tim Westley	2	1
Don W. Minton	1	1
Ben Armenta	0	1
Don't Know/Unsure	80	84

Four-fifths of all primary voters (80%) and almost certain primary voters (84%) were still unsure about how they would vote in this race as of the second half of January. Among the eight candidates none had a vote intention that surpassed 5% among either all primary voters or almost certain primary voters. These results suggest that this race is all but guaranteed to go to a May 24 runoff.

Agriculture Commissioner Primary

Table 6 provides the vote intention for all primary voters and almost certain primary voters for the 2022 Republican agriculture commissioner primary. The three candidates on the ballot are: Sid Miller, James White, and Carey A. Council.

Table 6: The 2022 Republican Agriculture Commissioner Primary

Candidates	All Primary Voters (%)	Almost Certain Primary Voters (%)
Sid Miller	34	41
James White	7	5
Carey A. Council	4	1
Don't Know/Unsure	55	53

Among all primary voters Miller's vote intention is 34%, almost five times that of White (7%) and more than eight times that of Council (4%). More than one-half (55%) of all primary voters remained undecided however.

Among the all but certain primary voters Miller’s vote intention rises to 41% (up 7%) while White’s falls to 5% (down 2%) and Council’s falls to 1% (down 3%). Once again, more than half (53%) of the almost certain primary voters remained undecided.

While a large proportion of GOP primary voters remained undecided in this race, these data suggest, at least at the present time, that Miller is well-positioned to win the primary outright in the first round on March 1, most likely by a very large margin.

Railroad Commissioner Primary

Table 7 provides the vote intention for all primary voters and almost certain primary voters for the 2022 Republican railroad commissioner primary. The five candidates on the ballot are Wayne Christian, Sarah Stogner, Marvin “Sarge” Summers, Tom Slocum Jr., and Dawayne Tipton.

Table 7: The 2022 Republican Railroad Commissioner Primary

Candidates	All Primary Voters (%)	Almost Certain Primary Voters (%)
Wayne Christian	9	10
Sarah Stogner	5	5
Marvin "Sarge" Summers	5	4
Tom Slocum Jr.	4	3
Dawayne Tipton	3	2
Don't Know/Unsure	74	76

Three-quarters of all primary voters (74%) and almost certain primary voters (76%) were still uncertain about how they would vote in this race. Among the quarter that did express a vote intention, Christian enjoyed more support than any other candidates, albeit at very low levels of 9% (all primary voters) and 10% (almost certain primary voters).

Along with the land commissioner primary, the railroad commissioner primary is the other statewide GOP primary contest that is extremely likely to go to a May 24 runoff.

The Democratic Primary

This section examines the vote intention of Texas registered voters who indicated that they planned to vote in the 2022 Texas Democratic primary. It provides a snapshot of the preferences of Democratic primary voters approximately four weeks before in-person early voting begins (February 14) and approximately six weeks before election day (March 1).

Two populations are examined throughout the analysis. The first is all primary voters (every respondent who indicated they planned to vote in the Democratic primary). The second is primary voters who indicated they were “almost certain” to vote in the 2022 Democratic primary, that is, the most likely group of Democratic primary voters.

Almost two-fifths (39%) of the Democratic primary voters are Latino, followed by whites (37%), Blacks (20%) and others (4%). Women account for 55% of the Democratic primary voters and men 45%. A little

more than two-fifths (43%) belong to the Millennial/Generation Z cohort, 25% to Generation X, and 32% belong to the Silent Generation/Baby Boomer cohort. More than nine out of ten (94%) of these Democratic primary voters identify as Democrat, 4% as Independent and 2% as Republican.

With the exception of the gubernatorial primary, a majority of Democratic primary voters (both all primary voters and almost certain primary voters) were unsure about for whom they would vote in the other statewide Democratic primaries, with undecided levels consistently in the range of 57% to 67%. This reflects the relative lack of familiarity among Democratic primary voters with all of their statewide candidates other than Beto O’Rourke.

While much could change between now and March 1, all indications are that the Democratic primaries for lieutenant governor, attorney general, general land commissioner, and railroad commissioner are on track to go to a May 24 runoff between the top two candidates from the first round. The same is quite possibly true for the comptroller race as well. Unlike the case for the Republican Party, there is no Democratic Party railroad commissioner primary, since Luke Warford was the only Democrat who filed.

Gubernatorial Primary

Table 8 provides the vote intention for all primary voters and almost certain primary voters for the 2022 Democratic gubernatorial primary. The five candidates on the primary ballot are Beto O’Rourke, Michael Cooper, Joy Diaz, Inocencio “Inno” Barrientez, and Rich Wakeland.

Table 8: The 2022 Democratic Gubernatorial Primary

Candidates	All Primary Voters (%)	Almost Certain Primary Voters (%)
Beto O'Rourke	73	82
Michael Cooper	4	2
Joy Diaz	3	2
Inocencio "Inno" Barrientez	3	2
Rich Wakeland	1	0
Don't Know/Unsure	16	12

O’Rourke’s vote intention was 73% among all primary voters and 82% among almost certain primary voters, with all of the other candidates’ vote intention ranging from 0% to 4%, and with 16% (all primary voters) and 12% (almost certain primary voters) undecided.

The results suggest, at least at the present time, that O’Rourke is on track to win more than four-fifths of the primary vote on March 1. This result is unsurprising, especially as O’Rourke is the most popular Democrat in Texas, with 60% of Texas Democrats having a very favorable view of him and 27% a somewhat favorable view, compared to only 8% who have an unfavorable view (5% somewhat unfavorable and 3% very unfavorable).

Lieutenant Governor Primary

Table 9 provides the vote intention for all primary voters and almost certain primary voters for the 2022 Democratic lieutenant governor primary. The three candidates on the primary ballot are Mike Collier, Carla Brailey, and Michelle Beckley.

Table 9: The 2022 Democratic Lieutenant Governor Primary

Candidates	All Primary Voters (%)	Almost Certain Primary Voters (%)
Mike Collier	21	24
Carla Brailey	10	10
Michelle Beckley	10	8
Don't Know/Unsure	59	58

Among all primary voters, Collier's vote intention was 21% followed by both Brailey and Beckley at 10% each. More than half (59%) of these primary voters remained undecided however.

Among almost certain primary voters, Collier's vote intention rose to 24% (up 3%), Brailey's stayed constant at 10% and Beckley's fell to 8% (down 2%). A similar 58% of these primary voters remained undecided.

Attorney General Primary

Table 10 provides the vote intention for all primary voters and almost certain primary voters for the 2022 Democratic attorney general primary. The five candidates on the primary ballot are Rochelle Mercedes Garza, Joe Jaworski, Lee Merritt, S. "T-Bone" Raynor, and Mike Fields.

Table 10: The 2022 Democratic Attorney General Primary

Candidates	All Primary Voters (%)	Almost Certain Primary Voters (%)
Rochelle Mercedes Garza	13	14
Joe Jaworski	10	12
Lee Merritt	7	7
S. "T-Bone" Raynor	6	4
Mike Fields	6	3
Don't Know/Unsure	57	60

Among all primary voters, Garza's vote intention was 13%, followed by Jaworski (10%), Merritt (7%), Raynor (6%), and Fields (6%). More than half (57%) of these primary voters remained undecided.

Among almost certain primary voters, Garza's vote intention rose to 14% (up 1%), Jaworski's rose to 12% (up 2%), Merritt's remained at 7%, Raynor's fell to 4% (down 2%) and Fields' fell to 3% (down 3%). Three out of five (60%) of these primary voters however still remained undecided.

Comptroller Primary

Table 11 provides the vote intention for all primary voters and almost certain primary voters for the 2022 Democratic comptroller primary. The three candidates on the primary ballot are Ángel Luis Vega, Janet T. Dudding, and Tim Mahoney.

Table 11: The 2022 Democratic Comptroller Primary

Candidates	All Primary Voters (%)	Almost Certain Primary Voters (%)
Ángel Luis Vega	18	18
Janet T. Dudding	11	10
Tim Mahoney	10	6
Don't Know/Unsure	61	66

Among all primary voters, Vega's vote intention was 18%, followed by Dudding (11%) and Mahoney (10%). More than three-fifths (61%) of these primary voters remained undecided.

Among almost certain primary voters, Vega's vote intention was 18%, followed by Dudding (10%) and Mahoney (6%). Almost two-thirds (66%) of these primary voters remained undecided.

General Land Commissioner Primary

Table 12 provides the vote intention for all primary voters and almost certain primary voters for the 2022 Democratic general land commissioner primary. The four candidates on the primary ballot are Sandragrace Martinez, Michael Lange, Jay Kleberg, and Jinny Suh.

Table 12: The 2022 Democratic General Land Commissioner Primary

Candidates	All Primary Voters (%)	Almost Certain Primary Voters (%)
Sandragrace Martinez	17	18
Michael Lange	8	6
Jay Kleberg	7	5
Jinny Suh	4	4
Don't Know/Unsure	64	67

Among all primary voters, Martinez's vote intention was 17%, followed by Lange (8%), Kleberg (7%), and Suh (4%). More than three-fifths (64%) of these primary voters remained undecided.

Among almost certain primary voters, Martinez's vote intention was 18%, followed by Lange (6%), Kleberg (5%), and Suh (4%). Two-thirds (67%) of these primary voters remained undecided.

Agriculture Commissioner Primary

Table 13 provides the vote intention for all primary voters and almost certain primary voters for the 2022 Democratic agriculture commissioner primary. The two candidates on the primary ballot are Susan Hays and Ed Ireson.

Table 13: The 2022 Democratic Agriculture Commissioner Primary

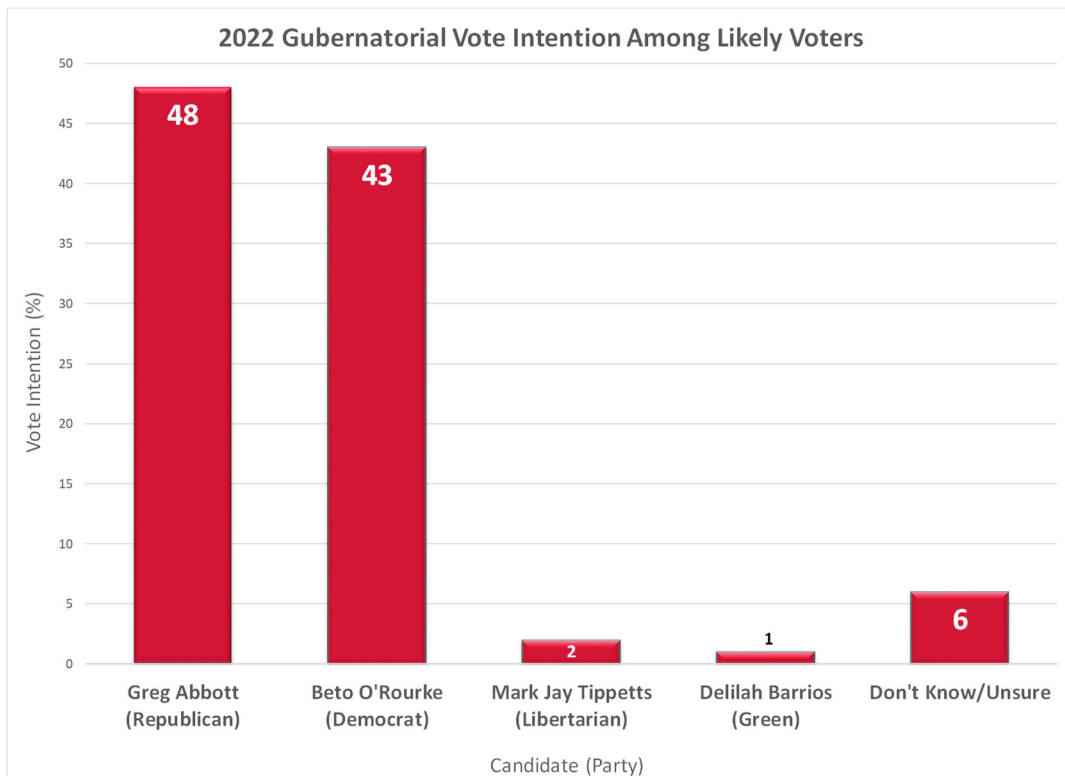
Candidates	All Primary Voters (%)	Almost Certain Primary Voters (%)
Susan Hays	27	28
Ed Ireson	10	5
Don't Know/Unsure	63	67

Among all primary voters, Hays' vote intention was 27% and Ireson's was 10%. More than three-fifths (63%) of these primary voters remained undecided.

Among almost certain primary voters, Hays' vote intention was 28% and Ireson's was 5%. Two-thirds (67%) of these primary voters remained undecided.

The November 2022 Gubernatorial Election

Figure 1 provides the vote intention of those registered voters who indicated that they are likely to vote in the November 2022 gubernatorial election. The four candidates expected to be on the November ballot are Greg Abbott (Republican Party), Beto O'Rourke (Democratic Party), Mark Jay Tippetts (Libertarian Party), and Delilah Barrios (Green Party).



Abbott’s vote intention was 48% while O’Rourke’s was 43%. Tippetts received the support of 2% of the likely voters and Barrios the support of 1%. A relatively small proportion of voters (6%) indicated that they remained undecided.

Table 14 provides the 2022 gubernatorial vote intention broken down by the ethnic/racial self-identification of the likely voter. More than half of white voters (57%) intend to vote for Abbott compared to 34% for O’Rourke, with 6% undecided, and 2% and 1% intending to vote for Tippetts and Barrios, respectively. Slightly more than half of Latino voters (51%) intend to vote for O’Rourke compared to 39% for Abbott, with 6% undecided, and 3% and 1% intending to vote for Barrios and Tippetts respectively. More than three-quarters (77%) of Black voters intend to vote for O’Rourke compared to 13% for Abbott, with 8% undecided and 1% intending to vote for both Barrios and for Tippetts.

Table 14: Ethnicity/Race and 2022 Gubernatorial Vote Intention (%)

Candidates	Total Population	Whites	Latinos	Blacks
Greg Abbott (Republican)	48	57	39	13
Beto O'Rourke (Democrat)	43	34	51	77
Mark Jay Tippetts (Libertarian)	2	2	1	1
Delilah Barrios (Green)	1	1	3	1
Don't Know/Unsure	6	6	6	8

Table 15 provides the 2022 gubernatorial vote intention broken down by the gender of the likely voter. O’Rourke (46%) enjoys a narrow advantage over Abbott (44%) among women while Abbott (51%) enjoys a more substantial advantage over O’Rourke (40%) among men. Slightly more women (8%) are undecided than men (5%).

Table 15: Gender and 2022 Gubernatorial Vote Intention (%)

Candidates	Total Population	Women	Men
Greg Abbott (Republican)	48	44	51
Beto O'Rourke (Democrat)	43	46	40
Mark Jay Tippetts (Libertarian)	2	1	3
Delilah Barrios (Green)	1	1	1
Don't Know/Unsure	6	8	5

Table 16 provides the 2022 gubernatorial vote intention broken down by the generation of the likely voter. Abbott’s (55%) vote intention among the Silent Generation/Baby Boomer cohort is notably greater than that of O’Rourke (39%). In contrast, O’Rourke’s (50%) vote intention among the Millennial/Generation Z cohort is notably greater than that of Abbott (36%). Abbott’s vote intention among Generation X likely voters is 48% compared to 43% for O’Rourke. The table also reveals that the lion’s share of Barrios’ support comes from younger voters.

Table 16: Generation and 2022 Gubernatorial Vote Intention (%)

Candidates	Total Population	Boomers/Silent	Gen-X	Millennials/Gen Z
Greg Abbott (Republican)	48	55	48	36
Beto O'Rourke (Democrat)	43	39	43	50
Mark Jay Tippetts (Libertarian)	2	1	2	3
Delilah Barrios (Green)	1	0	0	4
Don't Know/Unsure	6	5	7	7

Table 17 provides the 2022 gubernatorial vote intention broken down by the highest level of educational attainment of the likely voter. Abbott’s vote intention is higher than O’Rourke’s among those likely voters whose highest level of educational attainment is high school or less (48% vs. 43%) and some college or a two-year college degree (51% vs. 38%). O’Rourke’s vote intention is higher than Abbott’s among those likely voters whose highest level of educational attainment is a four-year college degree or a postgraduate degree (47% vs. 45%).

Table 17: Education and 2022 Gubernatorial Vote Intention (%)

Candidates	Total Population	High School	Some College/2 Yr Degree	4 Yr Degree/Post-Grad
Greg Abbott (Republican)	48	48	51	45
Beto O'Rourke (Democrat)	43	43	38	47
Mark Jay Tippetts (Libertarian)	2	1	3	1
Delilah Barrios (Green)	1	2	2	1
Don't Know/Unsure	6	6	6	6

Table 18 provides the 2022 gubernatorial vote intention broken down by the partisan identification of the likely voters. More than nine out of ten Democrats (91%) intend to vote for O’Rourke compared to one in twenty (5%) for Abbott. Almost nine out of ten Republicans (89%) intend to vote for Abbott compared to 3% for O’Rourke. More than twice as many Independent likely voters intend to vote for Abbott (45%) than O’Rourke (17%), with 7% intending to cast a vote for Tippetts, 3% for Barrios and with more than one-quarter (28%) still undecided.

Table 18: Partisan ID and 2022 Gubernatorial Vote Intention (%)

Candidates	Total Population	Democrats	Independents	Republicans
Greg Abbott (Republican)	48	5	45	89
Beto O'Rourke (Democrat)	43	91	17	3
Mark Jay Tippetts (Libertarian)	2	0	7	1
Delilah Barrios (Green)	1	1	3	1
Don't Know/Unsure	6	3	28	6

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