

TEXAS 2026 | NOVEMBER 3 VOTER GUIDE

FINAL PUBLICATION EDITION • October 16, 2026
Texas statewide offices, U.S. Senate, Congressional District 37 and
Austin City Council
XTRA NEWSPAPER | TEJANA GLORIA MEDIA

Election Day	Tuesday, November 3, 2026
Early voting	October 19 through October 30, 2026
Registration deadline passed	October 5, 2026

This guide helps readers compare people seeking power over public money, schools, housing, safety, health and services. It explains what each office can do and separates promises from completed work. Your address determines which district races appear on your ballot.

OFFICIAL BALLOT RECORDS: Texas Secretary of State certified candidates: <https://www.sos.texas.gov/elections/laws/2026-november-general-election.shtml> | Austin City Clerk Council ballot (Districts 1, 3, 5, 8 and 9): <https://www.austintexas.gov/clerk/november-2026-election> | Early voting: October 19–30, 2026. Election Day: November 3, 2026.

Editorial standard: This publication reports confirmed ballot information, attributed candidate statements and selected public records. It is not a complete record of campaign finance, every legislative vote or every campaign claim. For any detail not established in the cited sources, no conclusion is drawn. Publication date: October 16, 2026.

What readers will find

- Office, party, term length, term-limit explanation, and the responsibilities of the job.
- Plain-language job duties and power of the office.
- Candidate background and experience, with missing details identified.
- Campaign priorities and plain-language explanations of their possible effects.
- Selected public records and new comparisons of major races. This is not a complete roll-call database.
- Completed accomplishments, pending proposals, and campaign claims shown as different categories.
- Voter Considerations and interview questions. These are not endorsements.
- Source links, reporting dates, election dates, and questions voters can use.

Reading level: The guide aims for about a sixth-grade reading level. Names, legal terms, and bill numbers stay exact so readers can find the public record.

Who this guide is for

This guide is for every voter, including people reading about government for the first time. It does not assume that the reader knows political words, government offices, or how a bill becomes law. Each section explains the job, the power, the limits, and how a decision may affect daily life.

Plain-language promise: Sentences should be short. Unfamiliar words should be defined the first time they appear. The guide should explain who acts, what can change, who pays, and how a voter can check the result.

Original writing: The guide summarizes facts in its own words. It does not copy campaign language. Short quotes are used only when the exact words matter, and the speaker and source are named.

How this guide measures experience and results

Service and term status: Each profile now states whether the candidate holds office, previously held office, or has no confirmed elected record. Term length and term-limit rules belong to the office being sought, not to the person.

Completed result: A bill became law, a budget was adopted, a court entered a final order, money was awarded, or an agency finished a

measurable task. The guide names the shared role of other lawmakers, agencies, or local officials when the result was collective.

Proposal or pending work: Filing, sponsoring, or supporting a bill is not the same as passing it. A lawsuit filed is not the same as a court win. A press release or campaign statement is labeled as the speaker’s claim unless a public record confirms it.

Non-officeholders: A challenger may have valuable work, family, military, business, or community experience without having a voting record. The guide calls that an experience record, not a legislative accomplishment.

Fair comparison: Readers should compare the same facts for every candidate—dates of service, exact action, final outcome, cost, who shared responsibility, and the source checked.

Quotes and paraphrases: Quotation marks are used only for exact words supported by a recording, transcript, speech, or candidate page. A shortened quote must keep the speaker’s meaning. Everything else is written as a summary and should not be presented as the candidate’s exact words.

Quick guide to common election words

Platform: The plans and beliefs a candidate says they will follow in office. A platform is a promise, not a completed result.

Incumbent: The person who holds the office now. An incumbent has a record of votes or decisions that voters can check.

Nonpartisan: The ballot does not list a party next to the candidate. A candidate may still have political views, donors, and endorsements.

Constituent: A person who lives in the area an elected official represents. Constituent service means helping residents work with a government agency.

Bill and law: A bill is a proposed law. It becomes law only after the required votes and final action, such as the governor’s or president’s signature. Some bills become law without a signature. A bill that was only filed or introduced is not a law.

Ordinance: A local law passed by a city. Austin City Council members vote on ordinances.

Budget: A plan for how government will collect and spend money. A budget choice can change services, taxes, fees, staffing, and construction.

Bond: Money the government borrows for a long-term project. Taxpayers or a public revenue source must repay it, usually with interest.

Zoning: Local rules for what may be built on land, where it may be built, and sometimes its size or use. Zoning can affect housing, traffic, businesses, and neighborhood change.

Density bonus: Permission to build more or larger housing in exchange for a public benefit, often homes with lower rents or prices for a set number of years.

Veto: The governor or president rejects a bill. Lawmakers may sometimes override a veto with enough votes.

Audit: A close check of money, rules, and records. An audit can find waste or mistakes, but it does not fix them by itself.

Public housing: Housing owned or supported by a public housing agency for people who meet income and program rules. It is different from being homeless, although a person may have experienced homelessness before receiving housing.

Major Texas statewide and congressional races

The state candidates below appear in the Texas Secretary of State’s August 28, 2026 ballot certification. The Austin candidate list was checked against the City Clerk’s August 26 ballot order. Campaign descriptions in older profiles remain subject to the review limits stated on the first page.

Sources checked October 15, 2026: Texas ballot certification: <https://www.sos.texas.gov/elections/forms/2026-ballot-cert.pdf>

United States Senate for Texas

What the office does: A U.S. senator votes on federal laws, taxes, spending, judges, treaties, and top officials. Texas has two senators.

Why it matters to you: Senate decisions can affect Social Security, Medicare, health costs, federal taxes, immigration, disaster aid, military action, voting rights, and the judges who interpret federal law.

Term and term limits: A U.S. senator serves six years. About one-third of the Senate is elected every two years. The Constitution sets no limit on the number of terms, so an eligible candidate may keep seeking reelection.

Ken Paxton — Republican

Who the candidate is: Paxton is the Texas attorney general. He won the Republican nomination after a primary fight with U.S. Senator John Cornyn.

Background and experience: He has been attorney general since 2015. Before that, he served in the Texas Senate and Texas House. He also worked as a lawyer.

Service and term status: Texas attorney general since January 2015; Texas senator from 2013 to 2015; Texas House member from 2003 to 2013. A U.S. Senate term would last six years and has no term limit.

Main ideas: He stresses border control, gun rights, limits on abortion, religious liberty, and lawsuits against federal rules he opposes.

Public record: As attorney general, he files and defends court cases for Texas. That job does not cast votes on bills. His older Texas House and Senate votes can be checked in the official journals. Voters may also review the impeachment case brought by the Texas House in 2023 and his acquittal by the Texas Senate. Those were public proceedings, not a criminal conviction.

Accomplishments and record to date: The attorney general's office handles child-support collection, consumer cases, legal opinions, and state litigation. Count a lawsuit as a win only when a final court order supports Texas; count settlements, child-support collections, and consumer recoveries by the dated agency report. Filing a case alone is not a completed result.

Money and political ties: His campaign has a large statewide donor network and support from many conservative groups. Current totals should be checked in Federal Election Commission reports.

Voter Considerations: Ask how he would move from state law work to federal lawmaking. Ask which bills he would file first, and how he would handle ethics, health costs, schools, immigration, and disaster aid.

James Talarico — Democrat

Who the candidate is: Talarico is a Texas state representative from the Austin area. He is a former public-school teacher and a Presbyterian seminarian.

Background and experience: His official Texas House biography describes him as a former middle-school teacher in San Antonio and identifies degrees from the University of Texas at Austin and Harvard University. That biography does not establish the dates or status of his teaching certificates. This edition makes no claim that he taught without certification.

Service and term status: First elected to the Texas House in 2018. Texas House terms last two years and have no term limit. A U.S. Senate term would last six years and has no term limit.

Main ideas: He talks about public schools, teacher pay, health care, worker rights, lower costs, government ethics, voting rights, and abortion access.

Public record: His Texas House record includes votes on school funding, state budgets, taxes, health care, and election rules. Readers should use the Texas House journals for the full roll call. State votes do not show how he would vote on every federal issue.

Accomplishments and record to date: His official House record confirms service on education policy and votes on school funding and state budgets. The guide should list any bill as “passed” only when Texas Legislature Online shows final passage and the governor’s action; committee work, amendments, and opposition votes should be described separately.

Money and political ties: He has built a strong small-dollar fundraising base and has support from Democratic and education groups. Current totals should be checked with the FEC.

Voter considerations: Which federal school and health bills would he support, and how would he pay for them? Credential question for follow-up: What teaching certificate or certificates did you hold

during your classroom service, and what were their effective dates? This question has not been sent by XTRA.

Talarico statements and medical-policy votes

Talarico used the phrase “God is nonbinary.” The cited reporting describes this as a statement about his religious understanding of God.

In this religious statement, nonbinary referred to his view that God cannot be limited to human categories of male and female. At the October 14 town hall, he acknowledged choosing provocative wording and explained that theological meaning. Reporting the statement does not require readers to agree with his belief.

On May 12, 2023, Talarico voted no on advancing Senate Bill 14 to third reading. The bill restricted gender-transition procedures and certain medicines for minors. In his 2026 Senate campaign, he has said he supports a national ban on gender-transition surgery for minors. His earlier opposition to the broader bill and his present stated position both belong in the account.

The Texas Tribune reported that he supported amendments allowing some medication treatment while keeping surgery restrictions. Surgery, hormone treatment and puberty blockers are different interventions; the specific treatment, vote and date matter.

Sources checked October 15, 2026: House Journal, May 12, 2023, Record 1686, printed page 4214: <https://journals.house.texas.gov/hjrn/88r/pdf/88RDY62FINAL.PDF> ; Texas Tribune, September 22: <https://www.texastribune.org/2026/09/22/james-talarico-trans-climate-policy-changes-election-2026/> ; October 14 town hall reporting: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/oct/15/texas-democrat-james-talarico-televised-town-hall-us-politics> ; <https://apnews.com/article/0b0d871b2ac233895f0fa3e66e9418a2>

Credential sources reviewed October 15, 2026: Texas House biography, <https://www.house.texas.gov/members/3685/biography> ; TEA official certificate lookup guidance, <https://tea.texas.gov/educators/certification/certificate-lookup/certificate-lookup> . TEA says the individual virtual certificate and available history are the official certification record; a biography is not a substitute.

Ted Brown — Libertarian

Who the candidate is: Brown is the Libertarian candidate for U.S. Senate.

Background and experience: A full current biography and list of public offices were not found in the sources reviewed for this update.

Service and term status: No current elected term was confirmed. If elected, he would serve a six-year Senate term with no federal term limit.

Main ideas: Libertarian candidates often call for smaller government and more personal freedom. Brown's own views must be taken from his campaign statements, not from the party label alone.

Public record: No federal or Texas legislative voting record was confirmed for him.

Accomplishments and record to date: No completed legislative or administrative result was confirmed. Ask the campaign for a dated résumé and independently checkable examples of civic, professional, or party work.

Money and political ties: Check FEC reports for his donors, loans, spending, and cash on hand.

Voter Considerations: Ask for clear plans on Social Security, Medicare, border rules, military spending, taxes, and disaster aid.

United States House — Texas District 37

What the office does: A U.S. representative votes on federal laws, taxes, and spending. The member also helps people with federal agencies.

Why it matters to you: House decisions can affect federal taxes, health programs, student aid, roads, disaster money, veterans, immigration, and the federal budget. The district office can also help with delayed benefits, passports, and other federal cases.

Term and term limits: A U.S. representative serves two years. Every House seat is on the ballot in each even-numbered general election. The Constitution sets no limit on the number of terms.

Greg Casar — Democrat

Who the candidate is: Casar is a Democratic member of Congress. He was elected to District 35 in 2022, took office in January 2023, and is running in the redrawn District 37 in 2026.

Background and experience: Before Congress, he served on the Austin City Council from 2015 through 2022 and worked as a labor and community organizer. He chairs the Congressional Progressive Caucus.

Service and term status: U.S. House terms last two years and have no term limit. Casar is completing his second House term in 2026 and may seek another term if he remains eligible and qualifies for the ballot.

Main ideas: Casar supports higher wages, unions, affordable housing, health care, public transit and stronger electricity connections. These issues affect American workers, families, veterans and retirees. He also supports abortion access, climate action and immigration reform. These are policy positions; voters should examine the cost, reach and results of each proposal.

Public record: U.S. House votes are listed by the House Clerk. His Austin record includes paid-sick-leave policy, higher pay for City workers and contractors, transit, police spending, and Affordability Unlocked. Austin adopted Affordability Unlocked in 2019; the program trades added building options for long-term affordable homes. The paid-sick-leave ordinance was later blocked in court and did not fully take effect.

Accomplishments and record to date: Casar's office announced federal funding of more than \$3 million for an all-abilities playground at Onion Creek Metro Park on April 10, 2026; \$2 million for VFW Post 76 on February 18; and \$1 million for the National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders on March 10. These are attributed funding announcements. They do not prove construction is finished or that all money has been spent. Congress, agencies and local partners share responsibility.

Money and political ties: He receives support from labor, progressive, and Democratic groups. Use current FEC reports for exact donors, independent spending, cash on hand, and expenses.

Voter Considerations: Ask which bills he authored that became law, not only which bills he introduced or co-sponsored. Ask how federal awards were selected, how much has been spent, and what measurable result each project produced.

Sources checked October 15, 2026: Casar office releases: <https://casar.house.gov/media/press-releases/news-congressman-greg-casar-delivers-3-million-federal-funding-all-abilities> ; <https://casar.house.gov/media/press-releases/news-congressman-greg-casar-delivers-2-million-federal-investment-vfw-post-76> ; <https://casar.house.gov/media/press-releases/news-congressman-greg-casar-delivers-1-million-federal-investment-national>

How to judge these results: Federal project funding is a concrete part of an incumbent's record. Residents can follow whether the grant was awarded, when construction starts, who benefits and when the facility opens. Casework and co-sponsoring bills are different kinds of service and should be reported separately.

American workers and family budgets

Jobs and new technology: On June 24, 2026, Casar and Rep. Valerie Foushee introduced the AI Workforce Impact Study Act. The proposal would direct the Government Accountability Office to study how artificial intelligence has changed U.S. jobs since 2022, including jobs lost or created and workplace monitoring. It is a request for better evidence about American employment, not proof that jobs have already been saved.

Veterans and public spaces: Federal support for VFW Post 76 is a concrete example of his work involving veterans. The post serves as a gathering place for veterans in San Antonio. Texas Public Radio reported the \$2 million renovation funding in February 2026. The Onion Creek playground announcement concerns access to recreation for children of different abilities. Neither announcement should be described as a completed building project without a completion record.

Housing and household costs: His Austin record offers a way to judge his affordability goals. Voters can examine whether Affordability Unlocked produced homes at rents families can afford, where those homes were built and how long the price protections last. They can also ask how his federal housing plans would help renters, homeowners and people trying to buy a first home.

How to evaluate the broader record: These subjects extend beyond immigration. Compare effects on wages, housing costs, services for veterans and access to public facilities. Keep his immigration position in

the profile, while asking the same practical questions across his agenda: Who benefits, who pays, what has passed and what results can be measured?

Sources checked October 15, 2026: Foushee office, AI workforce proposal, June 24, 2026: <https://foushee.house.gov/media/press-releases/rep-foushee-casar-introduce-ai-workforce-impact-study-act-to-examine-ais-impact-on-american-jobs> ; Texas Public Radio, February 19, 2026: <https://www.tpr.org/news/2026-02-19/san-antonios-historic-vfw-post-76-to-get-major-renovations>

Lauren B. Peña — Republican

Who the candidate is: Lauren B. Peña is the Republican candidate for District 37. Her campaign describes her as a paralegal, a constitutional conservative and a mother of six.

Experience: Peña has served on Austin's Community Police Review Commission, a civilian oversight board independent of the Austin Police Department. City records document her selection on August 15, 2025, to fill a vacancy among City Manager-appointed commissioners. The City lists a four-year commission term. This is appointed public service, not an elected legislative position. No prior elected legislative term or legislative voting record was confirmed in this review. If elected to Congress, she would serve a two-year House term, with no federal term limit.

City of Austin source (checked October 17, 2026): Community Police Review Commission, <https://www.austintexas.gov/police-oversight/community-police-review-commission> ; August 15, 2025 meeting minutes, <https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=460745> .

Main ideas: Her platform calls for stronger border enforcement, federal-agency audits, fewer rules on energy and housing construction, and a 12-year congressional term limit. She also proposes anti-trafficking measures and victim services. These are campaign proposals.

Campaign finance: Official donation, loan and spending reports are available through the Federal Election Commission. This article does not present an audited campaign-finance comparison.

Questions for voters: Which proposals would she put first? What would they cost? What work experience and completed community projects support her qualifications?

Education: BallotReady reports a 2024 bachelor's degree in political science and government from Southern New Hampshire University. This is attributed to BallotReady; independent university confirmation was not available for this edition.

Education source reviewed October 15, 2026: BallotReady, Lauren B. Peña, <https://www.ballotready.org/people/lauren-b-pena> . Degree information remains attributed to that directory.

Sources checked October 15, 2026: Peña campaign platform: <https://www.lauren4congress.com/issues> ; child-protection proposals: <https://lauren4congress.com/issues/protect-austin-children> ; affordability proposals: <https://lauren4congress.com/issues/austin-affordability>

Casar and Peña compared

Question	Greg Casar	Lauren B.
Experience	Member of Congress since January 2023; former Austin Council member.	Challenger confirmed i
Record voters can check	House votes, bill sponsorship, constituent service and announced federal grants.	Campaign background community
Policy direction	Labor rights, housing, public investment and stronger grid connections.	Border enfo regulatory c term limits.
Useful question	Which projects are funded, underway or complete?	Which prop would they they pass?

A longer government record provides more actions to examine. It does not by itself prove that an incumbent is the better choice. A challenger's lack of legislative votes also does not prove a lack of useful experience.

How redistricting affected Congressman Lloyd Doggett

Texas lawmakers approved a new congressional map in 2025. The map moved much of Greg Casar's Austin base from District 35 into a new District 37. District 37 was already represented by Lloyd Doggett. This set up the chance of a Democratic primary between two Austin members of Congress.

Doggett said he would not run again if the new map stayed in place. He said he wanted to avoid a race against Casar. A lower federal court later blocked the map, but the U.S. Supreme Court put the 2025 map back in place for the 2026 election. The current District 37 race is Greg Casar against Lauren B. Peña. Doggett is not a candidate in that race.

Why it matters: The map did more than change district lines. It changed which sitting member could run in Austin, which voters each member would represent, and who appeared on the 2026 ballot.

Sources: U.S. House member pages; Texas redistricting records; Texas Tribune reporting from August and November 2025; Reuters and Associated Press reporting on the U.S. Supreme Court order of April 27, 2026; and current FEC candidate filings.

Governor of Texas

What the office does: The governor signs or vetoes bills, appoints many officials, and leads state agencies during emergencies.

Why it matters to you: The governor can shape school funding, health programs, border action, disaster response, prisons, roads, appointments, and the state budget. The governor cannot pass a law alone; the Legislature must first pass most bills.

Term and term limits: The term is four years. The Texas Constitution sets no limit on the number of terms for this office, so an eligible officeholder may keep seeking reelection.

Greg Abbott — Republican

Who the candidate is: Governor since 2015.

Background and experience: Governor since 2015; former attorney general, Texas Supreme Court justice, and state district judge.

Service and term status: Governor since January 2015; previously attorney general, a Texas Supreme Court justice, and a state district judge. He is seeking a fourth consecutive term. Texas sets no term limit for governor.

Main ideas: Border control, property-tax cuts, business growth, energy, public safety, and school choice.

Public record: A governor does not cast House or Senate votes. Abbott signed the 2025 school-funding bill, House Bill 2, and the school-voucher bill, Senate Bill 2. He also signs state budgets and may veto single spending items.

Accomplishments and record to date: In 2025 Abbott signed House Bill 2, which the state described as adding \$8.5 billion for public education, including \$4 billion for teacher and staff pay, and Senate Bill 2, which created an education-savings-account program. He also signed 2025 property-tax measures. These were shared results with the Legislature; effects and costs should be checked against fiscal notes and later audits.

Money and political ties: Use the latest Texas Ethics Commission report. Note major donors, candidate loans, groups that spend for or against the candidate, and any business interest tied to the office.

Voter Considerations: Ask about costs and results of border programs, school vouchers, the electric grid, health care, and the state budget.

Abbott education laws and their effects

Abbott signed House Bill 2 on June 4, 2025. His office describes the law as an \$8.5 billion public-school funding increase, including \$4 billion for teacher and staff pay. The money covers the two-year state budget period. A statewide allocation does not mean every employee receives the same raise.

He signed Senate Bill 2 on May 3, 2025, creating education savings accounts with \$1 billion for the 2026–2027 school year. The program allows approved education expenses outside the traditional public-school system. Families should compare award rules, admission decisions, transportation, special-education services and costs the account may not cover.

The debate: Supporters favor more choices for families. Opponents question the use of public money for private education and the effect on public schools. These questions are separate from whether the governor signed the laws, which the official record confirms.

Sources checked October 15, 2026: Governor's HB 2 announcement: <https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/governor-abbott-signs-record-public-education-funding-teacher-pay-raise-into-law> ; SB 2 announcement: <https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/governor-abbott-signs-landmark-school-choice-legislation-into-law>

Gina Hinojosa — Democrat

Who the candidate is: Texas House member, lawyer, and former Austin school-board trustee and president.

Service and term status: Texas House member since January 2017; previously an Austin school-board trustee and president. If elected governor, she would serve four years. Texas sets no term limit.

Main ideas: Public schools, teacher pay, lower power and housing costs, worker rights, health care, abortion access, and rules for data centers.

Public record: Her House record includes budget and school votes. She opposed Senate Bill 2 on vouchers and supported more public-school funding. Official journals should be used for each roll call.

Accomplishments and record to date: Her record includes work on the 2019 school-finance package and teacher-pay increases, plus later votes on budgets and education. She opposed the 2025 voucher law. Credit for enacted school funding is shared across lawmakers and the governor; exact authorship and roll calls should be checked bill by bill.

Money and political ties: Use the latest Texas Ethics Commission report. Note major donors, candidate loans, groups that spend for or against the candidate, and any business interest tied to the office.

Voter Considerations: Ask how her school-board and House work would shape agency management and emergency decisions.

Hinojosa vote on Senate Bill 14

The official May 12, 2023 House Journal lists Gina Hinojosa voting no on advancing Senate Bill 14 to third reading.

That is a confirmed vote against the bill at that stage. It does not, by itself, establish her position on every surgery, age, medicine or exception. This review has not verified a direct current statement supporting surgery for minors. The guide therefore reports the vote without making that broader claim.

Sources checked October 15, 2026: House Journal, May 12, 2023, Record 1686, printed page 4214: <https://journals.house.texas.gov/hjrn/88r/pdf/88RDAY62FINAL.PDF>

Pat Dixon — Libertarian

Who the candidate is: Libertarian candidate. A full current biography was not confirmed in the sources reviewed.

Service and term status: No current elected term was confirmed. If elected governor, he would serve four years; Texas sets no term limit.

Platform detail not confirmed: This profile does not assign issue positions from the candidate's party label. Direct, current campaign statements are still needed.

Public record: No current state legislative voting record was confirmed.

Accomplishments and record to date: No completed legislative or executive result was confirmed. Ask for a dated résumé, management record, and independently checkable results.

Money and political ties: Use the latest Texas Ethics Commission report. Note major donors, candidate loans, groups that spend for or against the candidate, and any business interest tied to the office.

Voter Considerations: Ask for a full résumé, a first-year budget, and clear plans for schools, health care, water, and disasters.

Lieutenant Governor of Texas

What the office does: The lieutenant governor leads the Texas Senate and has great power over which bills get a hearing.

Why it matters to you: A bill may never reach a vote if Senate leaders do not send it to a committee or place it on the schedule. This makes the office powerful on taxes, schools, health care, energy, voting rules, and the state budget.

Term and term limits: The term is four years. The Texas Constitution sets no limit on the number of terms for this office, so an eligible officeholder may keep seeking reelection.

Dan Patrick — Republican

Who the candidate is: Lieutenant governor since 2015.

Background and experience: Lieutenant governor since 2015; former state senator and media business owner.

Service and term status: Lieutenant governor since January 2015; previously a Texas senator. He is seeking a fourth term. Texas sets no term limit.

Main ideas: Tax cuts, border control, school choice, energy, gun rights, and conservative social policy.

Public record: The lieutenant governor normally does not cast ordinary Senate roll-call votes. Patrick used his office to push Senate Bill 2 on school vouchers and other Senate priorities.

Accomplishments and record to date: Patrick used the lieutenant governor's agenda and committee powers to advance the 2025 voucher law and Senate tax and border priorities. These were collective legislative outcomes. Because the lieutenant governor rarely casts ordinary roll-call votes, the guide should measure referrals, rulings, tie-breaking votes, and bills that reached final passage.

Money and political ties: Use the latest Texas Ethics Commission report. Note major donors, candidate loans, groups that spend for or against the candidate, and any business interest tied to the office.

Voter Considerations: Ask how he chooses bills for hearings and how he measures the effects of vouchers, tax cuts, and energy rules.

Vikki Goodwin — Democrat

Who the candidate is: Texas House member from the Austin area with work on local planning and policy.

Service and term status: Texas House member since January 2019. If elected lieutenant governor, she would serve four years; Texas sets no term limit.

Main ideas: Public schools, teacher pay, health care, water, roads, voting access, abortion rights, and review of data-center costs.

Public record: Her House record includes votes on budgets, schools, public safety, water, and elections. The House journals are the best source for exact votes.

Accomplishments and record to date: Her official House biography credits her with co-authoring state-employee pay raises and a cost-of-living adjustment for retired teachers. Her later record includes flood-safety, emergency-warning, school, water, and environmental proposals. Each proposal should be checked for final passage before it is called a law.

Money and political ties: Use the latest Texas Ethics Commission report. Note major donors, candidate loans, groups that spend for or against the candidate, and any business interest tied to the office.

Voter Considerations: Ask how she would run the Senate, work with both parties, and set rules for bills and committees.

Anthony Cristo — Libertarian

Who the candidate is: Libertarian candidate. A full current record of public office was not confirmed.

Service and term status: No current elected term was confirmed. If elected, he would serve four years; Texas sets no term limit.

Main ideas: His views must be reported from his own campaign, not guessed from his party.

Public record: No Texas legislative voting record was confirmed.

Accomplishments and record to date: No completed legislative or administrative result was confirmed. Ask for management experience and public results that can be checked.

Money and political ties: Use the latest Texas Ethics Commission report. Note major donors, candidate loans, groups that spend for or against the candidate, and any business interest tied to the office.

Voter Considerations: Ask for clear answers on Senate rules, the budget, schools, taxes, abortion, and the power of the office.

Kevin McCormick — Green

Who the candidate is: Green Party candidate. A full current biography was not confirmed.

Service and term status: No current elected term was confirmed. If elected, he would serve four years; Texas sets no term limit.

Platform detail not confirmed: This profile does not assign issue positions from the candidate's party label. Direct, current campaign statements are still needed.

Public record: No Texas legislative voting record was confirmed.

Accomplishments and record to date: No completed legislative or administrative result was confirmed. Ask for a dated résumé and examples of coalition or community work.

Money and political ties: Use the latest Texas Ethics Commission report. Note major donors, candidate loans, groups that spend for or against the candidate, and any business interest tied to the office.

Voter Considerations: Ask how he would lead a Senate where Green members hold few or no seats.

Attorney General of Texas

What the office does: The attorney general is the state's top civil lawyer. The office defends Texas laws, collects child support, and handles consumer cases.

Why it matters to you: The office can affect child-support payments, scams, data privacy, state lawsuits, and which laws Texas defends in court. The attorney general does not act as the personal lawyer for every resident and does not write laws in this job.

Term and term limits: The term is four years. The Texas Constitution sets no limit on the number of terms for this office, so an eligible officeholder may keep seeking reelection.

Mayes Middleton — Republican

Who the candidate is: Texas senator, businessman, and oil-and-gas investor.

Background and experience: Texas senator, businessman, and oil-and-gas investor; former Texas House member.

Service and term status: Texas House member from 2019 to 2023 and Texas senator since January 2023. If elected attorney general, he would serve four years; Texas sets no term limit.

Main ideas: Border enforcement, election cases, gun rights, limits on abortion, and legal fights with the federal government.

Public record: His House and Senate votes cover budgets, taxes, energy, schools, and social policy. The official journals should be used for exact vote dates.

Accomplishments and record to date: His public record includes authored and sponsored legislation plus votes on budgets, taxes, energy, schools, and social policy. The guide should use Texas Legislature Online to separate bills enacted, bills that died, amendments, and final roll calls.

Money and political ties: Use the latest Texas Ethics Commission report. Note major donors, candidate loans, groups that spend for or against the candidate, and any business interest tied to the office.

Voter Considerations: Ask how he would handle conflicts tied to business holdings and how he would choose state lawsuits.

Nathan Johnson — Democrat

Who the candidate is: Texas senator, lawyer, and musician from the Dallas area.

Service and term status: Texas senator since January 2019. If elected attorney general, he would serve four years; Texas sets no term limit.

Main ideas: A professional law office, consumer protection, ethics, public safety, and less partisan use of state lawsuits.

Public record: His Senate record includes votes on budgets, health care, the electric grid, schools, and criminal law.

Accomplishments and record to date: His campaign reports that 134 bills he worked on became law over four sessions. That total is a campaign claim and should be checked against Texas Legislature Online for authorship, sponsorship, and final action before publication.