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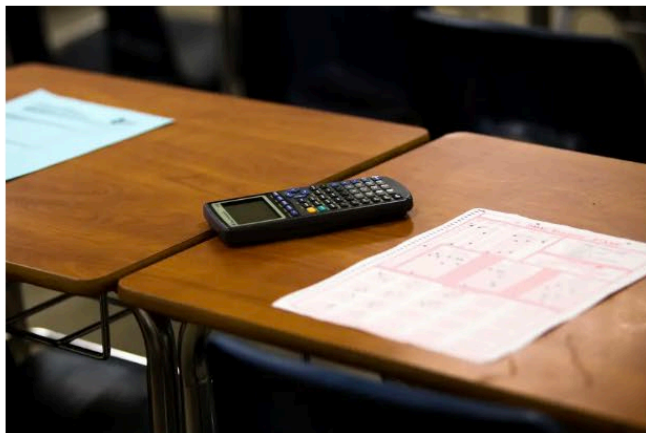
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 Pu Ying Huang for The Texas Tribune

Despite post-pandemic improvements, STAAR scores show Texas students are still struggling with math and reading

BY [BRIAN LOPEZ](#) 2 MINUTES AGO

Test results have gone up since the pandemic in both subjects, but math scores are still below 2019 levels and about half of Texas students read below the level appropriate for most children in their grade.



 Shuran Huang for The Texas Tribune

Appeals court rules abortion pill can remain on market with restrictions

BY ANN E. MARIMOW AND PERRY STEIN, [THE WASHINGTON POST](#)
15 MINUTES AGO

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10 Key Policies and Practices to Improve Your Students' Outcomes



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9th victory points Cowboys toward the playoffs

Quarterback Steve Benson leads late charge in 23-14 triumph over New Orleans
SPORTS, B-1



Dallas Times Herald



DE QUINCY

GOODBYE, DALLAS!

Tears, toasts, hugs and handshakes as last edition marks end of paper's 112 years of journalism history

Newspaper's staff mourns loss of friend

By Mark Frank

Dallas Times Herald Staff

PHOTO BY [unreadable]



Recession took its toll on paper

By [unreadable]

Dallas Times Herald Staff

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On the Records: A data manifesto
 by [Matt Stiles](#) | 11/2/09 | 4:41 A.M.

Bartlett: GOP is "losing a great opportunity" with Latinos
 by [Elise Hu](#) | 11/3/09 | 1:34 A.M.

We're mobile! We're on iTunes!
 by [Evan Smith](#) | 10/31/09 | 10:33 P.M.

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Tuesday, November 3, 2009

SEARCH go ▶

FRONT PAGE TOPICS LIBRARY POLLING DIRECTORY BLOGS 2010 CALENDAR CAMPUSWIRE TEXAS WEEKLY DONATE

Democrats hold El Paso's cards

Photo illustration by Jacob Villanueva

Shuffling the deck

by [Brandi Grissom](#) about 10 hours ago | [0 Comments](#)

State Sen. Eliot Shapleigh's decision not to run for reelection creates many opportunities for El Paso politicians, but in this Democrat-dominated city, the cards are stacked against Republicans. [Full Story](#)

RELATED

- 2010: New name in the game
- Shapleigh's out and then what?

Disabled students restrained, injured in public schools

by [Emily Ramshaw](#) | about 10 hours ago | [0 Comments](#)

Texas educators routinely pin down students with disabilities to control them, according to state data. Disability rights advocates say the restraints point to a crisis in special education, and that teachers are resorting to physical violence because they aren't properly trained.

Welcome to The Texas Tribune

by [Evan Smith](#) | about 11 hours ago | [1 Comments](#)

What we intend to accomplish with the Trib — what we mean to do on an ongoing basis — is right here in our stated [mission](#): to promote civic engagement and discourse on public policy, politics, government, and other matters of statewide concern.

Perry leads KBH by 12

by [Ross Ramsey](#) | about 9 hours ago | [0 Comments](#)

In the inaugural University of Texas/Texas Tribune Poll, Rick Perry has the support of 42 percent of self-identified GOP gubernatorial primary voters to Kay Bailey Hutchison's 30 percent — but Debra Medina could be a spoiler in March. On the Democratic side, Undecided and Kinky Friedman lead the pack.

TRIBWIRE

- Thompson drops bid for governor, endorses Gilbert
[Fort Worth Star-Telegram](#) | about 6 hours ago
- Long history between lawyer, State Board members
[Austin American-Statesman](#) | about 7 hours ago
- Vote for 4, legislators say
[El Paso Times](#) | about 7 hours ago
- Governor's support for Prop 11 prompts cynicism
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- Houston Tea Party rally draws more than 10,000
[Houston Chronicle](#) | about 7 hours ago
- O'Quinn left most of his wealth to his charity
[Houston Chronicle](#) | about 7 hours ago

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Exit notices for some, but not all
 by [Elise Hu](#) and [Matt Stiles](#) 10/26/09

Education commissioner asks feds to reconsider stripping Texas teacher credentials
 by [Brian Thevenot](#) 10/23/09

THE REST

The Brief: November 3, 2009
 by [Reeve Hamilton](#) 11/3/09
 A full day lies ahead - it's not too late to exceed expectations.

Video: The Video Brief: November 3, 2009

TWEET WIRE

Over 360 newspapers have closed since just before the start of the pandemic.

The same pace — about two closures per week — was occurring before the pandemic.



Give this article



According to a new report, major media companies like Gannett have been quick to sell or shut down unsuccessful newspapers. Valerie Plesch for The New York Times



By Isabella Simonetti

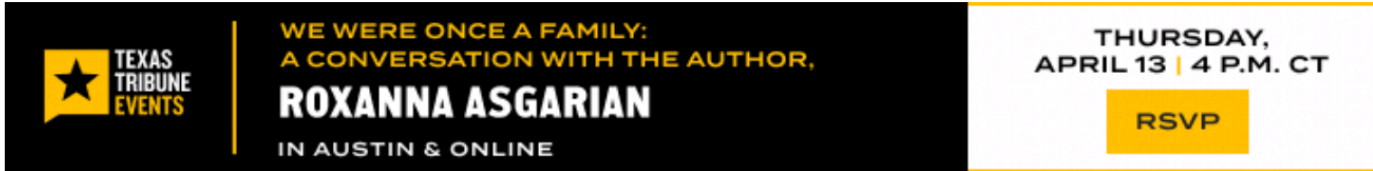
Trump Rally

Uvalde Gunman's AR-15

Budget Surplus

LGBTQ Legislation

2023 Legislative Session



TEXAS TRIBUNE EVENTS

**WE WERE ONCE A FAMILY:
A CONVERSATION WITH THE AUTHOR,
ROXANNA ASGARIAN**

IN AUSTIN & ONLINE

**THURSDAY,
APRIL 13 | 4 P.M. CT**

RSVP

Since 2005, Texas has lost more newspaper journalists per capita than all but two other states

Of Texas' 254 counties, 27 no longer have a newspaper. Loss of local news coverage has been associated with higher levels of mistrust, misinformation and malfeasance. Only California and New Jersey have lost more newspaper journalists, relative to population.

BY **SEWELL CHAN** JUNE 29, 2022 4 PM CENTRAL



 The **NEVADA INDEPENDENT**

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BALTIMORE
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LANDING**

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CLEVELAND



The New York Times

OPINION

LYDIA POLGREEN

It's Not a Good Sign When People Who Don't Pay for News Have So Little to Choose From

June 13, 2023



#txlege

Major bills at a glance

Signed

- [HB 1: Allocating the budget](#)
- [SB 14: Banning care for trans kids](#)
- [HB 12: Expanding postpartum Medicaid](#)
- [HB 6: Allowing murder charges for fentanyl poisoning](#)
- [HB 3: Addressing school safety](#)
- [HB 1500: Shoring up the power grid](#)
- [SB 15: Restricting trans athletes in college sports](#)
- [SB 17: Banning DEI offices in colleges](#)
- [SB 18: Solidifying tenure in state law](#)
- [HB 9/HJR 125: Expanding broadband](#)
- [SB 12 : Regulating sexually explicit shows](#)
- [HB 2127: Preempting local regulations](#)
- [HB 1595: Creating university endowments](#)
- [SB 28/SJR 75: Funding water infrastructure](#)

Vetoed or Failed

- [SB 8: Creating education savings accounts](#)
- [HB 100: Increasing school funding and education savings accounts](#)
- [SB 3: Cutting property taxes](#)
- [HB 7: Expanding border security funding and creating a border safety unit](#)
- [HB 2744: Raising the age](#)
- [SB 7: Shoring up the power grid](#)
- [HJR 102: Legalizing online sports betting](#)
- [HJR 155: Authorizing casinos](#)
- [HB 1422: Adopting permanent daylight saving time](#)
- [SB 23: Raising minimum sentence for gun crimes](#)
- [HB 4843: Raising minimum sentence for gun crimes](#)
- [SB 147: Restricting foreign land ownership](#)

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TEXAS LEGISLATURE 2023

Gov. Greg Abbott signs \$18 billion tax cut package for Texas property owners

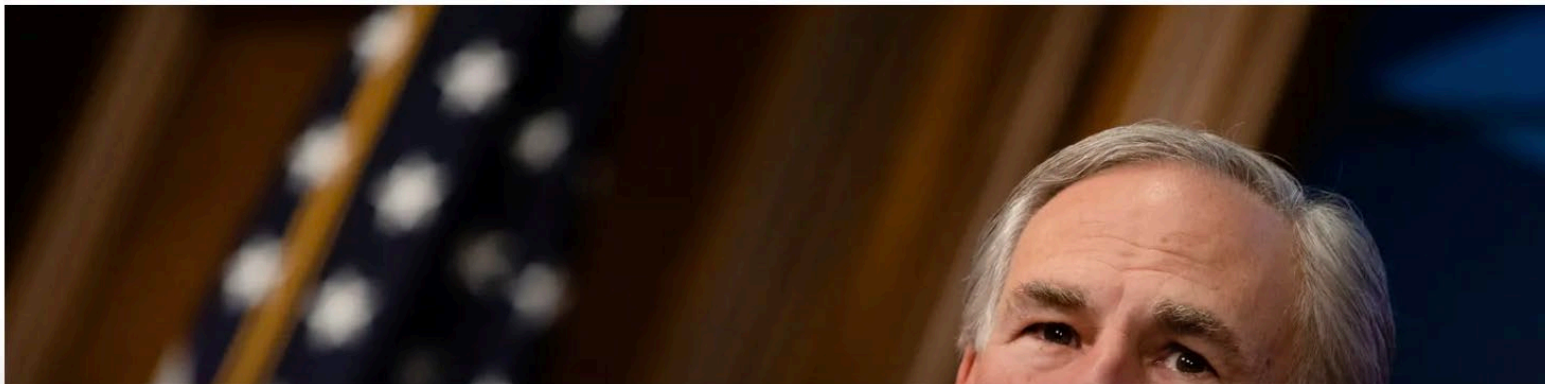
At a time when the state has some of the nation's highest property taxes, the initiative was a cornerstone of his 2022 reelection campaign.

BY [KAREN BROOKS HARPER](#) JULY 24, 2023 8 PM CENTRAL



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THE BLAST

A PREMIUM PRODUCT OF  THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

- About \$12.6 billion will go toward reducing the school property tax rate by 10.7 cents per \$100 valuation for homeowners and business properties.
- The homestead exemption for homeowners will increase from \$40,000 to \$100,000.
- There will be a three-year, 20% cap on appraisal increases for commercial and non-homesteaded properties valued at \$5 million or below. (That figure could change yearly depending on inflation.)
- Cuts are coming to franchise taxes for small businesses.
- Any county with 75,000 or more residents will also receive three more members on its appraisal district's board of directors. Those new members will be elected in nonpartisan elections.

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Abbott's Vetoes

Property Tax Impasse

Affirmative Action Case

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KEN PAXTON IMPEACHMENT

Here are the top allegations that led to Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton’s impeachment

In 2020, deputies in the attorney general’s office met with FBI agents to accuse their boss of misconduct. Their accusations would form the backbone of articles of impeachment against one of the state’s most powerful officials.

BY **JAMES BARRAGÁN** JUNE 16, 2023 5 AM CENTRAL



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1. The only “vs.” that matters is
Texas House vs. Texas Senate

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TEXAS LEGISLATURE 2023

Senate priorities on bail, Ten Commandments in schools stall out in Texas House as key deadline passes

The two chambers have been at odds over property tax relief and school choice, but on Tuesday night, those divisions spilled over into priorities the bodies had previously agreed upon.

BY ELEANOR KLIBANOFF, JAMES BARRAGÁN AND JOLIE MCCULLOUGH MAY 24, 2023 1 AM CENTRAL



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2. Dan Patrick is the most powerful statewide elected official ever

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TEXAS LEGISLATURE 2023

Tension over property taxes produces rare public clash between Dan Patrick, Greg Abbott

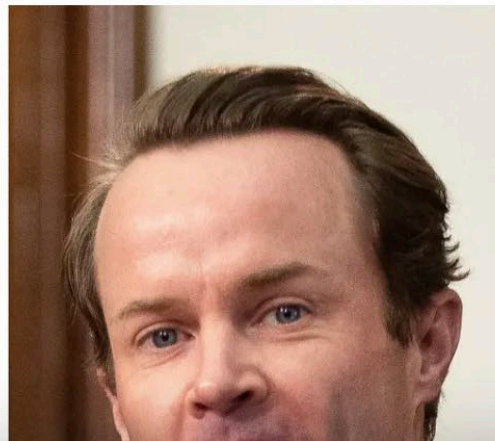
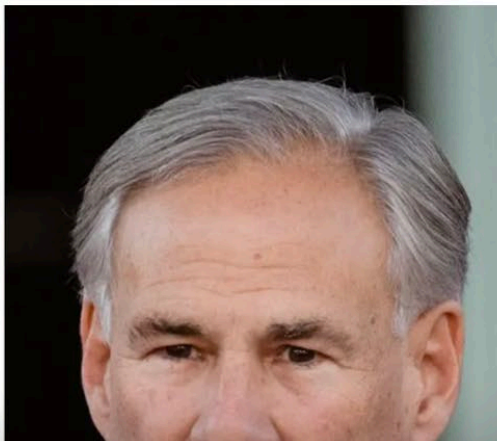
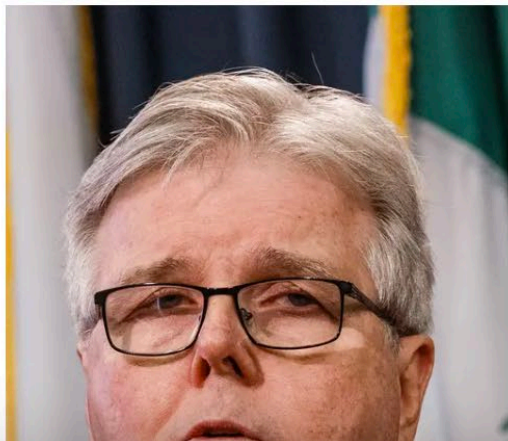
Always happy to castigate the Texas House, Patrick breaks form to criticize the governor as misinformed and unsympathetic toward homeowners.

BY **PATRICK SVITEK** AND **ZACH DESPART** MAY 31, 2023 6 PM CENTRAL



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3. The political parties, RIP

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MICHAEL MCCAUL

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KEN PAXTON IMPEACHMENT

Ken Paxton impeachment fight exposes deep fissures among Texas Republicans

As the 88th Legislative Session came to a close, longstanding divisions between traditional conservatives and party's far right came into focus.

BY **JAMES BARRAGÁN** MAY 28, 2023 7 PM CENTRAL



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TEXAS LEGISLATURE 2023

Republican blitz on LGBTQ issues exposes fractures among Texas Democrats

The defections have sparked feelings of betrayal and promises of retribution, particularly as Republicans in the Legislature have presented a unified front.

BY JAMES BARRAGÁN MAY 23, 2023 12 PM CENTRAL



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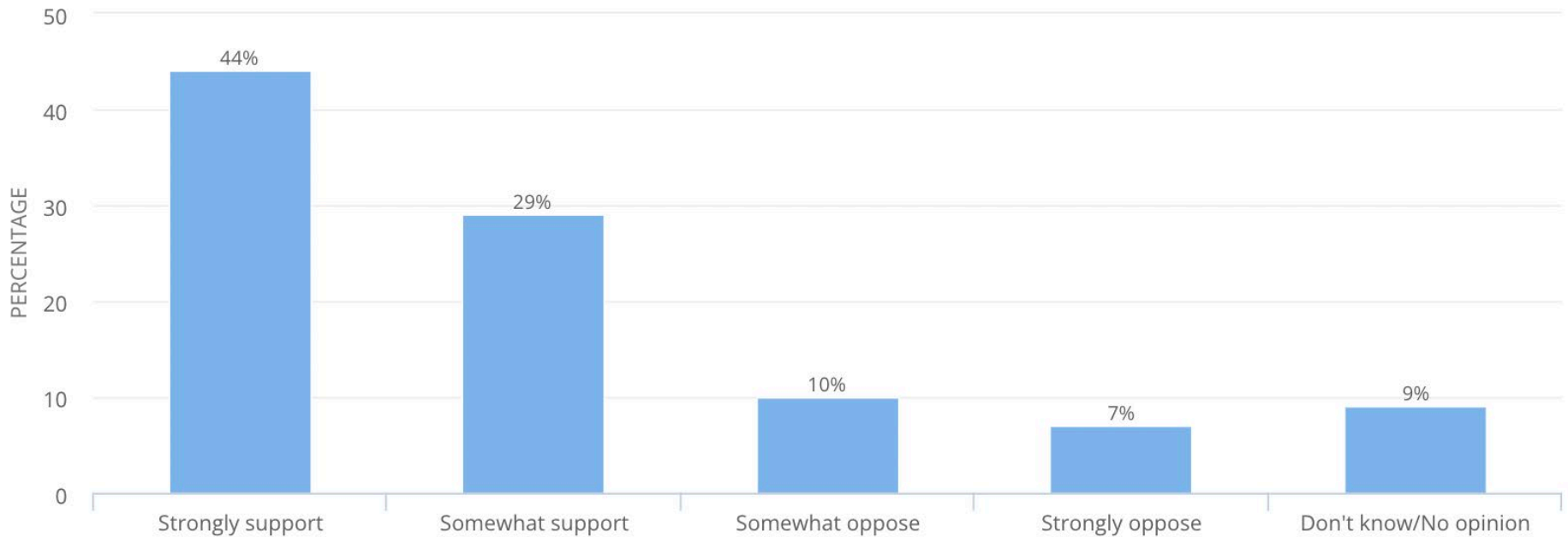


4. This is an unrepresentative democracy

SUPPORT OR OPPOSE: EXPANDING ELIGIBILITY FOR MEDICAID, THE GOVERNMENT HEALTH INSURANCE AND LONG-TERM CARE PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN LOW-INCOME ADULTS AND CHILDREN (APRIL 2023)

SUPPORT OR OPPOSE: EXPANDING ELIGIBILITY FOR MEDICAID, THE GOVERNMENT HEALTH INSURANCE AND LONG-TERM CARE PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN LOW-INCOME ADULTS AND CHILDREN (APRIL 2023) [TABLE](#) | [SHARE](#) | [MORE](#)

The Margin of Error for this Graphic is +/- 2.83%



Source: April 2023 University of Texas/Texas Politics Project Poll

Overall

Party ID

Democratic
Identification

Republican
Identification

Ideology

Liberalism

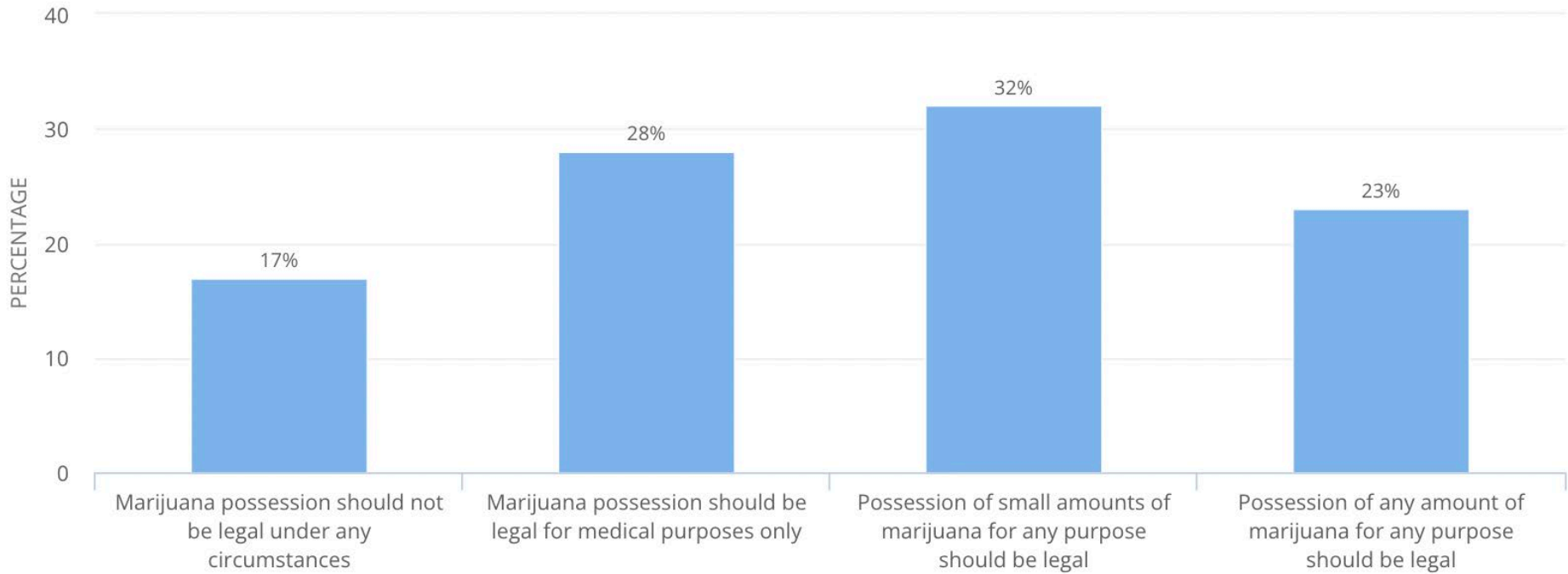
Conservatism

LEGALIZATION OF MARIJUANA (DECEMBER 2022)

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LEGALIZATION OF MARIJUANA (DECEMBER 2022)

The Margin of Error for this Graphic is +/- 2.89%



Source: December 2022 University of Texas/Texas Politics Project Poll

Overall

Party ID

Democratic
Identification

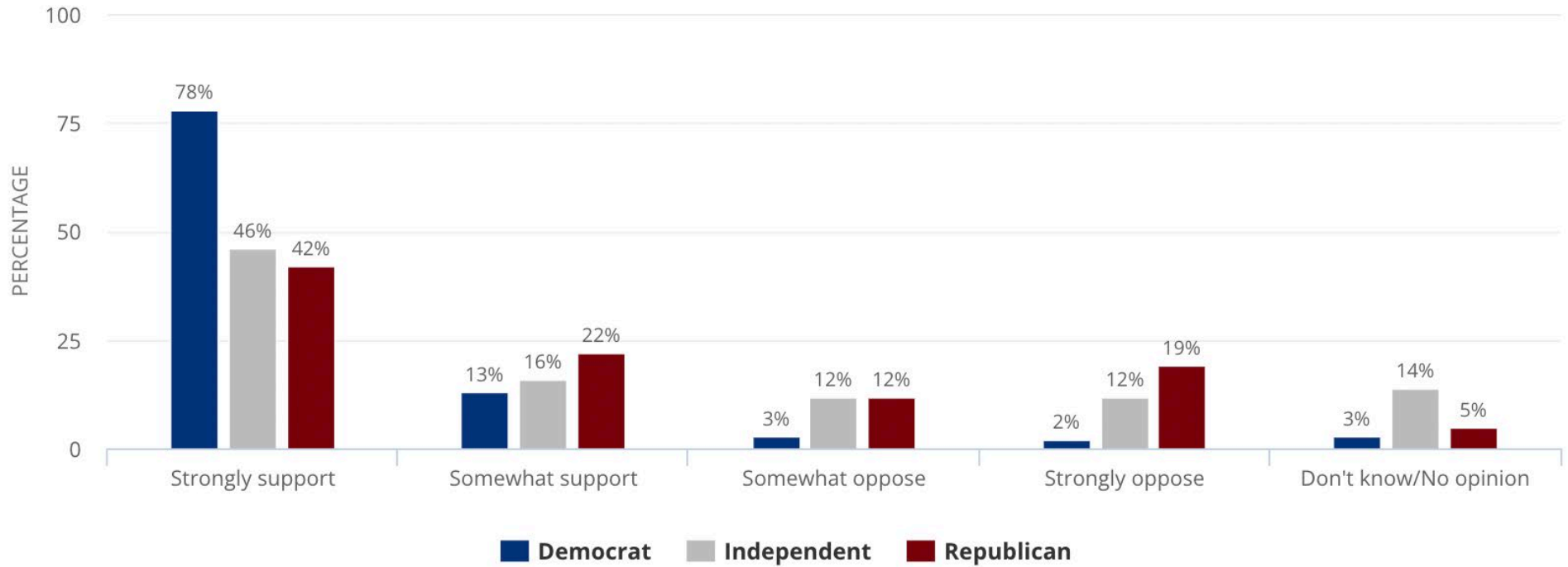
Republican
Identification

Ideology

Liberalism

Conservatism

SUPPORT OR OPPOSE: RAISING THE LEGAL AGE TO PURCHASE ANY FIREARM FROM 18 YEARS OF AGE TO 21 YEARS OF AGE (APRIL 2023)



Source: April 2023 University of Texas/Texas Politics Project Poll



Greg Abbott @GregAbbott_TX · Jun 23



Texans now support school choice by more than a 2 to 1 margin.

Legislators who are against it, are simply against their own constituents.

They will have a chance to vote on it in an upcoming special session.

have additional shared
authority

Establishing a voucher, educational savings account (ESA), or other "school choice" program in Texas:

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know/No opinion	TOTAL SUPPORT	TOTAL OPPOSE
June 2023	33	25	8	19	0	58	27
Feb. 2023	19	27	12	29	12	46	41
Apr. 2022	21	24	12	28	15	45	40
June 2017	16	26	15	33	10	42	48

Prohibiting districts from providing vouchers, offering open enrollment

1,333

438

1,966

716.7K



5. Liberty! Unless I disagree with you



COVID-19

Two Austin Restaurants' Liquor Licenses Threatened After They Required Proof of Vaccination

The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission threatened to pull Launderette and Fresa's liquor licenses when they required proof of at least partial vaccinations in order to dine indoors

by [Nadia Chaudhury](#) | Updated Aug 12, 2021, 4:08pm CDT



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6. Let's stop saying that
local control is conservative

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TEXAS LEGISLATURE 2023

Texas House approves sweeping limits on local regulations in GOP’s latest jab at blue cities

City officials say the full scope of the legislation advanced Tuesday is still unclear, but it would limit their ability to issue worker protections, water restrictions and more.

BY JOSHUA FECHTER, ERIN DOUGLAS AND ALEX NGUYEN APRIL 18, 2023 UPDATED: APRIL 19, 2023



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7. The culture war is alive and well

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Texas Beer Distributors...

- Directly employ 204,087 Texans
- Generate \$4.9 billion in Federal, State and Local taxes
- Contribute \$34 billion in total economic impact value for the Texas beer industry
- Employee payrolls exceed \$11.3 billion in Texas

*Source: Beer Institute/NEWSA, 2022

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THE BEER ALLIANCE
• OF TEXAS, LLC •

TEXAS LEGISLATURE 2023

Texas House passes bill that aims to keep sexually explicit materials out of school libraries

Legal experts, librarians and some parents say House Bill 900's language is so vague and broad that it could ensnare books that are not inappropriate.

BY **SNEHA DEY** APRIL 19, 2023 UPDATED: APRIL 20, 2023



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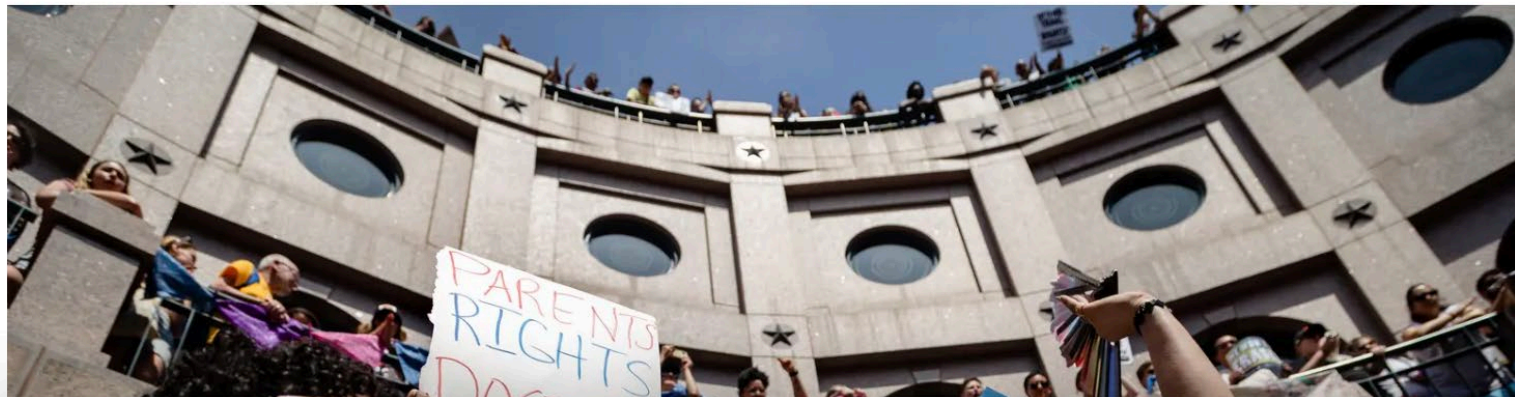
Gov. Greg Abbott signs legislation barring trans youth from accessing transition-related care

Texas joins 17 other states restricting transgender minors from accessing puberty blockers and hormone therapies. Opposing legal groups have vowed to sue to stop the new law from taking effect.

BY **ALEX NGUYEN** AND **WILLIAM MELHADO** JUNE 2, 2023 UPDATED: JUNE 3, 2023

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"Looks like Congress might finally do something about TikTok."

Cartoon by John McNamee

8. We had the biggest surplus ever.
Tell me again what we used it for?

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TEXAS LEGISLATURE 2023

Despite budget surplus, Texas Legislature makes little money available for prison air conditioning

Stifling heat has killed inmates and exacerbated employee turnover in Texas prisons. But funding for air conditioning was whittled down in the draft budget released Thursday.

BY **JOLIE MCCULLOUGH** MAY 26, 2023 11 AM CENTRAL



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GO BEHIND THE HEADLINES WITH... 

TEXAS LEGISLATURE 2023

Effort to fix payroll error for state National Guard troops falls short in Texas Senate

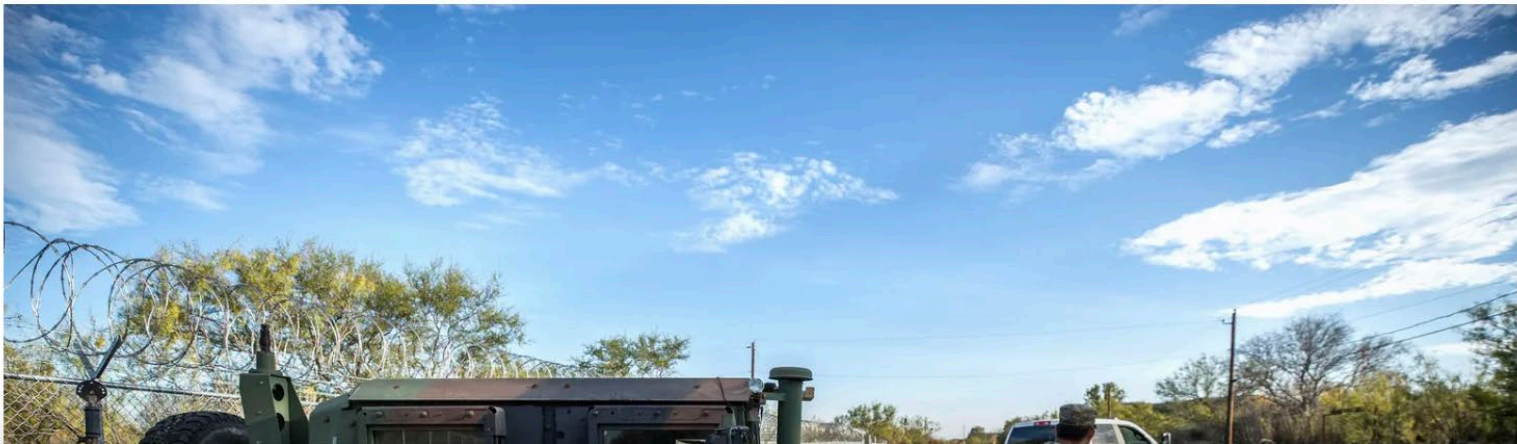
The mistake meant about 7,400 soldiers sent to the Texas-Mexico border under Operation Lone Star were hit with higher-than-expected federal income taxes.

BY JAMES BARRAGÁN MAY 26, 2023 5 AM CENTRAL



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9. This was going to be a higher ed session. Be careful what you wish

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TEXAS LEGISLATURE 2023

Texas poised to fund community colleges based on student outcomes

Supporters of the measure said it will help the colleges better prepare students for the workforce.

BY **KATE MCGEE** MAY 19, 2023 UPDATED: MAY 24, 2023



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TEXAS LEGISLATURE 2023

How Republicans' threats to tenure and diversity might undercut their own efforts to advance Texas' universities

Texas lawmakers are poised to create a new multibillion-dollar endowment to boost emerging research universities in national rankings. But faculty members say banning diversity offices and tenure would stymie those efforts.

BY KATE MCGEE APRIL 11, 2023 5 AM CENTRAL



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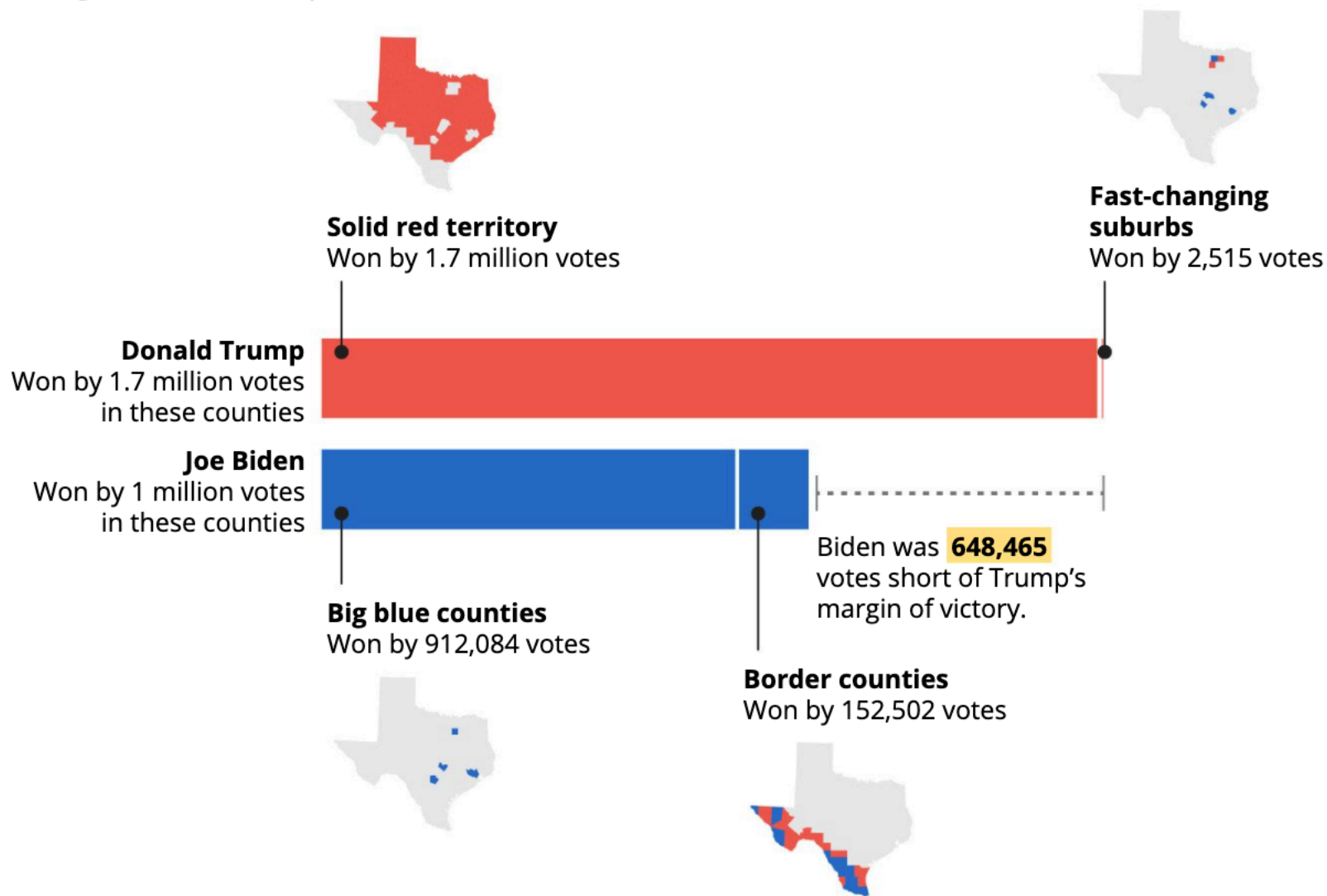
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10. Texas isn't turning blue any time soon

Joe Biden's gains not enough to carry Texas

Biden's performance in Texas this year was stronger than Hillary Clinton's in 2016, but it was not enough to defeat Trump.



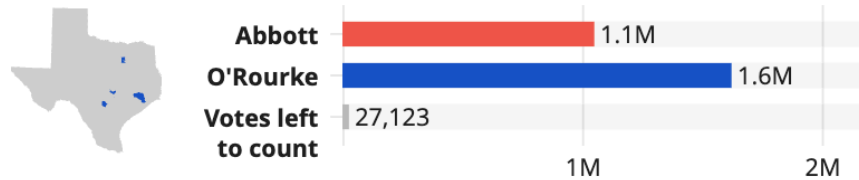
Source: Texas secretary of state preliminary election data as of Nov. 5.

Credit: Mandi Cai

VOTES BY REGIONS

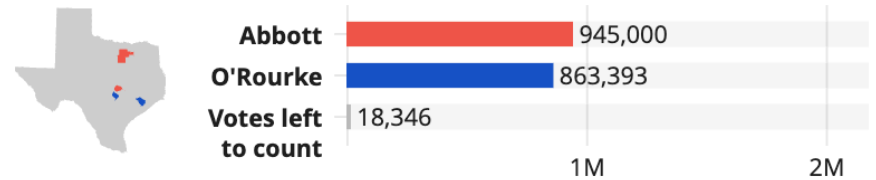
Big blue counties

Harris, Bexar, Dallas and Travis



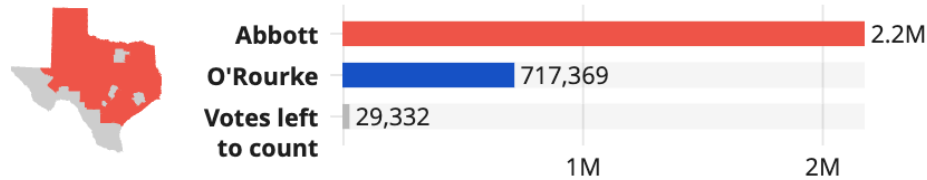
Fast-changing counties

Tarrant, Fort Bend and 4 others



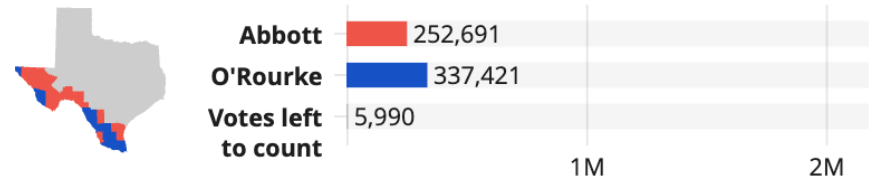
Solid red counties

Montgomery, Lubbock and 214 others



Border counties

El Paso, Hidalgo and 26 others

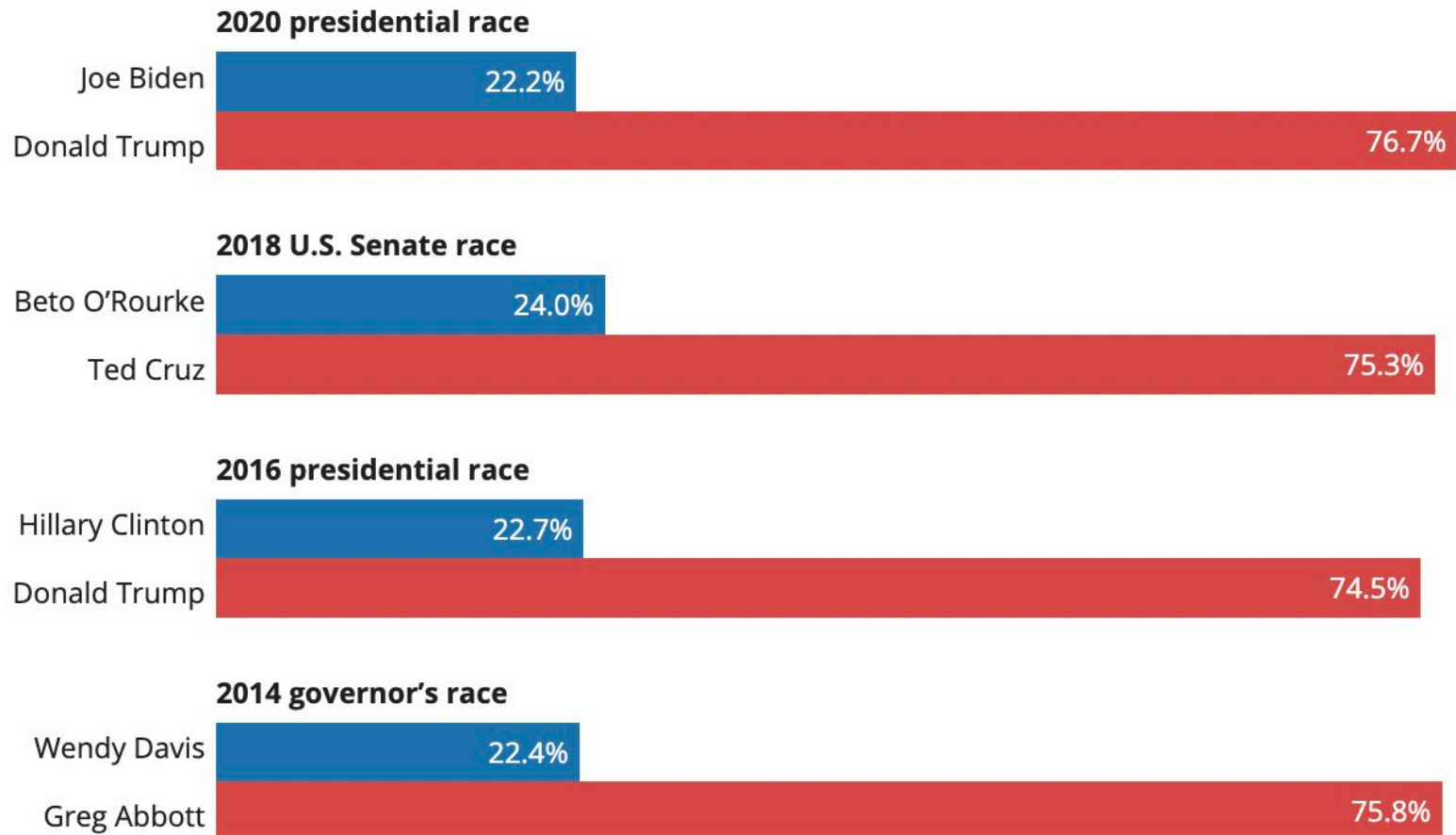


Note: "Votes left to count" is an estimate provided by Decision Desk HQ that may change throughout election night.

Less than a quarter of rural Texas voters favor Democrats in elections

Among Texas voters living in the state's 186 rural counties, the percentage who voted for Democrats in top ballot races has hovered around 20% over the last couple of elections. When Beto O'Rourke ran for U.S. Senate, he received about 24% of the votes among rural counties.

■ Democrat ■ Republican



Note: Rural counties are 186 counties with populations of less than 50,000 according to the 2020 U.S. census. Vote percentages do not add up to 100% because third-party votes are not included.

Source: [Texas Secretary of State Election Results Archive](#)

Credit: Carla Astudillo



Evan Smith
@evanasmith



“In November, 60% of Hispanic voters cast ballots for Democrats compared with 39% who supported Republicans. This 21-point margin is smaller than in 2018, when 72% of Hispanic voters favored Democrats and 25% supported Republicans” [#txlege](#)



[pewresearch.org](https://www.pewresearch.org)

2. Voting patterns in the 2022 elections

American Trends Panel: Pew Research Center's online probability survey panel, which consists of more than 12,000 adults who take two to three surveys each

7:33 PM · Jul 13, 2023 · **3,152** Views