



2026 Texas Voter Guide

November 3, 2026, General Election

This year's elections will be key to whether Texas finally elects a legislature and a governor who is willing to pass a decriminalization or legalization law. Two of the most powerful statewide offices are up for election — Governor and Lieutenant Governor. Meanwhile, every seat in the state House of Representatives and half of the state Senate are on the ballot. The results will be crucial to whether and how Texas cannabis policy evolves.

To help inform voters, MPP and the Texas Cannabis Policy Center have created this voting guide, where we ranked legislative and statewide office candidates based on their support for expanding medical cannabis, decriminalization, as well as legalization. It also includes comments and sponsorship for some candidates who support decriminalization and adult-use legalization. The voter guide includes information from incumbents' voting record on cannabis, bill sponsorship, and replies to our candidate survey.

Here are the questions we asked legislative candidates:

1. Forty-one states have passed laws allowing the doctor-advised medical use of cannabis. Do you support expanding the current medical cannabis program in Texas to allow patients to use and safely access a limited amount of cannabis in its natural state, flower, for medical purposes?
2. The state of Texas has recently imposed draconian penalties for possession of hemp-derived THC products. Would you support making limited possession of THC hemp products, four grams of concentrate, and up to one ounce of cannabis flower a civil fine of up to \$100?
3. Should cannabis/THC products be legal to possess for adults 21 years of age and older?
4. Should a legal, regulated market be created for adult-use sales of cannabis products?

You can find your Texas state Senate and House district [here](#). You can find your sample ballot and confirm your status as a voter [here](#). Monday, October 5th is the last day to register to vote in the 2026 general election. Early voting begins October 19 and runs until October 30th (with no Sunday voting).

Because of Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick's control of the Senate calendar, many sensible cannabis policy reform bills passed by the House never receive a hearing in the Senate. You can view full Senate and statewide candidate survey responses below. Voting records for House candidates come from our partner organization, the Texas Cannabis Policy Center's comprehensive tracker [here](#).

Background: Texas has one of the most restrictive medical cannabis programs in the nation, including

a ban on botanical cannabis flower. Texas does not have either a decriminalization or an adult-use legalization law. In 2025, 29,000 people were arrested for possession of cannabis in Texas.

Offices

Governor

Gina Hinojosa (D) — A

State of Texas

Current state representative from District 49 (Austin area). She has posted on [social media](#) that she wants to let citizens [vote on legalization](#). She has also voiced support for taxing and regulating hemp products. She has a solid record of voting in favor of cannabis policy and has co-sponsored both decriminalization and comprehensive medical cannabis legislation. She also voted NO on SB3, which attempted to ban hemp-derived THC products in Texas.

Supports Medical Cannabis

Supports Reducing to Civil Fine

Supports Legal Possession

Supports Legal Market

Greg Abbott (R) —C

State of Texas

Current governor of Texas. He has served in that role since 2015. While he endeared himself to many people when he vetoed SB3 — an attempt to ban hemp-derived THC products in Texas — his appointees effectively banned hemp flower by regulatory decree, at his direction. Last year, he signed a bill banning all hemp vape products, leaving only edibles and drinks legal for adult use. He also signed HB46, which expanded the medical cannabis program to include non-combustible inhalables, into law. He has consistently demonstrated his support of an expanded medical cannabis program and decriminalization, but does not support full legalization. Since taking office, arrests for cannabis have fallen from 61,748 in 2015 to 29,000 in 2025.

Does Not Support Medical Cannabis

Does Not Support Reducing to Civil Fine

Does Not Support Legal Possession

Does Not Support Legal Market

Pat Dixon (L) — A

State of Texas

The Libertarian candidate for governor. He answered our survey where he voiced support for legalization, decriminalization, and a robust medical cannabis program.

Supports Medical Cannabis

I am a Libertarian

Supports Reducing to Civil Fine

I am a Libertarian

Supports Legal Possession

I am a Libertarian

Supports Legal Market

I am a Libertarian

Lieutenant Governor

Vikki Goodwin (D) — A

State of Texas

Currently a state representative from District 47 (Austin area). She has a solid record of voting in favor of cannabis policy and has co-sponsored both decriminalization and comprehensive medical cannabis legislation. She was absent on the day that SB3, which attempted to ban hemp-derived THC products, was voted on. Rep. Goodwin has highlighted her opposition on [her campaign website](#).

Supports Medical Cannabis

Supports Reducing to Civil Fines

Supports Legal Possession

Supports Legal Market

Dan Patrick (R) — F

State of Texas

Currently is the Lt. Gov. of Texas, a position he has held since 2015. While always a staunch prohibitionist, he has challenged voters to vote him out if they oppose his stance on banning all hemp-derived THC products. He begrudgingly supported HB46, which included an expansion of the Texas Compassionate Use Program as a compromise to dismantling the entire hemp industry. He used his considerable powers over the state Senate to make sure bills that would have created safeguards, like a 21-year age gate for hemp products, did not make it to the Senate committee process.

Does Not Support Medical Cannabis

Does Not Support Civil Fines

Does Not Support Legal Possession

Does Not Support Legal Market

Anthony Cristo (L) — A

State of Texas

Currently a high school English and debate teacher. He did fill out the cannabis policy survey and is a supporter of full legalization.

Supports Medical Cannabis

Legalize for everyone. Medical and recreational use.

Supports Reducing Penalties

No fines for possession of any amount.

Does Not Support Civil Fines

Adults should have the right to choose for themselves what they want to put in their body, not the state.

Supports Legal Market

Complete and total legalization.

Kevin McCormick (G) — A

State of Texas

Has a law degree and has taught mathematics at a San Antonio High School. He did fill out the cannabis policy survey and is a supporter of full legalization.

Supports Medical Cannabis

Supports Reducing to Civil Fine

Possession of hemp-derived products should be decriminalized except for particular circumstances such as sales to minors or evasion of regulations.

Supports Legal Possession

Supports Legal Market

Attorney General

Nathan Johnson (D) — A

State of Texas

Currently a state senator from District 16 (Dallas area). A firm believer in cannabis policy reform. In 2025, he sponsored SB53, which would have implemented sensible guidelines for hemp-derived THC products. He also sponsored SB54, which would have fully decriminalized personal possession of cannabis, including limited home grow rights. SB 928 would have created a robust, comprehensive medical cannabis program. Due to the power of Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, none of those bills were granted a hearing. He also was one of the few state senators to oppose SB3, which sought to ban all hemp-derived THC products.

Supports Medical Cannabis

Supports Legal Protections

Supports Reducing to Civil Fine

Supports Legal Market

Mayes Middleton (R) — D

State of Texas

Currently a state senator from District 11 (suburban Houston area). A firm prohibitionist, he voted against cannabis decriminalization and lessening cannabis possession penalties. He voted for SB1870, which would have prohibited cities from voting on decriminalization measures. He also voted for SB3, which sought to ban hemp-derived THC products. He did vote YES on HB46, which expanded the limited Texas Compassionate Use Program.

Supports Medical Cannabis

Does Not Support Reducing to Civil Fine

Does Not Support Legal Possession

Does Not Support Legal Market

State Senate

Bobby Tillman (D)

District 3

Supports Medical Cannabis

Does Not Support Civil Fines

Supports Legal Possession

Supports Legal Market

It's past time for legalization of cannabis, legalization would grow the economy, release our brothers and sisters from undue pentalties and cannabis and help will help rebuild our dying soil. Supply local farmers with income and benefit our health.

Joe P. Herrera (D)

District 24

Supports Medical Cannabis

Supports Reducing to Civil Fine

Supports Legal Possession

Supports Legal Market

Keenen Colbert (D)

District 2

Supports Medical Cannabis

I support fully legalizing cannabis for medical or recreational purposes for the state of Texas

Supports Reducing to Civil Fine

I don't think the possession of these products should be fined at all but I would support this as a step in the right direction towards fully legalizing cannabis

Supports Legal Possession

Supports Legal Market

Shannon Dicely (D)

District 11

Supports Medical Cannabis

As a cancer survivor, I know firsthand how difficult cancer treatment can be. Texans undergoing serious medical treatment should have access to every safe, evidence-based option that can help manage symptoms and improve their quality of life.

Supports Reducing to Civil Fine

Low-level drug offenses disproportionately impact communities of color and can pull people into the criminal justice system when they don't need to be there. I support legalizing and regulating THC so adults can access it safely without facing criminal penalties or fines. This would allow law enforcement to focus limited resources on violent crime.

Supports Legal Possession

Cannabis/THC should be regulated and legal for adults 21 and older. By regulating it in this way, we can protect consumers, collect taxes, and keep products away from children.

Supports Legal Market

In 2024, alcohol killed over 10,000 Texans while Hemp-derived THC deaths was essentially zero. Clearly, cannabis is the safer of these options. Rather than banning it, we need to regulate it so that adults can make their own choices about their medical treatment and/or recreation.

Julie Dahlberg (D)

District 21

Supports Medical Cannabis

Supports Reducing to Civil Fine

Supports Legal Possession

Supports Legal Market

Paul Thomasson (D)

District 5

Supports Medical Cannabis

Does Not Support Civil Fines

Cannabis should be legalized, decriminalized, regulated for safety and taxed.

Supports Legal Possession

Supports Legal Market

Laticia Ambroz (D)

District 1

Supports Medical Cannabis

Does Not Support Civil Fines

There should not be any fines. We should make cannabis legal.

Supports Legal Possession

Cannabis is a much safer drug than alcohol. Regulate it like alcohol, collect the taxes, like alcohol.

Supports Legal Market

Taxes collected should go to help the mental health issues in our state.

U.S. Senate

Ted Brown (L)

State of Texas

Supports Medical Cannabis

Adults should be able to use cannabis for any reasons they want, including medical or recreational.

Supports Reducing to Civil Fine

There should be no penalty at all. I want full legalization. But the small fine is much better than what we have now.

Supports Legal Possession

Yes, adults should be able to use cannabis for any reason they wish. I would even lower the age to 18.

Supports Legal Market

Cannabis should be legal. The only regulations should be: 1) adults only; and 2) truth in labeling on all products

Ken Paxton (R) — D

State of Texas

Currently is the Attorney General of Texas, and has served in that role since 2015. During his role as Attorney General, he sued five cities — Austin, San Marcos, Killeen, Denton, and Elgin — with Home Rule Charters that decriminalized cannabis possession.. The 15th Court of Appeals sided with AG Paxton and nullified those votes. [He argued these municipal rules violated the Texas Constitution](#) and the Texas Local Government Code, which forbid local governments from refusing to enforce state drug laws. A [separate suit nullified](#) a similar ordinance in Dallas. He has described [marijuana as an "illicit substance" linked by psychologists to psychosis and other negative consequences](#).

Does Not Support Medical Cannabis

Does Not Support Reducing to Civil Fine

Does Not Support Legal Possession

Does Not Support Legal Market

James Talarico (D) — A

State of Texas

Currently a state representative from District 50 (Austin area), and was previously a representative from District 52, (2018-2023). He has worked as an educator before he embarked on public service. He has been a vocal advocate for ending cannabis prohibition in Texas and sponsored HB5307 in the 2025 session. He actively fought against SB3, which sought to ban most hemp-derived THC products, referring to the ban as [“insane”](#). He has also stated that the ban was a [“gift to the cartels”](#). He has supported the current federal move to reschedule cannabis to Schedule III and [supports legalizing cannabis on the federal level](#).

Supports Medical Cannabis

Supports Reducing to Civil Fine

Supports Legal Possession

Supports Legal Market

