

Governor

Incumbent Greg Abbott (R) is seeking a fourth term.

Greg Abbott

REPUBLICAN · INCUMBENT

Governor of Texas since 2015; former Texas attorney general.

Gina Hinojosa

DEMOCRAT · CHALLENGER

Texas state representative from Austin; former Austin ISD school board president.

Where the candidates stand on the issues Pope Leo XIV has raised, in their own words and votes. Bracketed numbers link to sources. We do not rate, score, or endorse candidates.

WAR & PEACE

POPE LEO XIV *Leo invited citizens of every country involved in the war with Iran to contact their leaders and members of Congress “to work for peace and to reject war and violence.”* [Remarks at Castel Gandolfo, Apr. 7, 2026](#) (Vatican News via [The Good Newsroom](#))

GREG ABBOTT

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

RECORD IN OFFICE

Signed HB 89 (2017), barring state contracts with and investments in companies that boycott Israel

GINA HINOJOSA

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

RECORD IN OFFICE

Did not vote HB 89 (2017), barring state contracts with and investments in companies that boycott Israel; recorded present, not voting

AI & THE DIGNITY OF WORK

POPE LEO XIV *“No one can be reduced to productivity, to cognitive performance, or to mere data.”* [Magnifica Humanitas presentation, May 25, 2026](#)

GREG ABBOTT

Says data centers must “bring their own power,” reuse their own water and reduce the cost of electricity; says his directive has paused new data center projects.

[\[1\] Abbott campaign website](#)

RECORD IN OFFICE

Signed HB 149 (2025), Texas Responsible Artificial Intelligence Governance Act regulating AI systems; civil penalties

Signed HB 2127 (2023), state preemption of certain city and county regulations, including local labor ordinances

GINA HINOJOSA

Would ban “predatory surveillance pricing,” target landlords using AI algorithms to set rents, and require data centers to pay for the grid costs they drive.

[\[1\] Hinojosa campaign: An Affordable Texas](#)

RECORD IN OFFICE

Yes HB 149 (2025), Texas Responsible Artificial Intelligence Governance Act regulating AI systems; civil penalties

No HB 2127 (2023), state preemption of certain city and county regulations, including local labor ordinances

THE POOR & THE SAFETY NET

POPE LEO XIV *The preferential choice for the poor is “a source of extraordinary renewal both for the Church and for society.”* [Dilexi Te, Oct. 4, 2025](#)

GREG ABBOTT

His 2026 “Keep Texas Affordable” plan focuses on lowering housing and electricity costs. As attorney general he joined the 2010 lawsuit challenging the Affordable Care Act, including its Medicaid expansion requirement.

[\[1\] Abbott campaign: Keep Texas Affordable](#)

[\[2\] Ballotpedia: Greg Abbott](#)

RECORD IN OFFICE

Signed HB 12 (2023), extending Medicaid coverage for women to 12 months after pregnancy

GINA HINOJOSA

Proposes \$1,500 refund checks to every household from the Rainy Day Fund, health coverage for every Texas child, bans on bad-faith insurance denials and support for rural hospitals.

[\[1\] Hinojosa campaign: An Affordable Texas](#)

RECORD IN OFFICE

Yes HB 12 (2023), extending Medicaid coverage for women to 12 months after pregnancy

LIFE OF THE UNBORN

POPE LEO XIV *Abortion “cuts short a growing life and refuses to welcome the gift of life.”* [Address to the Diplomatic Corps, Jan. 9, 2026](#)

GREG ABBOTT

Signed Texas’ six-week abortion ban in 2021, which allows exceptions for medical emergencies.

[1] [Ballotpedia: Greg Abbott](#)

RECORD IN OFFICE

SignedSB 8 (2021), Texas Heartbeat Act: abortion after detection of fetal heartbeat; private civil right of action

GINA HINOJOSA

Supports repealing Texas’ abortion ban and restoring Roe v. Wade; says “the government’s jurisdiction should not enter” anyone’s body. Shares that she carried a non-viable pregnancy to term after consulting her family and priest.

[1] [Hinojosa campaign: Roe anniversary statement](#)

[2] [Texas Monthly: Hinojosa on abortion](#)

RECORD IN OFFICE

No SB 8 (2021), Texas Heartbeat Act: abortion after detection of fetal heartbeat; private civil right of action

THE DEATH PENALTY

POPE LEO XIV *Someone who opposes abortion but favors the death penalty “is not really pro-life.”* [AP via PBS NewsHour, Sept. 30, 2025](#)

GREG ABBOTT

In 2018 commuted Thomas Whitaker’s death sentence to life without parole, following a rare unanimous parole board recommendation, about 40 minutes before the scheduled execution.

[1] [ABC News: Abbott spares Whitaker](#)

GINA HINOJOSA

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

RECORD IN OFFICE

Yes HB 727 (2023), barring the death penalty for defendants with severe mental illness (passed House; not enacted)

Yes HB 1340 (2021), limiting death-penalty liability of coconspirators in capital murder cases (passed House; not enacted)

IMMIGRANTS & REFUGEES

POPE LEO XIV *“Defending human life also includes welcoming, protecting and assisting immigrants.”* [Letter on the 250th Anniversary of the United States, June 25, 2026](#)

GREG ABBOTT

Launched Operation Lone Star in 2021, deploying the National Guard and state police to the border; his 2026 platform calls for automatically denying bail to immigrants in the country illegally who are charged with a felony.

[1] [Ballotpedia: Greg Abbott](#)

[2] [Abbott campaign: Protect Communities, Not Criminals](#)

RECORD IN OFFICE

SignedSB 4 (2023, 4th called session), creating state offenses for illegal entry and authorizing state-ordered removal

GINA HINOJOSA

Has called on Abbott to stop providing state resources to ICE operations “until DHS stops killing U.S. citizens and detaining our children,” and criticizes the use of private prisons in enforcement.

[1] [Hinojosa campaign: ICE operations statement](#)

RECORD IN OFFICE

No SB 4 (2023, 4th called session), creating state offenses for illegal entry and authorizing state-ordered removal

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY & EDUCATION

POPE LEO XIV *Religious freedom is “the right of every person to worship according to conscience.”* [Letter on the 250th Anniversary of the United States, June 25, 2026](#)

GREG ABBOTT

Signed Texas’ 2025 private school voucher law, giving participating families about \$10,000 for tuition and other costs; as attorney general he defended a Ten Commandments monument at the Capitol before the U.S. Supreme Court.

[1] [Texas Tribune: Vouchers are now law](#)

[2] [Ballotpedia: Greg Abbott](#)

RECORD IN OFFICE

SignedSB 2 (2025), establishing a state-funded education savings account program

SignedSB 10 (2025), requiring display of the Ten Commandments in public school classrooms

GINA HINOJOSA

Opposes Texas’ school voucher program, which she calls a “voucher scam,” and would redirect funds to neighborhood public schools.

[1] [Hinojosa campaign: Save Texas Public Schools](#)

RECORD IN OFFICE

No SB 2 (2025), establishing a state-funded education savings account program

No SB 10 (2025), requiring display of the Ten Commandments in public school classrooms

CARE FOR CREATION

POPE LEO XIV *"We cannot love God, whom we cannot see, while despising his creatures."* [AP, Oct. 1, 2025](#)

GREG ABBOTT

Issued a 2021 executive order directing state agencies to challenge federal actions threatening the Texas energy sector; his 2026 plan would open city-owned utilities to retail electric competition.

[1] [Texas Tribune: Abbott vows to fight Biden energy agenda](#)

[2] [Abbott campaign: Keep Texas Affordable](#)

GINA HINOJOSA

Would freeze residential electricity rates until data centers pay their own way, and wants more wind, solar and other clean energy on the grid while protecting landowners from rushed transmission lines.

[1] [Hinojosa campaign: An Affordable Texas](#)

Full guide and every race in Texas: standwithpopeleo.com/vote/texas/ · **Take the Pope Leo voter pledge:** standwithpopeleo.com/vote/

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