

# Texas Governor

## THE ISSUES

**GREG  
ABBOTT**

REPUBLICAN • INCUMBENT



**BETO  
O'ROURKE**

DEMOCRAT



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<b>ABORTION</b> Ban or legal?	Ban. Signed <a href="#">a law that bans abortions once a heartbeat is detected</a> (typically around 6 weeks), does not allow exemptions for rape or incest, and allows private citizens to sue anyone who helps a woman get an abortion.	Legal. Would <a href="#">restore "women's freedom to choose."</a> Texas abortion laws are about <a href="#">"power and control over women."</a> <a href="#">"Trust women to make their own decisions about their own healthcare."</a>
<b>CLIMATE</b> Should climate change be a top priority? Tax or limit the output of greenhouse gases, or support renewable energy?	No. <a href="#">"The world is reeling from spiraling fuel costs caused by premature over-reliance on renewable energy."</a> <a href="#">"The Green New Deal would be a deadly deal for the United States."</a> Recent Biden climate measures show <a href="#">"extreme hostility toward the energy industry."</a>	Yes. Would invest in <a href="#">"geothermal power generation, hydrogen-fueled energy, offshore wind, solar generation, energy efficiency."</a> Seeks to <a href="#">reduce emissions from oil and gas and implement other emission reduction strategies.</a>
<b>EDUCATION</b> Use public funding for private and/or for-profit schools?	Yes. <a href="#">Allow parents to send children to any public, charter, or private school, "with state funding following the student."</a>	No. Opposes <a href="#">publicly funding private schools.</a> School choice is <a href="#">"a ploy to funnel funds reserved for public education into private schools."</a>
<b>EDUCATION</b> How to address the teaching of issues around racism and gender identity?	<a href="#">Signed law banning the teaching of critical race theory.</a> Joined a Republican legislator's <a href="#">investigation of books that cover race, gender and sexual orientation in Texas public schools.</a>	<a href="#">"Racism is endemic in our country."</a> Focusing on critical race theory is <a href="#">"distracting us from real problems."</a> Would <a href="#">"teach the version of whatever history that's most accurate and honest."</a> <a href="#">"Our kids in middle school...are strong enough to learn the true story of this country."</a>
<b>ENERGY GRID</b> Is Texas energy grid being improved enough after 2021 failures?	Yes. Recent laws <a href="#">"have made the power grid stronger and more resilient than it has ever been."</a> Grid is now <a href="#">"stable, resilient, and reliable,"</a> though could see localized outages.	No. <a href="#">Ties grid failures to the influence of the oil and gas industry.</a> Would <a href="#">weatherize Texas grid, connect it to national grid, and expand energy efficiency and renewables.</a>
<b>GUN RULES</b> Pass less or more restrictive legislation on guns?	Less. Signed bills <a href="#">ending gun possession license requirements</a> and <a href="#">allowing concealed carry on college campuses.</a> <a href="#">"Laws...that limit the owning and using of firearms...have not stopped madmen from carrying out evil acts on innocent people."</a>	More. <a href="#">"You don't need an AR-15 to defend yourself and your home."</a> <a href="#">Repeal the Texas permitless gun carry law and require safe gun storage and private sale background checks.</a> Pass <a href="#">red flag laws</a> allowing temporary removal of guns from people deemed dangerous to others.
<b>HEALTH CARE</b> Increase government role in health care, such as expanding Medicaid, limiting drug prices, or promoting COVID safety?	Mostly no. Didn't <a href="#">expand Medicaid under the ACA,</a> though <a href="#">secured federal non-Medicaid health funding</a> and extended <a href="#">Medicaid coverage for new mothers by 6 months.</a> Blocked local <a href="#">COVID mask mandates.</a>	Yes. Would <a href="#">expand Medicaid in Texas and create a state-sponsored scholarship program to address the nursing shortage.</a> Regarding COVID masking, would <a href="#">"get out of the way of local businesses who want to protect ...employees and...customers."</a>

ISSUES	ABBOTT (R)	O'ROURKE (D)s
<b>IMMIGRATION</b> How to handle immigration? Support a path to citizenship for "DACA" participants brought to the US as children?	Created <a href="#">Operation Lone Star</a> , sending state troopers and National Guard to patrol the border, spending \$3 billion on border security. Signed <a href="#">"sanctuary cities" bill, penalizing cities and punishing local law enforcement</a> who don't comply with federal immigration law. No recent DACA; seeks to challenge <a href="#">the Supreme Court decision compelling states to give free public education to undocumented children</a> .	<a href="#">Opposes Operation Lone Star as disruptive. Wants "a legal, orderly immigration system" including upholding asylum laws.</a> Continue the order that turned away migrants to control COVID-19 <a href="#">until border communities are more prepared</a> . <a href="#">Wants a path to citizenship for DACA recipients.</a>
<b>LABOR</b> Make it easier or harder for unions to organize?	Harder. Sees workers <a href="#">as facing "union coercion."</a> Supported <a href="#">legislation ending automatic deduction of union dues for government employees</a> . As attorney general, <a href="#">supported Texas's "right-to-work" status</a> , where employees in a unionized workplace do not have to pay union dues.	Easier. <a href="#">"Unions have always been among the best political advocates for working people."</a> <a href="#">"Will partner with the Texas labor movement."</a> O'Rourke's campaign team has unionized; a campaign spokesperson said, <a href="#">"We're proud to be walking the talk."</a>
<b>LGBTQ RIGHTS</b> Limit or expand LGBTQ rights?	Limit. <a href="#">Recommended changing laws to allow social workers to refuse services to LGBTQ people. Ordered child abuse investigations of families of transgender children</a> receiving gender-affirming care.	Expand. <a href="#">"As governor, I'll expand civil rights protections for LGBTQ+ Texans."</a> Would <a href="#">"defend against these attacks coming at the LGBTQ+ community and transgender kids."</a>
<b>MARIJUANA</b> Should recreational marijuana be banned or legal?	Ban with lower penalties. <a href="#">Reduce criminal penalty for possession to a Class C misdemeanor but don't legalize.</a>	Legal. <a href="#">Legalize marijuana and expunge records of those arrested for possession</a> ; use savings to invest in public schools and teacher salaries.
<b>MINIMUM WAGE</b> Keep or raise state minimum from \$7.25 per hour? If so, how much?	Keep. Abbott spokeswoman: <a href="#">"\$15 minimum wage would put a boot on the neck of small businesses."</a> In 2015 called a plan to raise the wage to \$10 a <a href="#">"job killer."</a>	Raise; amount unclear. "The minimum wage in Texas is \$7.25 an hour— <a href="#">not enough to pay rent, put food on the table, or take care of your kids</a> , without working a second or third job."
<b>POLICE AND COMMUNITY</b> How to address police use of force?	Would <a href="#">pardon police officers charged with assault</a> in May 2020 protests. Appointed <a href="#">indicted officer to police regulatory agency</a> . Cities reducing police funding <a href="#">must get approval of state Public Safety Office</a> .	<a href="#">"Support good police officers and protect the public by holding bad officers accountable."</a> <a href="#">"We shouldn't have to bargain for police accountability, it should be guaranteed."</a>
<b>STUDENT FINANCIAL AID</b> Support lowering interest on student loans or forgiving them?	Yes, for specific groups. Designated <a href="#">part of Covid relief funds toward loan repayment for nurses</a> . Signed bill <a href="#">providing up to \$20,000 to Texas police officers to help repay loans</a> .	Yes, for specific groups. Supports forgiving <a href="#">"all student loan debt for public school educators"</a> and debt forgiveness <a href="#">programs to attract doctors and improve rural health care</a> .
<b>TAXES</b> Should corporations and wealthier individuals pay less or more taxes?	Less. <a href="#">"TX has no corporate or income tax &amp; low regulations, which leads to more jobs."</a> In 2015, <a href="#">cut state business franchise tax by 25 percent</a> .	More. <a href="#">"I'll reduce property taxes for families and small businesses by ensuring corporations finally pay what they truly owe."</a> <a href="#">"Wealthiest... should be asked to pay a greater share."</a>
<b>VOTING RULES</b> Support tightened restrictions on such voting rules as absentee and early voting, and voter ID?	Tighter. Signed law that <a href="#">bans 24-hour and drive-through voting and gives partisan poll watchers more access. Prevents local efforts to expand voting options; sets possible criminal penalties for helping others to cast their ballot</a> .	Looser. <a href="#">"Will pass online and same-day voter registration, expand eligible forms of voter ID, reduce obstacles to voting by mail, expand access to polling sites, and establish nonpartisan redistricting commissions."</a>

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