

MEMORANDUM

TO: COREY DeANGELIS
FROM: ROBERT BLIZZARD
RE: TEXAS GOP PRIMARY POLL DATA



On behalf of the Educational Freedom Institute, we recently conducted a Texas statewide survey of N=600 Republican primary voters, May 27-28, 2025 ($\pm 4\%$). This survey was conducted via a mixed mode methodology of live callers and text-to-web to cell phones with a sample selected from the Texas voter file with GOP primary vote history.

KEY FINDINGS

- **A strong majority of Texas Republicans are pessimistic about the direction of public schools.** By a 57%-25% margin, Texas Republicans believe K-12 public schools in the state are “*off on the wrong track*” rather than “*headed in the right direction.*”
 - GOP primary voters believe “*Texas parents should be able to have a choice in where and how their children are educated*” (94% agree-5% disagree), and “*Texas parents, not the government, should be allowed to choose the best education environment for their children*” (94% agree-6% disagree).
 - By an 86%-12% margin, Texas GOP primary voters support “*stopping the promotion of gender ideology teachings, including the concept there are more than two genders, to elementary school children in Texas public schools.*” There’s also strong support (95% support-4% oppose) for “*banning ideological boys from participating in girls’ sports in Texas public schools to protect girls’ sports.*”
- **Nearly 80% of Texas Republican primary voters support school choice and the expansion of charter schools.** GOP primary voters (79% support-15% oppose) strongly support giving Texas parents a choice in where they send their kids to school by expanding charter schools in the state:

Support-Oppose Charter Expansion	
Statewide	79%-15%
Very Conservative	83%-11%
Somewhat Conservative	82%-14%
Moderate/Liberal	60%-33%
White	80%-15%
Non-White	77%-17%
Parent	76%-19%
Non-Parent	81%-14%
Urban	81%-15%
Suburban	80%-15%
Rural	75%-18%

- **More than two-thirds of Texas GOP primary voters strongly support ESAs.** By a 69%-22% margin, a strong majority of Republican primary voters in Texas support “*Education Savings Accounts, or ESAs, to create more education opportunities and choice for Texas families. This program provides approximately \$10,000 per year for parents who opt out of K-12 public schools and choose to use that money instead for private school tuition, online education programs, tutoring, textbooks or other instructional materials, and therapies for students with special needs.*”

	Support-Oppose ESAs
Statewide	69%-22%
Very Conservative	75%-15%
Somewhat Conservative	70%-23%
Moderate/Liberal	43%-49%
MAGA	75%-15%
Non-MAGA	34%-59%
White	68%-23%
Non-White	73%-19%
Parent	63%-29%
Non-Parent	70%-21%
Urban	71%-22%
Suburban	69%-22%
Rural	65%-24%

- **By more than a two-to-one margin, GOP primary voters support expanding ESAs to all families who apply.** After being given some information that “*the Education Savings Account program is currently capped at 100,000 students, which is approximately 2% of the school-aged population in Texas,*” voters support expanding funding to cover all families who apply 62%-27%. Texas GOP primary parents support an expansion of ESAs by a 60%-31% margin.
- **Texas Republicans can benefit electorally in future GOP primary campaigns by supporting both school choice and ESAs.** Fully 57% of GOP primary voters say they would be “*more likely*” to vote for a Republican candidate who supports school choice and expanding the number of charter schools in Texas. Only 13% say they would be “*less likely*” and 24% say it would “*make no difference*” in their vote.

THE TEXAS GOP POLITICAL LANDSCAPE

- **Most Republicans tested in the survey are very popular among Texas GOP primary voters.**

Favorable-Unfavorable	
Donald Trump	90%-10%
J.D. Vance	86%-10%
Ted Cruz	84%-14%
Marco Rubio	82%-9%
Greg Abbott	81%-18%
Ken Paxton	65%-22%
John Cornyn	48%-37%
Wesley Hunt	34%-3%

- **Thinking ahead to next year's GOP primary election, Governor Abbott is in a much stronger position for re-nomination than Senator Cornyn.** By a 64%-27% margin, a majority of Texas GOP primary voters believe *"the Governor has done a good enough job to deserve re-election"* rather than *"it is time for a new Republican to be elected Governor."*

On the other hand, when it comes to Cornyn, a majority (54%) of GOP primary voters believe *"it is time for a new Republican to be elected U.S. Senator"* compared with 27% who say, *"the U.S. Senator has done a good enough job to deserve re-election."*

- **While the 2026 GOP primary continues to be a long way off, John Cornyn currently trails Ken Paxton in a head-to-head race by more than 20 points.** In a one-on-one trial heat, Paxton leads Cornyn 50%-28% among GOP primary voters. Paxton currently leads Cornyn among very conservative GOP primary voters (60%-22%), high propensity 3/3 GOP primary voters (57%-27%), MAGA voters (58%-23%), Seniors (47%-35%), as well as among voters across every media market in the state.
- **Cornyn loses even more ground on an informed ballot test.** In an effort to "fast forward" the race among voters in our survey, voters were given a second ballot test after having them assume that A.) President Trump would endorse John Cornyn; B.) Paxton would attack Cornyn for his past comments on Trump, saying that Trump's "time has passed him by"; and, C.) Paxton would attack Cornyn for, in the past, siding with Democrats on a gun control bill. Following this information, Paxton's lead over Cornyn widens to 62%-21%.