INSIDE THE CAPITOL · TEXAS

Texas Changed Course.

What election night means for the border and Main Street. Texas voters elected new statewide leaders for the first time in a generation.

By C. LeRoy Cavazos-Reyna, Founder and CEO, Localism, Inc.

For border communities and small businesses, the real work starts now. The 90th Legislature convenes January 12.

What happened

U.S. Senate	**James Talarico** defeated Ken Paxton. First Democrat to win a Texas U.S. Senate seat since 1988.
Governor	**Gina Hinojosa** defeated Gov. Greg Abbott, who conceded Tuesday night. A Brownsville native, she will be the first Latina governor of Texas.
Lieutenant Governor	**Vikki Goodwin** defeated Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick. The lieutenant governor presides over the Texas Senate.
Attorney General	**Nathan Johnson** defeated Mayes Middleton. First Democrat elected attorney general since 1994.
Comptroller	**Sarah Eckhardt** defeated Don Huffines. The comptroller certifies how much the Legislature can spend.
Bexar County	**Ron Nirenberg** was elected county judge, and **Luz Elena Chapa** district attorney.

Race calls: Associated Press (U.S. Senate, governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general); Texas Tribune (comptroller); KSAT (Bexar County). As of Nov. 4, 2026.

TURNOUT

7.7M+ votes cast before Election Day, more than 40% of registered voters

The highest early-turnout rate for a Texas midterm in modern records. Sources: Texas Tribune; KUT.

STILL BEING DECIDED

- **Texas House:** control was not yet called.
- **Texas Senate:** Republicans were expected to keep a majority.
- **Congress:** Democrats won the U.S. Senate. House results were still being counted.

Sources: Texas Tribune; PBS NewsHour / AP.

The border region's new delegation

TX-35 · San Antonio
Johnny Garcia defeated Carlos De La Cruz in the newly redrawn seat.

TX-23 · San Antonio to El Paso
Katy Padilla Stout defeated Brandon Herrera, flipping the seat.

TX-15 · Rio Grande Valley
Bobby Pulido unseated Rep. Monica De La Cruz.

TX-28 · Laredo · TX-34 · Brownsville
Henry Cuellar and Vicente Gonzalez were reelected.

All five races called by the Associated Press. Sources: KSAT; Texas Tribune; Fox News.

What it means for border communities

The governor-elect grew up in Brownsville, on the border. That matters for how Austin talks about ports of entry, state border spending and the trade corridor that runs from Laredo to the Rio Grande Valley. Questions to watch:

- **State border spending.** How the new governor and the Legislature handle the state's border security budget.
- **Trade with Mexico.** A new U.S. senator and three new border-region members of Congress, from San Antonio to the Valley, as the USMCA trade agreement goes through its first joint review.
- **State–federal coordination.** A new governor and attorney general will set a different tone with federal agencies at the border.

What it means for small businesses

Election night does not change a tax bill, a permit or a payroll. The Legislature still writes the budget, and every new idea has to pass both chambers. What the new leaders have said they will push:

- **Governor Hinojosa:** return $1,500 to each household from the state's savings, change school funding and end the voucher program, and regulate data centers.
- **Attorney General Johnson:** consumer protection, anti-corruption and child support enforcement.

How the Capitol could work

Divided Capitol

A new governor and lieutenant governor working with Republican majorities. Expect hard bargaining, vetoes and possible special sessions.

A Texas House shift

If control of the House changes, the Speaker's race and committee chairs reset, and so do budget priorities.

The budget sets the pace

The comptroller's revenue estimate in January tells everyone how much room there is to spend.

Three things you can do now

1

Meet the new teams early

Transition staff and new chiefs of staff are being hired now. Introduce your business before January.

2

Get into the bills

Bill prefiling opens November 9. Bring your priorities to a lawmaker before the drafts are written.

3

Bring the numbers

New leaders want local data. Show jobs, payroll and trade that depend on the decisions ahead.

> **Because at the end of the day, everything is local.** Localism works with leaders of both parties to help businesses, border communities and organizations make their case in Austin, Washington and Mexico City. To get ready for the 90th Legislature, let's talk: **info@localisminc.com** · 210-802-2126.

Localism is a certified Hispanic-, LGBTQ+- and Disability-owned business.