DEMOCRATIC PRIMARIES 2026

TEXAS CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS 18, 29 & 9



Hobby School of Public Affairs
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Democratic Primaries 2026
Texas Congressional Districts 18, 29 and 9
February 2026

The Hobby School of Public Affairs at the University of Houston conducted three separate representative surveys of likely March 2026 Democratic primary voters in Texas's Congressional District 18, Congressional District 29 and Congressional District 9 to assess their preferences and opinions about candidates in these three respective Democratic primary elections. A person's likelihood of voting in the March Democratic primary was determined based on a combination of their prospective intention to participate combined with their record of past primary election participation in 2024 and in 2022. The boundaries for (and thus residents in) all three of these Houston-area congressional districts were modified considerably during the mid-decade congressional redistricting process carried out by the Texas Legislature during the summer of 2025.

Voters were contacted via SMS text message and directed to an online survey platform with the option to answer the survey in English or Spanish. The surveys were fielded between February 3 and February 8 for Congressional District 18 and between February 3 and February 10 for Congressional Districts 9 and 29. Representative of voters who are likely to participate in the three respective primaries, the sample population for the Congressional District 18 survey is 1,000 (with a margin of error of +/- 3.10%), the sample population for the Congressional District 29 survey is 500 (with a margin of error of +/- 4.38%), and the sample population for the Congressional District 9 survey is 400 (with a margin of error of +/- 4.90%).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the Texas Congressional District 18 Democratic primary, Congressman Christian Menefee leads Congressman Al Green by 24 percentage points among likely voters, 52% to 28%, followed by Amanda Edwards (9%) and Gretchen Brown (1%), with 10% undecided.

Menefee's lead over Green is in the single digits (43% to 36%) among the almost two-thirds of likely voters who currently are represented by Green in the old Congressional District 9, but Menefee holds a 57 percentage point lead (70% vs. 13%) among the more than one in four likely voters who currently are represented by Menefee in the old Congressional District 18.

Both Menefee (80%) and Green (79%) are viewed favorably by four-fifths of the Congressional District 18 likely Democratic primary voters, with only 14% and 7% not knowing enough about them to have an opinion, respectively.

In the Texas Congressional District 29 Democratic primary, Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia leads Jarvis Johnson by 19 percentage points among likely voters, 46% to 27%, with Robert Slater in third with 2%, and with 25% undecided.

Garcia leads Johnson by large margins among White (55% to 6%) and Latino (70% to 13%) likely voters, while Johnson leads Garcia by a large margin among Black likely voters (49% to 28%).

More than two-thirds (70%) of likely Congressional District 29 primary voters have a favorable opinion of Garcia, while 23% don't know enough about her to have an opinion. Close to one-half (45%) have a favorable opinion of Johnson, while 41% don't know enough about him to have an opinion.

In the Texas Congressional District 9 Democratic primary, 61% of likely voters are unsure whom they will vote for, with Leticia Gutierrez in first place with 24%, followed by Terry Virts (5%), Earnest Clayton (5%), Todd Ivey (2%), Marty Rocha (2%) and Peter Filler (1%).

Nearly two-thirds (65%) of likely Congressional District 9 Democratic primary voters don't know enough about Gutierrez to have an opinion of her, with between 80% and 88% not knowing enough about the other five candidates to have an opinion of them.

MARCH 2026 TEXAS CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 18 DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

Four candidates are on the ballot in the March 2026 Texas Congressional District 18 Democratic primary: Gretchen Brown, Congressman Al Green, Congressman Christian Menefee, and former Houston City Council member Amanda Edwards. Edwards suspended her campaign on February 9, the day after the fielding of the survey closed, but still remains on the ballot.

Congressional District 18 Democratic Primary Population Demographics

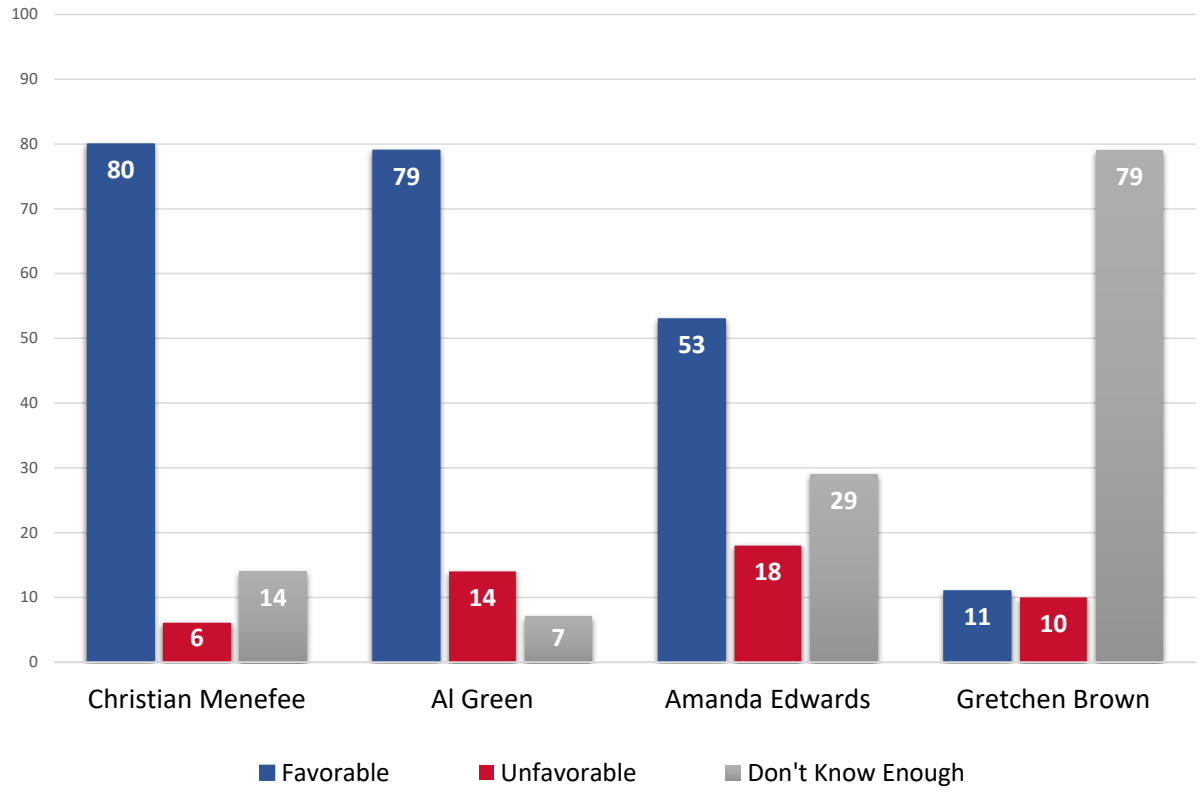
Black likely voters account for 62% of this population of Texas 2026 Democratic primary likely voters, White likely voters for 22%, Latino likely voters for 10%, and others for 4%. Women represent 62% of this population and men 38%. Nearly two-thirds (65%) of these likely voters are age 55 and older, while 25% are between the ages of 35 and 54, and 10% are between the ages of 18 and 34. A little more than two-fifths (43%) of these likely voters possess a four-year college degree while 57% do not. Democrats account for 76% of this population, Independents for 15% and Republicans for 3%, with 5% identifying as something else and 1% unsure about their partisanship. Almost two-thirds (64%) of these likely voters currently (the districts created by the Texas Legislature in 2021) live in Congressional District 9, 28% in Congressional District 18, 6% in Congressional District 29, 1% in Congressional District 22 and 1% in Congressional District 7. Nearly three-fourths (74%) of these likely voters reside in Harris County and a little more than one-fourth (26%) in Fort Bend County.

Congressional District 18 Democratic Primary Candidate Favorable & Unfavorable Evaluations

Figure 1 provides the proportion of likely Congressional District 18 Democratic primary voters with a favorable and unfavorable opinion of the four candidates, along with the proportion who do not know enough about the candidate to have an opinion, one way or another. Four-fifths (80%) of likely Democratic primary voters have a favorable opinion of Menefee, while 6% have an unfavorable opinion and 14% don't know enough about him to have an opinion. Nearly four-fifths (79%) of likely Democratic primary voters have a favorable opinion of Green, while 14% have an unfavorable opinion and 7% don't know enough about him to have an opinion. Edwards is viewed favorably by 53% and unfavorably by 18% of likely Democratic primary voters, with 29% not knowing enough about her to have an opinion.

Close to four-fifths (79%) of likely primary voters don't know enough about Brown to have an opinion of her, with the remaining one-fifth split nearly evenly between those with a favorable (11%) and unfavorable (10%) opinion.

Figure 1: Proportion of Likely 2026 Texas District 18 Democratic Primary Voters with a Favorable and Unfavorable Opinion of the Congressional District 18 Candidates (%)



Congressional District 18 Democratic Primary Vote Intention

Figure 2 provides the vote intention among likely voters in the 2026 Texas Congressional District 18 Democratic primary election. Menefee is in first place with 52%, 24 percentage points ahead of Green (28%) who is in second place. Edwards has the support of 9% of likely primary voters and Brown of 1%, with 10% unsure about whom they would vote for in the contest.

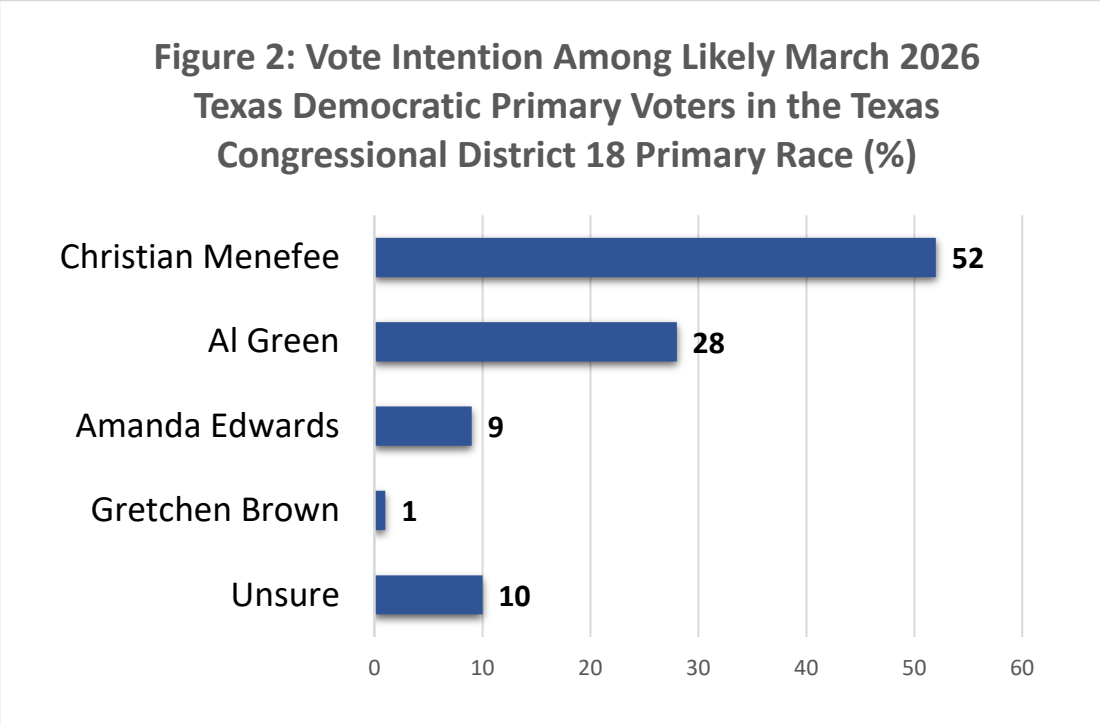


Table 1 provides the vote intention in the 2026 Texas Congressional District 18 Democratic primary election, broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, generation, education, partisanship, old congressional district (i.e., the one drawn in 2021 in which the voter currently resides), and county.

The most noteworthy difference in vote intention for Menefee and Green is based on the congressional district in which likely voters currently live, followed by notable differences which revolve around gender, ethnicity/race and education.

Table 1. Vote Intention in the March 2026 Democratic Texas Congressional District 18 Primary, Among Key Groups (%)

Socio-Demographic	Sub-Group	Menefee	Green	Edwards	Unsure
Overall		52	28	9	10
Gender	Women	54	26	8	11
	Men	49	31	10	9
Ethnicity/Race	White	56	19	8	16
	Latino	39	37	7	14
	Black	53	29	10	7
Age	18 to 34	45	23	16	16
	35 to 54	59	22	9	10
	55 and Older	52	31	7	9
Education	4 Year College Degree	59	22	8	11
	No 4 Year College Degree	49	32	9	9
Partisanship	Democrat	54	29	9	7
	Independent/Republican	55	20	9	17
Old Congressional District	CD-9	43	36	8	12
	CD-18	70	13	11	5
	Other CDs (29, 22, 7)	68	13	6	11
County	Harris	58	21	9	11
	Fort Bend	48	37	7	8

Among the close to two-thirds of Congressional District 18 likely voters who are presently represented by Green in the old Congressional District 9, Menefee holds only a single-digit, 7 percentage point lead over Green, 43% to 36%. However, among the more than one-fourth of likely voters who are presently represented (since February 2, 2026) by Menefee in the old Congressional District 18, Menefee holds a 57 percentage point lead over Green, 70% to 13%. Menefee also leads Green by 55 percentage points (68% to 13%) among the relatively small number of likely primary voters who reside in the old Congressional Districts 7, 22 and 29. The differences in vote intention across the old congressional districts are also reflected in the county differences, where Menefee's vote intention in Fort Bend County (where a portion of the old Congressional 9 is located) is smaller than his advantage in Harris County (11 percentage points compared to 37 percentage points).

Menefee leads Green among women by 28 percentage points (54% to 26%), but leads among men by 18 percentage points (49% to 31%). Menefee leads Green among White likely voters by 37 percentage points (56% to 19%) while leading among Black likely voters by 24 percentage points (53% to 29%). The two candidates are evenly matched among the district's small (one in ten) cohort of Latino likely voters, with Menefee having a vote intention of 39% and Green of 37%. Finally, Menefee leads Green among

likely voters with a four-year college degree by 37 percentage points (59% to 22%), while leading among voters who do not have a four-year college degree by 17 percentage points (49% to 32%).

A noted previously, Edwards suspended her congressional campaign after the survey closed. Among the 9% of likely voters who intended to vote for Edwards, 68% and 62% have a favorable opinion of Menefee and Green, and 20% and 33% an unfavorable opinion, respectively.

MARCH 2026 TEXAS CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 29 DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

Three candidates are on the ballot in the March 2026 Texas Congressional District 29 Democratic primary: Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia, former Texas state Representative Jarvis Johnson, and Robert Slater.

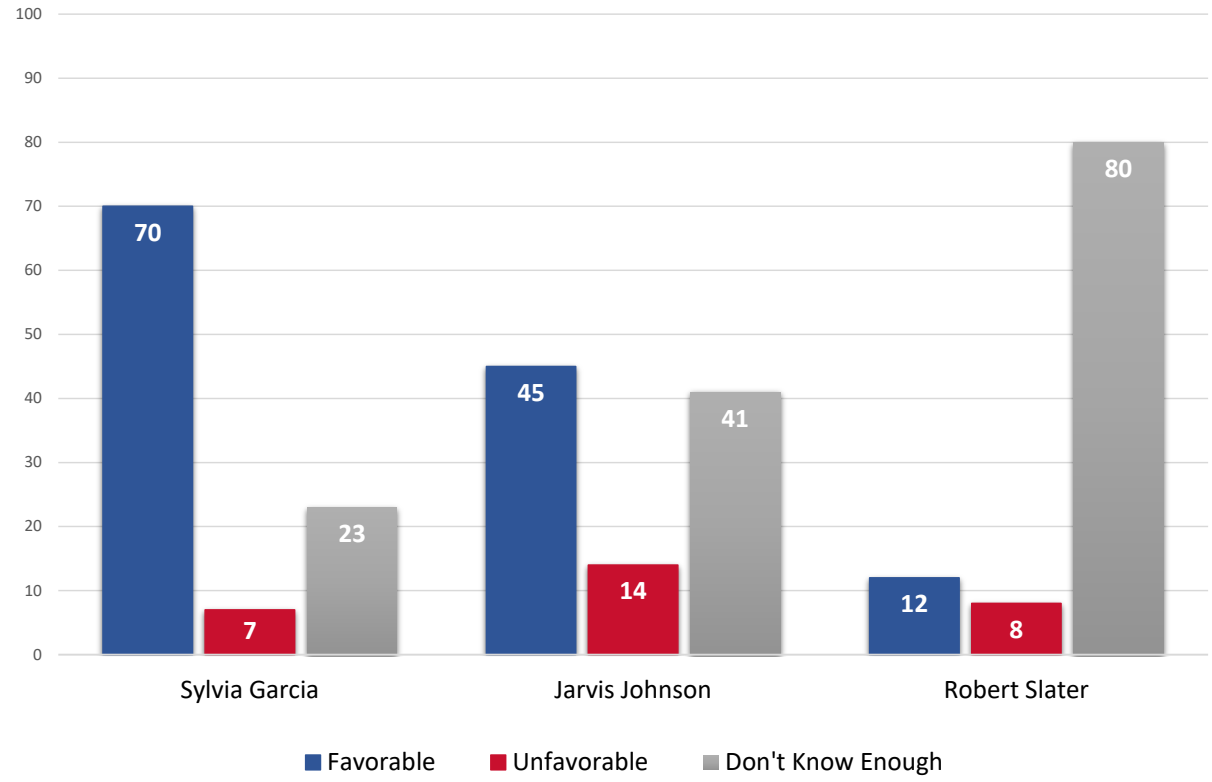
Congressional District 29 Democratic Primary Population Demographics

Black likely voters account for 43% of this population of Texas 2026 Democratic primary likely voters, White likely voters for 30%, Latino likely voters for 24%, and others for 3%. Women represent 60% of this population, men 39% and people who responded “other” 1%. Nearly two-thirds (64%) of these likely voters are age 55 and older, while 26% are between the ages of 35 and 54, and 10% are between the ages of 18 and 34. Two-fifths (40%) of these likely voters possess a four-year college degree while 60% do not. Democrats account for 71% of this population, Independents for 17%, and Republicans for 6%, with 5% identifying as something else and 1% unsure about their partisanship. Almost three-fourths (74%) of these likely voters currently (2021 redistricting boundaries) live in Congressional District 18, 24% in Congressional District 29, 4% in Congressional District 2, and less than 1% in Congressional District 38. All likely voters live in Harris County as the district’s boundaries are entirely within the county’s borders

Congressional District 29 Democratic Primary Candidate Favorable & Unfavorable Evaluations

Figure 3 provides the proportion of likely Congressional District 29 primary voters with a favorable and unfavorable opinion of the three candidates, along with the proportion who do not know enough about the candidate to have an opinion, one way or another. Garcia is viewed favorably by 70% of likely voters and unfavorably by 7%, with 23% not knowing enough about the Congresswoman to have an opinion of her. Johnson is viewed favorably by 45% of likely voters and unfavorably by 14%, with 41% not knowing enough about Johnson to have an opinion of him. Four-fifths (80%) of likely voters don't know enough about Slater to have an opinion of him, while 12% have a favorable opinion and 8% an unfavorable opinion.

Figure 3: Proportion of Likely Texas 2026 Democratic Primary Voters with a Favorable and Unfavorable Opinion of the Congressional District 29 Candidates (%)



Congressional District 29 Democratic Primary Vote Intention

Figure 4 provides the vote intention among likely voters in the 2026 Texas Congressional District 29 Democratic primary election. Garcia is in first place with 46%, 19 percentage points ahead of Johnson who is in second place with 27%, distantly followed by Slater (2%). One-quarter (25%) of these likely voters remain unsure about whom they will vote for in this primary contest.

Figure 4. Vote Intention Among Likely March 2026 Texas Democratic Primary Voters in the Texas Congressional District 29 Primary Race (%)

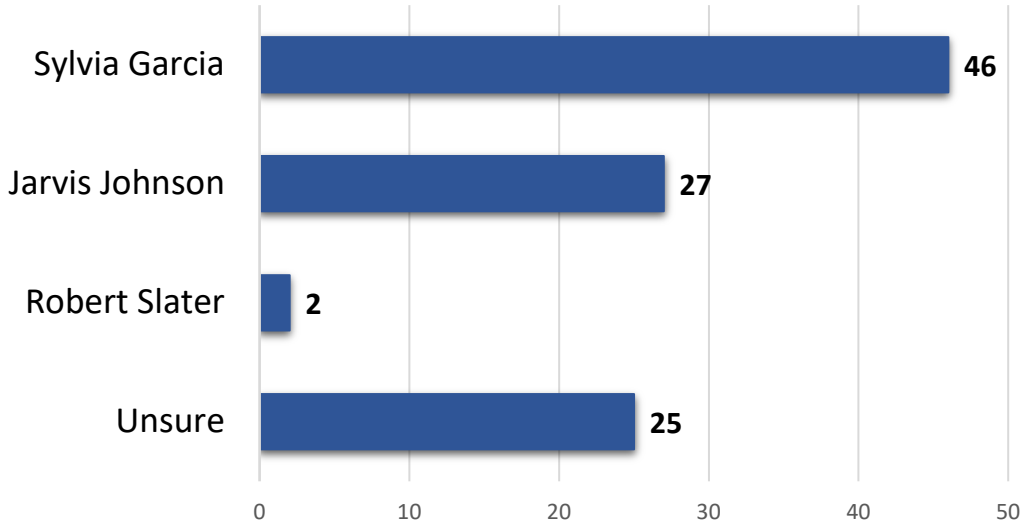


Table 2 provides the vote intention in the 2026 Texas Congressional District 29 Democratic primary election, broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, generation, education, partisanship, and old congressional district.

Table 2. Vote Intention in the March 2026 Democratic Texas Congressional District 29 Primary, Among Key Groups (%)

Socio-Demographic	Sub-Group	Garcia	Johnson	Unsure
Overall		46	27	25
Gender	Women	44	29	27
	Men	52	24	21
Ethnicity/Race	White	55	6	37
	Latino	70	13	14
	Black	28	49	22
Age	18 to 34	42	12	44
	35 to 54	33	27	40
	55 and Older	53	30	16
Education	4 Year College Degree	51	23	24
	No 4 Year College Degree	43	29	26
Partisanship	Democrat	49	29	22
	Independent/Republican	45	21	32
Old Congressional District	CD-18	43	20	36
	CD-29	47	38	15

The most noteworthy difference in vote intention for Garcia and Johnson is based on ethnicity/race, followed by notable differences which revolve around gender, education and the congressional district in which the voter currently resides.

Garcia leads Johnson by 49 percentage points among White likely voters (55% to 6%) and by 57 percentage points among Latino likely voters (70% to 13%), while Johnson leads Garcia by 21 percentage points among Black likely voters (49% to 28%). Of note, while 37% of White likely voters remain undecided, the same is true for only 22% of Black likely voters and 14% of Latino likely voters.

Garcia holds a 28 percentage point advantage over Johnson among men (52% to 24%) and a 15 percentage point advantage over Johnson among women (44% to 29%). Garcia leads Johnson by 28 percentage points among likely voters with a four-year college degree (51% to 23%) and by 14 percentage points among likely voters who do not have a four-year college degree (43% to 29%). Finally, Garcia outperforms Johnson among the three-quarters of voters who presently live in the old Congressional District 18 by 23 percentage points (43% to 20%) and by 9 percentage points among the one-fifth of voters who presently live in the old Congressional District 29 (47% to 38%). More than half (52%) of the March 2026 Congressional District 29 likely voters who presently live in the old Congressional District 29 are Black.

MARCH 2026 TEXAS CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 9 DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

Six candidates are on the ballot in the March 2026 Texas Congressional District 29 Democratic primary: Earnest Clayton, Peter Filler, Leticia Gutierrez, Todd Ivey, Marty Rocha and Terry Virts.

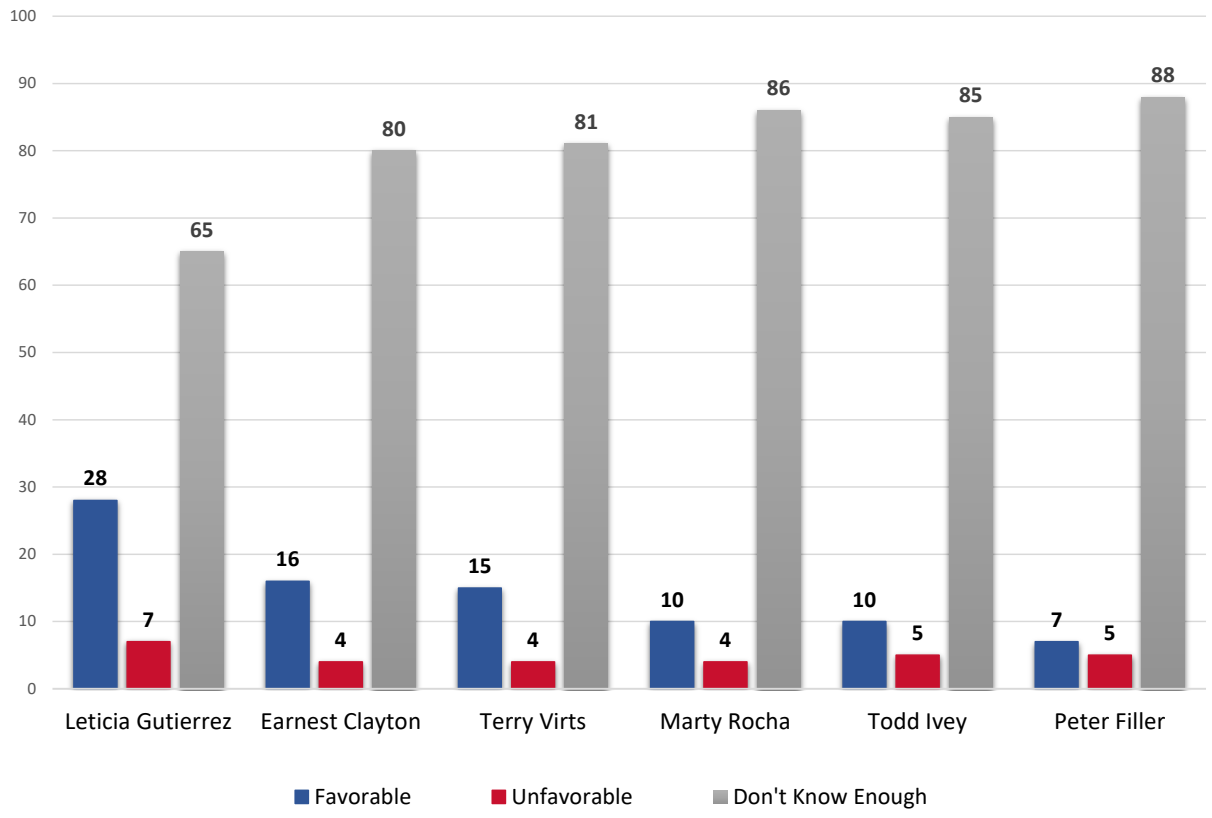
Congressional District 9 Democratic Primary Population Demographics

Latino likely voters account for 42% of this population of Texas 2026 Democratic primary likely voters, White likely voters for 39%, Black likely voters for 17%, and others for 2%. Women represent 62% of this population, men 37% and people who responded “other” 1%. Nearly two-thirds (65%) of these likely voters are age 55 and older, while 22% are between the ages of 35 and 54, and 13% are between the ages of 18 and 34. A little less than two-fifths (36%) of these likely voters possess a four-year college degree while 64% do not. Democrats account for 69% of this population, Independents for 17%, and Republicans for 6%, with 5% identifying as something else and 3% unsure about their partisanship. More than two-fifths (44%) of these likely voters currently (2021 redistricting boundaries) live in Congressional District 29 and more than two-fifths (43%) also live in Congressional District 36, with 11% and 2% residing in Congressional Districts 2 and 9, respectively. More than nine out of ten of these likely voters (93%) reside in Harris County, with the remaining 7% living in Liberty County.

Congressional District 9 Democratic Primary Candidate Favorable & Unfavorable Evaluations

Figure 5 provides the proportion of likely Congressional District 9 primary voters with a favorable and unfavorable opinion of the three candidates, along with the proportion who do not know enough about the candidate to have an opinion, one way or another. Four-fifths or more of these likely voters do not know enough about five of the six candidates to have an opinion of them: Clayton (80%), Virts (81%), Ivey (85%), Rocha (86%), and Filler (88%). Even the best-known candidate, Gutierrez, is a relative unknown to almost two-thirds (65%) of likely voters. Gutierrez is viewed favorably by 28% of likely voters and unfavorably by 7%, Clayton is viewed favorably by 16% and unfavorably by 4%, Virts is viewed favorably by 15% and unfavorably by 4%, Rocha is viewed favorably by 10% and unfavorably by 4%, Ivey is viewed favorably by 10% and unfavorably by 5% and Filler is viewed favorably by 7% and unfavorably by 5%.

Figure 5: Proportion of Likely Texas 2026 Democratic Primary Voters with a Favorable and Unfavorable Opinion of the Congressional District 9 Candidates (%)



Congressional District 9 Democratic Primary Vote Intention

Figure 6 provides the vote intention among likely voters in the 2026 Texas Congressional District 9 Democratic primary election. More than three-fifths (61%) of likely voters remain unsure for whom they will vote in this contest. Among the remainder, Gutierrez is in first place with 24%, followed by Virts (5%), Clayton (5%), Ivey (2%), Rocha (2%), and Filler (1%).

Figure 6: Vote Intention Among Likely March 2026 Texas Democratic Primary Voters in the Texas Congressional District 9 Primary Race (%)

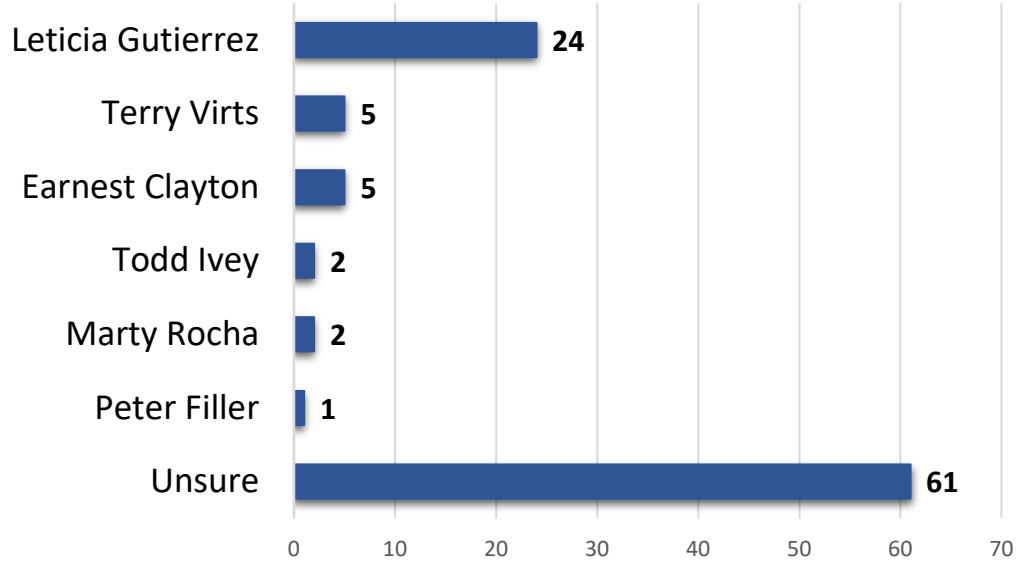


Table 3 provides the vote intention in the 2026 Texas Congressional District 9 Democratic primary election, broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, generation, education, partisanship, old congressional district and county. Given that more than three-fifths of likely voters remain undecided, combined with the overall sample size of 400, there are unsurprisingly not any noteworthy socio-demographic sub-group differences in vote intention for the candidates. The one, modest, exception is that Gutierrez's vote intention among Latino likely voters (35%) is notably higher than her vote intention among non-Latino likely voters (16%), with Latino likely voters (51%) also notably less likely to be unsure than non-Latino likely voters (68%) about for whom they are going to vote in this contest.

Table 3. Vote Intention in the March 2026 Democratic Texas Congressional District 9 Primary, Among Key Groups (%)

Socio-Demographic	Sub-Group	Gutierrez	Virts	Clayton	Unsure
Overall		24	5	5	61
Gender	Women	23	3	5	65
	Men	26	9	5	54
Ethnicity/Race	White	17	7	2	69
	Latino	35	5	4	51
	Black	13	4	13	67
Age	18 to 34	24	7	8	60
	35 to 54	26	6	7	53
	55 and Older	23	5	3	64
Education	4 Year College Degree	21	7	4	65
	No 4 Year College Degree	25	5	5	58
Partisanship	Democrat	29	5	5	56
	Independent/Republican	16	4	4	71
Old Congressional District	CD-29	26	5	4	57
	CD-36	22	6	7	61
	Other CDs (2, 9)	22	2	3	73
County	Harris	24	5	5	61
	Liberty	21	11	5	60

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