

## TEXAS

Voters in Texas will elect a Governor, Lt. Governor, and Attorney General this cycle. All 150 House seats will be on the ballot as well as half (15) the Senate seats. The gubernatorial and attorney general races are expected to be competitive. Republicans are expected to maintain control of the legislature.

### Governor

#### Democratic Nominee

##### [Beto O'Rourke \(D\)](#)

Beto O'Rourke is a former U.S. House member whose district encompassed nearly all of El Paso and its surrounding suburbs. He assumed the office in 2013 and left in 2019 after a run for the U.S. Senate seat. Incumbent Senator Ted Cruz (R) defeated O'Rourke in the general election for the U.S. Senate seat by a margin of 3 percentage points. He spent a few months in 2019 campaigning for president before dropping from the race. He served on the El Paso City Council from 2005 to 2011.

Healthcare and education are the two [main priorities](#) for O'Rourke's campaign. One of his biggest platform issues is the expansion of Medicaid, what he says is a response to the statistic of Texas being the least insured state in the country. He [criticized](#) Governor Abbott's office for its support of the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision to reverse Roe v. Wade, and is vowing to support reproductive rights. His platform on education includes promises to fully fund public schools and end state reliance on standardized testing.

He has been vocal about his [support](#) for the legalization of marijuana in Texas. He has also pledged to expunge the records of those arrested for marijuana possession.

O'Rourke has [promised](#) that if elected governor, he would protect the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment but also support universal background checks and the banning of assault rifles. He has pledged to repeal the state's constitutional carry law and would work to implement red flag and domestic violence reporting laws.

O'Rourke [announced](#) a plan to update the state's power grid that includes weatherizing the gas supply, creating an independent market monitor for the state's natural gas supply, and interconnecting with the rest of the country.

At the end of Q2, the former congressman's campaign had out raised incumbent Governor Abbott's campaign by almost \$4 million. O'Rourke reported raising [\\$40.9 million](#) and had \$23.9 million cash on hand at the end of the period.

*Trivia: O'Rourke had a brief career in music during his college years, playing in a band that performed in bars and clubs in New York City.*