

### Texas Special Sessions

- Redistricting
  - A special legislative session in Texas led to the approval of new congressional districts in August 2025.
  - The new maps, which shift boundaries primarily in urban areas and along the border, are designed to create five additional Republican-leaning U.S. House seats.
  - These districts will be in effect for the 2026 midterm elections, assuming they are not overturned by the legal challenges that have been filed by groups representing voters of color.
  - Key changes and new districts. The most significant changes in the new Texas congressional map affect districts in the state's most populous regions and include the following:
    - **South Texas:** The districts currently held by U.S. Reps. Henry Cuellar and Vicente Gonzalez were redrawn to make them more competitive for Republicans.
    - **Dallas-Fort Worth:** Significant changes were made to districts in this region.
      - U.S. Rep. Julie Johnson's district was overhauled to favor Republicans.
      - U.S. Rep. Marc Veasey's district was redrawn to be more compact, losing Fort Worth and potentially setting up a primary contest with Johnson.
    - **Austin:** A new Republican-leaning seat was created, potentially forcing U.S. Reps. Greg Casar and Lloyd Doggett into a primary for a single Democratic seat.
    - **Houston:** Four Democratic districts were altered. Most notably, the district of U.S. Rep. Al Green was combined with the vacant seat of the late U.S. Rep. Sylvester Turner. The new district would lean Republican.
  - Legal challenges. Lawsuits have been filed by civil rights organizations claiming the new maps are discriminatory against Black and Latino voters, arguing that the redrawn districts dilute the voting power of these communities. Federal courts are currently reviewing these challenges, which means the map could still be subject to further changes.
  - Find your new district <https://www.texastribune.org/2025/09/04/2025-texas-redistricting-maps/>

## PREVIOUSLY District 10

In 2024, this district voted **61.6% for Trump** and **36.8% for Harris**, and **Trump** won by **24.8 percentage points**. This district is represented by [U.S. Rep. Michael T. McCaul](#) **R**.

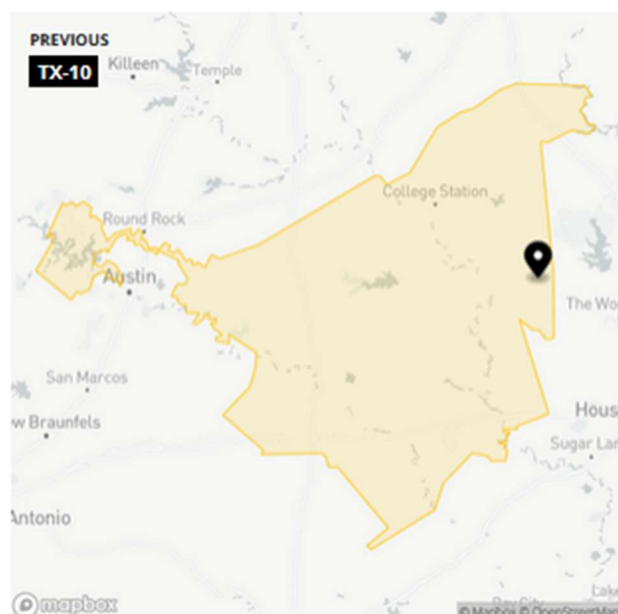
Among eligible voters, this district has:

■ **A white majority**

■ White ■ Hispanic ■ Black ■ Asian



Click image below for interactive map.



## NOW District 10

Under the changed map, your new district would have voted **60.5% for Trump** and **37.9% for Harris**, and **Trump** would have won by **22.6 percentage points**.

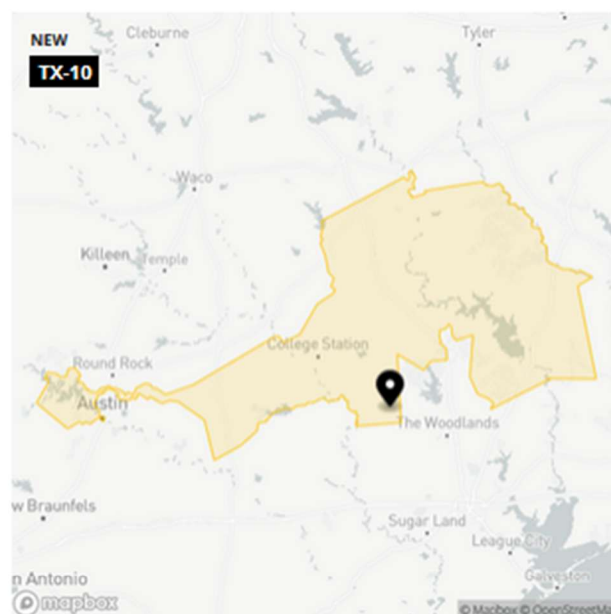
Among eligible voters, this district has:

■ **A white majority**

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Click image below for interactive map.



Note: Texas Legislative Council calculated eligible voter data using estimates of citizen voting age population from the U.S. Census 2019-2023 American Community Survey. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to a small percentage of eligible voters identifying as American Indian, Native Hawaiian or having two or more races. Icon by Lewen Design from Noun Project.

Source: Texas Legislative Council  
Credit: Carla Astudillo

- State attorney general can prosecute election fraud
  - As of September 2025, the Texas Attorney General (AG) can independently prosecute election fraud, a power that was recently restored by new legislation. This authority allows the AG to proceed with election-related cases without needing permission from local district or county attorneys. This bill passed despite an earlier failure to pass a constitutional amendment that would have achieved the same result.
  - Reverses a 2021 court decision: The new law overturns a December 2021 ruling by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, which had stripped the AG's office of its authority to unilaterally prosecute election cases. For the years following that ruling, the AG could only get involved in cases if a local prosecutor requested assistance.

- Recent cases: In June 2025, the AG's office announced investigations into 33 noncitizens for allegedly voting illegally in the 2024 general election. In May 2025, Paxton's office also secured indictments and arrests in an alleged vote-harvesting scheme in Frio County.
- Voter ID upheld: In August 2025, the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld Texas's voter ID requirement for mail-in ballots, which was part of the 2021 Texas Election Integrity Act.
- Abortion pill crackdown: Texas passed a new law in September 2025 allowing private citizens to sue any person or company that manufactures, distributes, or mails abortion pills to someone in Texas.
  - The bill allows successful plaintiffs to collect at least \$100,000 in damages from providers.
  - The legislation aims to stop the flow of abortion medication into the state despite existing abortion bans and is considered a blueprint for other states.
  - The bill excludes women who take the pills from being sued.
  - Targeted entities: manufacturers, distributors, and mail carriers that ship abortion medication to or within Texas.
  - The bill's unique approach to using private citizens for enforcement is seen as a potential model for other states with abortion bans.
- Women's privacy. As of September 2025, the Texas Legislature has passed Senate Bill 8 (SB 8), also known as the "Texas Women's Privacy Act," which restricts transgender individuals from using public and school bathrooms that align with their gender identity.
  - Restrictions: The law requires individuals to use multiple-occupancy restrooms and changing rooms in government-owned buildings and public schools that correspond to their sex assigned at birth.
  - Enforcement and Penalties: Government agencies and jurisdictions that violate the policy could face fines of \$25,000 for a first offense and \$125,000 for subsequent offenses. The penalties are tied to the institution, not individuals.
  - Correctional facilities and shelters: The bill includes provisions for housing inmates in state custody based on their sex assigned at birth. It also bans transgender women from domestic violence shelters unless they are dependents of a cisgender woman also receiving services.
  - Years of attempts: SB 8 represents a successful effort after more than a decade of failed attempts by Texas lawmakers to pass a "bathroom bill".
- Flood safety and disaster response
- STAAR test
- Things that didn't pass
  - Ban on taxpayer funded lobbying
  - Additional property tax reform
  - Ban on hemp products

### Lawsuit on closed primaries in Texas

In September 2025, the Republican Party of Texas (RPT) filed a federal lawsuit against the Texas Secretary of State to close the state's primary elections. The suit aims to prevent voters who are not registered Republicans from participating in the party's primary.

- Legal argument: The RPT argues that Texas's current open primary system violates its First Amendment right to freedom of association by forcing the party to allow non-members to select its nominees.
- Legal precedent: The lawsuit cites a 2011 federal court ruling in favor of the Idaho Republican Party, which led to closed primaries in that state.
- Party rules: In 2024, the Texas GOP adopted new party rules calling for closed primaries, which the lawsuit seeks to enforce.
- Basis for the suit: The RPT claims that "crossover voting," where independents or Democrats vote in the Republican primary, influences the outcome of its elections. The suit specifically mentions the 2024 primary races of Representatives Dade Phelan and Gary VanDeaver as examples.
- Timing and impact: A representative for the Secretary of State's office has stated that the lawsuit is being reviewed, but preparations for the March 2026 primary are proceeding under existing state law, so the change is unlikely to happen before then. The RPT stated in its filing that it is seeking the change by 2028.
- Legislative context: The lawsuit was filed after two legislative attempts to pass closed primary laws in the 2025 Texas legislative session failed.

### Mike Lee's legislation about appointing interim US attorneys

- There are 93 US attorneys selected by the president as political appointees. They are all subject to confirmation by the Senate.
- The Attorney General (i.e. Pam Bondi) can appoint an interim attorney for up to 120 days while the nominee for the position is going through Senate confirmation.
- If the confirmation isn't done within that 120-day window, then the district court itself (i.e. the presiding judge) may appoint a US attorney to hold the seat while the vacancy is filled.
- Two recent high-profile cases. Pam Bondi used a "judicial loophole" (the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998) to keep the interim attorneys in their positions after the 120 days expired and the courts appointed a new interim attorney.
  - Northern District of NY refused to extend John Sarcone's tenure as acting US attorney when the 120-day period expired
  - Alina Habba, a Trump political advisor, was removed in a NJ district, but Bondi put her back in.