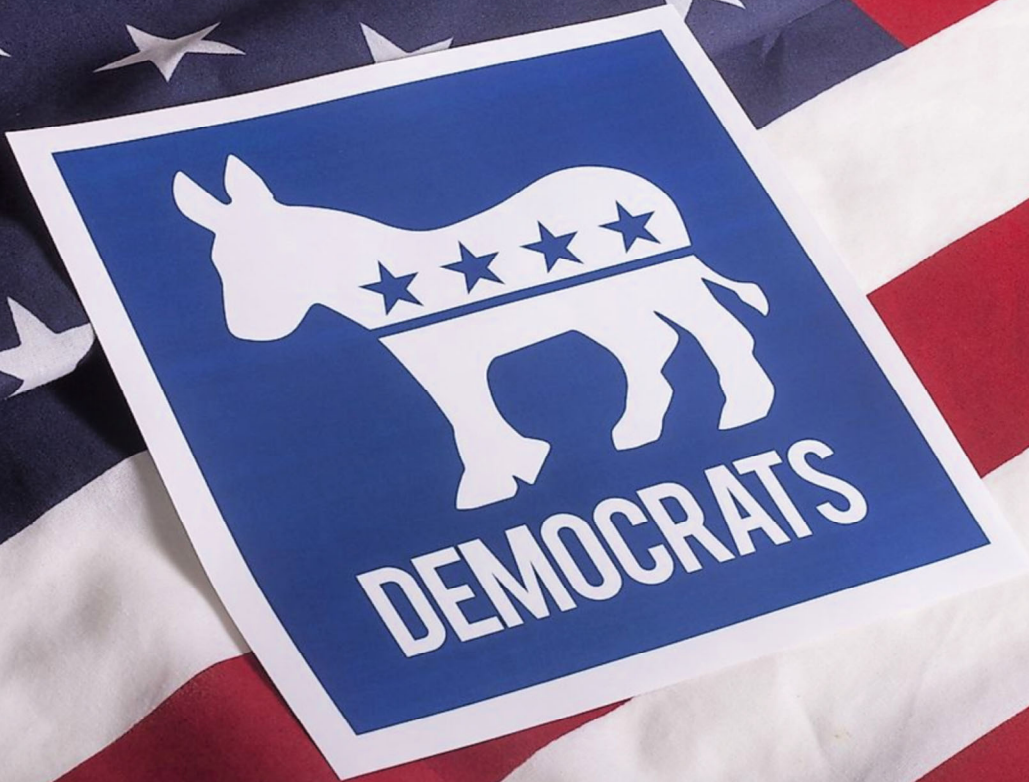


# HARRIS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY RUNOFF ELECTIONS 2026

COUNTY JUDGE, DISTRICT CLERK, LIEUTENANT  
GOVERNOR & ATTORNEY GENERAL



Hobby School of Public Affairs  
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON





## Harris County Democratic Primary Runoff Elections 2026 County Judge, District Clerk, Lieutenant Governor & Attorney General

May 2026

The Hobby School of Public Affairs at the University of Houston conducted a representative survey of likely May 2026 Democratic primary runoff election voters in Harris County.

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 survey was fielded between May 5 and May 9, 2026. Representative of voters who are likely to participate in these primary runoff elections, the sample population is 1,200 (with a margin of error of +/- 2.83%).

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the Democratic primary runoff election for the position of county judge of Harris County, Annise Parker (54%) leads Letitia Plummer (36%) by 18 percentage points, with 10% of likely voters unsure of whom they are going to vote for.

Parker leads Plummer by 46 percentage points among White likely voters (68% to 22%) and by 29 percentage points among Latino likely voters (60% to 31%), while Plummer leads Parker by 26 percentage points among Black likely voters (58% to 32%).

Parker and Plummer are deadlocked among likely voters under the age of 55, while Parker holds a substantial 59% to 33% lead among the two-thirds of likely voters who are age 55 and older.

Parker leads Plummer by 28 percentage points among likely voters with four-year college degrees (59% to 31%), but by only 8 percentage points among likely voters who do not have a four-year college degree (49% to 41%).

69% of likely voters have a favorable opinion of Parker and 17% have an unfavorable opinion, with 14% not knowing enough about her to have an opinion.

55% of likely voters have a favorable opinion of Plummer and 8% have an unfavorable opinion, with 37% not knowing enough about her to have an opinion.

In the Democratic primary runoff election for the position of district clerk of Harris County, 57% of likely voters are unsure for whom they will vote, while 23% intend to vote for Darrel Jordan Jr. and 20% for Jose "Alex" Maldonado.

In the May 2026 Texas Democratic primary runoff election, Harris County voters are expected to cast approximately one-fifth of all votes statewide.

In the statewide Democratic primary runoff election for lieutenant governor, 41% of Harris County likely voters intend to vote for Vikki Goodwin and 19% for Marcos Vélez, with 40% undecided.

In the statewide Democratic primary runoff election for attorney general, 32% of Harris County likely voters intend to vote for Nathan Johnson and 30% for Joe Jaworski, with 38% undecided.

One-half or more of Harris County likely May 2026 Democratic primary runoff voters don't know enough about these four statewide Democratic candidates to have an opinion of them, ranging from highs of 67% (Vélez) and 59% (Johnson) to lows of 53% (Goodwin) and 50% (Jaworski).

### **HARRIS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY RUNOFF VOTER POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS**

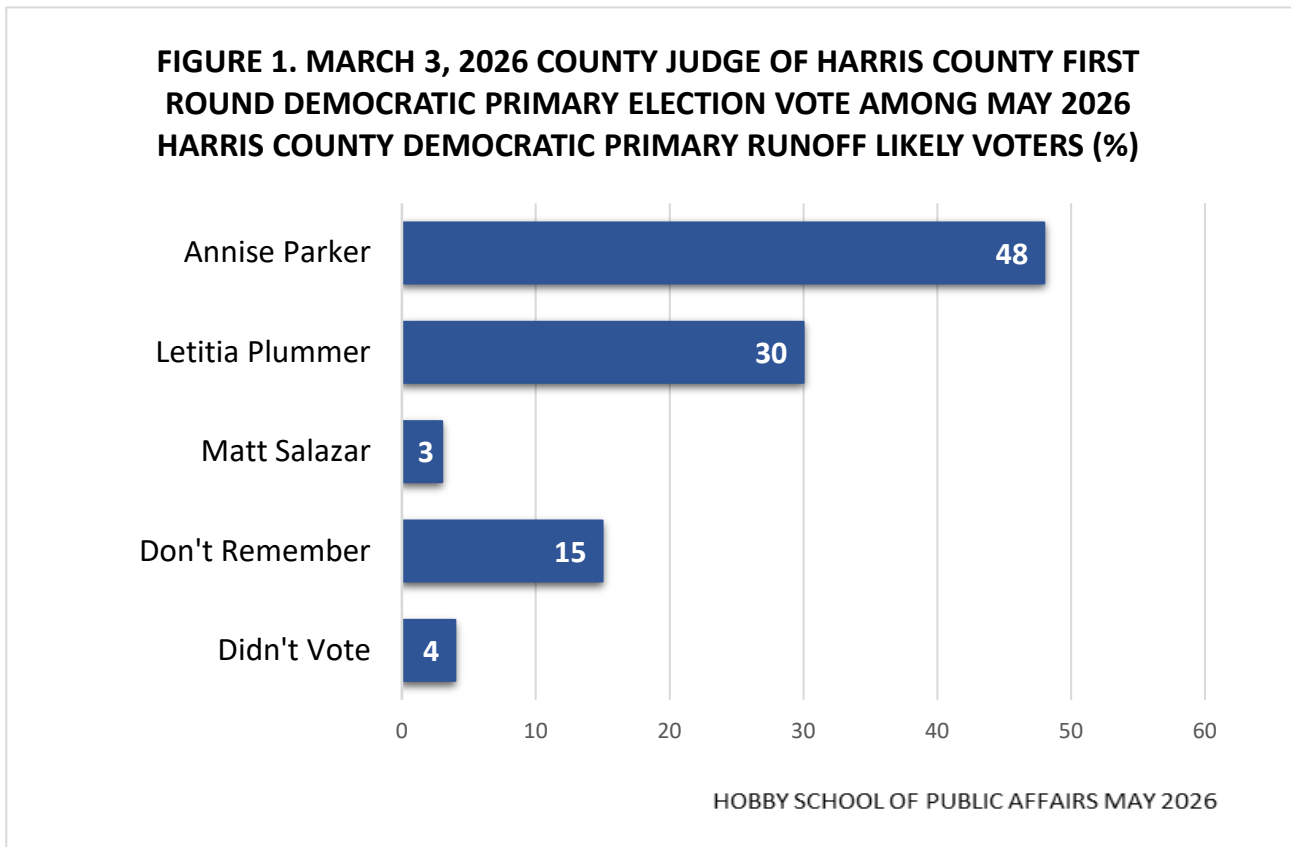
White likely voters account for 45% of this population of May 2026 Democratic primary runoff likely voters, Black likely voters for 31%, Latino likely voters for 19%, and others for 5%. Women represent 58% of this population, men 41% and those who identify as something else 1%. Two-thirds (66%) of these likely voters are age 55 and older, while 24% are between the ages of 35 and 54, and 10% are between the ages of 18 and 34. Slightly less than one-half (49%) of these likely voters possess a four-year college degree while 51% do not. Democrats account for 78% of this population and Independents for 17%, with 3% identifying as something else, 1% as Republican and 1% unsure of their partisanship.

## HARRIS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY RUNOFF ELECTION FOR THE POSITION OF COUNTY JUDGE

In the March 3, 2026 Democratic primary election, Annise Parker won 46.7% of the vote, followed by Letitia Plummer with 37.3%, and Matt Salazar with 16.1%. Since no candidate won more than 50% of the vote on March 3, Parker and Plummer are facing off in a May 26, 2026 primary runoff election.

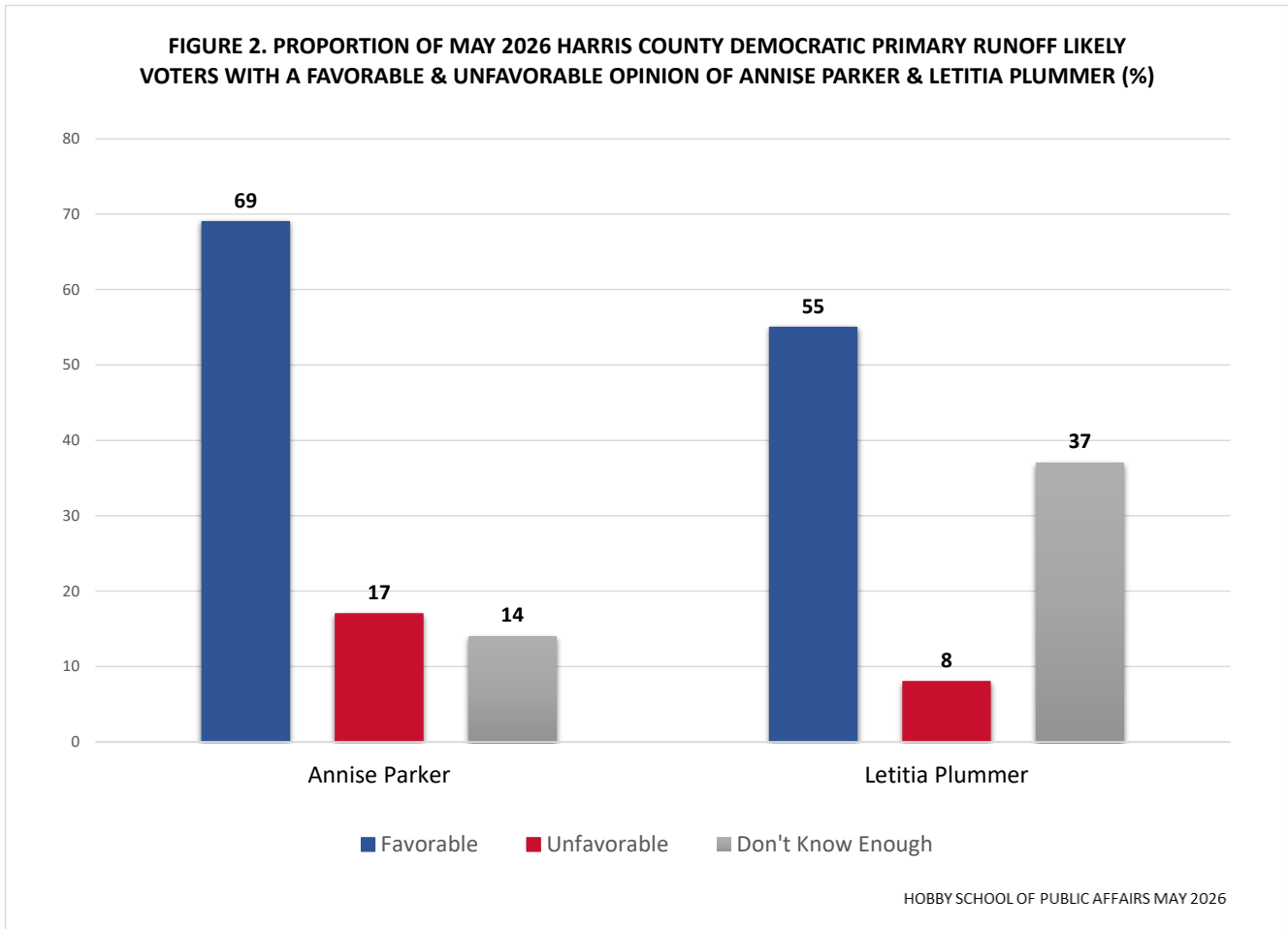
### May 2026 Likely Runoff Voters' March 3 Primary Vote for County Judge of Harris County

Figure 1 provides the self-reported March 3 Democratic primary election vote for county judge of Harris County among likely May 2026 primary runoff voters. Close to one-half (48%) of likely May 2026 Harris County Democratic primary runoff voters cast a ballot for Annise Parker in the March 3 election and 30% voted for Letitia Plummer. Only 3% report having cast a ballot for Matt Salazar, while 15% can't remember who they voted for in this race (it's quite possible this includes a disproportionate share of the Salazar voters), and 4% of these likely May 2026 voters did not participate in the March 3 first round of the Democratic primary.



## Favorable & Unfavorable Evaluations of the Democratic Primary Runoff County Judge Candidates

Figure 2 provides the proportion of likely Harris County Democratic primary runoff voters with a favorable and unfavorable opinion of Annise Parker and Letitia Plummer, along with the proportion who do not know enough about the candidate to have an opinion of them, one way or another.



More than two-thirds (69%) of likely Harris County Democratic May 2026 primary runoff voters have a favorable opinion of Parker and 17% have an unfavorable opinion, with the remaining 14% of them not knowing enough about her to have an opinion. More than one-half (55%) of likely Harris County Democratic May 2026 primary runoff voters also have a favorable opinion of Plummer and 8% have an unfavorable opinion, with almost two-fifths (37%) of likely voters not knowing enough about her to have an opinion. The net-favorability score (percentage favorable minus percentage unfavorable) for Parker is +52% and for Plummer is +47%.

**Harris County Democratic Primary Runoff Vote Intention for County Judge**

Figure 3 provides the vote intention among likely voters in the May 2026 Democratic primary runoff election for the position of county judge of Harris County. Annise Parker leads with 54%, 18 percentage points ahead of Letitia Plummer at 36%, with 10% of likely voters unsure of whom they will vote for in the runoff election.

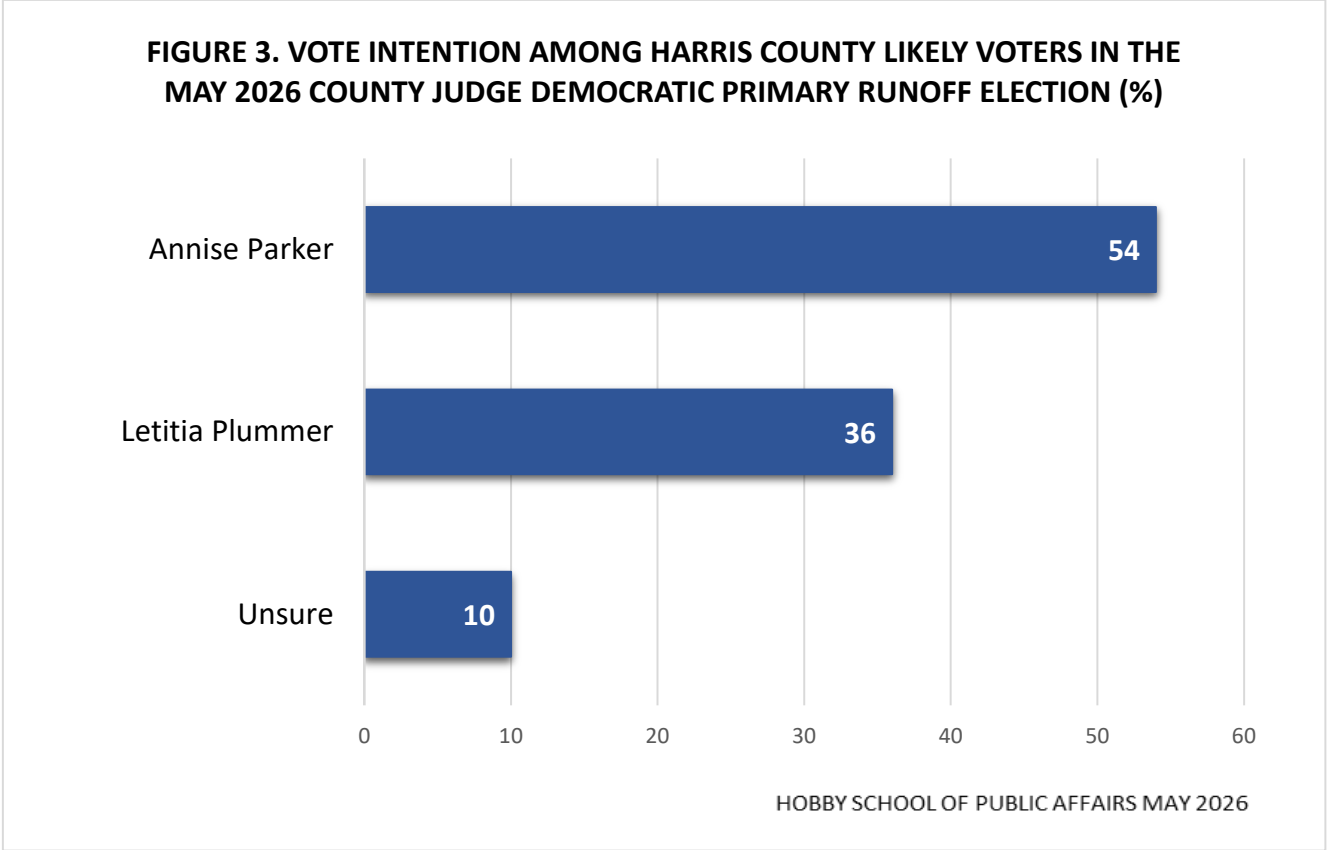


Table 1 provides the vote intention in the Harris County Democratic primary runoff election for the position of county judge, broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, age, education, partisanship, and vote choice in the March 3 primary election for county judge. The most noteworthy socio-demographic differences in vote intention revolve around ethnicity/race, age, and education.

**TABLE 1. VOTE INTENTION IN THE HARRIS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COUNTY JUDGE PRIMARY RUNOFF, AMONG KEY GROUPS (%)**

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC	SUB-GROUP	PARKER	PLUMMER	UNSURE
Overall		54	36	10
Gender	Women	52	37	11
	Men	57	35	8
Ethnicity/Race	White	68	22	10
	Black	32	58	10
	Latino	60	31	9
Age	18 to 34	40	39	21
	35 to 54	46	42	12
	55+	59	33	8
Education	4 Year College Degree	59	31	10
	No 4 Year College Degree	49	41	10
Partisanship	Democrat	54	36	10
	Independent	58	35	7
March 3 County Judge Vote	Annise Parker	94	3	3
	Letitia Plummer	5	92	3
	Matt Salazar	44	40	16
	Don't Remember	25	35	40

HOBBY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS MAY 2026

Parker holds substantial 46 and 29 percentage point leads over Plummer among White (68% to 22%) and Latino (60% to 31%) likely voters, respectively, while Plummer holds a substantial 26 percentage point advantage over Parker among Black voters (58% to 32%). Parker and Plummer are effectively tied among voters ages 18 to 34 (40% to 39%) and 35 to 54 (46% to 42%), but Parker leads Plummer by 26 percentage points among the close to two-thirds of likely voters who are age 55 or older (59% to 33%). Finally, Parker leads Plummer by 28 percentage points among likely runoff voters who have a four-year college degree (59% to 31%), but by only 8 percentage points among likely runoff voters who do not have a four-year college degree (49% to 41%).

Among the likely May primary runoff voters who cast a ballot for Parker in the March 3 first round, 94% intend to vote for her in the May 26 primary runoff election, while 3% intend to vote for Plummer and 3% are unsure of whom they will vote for. Among the likely May primary runoff voters who cast a ballot for Plummer in the March 3 first round, 92% intend to vote for her in the May 26 primary runoff election, while 5% intend to vote for Parker and 3% are unsure how they will vote. Among the likely May primary runoff voters who cast a ballot for Matt Salazar in the March 3 first round, 44% intend to vote for Parker, and 40% for Plummer, in the runoff. Finally, among the one in seven likely May runoff voters who do not remember for whom they cast a ballot in the March primary, 35% intend to vote for Plummer and 25% for Parker, with two-fifths (40%) unsure of whom they will vote for in May.



## The Issue That Matters Most for Runoff Voters When Deciding for Whom to Vote for County Judge

These Harris County likely voters were asked which of eight policy issues matters the most to them when deciding whom to vote for in the May 2026 Democratic primary runoff election for the position of county judge of Harris County. The eight policy issues were crime, economic inequality, ethnic/racial inequality, flooding, high cost of housing, rising property taxes, roads and streets in bad condition, and traffic congestion.

Figure 4 contains the proportion of likely Harris County Democratic primary runoff voters who selected the issue as the most important one for their county judge vote decision. The proportion of likely voters prioritizing the eight policy issues ranges from a high of 22% (economic inequality) to a low of 4% (traffic congestion, with the remaining six policy issues bunched together in a narrow range between 10% and 15%.

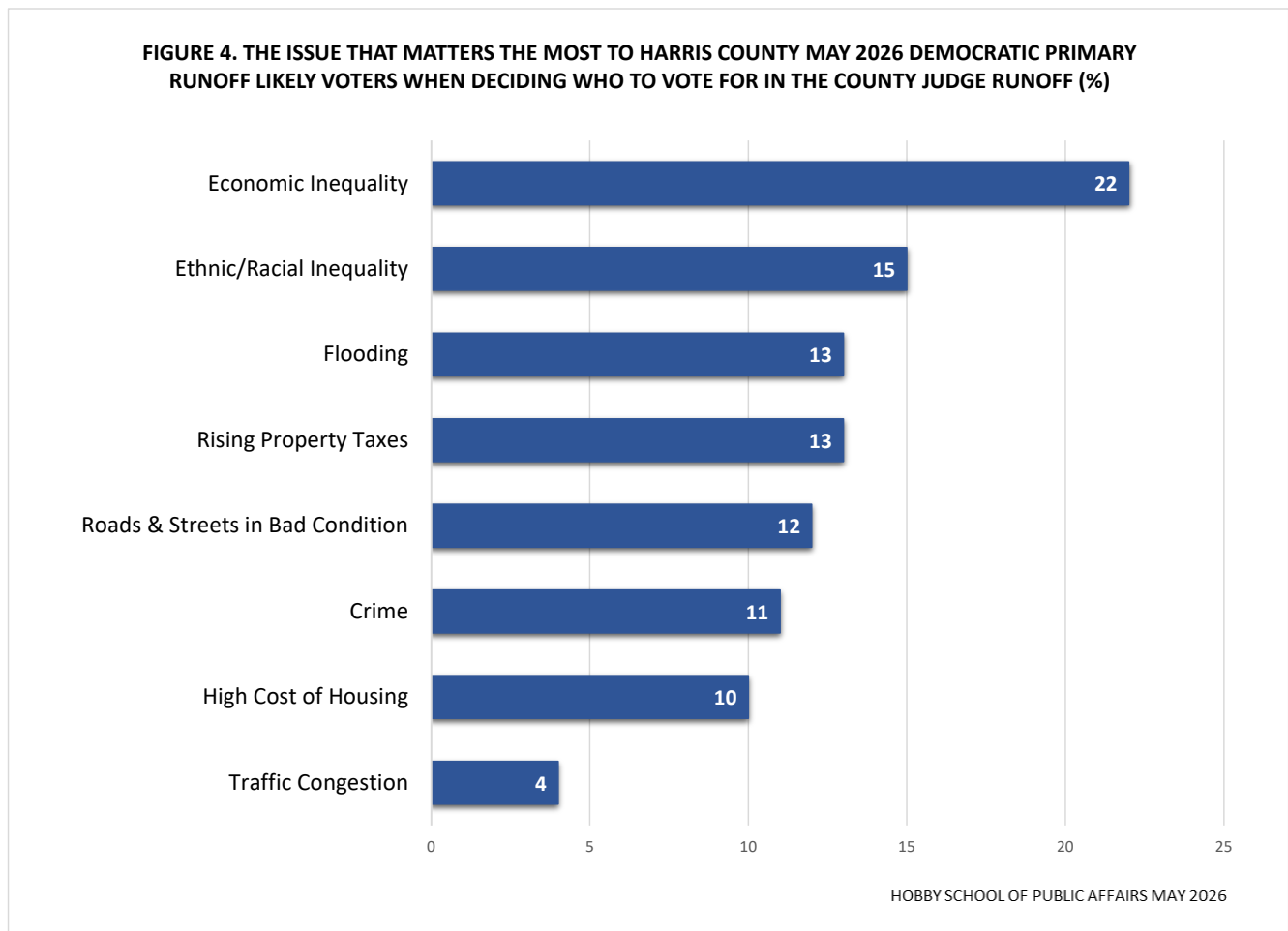




Table 2 provides the proportion of all likely May 2026 voters, of voters who intend to vote for Annise Parker in the May runoff, of voters who intend to vote for Letitia Plummer in the May runoff and of voters who are unsure for whom they will vote in the May runoff that selected each of the eight policy issues as the one that matters the most for their county judge vote decision. The largest two percentage point differences in issue salience between Parker and Plummer voters are in regard to the issues of ethnic/racial inequality (10% vs. 23%, respectively) and flooding (17% vs. 8%, respectively).

**TABLE 2. THE POLICY ISSUE WHICH MATTERS THE MOST TO MAY 2026 COUNTY JUDGE RUNOFF VOTERS WHEN DECIDING WHOM TO VOTE FOR (%)**

POLICY ISSUE	ALL VOTERS	PARKER VOTERS	PLUMMER VOTERS	UNSURE VOTERS
Economic Inequality	22	19	24	30
Ethnic/Racial Inequality	15	10	23	14
Rising Property Taxes	13	13	12	16
Flooding	13	17	8	5
Roads & Streets in Bad Condition	12	14	8	9
Crime	11	14	7	13
High Cost of Housing	10	8	14	10
Traffic Congestion	4	5	4	3

HOBBY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS MAY 2026

## HARRIS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY RUNOFF ELECTION FOR THE POSITION OF DISTRICT CLERK

In the March 3, 2026 Democratic primary election, Darrell Jordan Jr. won 18.9% of the vote and Jose "Alex" Maldonado won 18.8% of the vote, with six other candidates splitting the remaining 62.3% of the vote. Since no candidate won more than 50% of the vote on March 3, Jordan and Maldonado are facing off in a May 26, 2026 primary runoff election.

Figure 5 provides the vote intention among likely voters in the May 2026 Democratic primary runoff election for the position of district clerk of Harris County. More than one-half (57%) of likely runoff voters are unsure how they will vote in this contest, while 23% intend to vote for Jordan and 20% for Maldonado.

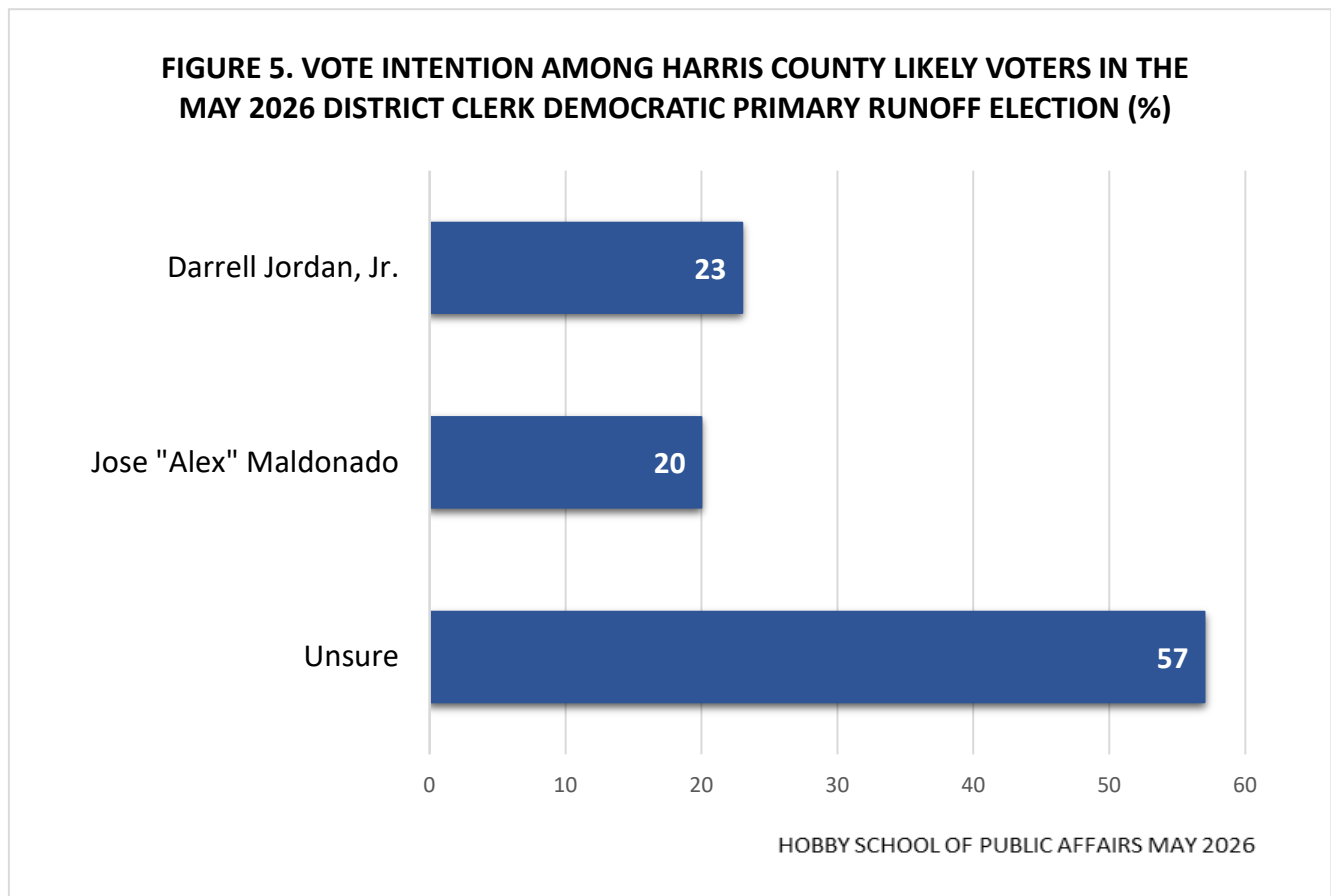


Table 3 provides the vote intention in the Harris County Democratic primary runoff election for the position of district clerk, broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, age, education, and partisanship. The only noteworthy socio-demographic differences in vote intention revolve around ethnicity/race. While Jordan (16%) and Maldonado (18%) are deadlocked among White voters, two-thirds (66%) of whom remain undecided in this contest, Jordan holds a substantial lead over Maldonado among Black voters (42% to 8%), and Maldonado holds a substantial lead over Jordan among Latino voters (44% to 7%).

**TABLE 3. VOTE INTENTION IN THE HARRIS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC DISTRICT CLERK PRIMARY RUNOFF, AMONG KEY GROUPS (%)**

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC	SUB-GROUP	JORDAN, JR.	MALDONADO	UNSURE
Overall		23	20	57
Gender	Women	24	18	58
	Men	23	22	55
Ethnicity/Race	White	16	18	66
	Black	42	8	50
	Latino	7	44	49
Age	18 to 34	25	29	46
	35 to 54	30	18	52
	55+	20	19	61
Education	4 Year College Degree	24	18	58
	No 4 Year College Degree	23	21	56
Partisanship	Democrat	25	20	55
	Independent	19	20	61

HOBBY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS MAY 2026

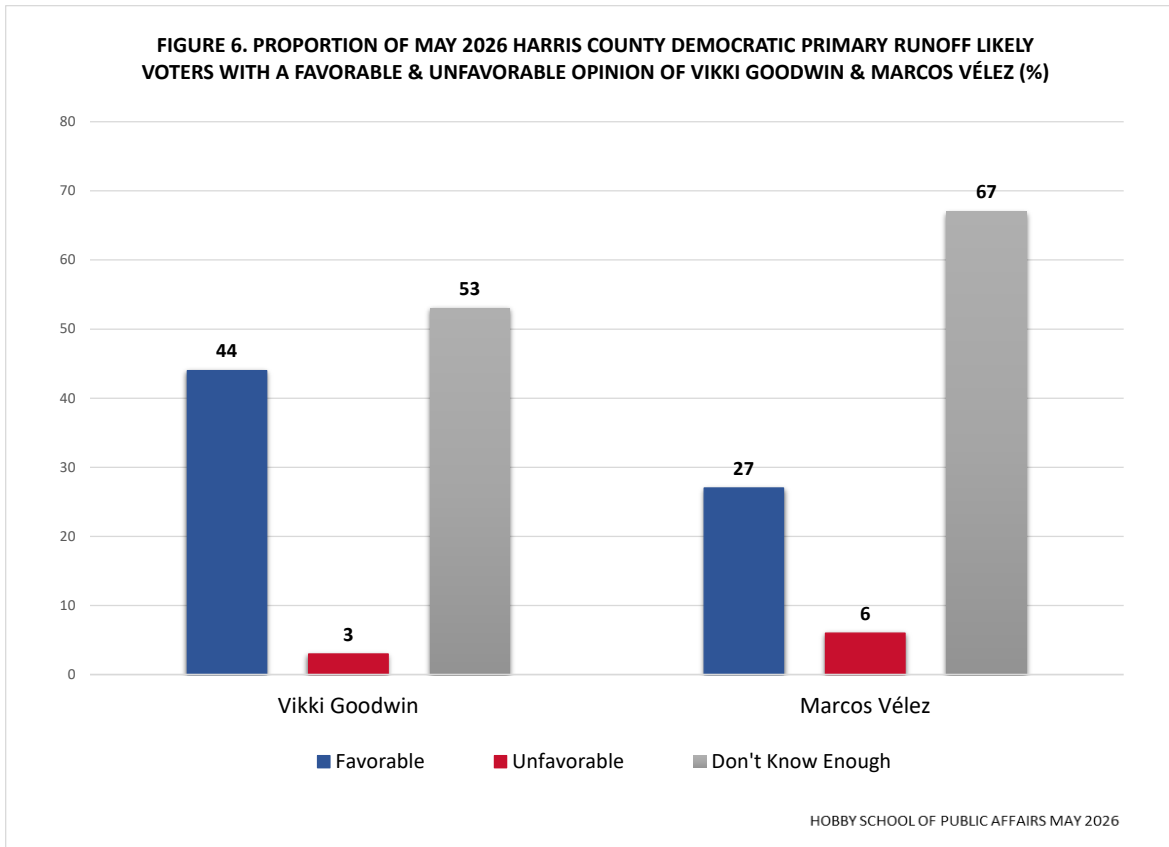
## TEXAS STATEWIDE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY RUNOFF ELECTIONS AMONG HARRIS COUNTY VOTERS

In the March 3 Democratic primary in Texas, 16% of the votes statewide were cast by voters in Harris County. In the May 2026 Democratic primary runoff election, Harris County voters are likely to account for approximately one-fifth of all votes cast statewide. It is very important to note that the data we present here is **NOT** representative of the likely May 2026 Democratic primary voters in Texas, but, rather, is only representative of the approximately one-in-five likely May 2026 Texas Democratic primary runoff voters who live in Harris County.

In May 2026, there are two Democratic primary runoff elections for statewide office in Texas. First, for the Democratic nomination for lieutenant governor, Vikki Goodwin is competing against Marcos Vélez. In the March 3 first round election, Goodwin won 48.0% of the vote statewide and 48.0% of the vote in Harris County, while Vélez won 31.5% of the vote statewide and 32.8% in Harris County. Second, for the Democratic nomination for attorney general, Nathan Johnson is competing against Joe Jaworski. In the March 3 first round election, Johnson won 48.1% of the vote statewide and 47.3% in Harris County, while Jaworski won 26.4% of the vote statewide and 26.2% in Harris County (where he narrowly finished in third-place between Anthony “Tony” Box who won 26.5%; Box won 25.5% of the vote statewide).

### Favorable & Unfavorable Evaluations of Democratic Primary Runoff Candidates for Lieutenant Governor

Figure 6 provides the proportion of likely Harris County Democratic primary runoff election voters with a favorable and unfavorable opinion of Vikki Goodwin and Marcos Vélez, along with the proportion who do not know enough about the candidate to have an opinion of them, one way or another.



More than half of these likely May 2026 primary runoff voters do not know enough about Vikki Goodwin (53%) or Marcos Vélez (67%) to have an opinion of them. Among those likely voters with an opinion, 44% have a favorable opinion of Goodwin and 3% an unfavorable opinion, while 27% have a favorable opinion of Vélez, and 6% an unfavorable opinion. The net-favorability score (percentage favorable minus percentage unfavorable) for Goodwin is +41% and for Vélez is +21%.

**Democratic Primary Runoff Vote Intention for Lieutenant Governor Among Harris County Voters**

Figure 7 provides the vote intention for the Texas lieutenant governor election among Democratic likely runoff voters in Harris County (and only in Harris County). Goodwin (41%) holds a 22-percentage point advantage over Vélez (19%), with however two-fifths (40%) of likely voters still unsure whom they will vote for in this contest.

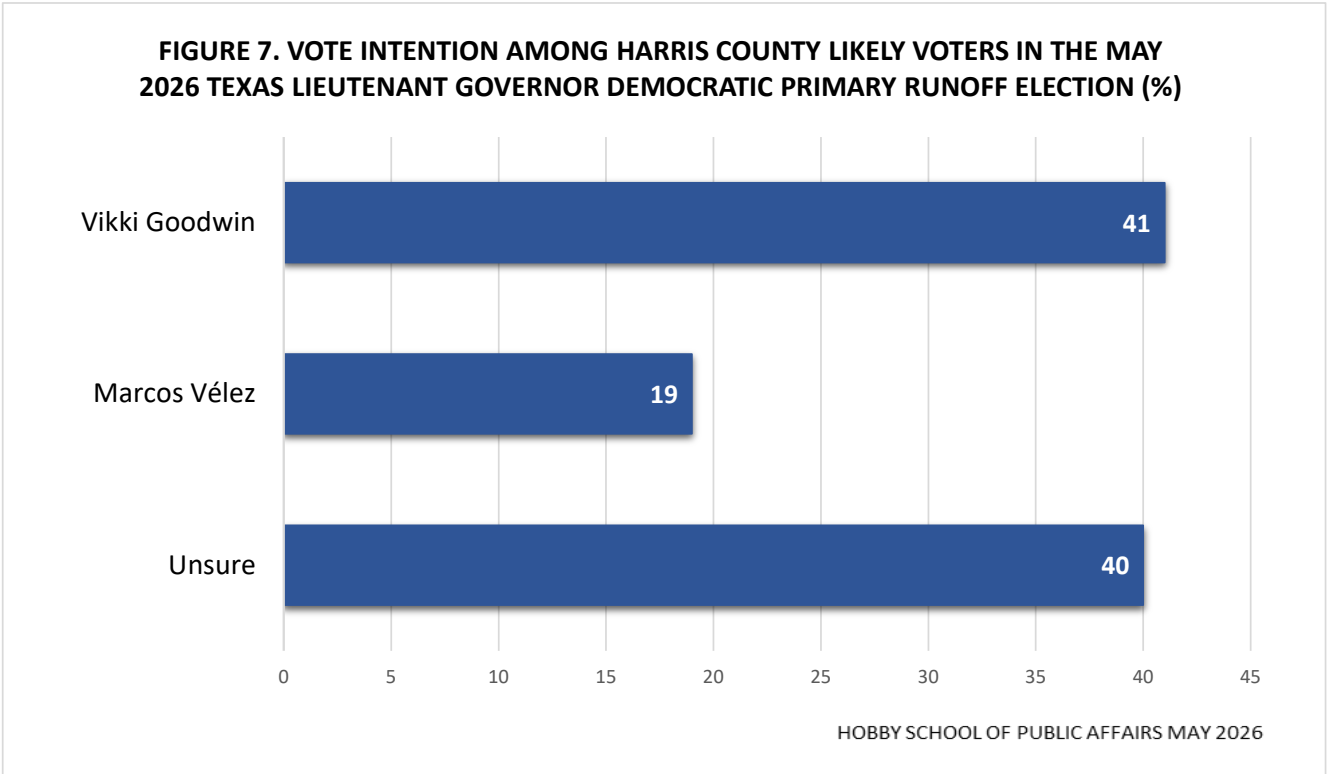


Table 4 provides the vote intention in the Harris County Democratic primary runoff election for the position of Texas lieutenant governor, broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, age, education, and partisanship. The most noteworthy socio-demographic sub-group differences in vote intention in this contest revolve around gender and ethnicity/race. Goodwin (45%) holds a 29-percentage point lead over Vélez (16%) among women, but only a 15-percentage point lead among men (37% to 22%). While Goodwin enjoys substantial 49% to 13% and 40% to 11% leads over Vélez among White and Black likely runoff voters, respectively, Vélez has a 45% to 28% advantage over Goodwin among Latino likely runoff voters.

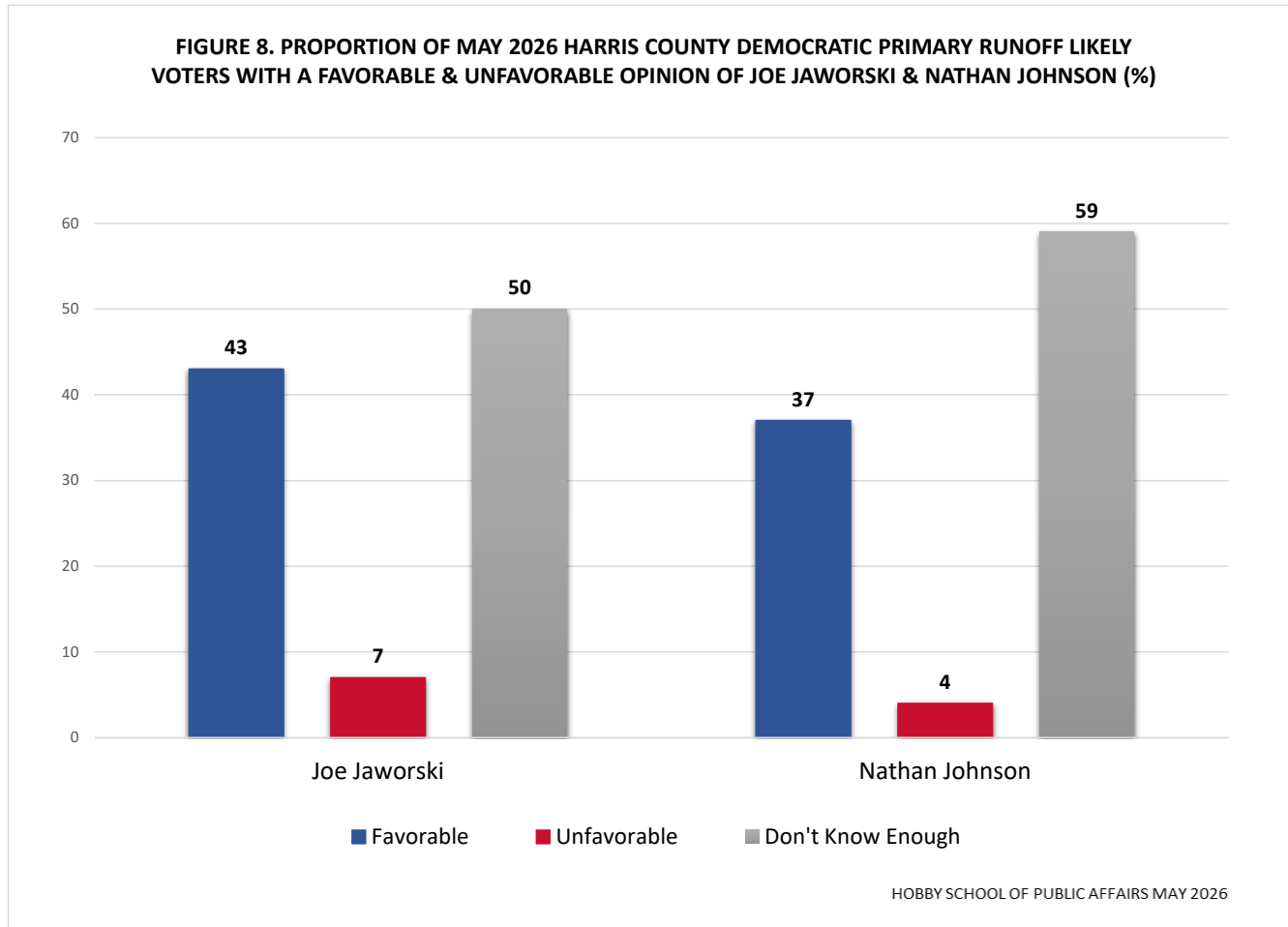
**TABLE 4. VOTE INTENTION OF HARRIS COUNTY VOTERS IN THE DEMOCRATIC TEXAS LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR PRIMARY RUNOFF, AMONG KEY GROUPS (%)**

<b>SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC</b>	<b>SUB-GROUP</b>	<b>GOODWIN</b>	<b>VÉLEZ</b>	<b>UNSURE</b>
Overall		41	19	40
Gender	Women	45	16	39
	Men	37	22	41
Ethnicity/Race	White	49	13	38
	Black	40	11	49
	Latino	28	45	27
Age	18 to 34	37	27	36
	35 to 54	43	18	39
	55+	41	17	41
Education	4 Year College Degree	44	17	39
	No 4 Year College Degree	39	20	41
Partisanship	Democrat	43	19	38
	Independent	39	19	42

HOBBY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS MAY 2026

## Favorable & Unfavorable Evaluations of Democratic Primary Runoff Candidates for Attorney General

Figure 8 provides the proportion of likely Harris County Democratic primary runoff voters with a favorable and unfavorable opinion of Joe Jaworski and Nathan Johnson, along with the proportion who do not know enough about the candidate to have an opinion of them, one way or another.



One-half or more of these likely May 2026 primary runoff voters do not know enough about Joe Jaworski (50%) or Nathan Johnson (59%) to have an opinion of them. Among those likely voters with an opinion, 43% have a favorable opinion of Jaworski and 7% an unfavorable opinion, while 37% have a favorable opinion of Johnson and 4% an unfavorable opinion. The net-favorability score (percentage favorable minus percentage unfavorable) for Jaworski is +36% and for Johnson is +33%.



## Democratic Primary Runoff Vote Intention for Attorney General Among Harris County Voters

Figure 9 provides the vote intention for the Texas attorney general election among likely runoff voters in Harris County (and only in Harris County). Johnson (32%) and Jaworski (30%) are effectively tied, with though almost two-fifths (38%) of likely voters still unsure of whom they will vote for in this contest.

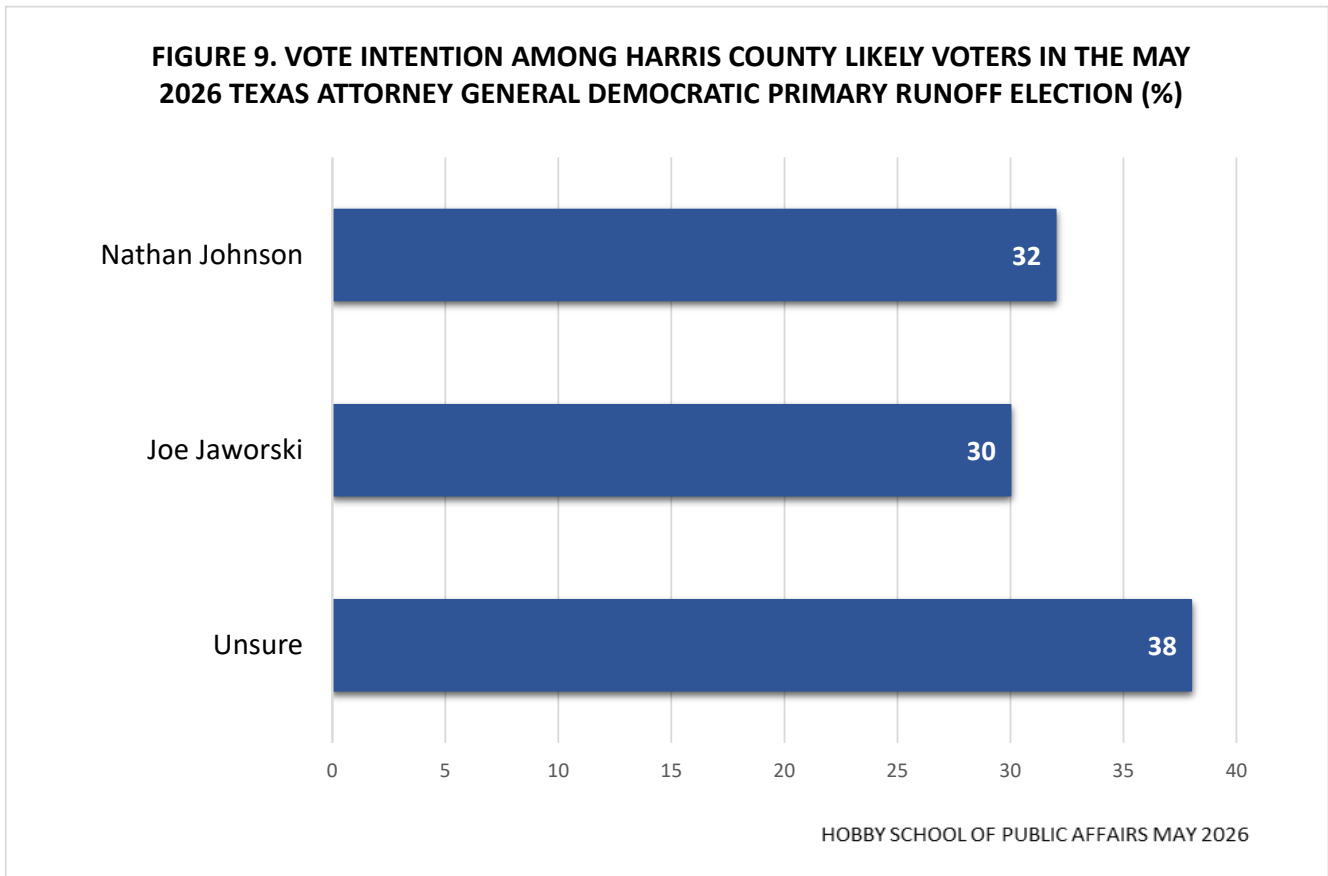


Table 5 provides the vote intention in the Harris County Democratic primary runoff election for the position of Texas attorney general, broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, age, education, and partisanship. There are not any significant socio-demographic sub-group differences in vote intention for the two candidates, with one partial exception. Johnson (37%) leads Jaworski (19%) among Black likely runoff voters by 18 percentage points.

**TABLE 5. VOTE INTENTION OF HARRIS COUNTY VOTERS IN THE DEMOCRATIC TEXAS ATTORNEY GENERAL PRIMARY RUNOFF, AMONG KEY GROUPS (%)**

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC	SUB-GROUP	JOHNSON	JAWORSKI	UNSURE
Overall		32	30	38
Gender	Women	30	30	40
	Men	33	31	36
Ethnicity/Race	White	28	37	35
	Black	37	19	44
	Latino	30	34	36
Age	18 to 34	34	30	36
	35 to 54	36	24	40
	55+	29	33	38
Education	4 Year College Degree	29	34	37
	No 4 Year College Degree	34	27	39
Partisanship	Democrat	33	30	37
	Independent	30	32	38

HOBBY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS MAY 2026

## **PRIMARY INVESTIGATORS & REPORT AUTHORS**

Renée Cross, Senior Executive Director; Researcher, Hobby School of Public Affairs

Mark P. Jones, James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy's Fellow in Political Science, Rice University;  
Senior Research Fellow, Hobby School of Public Affairs

## **RESEARCH TEAM**

Maria Perez Arguelles, Research Assistant Professor, Hobby School of Public Affairs

Savannah Sipole, Research Associate, Hobby School of Public Affairs

## **COMMUNICATIONS TEAM**

Diana Benitez, Program Director, Web & Graphic Design, Hobby School of Public Affairs

Falon Boehm, Multimedia Specialist, Hobby School of Public Affairs

Victoria Cordova, Executive Director of Communications, Hobby School of Public Affairs

Jeannie Kever, Communications Consultant

Celeste Zamora, Communications Manager, Hobby School of Public Affairs

## **RECOMMENDED CITATION**

University of Houston Hobby School of Public Affairs, May 2026, "Harris County Democratic Primary Runoff Elections 2026: County Judge, District Clerk, Lieutenant Governor & Attorney General"