November 2026 Texas School Election Overview

Historical context, affordability and community-led election planning

Democratic gains in statewide offices coincided with widespread rejection of local school-funding measures. Texas did not turn uniformly blue: Republicans retained the state Senate.

November passage history

Pass / fail shares of measures—not shares of voters

Bonds

Year	Pass / fail
2021	46.4% / 53.6%
2022	≈56.0% / ≈44.0%
2023	54.9% / 45.1%
2024	42.9% / 57.1%
2025	≈46.0% / ≈54.0%
2026*	**31.2% / 68.8%**

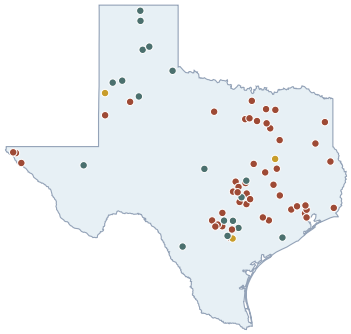
VATREs

Year	Pass / fail
2021	78.9% / 21.1%
2023	≈85.0% / ≈15.0%
2024	≈49.0% / ≈51.0%
2026*	**26.5% / 73.5%**

Selected benchmark years with sourced statewide rates.

District outcomes

Bonds + VATREs · 69 districts



All passed: 18 All failed: 48 Mixed results: 3

District locations, not boundaries or party votes.
Mixed = both passed and failed measures.

*2026 rates cover the 77 bonds and 49 VATREs in the accompanying results. Historical coverage varies; ≈ denotes rounding. Bond passage is below these benchmarks; the VATRE decline is especially pronounced against 2023.

What the results tell us

Cost-of-living raises are not a universal path to passage. The 13 passing VATREs do not establish a consistent cost-of-living-raise pattern. Compensation, operating needs and revenue stability overlapped across outcomes. A salary-focused case alone does not secure voter support; other local considerations are at play.

Project categories do not determine outcomes. Housing and safety appeared in successful packages, but these returns do not establish a correlation between those uses and passage. Safety and maintenance also appeared in defeated packages. Project labels alone do not explain voter support.

Affordability was central to the election environment. Statewide voter polling highlighted the economy and cost of living; pre-election surveys documented strain from essentials, fuel and utility costs, and concern about war spending. The returns do not establish individual voter motivation. Districts should address household costs—from groceries to fuel—and explain any added tax burden. A stable tax rate does not guarantee a stable tax bill.

Build the package with the community

There is no single approach that works statewide. Plan well before calling an election: review local passage rates and turnout, compare May and November bond results where permitted, and confirm legal timing, county election arrangements and VATRE deadlines. Choose the cycle that fits local conditions—not a statewide assumption.

Community engagement must shape the bond or VATRE package—not begin after it is settled. Ask residents what matters most, discuss costs and trade-offs, and include skeptical and dissenting voices alongside supporters on the planning committee. Give them a meaningful role in setting priorities. Build a package with the community so it can become a package the community supports.

November 5 review · Unofficial results, subject to canvass. Accompanying results: 128 tracked K–12 propositions in 69 districts. Passage rates exclude attendance credit and Higher Ed; historical coverage varies.