

# About Texas **2026**

Texas is home to the second-largest state economy in the nation and, if measured as a country, would rank among the world's top ten economies. Texas' gross state product reached approximately **\$2.9 trillion** in 2025, underscoring the state's continued economic strength and growth.

The insurance sector is a key driver of that success. Life insurers generate **more than 295,000 jobs** for Texans, including **44,000 licensed agents** who help individuals, families, and businesses manage risk and plan for the future.

Life insurers alone invested **\$710 billion** in the Texas economy in 2024. These investments include municipal bonds that help finance schools,

water systems, roads, and other critical public infrastructure, as well as investments in stocks that provide capital for business expansion. Life insurers also support homeownership through mortgage and real estate loans that help Texans achieve the dream of owning a home.

Beyond private investment, insurance companies are a significant source of public revenue. During the **2026–2027 biennium**, insurers are projected to contribute **more than \$10 billion** in insurance taxes to support state government and infrastructure, making insurance taxes the **fourth-largest revenue source** for the state of Texas.

## Governor Greg Abbott



Greg Abbott has been fighting for conservative values as Texas' governor since 2015. Prior to his election in 2014, he was the 50th and longest-serving attorney general in Texas history. He also previously served as a justice on the Supreme Court of Texas and as a state district judge in Harris County. In 2024, he was named one of the 100 Most Influential People in the world by TIME magazine.

A native Texan and avid sportsman and hunter, Gov. Abbott was born in Wichita Falls and raised in Duncanville. After graduating from The University of Texas at Austin, he earned a law degree from Vanderbilt University Law School. Shortly after graduating from law school, he was partially paralyzed by a falling tree while jogging.

Gov. Abbott has been married nearly 45 years to his wife, Cecilia, a former teacher and principal and the first Hispanic First Lady of Texas. They have one daughter, Audrey, who works in the finance industry and married her high school sweetheart in 2025.

**Lt. Governor  
Dan Patrick**



Dan Patrick has been the lieutenant governor of Texas since 2015, where he presides over the Texas Senate. Before being elected lieutenant governor, he was twice elected to the Texas Senate representing part of Harris County. He spent over 40 years in the media as a television anchor, conservative talk show host, and successful radio station owner.

Lt. Gov. Patrick is heavily involved in his community, raising over \$20 million for children with disabilities. He wrote a Christian best seller, “The Second Most Important Book You Will Ever Read,” and produced the award-winning Christian film “The Heart of Texas.”

Lt. Gov. Patrick and his wife, Jan, a former schoolteacher, will celebrate their 51st wedding anniversary in 2026. Together they have two children: their son Ryan, a former state prosecutor, judge, and U.S. attorney, and their daughter Shane, a speech therapist and Registered Nurse. Their family also includes a daughter-in-law, son-in-law, and eight grandchildren.

**Speaker  
Dustin Burrows**  
*Texas House of  
Representatives*



Dustin Burrows of Lubbock has served as state representative for House District 83 since 2014 and was elected the 77th speaker of the Texas House in January 2025. Prior to assuming the speakership, he chaired the House Calendars Committee in the 87th and 88th Legislatures and the Ways and Means Committee in the 86th. His legislative service includes key roles on standing committees overseeing state elections, higher education, agriculture, international trade, and financial services, among other issues. He also chaired the House Investigative Committee on the Robb Elementary Shooting in Uvalde in 2022 and served as a member of the Investigative Committee on the Texas Panhandle Wildfires in 2024.

A proud Red Raider and lifelong Lubbock resident, Speaker Burrows has been a steadfast advocate for Texas Tech University, helping establish its School of Veterinary Medicine and securing over \$1 billion for the university’s endowment through the Texas University Fund. He holds degrees from Rhodes College and Texas Tech University, where he earned both his MBA and Juris Doctor. He is a partner at Burrows Law Firm in Lubbock, where he lives with his wife, Elisabeth, and their three sons.

**Senator Charles  
Schwertner**  
*Chair, Senate  
Committee on  
Business and  
Commerce*



Charles Schwertner, M.D., is a sixth-generation Texan and lifelong conservative who has represented Senate District 5, an 11-county region of Central and East Texas, since 2013. Prior to that, he was a Texas House member from 2011-13. Sen. Schwertner serves as chairman of the Senate Committee on Business and Commerce, a role in which he oversees a number of critical policy areas for the state of Texas, including electric utilities, insurance, banking, technology, and telecommunications. He also serves as a member of the Senate Committees on Finance, State Affairs, and Economic Development, and on the Legislative Budget Board.

Sen. Schwertner earned his B.S. in pharmacy from The University of Texas at Austin and his M.D. from The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. He is an orthopedic surgeon, and his wife, Belinda, is an obstetrician/gynecologist and Juris Doctor. They have three adult sons, Carson, Zachary and Matthew.

**Representative  
Jay Dean**

*Chair, House  
Committee  
on Insurance*



Since 2017, Jay Dean has served as state representative for House District 7 in East Texas, which includes Gregg, Harrison, and Marion counties. Before serving in the state House, Rep. Dean served as mayor of Longview for a decade and on the Longview City Council for five years prior to that. Under his leadership, Forbes magazine recognized Longview as one of the “best places for business,” and it was ranked one of the top 10 U.S. cities for economic growth.

A lifelong conservative, Rep. Dean is a strong advocate for cutting the size of government, engaging in responsible budgeting, creating business-friendly environments that support job creation and economic development, and low tax rates. He also advocates for strengthening public education and workforce training, supporting the right to life, and protecting the Second Amendment.

In addition to his public service, Rep. Dean has also been a successful small business owner, and currently serves as general manager of Thomas Oilfield Services. Rep. Dean is a proud graduate of Louisiana State University and resides in Longview with his wife, Pokie, where they raised their three daughters and helped found their church, St. Matthew’s.

**Amanda  
Crawford**

*Insurance  
Commissioner*



Amanda Crawford was appointed commissioner of insurance by Gov. Abbott in January 2026. Prior to that role, she was the executive director of the Department of Information Resources and the state of Texas’ chief information officer. As executive director, she was responsible for the overall leadership, direction, and daily operations of the department, an agency with an annual fiscal profile of more than \$4 billion per year. Prior to that, she served for over 17 years at the Office of the Attorney General of Texas, most recently as deputy attorney general for administration and general counsel. She has also been a faculty member for the National Attorneys General Training & Research Institute’s Center for Leadership Development, where she taught managerial leadership across the country.

Crawford is a member of the State Bar of Texas and a past president of the National Association of State Chief Information Officers. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish from The University of Texas at Austin and a Juris Doctor from the University of Houston Law Center. She is a graduate of the Governor’s Center for Executive Development through the LBJ School of Public Affairs at The University of Texas at Austin.

**Dan Paschal**

*Chief Deputy  
Commissioner*



Dan Paschal has worked for the Texas Department of Insurance since 2017 and has served as its chief deputy commissioner since January 2023. Prior to that role, he was deputy commissioner for the department, and before that was deputy commissioner for the Division of Workers’ Compensation (DWC). Before serving with DWC, Paschal worked for the Texas Department of Transportation as director of its Commission Office. He has also worked as a staffer in the Texas House of Representatives and in the office of former Governor Rick Perry.

Paschal is a licensed attorney and a graduate of The University of Texas at Austin and the University of Houston Law Center. He is an eight-year veteran of the U.S. Navy Reserve, where he served as an intelligence officer.

**Debra  
Diaz-Lara**  
*Deputy Commissioner,  
Life and Health  
Commissioner*



Debra Diaz-Lara has been deputy commissioner of the Life and Health Division of the Texas Department of Insurance since January 2023. She joined TDI in 1999 as an insurance specialist. She has served as the director of the Managed Care Quality Assurance Office and as associate commissioner for Life and Health. Before coming to TDI, she worked for a commercial health insurance plan and in hospitals and physician offices.

*State Population:*

**31** MILLION

*Admitted to US:*

**1845**

*US Senators:*

John Cornyn  
*(elected in 2002) (R)*

Ted Cruz  
*(elected in 2013) (R)*

*Members of  
Congress:*

**38**

*Members of  
Texas Senate:*

**31**

*Members of Texas House  
of Representatives:*

**150**

**25**  
REPUBLICANS

**19**  
REPUBLICANS

**88**  
REPUBLICANS

**13**  
DEMOCRATS

**12**  
DEMOCRATS

**62**  
DEMOCRATS