

ABOUT TEXAS

2025

The Texas economy is the second largest by GDP among the states in the U.S. and would be the eighth largest in the world among nations. It has a gross state product of \$2.7 trillion as of 2023.

Insurers play a major role in the state's economy, employing 279,717 Texans including more than 44,000 agents assisting individuals, families, and businesses in managing their insurance needs.

Life insurers alone invested \$660 billion in the Texas economy in 2023 through the purchase of municipal bonds, funding the construction of local schools, water systems, roads, and other public works projects. They also invest in stocks, raising capital and helping businesses grow, and in mortgage and real estate loans that enable families to purchase the home of their dreams.

In addition, Texas insurance companies will support the state's government and infrastructure with a projected \$9.2 billion from insurance taxes during the 2026-2027 biennium, the sixth-highest source of revenue for the state.

**Governor
Greg Abbott**



Greg Abbott was elected the 48th governor of Texas in 2014 and is currently serving his third term in that role. Prior to his election as governor, 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 and his wife, Cecilia, a former teacher and principal and the first Hispanic First Lady of Texas, were married in 1981. Their daughter, Audrey, works in the finance industry, and the couple has three golden retrievers.



**Lt. Governor
Dan Patrick**



Dan Patrick was first elected lieutenant governor of Texas in 2014 and then re-elected in 2018 and 2022. He is the presiding officer of the Texas Senate. Before being elected lieutenant governor, Patrick 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.

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 50 years of marriage in 2025. Together they have two children, son Ryan, a former state prosecutor, judge, and U.S. attorney, and 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 by his colleagues as 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 & 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, as well as chairing the House Investigative Committee on the Robb Elementary Shooting in Uvalde in 2022 and serving 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. Speaker Burrows lives in Lubbock with his wife, Elisabeth, and their three sons.

**Senator
Charles Schwertner**

*Chair, Senate
Committee on Business
and Commerce*



Charles Schwertner, M.D., has represented Senate District 5, an 11-county region of Central and East Texas, since 2013. As chairman of the Senate Committee on Business and Commerce and the Sunset Advisory Commission, 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 and State Affairs and on the Legislative Budget Board.

Sen. Schwertner and his wife, Belinda, an obstetrician/gynecologist and Juris Doctor, reside in Georgetown. 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. As of 2023, the district includes Gregg, Harrison, and Marion counties.

Before serving in the state House, 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, responsible budgeting, creating business-friendly environments that support job creation and economic development, and low tax rates, as well as 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 executive in the oil and gas field services industry. Having previously run his own business, he now serves as general manager for 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.

**Representative
Giovanni
Capriglione**

*Chair, House
Committee on Delivery
of Government Efficiency*



Giovanni Capriglione was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 2012 and is serving his sixth term representing District 98, which encompasses all or part of Grapevine, Colleyville, Southlake, Keller, Westlake, and Euless. He currently serves as chairman of the House Committee on Delivery of Government Efficiency and is a member of the House Committee on Ways and Means and the House Subcommittee on Property Tax Appraisals. He is chairman of the Innovation & Technology Caucus as well as the Tarrant County Delegation.

Rep. Capriglione is now the owner and president of his own small business, Texas Adventure Capital LLC, which provides business services to various investment fund managers and business owners. His focus is investing in Texas-based small businesses. Previously, Rep. Capriglione held various positions at computer engineering companies specializing in semiconductor design and internet products and was senior vice president at an investment firm where he managed the loan and equity assets of various American businesses.

Rep. Capriglione has been married to his wife, Elisa, for 23 years, and has three children, two of whom attend Carroll ISD schools and one of whom attends Texas A&M University. After receiving his B.S. in physics, he pursued his MBA in finance from Santa Clara University. After school, Rep. Capriglione went on to work for a DFW-based venture capital/private equity firm.

Cassie Brown
*Insurance
Commissioner*



Cassie Brown was appointed to serve as Texas insurance commissioner by Gov. Greg Abbott in September 2021. She is the chief executive of the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI), overseeing the regulation of the \$290 billion Texas insurance market, the second largest in the nation and the sixth largest in the world. The agency regulates approximately 3,400 companies and more than 825,000 agents and adjusters.

Commissioner Brown previously served as the commissioner of Workers' Compensation. She has more than 20 years of public service experience and serves on the Executive Women in Texas Government President's Advisory Committee. Prior to serving as commissioner, she was TDI's deputy commissioner for Regulatory Policy. Earlier in her career, Brown served as a key adviser to Gov. Rick Perry on policy and budget issues including insurance, health regulation, and workers' compensation. She also served in the administration of Gov. George W. Bush.

Commissioner Brown received a Bachelor of Arts in political science from St. Edward's University and attended the Governor's Executive Development Program at The University of Texas LBJ School of Public Affairs.

Dan Paschal

*Chief Deputy
Commissioner*



Dan Paschal is chief deputy commissioner for the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI), a role he has held since January 2023. Prior to that role, he was deputy commissioner for the Division of Workers' Compensation and then deputy commissioner for TDI. Before serving with DWC, Paschal worked with the Texas Transportation Commission as a director at the Texas Department of Transportation. He spent several years as a staffer in the Texas House of Representatives and to former Texas Gov. 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*



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 the 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

25
REPUBLICANS

13
DEMOCRATS

Members of Texas Senate:

31

20
REPUBLICANS

11
DEMOCRATS

Members of Texas House of Representatives:

150

88
REPUBLICANS

62
DEMOCRATS