

NONPARTISAN CANDIDATE GUIDE: 2018 TEXAS SENATE RACE

	Ted Cruz (R-Incumbent)	Beto O'Rourke (D)
<p>For mobile-friendly version & other guides, see campuselect.org/guides.html</p> <p>For more detailed information on candidate positions visit their respective pages at votesmart.org</p> <p>To volunteer, visit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tedcruz.org • betofortexas.com 		
Abortion: Mostly ban or mostly legal?	Ban. No exceptions for rape or incest. "horrible as that crime is, I don't believe it's the child's fault."	Legal. Ensure abortions are rare, but trust women to make their own decisions without government interference.
Campaign Finance: Require political ads to disclose their largest funders? Stand on <i>Citizens United</i> decision, allowing unlimited political donations from corporations & unions?	No. Opposes DISCLOSE Act, as it raises "grave constitutional concern for speech protected by the First Amendment." Supports Citizens United as aid to 1st Amendment free speech protections.	Yes. Co-sponsored DISCLOSE Act to "shine light on the unlimited, secret spending flooding American elections," including foreign influence. Supreme Court should end Citizens United.
Climate Change: Consider climate change a serious threat?	No. Doesn't believe it's real. Says data disproving it is being ignored as liberals want government power over economy, energy sector & all aspects of our lives.	Yes. "Crucial now more than ever that US & world leaders act urgently to address" it. Climate change increases droughts, wildfires, hurricanes, & other disasters.
Climate Change: Limit or tax production of greenhouse gases? Support US participation in Paris Climate Accord despite President Trump's withdrawal?	Opposes regulating greenhouse gases. Paris Accord "would have destroyed \$3 trillion in American GDP & killed 6.5 million industrial sector jobs by 2040."	Limit greenhouse gases. "Need to take unprecedented action" in building clean energy economy. Opposes withdrawing from Paris Accord.
Contraception: Employers can withhold contraceptive coverage if disagree?	Yes. Proposed bill to allow that.	No. Discriminates by ignoring contraception's role in women's health.
Courts: Support Judge Kavanaugh nomination? (before recent allegations)	Yes, though initially believed Kavanaugh was not conservative enough.	No. His positions do not line up with values & interests of Texans.
Economy: Support federal spending as a means of promoting economic growth?	No. Choice between more & more spending & individual liberty.	Yes. Supports investment in areas like infrastructure & education.
Economy: Support Trump's imposition of tariffs on steel & other products?	No. Also opposed federal aid given to TX farmers hurt by trade retaliation.	No. They "will devastate our state, businesses, & economy."
Education: Help parents send their children to private schools with public money?	Yes. Called "civil rights issue of our time." Introduced bill to allow tax deduction for costs of private & religious schools.	No. It funnels public school \$ into private schools. "Ted Cruz's private school give-away will cost taxpayers \$500 million to subsidize wealthy."
Elections: Support nonpartisan redistricting to address charges of partisan gerrymandering?	No. Political gerrymandering is legitimate, though not racial gerrymandering.	Yes. "Empower communities by making sure voters can pick their representatives, not the other way."
Environment: Support cutbacks of Environmental Protection Administration?	No statement found, but opposed Obama EPA's Clean Power Plan & said EPA ran amok under Obama.	No. Ensure EPA's funding & independence "to exercise oversight of those harming the environment."
Financial Regulation: Support cutbacks in Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)?	Yes. Abolish CFPB. "Free consumers & small businesses from the CFPB's regulatory blockades... which stunt economic growth."	No. "Protecting consumers from predatory financial behavior & this country from another economic meltdown, should transcend politics."

	Ted Cruz (R-Incumbent)	Beto O'Rourke (D)
Gay Marriage: Support gay marriage?	No. Sponsored amendment to define marriage as between man & a woman.	Yes.
Gun Control: Support more restrictive gun control legislation?	No. Led fight not to ban assault weapons. Calls gun control efforts "tiresome."	Yes. Supports universal background checks & banning assault-style weapons.
Healthcare: Support or Repeal Affordable Care Act (ACA), known as Obamacare?	Absolutely repeal. Caused millions to lose their jobs, be forced into part-time work, lose health insurance & doctors & pay skyrocketing premiums.	Keep but improve, including public option. Repeal would reduce healthcare access & benefits, make health insurance less affordable.
Healthcare: Let Planned Parenthood get public funds for non-abortion care?	No. Was willing to risk a government shutdown in in order to defund.	Yes. Provide important preventive services, esp. for low-income families.
Immigration: Support path to citizenship for "DACA" recipients or "Dreamers," who grew up in US after coming as children?	No. End DACA. No path to citizenship to Dreamers or anyone else who violates immigration laws.	Protect Dreamers. "As American as my kids... & have done everything we've asked of them." Supports earned path to citizenship for millions here illegally.
Iran: Support Trump's withdrawal from treaty that limits Iran's nuclear capability in return for lifting economic sanctions?	Yes. Applauded withdrawal, saying agreement didn't sufficiently rein in Iran's nuclear program.	No. Agreement, while imperfect, was "best path to keep Iran from having nuclear weapons."
Marijuana: Legalize or decriminalize marijuana?	Personally opposed to legalization, but states should choose for themselves.	Yes. Long-time legalization advocate. Sponsored bill to end federal prohibition.
Minimum Wage: Raise the federal minimum wage from current \$7.25/hr?	No. "Raising the minimum wage would cost jobs for the most vulnerable."	Yes. Supports increasing to \$15/hr.
Net Neutrality: Require internet providers to provide equal access to all?	No. Net neutrality puts government in charge of pricing, products & services.	Yes. Rolling back net neutrality hurts democracy, the arts & innovation.
President Trump: Percentage of key votes supporting Trump's positions.	Voted 91% with Trump (as of 9/30/18).	Voted 29% with Trump (as of 9/30/18).
Privatization: Support full or partial privatization of Social Security?	Partial. Supports private savings accounts for Social Security.	No. Opposes privatization.
Renewable Energy: Support government subsidies for renewable energy?	No. Opposes energy subsidies for any form of energy. Washington shouldn't "be picking winners & losers."	Yes. Strong supporter. Continue tapping current energy sources while giving incentives for renewable sources.
Student Debt: Refinance student loans at lower rates, by increasing taxes on high earners (Elizabeth Warren bill)? Increase federal aid, like Pell Grants?	No. Opposed Warren bill because of tax increase for people making over \$1 million. Proposed 2013 budget amendment that lowered Pell Grant funding & required higher payments for school loans.	Yes. Co-sponsored Elizabeth Warren bill Also supports increasing Pell Grant funding & subsidized student loans.
Taxes: Support President Trump's tax cuts ?	Yes. Played key role in crafting plan. Would make individual tax cuts permanent.	No. Disproportionately benefit wealthy with 83% of breaks going to top 1%. Trickle-down economics doesn't work.
Voting Rights: Support stricter voting rules such as voter ID requirements, even if they prevent some people from voting?	Yes. "Commonsense protection" "to prevent illegal voter fraud." Supported TX voter ID law which federal court rejected, comparing to a "poll tax" on minorities.	No. "It's deeply cynical" for Texas to implement laws that knowingly make it more difficult for African-American & Latino voters to cast their ballots."

[Neal Dikeman \(L\)](#) is also running. Due to limited space, we can only include candidates who poll 15% or higher, but encourage you to check out his website.

Created by the [Campus Election Engagement Project](#), a nonpartisan effort to help college & university administrators, faculty, & student leaders engage their schools in elections. Sites consulted included [Votesmart.org](#), [OntheIssues.org](#), [FactCheck.org](#), [Politifact.com](#), & candidate statements. For local guides see [Vote411.org](#) from the League of Women Voters & [Ballotready.org](#).