

Texas (TX-28) 2026

US House of Representatives

THE ISSUES

HENRY
CUELLAR

DEMOCRAT · INCUMBENT



TANO
TIJERINA

REPUBLICAN

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ABORTION Ban or legal?	Mixed. “As a Catholic, I do not support abortion.” Voted against prohibiting state government restrictions to abortion access. Says abortion is not a “ women’s health ” issue. Voted to prohibit any state from interfering with access to out-of-state abortion services.	Ban. “ I’m a pro-lifer. ” Supports adoption rather than abortion.
CLIMATE CHANGE Should climate change be a top priority?	Mostly no. Voted for \$369 billion in climate and clean energy provisions . Later voted to repeal those climate provisions. “We need to champion American energy independence and ensure we continue to produce the cleanest oil and gas in the world.”	No. “I will continue to fight for what matters most in our community by supporting our oil and gas industry.” “The oil and gas industry has been threatened here in South Texas.”
CRIMINAL JUSTICE How to ensure effectiveness and fairness in law enforcement?	In 2021 voted to ban racial profiling and no-knock warrants, require body cameras, and limit qualified immunity. Voted to support training in de-escalation techniques for police facing people with mental health issues.	As a county judge , supported raises for law enforcement. “We don’t defund our law enforcement. We fund it.”
DATA CENTERS How to handle data centers?	Introduced a bill requiring data centers to disclose projected and actual electricity and water usage and pay related costs, with a guarantee of sufficient water for households during a drought.	Data centers should generate their own water and electricity. If companies are building data centers on “private property, that’s their prerogative.”
ECONOMY Cut or increase government investment in, and regulation of, the economy?	Mixed. Would encourage private investment by “removing unnecessary red tape and bureaucratic processes.” Voted to fund infrastructure projects , including road and bridge repairs and broadband internet expansion. Voted to loosen regulation of the crypto industry.	Mixed. Would “cut burdensome federal regulations.” Supports crypto with “clear, fair regulations that encourage growth.” Would prioritize infrastructure and economic development. “In Webb County, we’re \$1.5 billion behind on infrastructure.”
EDUCATION Use public funding for private and/or for-profit schools?	Likely no. Voted in 2016 against public-funded private school scholarships. Wants “ ample funding for underrepresented public schools, protecting low-income and at-risk students.”	No position found.
ENVIRONMENT Loosen or tighten environmental regulation?	Mixed. Voted to expand oil and gas leasing in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Voted to limit the number of streams and wetlands protected by the Clean Water Act. Voted against allowing mining near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Voted to fund new environmental infrastructure projects.	Likely loosen. As a judge signed a proclamation celebrating “land stewardship” and “voluntary implement[ation of] the conservation practices that keep our natural resources healthy.” Would cut “burdensome federal regulations.”

ISSUES	CUELLAR (D)	TIJERINA (R)
GUN LAWS Loosen or tighten gun laws?	Mixed. Voted against banning semi-automatic weapons. Voted to expand background checks and encourage states to pass red flag laws.	Unclear. Called himself a “gunslinging...cowboy.”
HEALTHCARE Increase or decrease government support for health care?	Increase. Voted to extend Affordable Care Act tax credits. “With healthcare costs rising, extending ...[the] credits is a cost-of-living issue for families across South Texas.” Voted against Medicaid cuts , saying they would force “local clinics and hospitals to reduce services or even close their doors.”	Mixed. Says the “Affordable Care Act experiment is a failure” at making healthcare more affordable. “ Congress needs to focus on fixing healthcare” for the long term. Says he “expanded rural telehealth” in Webb County and helped establish the Webb County Southern Health Facility.
IMMIGRATION How to handle immigration?	Supports a modernized “security infrastructure.” Opposes a border wall. Opposes “ defunding of ICE,” says ICE reforms should be strengthened. Voted against increasing ICE funding by \$75 billion. Voted to increase prison sentences for migrants convicted of repeatedly entering the US illegally. “ICE should be focusing on criminals — not on families, Dreamers , construction workers.”	Supports “stopping illegal crossings, supporting law enforcement, and ensuring immigration happens legally.” In 2018 said he opposed a physical wall: “ I think we have a natural barrier.” In 2026 said Trump “secured our border. And for that, our border community will forever be grateful.” Supports immigration reform with a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers .
IRAN WAR Support the war in Iran?	Mixed. In March , voted against requiring Congressional authorization for U.S. military action in Iran. “The threat posed by Tehran is real and longstanding.” In April , May , June , July , and September , voted to require that authorization. “We’ve got to have an exit strategy .”	Support. Says action against Iran “should have been done a long time ago.” “ I congratulate President Trump for what he’s doing.” “There has to be an end time , and I think that end time needs to happen pretty quickly.” Supports boots on the ground if that will “keep...America number one.”
LABOR Make it easier or harder for unions to organize workers?	Mixed. Sponsored a bill to restore collective bargaining rights for federal employees. In 2021 voted against a bill that would expand and protect employees’ organizing and collective bargaining rights. Introduced a bill to provide childcare stipends to people enrolled in union apprenticeship programs.	No position found.
LGBTQ RIGHTS Limit or expand LGBTQ rights?	Mostly expand. Voted for federal recognition of same-sex marriage. Voted to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Voted to ban wage discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Voted to restrict transgender athletes from K-12 girls sports.	Limit. “God tells us to love everybody. LGBTQ , I will respect you. But don’t shove it down our throats.” “ We don’t want boys playing in girls’ sports.”
MINIMUM WAGE Raise the federal minimum from \$7.25 per hour?	Yes. Voted in 2019 to raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2025. Sponsored a bill in 2019 to phase in a \$15 minimum wage regionally, based on the local cost of living.	No position found.
TAXES Raise or lower taxes on corporations and wealthier individuals?	Raise. Voted against extending Trump’s 2017 tax cuts, which included the largest one-time cut in the corporate tax rate. Called them “the largest transfer of wealth in our nation’s history.” Voted against those tax cuts in 2017. Voted for a 15 percent corporate minimum tax .	Likely lower. Pledged to “ oppose any and all tax increases.” Says he cut property taxes five times as a judge in Webb County .
VOTING RULES Make voting harder or easier?	Harder. Voted to require voters to provide proof of U.S. citizenship when registering to vote and requiring photo ID to vote in federal elections. “At the end of the day, election security and voter access go together.”	Likely harder. Raised questions about the validity of mail-in voting: “Those mail-in ballots have been a problem for a while, for a very long time.” Says “there’s definitely some voter fraud.”

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