STORY 4 OF 5 · PLACE · 3D · MIDTERMS 2026

THE BORDERLANDS

Texas swung 26 points in two years and every one of its 254 counties moved the same way. The border moved furthest.

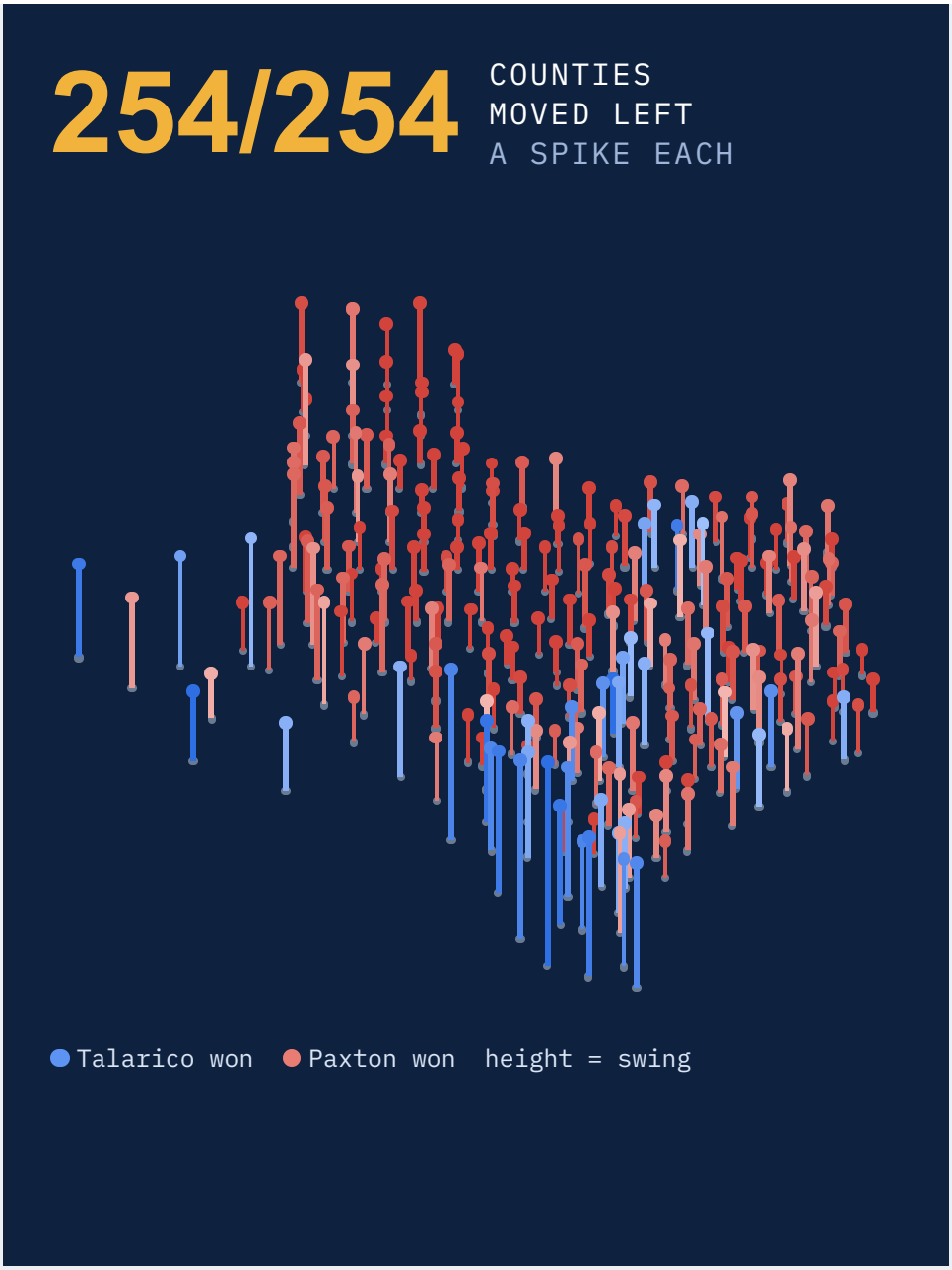
By the politic.design data desk · 5 Nov 2026, updated 6 Nov 2026 · Preliminary counts

OPEN DATA PDF Markdown JSON

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AI-generated image (Google Gemini) for illustration. Not a photograph of a real event or of any real person.



The story in one picture. Every unit is a real thing; the caption under each scene says what.

Trump won Texas by 13.7 points in 2024. On Tuesday James Talarico won its Senate seat by 12.1, by Decision Desk HQ's count, the first Democratic Senate win there since 1988. All 254 counties moved towards the Democrats. In Starr County the margin went from Trump +16 to Talarico +56, a 72-point swing. The four Rio Grande Valley counties went from R+4 to D+44 between them, and cast 41% more ballots than in the 2022 midterm.

It wasn't only the border. Twenty-eight counties flipped from Trump to Talarico, including Tarrant, Collin and Denton in the Dallas–Fort Worth

suburbs and Brazoria and Jefferson on the Gulf coast. The smallest swings, six to eight points, came in the Panhandle. The open question is durability: the same valley swung hard the other way in 2024. With certified files we'll extend the relief back to 2016, so readers see a cycle rather than a single turn.

DATA

Decision Desk HQ county results (2026 Senate, 2024 President, 2022 turnout); us-atlas county shapes. The comparison is Senate against President, so some of the swing is the candidates. 41 counties were still counting on 5 Nov.

KEY FINDING

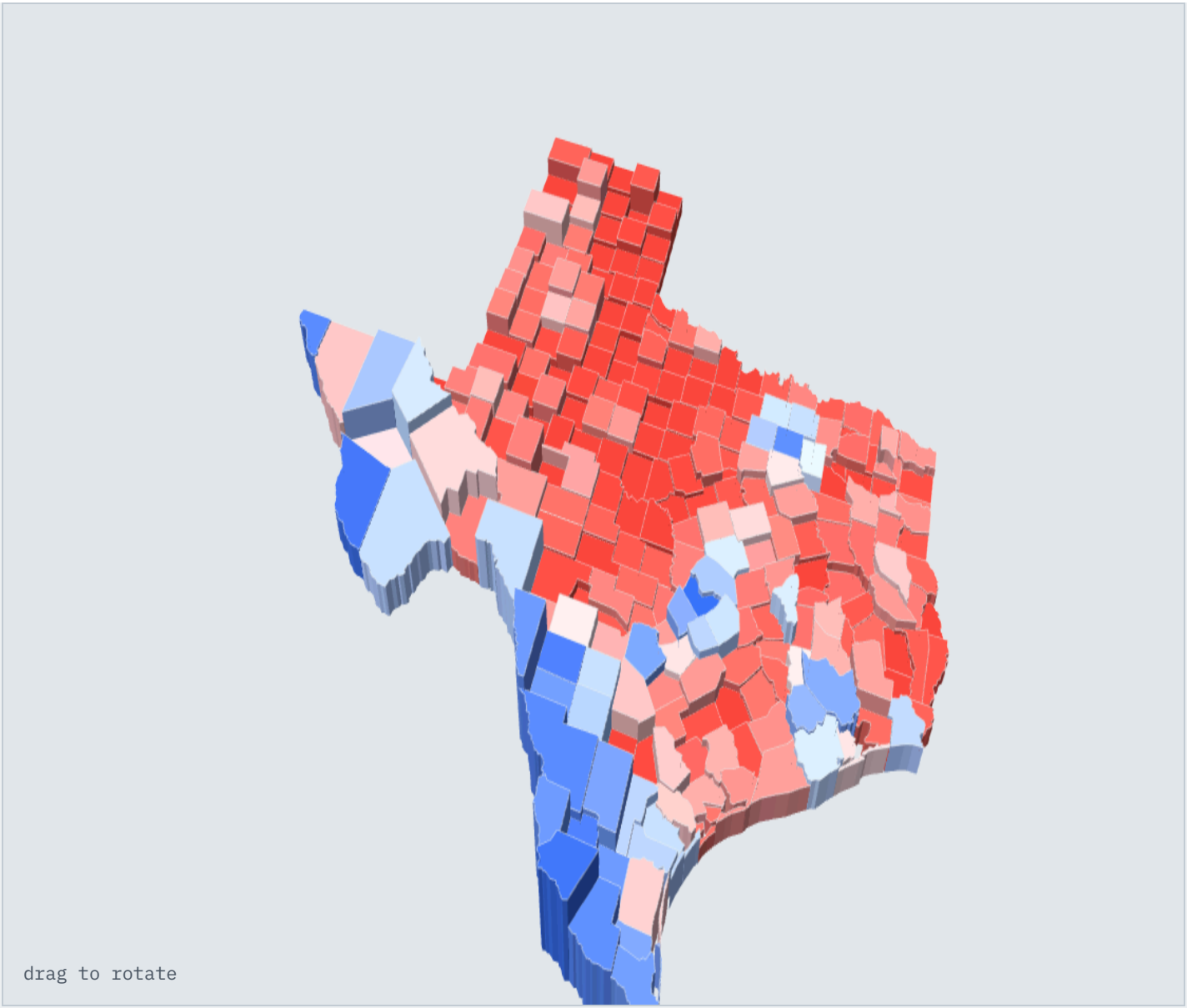
"Every one of Texas's 254 counties swung towards the Democrats in 2026; Starr County moved 72 points in two years."

TEXAS, RAISED BY ITS SWING

IN SHORT Each county is lifted by how far it moved toward Democrats between the 2024 presidential vote and this week's Senate vote. Taller means a bigger swing; colour shows who won it this time. Every county rose. Drag to turn; hover or tap a county.

2026 margin | Turnout vs 2022

Whole state | Rio Grande Valley



Paxton +50 Paxton +10 Talarico +10 Talarico +50 height = swing since 2024

TEXAS	2024 PRESIDENT	2026 SENATE	SWING	SWUNG TOWARD D
254 counties	R+13.7	D+12.1	D+25.8	254 of 254

RECEIPT
sha256:b1d9ed90534f141a

Decision Desk HQ county results as of 5–6 Nov. Swing = 2026 Senate margin minus 2024 presidential margin, in points.

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