

Gina Hinojosa★ for Texas Governor

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Texans for Greg Abbott campaign
FROM: The Gina Hinojosa for Texas Governor campaign
DATE: October 12, 2026
RE: Proposed terms for October 15 gubernatorial debate

Over the past several months, Governor Greg Abbott and Representative Gina Hinojosa have both made clear that they believe Texans deserve to hear directly about their individual records, campaign priorities, and plans for the future of the state.

To that end, Representative Hinojosa has accepted four separate invitations to debate Governor Abbott during this election cycle. Governor Abbott has unfortunately not accepted any of those invitations.

Understanding that time is of the essence as early voting in Texas starts next week and Election Day is three weeks away, and in an effort to make participating in a debate as convenient and fair as possible for Governor Abbott and his team, **Representative Hinojosa has offered and agreed to come directly to the Governor's Mansion in Austin on Thursday, October 15 at 10 a.m. CT** for a moderated debate.

As such, the Hinojosa campaign is prepared to agree to the following terms and conditions:

DATE AND TIME:

Thursday, October 15 at 10 a.m. CT

LOCATION:

In front of the Texas Governor's Mansion, located at 1010 Colorado St., Austin, TX 78701, or another mutually agreed-upon location immediately adjacent to the mansion grounds.

FORMAT:

The debate will last one hour.

Each candidate will have the opportunity to make an opening and closing statement. They will also have the opportunity to respond to a series of questions from a moderator and provide rebuttals to the opposing candidate.

Candidates will **both receive 90 seconds** to respond to each question.

Following a candidate's response, the opposing candidate **may receive 45 seconds for rebuttal**, as determined by the moderator.

The order of the first response will alternate between the candidates for each question.

When appropriate, the moderator may ask a candidate a reasonable follow-up question and provide 30 seconds for response.

OPENING AND CLOSING STATEMENTS:

Each candidate will receive **3 minutes for an opening statement and a closing statement**.

The order of the opening statements will be determined **by a coin toss**.

The candidate who delivers the first opening statement will be the candidate to deliver the second closing statement.

The candidate who wins the coin toss may defer to the opposing candidate to allow them to make the first opening statement.

MODERATOR AND TIMEKEEPING:

For a moderator, we'd like to suggest journalist Rudy Koski from FOX 7 Austin, who's graciously agreed to fill this role for the debate.

If the Abbott campaign prefers a different moderator, that individual should be a working journalist from one of the Texas-based news organizations that previously offered to host a gubernatorial debate, including:

- NBCUniversal/Telemundo and Hearst newspapers of Texas
- Nexstar TV and KXAN-TV
- Spectrum News Texas
- KVUE-TV Austin

The moderator will be responsible for asking questions and enforcing strict rules to ensure each candidate receives an equal amount of time to respond and rebut the opposing candidate when appropriate.

PRESS ACCESS:

The debate will be open to credentialed members of the news media, including television, radio, print, digital, and new media outlets.

Live recording and still photography will be permitted.

Following the formal debate, each candidate will have the opportunity to remain at the podium and take additional questions from members of the press in attendance.

ADDITIONAL TERMS:

Neither campaign will be permitted to pre-screen or receive any question or debate topic in advance. No issue will be off limits.

Candidates will not be permitted to use prepared notes or remarks, campaign materials, or electronic devices during the debate.

Candidates will be permitted to use a notepad and a single writing utensil during the debate.

The campaigns may be permitted to suggest reasonable modifications to these terms for logistical or security reasons, so long as they do not afford any candidate an unfair advantage or alter the format of the debate in a significant manner.

Each campaign will be permitted to have a select group of staff and supporters in attendance in a designated area, with the expectation that they will not disrupt or impede the debate in any way.

IN CLOSING:

These terms are designed to allow for a fair and substantive debate that gives Texas voters an opportunity to hear directly from both candidates on important issues before voting begins.

The Hinojosa campaign is prepared to accept these terms immediately and remains open to considering reasonable modifications proposed by the Abbott campaign if he chooses to participate.

We kindly request that the Abbott campaign respond to these terms by 11:59 p.m. CT on Wednesday, October 14, by either declining or confirming Governor Abbott's participation.

Representative Hinojosa will be at the Texas Governor's Mansion at **10 a.m. CT on Thursday, October 15**, prepared and ready to debate.

We hope that Governor Abbott will join her.