

# [***Texas Newspaper Turns on Greg Abbott: 'Spewing Lies'***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6BCY-MJR1-DY68-1000-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Highlight:** A Texas newspaper in existence since 1899 says it regrets endorsing Gov. Greg Abbott due to his recent efforts to campaign on school vouchers.

**Body**

A longtime Texas newspaper says that it was "wrong" to endorse Texas Governor [*Greg Abbott*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/greg-abbott?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) 10 years ago, accusing him of "spewing lies and half-truths" and going after fellow [*Republicans*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/republicans?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) who did not support his school vouchers initiative.

As well as being front and center on issues such as illegal immigration, Abbott—elected in 2015—has been on the campaign trail supporting Texas statewide candidates who are running against 16 current Republican lawmakers who last year voted against his voucher initiative, in which taxpayers' money would have been used to allow some students to attend private schools.

Last year, a total of 21 Republicans in the Texas Legislature voted against the initiative.

"A decade ago, we endorsed Greg Abbott, saying the then-Texas Attorney General was a man of good character who had 'the respect necessary to govern our state,'" reads a new editorial by the *Daily Sentinel*, which has covered the state's oldest town of Nacogdoches since 1899. "Our opinion of what makes a good governor hasn't changed, but Abbott has. He's become the Disrespecter-in-Chief of Texas.

"After listening to Abbott stoop to fear mongering, spewing lies and half-truths and twisting logic in contradictory and baffling ways, we believe he no longer respects the rural voters who have sent him to Austin for three terms."

*Newsweek* reached out to Abbott's office via email for comment.

In November, Abbott failed to muster enough support from his own party members to approve a bill including taxpayer subsidies of up to $10,000 per year, per student, to attend private and religious schools. Most Republicans who voted for the provision to remove vouchers from the state's education funding represent rural areas.

In his 2022 victory over Democratic gubernatorial candidate [*Beto O'Rourke*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/beto-orourke?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships), Abbott claimed 886,166 votes or about 79.35 percent from rural counties across Texas, [*according to the Texas* ***Politics*** *Project*](https://texaspolitics.utexas.edu/blog/some-notes-political-geography-2022-election-texas) at the University of Texas at Austin. It was an increase of about 2 percent and 4 percent from his 2018 and 2014 election victories, respectively.

Rural voters in the 2022 election accounted for approximately 13.37 percent of registered voters in the 2022 election, and 13.84 percent of all votes cast.

The editorial claims that Abbott has "put a target on the back" of State Representative Travis Clardy, one of the aforementioned conservatives who voted against Abbott's school voucher proposal. Clardy represents House District 11, which includes Cherokee, Nacogdoches and Rusk counties in East Texas.

The governor also [*publicly slammed State Representative DeWayne Burns*](https://www.newsweek.com/greg-abbott-border-dewayne-burns-voucher-primary-1871078?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships), also a Republican, saying in a post on X (formerly [*Twitter*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/twitter?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships)) earlier this week that he doesn't "trust" Burns due to his school voucher vote. Abbott is campaigning on behalf of Helen Kerwin, Burns' Republican primary challenger for Texas' House District 58.

During Monday campaign events attended by Abbott, Kerwin's campaign rally included some 200 supporters while Burns attracted some 500 supporters, according to the *Cleburne Times-Review*.

The *Daily Sentinel* also criticized Abbott's recent remarks, in which he stated on Monday: "Some people get elected and they go to Austin, Texas, and they represent Austin values not Nacogdoches values."

They cited how Abbott may have been speaking about himself considering that Pennsylvania-based GOP mega-donor Jeff Yass gave Abbott $250,000 in October and another $6 million in December, according to Houston Public Media.

"This election cycle, he wants to buy the votes of rural Texans with a campaign of lies financed by billionaires from out of state, and he's confident we're dumb enough to believe him," the editorial reads, describing the efforts of Abbott and his "billionaire buddies" as a widespread propaganda campaign.

It adds: "Were Abbott a sitting member of the Texas House, waging such a campaign could get him kicked out of the Republican Party, per caucus rules. We expected the standard-bearer of the Texas Republican Party to follow the same rules as the House members he wishes so desperately to control."

In his third term, Abbott has become one of the most polarizing figures across the nation since he started busing migrants to Democratic sanctuary cities beginning in 2022, leading to a [*larger ideological battle*](https://www.newsweek.com/mexican-cartels-helping-biden-border-tony-gonzales-1870054?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) between the state of Texas and the federal government. A record influx of illegal migrants into Texas led to razor wire being set up along the U.S.-Mexico border, in addition to [*constructing an 80-acre camp*](https://www.newsweek.com/mexico-president-mocks-greg-abbott-military-migrants-1871724?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) housing thousands of Texas National Guard soldiers for years to come.

[*Link to Image*](https://d.newsweek.com/en/full/2352568/greg-abbott.jpg)

**Graphic**

Greg Abbott

Jonathan Bachman/Getty Images

Governor of Texas, Greg Abbott, is seen in attendance during the CFP Semifinal Allstate Sugar Bowl between the Texas Longhorns and the Washington Huskies at Caesars Superdome on January 01, 2024 in New Orleans, Louisiana. A new editorial in the Texas-based newspaper "The Daily Sentinel" rips Abbott for his efforts to campaign against Republican lawmakers who voted against his school voucher proposal in November 2023.

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