

We asked Texas leaders about Trump's action in Venezuela. Here's what they said.



Getty Images

By **Houston Chronicle Politics Team** | Updated Jan. 5, 2026 3:46 p.m.

[Gift this article](#)



President Donald Trump stunned much of the world over the weekend when he authorized the capture of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro in a surprise military raid.

The president said the U.S. will "run" Venezuela until a peaceful transfer of power is made, and he said wants to open up the country's vast oil reserves to U.S. companies. Trump also issued threats to other foreign leaders, warning Colombia that it could be next and suggesting that the U.S. could initiate military interventions in Mexico and Iran, as well as take over Greenland.

In Texas, Republicans widely rallied around the capture of Maduro, calling it a strategic move to remove an illegitimate ruler. Both Maduro and his wife, who was also captured, pleaded not guilty in a New York courtroom on Monday to charges including drug trafficking and other crimes.

Hearst Newspapers reached out to the state's congressional delegation and top statewide elected officials to ask whether they support the president's actions and remarks, and to explain their position. For those who didn't respond, we included public comments they've made since the Maduro raid. Read their responses below.

Texas governor and statewide officials



Texas and the world are better because of his capture. 

Greg Abbott, Republican, Governor in a Jan. 3 post on X



Cuba is on notice. The Mexican cartels are on notice. The Monroe Doctrine, to protect the Western Hemisphere and therefore America, is in force again. 

Dan Patrick, Republican, Lieutenant Governor in a Jan. 3 post on X

I am in full support of the operation 

Ken Paxton, Republican, Attorney General in a statement to Hearst Newspapers

Texas stands with the people of Venezuela in their pursuit of freedom, 

Kelly Hancock, Republican, Interim Comptroller of Public Accounts in a Jan. 5 post on X

**This is our hemisphere, and we
will never cede control to
narcoterrorists. +**

Dawn Buckingham, Republican, Land Commissioner in a statement to Hearst Newspapers

**I am proud he has made clear to
the world that he will protect the United
States, our borders, and our citizens
from criminal regimes and transnational
threats +**

Sid Miller, Republican, Agriculture Commissioner in a statement to Hearst Newspapers

U.S. Senate

Kudos to President @realDonaldTrump.



John Cornyn, Republican, U.S. Senator said on X

Removing him from power will save countless lives and serve as a warning to all others targeting Americans... I also think it's very important America not get mired down in a long, extended occupation. 

Ted Cruz, Republican, U.S. Senator speaking on his podcast "Verdict" and in a written statement

U.S. House

Despite my support for this result, if United States military forces remain in Venezuela to conduct military operations, I strongly urge POTUS to work with Congress to pass an authorization for use of military force 

Nathaniel Moran, Republican, U.S. House District 1 posted on Facebook

When a narco-terrorist dictator is destabilizing our entire hemisphere, it is obviously in our best interest to

ADVERTISEMENT

Authoritarian regimes across the globe should take note. +

Keith Self, Republican, U.S. House Texas District 3 posted on X

President Trump has reaffirmed US deterrence in our own hemisphere.



Pat Fallon, Republican, U.S. House Texas District 4 said in a public statement

I support President Trump, who is making our country safer



Lance Gooden, Republican, U.S. House Texas District 5 said in a statement to Hearst Newspapers

Did not respond to a request for

statements online.

Jake Ellzey, Republican, U.S. House Texas District 6

President Trump's military action in Venezuela violates the United States Constitution and sets a dangerous precedent for national sovereignty.



Lizzie Fletcher, Democrat, U.S. House Texas District 7 said in a public statement

Did not respond to a request for comment and has made no public statements online.

Morgan Luttrell, Republican, U.S. House Texas District 8

the President's version of the Constitution has been reduced to might-makes-right, with the ends justifying the means



Al Green, Democrat, U.S. House Texas District 9 said in a statement to Hearst Newspapers

ADVERTISEMENT

Today's successful operation could change the face of Latin America.



Michael McCaul, Republican, U.S. House Texas District 10 said in a public statement

American forces executed a necessary mission with absolute precision to extradite an indicted narco-terrorist.



August Pfluger, Republican, U.S. House Texas District 11 said in a statement to Hearst Newspapers

Did not respond to a request for comment and has made no public statements online.

Craig Goldman, Republican, U.S. House Texas District 12

This is what America First leadership looks like!



Ronny Jackson, Republican, U.S. House Texas District 13

Did not respond to a request for comment and has made no public statements online.

Randy Weber, Republican, U.S. House Texas District 14

I pray that today's action brings freedom, stability, and peace to our hemisphere. +

Monica De La Cruz, Republican, U.S. House Texas District 15 posted on X

We should not be running Venezuela - especially at a time when the American people are suffering under Trump's disastrous economic policies.



Veronica Escobar, Democrat, U.S. House Texas District 16 said in a statement to Hearst Newspapers

Jump to section 

Texas governor and statewide officials

U.S. Senate

U.S. House



I support the President's successful swift law enforcement operation in Venezuela. +

Pete Sessions, Republican, U.S. House Texas District 17 said in a statement to Hearst Newspapers

ADVERTISEMENT



President Trump's decisive and deliberate action to arrest international criminal Nicolás Maduro and his wife reaffirms President Trump's commitment to putting America's safety and security first by returning to the rule of law and peace through strength. ☰

Jodey Arrington, Republican, U.S. House Texas District 19 posted on Facebook



We cannot put our troops in harm's way over Trump's reckless pursuit of power, oil and land. ☺

Joaquin Castro, Democrat, U.S. House Texas District 20 said in a press release



The “TRUMP DOCTRINE” puts America First in the Western

Hemisphere



Chip Roy, Republican, U.S. House Texas District 21 posted on X



Thanks to the leadership of President Trump, his administration, our brave servicemen and women, and law enforcement, Nicolas Maduro will face justice.

Troy Nehls, Republican, U.S. House Texas District 22 posted on X



America's fighting forces are unmatched and the strongest in the world.



Tony Gonzales, Republican, U.S. House Texas District 23 posted on X

Did not respond to a request for comment and has made no public statements online.

Beth Van Duyne, Republican, U.S. House Texas District 24

unanswered.**Roger Williams**, Republican, U.S. House Texas District 25 said on X

Did not respond to a request for comment and has made no public statements online.

Brandon Gill, Republican, U.S. House Texas District 26

ADVERTISEMENT

The impotent and ineffective era of blind appeasement to those working to destroy our nation is over. +

Michael Cloud, Republican, U.S. House Texas District 27 said on X

I urge that the next steps be guided by de-escalation, protection of innocent lives, regional stability, and

respect for constitutional and international norms +

Henry Cuellar, Democrat, U.S. House Texas District 28 said in a press release

America does not need another costly war. Americans are hurting at home. +

Sylvia Garcia, Democrat, U.S. House Texas District 29 said in a statement to Hearst Newspapers

“We are going to run the country?!!” Asking for Americans: Can you run the one you were elected to run?! +

Jasmine Crockett, Democrat, U.S. House Texas District 30 in a Jan. 3 post on X

President Trump continues to demonstrate decisive leadership by prioritizing the safety and security of the American people. +

John Carter, Republican, U.S. House Texas District 31 in a Jan. 4 post on X

Two things can be true at once: Nicolás

drug trafficking into the United States, and the President's unauthorized military action in Venezuela is a clear violation of the Constitution and international law. 

Julie Johnson, Democrat, U.S. House Texas District 32 in a statement

The United States is a democracy governed by laws — not the whims of one man. 

Marc Veasey, Democrat, U.S. House Texas District 33 in a post on X

The world witnessed an extraordinary operation that was executed by our CIA and military. For that, I am grateful. However, any further military intervention by the United States must receive congressional authorization. 

Vicente Gonzalez, Democrat, U.S. House Texas District 34 in a statement

Congress must pass a War Powers resolution to get our military back to defending the U.S., instead of "running" Venezuela. 

ADVERTISEMENT

The Trump Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine is now in force.



Brian Babin, Republican, U.S. House Texas District 36 in a Jan. 3 post on Facebook

Trump's illegal war for oil in Venezuela emboldens authoritarians everywhere



Lloyd Doggett, Democrat, U.S. House Texas District 37 in a post on X

if you harm America, we will find you, and justice will NOT be optional. +

Wesley Hunt, Republican, U.S. House Texas District 38 posted on Facebook



Want to keep up with Texas politics? Sign up for the Texas Take newsletter.

Enter your email address here.

SIGN UP

This site is protected by reCAPTCHA and the Google [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Service](#) By subscribing, you agree to our [Terms of Use](#) and acknowledge that your information will be used as described in our [Privacy Notice](#).

Credits

Reporting by James Osborne, Isaac Yu, Bayliss Wagner, John Moritz and Benjamin Wermund. Editing by Jeremy Blackman and Allie Morris. Production by Brady Stone. Powered by the [Hearst Newspapers DevHub](#). ↗

Originally published on Jan. 5, 2026

ADVERTISEMENT

Read More

Maduro's capture spurs day of rallies among optimistic Venezuelans in Katy and protesters in Uptown

Who is Nicolás Maduro? What to know about the Venezuelan president captured by U.S. forces.

What role will Houston's oil companies play in rebuilding Venezuela's oil industry?

HOUSTON★CHRONICLE

TOP

ABOUT

[Our Company](#)

[Terms of Use](#)

[Newspaper Delivery Safety Procedures](#)

[Advertising](#)

[Privacy Notice](#)

[Careers](#)

[DAA Industry Opt Out](#)

TEXAS POLITICS

HOUSTON★CHRONICLE

[Account](#) 

[Subscribe](#)[Newsroom Contacts](#)[e-Edition](#)[Our Use of AI](#)[Archives](#)[Ethics Policy](#)[Customer Service](#)[Corporate Subscriptions](#)[Frequently Asked Questions](#)[Your Privacy Choices \(Opt Out of Sale/Targeted Ads\)](#)**H E A R S T** *newspapers*

©2026 Hearst Newspapers, LLC

