

Texas Statewide Survey

Field Dates: February 12 to 18, 2021

N=1200 Registered Voters

Margin of error: +/- 2.83% (3.5% adjusted for weighting) unless otherwise noted¹

Policy Questions

Q19. As you probably know, the Texas Legislature is currently meeting in Austin for the 140-day legislative session held every other year. What do you think should be the legislature's top priority? **[OPEN-ENDED]**

Q19_Coded	Percent
COVID/coronavirus	22
Immigration/Border security	14
The economy/Jobs	12
Education	5
Health care	4
Power generation/Utility companies	4
Environment/Climate change	3
Election integrity/Voting Rights	2
Resisting Biden Administration/Federal Government	2
Budget /Reduce Spending	2
Inequality	1
Property taxes	1
Energy	0
Other	28
Don't know	0

Q20. Every ten years states redraw the boundaries of congressional and legislative districts based on new Census figures in a process called redistricting. How much have you heard about the 2021 redistricting process in Texas?

Q20	Percent
A lot	8
Some	26
A little	25
Nothing at all	41

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Q21A. In your opinion, how important is it for each of the following to receive help from Texas state government to recover from the negative effects of the coronavirus pandemic? [RANDOMIZE A-G]

Item	Extremely important	Very important	Not very important	Not at all important	Don't know/No opinion
Large businesses/employers	12	21	37	24	6
Small businesses/employers	50	39	6	2	3
Individuals & families	55	33	6	2	4
K-12 public schools	42	37	10	7	4
Colleges and universities	19	27	27	21	6
Cities and local governments	26	37	23	10	5
Healthcare providers like doctors and hospitals	45	34	10	7	3

Q21B. And who is it **most important** for Texas state government to help recover from the negative impacts of the coronavirus pandemic? [RANDOMIZE 1-7]

Q21B	Percent
Individuals & families	44
Small businesses/employers	25
Healthcare providers like doctors and hospitals	12
K-12 public schools	7
Cities and local governments	5
None of these	4
Large businesses/employers	2
Colleges and universities	1

Q22. Thinking about state spending, do you think that Texas state government spends too much, too little, or about the right amount on each of the following?

Item	Too much	About the right amount	Too little	Don't know/No opinion
K-12 public education	13	26	50	10
Higher education (i.e. colleges and universities)	25	31	28	15
Health coverage for the uninsured	15	22	49	14
Response to the coronavirus pandemic	12	32	45	12
Mental health services	5	22	59	15
Border security	26	22	39	13
Transportation	9	39	35	17
Environmental protection	16	28	42	13
Prisons and the penal system	32	32	17	19

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Q23. Would you say that the quality of K-12 public school education in Texas is:

	Excellent	Good	Not very good	Terrible	Don't know/No opinion
Feb. 2021	7	43	31	9	10
June 2020	8	45	28	9	10
Feb. 2020	7	39	31	11	12
June 2019	7	41	31	10	11
Feb. 2019	5	42	32	10	10
Feb. 2017	8	39	34	8	11
June 2013	5	40	36	14	5

Q27. What is your opinion on the availability of abortion?

	By law, abortion should never be permitted	The law should permit abortion only in case of rape, incest or when the woman's life is in danger	The law should permit abortion for reasons other than rape, incest, or danger to the woman's life, but only after the need for the abortion has been clearly established	By law, a woman should always be able to obtain an abortion as a matter of personal choice
Feb. 2021	13	31	12	38
Oct. 2018	15	29	12	39
Feb. 2017	17	26	15	38
Feb. 2014	13	29	17	37
Oct. 2013	12	29	16	37
June 2013	16	30	13	36
Feb. 2013	15	29	13	39
May 2012	12	33	13	37
Feb. 2012	15	29	12	38
Oct. 2011	16	31	12	36
Feb. 2011	13	31	14	37
May 2010	15	37	13	32
Oct. 2009	15	33	14	33

Q28. Do you think that laws restricting abortion here in Texas should be made more strict, less strict, or left as they are now?

	More strict	Left as they are now	Less strict	Don't know/No opinion
Feb. 2021	32	18	37	13
Feb. 2019	41	20	32	8
June 2013	38	21	26	14

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Q29. What is your opinion on the legalization of marijuana possession?

	Marijuana possession should not be legal under any circumstances	Marijuana possession should be legal for medical purposes only	Possession of small amounts of marijuana for any purpose should be legal	Possession of any amount of marijuana for any purpose should be legal
Feb. 2021	13	28	32	28
Feb. 2019	20	26	32	22
June 2018	16	31	30	23
Feb. 2017	17	30	32	21
Feb. 2015	24	34	26	16
Feb. 2014	23	28	32	17
May 2010	27	27	28	14

Q30. Gambling policy will probably be discussed during the current legislative session. Which of the following gambling policy proposals would you most support?

	Banning all gambling and gaming in Texas	Leaving current gambling laws unchanged	Expanding gambling, but only in places where limited gambling is already allowed	Expanding gambling but only to Indian reservations	Allowing full casino gambling in Texas
Feb. 2021	8	17	12	6	41
Feb. 2011	8	11	12	6	56
Feb. 2010	10	21	13	6	40
June 2009	10	18	13	7	40
Mar. 2009	12	16	13	6	40

Q31. Which of the following is closest to your opinion regarding Confederate statues and monuments on public property?

	They should be removed from public view	They should be moved to a museum or other site where they can be presented in historical context	They should remain where they are with historical context provided	They should remain where they are unchanged	Don't know/No opinion
Feb. 2021	15	28	24	26	7
June 2020	20	32	23	20	5
Oct. 2017	8	30	22	34	6

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Sampling and Weighting Methodology for the February 2021 Texas Statewide Study

For the survey, YouGov interviewed 1535 Texas registered voters between February 12 and February 18, 2021, who were then matched down to a sample of 1200 to produce the final dataset. The respondents were matched on gender, age, race, and education. YouGov then weighted the matched set of survey respondents to known characteristics of registered voters of Texas from the 2018 Current Population survey and 2014 Pew Religious Landscape Survey.

The respondents were matched to a sampling frame on gender, age, race, and education. The frame was constructed by stratified sampling from the full 2018 Current Population Survey (CPS) voter registration supplement with selection within strata by weighted sampling with replacements (using the person weights on the public use file). For the main sample, the matched cases were weighted to the sampling frame using propensity scores. The matched cases and the frame were combined and a logistic regression was estimated for inclusion in the frame. The propensity score function included age, gender, race/ethnicity, and years of education. The propensity scores were grouped into deciles of the estimated propensity score in the frame and post-stratified according to these deciles. These weights were then post-stratified on baseline party identification, the 2020 and 2016 presidential vote, ideology, and a full stratification of four-category age, four-category race, gender, and four-category education. The weights were trimmed at 7 and normalized to sum to the sample size.

The margin of error of the weighted data for registered voters is 2.8% for registered voters (if adjusted for weighting, the margin of error for registered voters is 3.5%).

Survey Panel Data

The YouGov panel, a proprietary opt-in survey panel, is comprised of 1.5 million U.S. residents who have agreed to participate in YouGov Web surveys. At any given time, YouGov maintains a minimum of five recruitment campaigns based on salient current events.

Panel members are recruited by a number of methods and on a variety of topics to help ensure diversity in the panel population. Recruiting methods include Web advertising campaigns (public surveys), permission-based email campaigns, partner sponsored solicitations, telephone-to-Web recruitment (RDD based sampling), and mail-to-Web recruitment (Voter Registration Based Sampling).

The primary method of recruitment for the YouGov Panel is Web advertising campaigns that appear based on keyword searches. In practice, a search in Google may prompt an active YouGov advertisement soliciting opinion on the search topic. At the conclusion of the short survey respondents are invited to join the YouGov panel in order to receive and participate in additional surveys. After a double opt-in procedure, where respondents must confirm their consent by responding to an email, the database checks to ensure the newly recruited panelist is in fact new and that the address information provided is valid.

The YouGov panel currently has over 20,000 active panelists who are residents of Texas. These panelists cover a wide range of demographic characteristics.

Sampling and Sample Matching

Sample matching is a methodology for selection of “representative” samples from non-randomly selected pools of respondents. It is ideally suited for Web access panels, but could also be used for other types of surveys, such as phone surveys. Sample matching starts with an enumeration of the target population. For general population studies, the target population is all adults, and can be enumerated through the use of the decennial Census or a high-quality survey, such as the American Community Survey. In other contexts, this is known as the sampling frame, though,

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unlike conventional sampling, the sample is not drawn from the frame. Traditional sampling, then, selects individuals from the sampling frame at random for participation in the study. This may not be feasible or economical as the contact information, especially email addresses, is not available for all individuals in the frame and refusals to participate increase the costs of sampling in this way.

Sample selection using the matching methodology is a two-stage process. First, a random sample is drawn from the target population. We call this sample the target sample. Details on how the target sample is drawn are provided below, but the essential idea is that this sample is a true probability sample and thus representative of the frame from which it was drawn.

Second, for each member of the target sample, we select one or more matching members from our pool of opt-in respondents. This is called the matched sample. Matching is accomplished using a large set of variables that are available in consumer and voter databases for both the target population and the opt-in panel.

The purpose of matching is to find an available respondent who is as similar as possible to the selected member of the target sample. The result is a sample of respondents who have the same measured characteristics as the target sample. Under certain conditions, described below, the matched sample will have similar properties to a true random sample. That is, the matched sample mimics the characteristics of the target sample.

When choosing the matched sample, it is necessary to find the closest matching respondent in the panel of opt-ins to each member of the target sample. YouGov employs the proximity matching method to find the closest matching respondent. For each variable used for matching, we define a distance function, $d(x,y)$, which describes how “close” the values x and y are on a particular attribute. The overall distance between a member of the target sample and a member of the panel is a weighted sum of the individual distance functions on each attribute. The weights can be adjusted for each study based upon which variables are thought to be important for that study, though, for the most part, we have not found the matching procedure to be sensitive to small adjustments of the weights. A large weight, on the other hand, forces the algorithm toward an exact match on that dimension.