

# University of Texas / Texas Tribune Poll

## 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 noted<sup>1</sup>

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### Retrospective Assessments

Q6. How would you rate the job Joe Biden is doing as president? Would you say that you...

POTUS	Approve strongly	Approve somewhat	Neither approve nor disapprove	Disapprove somewhat	Disapprove strongly	Don't know
Feb. 2021	30	15	9	5	39	2

Q6A. Do you approve or disapprove of how Joe Biden has handled the response to the coronavirus/COVID-19?

Q6A	Percent
Approve strongly	34
Approve somewhat	15
Neither approve nor disapprove	14
Disapprove somewhat	7
Disapprove strongly	29
Don't know	2

# University of Texas / Texas Tribune Poll

## Texas Statewide Survey

Q7. How would you rate the job the U.S. Congress is doing? Would you say that you...

CONGRESS	Approve strongly	Approve somewhat	Neither approve nor disapprove	Disapprove somewhat	Disapprove strongly	Don't know
Feb. 2021	7	15	17	14	43	4
Oct. 2020	5	15	17	23	37	3
June 2020	4	15	16	26	36	3
Apr. 2020	6	17	18	24	32	3
Feb. 2020	5	13	16	19	42	4
Oct. 2019	7	14	18	23	35	4
June 2019	4	14	19	21	39	3
Feb. 2019	4	14	18	26	35	3
Oct. 2018	4	22	16	19	38	2
June 2018	3	15	18	21	38	4
Feb. 2018	2	17	16	22	39	3
Oct. 2017	2	10	15	24	45	3
June 2017	2	13	15	24	43	4
Feb. 2017	5	21	20	18	32	5
Oct. 2016	2	8	18	27	41	4
June 2016	2	8	16	24	45	5
Feb. 2016	2	10	17	24	43	4
Oct. 2015	2	8	17	25	46	3
June 2015	2	13	21	26	36	2
Feb. 2015	3	17	19	24	34	3
Oct. 2014	2	12	13	30	41	2
June 2014	3	8	15	24	48	3
Feb. 2014	3	8	15	23	49	2
Oct. 2013	2	6	12	21	56	3
June 2013	2	10	16	23	46	2
Feb. 2013	3	11	12	23	48	3
Oct. 2012	1	10	18	26	43	3
May 2012	1	9	16	23	48	3
Feb. 2012	1	10	14	26	47	2
Oct. 2011	2	9	10	26	51	2
May 2011	1	15	19	27	35	3
Feb. 2011	1	17	19	26	32	4
Oct. 2009	2	12	11	22	49	4
June 2009	2	18	22	22	36	0
Mar. 2009	4	22	22	15	37	0

# University of Texas / Texas Tribune Poll

## Texas Statewide Survey

Q8A. How would you rate the job Greg Abbott is doing as Governor? Would you say that you...

GOVERNOR	Approve strongly	Approve somewhat	Neither approve nor disapprove	Disapprove somewhat	Disapprove strongly	Don't know
Feb. 2021	21	25	12	12	27	3
Oct. 2020	20	27	12	16	24	2
June 2020	29	20	10	13	26	3
Apr. 2020	31	25	9	14	18	4
Feb. 2020	30	18	11	10	24	7
Oct. 2019	30	22	15	9	19	6
June 2019	29	22	13	11	20	5
Feb. 2019	33	18	12	11	21	5
Oct. 2018	36	16	12	9	23	5
June 2018	27	20	13	12	24	5
Feb. 2018	28	18	18	8	23	5
Oct. 2017	27	21	14	11	22	5
June 2017	27	18	12	9	29	4
Feb. 2017	27	18	17	9	24	5
Oct. 2016	21	21	17	10	23	8
June 2016	20	22	19	10	21	8
Feb. 2016	18	23	24	9	20	6
Oct. 2015	20	22	21	10	19	7
June 2015	22	24	19	8	20	7

Q8A2. Do you approve or disapprove of how Greg Abbott has handled the response to the coronavirus/COVID-19?

	Approve strongly	Approve somewhat	Neither approve nor disapprove	Disapprove somewhat	Disapprove strongly	Don't know
Feb. 2021	20	24	12	15	26	3
Oct. 2020	17	27	10	20	26	1
June 2020	27	22	7	12	29	3
Apr. 2020	31	25	9	13	16	5

# University of Texas / Texas Tribune Poll

## Texas Statewide Survey

Q8B. How would you rate the job Dan Patrick is doing as Lieutenant Governor? Would you say that you...

LTGOVERNOR	Approve strongly	Approve somewhat	Neither approve nor disapprove	Disapprove somewhat	Disapprove strongly	Don't know
Feb. 2021	20	17	15	5	31	12
Oct. 2020	18	19	13	6	31	12
June 2020	22	17	12	6	32	11
Apr. 2020	20	20	13	7	29	11
Feb. 2020	21	18	13	7	28	12
Oct. 2019	22	17	15	9	23	14
June 2019	22	19	18	6	25	11
Feb. 2019	24	18	16	6	25	10
Oct. 2018	27	17	14	5	26	11
June 2018	18	18	18	8	26	12
Feb. 2018	19	17	21	8	25	10
Oct. 2017	16	20	19	7	24	13
June 2017	15	19	18	8	28	11
Feb. 2017	16	16	24	8	23	14
Oct. 2016	12	19	20	9	22	18
June 2016	12	19	24	8	22	15
Feb. 2016	8	19	30	7	20	16
Oct. 2015	10	19	28	9	17	16
June 2015	13	19	28	8	16	15

Q8C. How would you rate the job Dade Phelan is doing as Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives? Would you say that you...

SPEAKER	Approve strongly	Approve somewhat	Neither approve nor disapprove	Disapprove somewhat	Disapprove strongly	Don't know
Feb. 2021	7	15	30	6	12	30

Texas Statewide Survey

[RANDOMIZE Q9A-Q9B]

Q9A. How would you rate the job Ted Cruz is doing as U.S. Senator? Would you say that you...

SENCRUZ	Approve strongly	Approve somewhat	Neither approve nor disapprove	Disapprove somewhat	Disapprove strongly	Don't know
Feb. 2021	33	12	8	5	38	4
Oct. 2020	31	15	8	6	36	4
June 2020	30	16	9	9	33	4
Apr. 2020	29	16	9	7	32	6
Feb. 2020	29	13	7	8	36	7
Oct. 2019	28	18	8	9	30	7
June 2019	27	20	10	8	31	4
Feb. 2019	31	15	9	7	34	4
Oct. 2018	34	13	8	5	37	3
June 2018	21	18	13	8	33	7
Feb. 2018	22	18	12	9	32	7
Oct. 2017	19	19	13	12	31	5
June 2017	21	17	12	9	35	6
Feb. 2017	20	18	14	10	29	9
Oct. 2016	16	19	13	11	34	7
June 2016	18	17	13	12	31	9
Feb. 2016	18	19	15	10	32	6
Oct. 2015	27	17	11	9	28	9

Q9B. How would you rate the job John Cornyn is doing as U.S. Senator? Would you say that you...

SENCORNYN	Approve strongly	Approve somewhat	Neither approve nor disapprove	Disapprove somewhat	Disapprove strongly	Don't know
Feb. 2021	12	20	18	13	29	8
Oct. 2020	18	21	12	11	28	10
June 2020	15	21	13	13	27	11
Apr. 2020	15	23	13	10	26	13
Feb. 2020	16	20	13	9	30	12
Oct. 2019	15	20	16	10	24	15
June 2019	14	23	17	11	23	12
Feb. 2019	15	21	18	13	22	11
Oct. 2018	17	22	15	9	25	13
June 2018	8	19	21	14	24	13
Feb. 2018	10	19	23	15	23	10
Oct. 2017	7	21	18	15	27	12
June 2017	9	19	18	14	27	12
Feb. 2017	11	19	22	12	22	14
Oct. 2016	8	20	22	14	22	15
June 2016	7	17	24	14	21	17
Feb. 2016	7	20	26	14	18	15
Oct. 2015	7	20	22	16	18	16

# University of Texas / Texas Tribune Poll

## Texas Statewide Survey

Q16. Of the three branches of the federal government, which one do you trust the most?

	The President, the executive branch	The U.S. Congress, the legislative branch	The U.S. Supreme Court, the judicial branch	Don't know/No opinion
Feb. 2021	22	5	35	39
Oct. 2020	29	13	27	31
Feb. 2020	27	12	30	30
Feb. 2019	33	14	28	25
Oct. 2018	29	8	29	35
Oct. 2017	27	5	36	32
June 2017	26	6	38	30
Feb. 2017	28	7	36	30
June 2016	17	14	28	41
Oct. 2015	18	18	24	40
Oct. 2012	28	10	34	27

Texas Statewide Survey

Political Figures and Elections

Q17. Please tell us whether you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, neither favorable nor unfavorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable opinion of Donald Trump.

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Neither favorable nor unfavorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know/No opinion
Feb. 2021	31	15	5	5	41	3
Oct. 2020	31	15	5	6	42	1
Feb. 2017	27	18	7	5	41	3
Oct. 2016	13	18	7	9	49	2
June 2016	16	15	10	10	46	4
Feb. 2016	13	16	9	15	44	2
Oct. 2015	16	18	12	12	39	3

Q17B. Based on what you know, do you think that Donald Trump took actions while president that justify preventing him from holding future elected office?

Q17B	Percent
Yes	45
No	48
Don't know/No opinion	7

Q18A. Overall, how accurate do you think official election results are in the U.S.?

Q18A	Percent
Very accurate	36
Somewhat accurate	16
Somewhat inaccurate	13
Very inaccurate	30
Don't know/No opinion	6

Q18B. Overall, how accurate do you think official election results are in Texas?

Q18B	Percent
Very accurate	43
Somewhat accurate	35
Somewhat inaccurate	11
Very inaccurate	5
Don't know/No opinion	6

Texas Statewide Survey

Policy Questions

Q33A. Do you personally find voting in Texas elections to be...

Q33A	Percent
Very easy	60
Somewhat easy	26
Somewhat difficult	7
Very difficult	2
Don't know/No opinion	5

Q33B. [ASK IF Q33A==2|3|4] In a sentence or two, what do you find most difficult about voting in Texas elections?  
[OPEN-ENDED]

Q33B_Coded	Percent
Long lines/Long wait times	13
Vote by mail	8
Limited Polling Places	7
Education	6
Registration	6
Locating polling site	5
Voter ID	5
Early voting	3
Voter suppression	3
Absentee voting	2
Voter fraud	2
Other	26
No issues	15

Q34. Do you think that the rules for voting in Texas should be made more strict, less strict, or left as they are now?

Q34	Percent
More strict	27
Less strict	25
Left as they are now	40
Don't know/No opinion	8



Texas Statewide Survey

Political Orientation

REPCON. [ASK IF PID7 >= 5] Overall, do you think that Republican elected officials in Texas are conservative enough, too conservative, or not conservative enough?

REPCON	Percent
Conservative enough	46
Too conservative	12
Not conservative enough	32
Don't know/No opinion	9

DEMLIB. [ASK IF PID7 <= 3] Overall, do you think that Democratic elected officials in Texas are liberal enough, too liberal, or not liberal enough?

DEMLIB	Percent
Liberal enough	36
Too liberal	9
Not liberal enough	38
Don't know/No opinion	18

## Texas Statewide Survey

### 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,

## Texas Statewide Survey

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.