

# University of Texas / Texas Tribune Poll

## Texas Statewide Survey

Field Dates: October 22-31, 2021

N=1200 Registered Voters

Margin of error: +/- 2.83% (3.5% adjusted for weighting) unless otherwise noted<sup>1</sup>

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	TOTAL APPROVE	TOTAL DISAPPROVE
Oct. 2021	30	15	7	6	38	5	45	44
Aug. 2021	28	14	8	5	41	3	42	46
June 2021	31	12	8	6	40	3	43	46
Apr. 2021	31	12	6	8	40	3	43	48
Mar. 2021	28	15	8	5	41	4	43	46
Feb. 2021	33	12	8	5	38	4	45	43
Oct. 2020	31	15	8	6	36	4	46	42
June 2020	30	16	9	9	33	4	46	42
Apr. 2020	29	16	9	7	32	6	45	39
Feb. 2020	29	13	7	8	36	7	42	44
Oct. 2019	28	18	8	9	30	7	46	39
June 2019	27	20	10	8	31	4	47	39
Feb. 2019	31	15	9	7	34	4	46	41
Oct. 2018	34	13	8	5	37	3	47	42
June 2018	21	18	13	8	33	7	39	41
Feb. 2018	22	18	12	9	32	7	40	41
Oct. 2017	19	19	13	12	31	5	38	43
June 2017	21	17	12	9	35	6	38	44
Feb. 2017	20	18	14	10	29	9	38	39
Oct. 2016	16	19	13	11	34	7	35	45
June 2016	18	17	13	12	31	9	35	43
Feb. 2016	18	19	15	10	32	6	37	42
Oct. 2015	27	17	11	9	28	9	44	37

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	TOTAL APPROVE	TOTAL DISAPPROVE
Oct. 2021	10	19	16	16	28	11	29	44
Aug. 2021	10	18	17	13	31	10	28	44
June 2021	13	21	16	12	29	8	34	41
Apr. 2021	12	19	15	13	30	10	31	43
Mar. 2021	12	21	16	14	28	9	33	42
Feb. 2021	12	20	18	13	29	8	32	42
Oct. 2020	18	21	12	11	28	10	39	39
June 2020	15	21	13	13	27	11	36	40
Apr. 2020	15	23	13	10	26	13	38	36
Feb. 2020	16	20	13	9	30	12	36	39
Oct. 2019	15	20	16	10	24	15	35	34
June 2019	14	23	17	11	23	12	37	34
Feb. 2019	15	21	18	13	22	11	36	35
Oct. 2018	17	22	15	9	25	13	39	34
June 2018	8	19	21	14	24	13	27	38
Feb. 2018	10	19	23	15	23	10	29	38
Oct. 2017	7	21	18	15	27	12	28	42
June 2017	9	19	18	14	27	12	28	41
Feb. 2017	11	19	22	12	22	14	30	34
Oct. 2016	8	20	22	14	22	15	28	36
June 2016	7	17	24	14	21	17	24	35
Feb. 2016	7	20	26	14	18	15	27	32
Oct. 2015	7	20	22	16	18	16	27	34

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Q15. How do you feel about the following statement: *Generally speaking, the way state government runs in Texas serves as a good model for other states to follow?*

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	TOTAL AGREE	TOTAL DISAGREE
Oct. 2021	27	24	10	32	0	51	42
Aug. 2021	26	24	11	33	6	50	44
June 2021	31	20	13	29	8	51	42
Apr. 2020	31	27	12	18	12	58	30
Feb. 2020	25	29	14	16	15	54	30
June 2017	25	29	16	19	11	54	35
June 2015	26	33	12	18	11	59	30
Feb. 2013	29	31	13	18	8	60	31
Oct. 2011	21	29	16	22	12	50	38
Feb. 2010	18	39	17	14	12	57	31

Q16. Is Texas's increasing racial and ethnic diversity a cause for optimism or a cause for concern?

	A cause for optimism	A cause for concern	Don't know/No opinion
Oct. 2021	41	28	31
Aug. 2021	38	34	28
June 2021	37	34	29
Apr. 2021	39	29	32
Feb. 2021	40	31	29
Oct. 2020	44	28	28
June 2020	48	31	21
Apr. 2020	49	28	24
Oct. 2019	44	32	24
June 2019	44	33	23

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Political Figures and Elections

Q17. How closely have you been following the Texas Legislature this year?

Q17	Percent
Extremely closely	17
Somewhat closely	48
Not very closely	27
Not at all closely	8

Q24A. Do you approve or disapprove of how Joe Biden has handled the economy?

	Approve strongly	Approve somewhat	Neither approve nor disapprove	Disapprove somewhat	Disapprove strongly	Don't know	TOTAL APPROVE	TOTAL DISAPPROVE
Oct. 2021	16	16	11	9	46	3	32	55
Aug. 2021	20	18	8	7	44	2	38	51
June 2021	21	19	10	7	40	3	40	47
Apr. 2021	21	17	12	7	39	3	38	46

Q24B. Do you approve or disapprove of how Joe Biden has handled immigration and border security?

	Approve strongly	Approve somewhat	Neither approve nor disapprove	Disapprove somewhat	Disapprove strongly	Don't know	TOTAL APPROVE	TOTAL DISAPPROVE
Oct. 2021	8	14	12	11	52	4	22	63
Aug. 2021	9	17	13	9	49	3	26	58
June 2021	10	17	13	11	46	3	27	57
Apr. 2021	8	15	14	10	49	4	23	59

Q24C. Do you approve or disapprove of how Joe Biden has handled transportation and infrastructure?

	Approve strongly	Approve somewhat	Neither approve nor disapprove	Disapprove somewhat	Disapprove strongly	Don't know	TOTAL APPROVE	TOTAL DISAPPROVE
Oct. 2021	14	16	14	8	43	5	30	51
Aug. 2021	21	16	10	6	41	5	37	47

Q24D. Do you approve or disapprove of how Joe Biden has handled the response to the coronavirus/COVID-19?

	Approve strongly	Approve somewhat	Neither approve nor disapprove	Disapprove somewhat	Disapprove strongly	Don't know	TOTAL APPROVE	TOTAL DISAPPROVE
Oct. 2021	24	15	7	8	43	2	39	51
Aug. 2021	30	14	8	9	38	1	44	47
June 2021	34	15	15	8	28	1	49	36
Apr. 2021	34	15	14	9	26	1	49	35
Mar. 2021	33	15	14	9	27	1	48	36
Feb. 2021	34	15	14	7	29	2	49	36

Q25A. Do you approve or disapprove of how Greg Abbott has handled immigration and border security?

	Approve strongly	Approve somewhat	Neither approve nor disapprove	Disapprove somewhat	Disapprove strongly	Don't know	TOTAL APPROVE	TOTAL DISAPPROVE
Oct. 2021	27	19	7	9	34	5	46	43
Aug. 2021	22	18	9	11	35	5	40	46
June 2021	25	21	10	8	29	5	46	37

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Q25B. 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	TOTAL APPROVE	TOTAL DISAPPROVE
Oct. 2021	23	21	8	10	36	3	44	46
Aug. 2021	21	18	8	10	43	1	39	53
June 2021	25	19	8	11	35	2	44	46
Apr. 2021	22	21	8	14	34	2	43	48
Mar. 2021	24	20	7	13	35	1	44	48
Feb. 2021	20	24	12	15	26	3	44	41
Oct. 2020	17	27	10	20	26	1	44	46
June 2020	27	22	7	12	29	3	49	41
Apr. 2020	31	25	9	13	16	5	56	29

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### Policy Questions

Q35. Do you approve or disapprove of how state leaders and the Legislature have handled each of the following in Texas?

Item	Approve strongly	Approve somewhat	Neither approve nor disapprove	Disapprove somewhat	Disapprove strongly	Don't know/No opinion	TOTAL APPROVE	TOTAL DISAPPROVE
Reliability of the electricity grid	6	12	16	18	42	6	18	60
COVID/coronavirus pandemic	15	25	13	14	31	2	40	45
K-12 public education	9	17	22	18	24	10	26	42
Immigration/border security	18	23	10	14	30	5	41	44
Public safety	16	26	20	10	20	8	42	30
Election and voting laws	24	19	13	8	30	5	43	38
Abortion policy	30	9	11	7	39	4	39	46
Gun violence	18	17	17	9	32	7	35	41
Second Amendment rights	31	15	15	9	23	7	46	32
Property taxes	7	13	22	20	26	12	20	46
Redistricting	11	14	22	10	28	15	25	38
Transgender students in public schools	18	10	20	7	29	16	28	36
Foster care	6	9	26	11	18	30	15	29

Q39. Do you support or oppose allowing legal gun owners over the age of 21 to carry handguns in most public places in Texas without a license or training?

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know/No opinion	TOTAL SUPPORT	TOTAL OPPOSE
Oct. 2021	19	19	13	42	7	38	55
June 2021	24	12	13	44	7	36	57
Apr. 2021	22	12	11	48	6	34	59

Q40. Do you support or oppose making abortion illegal after 6 weeks of pregnancy except in the case of a medical emergency?

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know/No opinion	TOTAL SUPPORT	TOTAL OPPOSE
Oct. 2021	34	11	8	39	9	45	47
June 2021	32	12	9	37	10	44	46
Apr. 2021	34	15	10	31	0	49	41

Q41. Please tell us whether or not you think it should be possible for a pregnant woman to obtain a legal abortion if...

	Oct. 2021	Oct. 2014	June 2014
The woman's own health is seriously endangered.	81	81	76
She became pregnant as a result of rape.	72	77	72
She became pregnant as a result of incest.	73	75	70
There is a strong chance of a serious defect in the baby.	58	63	57
The family has very low income and cannot afford any more children.	39	41	39
She is not married and does not want to marry the man.	37	37	36
She is married and does not want any more children.	38	37	36

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Q42. Do you support or oppose allowing any individual to sue people they believe helped someone obtain an abortion in violation of state law?

Q42	Percent
Strongly support	18
Somewhat support	12
Somewhat oppose	8
Strongly oppose	49
Don't know/No opinion	13

Q43. Do you think Texas should accept refugees from other countries who have gone through a security clearance process?

	Yes	No	Don't know/No opinion
Oct. 2021	50	35	15
Feb. 2020	51	34	15

Q44. If some of these refugees came to live in your community, do you think they would be welcomed, or not?

	Yes, welcomed	No, not welcomed	Don't know/No opinion
Oct. 2021	41	26	32
Feb. 2020	48	21	31

Q45. Do you support or oppose Governor Greg Abbott's plan to use state money to add more barriers on the border between Texas and Mexico?

Q45	Percent
Strongly support	44
Somewhat support	9
Somewhat oppose	7
Strongly oppose	33
Don't know/No opinion	6

Q46. Do you think that Texas spends too much, too little, or about the right amount on border security?

	Too much	About the right amount	Too little	Don't know/No opinion
Oct. 2021	28	20	33	0
Aug. 2021	24	18	37	21
Feb. 2021	26	22	39	13
Feb. 2019	15	30	38	18

## Texas Statewide Survey

### Sampling and Weighting Methodology for the October 2021 Texas Statewide Study

For the survey, YouGov interviewed 1308 Texas registered voters between October 23 and November 1, 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 3.4%).

### 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, 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.

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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.