

# University of Texas / Texas Tribune Poll

## Texas Statewide Survey

Field Dates: September 25 to October 4, 2020

N=1200 Registered Voters

Margin of error: +/- 2.83% (3.8% adjusted for weighting) unless otherwise noted

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### Retrospective Assessments

Q6. How would you rate the job Donald Trump 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
Oct. 2020	33	16	4	5	41	0
June 2020	32	14	5	6	42	1
Apr. 2020	36	13	5	6	39	1
Feb. 2020	33	12	5	6	42	2
Oct. 2019	32	15	4	6	42	1
June 2019	34	18	4	5	39	1
Feb. 2019	34	15	5	5	40	1
Oct. 2018	36	12	5	5	40	1
June 2018	29	18	7	6	38	1
Feb. 2018	30	16	7	7	39	1
Oct. 2017	27	18	5	8	42	1
June 2017	25	18	6	7	44	1
Feb. 2017	32	14	8	4	40	3

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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
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

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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
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
Oct. 2020	17	27	10	20	26	1
June 2020	27	22	7	12	29	3
Apr. 2020	31	25	9	13	16	5

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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
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 Dennis Bonnen 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
Oct. 2020	7	16	23	8	16	30
June 2020	6	17	25	10	16	26
Apr. 2020	5	15	28	9	15	28
Feb. 2020	5	14	26	8	19	28
Oct. 2019	6	14	28	8	17	27
June 2019	7	18	27	11	12	25
Feb. 2019	8	18	31	6	10	28
Feb. 2018	8	19	29	9	15	19
Oct. 2017	4	19	29	11	16	20
June 2017	5	20	25	12	17	21
Feb. 2017	7	16	31	9	14	22
Oct. 2016	5	16	30	9	14	26
June 2016	4	15	30	10	14	26
Feb. 2016	4	16	35	7	13	25
Oct. 2015	4	16	32	8	14	25

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[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
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
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

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Political Figures and Elections

*[Results for Q16 through Q20B are presented among Likely Voters. Likely Voters are defined as those who selected 9 or 10 on Q3A and (if they are over the age of 20) stated that they vote in "Every" or "Almost every" election on Q3. Respondents who said that they hadn't thought enough about the election to have an opinion on Q17 and Q19 were asked a follow-up question: "If you had to make a choice, who would you choose?" Responses to this item were folded into those who initially indicated a preference and reported below in items Q17 and Q19.]*

*N = 908, MOE is +/- 3.25%, MOE is +/- 4.16% if adjusted for weighting, unless otherwise noted.*

Q17. If the 2020 general election for U.S. president were held today, would you vote for [RANDOMIZE ORDER "the Republican ticket of Donald Trump and Mike Pence", "the Democratic ticket of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris", "the Libertarian ticket of Jo Jorgensen and Jeremy "Spike" Cohen", "the Green ticket of Howie Hawkins and Angela Walker"] the Republican ticket of Donald Trump and Mike Pence, the Democratic ticket of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, the Libertarian ticket of Jo Jorgensen and Jeremy "Spike" Cohen, the Green ticket of Howie Hawkins and Angela Walker, or haven't you thought enough about it to have an opinion? [RANDOMIZE 1-4]

Q17F	Percent
Donald Trump and Mike Pence	50
Joe Biden and Kamala Harris	45
Jo Jorgensen and Jeremy "Spike" Cohen	2
Howie Hawkins and Angela Walker	2
Someone else	1

Q17B. How likely are you to change your mind before you vote?

Q17B	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Not very likely	Not at all likely	Don't know
Percent	4	3	9	82	1
Donald Trump and Mike Pence	4	2	9	85	1
Joe Biden and Kamala Harris	4	1	8	88	0

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Q17C. **[ASK IF Q17|Q17A==1]** You said that in a general election between Donald Trump and Joe Biden that you would vote for Donald Trump. Which of the following better describes your vote choice:

*N = 456, MOE is +/- 4.59%, MOE is +/- 5.31% if adjusted for weighting.*

<b>Q17C</b>	<b>Percent</b>
I want Donald Trump to be elected president	81
I don't want Joe Biden to be elected president	19

Q17D. **[ASK IF Q17|Q17A==2]** You said that in a general election between Donald Trump and Joe Biden that you would vote for Joe Biden. Which of the following better describes your vote choice:

*N = 408, MOE is +/- 4.85%, MOE is +/- 6.74% if adjusted for weighting.*

<b>Q17D</b>	<b>Percent</b>
I want Joe Biden to be elected president	55
I don't want Donald Trump to be elected president	45

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Q18. What one issue is the most important to your vote in the 2020 presidential Election? [OPEN-ENDED]

Q18_coded	Percent
The economy	11
Removing Trump from Office	8
COVID-19/Coronavirus	6
Health care	6
Socialism and/or Communism	6
Corruption	5
Social disorder/Political violence/Law and Order	4
Honesty/Ethics/Morals/Caring/Decency	4
Abortion	3
Immigration/Border Security	3
Returning Trump to Office	3
Racism/Race Relations	3
Size and Scope of Government	2
The courts	3
Maintaining/Saving our Democracy	3
Keeping Democrats out of power	2
Election integrity	2
Social Security	0
The environment	1
Climate change	1
Competence	1
Education	0
Keeping Biden from office	1
Unity	1
Return to normalcy	1
Foreign Policy	1
Electing Joe Biden President	0
Social security	0
Taxes	0
Gender equality	0
Gun rights	0
Income inequality	0
Other	8
Don't know/Unsure	11



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Q19. If the 2020 general election for U.S. senate were held today, would you vote for [RANDOMIZE ORDER “the Republican John Cornyn”, “the Democrat Mary “MJ” Hegar”, “the Libertarian Kerry Douglas McKennon”] the Republican John Cornyn, the Democrat Mary “MJ” Hegar, the Libertarian Kerry Douglas McKennon, or haven’t you thought enough about it to have an opinion? [RANDOMIZE 1-3]

Q19F	Percent
John Cornyn	50
Mary "MJ" Hegar	42
Someone else	5
Kerry Douglas McKennon	3

Q20A. If the 2020 election for the U.S. Congress in your district were held today, would you vote fo [RANDOMIZE “the Democratic candidate”, “the Republican candidate”] the Democratic candidate, the Republican candidate, or haven’t you thought enough about it to have an opinion? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]

*N = 905, MOE is +/- 3.26%, MOE is +/- 4.17% if adjusted for weighting.*

Q20A	Percent
The Republican candidate	51
The Democratic candidate	44
Haven't thought about it enough to have an opinion	5

Q20B. If the 2020 election for Texas Legislature in your district were held today, would you vote fo [RANDOMIZE “the Democratic candidate”, “the Republican candidate”] the Democratic candidate, the Republican candidate, or haven’t you thought enough about it to have an opinion? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]

*N = 896, MOE is +/- 3.27%, MOE is +/- 4.19% if adjusted for weighting.*

Q20B	Percent
The Republican candidate	51
The Democratic candidate	43
Haven't thought about it enough to have an opinion	6

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**[RANDOMIZE Q21A-Q21B]**

Q21A. Regardless of how you intend to vote in the 2020 election, do you feel like the Democratic Party is welcoming to people like you?

	Yes	No	Don't know/No opinion
Oct. 2020	43	47	11
Oct. 2019	43	46	11
Oct. 2018	43	49	9
Oct. 2017	41	45	14
Oct. 2016	39	49	13

Q21B. Regardless of how you intend to vote in the 2020 election, do you feel like the Republican Party is welcoming to people like you?

	Yes	No	Don't know/No opinion
Oct. 2020	47	44	9
Oct. 2019	47	42	12
Oct. 2018	47	44	8
Oct. 2017	41	44	15
Oct. 2016	32	53	15

**[RANDOMIZE Q24A-Q24B]**

Q24A. 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
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

Q24B. Please tell us whether you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, neither favorable nor unfavorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable opinion of Joe Biden.

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Neither favorable nor unfavorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know/No opinion
Oct. 2020	21	20	7	9	42	1
June 2020	18	20	8	12	39	3
Apr. 2020	18	17	10	11	40	3
Feb. 2020	17	16	10	12	41	4

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[RANDOMIZE Q24D-Q24E]

Q24D. Please tell us whether you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, neither favorable nor unfavorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable opinion of John Cornyn.

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Neither favorable nor unfavorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know/No opinion
Oct. 2020	16	22	13	11	27	11
Oct. 2015	6	20	24	14	18	18
June 2014	13	23	17	12	19	16
Oct. 2013	7	18	23	15	15	22
June 2013	12	19	18	12	17	22
Feb. 2013	12	20	18	11	17	21

Q24E. Please tell us whether you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, neither favorable nor unfavorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable opinion of M.J. Hegar.

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Neither favorable nor unfavorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know/No opinion
Oct. 2020	16	17	19	8	16	24
June 2020	9	14	19	7	8	44

[RANDOMIZE Q29A-Q29C]

Q29A. Do approve or disapprove of how Donald Trump has handled the economy?

	Approve strongly	Approve somewhat	Neither approve nor disapprove	Disapprove somewhat	Disapprove strongly	Don't know
Oct. 2020	40	12	6	8	34	1
June 2020	36	14	7	8	34	2
Apr. 2020	37	12	8	9	33	1
Feb. 2020	38	12	9	9	27	4
June 2019	36	16	8	7	30	2

Q29B. Do you approve or disapprove of how Donald Trump has handled the response to the coronavirus/COVID-19?

	Approve strongly	Approve somewhat	Neither approve nor disapprove	Disapprove somewhat	Disapprove strongly	Don't know
Oct. 2020	27	18	6	5	43	1
June 2020	27	17	5	6	43	1
Apr. 2020	33	15	6	7	38	1

Q29C. Do you approve or disapprove of how Donald Trump has handled race relations?

	Approve strongly	Approve somewhat	Neither approve nor disapprove	Disapprove somewhat	Disapprove strongly	Don't know
Oct. 2020	31	12	7	5	43	2
June 2020	27	14	5	5	45	3
Oct. 2017	22	14	12	6	43	4

## Texas Statewide Survey

### Sampling and Weighting Methodology for the October 2020 Texas Statewide Study

For the survey, YouGov interviewed 1482 Texas registered voters between September 25 and October 4, 2020, 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 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 and 3.25% for likely voters (if adjusted for weighting, the margin of error for registered voters is 3.8%, 4.1% for likely voters).

### 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.