

University of Texas / Texas Tribune Poll
Texas Statewide Survey

Field Dates: February 15-24, 2019

N=1200 Adults

Margin of error: +/- 2.83% (3.28% adjusted for weighting) unless otherwise noted¹

Interest and Engagement

Q1. Are you registered to vote in the state of Texas?

1. Yes, registered	100%
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Q2. Generally speaking, would you say that you are extremely interested in politics and public affairs, somewhat interested, not very interested, or not at all interested?

1. Extremely interested	53%
2. Somewhat interested	37
3. Not very interested	7
4. Not at all interested	3
5. Don't know	0

Q3. There are many elections in the state of Texas. Furthermore, many people intend to vote in a given election, but sometimes personal and professional circumstances keep them from the polls. Thinking back over the past two or three years, would you say that you voted in all elections, almost all, about half, one or two, or none at all?

1. Every election	44%
2. Almost every election	32
3. About half	9
4. One or two	10
5. None	4
6. Don't know	1

¹In calculating the margin of error (MOE) for the survey, we provide two calculations, one that compensates for the relative standard deviation of the weights and one that does not. Without taking the variance of the weights into account, the margin of error for the full sample is 2.83%. To compensate for the additional uncertainty from weighting, we apply a multiplier derived from the coefficient of variation of the weights: $\sqrt{1+CV^2}$, where $CV=sd(weights)/mean(weights)$. For this weight sensitive calculation, the MOE for the full sample is 3.28%.

Retrospective Assessments

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

	Approve strongly	Approve somewhat	Neither approve nor disapprove	Disapprove somewhat	Disapprove strongly	Don't Know
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
Nov. 2015	20	22	21	10	19	7
June 2015	22	24	28	8	16	15

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

	Approve strongly	Approve somewhat	Neither approve nor disapprove	Disapprove somewhat	Disapprove strongly	Don't Know
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
Nov. 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...

1. Approve strongly 8%
2. Approve somewhat 18
3. Neither approve nor disapprove 31
4. Disapprove somewhat 6
5. Disapprove strongly 10
6. Don't know 28

Policy Questions

Q23. Do you favor or oppose each of the following: [GRID WITH RESPONSE OPTIONS
 “Favor”, “Oppose”, “Don’t know/No opinion”]

	Favor	Oppose	DK
A. Increasing the federal income tax for all U.S. taxpayers	10%	79%	11%
B. Increasing the federal income tax on families earning over 250,000 dollars a year	42	44	14
C. Increasing the federal income tax on families earning over one million dollars a year	56	33	11
D. Increasing the federal income tax on families earning over ten million dollars a year	62	28	10

Q24. How much do you think the U.S. government should doing about climate change?

1. A great deal	32%
2. A lot	16
3. A moderate amount	15
4. A little	11
5. Nothing	21
6. Don’t know/No opinion	5

Q24A. Which would you prefer?

the current health insurance system in the United States, in which most people get their health insurance from private employers, but some people have no insurance

OR

a universal health insurance program, in which everyone is covered under a program like Medicare that’s run by the government and financed by taxpayers

1. The current health insurance system	45%
2. A universal health insurance system	44
3. Don't know/No opinion	10

Now, let's turn to the State of Texas.

Q28. 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]**

1. Immigration/Border Security	23%
2. Education	14
3. Health Care	7
4. Property Taxes	6
5. Economy	4
6. Gun Control	3
7. Election System	2
8. Oppose the President	2
9. Taxes	2
10. Abortion	1
11. Climate Change	1
12. Environment	1
13. Housing	1
14. Infrastructure	1
15. Marijuana Legalization	1
16. Opioids and Drugs	1
17. Support the President	1
18. Criminal Justice Reform	0
19. Other	9
20. Don't know/Not sure	20

Q29. And which of the following is most important for the Legislature to address during the legislative session? **[RANDOMIZE 1-6]**

1. Property taxes	23%
2. Public school funding	21
3. Increasing teacher salaries	13
4. Mental health services	11
5. Emergency preparedness	11
6. School safety	12
7. Don't know/No opinion	8

Q30. Do you approve or disapprove of how state leaders and the Legislature are handling K-12 public education in Texas?

1. Approve strongly	5%
2. Approve somewhat	19
3. Neither approve nor disapprove	20
4. Disapprove somewhat	24
5. Disapprove strongly	18
6. Don't know/No opinion	14

Q31. Would you say that the quality of K-12 public school education in Texas is:

1. Excellent	5%
2. Good	42
3. Not very good	32
4. Terrible	10
5. Don't know	10

Q32A/B/C. Which of the following do you think is the biggest problem facing the K-12 public education system in Texas?

	First	Second	Third
1. Low teacher pay	17%	17	12
2. The quality of teachers	8	11	8
3. The accountability of teachers	7	7	9
4. The accountability of schools and school districts	8	9	11
5. The system of financing for public education	9	9	10
6. Not enough funding for the public school system as a whole	17	11	10
7. Unequal resources among schools and school districts	9	10	11
8. How individual schools or school districts spend resources	7	6	10
9. The cost of educating low-income students	5	5	5
10. The transfer of local tax revenue from property rich to property poor school districts	5	6	5
11. Not enough funding for charter schools	4	3	4
12. Support for students with special needs	5	5	6

Q33. Do you think that Texas spends too much, too little, or about the right amount on primary and secondary education?

- | | |
|---------------------------|----|
| 1. Too much | 9% |
| 2. Too little | 55 |
| 3. About the right amount | 18 |
| 4. Don't know/no opinion | 18 |

Q34. Which of the following sources of revenue, if any, should the legislature consider to increase the amount that Texas spends on public education? **[GRID WITH RESPONSE OPTIONS, "Should consider", "Should not consider", "Don't know/No opinion"]**
[RANDOMIZE A-G]

	Should	Shouldn't	DK
A. Increase the alcoholic beverage tax	57%	32%	10%
B. Increase the state sales tax	16	74	10
C. Increase the motor fuel tax	17	72	10
D. Legalize marijuana and tax it	60	33	7
E. Create a statewide income tax	16	71	13
F. Reduce the number of sales tax exemptions for business and professional services	48	34	18
G. Redirect a portion of the oil & gas severance tax from the state's economic stabilization fund (aka "The Rainy Day Fund") to public education	58	25	17

Q35. In your opinion, do Texans pay too much, too little, or about the right amount in property taxes?

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| 1. Too much | 58% |
| 2. Too little | 6 |
| 3. About the right amount | 23 |
| 4. Don't know/no opinion | 14 |

Q36A. As you may know, the Legislature is considering whether local governments should be required to get voter approval before local property tax revenue is allowed to grow above a set limit. Do you support or oppose requiring voter approval before local property tax revenue is allowed to grow above a set limit?

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| 1. Strongly support | 51% |
| 2. Somewhat support | 21 |
| 3. Somewhat oppose | 6 |
| 4. Strongly oppose | 5 |
| 5. Don't know/No opinion | 17 |

Q36B. Do you think that requiring voter approval before local property tax revenue is allowed to grow above a set limit will... **[GRID WITH RESPONSE OPTIONS, “Yes”, “No”, “Don’t know/No opinion”]**

	Yes	No	DK
A. Reduce the amount of property taxes that Texans currently pay	52%	29%	19%
B. Slow the growth in the amount of property taxes that Texans pay in the future	69	14	17
C. Prevent local governments from providing necessary services	23	55	22
D. Prevent local governments from responding to population growth	21	54	24

Q47. As you may know, there hasn’t been a football game between The University of Texas and Texas A&M University since 2011. Do you support or oppose re-establishing a regularly scheduled game between these two teams each season?

1. Support	40%
2. Oppose	4
3. Don’t care	46
4. Don’t know/No opinion	10

Political Knowledge

[Randomize INFO1-INFO3]

INFO1. Which political party holds the majority in the U.S. House of Representatives?

[RANDOMIZE 1-2]

- | | |
|---------------------|-----|
| 1. Republican Party | 21% |
| 2. Democratic Party | 71 |
| 3. Neither | 2 |
| 4. Don't know | 6 |

INFO2. What majority of both houses of the U.S. Congress is needed to override a presidential veto?

- | | |
|----------------------------|----|
| 1. More than one-half | 8% |
| 2. More than two-thirds | 72 |
| 3. More than three-fourths | 7 |
| 4. Don't know | 12 |

INFO3. Who is the current Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts? [RANDOMIZE 1-4]

- | | |
|---------------------|-----|
| 1. Glenn Hegar | 13% |
| 2. Sid Miller | 10 |
| 3. Christi Craddick | 8 |
| 4. George P. Bush | 12 |
| 5. Don't know | 57 |

Political Orientation

We're almost done. Now we just have a few basic questions for statistical purposes.

LIBCON. On a scale from 1 to 7, where 1 is extremely liberal, 7 is extremely conservative, and 4 is exactly in the middle, where would you place yourself? **[Wording on scale: (1) "Extremely liberal," (4) "In the middle," (7) "Extremely conservative"]**

1. Extremely liberal	11%
2. Somewhat liberal	12
3. Lean liberal	8
4. In the middle	21
5. Lean conservative	10
6. Somewhat conservative	18
7. Extremely conservative	20

PID3. Generally speaking, would you say that you usually think of yourself as a...

1. Democrat	43%
2. Independent	8
3. Republican	48

PID7. (Uses the four PID3 follow-up questions)

1. Strong Democrat	21%
2. Not very strong Democrat	9
3. Lean Democrat	12
4. Independent	8
5. Lean Republican	15
6. Not very strong Republican	9
7. Strong Republican	25

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

1. Conservative enough	49%
2. Too conservative	10
3. Not conservative enough	35
4. Don't know/No opinion	6

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

1. Liberal enough	37%
2. Too liberal	5
3. Not liberal enough	42
4. Don't know/No opinion	16

Demographics

AGE. Please indicate your age group.

1. 18-29	17%
2. 30-44	25
3. 45-64	36
4. 65 and up	21

LOCATE. Would you say that you live in an urban, suburban, or rural community?

1. Urban	30%
2. Suburban	49
3. Rural	21

METRO. Do you live in the Houston, Dallas-Fort Worth, San Antonio, or Austin metropolitan areas?

1. Yes, I live in the Houston area.	24%
2. Yes, I live the Dallas-Fort Worth area	27
3. Yes, I live in the San Antonio area	9
4. Yes, I live in the Austin area	10
5. No, I live in another part of Texas.	30

CHILD. How many children are currently living with you?

1. One	16%
2. Two	12
3. Three	5
4. Four or more	3
5. None	64

SCHOOL. Do you have any children currently enrolled in school in Texas? (check all that apply)

1. Yes, I have a child/children under 18 enrolled in public school in Texas.	21%
2. Yes, I have a child/children under 18 enrolled in private school in Texas.	3
3. Yes, I have a child/children under 18 who are being home schooled in Texas.	1
4. No, I do not have any children under 18 in school in Texas.	75

INCOME. In which category would you place your household income last year?

1. Less than \$10,000	7%
2. \$10,000 to \$19,999	7
3. \$20,000 to \$29,999	10
4. \$30,000 to \$39,999	8
5. \$40,000 to \$49,999	9
6. \$50,000 to \$59,999	9
7. \$60,000 to \$69,999	6
8. \$70,000 to \$79,999	7
9. \$80,000 to \$99,999	7
10. \$100,000 to \$119,999	5
11. \$120,000 to \$149,999	4
12. More than \$150,000	7
13. Prefer not to say	14

AB. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself to be pro-life, pro-choice, or neither?

1. Pro-life	44%
2. Pro-choice	41
3. Neither	10
4. Don't know	5

EDU. What is the highest level of education that you received?

1. Less than high school	4%
2. High school degree	26
3. Some college	23
4. Two-year college degree	9
5. Four-year college degree	26
6. Post-graduate degree	12

RELIG1. What is your primary religious affiliation, if any? **[No open response on “other”]**

1. Agnostic	5%
2. Assembly of God*	1
3. Atheist	4
4. Baptist*	15
5. Born again	3
6. Buddhist	0
7. Catholic*	17
8. Christian Scientist*	1
9. Church of Christ*	4
10. Church of God*	0
11. Disciples of Christ*	0
12. Episcopal/Anglican*	2
13. Evangelical	2
14. Hindu	0
15. Jehovah’s Witnesses	0
16. Jewish	1
17. Lutheran*	2
18. Methodist*	4
19. Mormon*	1
20. Muslim/Islam	1
21. Nondenominational Christian*	7
22. Orthodox/Eastern Orthodox*	0
23. Pentecostal/charismatic/spirit-filled*	2
24. Presbyterian*	1
25. Protestant (non-specific)*	4
26. Reformed*	0
27. Unitarian/Universalist*	1
28. United Church of Christ*	0
29. Religious but not spiritual	0
30. Spiritual but not religious	6
31. No religious affiliation/none	9
32. Other*	3
33. Don’t know	1

RELIG2. What is your secondary religious affiliation, if any? **[No open response on “other”]**

1. Agnostic	2%
2. Assembly of God*	1
3. Atheist	1
4. Baptist*	6
5. Born again	6
6. Buddhist	1
7. Catholic*	4
8. Christian Scientist*	0
9. Church of Christ*	2
10. Church of God*	3
11. Disciples of Christ*	0
12. Episcopal/Anglican*	0
13. Evangelical	2
14. Hindu	0
15. Jehovah’s Witnesses	0
16. Jewish	0
17. Lutheran*	1
18. Methodist*	3
19. Mormon*	0
20. Muslim/Islam	0
21. Nondenominational Christian*	5
22. Orthodox/Eastern Orthodox*	0
23. Pentecostal/charismatic/spirit-filled*	2
24. Presbyterian*	2
25. Protestant (non-specific)*	4
26. Reformed*	0
27. Unitarian/Universalist*	0
28. United Church of Christ*	0
29. Religious but not spiritual	1
30. Spiritual but not religious	6
31. No religious affiliation/none	28
32. Other*	4
33. Don’t know	12

LITERAL. Which of these statements comes closest to describing your feelings about the Bible?

1. The Bible is the actual word of God and is to be taken literally, word for word.	33%
2. The Bible is the word of God but not everything in it should be taken literally, word for word.	35
3. The Bible is a book written by men and is not the word of God.	25
4. Don’t know.	7

IMPORT. How important is religion in your life?

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| 1. Extremely important | 44% |
| 2. Somewhat important | 26 |
| 3. Not very important | 13 |
| 4. Not at all important | 17 |

ATTEND. Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services or participate in religious activities?

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| 1. More than once a week | 13% |
| 2. Once a week | 20 |
| 3. A few times a month | 12 |
| 4. Once or twice a year | 25 |
| 5. Never | 30 |

RACE1. What race do you consider yourself to be?

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| 1. White | 58% |
| 2. African American | 14 |
| 3. Hispanic or Latino | 23 |
| 4. Asian/Pacific Islander | 1 |
| 5. Native American | 1 |
| 6. Multi-racial | 1 |
| 7. Other | 1 |

RACE2. **[Ask if RACE ~= "Hispanic or Latino"]** Do you happen to have a Hispanic-Latino grandparent?

- | | |
|---------------|----|
| 1. Yes | 2% |
| 2. No | 96 |
| 3. Don't know | 2 |

NATIVE1. **[Ask if RACE = "Hispanic or Latino"]** Were you born in the United States or Puerto Rico, or in another country?

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Born in the United States or Puerto Rico | 85% |
| 2. Born in another country | 13 |
| 3. Don't know | 1 |

NATIVE2. **[Ask NATIVE2 if answer 1 on NATIVE1]** Were your parents born in the United States or Puerto Rico, or another country?

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Both of my parents were born in the United States or Puerto Rico | 62% |
| 2. One of my parents was born in another country | 23 |
| 3. Both of my parents were both in another country | 15 |

MOVE. Did you move to Texas from some other state?

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 1. Yes | 41% |
| 2. No | 59 |

STATE. **[ASK IF MOVE=1]** Which state did you move from (most recently)? **[DROPDOWN LIST OF STATES]**

- | | |
|-------------------------|----|
| 1. Alabama | 1% |
| 2. Alaska | 0 |
| 3. Arizona | 2 |
| 4. Arkansas | 3 |
| 5. California | 16 |
| 6. Colorado | 3 |
| 7. Connecticut | 0 |
| 8. Delaware | 0 |
| 9. District of Columbia | 0 |
| 10. Florida | 5 |
| 11. Georgia | 2 |
| 12. Hawaii | 0 |
| 13. Idaho | 1 |
| 14. Illinois | 6 |
| 15. Indiana | 1 |
| 16. Iowa | 1 |
| 17. Kansas | 2 |
| 18. Kentucky | 0 |
| 19. Louisiana | 8 |
| 20. Maine | 0 |
| 21. Maryland | 1 |
| 22. Massachusetts | 1 |
| 23. Michigan | 3 |
| 24. Minnesota | 1 |
| 25. Mississippi | 1 |
| 26. Missouri | 2 |
| 27. Montana | 0 |
| 28. Nebraska | 0 |
| 29. Nevada | 0 |
| 30. New Hampshire | 0 |
| 31. New Jersey | 1 |
| 32. New Mexico | 4 |
| 33. New York | 5 |
| 34. North Carolina | 1 |
| 35. North Dakota | 0 |
| 36. Ohio | 3 |
| 37. Oklahoma | 4 |
| 38. Oregon | 0 |
| 39. Pennsylvania | 3 |
| 40. Rhode Island | 0 |
| 41. South Carolina | 1 |
| 42. South Dakota | 0 |
| 43. Tennessee | 1 |

44. Utah	0
45. Vermont	0
46. Virginia	4
47. Washington	2
48. West Virginia	1
49. Wisconsin	1
50. Wyoming	0
51. Puerto Rico	1
52. Not in the U.S. or Canada	2

VETERAN. Which of the following best describes your current situation? Please check all that apply:

1. Active-duty military	1%
2. Military veteran	14
3. Active-duty military in my immediate family	3
4. Military veteran in my immediate family	21
5. None of the above	66

HOME. Do you own or rent your home?

1. Own	66%
2. Rent	32

MARITAL. What is your marital status?

1. Married	52%
2. Separated	2
3. Divorced	11
4. Widowed	5
5. Single	24
6. Domestic Partnership	6

GENDER. What is your gender?

1. Male	47%
2. Female	53