

FOR RELEASE: MAY 30, 2018

**CRUZ OPENS LEAD OVER O’ROURKE IN TEXAS SENATE RACE,
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS;
IN GOVERNOR’S RACE, ABBOTT TOPS VALDEZ BY 19 POINTS**

With a big boost from men, Republican incumbent Sen. Ted Cruz leads U.S. Rep. Beto O’Rourke, his Democratic challenger, 50 – 39 percent in the Texas Senate race, according to a Quinnipiac University Poll released today.

This compares to the results of an April 18 survey by the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University, showing the race too close to call with Sen. Cruz at 47 percent and O’Rourke at 44 percent.

Today, Cruz leads 57 – 35 percent among men, up from 51 – 40 percent April 18. Women go 44 percent for Cruz and 42 percent for O’Rourke, compared to last month when women went 47 percent for O’Rourke and 43 percent for Cruz.

Cruz gets 46 percent of Hispanic voters, with 44 percent for O’Rourke. White voters back Cruz 62 – 28 percent and black voters go to O’Rourke 70 – 15 percent.

Republicans go to Cruz 90 – 3 percent, as Democrats go to O’Rourke 82 – 11 percent. Independent voters are divided with 43 percent for O’Rourke and 41 percent for Cruz.

Texas voters approve 52 – 39 percent of the job Cruz is doing and give him a 49 – 38 percent favorability rating. O’Rourke gets a 30 – 19 percent favorability rating, while 50 percent of voters don’t know enough about him to form an opinion of him.

Immigration, health care and the economy are the most important issues in their U.S. Senate vote, as 23 percent of Texas voters cite each of these issues, with 17 percent for gun policy.

“Sen. Ted Cruz, apparently benefitting from a nationwide Republican mini-move, has taken a solid lead in his reelection race,” said Peter A. Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac Poll.

“President Donald Trump’s Texas numbers also have climbed during those six weeks moving from a nine point deficit on job approval to an even split today. It is hard not to see a pro-Cruz effect there.”

-more-

Quinnipiac University Poll/May 30, 2018 – page 2

“Finally, U.S. Rep. Beto O’Rourke’s lead among independent voters has shrunk,” Brown added. “Sen. Cruz has improved his standing among some key groups, including independent voters, Hispanic voters and men.”

Governor’s Race

In the Texas governor’s race, Republican incumbent Gov. Greg Abbott leads former Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez 53 – 34 percent, doubling his 49 – 40 percent lead in the April 18 Quinnipiac University poll.

Gov. Abbott leads 58 – 28 percent among men and 48 – 40 percent among women. White voters back Abbott 69 – 22 percent, while black voters back Valdez 66 – 21 percent. Hispanic voters are divided with 43 percent for Valdez and 39 percent for Abbott.

Abbott leads 94 – 2 percent among Republicans and 45 – 38 percent among independent voters. Democrats back Valdez 78 – 12 percent.

Texas voters approve 60 – 29 percent of the job Abbott is doing and give him a 53 – 27 percent favorability rating. Valdez gets a 25 – 19 percent favorability rating, but 53 percent of voters don’t know enough about her to form an opinion of her.

“Gov. Greg Abbott is way ahead in his reelection bid. Lupe Valdez has won the Democratic Primary and is now able to focus on the general election. But she has a long way to go,” Brown said.

President Trump’s Approval

Texas voters give President Donald Trump a divided 47 – 47 percent approval rating, compared to a negative 43 – 52 percent approval April 18.

Republicans approve 88 – 7 percent. Disapproval is 92 – 3 percent among Democrats and 54 – 40 percent among independent voters.

Texas voters approve 40 – 30 percent of the job U.S. Sen. John Cornyn is doing.

From May 23 – 29, Quinnipiac University surveyed 961 Texas voters with a margin of error of +/- 3.8 percentage points, including the design effect. Live interviewers call landlines and cell phones.

The Quinnipiac University Poll, directed by Douglas Schwartz, Ph.D., conducts nationwide public opinion surveys, and statewide polls in Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Florida, Ohio, Virginia, Iowa, Colorado and Texas as a public service and for research.

Visit poll.qu.edu or www.facebook.com/quinnipiacpoll
Call (203) 582-5201, or follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/QuinnipiacPoll) @QuinnipiacPoll.

1. If the election for governor were being held today, and the candidates were Lupe Valdez the Democrat and Greg Abbott the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG		
							Yes	No	
Valdez	34%	2%	78%	38%	28%	40%	28%	17%	
Abbott	53	94	12	45	58	48	63	74	
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	-	-	2	1	1	2	1	
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	3	1	2	3	3	2	2	1	
DK/NA	9	3	9	12	10	8	6	7	
	AGE IN	YRS.....			WHITE.....				
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Valdez	33%	37%	36%	35%	18%	25%	22%	66%	43%
Abbott	47	49	55	58	73	65	69	21	39
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	3	1	-	1	2	1	-	1
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	5	3	2	1	2	1	2	1	4
DK/NA	15	9	6	6	7	6	7	12	13

2. Is your opinion of Greg Abbott favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG		
							Yes	No	
Favorable	53%	86%	18%	44%	60%	46%	60%	67%	
Unfavorable	27	4	56	31	24	30	30	17	
Hvn't hrd enough	17	9	22	21	14	21	7	14	
REFUSED	3	1	4	3	2	4	2	2	
	AGE IN	YRS.....			WHITE.....				
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Favorable	40%	52%	58%	59%	68%	61%	64%	26%	42%
Unfavorable	27	26	31	27	22	24	23	39	26
Hvn't hrd enough	29	20	9	12	9	13	11	27	32
REFUSED	4	2	3	2	2	2	2	7	1

3. Is your opinion of Lupe Valdez favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about her?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG		
							Yes	No	
Favorable	25%	4%	52%	28%	21%	29%	20%	14%	
Unfavorable	19	32	5	17	24	15	29	24	
Hvn't hrd enough	53	61	43	52	54	53	48	60	
REFUSED	2	3	-	3	1	3	3	2	
	AGE IN	YRS.....			WHITE.....				
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Favorable	23%	26%	28%	24%	15%	18%	17%	43%	30%
Unfavorable	15	19	21	21	32	20	26	6	11
Hvn't hrd enough	60	53	48	53	50	59	55	47	58
REFUSED	2	2	3	2	3	3	3	4	1

4. If the election for United States Senator were being held today, and the candidates were Beto O'Rourke the Democrat and Ted Cruz the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE.....			
							COLLEGE DEG		Yes	No
O'Rourke	39%	3%	82%	43%	35%	42%	35%	21%		
Cruz	50	90	11	41	57	44	58	64		
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-		
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	2	2	-	1	2	2	1	2		
DK/NA	9	4	7	13	6	11	5	12		
	AGE IN	YRS.....			WHITE.....					
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp	
O'Rourke	46%	34%	42%	35%	26%	29%	28%	70%	44%	
Cruz	41	51	49	57	66	57	62	15	46	
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	1	-	1	-	1	1	-	1	
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	
DK/NA	11	12	7	6	7	10	8	14	7	

5. Is your opinion of Ted Cruz favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE.....			
							COLLEGE DEG		Yes	No
Favorable	49%	86%	14%	40%	57%	42%	56%	64%		
Unfavorable	38	7	74	45	35	42	39	24		
Hvn't hrd enough	10	5	12	11	7	13	3	10		
REFUSED	2	2	-	4	1	3	2	3		
	AGE IN	YRS.....			WHITE.....					
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp	
Favorable	42%	51%	48%	57%	66%	56%	60%	15%	45%	
Unfavorable	44	36	42	35	27	34	31	68	35	
Hvn't hrd enough	12	11	9	6	6	7	7	13	19	
REFUSED	2	2	2	2	1	4	2	4	-	

6. Is your opinion of Beto O'Rourke favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE.....			
							COLLEGE DEG		Yes	No
Favorable	30%	8%	60%	32%	29%	31%	29%	20%		
Unfavorable	19	32	4	16	24	14	23	23		
Hvn't hrd enough	50	59	34	50	46	53	48	56		
REFUSED	2	1	2	3	-	3	1	1		
	AGE IN	YRS.....			WHITE.....					
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp	
Favorable	31%	29%	32%	30%	26%	22%	24%	38%	39%	
Unfavorable	16	19	21	15	28	19	23	5	15	
Hvn't hrd enough	51	51	45	55	45	58	52	54	45	
REFUSED	3	2	2	-	1	1	1	4	1	

7. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Greg Abbott is handling his job as governor?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG				
							Yes	No			
Approve	60%	89%	30%	54%	65%	54%	66%	73%			
Disapprove	29	4	61	32	25	32	28	17			
DK/NA	12	7	9	13	10	13	6	10			
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....						
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp		
Approve	52%	57%	62%	65%	74%	67%	70%	39%	49%		
Disapprove	30	29	32	26	21	23	22	46	31		
DK/NA	19	14	6	9	5	10	8	14	20		

8. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Ted Cruz is handling his job as United States Senator?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG				
							Yes	No			
Approve	52%	86%	19%	45%	58%	46%	55%	64%			
Disapprove	39	8	76	45	37	42	40	27			
DK/NA	9	6	6	10	5	12	5	9			
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....						
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp		
Approve	44%	57%	49%	58%	65%	55%	60%	27%	51%		
Disapprove	42	35	46	37	30	35	33	63	37		
DK/NA	14	8	5	6	5	9	7	10	11		

9. Do you approve or disapprove of the way John Cornyn is handling his job as United States Senator?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG				
							Yes	No			
Approve	40%	56%	24%	39%	43%	38%	48%	40%			
Disapprove	30	14	52	31	31	29	29	24			
DK/NA	30	30	24	29	26	33	23	36			
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....						
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp		
Approve	30%	37%	38%	53%	47%	43%	45%	36%	33%		
Disapprove	30	29	34	28	29	24	26	44	31		
DK/NA	40	34	28	19	25	33	29	20	36		

10. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE.....			
							Yes	No		
Approve	47%	88%	3%	40%	51%	44%	57%	70%		
Disapprove	47	7	92	54	44	50	38	27		
DK/NA	5	5	5	6	5	6	5	3		
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....					
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp	
Approve	35%	45%	50%	55%	65%	63%	64%	12%	31%	
Disapprove	59	47	46	41	32	33	32	79	63	
DK/NA	6	7	4	4	3	4	4	9	6	

11. What is the most important issue to you in deciding how to vote in this year's election for United States Senator: the economy, taxes, health care, immigration, or gun policy?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE.....			
							Yes	No		
Economy	23%	24%	15%	29%	27%	19%	27%	22%		
Taxes	8	10	7	7	8	9	8	5		
Health care	23	15	33	21	20	25	19	24		
Immigration	23	34	17	18	24	22	29	27		
Gun policy	17	15	23	17	16	19	13	18		
SOMETHING ELSE (VOL)	2	-	2	3	3	2	2	1		
DK/NA	4	2	3	5	3	4	2	4		
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....					
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp	
Economy	23%	26%	22%	19%	26%	23%	24%	16%	22%	
Taxes	8	9	8	7	6	6	6	10	11	
Health care	26	20	23	23	18	23	21	28	23	
Immigration	18	17	22	34	30	28	29	11	17	
Gun policy	22	20	17	12	15	16	16	26	19	
SOMETHING ELSE (VOL)	1	4	1	2	2	1	2	1	3	
DK/NA	1	3	6	3	3	3	3	8	3	