

**FOR RELEASE: AUGUST 1, 2018**

**CRUZ HAS SMALL LEAD IN TIGHT TEXAS SENATE RACE,  
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS;  
ABBOTT TOPS VALDEZ BY 13 POINTS IN GOVERNOR'S RACE**

There are yawning party, gender and racial gaps as Republican incumbent Sen. Ted Cruz leads U.S. Rep. Beto O'Rourke, his Democratic challenger, 49 – 43 percent in the Texas Senate race, according to a Quinnipiac University Poll released today.

This compares to the results of a May 30 survey by the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University, showing Sen. Cruz topping O'Rourke 50 – 39 percent.

Today, Cruz leads 56 – 36 percent among men. Women back O'Rourke 49 – 43 percent. White voters back Cruz 61 – 31 percent. O'Rourke leads 81 – 14 percent among black voters and 52 – 40 percent among Hispanic voters.

Republicans back Cruz 89 – 5 percent, as Democrats go to O'Rourke 90 – 5 percent. Independent voters are split 46 – 46 percent.

Texas voters approve 50 – 42 percent of the job Cruz is doing and give him a 50 – 42 percent favorability rating. O'Rourke gets a 33 – 23 percent favorability rating, while 43 percent of voters don't know enough about him to form an opinion of him.

Immigration is the most important issue in their U.S. Senate vote, 26 percent of Texas voters say, as 23 percent list the economy, 18 percent cite health care and 13 percent point to the U.S. Supreme Court.

“U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz has a slight, by no means overwhelming, lead. Congressman Beto O'Rourke has done a good job making the race competitive. With three months until Election Day, he is clearly in contention. A Democratic victory in the Lone Star state would be a serious blow to GOP hopes of keeping their U.S. Senate majority,” said Peter A. Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac Poll. “O'Rourke makes a good impression on voters, but only about half the Texas electorate has formed an opinion of him. Sen. Cruz has a good favorability overall and is the much better known of the two men.”

**-more-**

## **Quinnipiac University Poll/August 1, 2018 – page 2**

Texas voters say 61 – 33 percent that it is important that the Senate candidate they support shares their views on abortion. Democrats say 68 – 25 percent that it’s important, while Republicans say 63 – 33 percent that it’s important. Shared views are important to independent voters 57 – 39 percent.

### **Governor’s Race**

In the Texas governor’s race, Republican incumbent Gov. Greg Abbott leads former Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez 51 – 38 percent, compared to a 53 – 34 percent Abbott lead in the May 30 Quinnipiac University poll.

Gov. Abbott leads 57 – 33 percent among men. Women are divided with 46 percent for Abbott and 43 percent for Valdez. White voters back Abbott 66 – 26 percent. Valdez leads 69 – 15 percent among black voters and 49 – 36 percent among Hispanic voters.

Abbott leads 91 – 2 percent among Republicans and 50 – 36 percent among independent voters. Democrats back Valdez 87 – 6 percent.

“Gov. Gregg Abbott holds a fairly comfortable double-digit lead,” Brown added.

Texas voters approve 56 – 33 percent of the job Abbott is doing and give him a 51 – 32 percent favorability rating. Valdez gets a 25 – 20 percent favorability rating, but 54 percent of voters don’t know enough to form an opinion of her, virtually unchanged from May 30.

### **President Trump’s Approval**

Texas voters are divided on President Donald Trump as 46 percent approve of the job he is doing and 49 percent disapprove.

Republicans approve 84 – 12 percent. Disapproval is 94 – 4 percent among Democrats and 52 – 43 percent among independent voters.

Texas voters approve 39 – 30 percent of the job U.S. Sen. John Cornyn is doing.

From July 26 – 31, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,118 Texas voters with a margin of error of +/- 3.5 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.

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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	38%	2%	87%	36%	33%	43%	29%	22%	
Abbott	51	91	6	50	57	46	62	70	
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	2	
DK/NA	9	6	5	12	8	9	6	5	
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....				
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Valdez	40%	43%	33%	36%	23%	29%	26%	69%	49%
Abbott	41	48	60	56	70	63	66	15	36
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	-	-	2	1	-	1	1	-
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	4	1	1	-	1	2	2	-	1
DK/NA	14	8	6	6	6	6	6	15	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	51%	84%	13%	50%	57%	45%	60%	67%	
Unfavorable	32	3	67	33	27	37	31	18	
Hvn't hrd enough	15	11	18	15	13	17	8	14	
REFUSED	2	1	3	2	2	2	1	-	
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....				
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Favorable	40%	46%	59%	57%	68%	59%	64%	21%	37%
Unfavorable	31	37	30	29	23	26	25	54	35
Hvn't hrd enough	29	14	7	12	8	14	11	18	25
REFUSED	-	3	3	3	1	1	1	8	2

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	
Favorable	25%	5%	57%	22%	24%	26%	22%	15%	
Unfavorable	20	34	4	18	23	17	28	27	
Hvn't hrd enough	54	59	38	58	51	56	48	55	
REFUSED	2	2	1	3	2	1	2	2	
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....				
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Favorable	23%	29%	25%	23%	20%	19%	19%	38%	28%
Unfavorable	12	19	23	25	28	27	27	6	10
Hvn't hrd enough	63	51	50	50	50	53	51	53	62
REFUSED	2	-	2	2	3	1	2	3	-

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	
O'Rourke	43%	5%	90%	46%	36%	49%	35%	26%	
Cruz	49	89	5	46	56	43	58	65	
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	1	-	-	1	1	1	1	2	
DK/NA	6	5	5	7	7	6	6	6	
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....				
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
O'Rourke	45%	48%	38%	42%	27%	34%	31%	81%	52%
Cruz	41	47	55	52	67	56	61	14	40
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	1
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	4	1	-	1	1	2	2	-	1
DK/NA	10	5	6	4	5	7	6	4	6

	Tot	MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE Q11.....			
		Econ	Health care	Imgrtn	Suprm Gun Policy
O'Rourke	27%	70%	34%	43%	53%
Cruz	64	20	60	54	37
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	-	1	-	-
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	1	1	1	-	-
DK/NA	7	9	4	3	10

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	50%	85%	13%	44%	55%	46%	55%	63%	
Unfavorable	42	10	78	47	37	46	40	29	
Hvn't hrd enough	7	4	8	8	7	7	4	7	
REFUSED	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....				
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Favorable	42%	48%	55%	56%	63%	56%	59%	22%	45%
Unfavorable	45	47	39	38	32	37	34	69	43
Hvn't hrd enough	13	6	4	5	4	6	5	6	13
REFUSED	-	-	3	1	1	2	1	3	-

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	33%	8%	63%	36%	31%	35%	33%	22%	
Unfavorable	23	44	3	18	29	17	33	33	
Hvn't hrd enough	43	47	34	44	39	47	32	45	
REFUSED	1	1	-	2	1	1	1	-	
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....				
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Favorable	33%	38%	29%	33%	26%	29%	27%	42%	40%
Unfavorable	19	25	27	22	40	27	33	8	8
Hvn't hrd enough	48	37	43	44	34	44	39	48	52
REFUSED	-	-	1	1	-	1	1	2	-

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	56%	87%	20%	55%	62%	50%	62%	68%	
Disapprove	33	6	68	33	29	37	31	20	
DK/NA	11	8	12	12	9	13	7	11	
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....				
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Approve	47%	53%	62%	63%	68%	63%	65%	36%	44%
Disapprove	34	38	32	29	25	26	26	52	39
DK/NA	19	10	7	8	7	11	9	12	17

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	50%	83%	12%	47%	57%	43%	57%	62%		
Disapprove	42	9	80	47	38	46	40	28		
DK/NA	8	8	7	6	5	11	4	10		
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....					
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp	
Approve	42%	51%	54%	54%	64%	55%	59%	20%	44%	
Disapprove	49	44	39	38	31	36	34	72	45	
DK/NA	9	5	7	8	5	9	7	8	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	39%	59%	19%	38%	45%	34%	44%	46%		
Disapprove	30	9	56	30	27	33	32	24		
DK/NA	30	32	26	31	27	34	24	30		
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....					
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp	
Approve	33%	35%	44%	46%	51%	39%	45%	21%	39%	
Disapprove	28	33	30	32	27	29	28	45	24	
DK/NA	39	32	26	23	22	32	27	34	37	

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

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG			
							Yes	No		
Approve	46%	84%	4%	43%	54%	39%	56%	68%		
Disapprove	49	12	94	52	41	56	42	27		
DK/NA	5	4	1	5	4	6	2	5		
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....					
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp	
Approve	35%	43%	54%	54%	68%	56%	62%	10%	32%	
Disapprove	59	50	43	45	29	40	34	87	62	
DK/NA	6	7	3	2	4	4	4	3	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, the Supreme Court, or gun policy?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG				
							Yes	No			
Economy	23%	30%	13%	23%	28%	18%	20%	23%			
Taxes	4	5	4	3	5	3	6	4			
Health care	18	8	33	18	15	22	15	18			
Immigration	26	31	20	27	23	29	28	30			
Supreme Court	13	13	13	12	15	11	20	12			
Gun policy	9	8	12	8	9	10	6	6			
SOMETHING ELSE (VOL)	3	2	3	5	3	3	3	2			
DK/NA	3	3	2	4	2	4	2	4			
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....						
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp		
Economy	26%	29%	22%	14%	27%	17%	22%	16%	28%		
Taxes	5	6	4	3	5	4	5	6	3		
Health care	16	13	20	25	12	21	17	25	22		
Immigration	22	20	27	35	26	32	29	24	22		
Supreme Court	7	16	14	14	18	13	16	7	9		
Gun policy	17	8	7	4	7	5	6	15	12		
SOMETHING ELSE (VOL)	5	4	2	2	2	3	2	5	4		
DK/NA	1	3	4	3	2	4	3	1	1		

12. Is it important to you that the Senate candidate you vote for shares your views on the issue of abortion or not?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG				
							Yes	No			
Yes/Important	61%	63%	68%	57%	57%	65%	61%	59%			
No	33	33	25	39	39	28	36	35			
DK/NA	5	4	7	5	4	7	3	6			
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....						
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp		
Yes/Important	59%	59%	65%	61%	55%	65%	60%	65%	61%		
No	37	39	29	31	41	29	35	23	35		
DK/NA	4	2	6	8	3	6	5	12	4		

13. Will your vote in this year's election for United States Senator be more to express support for President Trump, more to express opposition to President Trump, or will President Trump not be an important factor in your vote?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG			
							Yes	No		
Support	32%	64%	2%	23%	37%	27%	37%	46%		
Opposition	30	4	67	27	24	36	25	19		
Not important factor	36	30	28	48	37	34	36	31		
DK/NA	3	2	3	2	2	3	2	3		
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....					
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp	
Support	20%	29%	40%	39%	45%	39%	42%	9%	21%	
Opposition	38	29	26	27	17	27	22	50	38	
Not important factor	40	40	30	30	36	31	34	38	39	
DK/NA	2	2	3	3	1	3	2	3	2	

14. Compared to past midterm elections for the U.S. House and Senate, how motivated would you say you are to vote in this year's midterm election; are you more motivated to vote than usual, less motivated, or are you just as motivated as usual?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG			
							Yes	No		
More	49%	45%	57%	50%	51%	48%	49%	45%		
Less	4	1	4	5	4	4	2	4		
As usual	46	53	38	46	45	48	48	51		
DK/NA	1	-	1	-	1	-	1	-		
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....					
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp	
More	49%	55%	52%	45%	47%	47%	47%	43%	54%	
Less	5	3	1	5	3	3	3	4	6	
As usual	45	42	47	50	50	50	50	51	40	
DK/NA	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	



15. Since President Trump's election, have you become more politically active, less politically active, or are you just as politically active as before?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE.....				
							COLLEGE	DEG	Yes	No	
More	34%	36%	43%	28%	33%	36%	31%	41%			
Less	5	2	9	5	5	6	3	3			
Same	60	61	47	67	62	57	66	55			
DK/NA	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	1			
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....						
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp		
More	40%	32%	37%	32%	33%	38%	36%	30%	35%		
Less	5	5	5	7	3	3	3	11	8		
Same	55	64	57	60	64	57	61	59	57		
DK/NA	-	-	-	2	-	1	1	-	-		