

FOR RELEASE: SEPTEMBER 18, 2018

**CRUZ HAS 9-POINT LIKELY VOTER LEAD IN TEXAS SENATE RACE,
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS;
TRUMP GETS A SPLIT 49 – 49 PERCENT JOB APPROVAL SCORE**

Republican incumbent Sen. Ted Cruz has a 54 – 45 percent likely voter lead over U.S. Rep. Beto O’Rourke, his Democratic challenger, in the Texas Senate race, according to a Quinnipiac University Poll released today.

This is the first survey of likely voters in this race by the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University Poll, and can not be compared to earlier surveys of registered voters. Among Texas likely voters who choose a candidate, 93 percent say their mind is made up. That includes 94 percent of Cruz backers and 92 percent of O’Rourke backers.

Women are divided as 50 percent back Cruz and 48 percent back O’Rourke. Men back Cruz 57 – 42 percent. White voters back Cruz 66 – 32 percent. O’Rourke leads 97 – 3 percent among black voters and 54 – 45 percent among Hispanic voters.

Republicans back Cruz 94 – 6 percent, as Democrats go to O’Rourke 94 – 4 percent. Independent voters are divided with 51 percent for O’Rourke and 47 percent for Cruz.

Texas likely voters approve 53 – 44 percent of the job Cruz is doing and give him a 52 – 43 percent favorability rating.

O’Rourke gets a divided 43 – 42 percent favorability rating.

“The Texas U.S. Senate race between Sen. Ted Cruz and Congressman Beto O’Rourke, and Democratic hopes for an upset win there, have boosted talk of a Senate takeover. These numbers may calm that talk,” said Peter A. Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Poll. “Congressman O’Rourke may be drawing big crowds and media attention, but Texas likely voters like Sen. Cruz better.”

Immigration is the most important issue in their U.S. Senate vote, 27 percent of Texas likely voters say, as 21 percent list health care, 16 percent cite the U.S. Supreme Court and 15 percent say the economy.

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Governor's Race

There is a wide racial gap in the Texas governor's race, as Republican incumbent Gov. Greg Abbott leads former Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez 58 – 39 percent among likely voters.

Gov. Abbott leads 69 – 28 percent among white voters as Valdez leads 83 – 16 percent among black voters. Hispanic voters are divided with 49 percent for Abbott and 45 percent for Valdez.

Texas likely voters approve 62 – 34 percent of the job Abbott is doing and give him a 60 – 33 percent favorability rating. Valdez gets a split 28 – 28 percent favorability rating, and 42 percent of voters don't know enough to form an opinion of her.

“Gov. Greg Abbott is highly regarded by Texas voters and appears on the way to a landslide reelection. His lead over Sheriff Lupe Valdez is just under 20 points among likely voters and the governor gets good grades on his job performance,” Brown said.

President Trump's Approval

Texas likely voters are split 49 – 49 percent on President Donald Trump's job approval.

Republicans approve 86 – 12 percent. Disapproval is 93 – 6 percent among Democrats and 58 – 40 percent among independent voters.

Texas voters approve 49 – 36 percent of the job U.S. Sen. John Cornyn is doing.

From September 11 – 17, Quinnipiac University surveyed 807 Texas likely voters with a margin of error of +/- 4.1 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? (If undecided) As of today, do you lean more toward Lupe Valdez the Democrat or more toward Greg Abbott the Republican?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Valdez	39%	4%	90%	40%	33%	45%	37%	19%
Abbott	58	95	9	54	65	52	61	78
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
DK/NA	3	1	1	5	2	3	2	3

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	Blk	Hsp
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom			
Valdez	52%	41%	36%	37%	24%	33%	28%	83%	45%
Abbott	47	53	64	58	73	65	69	16	49
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
DK/NA	1	5	1	4	3	3	3	1	4

1a. (If candidate chosen q1) Is your mind made up, or do you think you might change your mind before the election?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....		
	CANDIDATE CHOSEN Q1.....		
	Tot	Valdez	Abbott
Mind made up	89%	87%	89%
Might change	10	12	9
DK/NA	1	1	2

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Favorable	28%	4%	63%	29%	23%	33%	29%	13%
Unfavorable	28	48	2	22	31	25	30	41
Hvn't hrd enough	42	46	34	46	43	41	40	43
REFUSED	2	1	1	3	3	1	2	3

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	Blk	Hsp
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom			
Favorable	41%	28%	25%	28%	16%	26%	21%	57%	34%
Unfavorable	23	20	33	27	38	31	35	2	21
Hvn't hrd enough	36	51	40	43	42	40	41	40	44
REFUSED	-	1	2	2	3	2	3	-	1

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

LIKELY VOTERS.....							WHITE.....	
							COLLEGE DEG	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Yes	No
Favorable	60%	93%	19%	54%	66%	54%	58%	79%
Unfavorable	33	4	66	41	27	38	37	14
Hvn't hrd enough	7	3	14	5	7	7	4	6
REFUSED	1	-	1	-	1	1	1	1

AGE IN YRS.....					WHITE.....				
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Favorable	51%	55%	66%	60%	71%	65%	68%	31%	52%
Unfavorable	29	42	30	33	22	30	26	65	33
Hvn't hrd enough	21	3	4	6	7	4	5	4	14
REFUSED	-	-	-	2	-	1	1	-	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? (If undecided) As of today, do you lean more toward Beto O'Rourke the Democrat or more toward Ted Cruz the Republican?

LIKELY VOTERS.....							WHITE.....	
							COLLEGE DEG	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Yes	No
O'Rourke	45%	6%	94%	51%	42%	48%	42%	21%
Cruz	54	94	4	47	57	50	55	78
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
DK/NA	1	-	1	2	1	1	2	1

AGE IN YRS.....					WHITE.....				
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
O'Rourke	57%	51%	41%	42%	29%	35%	32%	97%	54%
Cruz	41	49	58	55	70	63	66	3	45
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
DK/NA	1	-	-	2	1	2	1	-	1

MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE IN HOW TO VOTE Q7					
	Econ	Health care	Imgrtn	Suprm Court	Gun Policy
O'Rourke	32%	81%	33%	50%	31%
Cruz	66	17	67	48	68
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	1	-	-	-
DK/NA	2	1	-	2	1

4a. (If candidate chosen q4) Is your mind made up, or do you think you might change your mind before the election?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....		
	CANDIDATE CHOSEN Q4.....		
	CANDIDATE OF CHOICE Q4		
	Tot	O'Rourke	Cruz
Mind made up	93%	92%	94%
Might change	7	8	6
DK/NA	-	-	1

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						WHITE.....	
							COLLEGE DEG	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Yes	No
Favorable	43%	10%	82%	51%	41%	45%	42%	24%
Unfavorable	42	74	4	34	46	38	47	57
Hvn't hrd enough	14	14	14	14	12	16	10	17
REFUSED	1	3	-	1	2	1	1	2

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....				
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Favorable	49%	51%	37%	43%	30%	37%	33%	84%	48%
Unfavorable	35	34	50	42	57	47	52	2	35
Hvn't hrd enough	16	13	11	14	11	14	13	13	16
REFUSED	-	1	2	1	2	2	2	-	1

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						WHITE.....	
							COLLEGE DEG	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Yes	No
Favorable	52%	91%	6%	44%	55%	49%	54%	75%
Unfavorable	43	8	84	53	42	45	44	23
Hvn't hrd enough	4	1	8	2	2	5	1	2
REFUSED	1	-	2	1	2	1	1	-

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....				
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Favorable	42%	45%	56%	54%	67%	61%	64%	5%	44%
Unfavorable	53	50	39	42	31	37	34	88	44
Hvn't hrd enough	5	3	4	3	1	2	1	6	10
REFUSED	-	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2

7. 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?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Economy	15%	20%	7%	13%	18%	12%	18%	12%
Taxes	4	5	2	5	6	3	2	7
Health care	21	6	42	21	17	25	18	14
Immigration	27	35	18	28	28	27	25	32
Supreme Court	16	15	18	15	14	18	21	16
Gun policy	10	11	9	9	11	9	8	11
SOMETHING ELSE (VOL)	3	-	4	5	3	3	3	2
DK/NA	4	6	1	3	4	4	4	5

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	Blk	Hsp
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom			
Economy	15%	14%	14%	15%	18%	13%	15%	13%	16%
Taxes	3	4	6	3	6	4	5	1	6
Health care	19	18	21	25	15	17	16	46	20
Immigration	27	31	29	25	27	29	28	24	28
Supreme Court	11	10	19	19	15	22	19	8	11
Gun policy	17	15	7	5	13	6	10	4	14
SOMETHING ELSE (VOL)	7	4	2	1	2	3	2	2	3
DK/NA	-	4	3	6	4	5	4	2	3

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Approve	62%	92%	23%	56%	69%	55%	61%	79%
Disapprove	34	5	73	39	28	41	36	17
DK/NA	4	3	4	5	3	5	3	4

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	Blk	Hsp
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom			
Approve	47%	56%	70%	60%	74%	65%	70%	35%	51%
Disapprove	44	38	28	38	23	31	27	61	42
DK/NA	9	6	3	2	2	4	3	3	6

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

LIKELY VOTERS.....							WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Yes	No
Approve	53%	89%	8%	45%	56%	49%	53%	75%
Disapprove	44	7	90	52	41	47	43	23
DK/NA	3	4	2	3	3	4	4	3

AGE IN YRS.....					WHITE.....				
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Approve	39%	49%	58%	55%	67%	59%	63%	9%	46%
Disapprove	58	49	39	43	30	37	34	91	50
DK/NA	3	1	3	2	3	4	3	-	4

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

LIKELY VOTERS.....							WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Yes	No
Approve	49%	76%	22%	40%	51%	46%	51%	67%
Disapprove	36	10	63	41	34	37	36	20
DK/NA	16	14	14	19	15	17	13	13

AGE IN YRS.....					WHITE.....				
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Approve	35%	45%	54%	53%	60%	57%	58%	25%	38%
Disapprove	43	36	35	34	27	30	29	54	40
DK/NA	22	19	11	12	13	13	13	21	21

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

LIKELY VOTERS.....							WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Yes	No
Approve	49%	86%	6%	40%	54%	44%	51%	76%
Disapprove	49	12	93	58	44	54	47	23
DK/NA	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	1

AGE IN YRS.....					WHITE.....				
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Approve	35%	42%	55%	52%	67%	59%	63%	4%	33%
Disapprove	64	57	43	47	32	40	36	96	65
DK/NA	1	1	2	1	2	1	2	-	1

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
More	35%	29%	48%	34%	32%	38%	30%	35%
Less	3	3	3	2	3	2	1	-
Same	62	68	49	64	65	59	69	64
DK/NA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	Blk	Hsp
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom			
More	49%	35%	29%	35%	30%	34%	32%	40%	37%
Less	7	2	1	4	1	-	1	5	8
Same	44	63	69	61	68	65	67	54	55
DK/NA	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-