

**FOR RELEASE: OCTOBER 11, 2018**

**O'ROURKE STALLS 9 POINTS DOWN IN TEXAS SENATE RACE,  
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS;  
REPUBLICAN UP 20 POINTS IN GOVERNOR'S RACE**

The gender gap widens a little, but U.S. Rep. Beto O'Rourke, the Democratic challenger in the Texas Senate race, gains no ground as Republican incumbent Sen. Ted Cruz holds a 54 – 45 percent likely voter lead, according to a Quinnipiac University Poll released today.

Men back Sen. Cruz 62 – 37 percent as women tip to O'Rourke 52 – 46 percent.

This compares to a 54 – 45 percent Cruz likely voter lead in a September 18 survey by the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University Poll, with men backing Cruz 57 – 42 percent and women divided, going 50 percent for Cruz and 48 percent for O'Rourke.

Today, O'Rourke leads 93 – 7 percent among Democrats and 56 – 42 percent among independent voters. Republicans back Cruz 94 – 6 percent.

O'Rourke leads 84 – 10 percent among black voters and 61 – 37 percent among Hispanic voters. White voters back Cruz 69 – 30 percent.

Among Texas likely voters who name a U.S. Senate candidate, 96 percent say their mind is made up.

Cruz has a 52 – 44 percent favorability rating. O'Rourke has a divided 45 – 47 percent favorability rating.

“Is the Beto bubble bursting or just hissing away with a slow leak? With less than four weeks until Election Day, Congressman Beto O'Rourke has hit a wall and remains the same nine points behind Sen. Ted Cruz as he was when Quinnipiac University polled the race last month,” said Peter A. Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Poll.

“The election is far from over, but Sen. Cruz would have to suffer a major collapse for him to lose. That is even more unlikely since 97 percent of Cruz voters say they are sure they won't change their minds.”

**-more-**

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“O’Rourke may be attracting massive crowds, but Cruz has a better favorability rating,” Brown added.

Immigration is the most important issue in their U.S. Senate vote, 26 percent of Texas likely voters say, as 19 percent list the economy, 17 percent cite health care and 16 percent point to the U.S. Supreme Court.

A Senate candidate who shares their values is most important to 45 percent of Texas likely voters, as 28 percent most want a candidate who is honest and 19 percent most want someone who cares about average people.

### **Governor’s Race**

In the Texas governor’s race, Republican incumbent Gov. Greg Abbott leads former Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez 58 – 38 percent among likely voters.

Gov. Abbott leads 72 – 26 percent among white voters as Valdez leads 77 – 14 percent among black voters. Hispanic voters are divided with 50 percent for Valdez and 46 percent for Abbott.

Among voters who name a candidate for governor, 92 percent say their mind is made up.

Texas likely voters give Abbott a 62 – 32 percent favorability rating. Valdez gets a split 31 – 29 percent favorability rating, and 39 percent of voters don’t know enough to form an opinion of her.

### **President Trump’s Approval**

Texas likely voters approve 51 - 46 percent of the job President Donald Trump is doing. Republicans approve 93 – 6 percent. Disapproval is 91 – 6 percent among Democrats and 58 – 38 percent among independent voters.

From October 3 – 9, Quinnipiac University surveyed 730 Texas likely voters with a margin of error of +/- 4.4 percentage points, including the design effect.

The Quinnipiac University Poll, directed by Douglas Schwartz, Ph.D., conducts gold standard surveys using random digit dialing with live interviewers calling landlines and cell phones. The Quinnipiac University Poll conducts nationwide surveys and polls in more than a dozen states on national and statewide elections, as well as public policy issues.

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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	38%	3%	86%	45%	29%	47%	32%	18%	
Abbott	58	96	9	49	68	48	66	80	
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	
DK/NA	4	1	4	5	3	5	1	1	

	WHITE.....				
	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Valdez	17%	34%	26%	77%	50%
Abbott	81	65	72	14	46
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	-	1	-	-
DK/NA	1	1	1	10	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	CANDIDATE OF CHOICE Q1	
Valdez		Abbott	
Mind made up	92%	88%	94%
Might change	7	8	6
DK/NA	1	3	-

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	31%	4%	70%	34%	24%	37%	25%	16%	
Unfavorable	29	48	5	25	35	23	36	39	
Hvn't hrd enough	39	45	24	40	40	38	38	43	
REFUSED	1	2	2	-	1	2	1	2	

	WHITE.....				
	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Favorable	14%	26%	21%	56%	46%
Unfavorable	46	28	37	10	17
Hvn't hrd enough	39	43	41	34	35
REFUSED	1	2	2	-	3

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	62%	95%	19%	56%	69%	56%	65%	79%	
Unfavorable	32	3	70	38	25	37	33	15	
Hvn't hrd enough	4	1	7	4	4	4	1	4	
REFUSED	2	-	5	2	1	3	1	2	
	WHITE.....								
	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp				
Favorable	77%	66%	71%	43%	51%				
Unfavorable	19	30	25	46	44				
Hvn't hrd enough	2	2	2	9	-				
REFUSED	1	2	2	2	5				

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.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Yes	No
O'Rourke	45%	6%	93%	56%	37%	52%	40%	19%
Cruz	54	94	7	42	62	46	60	80
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DK/NA	2	-	1	2	2	2	1	1

	WHITE.....				
	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
O'Rourke	23%	37%	30%	84%	61%
Cruz	77	62	69	10	37
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	-	-	-
DK/NA	1	1	1	6	1

	MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE IN HOW TO VOTE Q7			
	Econ	Health care	Imgrtn	Suprm Court
O'Rourke	33%	79%	34%	46%
Cruz	65	19	65	54
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	-	-
DK/NA	2	2	2	-

	MOST IMPORTANT QUALITY IN HOW TO VOTE Q8		
	Honest	Values	Cares
O'Rourke	52%	27%	67%
Cruz	46	71	31
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	-
DK/NA	2	2	2

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....		
	Tot	O'Rourke	Cruz
Mind made up	96%	95%	97%
Might change	3	4	2
DK/NA	1	1	1

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

LIKELY VOTERS.....							WHITE.....		
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG	Yes	No
Favorable	45%	10%	91%	56%	37%	53%		41%	24%
Unfavorable	47	83	4	37	53	40		53	69
Hvn't hrd enough	7	6	4	6	8	6		5	7
REFUSED	1	2	1	-	2	1		2	-
WHITE.....									
	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp				
Favorable	25%	40%	33%	83%	58%				
Unfavorable	69	53	60	9	33				
Hvn't hrd enough	5	6	6	8	6				
REFUSED	1	1	1	-	3				

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

LIKELY VOTERS.....							WHITE.....		
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG	Yes	No
Favorable	52%	91%	6%	41%	59%	46%		57%	75%
Unfavorable	44	7	90	54	36	52		42	22
Hvn't hrd enough	3	2	2	4	4	1		-	1
REFUSED	1	-	2	1	1	1		1	2
WHITE.....									
	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp				
Favorable	70%	60%	65%	13%	40%				
Unfavorable	27	39	33	81	56				
Hvn't hrd enough	1	-	-	6	3				
REFUSED	2	1	2	-	1				

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	19%	18%	15%	21%	21%	17%	15%	19%	
Taxes	5	6	6	5	6	4	3	4	
Health care	17	6	27	21	13	20	20	8	
Immigration	26	33	19	24	26	26	28	32	
Supreme Court	16	19	17	15	15	17	18	18	
Gun policy	8	7	8	9	9	8	7	7	
SOMETHING ELSE (VOL)	4	5	5	4	5	4	4	6	
DK/NA	4	5	2	1	5	4	4	6	

	WHITE.....				
	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Economy	20%	14%	17%	26%	16%
Taxes	4	3	3	5	5
Health care	12	17	14	35	11
Immigration	29	32	30	6	33
Supreme Court	16	19	18	14	18
Gun policy	8	8	8	9	10
SOMETHING ELSE (VOL)	7	4	5	3	4
DK/NA	5	4	5	2	3

8. Thinking about who to vote for in the election for United States Senator, which of the following is most important to you: is it someone who is honest, someone who shares your values, someone who cares about average people, someone who is likeable, or someone who is inspiring?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....							WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG		
							Yes	No	
Honest	28%	22%	34%	31%	26%	30%	26%	23%	
Shares values	45	62	31	35	48	42	53	54	
Cares about people	19	12	24	26	19	20	17	14	
Likeable	2	1	2	2	1	3	-	1	
Inspiring	3	1	3	3	2	3	2	3	
SOMETHING ELSE (VOL)	2	1	3	1	3	1	1	2	
DK/NA	1	2	3	-	1	2	1	2	

	WHITE.....				
	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Honest	22%	26%	24%	47%	28%
Shares values	56	53	54	21	38
Cares about people	15	16	15	23	24
Likeable	-	1	1	5	3
Inspiring	3	2	3	1	2
SOMETHING ELSE (VOL)	3	-	1	2	4
DK/NA	1	2	1	1	1

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....							WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Yes	No	COLLEGE DEG
Approve	51%	93%	6%	38%	60%	43%	56%	75%	
Disapprove	46	6	91	58	37	54	41	21	
DK/NA	3	1	3	4	3	3	3	4	
	WHITE.....								
	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp				
Approve	73%	58%	65%	5%	43%				
Disapprove	24	39	32	90	57				
DK/NA	3	4	3	5	-				