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September 5, 2019

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## TEXAS LYCEUM 2019 POLL - DAY TWO

**Biden leads the large pack of Democratic Primary Candidates in 2020  
Presidential Race with 24 percent  
followed by O'Rourke at 18 percent**

**Warren, 3<sup>rd</sup> place, 15%**

**Sanders, 4<sup>th</sup> place, 13%**

**Julian Castro and Kamala Harris tied for 5<sup>th</sup> place at 4%**

**Texans' view of State's economy dips  
third year in a row**

***Immigration remains most important issue facing state and nation  
with 'guns' spiking in wake of El Paso***

(AUSTIN-TX) One week away from a Democratic presidential primary debate in Houston, the 13th annual Texas Lyceum poll shows former vice president Joe Biden leading in the Lone Star State among likely Democratic Primary voters with 24 percent.

Meanwhile, former El Paso congressman and 2018 Senate candidate Beto O'Rourke holds second-place in the survey with 18 percent, followed by Elizabeth Warren at 15 percent,

Bernie Sanders at 13 percent, and Kamala Harris at 4 percent. Former San Antonio mayor and HUD secretary Julian Castro also garners 4 percent.

“This result is probably disappointing to Castro supporters, particularly his current standing among Hispanics in the state,” says Daron Shaw, University of Texas at Austin professor and Texas Lyceum alum. “But the Texas primary is more than six months away, and so much is going to happen between now and then. What is clear, though, is that both Castro and O’Rourke need a strong showing somewhere prior to March 3, 2020 in order to convince Texans that they stand a real chance.”

### **Immigration remains most important issue facing the state and nation, but the issue of ‘guns’ emerges**

As in prior years, pluralities of Texans see immigration as the most important issue facing both Texas and, increasingly, the country as a whole. In the wake of the recent mass shootings in El Paso, Texas and Dayton, Ohio, the survey also found a notable increase in the share of Texans who said that *gun control* or *gun violence* was the most important issue facing Texas and the country.

### **President Trump’s approval rating up slightly over last year**

The Lyceum poll shows 48 percent of Texas adults believe President Trump is doing a good job, while 51 percent feel that he is doing a poor job. Last year, 44 percent of all Texans approved of his job performance. Broken down by party, a large majority of Republicans (79 percent) give the president positive marks, with 45 percent saying *he is doing a very good job* and 34 percent saying he is *doing a somewhat good job*. Among Democrats, a majority (59 percent) say that he’s doing a *very poor job* as president, while an additional 21 percent say that he is doing a *somewhat poor job*.

### **Abbott approval rating remains strong among many groups**

Governor Abbott is given positive reviews by 67 percent of Texas adults, with only 33 percent disapproving of the job that he’s doing as governor. While a large majority of Republicans approve of the governor’s job performance, (45 percent approving and 41 percent somewhat approving), Texas Democrats also give him a fairly high job rating. Overall, 48 percent of Democratic adults approve of the job that Abbott is doing as governor, while 51 percent disapprove.

Also, while Anglo Texans give Abbott the highest overall job approval rating (72 percent), African Americans and Hispanics also largely approve of the governor, with 57 percent and 65 percent, respectively, expressing approval.

### **Lieutenant Governor Patrick's approval rating**

Lieutenant Governor Patrick received a job approval rating of 60 percent among Texas adults, with 35 percent disapproving and 5 percent unable to express an opinion. Among Republicans, 80 percent expressed approval, compared to 42 percent approval among Democrats.

### **Majority of Texans believe the country is off on the wrong track**

Overall, 58 percent of Texans believe the country is off on the wrong track, compared to 41 percent who say that we're moving in the right direction. Although divided, Anglo Texans were the most positive in their appraisal, with 48 percent saying the country is moving in the right direction and 51 percent saying it is on the wrong track. In contrast, among Hispanics 59 percent said the country is on the wrong track, while among African Americans 77 percent said the country is on the wrong track. Democrats are far more likely than Republicans to say the country is on the wrong track, 80 percent to 35 percent, respectively.

### **Economic Evaluations - Texans view of state's economy dips third year in a row**

Thirty-eight percent of Texans say that the national economy is better off compared to one year ago, with equal shares (31 percent) saying it is worse off or about the same. Texans are, not surprisingly, comparatively bullish on the Texas economy, with 45 percent saying that it is better than the rest of the country's, 40 percent saying that it is the same, and only 15 percent believing that Texas' economy is worse off. However, Texans' evaluations of their own economy's comparative strength saw a significant decline from 2018 polling (18 points), when 63 percent said that Texas' economy is better off than the nations'.

Attitudes towards the economy differ when it comes to race, age and partisanship. Most notably, while 45 percent of Anglo Texans say that the economy is better off compared with a year ago, this number dips to 36 percent among Hispanics, and drops all the way 11 percent among African Americans.

### **Methodology**

From August 16-25, 2019, The Texas Lyceum conducted a 1000 person telephone survey of adult citizens from the state of Texas. The survey utilized a stratified probability sample design, with respondents being randomly selected at the level of the household and questioned by live interviewers. The survey also employed a randomized cell phone supplement, with 60 percent of completed interviews being conducted among cell phone only or cell phone dominant households. A Spanish-language instrument was developed and bilingual interviewers offered respondents a chance to participate in English or Spanish. On average, respondents completed the interview in 17 minutes. To insure an appropriate sub-sample of unregistered citizens, a supplement of 200 interviews among Texas adults confirmed as unregistered was completed online. This yields a total statewide sample of 1,200 adults, 996 of whom are registered voters according to self-reports. The final data set is

weighted by race/ethnicity, age and gender to achieve representativeness as defined by the Texas Department State Health Services 2019 population projections. The overall margin of error for the poll is +/- 2.83 percentage points for the full sample, with a larger margin of error for sub-samples.

### **About the Texas Lyceum**

The Texas Lyceum, a non-profit, non-partisan group, is the premier statewide leadership organization focused on identifying the next generation of top Texas leaders. The Lyceum consists of 96 men and women from throughout the state who begin their six-year term while under the age of 46, and have demonstrated leadership in their community and profession, together with a deep commitment to Texas. For more information, please visit [www.texaslyceum.org](http://www.texaslyceum.org). Texas Lyceum is on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/texaslyceum> and on Twitter @TexasLyceum <http://twitter.com/texaslyceum>

