

TEXAS LYCEUM 2020 POLL SHOWS

Biden and Sanders

leading in the Democratic presidential primary race in Texas

Biden, 28

Sanders, 26

Warren, 13

Bloomberg, 9

Buttigieg, 6

Klobuchar, 3

2020 General Election:

Sanders polls closest behind Trump, 50-47

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(AUSTIN, Texas) - Among the large pack of Democratic presidential primary contenders still vying for the nomination to be the party's nominee for U.S. president, former Vice President Joe Biden is currently leading in the Lone Star State, with Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders a close second. However, it is Biden who comes in second behind Sanders when matched against President Trump in a hypothetical 2020 general election match-up. This is according to new, independent polling results released today by the Texas Lyceum, the premier, nonprofit, nonpartisan statewide leadership group.

Just five days away from the Iowa caucuses, the traditional start of the presidential primary season, the Lyceum poll, which carries a margin of error of +/- 4.89 percentage points among potential Democratic Primary Voters (n=401), finds Biden leading with 28%, slightly ahead of Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders with 26%. Meanwhile, Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren tops the second wave of Democratic candidates at 13%, followed by late entrant and former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg at 9%. South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg drew 6%, while Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar has 3%.

Sanders polls closest to Trump for the general election

The survey asked respondents who they would support if the November presidential election were held today between President Donald Trump and Vice President Biden, Senator Sanders, Senator Warren and Mayor Buttigieg, respectively. With fewer than nine months until Election Day, the Texas Lyceum poll shows President Donald Trump holds a lead ranging from 4 to 8

percentage points over each of the potential Democratic nominees, with Senator Sanders polling closest to the president, 50 to 47 among likely 2020 general election voters (n=520, margin of error +/- 4.30 percentage points).

Among the top remaining candidates, Biden trails Trump by 5 points, 51% to 46%, Warren trails Trump by 7 points, 52% to 44%, and Buttigieg is 8 points behind the president, 51% to 43%, in this early look at the November Elections.

U.S. Senate Democratic Primary Race – far from settled

Meanwhile, the race to determine the nominee to take on incumbent U.S. Senator John Cornyn next November is far from settled, as none of the 12 Democratic Primary candidates garnered more than 11% of the vote in the Lyceum survey. Air Force Veteran and 2018 congressional candidate M.J. Hegar is leading the field with 11 points. Trailing Hegar are Dallas State Senator Royce West at 8%, activist Cristina Tzintzún Ramirez at 7%, at-large Houston City Council member Amanda Edwards at 6%, and Beaumont car dealer and pastor Michael Cooper at 4%.

“Texas is always a difficult state for candidates to introduce themselves to the voters due to its sheer size and multiple, large media markets,” said Joshua Blank, Ph.D., research director of the Texas Lyceum poll, “but, in a year in which the political oxygen has been sucked up by the Democratic Presidential Primary and impeachment, it’s clearly been a major challenge for those seeking to take on John Cornyn to break through with the Texas electorate. These new results confirm that it’s still anyone’s race.”

Texans Split Over whether the U.S. Senate should remove Donald Trump from office

The Texas Lyceum Poll found Texans split on whether President Trump should be removed from office following his impeachment in the House of Representatives. The poll was fielded Jan. 10-19, 2020 after impeachment proceedings in the House had concluded and before the U.S. Senate trial had begun. Overall, 44% of Texas adults say the Senate should remove the president from office, while 45% disagree. Not surprisingly, views on impeachment reflect party loyalty, as 77% of Democrats believe the president should be removed from office while 86% of Republicans believe he should remain. However, in what is expected to be a more competitive election year by Texas standards, self-identified independents were more inclined to say that the president should be removed from office, 46% to 31%.

Texans’ economic views improved slightly

Evaluations of the Texas economy appear to have improved somewhat over last year. The percentage of respondents who believe Texas is better off compared to the rest of the country increased by 4 percentage points from 45% to 49%. Asked to grade the national economy, a plurality, 39% say that the country is better off than it was a year ago, with 35% saying that the economy is about the same.

President Trump job approval divided by party, while Governor Abbott’s marks remain high

President Trump’s job approval rating remains remarkably consistent with September 2019’s Texas Lyceum Poll given the tumultuous political environment. Overall, 52% of adult Texans

surveyed disapprove of the job the president is doing, while 47% approve. Again, party plays a big role in the president's job approval rating, with 89% of Republicans giving him high marks. Among Democrats, 85% say the president is doing a poor job. A majority of independents also rate the president negatively, with 60% saying he's doing a poor job and 37% giving him a positive review.

How Texans grade the president's job performance varies significantly when considering age and race. Texans under 30 express the highest disapproval of Trump's performance, while Texans between the ages of 30 and 44 were evenly split, with 49% approving and 51% disapproving. Texans over 65 express relative approval, 56% to 42%. Factoring in race, 62% of Anglo Texans approve of the president's job performance compared to 38% who disapprove. Hispanic Texans disapprove more than they approve, 61% to 36%, while 76% of African American Texans disapprove compared to 21% who approve of the president's job performance.

In contrast, Texas Governor Greg Abbott, who will not be on the ballot this November, receives high marks from Texans, with 63% approving of his job performance compared to only 34% who disapprove. This high job approval was marked by overwhelming approval among Republicans, 87%, and reasonably high approval among Democrats for a Republican governor at 43%.

Methodology

From Jan. 10-19, 2020, The Texas Lyceum conducted a 1,000-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 cellphone supplement, with 60% of completed interviews being conducted among cellphone only or cellphone 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 15 minutes. To ensure 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, 920 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 for non-election specific items. For items covering voting preferences in the 2020 Texas primary and general elections, the responses of registered voters are weighted by race/ethnicity, age and gender to achieve representativeness of the state's registered voter population. The overall margin of error for the poll is +/- 2.83 percentage points for the full sample and +/-3.23 percentage points for registered voters, with a larger margin of error for sub-samples.

About the Texas Lyceum

The Texas Lyceum is a forty year old leadership organization focused on identifying the next generation of top Texas leaders who have demonstrated leadership in their community and profession, together with a deep commitment to Texas. For more information, please visit www.texaslyceum.org. The Texas Lyceum is on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/texaslyceum>, on Twitter @Texas Lyceum <http://twitter.com/texaslyceum> and on LinkedIn <https://www.linkedin.com/company/texaslyceum/>

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