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TEXAS LYCEUM 2018 POLL - DAY TWO

Republicans Sporting Solid Leads in Four Statewide Races Polled - *Except for U.S. Senate*

**Ted Cruz, 41 - Beto O'Rourke, 39
among likely voters**

**Governor Greg Abbott holds 16-point lead
over Former Dallas Co. Sheriff Lupe Valdez, 47 – 31,
22 undecided**

IN DOWN BALLOT RACES

**Patrick Leads Collier 39 - 29, 28 undecided
Paxton Ahead of Nelson 35 - 25, 37 undecided**

(AUSTIN-TX) Ninety-seven days away from the 2018 Elections, statewide polling released today from the 12th annual Texas Lyceum Poll shows Texas' incumbent Republican officeholders ahead of their Democratic challengers by safe margins with one exception - the U.S. Senate contest between Republican incumbent Ted Cruz and Democratic Congressman Beto O'Rourke.

In that match, Senator Cruz carries a slim two percentage point lead over Congressman O'Rourke, 41 to 39 percent among likely voters with 19 percent undecided, a result well within the margin of error (+/- 4.67%).

“O’Rourke continues to nip at Cruz’s heels, but it’s a long way to go until Election Day,” said Josh Blank, Lyceum Poll Research Director. “If this race looks different than the rest, that’s probably because it is a strong Democratic challenger raising prolific sums of money and tons of earned media.”

Abbott vs. Valdez

In the Texas Governor’s race, Republican incumbent Greg Abbott has a comfortable lead over Democratic nominee and former Dallas County Sheriff, Lupe Valdez, 47 to 31 percent, with 22 percent of likely voters undecided. The Governor’s hefty lead could be attributed to his strong approval rating among Texas adults, at 54 percent with only 28 percent expressing disapproval.

Races for Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General

Republican Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick leads his Democratic challenger, Houston area accountant Mike Collier, 39 – 29, with 28 percent undecided. In the race for Texas Attorney General, indecision is the plurality choice at this point in the campaign, with 37 percent of likely voters currently unable to make a choice between the Republican, Democratic, and Libertarian nominees, with Republican incumbent Ken Paxton holding a 10-point lead over his Democratic challenger, Houston attorney and law professor Justin Nelson, 35 – 25 percent.

Still on the wrong track with younger Texans more pessimistic

Consistent with the past three years, the Texas Lyceum poll found most Texans saying that the country is on the wrong track (53 percent), compared to only 34 percent of Texans who say that things are moving in the right direction. Younger Texans are more pessimistic than their older counterparts, with 63 percent of 18-29 year olds saying that the country is on the wrong track, compared to only 47 percent of Texans over the age of 65. And while Anglo Texans, on balance, say that things are on the right track, Hispanic and African American Texans are far more likely to say that things are off on the wrong track (62 percent and 77 percent, respectively).

President Trump’s job approval numbers

Among Texas adults, 44 percent approve of the job Donald Trump is doing as president, including 85 percent of Republicans. Meanwhile 52 percent of Texans express disapproval of President Trump’s job performance, including 85 percent of Democrats.

Economic Evaluations – Improving

Overall, 43 percent of Texans believe that the national economy is better off compared to a year ago, with 24 percent saying that it is worse off, and 34 percent saying that it is about the same. Older Texans are far more likely than younger Texans to say that the economy is better off, with almost half (47 percent) of Texans between the ages of 18 and 29 saying that the economy is about the same. While most Anglo Texans say that the economy is better off (53 percent), only 38 percent of Hispanic and 13 percent of African American Texans agree.

Despite glowing assessments of the national economy, when asked to assess their family's personal economic situation, Texas adults were more likely to say that things are about the same compared with one year ago (49 percent), with another 31 percent saying that things are better off, and 20 percent saying that things are worse off. Despite this, more Texans than at any point in the 12 years of Lyceum polling think that their children will be better off economically than them (49 percent).

Methodology

From July 9-26, 2018, The Texas Lyceum conducted a 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 50 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. Approximately 6,100 records were drawn to yield 1,005 completed interviews. To insure an appropriate sub-sample of unregistered citizens, a supplement of 173 interviews among Texans confirmed as unregistered was completed online. This yields a total statewide sample of 1,178 adults, 806 registered voters (confirmed by matching individual respondents with records from the Texas statewide voter file), and 441 likely voters (determined by past vote history from the voter file and current interest in the election). The final data set is weighted by race/ethnicity, age and gender to achieve representativeness as defined by the Texas Department State Health Services 2018 population projections. The overall margin of error for the poll is +/- 2.86 percentage points. The margin of error for the registered voters is +/- 3.45 percentage points. The margin of error for likely voters is +/- 4.67 percentage points.

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. Texas Lyceum is on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/texaslyceum> and on Twitter @TexasLyceum <http://twitter.com/texaslyceum>

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