2017 Texas Lyceum Poll – Day One
FOCUSES ON IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT AND REFORM
Immigration the most important issue facing the state AND the nation
Texans, especially younger Texans, believe immigration helps U.S. more than it hurts
Public Safety and Jobs Chief Concerns over illegal immigration
Broad support for conventional immigration reform proposals

(AUSTIN -TX) — Immigration enforcement and reform, the hot button issue that was intensely debated in the 2016 Presidential Election and remains front and center for lawmakers grappling with the issue on local, state and federal levels, is the focus of the 2017 Texas Lyceum Poll. For the first time in the poll's 11-year history, coordinators of the state's only independent, non-partisan annual survey shed a spotlight on this complex issue, revealing the diverse views of Texas adults.

The poll is produced as a public service by the Texas Lyceum, the state's premier, non-partisan, nonprofit statewide leadership group and was fielded April 3 – April 9.

"The issue of immigration reform and enforcement presents numerous challenges for elected officials – including costs, public safety, public health, employment and border security. And it will always be of chief concern to Texans, who live along the country's second largest international border next to Alaska," said 2017 Texas Lyceum President Renard Johnson of El Paso.

The 2017 Texas Lyceum Poll Found:

- Texans believe that immigration is the number one issue facing the state and the nation, but a plurality of Texas adults (62 percent) also say that immigration helps the U.S. more than it hurts. The younger the respondent, the more positively they view immigration.
- Public safety and economics drive Texans' concerns over illegal immigration.

- Most Texas adults continue to oppose (61 percent) President Donald Trump's proposal to build a wall on the U.S.- Mexico border, and most don't want him to deport millions of undocumented immigrants.
- Many support traditional immigration reform proposals, even a pathway to citizenship if significant restrictions are put in place.

Immigration: Younger Texans believe It helps more than it hurts.
Many Texans believe immigration helps the United States more than it hurts, but the numbers vary depending on party, background and especially age. Overall, 62 percent of Texas adults said that immigration helps more than it hurts, compared to only 27 percent who believe the opposite. This attitude softened from the 2016 results, where 54 percent of Texas adults said that immigration helps more than it hurts.

In this year's poll, Texas Democrats (79 percent, up 7 points from 2016) and minorities have a much more positive attitude towards immigration compared with Texas Republicans, among whom 39 percent said immigration helps more than it hurts (a view held by 37 percent in 2016) and 46 percent said it hurts more than it helps (a view held by 49 percent in 2016). Positive Hispanic attitudes towards immigration on the same measure increased by 12 points over 2016 results, from 59 percent to 71 percent.

"While Hispanic attitudes continue to remain more complex towards the issues of immigration than many might suspect," said the poll's Research Director Joshua Blank, "between 2016 and 2017, there appears to have been some degree of galvanization among Texas Hispanics around immigration related issues at the same time as the tone at the national level has shifted."

Looking to the future, while 80 percent of 18-29 year olds say that immigration helps more than it hurts, that percentage drops to 69 percent among 30-44 year olds, 57 percent among 45-64 year olds, and down to 46 percent among those over the age of 65.

Concern over illegal immigration stems from public safety and economics.
While Texans believe that immigration/border security is the number one issue facing the state and the nation, their primary reasons for their concerns over illegal immigration center on safety and economics. The 2017 Lyceum Poll discerns this by posing an open-ended question to the 72 percent who said they were "extremely" or "somewhat concerned" about illegal immigration.

In response to the question: "What is the primary reason for your concern over illegal immigration?" A plurality of Texans (19 percent) cited public safety/criminality as their primary concern, followed by economic concerns (17 percent), while the third highest concern was that immigrants should follow the legal process (13 percent).

Trump immigration policy goals, executive orders and campaign promises – political party matters
While concerns about public safety run high, ironically, roughly equal shares of Texans say that they don't want President Trump to deport millions of undocumented immigrants currently living in the U.S. (62 percent) as say they don't support his plan to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border to try and stop illegal immigration (61 percent).

When asked about whether the President's executive orders on immigration would make the U.S. safer, 39 percent said these policies would have no effect on U.S. safety, 37 percent said they would make the country safer, with 22 percent believing they will make the U.S. less safe. When you review the responses according the party, Republicans (78 percent) overwhelmingly expressed the belief that these policies would make the U.S. safer, while most Democrats, (51 percent) said that they would have no effect.

Immigration Reform: The need for job skills rank higher over family ties when it comes to Immigration reform – party being the divider.
When pollsters gave respondents two choices on how immigration should be prioritized, "allowing new immigrants who already have family members living in the U.S." or "allowing new immigrants who already have useful job skills," the plurality said that immigration policy should prioritize those with job skills (46 percent), while 32 percent said that policy should prioritize those with family members in the United States. However, there are clear divisions when it comes to party, as 49 percent of Republicans said that policy should prioritize those with job skills, and 46% of Democrats said it should prioritize those with family ties.

Give citizenship to immigrants who work to meet a set of criteria.
When asked to rank their level of support for five common immigration policy proposals, one proposal receives overwhelming support with 90 percent of Texans in favor, 63 percent "strongly." This plan calls for undocumented immigrants to earn their citizenship after a long waiting period, payment of taxes and a penalty, passage of a criminal background check and proven proficiency in English.

Meanwhile, the second most popular proposal was to allow foreign-born engineers and scientists who get their education in the U.S. the opportunity to stay, supported by 88 percent of Texas adults; next, tightening border security (80 percent); requiring businesses to verify the immigration status of their employees (72 percent); and lastly, varying the number of low-skilled immigrants allowed to enter the U.S. based on current economic conditions (58 percent).

"As previous polling has suggested, Texans, including Republicans and Democrats, express a remarkable degree of agreement over the of immigration reform than current debates might suggest," said Poll Research Director Josh Blank. "While talking about immigration reform and a path to citizenship may on its surface be a poison pill, the components of immigration reform being discussed since at least 2013 remain popular."

About the annual Texas Lyceum Poll
Daron Shaw, Ph.D., Professor at The University of Texas at Austin, and Joshua Blank, Ph.D., Texas Lyceum Research Director, oversaw the poll, which was conducted April 3 – 9, 2017 and queried 1,000 adult Texans. The poll has a margin of error of +/- 3.1 percentage points. The team used the latest statistically-advisable polling techniques: live interviewers contacted respondents both by landline as well as by cell phone (40 percent) and administered the survey in the respondent's language of choice (English or Spanish).

Please view the poll summary and additional information on our [website](), where we have provided all results for the past ten years.

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

[ROTATE Q16A-Q16B]

Q16A. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling the issue of immigration and border security?

1.	Approve	38%
2.	Disapprove	58
3.	DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA	4

Q16B. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Republicans in Congress are handling the issue of immigration and border security?

1.	Approve	27%
2.	Disapprove	60
3.	DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA	13

Q17. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Texas Legislature is handling the issue of immigration and border security?

1.	Approve	36%
2.	Disapprove	44
3.	DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA	20

SECTION III:
ISSUES & POLICY

Immigration

Let's talk about immigration for a few minutes…

Q22. *Would you say that immigration helps the United States more than it hurts it, or immigration hurts the United States more than it helps it?*

1.	*Helps more than it hurts*	*62%*
2.	*Hurts more than it helps*	*27*
3.	*A little of both (Vol.)*	*6*
4.	*DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA*	*5*

Q23. Thinking specifically about recent immigrants, that is people who have come to the United States to live and work in the past ten years or so, which of the following statements is closer to your opinion about these immigrants coming to the United States?...**[RANDOMIZE 1-2]**

1.	They mostly adopted essential American culture and values when they got here,	33%
2.	They mostly retained their own cultures and values	52
3.	DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA	16

Illegal Immigration

The next few questions concern illegal immigration…

Q25.   How concerned are you about illegal immigration? Extremely concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned, or not at all concerned?

1. Extremely   37%
2. Somewhat   35
3. Not very   15
4. Not at all   12
5. DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA   1

Q26.   **[IF Q25 EQ 1|2]** What is the primary reason for your concern over illegal immigration? **[OPEN-ENDED]**

(n = 699, MOE +/- 3.71%)

1. Safety / Criminality   19%
2. Economic concerns / Jobs   17
3. Illegal / Should follow proper process   13
4. Government resources   9
5. National security / terrorism   8
6. Need to be properly vetted / keep track of who comes in   6
7. American culture   2
8. Other   20
9. Don't know   5

Q28.   Would you favor or oppose building a wall along the US-Mexico border to try to stop illegal immigration?

1. Favor   35%
2. Oppose   61
3. DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA   4

Q39.   If implemented, do you think President (Donald) Trump's executive orders on immigration would make the United States safer or less safe, or doesn't it make much of a difference at all?

1. Safer   37%
2. Less safe   22
3. No difference   39
4. DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA   3

Q29.   Do you believe President Trump truly will deport millions of illegal immigrants currently living in the United States?

1. Yes   50%
2. No   40
3. DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA   10

Q30.   And do you want him to do that (deport millions of illegal immigrants currently living in the US)?

1. Yes   31%
2. No   62
3. DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA   8

Immigration Reform

Q31.   What should be the priority for U.S. immigration policy? Should it be…**[RANDOMIZE 1-2]**

1. allowing new immigrants who already have family members living in the U.S. [or]   32%
2. allowing new immigrants who already have useful job skills   46
3. DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA   22

Q33. Please tell us whether you support or oppose each of the following ideas. *Would that be strongly or somewhat support/oppose*:

A. Allowing illegal immigrants living in the U.S. the opportunity to become citizens after a long waiting period if they pay taxes and a penalty, pass a criminal background check, and learn English.

1. Strongly support   63%
2. Somewhat support   27
3. Somewhat oppose   4
4. Strongly oppose   5
5. DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA   1

B. Tightening U.S. border security and providing Border Patrol with increased technology, infrastructure, and personnel.

1. Strongly support   53%
2. Somewhat support   27
3. Somewhat oppose   10
4. Strongly oppose   7
5. DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA   3

C. Requiring U.S. business owners to check the immigration status of any employee they hire, with stiff fines and penalties for employers who knowingly hire illegal immigrants.

1. Strongly support   49%
2. Somewhat support   23
3. Somewhat oppose   13
4. Strongly oppose   10
5. DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA   5

D. Allowing engineers and scientists from other countries who earn graduate degrees in the U.S. to remain in the U.S. to work.

1. Strongly support   56%
2. Somewhat support   30
3. Somewhat oppose   6
4. Strongly oppose   4
5. DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA   4

E. Varying the number of low-skilled immigrants allowed to enter the country depending on how the U.S. economy is doing.

1. Strongly support   24%
2. Somewhat support   34
3. Somewhat oppose   19
4. Strongly oppose   16
5. DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA   8

State Level Immigration

[Split-sample Q34A-Q34B; n = 574 for Q34A, producing an MOE of +/- 4.1%; n = 426 for Q34B, producing an MOE of 4.75%]

Q34A. With Donald Trump in the White House, should the Texas Legislature continue funding border security operations in Texas at the same levels as before, increase funding for border security operations, or decrease funding for border security operations?

1. Continue funding   45%
2. Increase funding   28
3. Decrease funding   21
4. DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA   6

Q34B. With Republicans in control of the Congress, should the Texas Legislature continue funding border security operations in Texas at the same levels as before, increase funding for border security operations, or decrease funding for border security operations?

1. Continue funding   41%
2. Increase funding   37
3. Decrease funding   15
4. DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA   7

Q35. Some illegal immigrants were brought to Texas as children by their parents. Do you think that these individuals should receive in-state tuition rates, or should they pay have to pay the higher rates of out-of-state residents?

1. *In-state rates*   *61%*
2. *Out-of-state rates*   *31*
3. *DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA* *8*

Sanctuary Cities

Q36. In some cities, when local police or city government employees learn that someone is in the country illegally, they do not automatically turn that person over to federal immigration enforcement officers.
[ROTATE SUPPORT/OPPOSE CLAUSES]

Supporters of these so-called "sanctuary cities" say that this improves public safety because it encourages people in immigrant communities to work with police to help arrest dangerous criminals without fear of being deported themselves.

Opponents of these so-called "sanctuary cities" say that this practice is a violation of federal law and allows some dangerous criminals who are in the country illegally to continue to commit violent crimes.

Thinking about your own view, do you support or oppose "sanctuary cities"?

1. Support   45%
2. Oppose   49
3. DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA   5

Q37.   In each of the following interactions with a police office, should a person's immigration status be checked, or not?

		Checked	Not Checked	Don't Know
A.	During a routine traffic stop	44%	53%	4%
B.	When that person is reporting a crime	41	57	2
C.	When the police suspect that person is a witness to a crime or can provide information	39	58	3
D.	When that person is arrested for a crime	93	5	2