TEXAS LYCEUM 2017 POLL - DAY TWO

Don't know leads the field in early look at the 2018 races for U.S. Senate and Lieutenant Governor, however, TED CRUZ AND BETO O'ROURKE TIED AT 30

JOAQUIN CASTRO SLIGHTLY AHEAD OF CRUZ, 35 - 31

Country on right track/wrong track, views of national economy depend on party.

Trump job approval underwater in Texas, but doing fine among Republicans

(AUSTIN-TX) Statewide poll numbers released today by the Texas Lyceum, the state's premier, non-partisan, nonprofit statewide leadership group, show U.S. Republican Senator Ted Cruz of Houston (Lyceum Class of 2004) isn't guaranteed another term as Texas' Senator according to early trial ballots pitting the incumbent against his two likely Democratic challengers: U.S. Congressmen Beto O'Rourke of El Paso and Joaquin Castro of San Antonio.

Senator Cruz is tied with Congressman O'Rourke, who entered the contest last month, at 30 percent each. However, 37 percent of registered Texas voters say they haven't thought about the race yet. Congressman Castro fairs slightly better against the incumbent Senator, with 35 percent of Texas adults saying they support him over Ted Cruz at 31 percent.

"Ballot tests conducted this far in advance of an actual election are, at best, useful in gauging the potential weaknesses of incumbents seeking re-election," said Daron Shaw. "But the substantial percentage of undecided respondents—coupled with the conservative, pro-Republican proclivities of the Texas electorate in recent years—suggest a cautious interpretation."

Patrick vs. Collier
Meantime, Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick's Democratic challenger, Houston area accountant Mike Collier, comes within the margin of error if that 2018 race were held today. 27 percent chose the little-known Collier compared to 25 percent who chose Lieutenant Governor Patrick. But again "not thought about it" outpaces both candidates at 46 percent in that race – which is also 18 months away.

Right Track/ Wrong Track
Compared to last year, fewer Texans believe the country is on the wrong track at 52 percent compared to to 63 percent in 2016. However, party and race drive much of the results, with 84 percent of Democrats saying the country is on the wrong track, and 73 percent of Republicans expressing that things are moving in the right direction.

President Trump's job approval numbers line up by party
More Texans disapprove than approve of the job Donald Trump is doing as President (54 percent to 42 percent), but the results vary significantly by party. 85 percent of Republicans give the President positive marks compared to 86 percent of Democrats who disapprove of his job performance. Same goes for young Texans - 73 percent of 18-29 year olds are not enthused with the President's job performance along with 61 percent of Hispanics. Meantime, he is viewed positively by 60 percent of Whites.

Governor Abbott, Lt. Governor Patrick
Most Texas adults, 53 percent, approve of the job Greg Abbott is doing as governor, including 82 percent of Republicans, 50 percent who "strongly approve." While 53 percent of Democrats disapprove of Governor Abbott's job performance, a quarter expressed approval with the Republican Governor. A plurality of Hispanics also approve of Governor Abbott's job performance (49 percent), while 34 percent expressed disapproval.

Economic Evaluations – again, check party lines.
Texans who said the national economy is "better" than it was a year ago only improved marginally, from 29 percent to 32 percent from last year to this year, but the respondents this year who believe the economy is "worse off" dropped considerably, from 34% to 20%.

Again, Lyceum pollsters attribute this to partisanship and the change in party control over the White House. While 44 percent of Democrats say that things have remained the same, 60% percent of Republicans say the economy is better off compared to a year ago. Last year, 50 percent of Democrats said the economy was better off, compared to only 15 percent this year. Last year, 58 percent of Republicans said that the economy was worse off, compared to only 6 percent this year.

When it comes to folks' personal economic situations things appear to be the same. In 2016, 30 percent of Texans said that they were better off, compared to 27 percent in 2017, 19 percent said that they were worse off, compared to 15 percent today, and 50 percent said that their situation was essentially unchanged, compared to 57 percent

today. Among partisans, majorities of Democrats (60 percent) and Republicans (54 percent) agree that their personal economic situation hasn't changed.

The kids are alright.
Consistent with the trend above, Texans foresee that the economic prospects of their children remain unchanged from last year. A plurality still believe that their children will be better off (45 percent), while 28 percent think they will be worse off, and 19 percent believe that their economic situation will be about the same.

NAFTA
Given all the attention to international trade in the 2016 Presidential Election, we asked Texas adults whether *"the North American Free Trade Agreement, known as NAFTA, has been good or bad for the Texas economy?"* Overall, 43 percent of Texas adults say that NAFTA has been good for the Texas economy, 24 percent say that it has been bad, and 33 percent offered no opinion. The topline results tracked closely to when we previously asked this question in 2009, when an equal share, 43 percent said that NAFTA had been good for the Texas economy, 28 percent said that it had been bad, and 29 percent had no opinion.

However, partisanship's influence over free trade attitudes have nudged Republicans away from what was once the cornerstone of their international economic policy. In 2009, the Lyceum Poll showed 41 percent of Republicans said NAFTA had been good for the Texas economy while 30 percent said that it had been bad; in 2017, Republicans saying that NAFTA has had a positive effect dropped to 24 percent, while 37 percent say that it has been bad (a 7 point increase). Ironically, Democrats are more in favor of free trade agreements, with 59 percent saying that NAFTA has been good for Texas' economy, up 13-points from 46 percent in 2009.

Methodology
From April 3-9, 2017, The Texas Lyceum conducted a statewide telephone survey of adult citizens. The survey utilized a stratified probability sample design, with respondents being randomly selected at the level of the household. 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 1,000 completed interviews. The final data set is weighted by race/ethnicity, age and gender to achieve representativeness as defined by the Texas Department of State Health Services 2017 population projections. The overall margin of error for the poll is +/- 3.1 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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Q1.   Are you registered to vote in the state of Texas?

    1. Yes, registered.   89%
    2. No, not registered.   11
    3. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA.   0

Q2.   Generally speaking, would you say that you are extremely interested in politics and public affairs,
        somewhat interested, not very interested, or not at all interested?

    1. Extremely interested.   39%
    2. Somewhat interested.   44
    3. Not very interested.   11
    4. Not at all interested.   6
    5. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA.   0

Q4.   Thinking about the country, do you think things are moving in the right direction or are we off on the
        wrong track?

    1. Right direction.   34%
    2. Off on the wrong track.   52
    3. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA.   14

Q5.   What do you think is the most important issue facing the country today? **[OPEN-ENDED]**

1. Immigration   13%
2. The economy   11
3. Political corruption/leadership   10
4. Health care   10
5. National security/terrorism   7
6. Unemployment/jobs   5
7. Race relations/racial issues/ethnicity   5
8. Education   3
9. Foreign affairs/policy   3
10. Unity / Division of country   3
11. Social welfare programs   2
12. Federal spending/budget deficit   1
13. National debt   1
14. Moral decline   1
15. Border security   1
16. Taxes   1
17. Environment   1
18. Middle East unrest   1
19. Polarization/Gridlock/Partisanship   1
20. Police   1
21. Gender equality   1
22. Civil Rights/Freedom   1
23. Wars / less military intervention overseas   1
24. Other (specify)   7
25. Don't know / No response   7

Q6.   What do you think is the most important issue facing the state of Texas today? **[OPEN-ENDED]**

1. Immigration   21%
2. Education   13
3. Border security   6
4. The economy   5
5. Political corruption/leadership   5
6. Health care   5
7. Unemployment/jobs   4
8. Taxes   2
9. Transgender/bathroom law   2
10. Crime and drugs   1
11. State government spending (i.e. too much spending) 1
12. Moral decline   1
13. Social welfare programs   1
14. Water supply   1
15. Energy   1
16. Transportation/roads/traffic   1
17. Gun violence/gun control   1
18. Population growth   1
19. Other (specify)   10
20. Don't know / No response   17

Q7.   How well do you think Donald Trump is handling his job as president? Is he doing a very good job, somewhat good job, somewhat poor job, or very poor job?

1. Very good job.   19%
2. Somewhat good job.   24
3. Somewhat poor job.   18
4. Very poor job.   36
5. DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA   4

Q8.   Would you say that you approve or disapprove of the job that Greg Abbott is doing as Texas governor? Would that be somewhat or strongly approve/disapprove?

1. Strongly approve   27%
2. Somewhat approve   26
3. Somewhat disapprove   12
4. Strongly disapprove   18
5. DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA   17

Q8A.   Would you say that you approve or disapprove of the job that Dan Patrick is doing as Texas's Lieutenant Governor? Would that be somewhat or strongly approve/disapprove?

1. Strongly approve   11%
2. Somewhat approve   27
3. Somewhat disapprove   13
4. Strongly disapprove   19
5. DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA   30

Thinking ahead to the 2018 Elections… [Q9-Q11 WEREASKED ONLY OF REGISTERED VOTERS. N = 890, MOE +/- 3.28%] [RANDOMIZE Q9A-Q9B]

Q9A.   If the 2018 election for Senate were held today, would you vote for [RANDOMIZE] the Republican Ted Cruz [PRONOUNCED: CRUISE], the Democrat Beto O'Rourke [PRONOUNCED: BET-TOE O-RORK], or haven't you thought enough about it?

1. Ted Cruz   30%
2. Beto O'Rourke   30
3. Haven't thought enough about it 37
4. DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA   3

Q9B.   If the 2018 election for Senate were held today, would you vote for [RANDOMIZE] the Republican Ted Cruz [PRONOUNCED: CRUISE], the Democrat Joaquin Castro [PRONOUNCED: WAH-KEEN CASTRO], or haven't you thought enough about it?

1. Ted Cruz   31%
2. Joaquin Castro   35
3. Haven't thought enough about it 31
4. DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA   4

Q10.   If the 2018 election for Lieutenant Governor were held today, would you vote for [RANDOMIZE] the Republican Dan Patrick, the Democrat Mike Collier [PRONOUNCED: MIKE CALL-EE-ER], or haven't you thought enough about it?

1. Dan Patrick   25%
2. Mike Collier   27%
3. Haven't thought enough about it 46%
4. DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA   3

Q11.   Suppose the Tea Party movement organized itself as a political party. When thinking about the next election for Congress, would you vote for [Randomize] the Republican candidate from your district, the Democratic candidate from your district, or the Tea Party candidate from your district? **[Randomize 1-2]**

    1.   Republican candidate   25%
    2.   Democratic candidate   43
    3.   Tea Party candidate   9
    4.   Don't know   23

SECTION II:
PERSONAL ECONOMIC PERCEPTIONS

Q18.   Thinking about the national economy, do you think the country is better off, worse off, or about the same compared to a year ago?

    1.   Better off.   32%
    2.   Worse off.   20
    3.   About the same.   44
    4.   DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA.   4

Q19.   Now thinking about you and your family's economic situation, would you say that you are better off, worse off, or about the same economically compared to a year ago?

    1.   Better off.   27%
    2.   Worse off.   15
    3.   About the same.   57
    4.   DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA.   1

Q20.   Do you think Texas's economy is better off, worse off, or about the same as the rest of the country?

1. Better off   58%
2. Worse off   9%
3. About the same   26
4. DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA   7

Q21.   Looking ahead to the future, do you think your children will be better off than you are, worse off, or about the same economically?

1. Better off   45%
2. Worse off   28
3. About the same   19
4. DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA   9

Q40.   *Would you say that the North American Free Trade Agreement, known as NAFTA, has been good or bad for the Texas economy?*

1. *Good*   *43%*
2. *Bad*   *24*
3. *DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA*   *33*