State Innovation Exchange

Multi-State Poll - Texas Findings July 2020



Survey Methodology



TargetSmart designed and administered this multimodal survey. Four hundred and ninety-four interviews were conducted online among panelists who were matched to the TargetSmart voter file (380 weighted), 46 interviews were conducted online using text-to-web and email-to-web (11 email, 35 SMS) solicits from the TargetSmart voter file (59 weighted), and 51 interviews (61 weighted) were conducted over the phone (all on wireless phones). In total, the survey reached 591 adults (500 weighted), age 18 or older, who are registered to vote in Texas. Quotas were designed to reflect the demographic and geographic distribution of registered voters in Texas. The data were weighted by gender, age, race from file, TargetSmart Partisan Score, TargetSmart High School Only Score, and region by media market to ensure an accurate reflection of the population.

The credibility interval (the theoretical margin of error for a blended-methodology poll that relies partially on telephone-based probability sampling, and partially on non-probability based online panel sampling) is +/-4.4%. The margin of error for subgroups is larger and varies. Percentage totals may not add up precisely due to rounding.



Issue Environment and the Role of State Government

Issue Environment: Key Findings

- Texas voters are highly pessimistic about the direction of the U.S. (26 percent right direction, 66 percent wrong track), while they are more mixed, but still pessimistic on net, about the direction of the state (39 percent right direction, 51 percent wrong track).
- With the outbreak raging in the Lone Star state, the coronavirus pandemic surfaces as THE dominant issue priority of the day -- 44 percent of voters cite it as the biggest issue facing the state these days. Furthermore, voters are quite pessimistic about the status of the pandemic, with 2-in-3 voters believing the worst is still yet to come.
- When it comes to the treatment of Black people and communities, Texas
 voters are divided on whether their feelings have changed over the last month
 or so in light of recent events (49 percent changed, 43 percent not changed).



Texans Highly Pessimistic About Direction of the US; More Mixed, But Pessimistic on Net, About Direction of the State

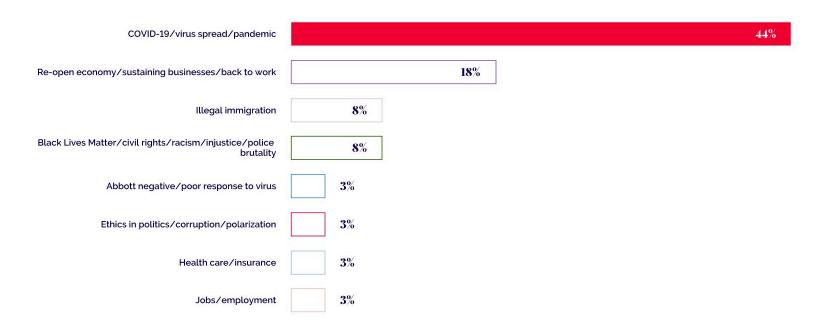
Direction of the US and Texas



5.Generally speaking, do you think that things in the United States are going in the right direction, or do you feel things have gotten pretty seriously off on the wrong track?
6.And generally speaking, do you think that things in Texas are going in the right direction, or do you feel things have gotten pretty seriously off on the wrong track?



Coronavirus Pandemic Surfaces as a Clear Priority for Texas Voters



7. What would you say is the most important issue facing the state of Texas these days?



Concerns About the Coronavirus Pandemic Spans Across Party Lines

Issue priorities by Party ID



ID Democrat

- 1. Coronavirus pandemic 45%
 - 2. Economic recovery 19%
- 3. Systematic racism/BLM 9%



ID independent

- 1. Coronavirus pandemic 44%
 - 2. Economic recovery 14%
 - 3. Illegal immigration 8%



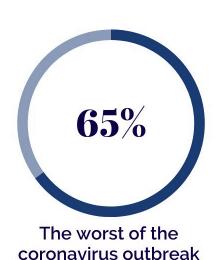
ID Republican

- 1. Coronavirus pandemic 42%
 - 2. Economic recovery 20%
 - 3. Illegal immigration 13%

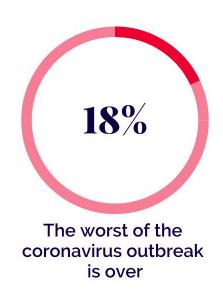


Texas Voters Pessimistic About Status of the Pandemic; 2-in-3 Voters Believe the Worst is Still Yet to Come

Worst is yet to come vs. worst is over



is yet to come





9. Do you believe....



Democrats, Women, Voters of Color Most Likely to Believe the Worst is Yet to Come

State of Pandemic by Key Demographics

	Worst is yet to come	Worst is over
ll voters	65%	18%
) Democrat	89%	6%
) independent	55%	19%
) Republican	48%	29%
en	58%	23%
omen	71%	14%
/hite	56%	22%
ос	82%	11%



Texans Want More State Investment, Even if it Means More Taxes

State Investment vs. Tax Cuts



State government in Texas should invest more in the state and its residents, ensuring they are safe, healthy, are economically secure, even if it means some people have to contribute a little more in taxes.



State government in Texas should keep taxes low, even if it means cutting funding for education and infrastructure, and cutting unemployment insurance and healthcare coverage.

14.And which of these statements comes closer to your own view, even if neither of them is exactly right?



Voters Across the Board Prefer State Investment; Independents, Republicans Even Support Investment on Net

Investment vs. Taxes by Key Demographics

	Invest more	Lower Taxes	Margin
All voters	62%	18%	+44
ID Democrat	75%	10%	+66
ID independent	55%	20%	+35
ID Republican	55%	25%	+30
Men	58%	24%	+34
Women	66%	13%	+53
Under 50	68%	13%	+55
Over 50	56%	23%	+32

Texas Voters Want State Government To Play a Major Role in Election Administration and Coronavirus Reponse - Education, Access to Food Fall Closely Behind

Government Involvement on Issues - top tier issues based on % major/some role

89%

Safely and fairly administering elections.

69% major role

87%

Stopping the spread of the coronavirus.

68% major role

83%

Ensuring equal access to high quality K through 12 public education.

61% major role

83%

Ensuring struggling families and children have access to food.

53% major role

77%

Ensuring equal pay for equal work.

53% major role

15.Please indicate whether you think state government in Texas should have a major role, some role, a minor role, or no real role in dealing with each of the following issues.



Most Voters See Role for Government Involvement in Paid Sick and Family Leave, Affordable Health Care, Housing, and Childcare, And Addressing Racism

Government Involvement on Issues - second tier issues based on % major/some role

75%

Ensuring workers have access to paid sick days and paid family leave.

43% major role

73%

Ensuring access to affordable health care.

48% major role

71%

Ensuring access to affordable housing.

39% major role

68%

Acknowledging and addressing systemic racism.

42% major role

66%

Ensuring access to affordable childcare.

36% major role

15.Please indicate whether you think state government in Texas should have a major role, some role, a minor role, or no real role in dealing with each of the following issues.



Texans Divided on Whether Their Feelings Have Changed About How Black People and Communities are Treated in America

Feelings About How Black People and Communities Are Treated



16. Would you say your feelings about how Black people and Black communities are treated in America have changed a lot, a changed a little, or not changed at all in the last month or so?



Election and Democracy Reforms

Democracy Key Findings: Government's Role, Voting Options, and Intersection with Race

- Texans broadly believe that state government should play a role in safely and fairly administering elections (89 percent), as over 2-in-3 voters believe state government should play a major role (69 percent).
- A majority of Texans also believe elections will be administered "well" this November (59 percent), compared to 1-in-3 voters believing elections will not be administered well (33 percent).
- A majority of voters indicate they plan to vote early in-person in November's elections (53 percent). Around 1-in-3 voters plan on voting in-person on election day (29 percent) and fewer than 1-in-5 voters plan to vote by mail (15 percent).
- We also find that 2-in-3 voters want state government to reduce barriers that stop Black people from voting (66 percent).



Democracy Key Findings: Voting Reforms

- Since voting early in-person is the most popular vote method for November's elections, voters in Texas support and highly prioritize lengthening the early voting window and letting voters cast a ballot in-person up through the day before Election Day (89 percent).
- Broad majorities of voters support liberalizing Texas vote-by-mail laws, to both allow any registered voter to participate by mail (63 percent) and mailing all registered Texas voters applications to vote-by-mail (57 percent).
- Voters are also broadly supportive of reforms that ensure the ballots of those who vote by mail are fairly counted -- 66 percent of voters support counting mail-in ballots postmarked by Election Day, but received after Election Day, and 54 percent support counting mail-in ballots postmarked by Election Day but received 10 days after Election Day.



Democracy Key Findings: Coronavirus and Voting

- Voters strongly support measures to increase safety and sanitation at polling places - 88 percent agree that polling places should conform with CDC guidelines and 89 percent believe poll workers should be provided with PPE.
- Voters also almost unanimously support opening additional polling locations to reduce crowds and lines (89 percent) and they generally oppose consolidating polling locations in anticipation of poll worker shortages (59 percent).



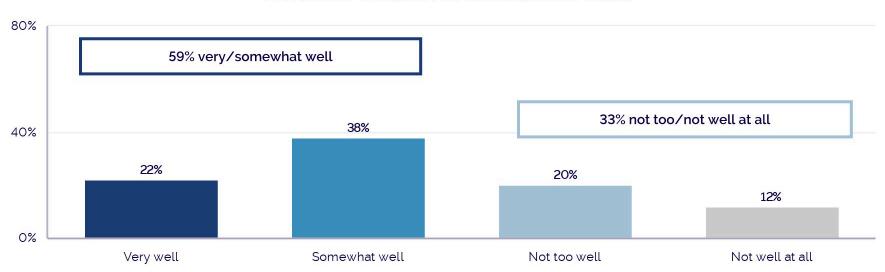
Democracy Key Findings: Voting Security

- Though fewer than 1-in-5 Texans plan to vote-by-mail, voters here still place a high importance on voting security, particularly as it pertains to voting by mail.
- Over eight-in-ten voters believe ballot tracking for mail-in ballots is important (84 percent), with 60 percent of voters finding this to be very important.
- Likewise, 87 percent of voters believe it is important for election officials to immediately notify voters if there is a problem with their submitted mail-in ballot, and over 7-in-10 voters find this to be very important (71 percent).



A Majority of Voters Believe Elections Will Be Run "Well" in Texas This November

November Election Administration in Texas



21. Switching gears a bit, do you think the elections this November in Texas will be run and administered very well, somewhat well, not too well, or not well at all?



A Majority of Texans Plan to Vote Early In-Person in November's Elections





^{4.} And how do you intend to vote in the general election for President and other offices this November?

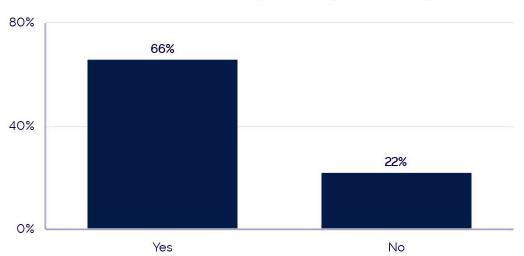
Two-in-Three Texans Want Barriers that Prevent Black People from Voting Removed

45% of Texans voters agree with the following statement:

"Systemic racism has prevented Black people and other people of color from being able to fully participate in our democracy."

47% disagree with this statement.

Reduce Barriers That Stop Black People From Voting



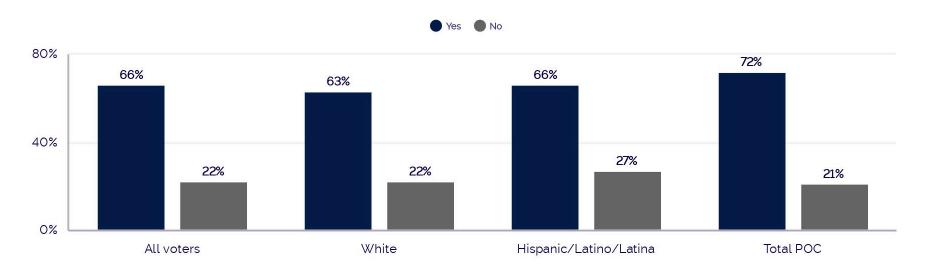
18. Do you believe the state of Texas should reduce barriers that stop Black people from voting?

22. Please indicate whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statements about different ways people can vote in the United States.



Voters of Color Slightly More Likely To Want State Government to Reduce Barriers to Voting

Reduce Barriers That Stop Black People From Voting - by race



18. Do you believe the state of Texas should reduce barriers that stop Black people from voting?



Near Unanimous Support for Increased Safety Standards at Polling Places

Voting Reforms - % total agree



Poll workers should be provided with personal protective equipment like masks and gloves.

74% strongly agree



Polling locations should conform with CDC guidelines on sanitation and social distancing.

69% strongly agree

^{22.} Please indicate whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statements about different ways people can vote in the United States.

Strong Majorities of Voters Have Clear Understanding of Alternatives to In-Person Voting

Voting Reforms - % total agree

75%

I have a clear understanding of the in-person early voting options available to me in my state.

47% strongly agree

55%

I have a clear understanding of how to request a vote-by-mail ballot in my state.

32% strongly agree

54%

I am concerned that the mail system in my state cannot be relied upon to get vote-by-mail ballots to election officials in time for them to be counted.

32% strongly agree

37% total disagree

41%

I don't have enough information about how to take advantage of alternatives to voting in-person on Election Day.

17% strongly agree

50% total disagree

22. Please indicate whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statements about different ways people can vote in the United States.



Reforms to Make Voting Easier and More Accessible During the Pandemic Are Broadly Popular; Voters Oppose Consolidating Polling Locations

Voting Method Reforms - % Total Support

89%

Lengthening the early voting window and letting voters cast a ballot in-person up through the day before Election Day.

23% support 1st rank

88%

Open additional polling locations to reduce crowds and lines.

18% support 1st rank

87%

Allow Texas voters to cast their ballot at any polling location in their county.

17% support 1st rank

63%

Allowing any registered Texas voter to vote-by-mail.

18% support 1st rank

57%

Mailing all registered Texas voters applications to vote-by-mail.

13% support 1st rank

41%

Consolidate polling locations in anticipation of poll worker shortages.

5% support 1st rank

59% total oppose

23. Switching gears a bit, below are several reforms related to voting in Texas. .By dragging the reforms to the "support" or "oppose" box, please indicate which ones you support and which ones you oppose. Then, by dragging the reforms up and down within each box, please indicate which ones you support the MOST and which ones you oppose the MOST.



Various Ballot Return Options Are Popular

Ballot Return Reforms - % Total Support

66%

Returning ballots received in the mail via secure, local drop-box.

13% support 1st rank

66%

Returning ballots received in the mail at drive-through voting centers.

16% support 1st rank

66%

Counting mail-in ballots postmarked by Election Day, but received after Election Day.

15% support 1st rank

63%

Returning mail-in ballots through the mail WITH postage prepaid by the government.

22% support 1st rank

54%

Counting mail-in ballots postmarked by Election Day and relieved up to 10 days after Election Day.

9% support 1st rank

41%

Allowing registered community organizers to collect and return ballots received in the mail for registered voters.

> 11% support 1st rank 59% total oppose

24.And to help citizens vote safely during the coronavirus outbreak, elections officials in Texas are considering several ways voters can cast or return their ballot in this year's elections. By dragging the proposals to the "support" or "oppose" box, please indicate which ones you support and which ones you oppose. Then, by dragging the proposals up and down within each box, please indicate which ones you support the MOST and which ones you oppose the MOST.



Given Closed Absentee System, Most Intend to Vote in Person

Ballot Return Methods - % Almost Certain/Good Chance

71%

Vote in-person at my neighborhood precinct location

53% almost certain

46%

Return my ballot through the mail with postage paid-for

30% almost certain

38%

Return my ballot at a drive-through voting center

19% almost certain

37%

Return my ballot through the mail, even if postage is not paid-for

21% almost certain

36%

Return my ballot via secure, local drop-box

19% almost certain

9%

Not vote in the 2020 elections

3% almost certain

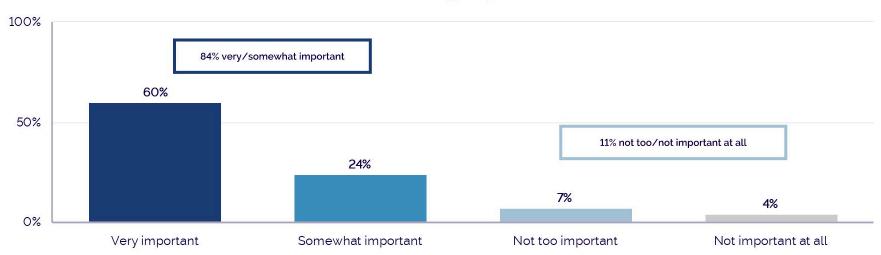
64% no chance

25. And assuming each of the following were available to you in Texas,, how likely would you be to use each of these options for casting your vote or returning your ballot in the upcoming election?



Ballot Tracking Important to Over 8-in-10 Texan Voters; 6-in-10 Indicate it is "Very" Important

Ballot Tracking Importance

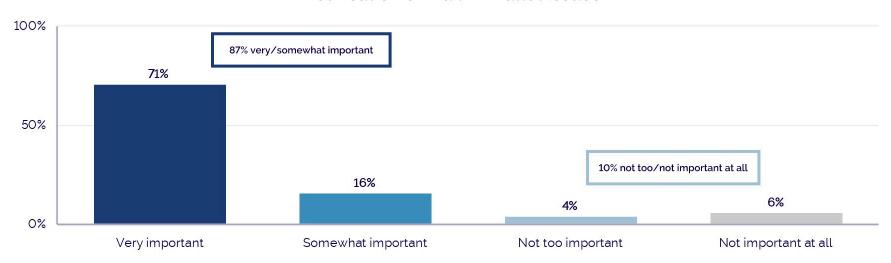


26. And do you think it is very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not important at all for election officials in Texas to allow voters to track the status of their mail-in ballot in case any issues come up?



Consensus Public Opinion Around Notifying Voter If There is a Problem With Their Mail-In Ballot

Notification of Mail-in-Ballot Issues



27. And do you think it is very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not important at all for election officials in Texas to immediately notify voters if there is a problem with their submitted mail-in ballot, such as if they forgot to sign their ballot, so the voter has an opportunity to correct it.



Online and Same-Day Voter Registration Highly Supported by Texas Electorate

Voter Registration Reforms - % Total Support

75%

Allow verified eligible voters to register to vote online

41% support 1st rank

63%

Allow verified eligible voters to register to vote on Election Day.

18% support 1st rank

55%

Remove all voter registration deadlines, allowing verified eligible voters to register to vote any day up to and on Election Day.

18% support 1st rank

45%

Allow verified eligible voters to register to vote online, even if they do not have DMV - issued ID.

9% support 1st rank 54% total oppose

28.Switching gears a bit, below are several reforms related to voter registration in Texas. By dragging the reforms to the "support" or "oppose" box, please indicate which ones you support and which ones you oppose. Then, by dragging the reforms up and down within each box, please indicate which ones you support the MOST and which ones you oppose the MOST.



Fiscal Policy and the Economy

Economic and Fiscal Key Findings: Coronavirus and the Economy

- When it comes to the debate between economic vitality and public health, Texas voters express more concern about health and safety (56 percent) than they do about the pandemic's impact on jobs and income (36 percent).
- Furthermore, voters tend to believe businesses should be required to provide safe working environments and be held liable if they do not (57 percent). Just 1-in-5 voters believes businesses should be protected from liability if an employee gets sick on the job (22 percent).
- Although Texans prioritize health and safety over jobs and income, they do have strong concerns around employment and business closures in Texas. Eight-in-ten voters are concerned about people in Texas losing work and income due to the coronavirus outbreak (83 percent) and 79 percent of voters are concerned about small businesses and restaurants closing down permanently.



Economic and Fiscal Key Findings: Budget and Revenue

- Texas voters want more state investment in services, even if it means they have to pay more in taxes.
- Voters believe Texas state government should invest more in its residents to ensure they are safe, healthy, and economically secure (62 percent), over state government keeping taxes low and cutting funds to key services like education, unemployment, and health insurance (18 percent).
- Furthermore, 2-in-3 voters express concern about the state of Texas losing tax revenues and facing budget cuts in the wake of the pandemic (66 percent).
- At the same time, voters here want corporations and the wealthy to pay their fair share, strongly supporting policies that close corporate tax loopholes, increase taxes and penalties on companies that pollute the state's water, and increase taxes on the wealthiest Texans and corporations.



Economic and Fiscal Key Findings: Economy and Workplace Policies

- Texas voters believe state government should have a role in addressing systematic racism (68 percent), and 59 percent believe the state of Texas should address economic barriers faced by Black people and the Black community.
- Likewise, consensus public opinion emerges around government ensuring equal pay for equal work as 77 percent of voters believe state government should play a role in making gender pay equity a reality.
- Texas voters also support extending the length of time Texans can receive unemployment compensation and increasing the amount laid-off workers receive (60 percent support).
- Most voters (75 percent) also believe government should have a role in ensuring workers have access to paid sick days and paid family leave.
- Similarly, we find 2-in-3 voters believe state government should have a role in ensuring Texans have access to affordable childcare (66 percent).
- It follows that 78 percent of voters support requiring workplaces to provide paid sick days to their
 employees, 79 percent support creating an insurance plan to provide paid family and medical leave for
 employees to care for a sick family member, bond with a new baby, or recover from a major illness or
 injury, and 72 percent support eliminating tax breaks for corporations and large businesses that don't
 provide paid leave to their employees.



Economic and Fiscal Key Findings: Health Policy

- Policies relating to affordable health care and insurance during the coronavirus pandemic surface as some of the top economic proposals tested in this survey.
- Near-consensus public opinion emerges around the following policies related to health insurance and health care:
- Ending surprise medical billing (90 percent support).
- Extending a grace period for people to pay health insurance bills before their coverage can be cancelled (88 percent support).
- Limiting what drug companies can charge for prescription drugs (87 percent support).
- Offering Michiganders the option to buy into the public health insurance plans that are available to state employees (86 percent support).



Texans Want More State Investment, Even if it Means More Taxes

State Investment vs. Tax Cuts



State government in Texas should invest more in the state and its residents, ensuring they are safe, healthy, are economically secure, even if it means some people have to contribute a little more in taxes.



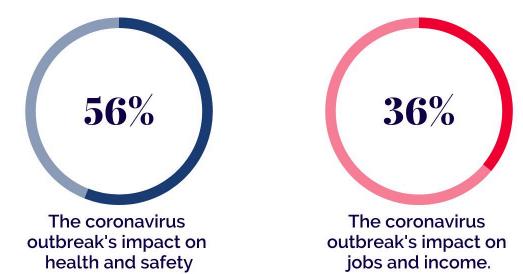
State government in Texas should keep taxes low, even if it means cutting funding for education and infrastructure, and cutting unemployment insurance and healthcare coverage.

14.And which of these statements comes closer to your own view, even if neither of them is exactly right?



Voters Express More Concern About the Pandemic's Impact on Health and Safety Than They Do About Jobs and Income

Health and safety vs. jobs and income



10.And what would you say concerns you more...



Democrats, Independents, Voters of Color, Women Most Likely to Be More Concerned About Health and Safety

Health and Safety vs. Jobs and Income by Key Demographics

	Health and Safety	Jobs and Income	Margin
All voters	56%	36%	+20
ID Democrat	78%	17%	+60
ID independent	56%	34%	+23
ID Republican	35%	57%	-22
White	47%	43%	+5
POC	74%	22%	+52
Men	52%	41%	+11
Women	60%	32%	+28



A Majority of Voters Side With Workplace Safety Argument Over Liability Protections for Corporations

Workplace safety requirements vs. liability protections for corporations



Required to provide safe working conditions and should be penalized if workers get sick due to corporate negligence.



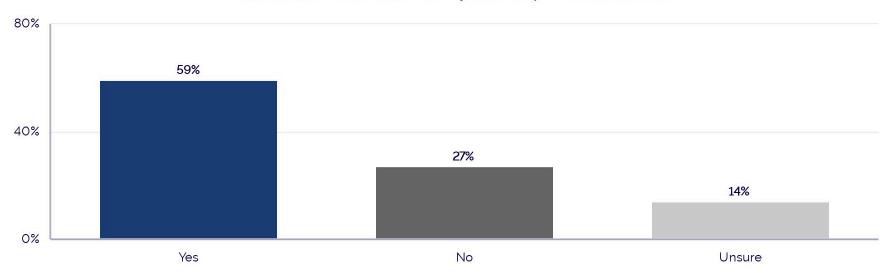
Protected from liability if workers get sick on the job so they can get people back to work.

11. And do you think businesses in Texas should be...



Nearly 3-in-5 Texans Want State Government To Address Economic Barriers Black People And Communities Face

Address Economic Barriers Faced by Black People and Communities



17. Do you believe the state of Texas should address economic barriers faced by Black people and the Black community?



Small Business Loans and Health Care Reforms Are Top Priorities for Texas Voters

Top Tier Economic Proposals - % Total Support

94%

Providing low-interest loans to small businesses to help them make it

> through the crisis. 11% support 1st rank

90%

Banning the practice of surprise medical billing.

13% support 1st rank

88%

Extending a grace period for people to pay health insurance bills before their coverage can be cancelled.

6% support 1st rank

87%

Limiting what drug companies can charge for prescription drugs.

20% support 1st rank

86%

Offering people in Texas the option to buy into the same public health insurance plans that are available to state employees if they want to.

10% support 1st rank



Paid Sick and Family Leave Policies Also Surface As Top Priorities For Texans

Top Tier Economic Proposals - % Total Support

79%

Creating an insurance plan to provide paid family and medical leave for employees to care for a sick family member, bond with a new baby or recover from a major illness or injury.

4% support 1st rank

78%

Requiring workplaces to provide paid sick days to their employees.

9% support 1st rank

72%

Eliminating tax breaks for corporations and large businesses that don't offer paid sick and family leave and health care to their employees.

6% 1st rank



Tax Credit and Medicaid Expansion, Out-of-Network Cost Protections Slightly Less Salient, But Still Widely Supported Overall

Middle Tier Economic Proposals - % Total Support

76%

Protecting patients from having to pay the costs not covered by their insurance when treated at an out-of-network hospital or by

5% support 1st rank

75%

Expanding a tax credit to provide extra income to working people with low incomes.

6% support 1st rank

69%

Expanding the number of people who can get healthcare through Medicaid to cover more uninsured people who otherwise can't afford healthcare coverage.

6% support 1st rank



Texans Reject Anti-Worker Policies

Bottom Tier Economic Proposals - % Total Oppose

83%

Allowing businesses to pay less than the minimum wage

45% oppose 1st rank

82%

Allowing businesses to stop paying more for overtime hours.

18% oppose 1st rank



Three-in-Five Texas Voters Support Extending the Length of Time Laid-Off Workers Can Receive Unemployment Benefits

Economic Proposals - % Total support

60%

Extending the length of time that laid-off workers can receive unemployment compensation and increasing the amount that they receive.

4% support 1st rank

40% total oppose



Democrats, Independents, Younger Voters, and Voters of Color Most Supportive of Extending Unemployment Benefits

Extending length of unemployment benefits by key demographics

	Support	Oppose
All voters	60%	40%
ID Democrat	81%	19%
ID independent	59%	41%
ID Republican	39%	61%
Under 50	70%	30%
Over 50	49%	51%
White	49%	51%
POC	78%	22%



Array of Revenue Raisers Supported by Texas Voters

Top Tier Revenue Proposals - % Total Support



Close corporate tax loopholes.

35% support 1st rank



Increase taxes and financial penalties on companies that pollute Texas' air and water.

17% support 1st rank

71%

Increase taxes on the wealthiest individuals in Texas.

16% support 1st rank

70%

Create a carbon tax paid by companies based on how much carbon they emit.

6% support 1st rank

68%

Increase taxes on those making over \$250,000 a year in Texas.

6% support 1st rank

64%

Increase taxes on profitable corporations in Texas.

7% support 1st rank

20. As you may know, states, counties, and towns across the country are seeing tax receipts and tax revenues fall dramatically due to the coronavirus crisis and economic slowdown. Below are some proposals that are being considered to raise revenue for the state of Texas to prevent large budget cuts to things like education, health care, infrastructure, and human services. By dragging the proposals to the "support" or "oppose" box, please indicate which ones you support and which ones you oppose. Then, by dragging the proposals up and down within each box, please indicate which ones you support the MOST and which ones you oppose the MOST.



Increasing Capital Gains Taxes, Sales Taxes, and Motor Vehicle Fees Far Less Popular

Bottom Tier Revenue Proposals - % Total Support

48%

Increase capital gains taxes on things like stocks and investment portfolios.

52% total oppose

2% support 1st rank

43%

Apply the existing sales tax in Texas to online purchases, including subscription services like Netflix and Amazon Prime.

57% total oppose

3% support 1st rank

39%

Apply the existing sales tax in Texas to services like car repairs, haircuts, accounting, and legal services.

61% total oppose

2% support 1st rank

38%

Increase motor vehicle fees and fines for speeding tickets and other moving violations.

62% total oppose

4% support 1st rank

18%

Increase the sales tax in Texas.

82% total oppose

1% support 1st rank

20. As you may know, states, counties, and towns across the country are seeing tax receipts and tax revenues fall dramatically due to the coronavirus crisis and economic slowdown. Below are some proposals that are being considered to raise revenue for the state of Texas to prevent large budget cuts to things like education, health care, infrastructure, and human services. By dragging the proposals to the "support" or "oppose" box, please indicate which ones you support and which ones you oppose. Then, by dragging the proposals up and down within each box, please indicate which ones you support the MOST and which ones you oppose the MOST.



Coronavirus

Over 1-in-3 Texas Voters Have Been Laid Off or Had Their Hours or Pay Cut

Coronavirus Impact



8. Have you or any member of your household been laid off, had work hours reduced, or their pay cut as a result of the coronavirus outbreak, or was nobody in your household employed before the outbreak?



Employment and Small Business Closures Surface As Most Salient Coronavirus Concerns, Followed Closely by People Contracting the Virus

Top Tier Concerns - % total concerned

83%

People in Texas losing work and income due to the coronavirus outbreak.

56% very concerned

79%

Small businesses and restaurants closing down permanently in Texas.

53% very concerned

74%

People in Texas contracting the virus, getting sick, and potentially dying.

52% very concerned

72%

People in Texas not being able to afford their rent or mortgage payments.

50% very concerned

70%

People in Texas being forced to choose between their health and their job.

49% very concerned

66%

The state of Texas losing tax revenues and facing budget cuts.

28% very concerned

Q.13 Please indicate if you are very concerned, somewhat concerned, a little concerned at all about each of the following concerns people in Texas might have due to the coronavirus outbreak.



A Majority of Voters Also Express Concerns About the Impact on Voting and the Disproportionate Impact Coronavirus Has on Black Communities

Second Tier Concerns - % total concerned

59%

The coronavirus outbreak preventing Texas citizens from voting in this year's elections.

37% very concerned

58%

Problems with administering elections in Texas, like long lines on Election Day.

32% total concerned

52%

The disproportionate impact of the coronavirus on the Black community.

31% total concerned

Q.13 Please indicate if you are very concerned, somewhat concerned, a little concerned at all about each of the following concerns people in Texas might have due to the coronavirus outbreak.



Concerns About Losing Work and Income Span Party Lines

Top Coronavirus Concerns by Party ID - % total concerned



1. Contracting coronavirus - 91%

2. Losing work and income - 90%

3. Health vs. Job - 85%



1. Losing work and income - 78%

2. Contracting coronavirus - 74%

3. Small business closures - 73%



ID Republican

1. Small business closures - 80%

2. Losing work and income - 78%

3. Rent and mortgage payments - 63%

Q.13 Please indicate if you are very concerned, somewhat concerned, a little concerned at all about each of the following concerns people in Texas might have due to the coronavirus outbreak.



Recommendations

Democracy and Voting Narrative

- Texas voters want state government to play an active role in safely and fairly administering elections, and a majority of voters are confident in it's ability to do so. The voting and democracy narrative should focus on legislators' active roles in election administration to ensure voters have safe and accessible ways to vote.
- The narrative should be centered on legislators' efforts to ensure safe and secure elections, regardless of how voters choose to vote.
- Since voting early in-person is the most popular vote method with this electorate, legislators should highlight efforts to increase safety and sanitation at early voting cites and lengthening the early voting window to allow voters cast ballots in-person up through the day before Election Day.



Fiscal Policy and Economy Narrative

- Given the pandemic's acute impact on Texas, it comes as no surprise that Texans are more concerned about the pandemic's impact public health than they are about the economy. That said, legislators must recognize the profound level of concern Texas voters have about lost income and small business closures.
- Texans also want state government to invest more in services to ensure residents are safe, healthy, and economically secure.
- Legislators should speak to these economic anxieties by foregrounding the highly popular progressive agenda for working people that includes efforts to provide paid sick and family leave, affordable child care, unemployment compensation, and equal pay for equal work.
- Health care policy is another clear opportunity to engage policies that make health care more affordable during the coronavirus resonate strongly with voters, particularly ending surprise medical billing, lowering prescription drug costs, offering public health insurance plans, and extending grace periods to pay medical bills.



Questions?