



O'Rourke (D) and Cruz (R) Battle for Texas' Senate Seat

Immigration is the strongest motivator to vote for likely voters

Washington, D.C., September 19, 2018 — Today, Ipsos released new election data in partnership with Reuters and the University of Virginia Center for Politics, showing that Democrat Beto O'Rourke (47%) and Republican Ted Cruz (45%) are tied in their race for Texas' Senate seat. Likely voters are also split on their choices for Congress — 47% report they would vote for a Democrat candidate compared to 45% who would vote for a Republican. Looking toward the governor's race, Republican Greg Abbott (50%) enjoys a lead over Democrat Lupe Valdez (41%) among likely voters.

Texans who are likely to vote are more optimistic about the state of affairs within Texas (54%) than the country as a whole (43%). In terms of the most important issue of the day facing the nation, Texans cite immigration (19%) and healthcare (18%). Immigration (18%) is also the strongest motivating issue for likely voters in Texas to actually make it to the polls.

Likely voters are also split on President Trump's job performance, with 47% reporting they approve of the job he is doing as president compared to 53% who disapprove. When asked about their motivation to vote, 53% of likely voters said they are motivated to vote for a candidate that will oppose President Trump, and 48% reported they were motivated to vote for a candidate who would support Trump.

For more information on Texas and other races, please reference the [Political Atlas](#), an interactive website collaboration between Ipsos and the University of Virginia Center for Politics.

The Political Atlas site provides daily updates of the main issues affecting citizens in all 50 states, along with poll and social media indicators for every congressional, senate, and gubernatorial race in the country, with expert assessments. Bringing this to the midterms provides further resolution to the ebbs and flows of the campaigns. Ipsos uses machine learning and natural language processing algorithms to collect and categorize over 5 million individual posts a day.

Address: 2020 K Street NW, Suite 410
Washington, DC 20006
Tel: +1 202 463-7300

Contact: **Chris Jackson**
Vice President, U.S., Ipsos Public Affairs
Email: chris.jackson@ipsos.com
Tel: +1 202 420-2025



Press Release – continued –

For more information on this news release, please contact:

Chris Jackson
Vice President, U.S.
Ipsos Public Affairs
+1 202 420-2025
chris.jackson@ipsos.com

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www.ipsos.com

Address: 2020 K Street NW, Suite 410
Washington, DC 20006
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Contact: **Chris Jackson**
Vice President, U.S., Ipsos Public Affairs
Email: chris.jackson@ipsos.com
Tel: +1 202 420-2025