



# Cruz (R) Has a Slight Lead Over O'Rourke (D) in the Texas Senate Race

## Immigration cited as the strongest motivator to vote among likely voters

**Washington, D.C., October 24, 2018** — Today, Ipsos released new election data in partnership with Reuters and the University of Virginia Center for Politics, showing that Republican Ted Cruz (49%) holds a slight lead over Democrat Beto O'Rourke (44%) in the Texas Senate race among likely voters. In the generic ballot question, Republicans also lead Democrats by 6 points (49% to 43%, respectively). In the race for Governor, Republican Greg Abbott (53%) holds a 15-point lead over Democrat Lupe Valdez (38%).

Likely voters are split down the middle over the way Donald Trump is handling his job as President, with 50% who approve as opposed to 49% who disapprove. Similarly, 52% of likely voters say they are motivated to vote for a candidate who will oppose President Trump, compared to 48% who say they are not. However, 60% of likely voters disapprove of the way Congress as a whole is handling its job, and 52% support the confirmation of Brett Kavanaugh as Justice to the Supreme Court.

The top issues in determining the vote in Texas are immigration (17%), the economy (15%), and healthcare (15%). On immigration, 48% of likely voters feel that Cruz has the better policy as opposed to 38% who feel that O'Rourke has the better policy.

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 midterm election 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.

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## Press Release – continued –

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