



PUBLIC POLL FINDINGS AND METHODOLOGY

Twice as many Texans prefer to vote in person instead of by mail

Spectrum News/Ipsos poll finds that only half are confident their vote would count if they voted by mail

Topline Findings

Washington, DC, October 21, 2020

These are the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between October 7-14, 2020 on behalf of Spectrum News. For this survey, a sample of 1,000 adults age 18+ from Texas was interviewed online in English. The poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points for all respondents.

For full results, please refer to the following annotated questionnaire:

Full Annotated Questionnaire

		Texas (N=1,000)
1. Which of the following do you consider to be the main problem facing Texas today? You may select up to three.	Healthcare	24%
	Crime or violence	21%
	Immigration	26%
	Unemployment	25%
	Education	14%
	Taxes	10%
	Climate change/natural disasters	11%
	COVID-19/coronavirus	57%
	Racial injustice	20%
	Opioid or drug addiction	7%
	Affordable housing	13%
	Gun control	11%
	Agriculture	0%
	Homelessness	0%
	Police reform	0%
	Air quality	0%
2. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Greg Abbott is handling his job as governor?	Abortion	0%
	Other	2%
	None of these	2%
	Strongly approve	20%
	Somewhat approve	31%
	Somewhat disapprove	18%
	Strongly disapprove	19%
	Don't know	13%
NET	Approve	51%
	Disapprove	37%

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5. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Greg Abbott is handling the following?	COVID-19	Strongly approve	19%
		Somewhat approve	29%
		Somewhat disapprove	18%
		Strongly disapprove	25%
		Don't know	9%
	NET	Approve	48%
		Disapprove	43%
	Jobs and the economy	Strongly approve	19%
		Somewhat approve	34%
		Somewhat disapprove	19%
		Strongly disapprove	15%
		Don't know	13%
	NET	Approve	53%
		Disapprove	35%
	Crime and public safety	Strongly approve	20%
		Somewhat approve	32%
		Somewhat disapprove	22%
		Strongly disapprove	14%
		Don't know	12%
	NET	Approve	52%
		Disapprove	35%
	Protests and social unrest	Strongly approve	19%
		Somewhat approve	29%
		Somewhat disapprove	20%
		Strongly disapprove	17%
		Don't know	16%
	NET	Approve	47%
		Disapprove	37%
	Plans for sending children back to school	Strongly approve	17%
		Somewhat approve	29%
		Somewhat disapprove	21%
		Strongly disapprove	23%
		Don't know	11%
	NET	Approve	45%
		Disapprove	44%
	Climate change	Strongly approve	15%
		Somewhat approve	25%
		Somewhat disapprove	17%
		Strongly disapprove	18%
		Don't know	25%
	NET	Approve	40%
		Disapprove	35%
7. How would you rate how the following are handling the COVID-19 pandemic?	The federal government	Excellent	9%
		Good	25%
		Just fair	23%
		Poor	39%
		Don't know	5%
	NET	Excellent/Good	34%
		Just fair/Poor	61%

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7. How would you rate how the following are handling the COVID-19 pandemic?	Your state government	Excellent	11%
		Good	31%
		Just fair	27%
		Poor	28%
		Don't know	3%
	NET	Excellent/Good	42%
		Just fair/Poor	55%
	Your local/city government	Excellent	15%
		Good	38%
		Just fair	27%
		Poor	17%
		Don't know	3%
	NET	Excellent/Good	52%
		Just fair/Poor	45%
8. In light of the current circumstances, how long do you think it will be before life in your city or community will get back to normal?	In light of the current circumstances, how long do you think it will be before life in your city or community will get back to normal?	Less than a month	2%
		1-2 months	5%
		3-under 6 months	12%
		6 months-1 year	32%
		Longer than a year	33%
		Never	6%
		Don't know	11%
	NET	Under 6 months	19%
		6 months or longer	65%
9. How likely are you to vote in the upcoming presidential election?	How likely are you to vote in the upcoming presidential election?	Very likely	61%
		Somewhat likely	11%
		Somewhat unlikely	3%
		Very unlikely	13%
		I have already voted	8%
		Don't know	5%
	NET	Likely	71%
		Unlikely	16%
10. Thinking about the upcoming presidential election, regardless of your plans to vote (including if you have already voted), what would be your preferred method of voting this year?	Thinking about the upcoming presidential election, regardless of your plans to vote (including if you have already voted), what would be your preferred method of voting this year?	In-person on Election Day	22%
		In-person before Election Day	36%
		By mail or absentee ballot	23%
		By dropping off your ballot at an election office or polling place	6%
		Other	1%
		I do not plan to vote	12%
11. Regardless of your plan to vote, how confident are you that your vote will be counted if you voted...	In-person on Election Day	Very confident	51%
		Somewhat confident	27%
		Not very confident	9%
		Not confident at all	7%
		Don't know	7%
	NET	Confident	78%
		Not confident	15%
	In-person before Election Day	Very confident	50%
		Somewhat confident	26%
		Not very confident	10%
		Not confident at all	7%
		Don't know	8%
	NET	Confident	76%
		Not confident	17%

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11. Regardless of your plan to vote, how confident are you that your vote will be counted if you voted...	By mail or absentee ballot	Very confident	23%
		Somewhat confident	28%
		Not very confident	23%
		Not confident at all	19%
		Don't know	9%
	NET	Confident	50%
		Not confident	41%
	By dropping off your ballot at an election office or polling place	Very confident	28%
		Somewhat confident	33%
		Not very confident	18%
		Not confident at all	12%
		Don't know	8%
	NET	Confident	61%
		Not confident	31%
12. How concerned are you about the possibility of mail-in voting fraud?	How concerned are you about the possibility of mail-in voting fraud?	Very concerned	33%
		Somewhat concerned	28%
		Not very concerned	15%
		Not at all concerned	17%
		Don't know	6%
	NET	Concerned	62%
13. How likely are you to trust the outcome of the presidential election, regardless of who wins?		Not concerned	32%
		Very likely	24%
		Somewhat likely	36%
		Somewhat unlikely	15%
		Very unlikely	9%
		Don't know	16%
	NET	Likely	59%
		Unlikely	24%
14. Have the following made you more or less favorable towards President Donald Trump ahead of this November's election?	The handling of the current vacancy in the U.S. Supreme Court	Much more favorable	18%
		Somewhat more favorable	15%
		No impact	20%
		Somewhat less favorable	9%
		Much less favorable	30%
		Don't know	8%
	NET	More favorable	33%
		Less favorable	39%
	The nomination of Amy Coney Barrett to the U.S. Supreme Court	Much more favorable	19%
		Somewhat more favorable	16%
		No impact	22%
		Somewhat less favorable	9%
		Much less favorable	27%
		Don't know	8%
	NET	More favorable	35%
		Less favorable	35%
	The recent reporting on Trump's tax returns	Much more favorable	9%
		Somewhat more favorable	9%
		No impact	32%
		Somewhat less favorable	10%
		Much less favorable	33%
		Don't know	8%
	NET	More favorable	18%
		Less favorable	42%

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14. Have the following made you more or less favorable towards President Donald Trump ahead of this November's election?	The national recovery plan from the coronavirus	Much more favorable	14%
		Somewhat more favorable	18%
		No impact	18%
		Somewhat less favorable	11%
		Much less favorable	32%
		Don't know	7%
	NET	More favorable	32%
		Less favorable	43%
	Trump's performance in the first presidential debate	Much more favorable	12%
		Somewhat more favorable	13%
		No impact	23%
		Somewhat less favorable	11%
		Much less favorable	35%
		Don't know	6%
	NET	More favorable	25%
		Less favorable	46%
	Trump's handling of jobs and the economy	Much more favorable	21%
		Somewhat more favorable	18%
		No impact	15%
		Somewhat less favorable	11%
		Much less favorable	28%
		Don't know	6%
	NET	More favorable	39%
		Less favorable	40%
	The fact that Trump contracted COVID-19	Much more favorable	12%
		Somewhat more favorable	11%
		No impact	36%
		Somewhat less favorable	10%
		Much less favorable	24%
		Don't know	7%
	NET	More favorable	23%
		Less favorable	34%
	Trump's public comments around mask wearing and social distancing	Much more favorable	12%
		Somewhat more favorable	13%
		No impact	22%
		Somewhat less favorable	11%
		Much less favorable	36%
		Don't know	6%
	NET	More favorable	26%
		Less favorable	47%
15. President Trump recently announced that he had tested positive for COVID-19. What impact, if any, do you think this announcement will have on the upcoming election?		Major impact	25%
		Minor impact	31%
		No impact	30%
		Don't know	14%
18. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?	There should be a state law in Texas mandating that masks be worn at all times in public	Strongly agree	44%
		Somewhat agree	21%
		Somewhat disagree	14%
		Strongly disagree	15%
		Don't know	6%
	NET	Agree	65%
		Disagree	29%

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18. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?	There are an adequate number of COVID-19 testing sites in my community	Strongly agree	20%
		Somewhat agree	35%
		Somewhat disagree	15%
		Strongly disagree	10%
		Don't know	20%
	NET	Agree	55%
		Disagree	25%
	I feel comfortable dining inside a restaurant	Strongly agree	19%
		Somewhat agree	29%
		Somewhat disagree	21%
		Strongly disagree	26%
		Don't know	5%
	NET	Agree	48%
		Disagree	47%
	I will take the first generation COVID-19 vaccine when it is approved by the FDA	Strongly agree	18%
		Somewhat agree	26%
		Somewhat disagree	16%
		Strongly disagree	24%
		Don't know	15%
	NET	Agree	44%
		Disagree	41%
	I am having trouble, or have had trouble, paying my bills as a result of COVID-19	Strongly agree	23%
		Somewhat agree	23%
		Somewhat disagree	20%
		Strongly disagree	28%
		Don't know	6%
	NET	Agree	46%
		Disagree	48%
	COVID-19 lockdowns in my community have been too restrictive	Strongly agree	12%
		Somewhat agree	20%
		Somewhat disagree	31%
		Strongly disagree	30%
		Don't know	7%
	NET	Agree	32%
		Disagree	61%
		IF EMPLOYED	N=527
	I feel comfortable returning to my workplace right now	Strongly agree	30%
		Somewhat agree	32%
		Somewhat disagree	17%
		Strongly disagree	14%
		Don't know	6%
	NET	Agree	62%
		Disagree	31%
19. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?		IF CHILD AGE 5-17	N=270
	My child is falling behind in school because of COVID-19	Strongly agree	21%
		Somewhat agree	27%
		Somewhat disagree	26%
		Strongly disagree	22%
		Don't know	5%
	NET	Agree	48%
		Disagree	47%

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19. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?	All colleges and universities in Texas should be closed and only offer virtual classes	Strongly agree	24%
		Somewhat agree	30%
		Somewhat disagree	22%
		Strongly disagree	14%
		Don't know	10%
	NET	Agree	54%
		Disagree	36%
	My local school district is handling the COVID-19 pandemic well	Strongly agree	15%
		Somewhat agree	38%
		Somewhat disagree	18%
		Strongly disagree	10%
		Don't know	19%
	NET	Agree	53%
		Disagree	28%
		IF CHILD AGE 5-17	N=270
	I feel that my child is, or would be, safe attending school in-person	Strongly agree	17%
		Somewhat agree	27%
		Somewhat disagree	24%
		Strongly disagree	26%
		Don't know	6%
	NET	Agree	44%
		Disagree	50%
		IF CHILD AGE 5-17	N=270
	My child has the necessary tools to learn in the current environment	Strongly agree	39%
		Somewhat agree	38%
		Somewhat disagree	14%
		Strongly disagree	5%
		Don't know	6%
	NET	Agree	76%
		Disagree	18%
20a. Regarding COVID-19, which of the following are true to you? Select all that apply.		I have been tested and diagnosed with COVID-19	5%
		A relative has been tested and diagnosed with COVID-19	25%
		A friend or acquaintance has been tested and diagnosed with COVID-19	34%
		A relative or friend has died from COVID-19	14%
		I suspect I have or had COVID-19	6%
		Someone I know suspects they have or had COVID-19	13%
		None of the above	43%
21. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?	Police using excessive force against Black or African Americans is a widespread problem	Strongly agree	33%
		Somewhat agree	27%
		Somewhat disagree	17%
		Strongly disagree	15%
		Don't know	8%
	NET	Agree	60%
		Disagree	32%

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21. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?	The recent protests regarding racial justice will bring about positive change in our society	Strongly agree	13%
		Somewhat agree	27%
		Somewhat disagree	21%
		Strongly disagree	24%
		Don't know	15%
	NET	Agree	40%
		Disagree	45%
	Black Americans receive equal treatment to white Americans in this country	Strongly agree	19%
		Somewhat agree	22%
		Somewhat disagree	23%
		Strongly disagree	29%
		Don't know	7%
	NET	Agree	41%
		Disagree	53%
	Racism is a significant problem in Texas	Strongly agree	31%
		Somewhat agree	28%
		Somewhat disagree	17%
		Strongly disagree	14%
		Don't know	10%
	NET	Agree	59%
		Disagree	31%
	Lately, I do not feel safe in my community	Strongly agree	12%
		Somewhat agree	22%
		Somewhat disagree	29%
		Strongly disagree	29%
		Don't know	9%
	NET	Agree	34%
		Disagree	58%
	I support reducing my local police department's budget in order to increase investment in social programs	Strongly agree	17%
		Somewhat agree	19%
		Somewhat disagree	17%
		Strongly disagree	36%
		Don't know	12%
	NET	Agree	36%
		Disagree	53%
	I support the Black Lives Matter movement	Strongly agree	29%
		Somewhat agree	26%
		Somewhat disagree	11%
		Strongly disagree	24%
		Don't know	10%
	NET	Agree	55%
		Disagree	35%
	Statues of Confederate leaders should be removed from public spaces	Strongly agree	20%
		Somewhat agree	19%
		Somewhat disagree	16%
		Strongly disagree	31%
		Don't know	15%
	NET	Agree	39%
		Disagree	47%

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34. How much do you support or oppose the following?	All Texans being able to vote by mail without needing an excuse	Strongly support	32%
		Somewhat support	24%
		Somewhat oppose	16%
		Strongly oppose	18%
		Don't know	11%
	NET	Support	56%
		Oppose	34%
	Legalization of marijuana in Texas	Strongly support	35%
		Somewhat support	22%
		Somewhat oppose	15%
		Strongly oppose	18%
		Don't know	10%
	NET	Support	57%
		Oppose	33%
	Giving DACA recipients a pathway to citizenship	Strongly support	33%
		Somewhat support	28%
		Somewhat oppose	12%
		Strongly oppose	10%
		Don't know	18%
	NET	Support	61%
		Oppose	22%
	Making gun laws in Texas less strict	Strongly support	18%
		Somewhat support	21%
		Somewhat oppose	20%
		Strongly oppose	31%
		Don't know	10%
	NET	Support	39%
		Oppose	51%



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About the Study

These are some of the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between October 7-15, 2020, on behalf of Spectrum News. For this survey, a sample of 1,000 adults age 18+ from Texas was interviewed online in English.

The sample for this study was randomly drawn from Ipsos' online panel (see link below for more info on "Access Panels and Recruitment"), partner online panel sources, and "river" sampling (see link below for more info on the Ipsos "Ampario Overview" sample method) and does not rely on a population frame in the traditional sense. Ipsos uses fixed sample targets, unique to each study, in drawing a sample. After a sample has been obtained from the Ipsos panel, Ipsos calibrates respondent characteristics to be representative of the population of Texas using standard procedures such as raking-ratio adjustments. The source of these population targets is U.S. Census 2019 American Community Survey data. The sample drawn for this study reflects fixed sample targets on demographics. Posthoc weights were made to the population characteristics on gender, age, race/ethnicity, and education.

Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online non-probability polls. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error and measurement error. Where figures do not sum to 100, this is due to the effects of rounding. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points for all respondents. Ipsos calculates a design effect (DEFF) for each study based on the variation of the weights, following the formula of Kish (1965). This study had a credibility interval adjusted for design effect of the following (n=1,000, DEFF=1.5, adjusted Confidence Interval=+/- 5.0 percentage points).

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