



Dallas Morning News & UT Tyler Release January Poll

Democratic Primary: Biden Has Commanding Lead

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Tyler, Texas – In the first of five Dallas Morning News-UT Tyler collaborative statewide surveys in 2020, the Democratic primary is shaping up to be dominated by former Vice President Joe Biden, whose lead widens to 35 percent support since our November poll. His closest rival is Senator Bernie Sanders (18%). Newcomer former-mayor of New York City Mike Bloomberg catapults to third-place contention, tied with Warren at 16 percent support.

First choice in the Democratic primary

For respondents who identify as Democrat or Independent leaning Democrat, who is your first choice in the Democratic primary?

Candidate	Dem	Ind.	White	Hispanic	Black
Joe Biden	38%	30%	27%	33%	50%
Michael Bennett	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%
Michael Bloomberg	13%	23%	20%	12%	13%
Pete Buttigieg	4%	5%	9%	3%	0%
John Delaney	1%	0%	2%	2%	<1%
Tulsi Gabbard	1%	2%	2%	0%	1%
Amy Klobuchar	3%	2%	4%	3%	2%
Deval Patrick	<1%	0%	<1%	0%	0%
Bernie Sanders	19%	21%	12%	30%	18%
Tom Steyer	1%	3%	2%	1%	1%
Elizabeth Warren	17%	11%	20%	13%	12%
Andrew Yang	3%	3%	2%	5%	2%
Total	335	82	221	89	96

Total responses: 441. Margin of error: +/- 2.87%
SOURCE: Dallas Morning News/UT Tyler Poll. Survey dates from Jan. 21 - Jan. 30, 2020

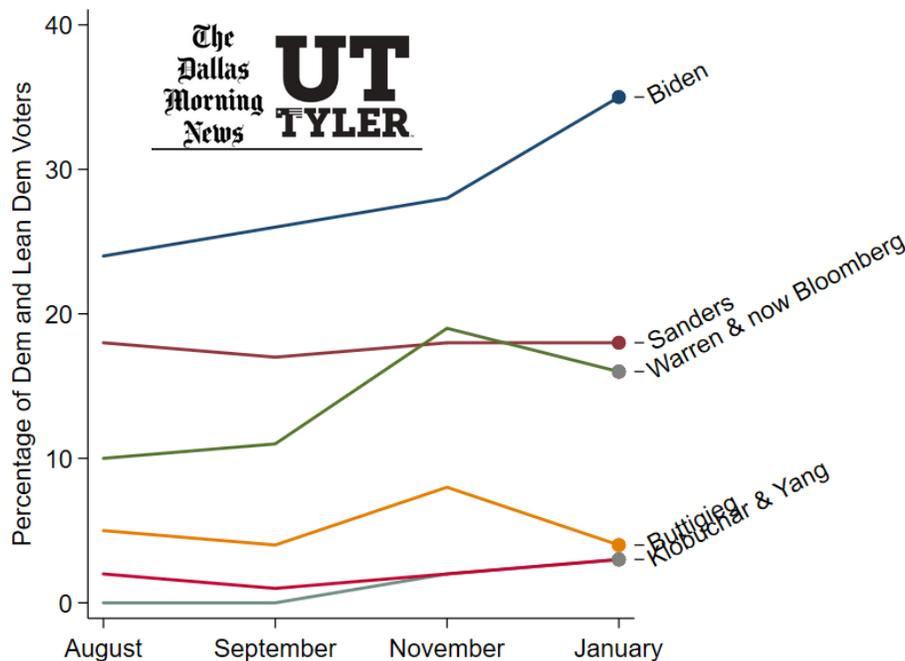
Biden is buoyed by leads among all key demographic groups within the Democratic party. Significantly, he leads among African-Americans (commanding 50% support), older voters, and (for the first time in our survey) Latino voters (33%). That said, Senator Sanders

remains the most popular candidate among voters between the ages of 18 and 29 years and he still earns 30 percent support among Latinos.

Kenneth Bryant, Jr., Assistant Professor of Political Science at The University of Texas at Tyler, says that “Mayor Bloomberg’s ascendance is largely attributed to his popularity among white, older voters and moderates. In fact, he and Biden appear to share these demographics. When asked to identify their second choice candidate for the Democratic primary, over one third of Bloomberg first-choice voters selected Biden.”

Trends in Candidate Preference from August to Today

For respondents who identify Democratic or Independents that Lean Democrat, who is your first choice in the Democratic Primary? Here we show the history of the current top seven candidates.



Note: The percentages track the support for each candidate at that time. During these surveys other candidates dropped out including, Beto O’Rourke (24% in Sept.), Kamala Harris (5% in Nov.), Julian Castro (4% in Nov.), and Cory Booker (2% in Nov).

The vast majority of Texas Democrats remain undecided on the U.S. senate primary. No candidate is winning double-digit support nor leading outside of the margin of error. That said, among those that do have an opinion, “Candidates like State Senator Royce West (D-23) and Houston City Councilwoman Amanda Edwards have clear leads in the metropolitan areas they represent, which indicates candidates are currently relying on support from areas where voters are familiar with their service,” says Assistant Professor Mark Owens.

President Donald Trump’s job approval is up from our last survey in November. The President’s approval stands at 45 percent approval among all registered Texans. His

disapproval stands at 47 percent with 8 percent not sure. When asked to consider whether President Trump should or should not be removed from office, 43 percent support removal and 48 percent do not. Nine percent of respondents were not sure. These results suggest that, among Texans, there is both an ambivalence about removing Trump from office and a rallying around the president among Republicans (whose overwhelming support explains his steady overall approval).

President Trump's job approval rating

In general, do you approve or disapprove of the way President Trump is handling his job as President?

Answer	Overall	Dem.	Rep.	Ind.
Approve	45%	9%	83%	28%
Disapprove	47%	86%	12%	51%
Don't know	8%	5%	5%	21%
Total	1,110	380	500	230

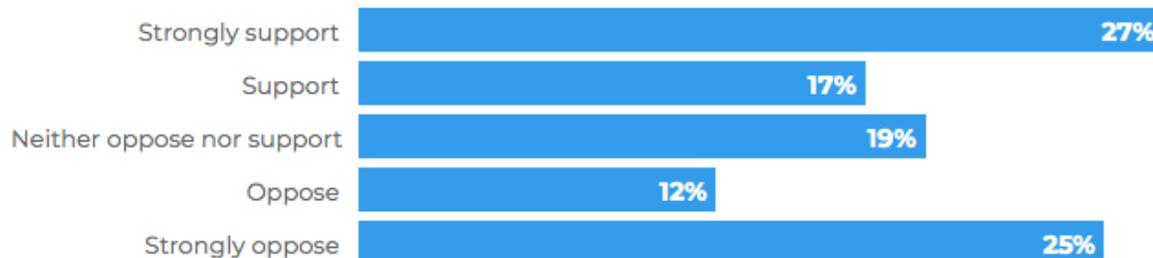
Total responses: 1,110. Margin of error: +/- 2.87%
 SOURCE: Dallas Morning News/UT Tyler Poll. Survey dates from Jan. 21 - Jan. 30, 2020

One year out from the 2020 election, President Trump is leading all Democrats in head to head contests. He narrowly leads Joe Biden (+2) and Mike Bloomberg (+3), but both leads are within the margin of error. His reelection prospects appear stronger against Bernie Sanders (+6), Elizabeth Warren (+7). Pete Buttigieg, Amy Klobuchar, and Tom Steyer all trail by double-digits.

On gun issues, a plurality of Texans (44%) now support a mandatory buyback program to turn in all assault weapons for payment (37% oppose). This is a significant shift from our November survey, which found a near the opposite support and opposition for such a program. Our January results indicate that both Republicans and Independents have once again changed their minds. Largely returning to broad ambivalence (as opposed to antipathy) since our last survey.

Assault weapon buyback program

Do you support or oppose a mandatory buyback program to turn in all assault weapons for payment?



Total responses: 1,147. Margin of error: +/- 2.87%
 SOURCE: Dallas Morning News/UT Tyler Poll. Survey dates from Jan. 21 - Jan. 30, 2020

Methodology

The Dallas Morning News-UT Tyler survey reflects a statewide random sample of 1,169 registered voters during the ten days between January 21 and January 30. The mixed mode sample includes 305 registered voters who took the survey by phone and 864 registered voters that were randomly selected from a panel of registered voters that have opted-in to take surveys through a company called Dynata. The online and phone surveys were conducted in English and Spanish.

The data were weighted to be representative of the Texas register voter population. Iterative weighting was used to balance sample demographics to the state population parameters. The sample is balanced to match parameters for gender, age, race/ethnicity, and education using an iterated process known as raking. These parameters were derived from 2018 Current Population Survey to reflect Texas's electorate. The use of these weights in statistical analysis ensures that the characteristics of the sample closely reflect the characteristics of registered voters in Texas.

In this poll, the sampling error for 1,169 registered voters in Texas is +/- 2.87 percentage points at a 95 percent confidence interval. The survey's design asked additional questions to 427 registered voters who identify with the Democratic Party as members or independents that lean towards the party (margin of error of +/- 4.44%). Additionally, voters who identify with the Republican Party or independents that lean towards the party comprised another sub-sample of 552 registered voters (margin of error of +/- 4.14%).

Visit <http://www.uttyler.edu/politicalscience/pollingcenter> for more information about our current and previous studies.

Established in 1885, *The Dallas Morning News* is Texas' leading newspaper and the flagship newspaper and media subsidiary of A. H. Belo Corporation. It has received nine Pulitzer Prizes since 1986, as well as numerous other industry awards recognizing the quality of its investigative and feature journalism, design and photo journalism. Its portfolio of print and digital products reaches an average daily audience of more than 1.1 million people. *The Dallas Morning News* publishes daily; *Al Día* weekly; and *Briefing* twice-weekly.

A member of the prestigious UT System, The University of Texas at Tyler focuses on student success and innovative research in the more than 80 undergraduate and graduate degree programs offered. With more than 10,000 students, UT Tyler has facilities in Tyler, Longview, Palestine and Houston.

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