

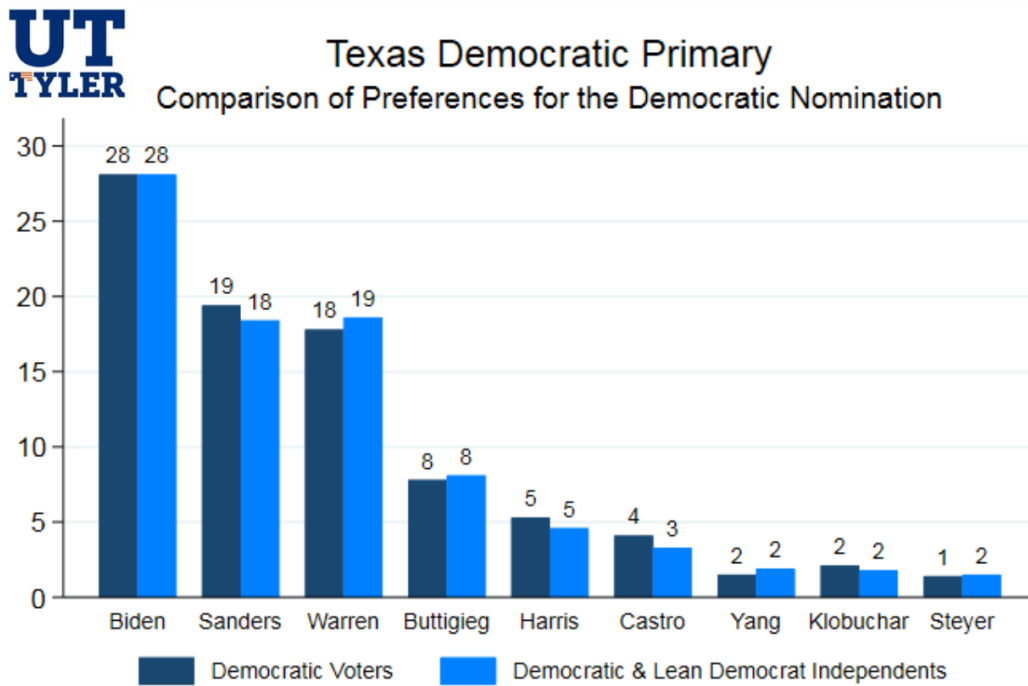


UT Tyler Releases Pre-Debate Poll

Biden & Warren Gain More Support Among Democrats in Texas. Also, Clear Coalitions are forming in the Democratic Senate Race

Released: **Monday, November 18, 2019**

Tyler, Texas – In the first post-Beto Texas statewide survey of the Democratic field, former Vice President Joe Biden holds a commanding lead with 28 percent support. His closest rivals are Senators Bernie Sanders (19%) and Elizabeth Warren (18%). 11 percent of Texas Democrats remain undecided. This survey gives an early look at the Democratic primary in Texas after 20 percent of the voters were without their leading candidate at the start of the month.



Surveys from 427 Democratic Voters between November 5-14. Margin of Error 4.7%
All other candidates received less than 1.5% support.

Biden is ahead among key demographic groups within the Democratic party. Significantly, he leads among women (both white and African-American) by double-digits, older voters (e.g. 45-plus), and African-Americans. His popularity among black Democrats may be explained in part by their chief consideration for choosing a nominee: someone who will continue the agenda of Barack Obama. That said, Senator Sanders leads Biden by 20

percent among Latino Democrats and 27 percent among voters between the ages of 18 and 29 years.

Tracking Momentum Across Recent UT Tyler Polls

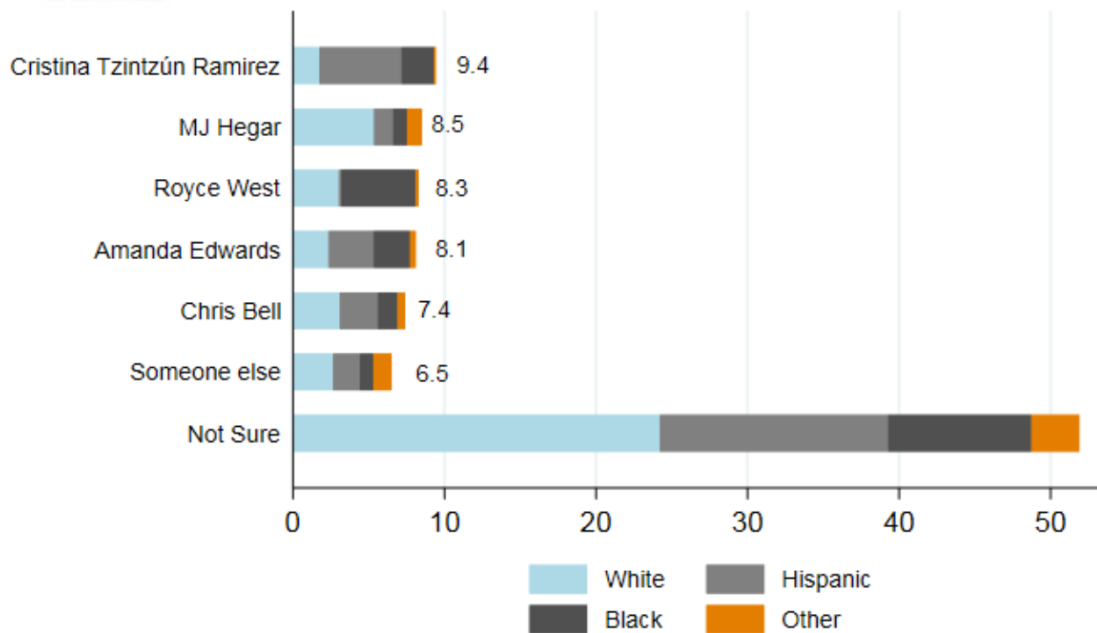
Candidate	Change	November	September	August	July
Biden	+ 2.1%	28.1%	26.0%	23.0%	24.4%
Sanders	+ 1.6%	19.4	17.6	16.0	15.4
Warren	+ 6.7%	17.8	11.1	10.3	10.6
Buttigieg	+ 4.6%	7.8	3.2	3.9	1.5
Harris	- 0.1%	5.3	5.4	5.3	8.5
Castro	+0.1%	4.1	4.0	4.0	3.3

The percentages above indicate the change in candidate support among self-identified Democrats in each of the UT Tyler surveys that have occurred following previous candidate debates. These trends in candidate support also look similar if we include independents that lean towards the Democratic Party. The only exception with the more inclusive definition of the electorate in the March primary is that support for Senator Sanders fades and support for Senator Warren increases slightly.

SENATE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY: CLEAR COALITIONS FORMING



U.S. Senate Texas Democratic Primary



Surveys from 427 Democratic Voters between November 5-14. Margin of Error 4.7%

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. Nonetheless, our results reveal stark racial contours among the supporters of the declared

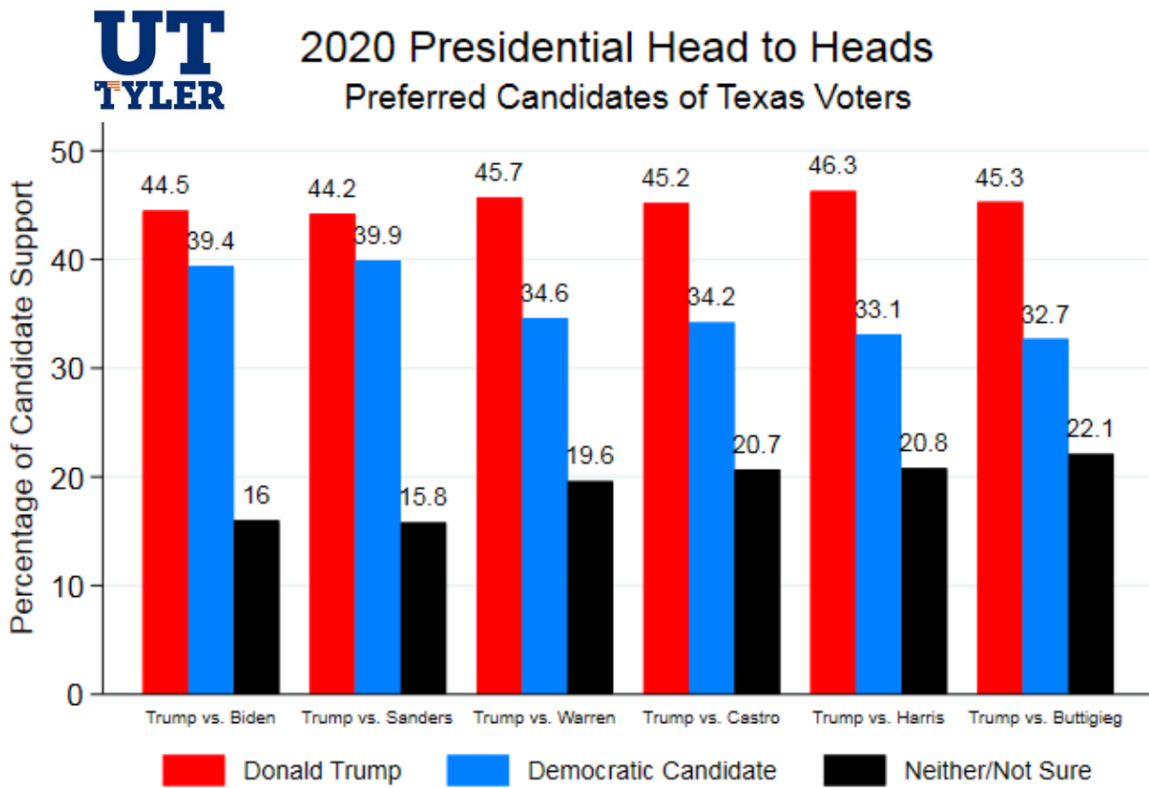
candidates. MJ Hegar (a white woman) is leading by 5 percent among white voters (followed by former U.S. Representative Chris Bell – a white man). Meanwhile, Texas state senator Royce West, a black man, is leading among black voters by 12 percent. Finally, Latina organizer and activist Cristina Ramirez is ahead with Latino Democrats by 19 percent.

PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL DURING THE IMPEACHMENT INQUIRY

President Donald Trump’s job approval is up from our last survey in September. It now stands at 43 percent approval among all registered Texans. His disapproval stands at 49 percent with 8 percent not sure. When asked to consider what they currently know, whether President Trump should or should not be impeached, 45 percent support impeachment and 47 percent do not. 8 percent of respondents were not sure. Clearly, these results indicate an ambivalence among Texans on the question of impeachment.

EARLY LOOK AT THE 2020 GENERAL ELECTION: FEWER UNDECIDEDS FOR EACH MATCH UP

One year out from the 2020 election, President Trump is leading all Democrats in head to head contests. He beats Joe Biden (+5), Bernie Sanders (+4), and Elizabeth Warren (+11). Kamala Harris, Pete Buttigieg, and Julian Castro also trail Trump by double-digits. Interestingly, Trump’s surging support in head to heads since September appears to be coming from previously undecided respondents.



Surveys from 1,093 registered voters between November 5-14, 2019. Margin of Error +/-2.96

POLICY ISSUES: INTEREST IN MANDATORY BUYBACK OF GUNS FADES

On gun issues, a plurality of Texans (42%) now disapprove of a mandatory buyback program to turn in all assault weapons for payment (37% approve). This is a significant shift from our September survey, which found a near majority approval for such a program. Our November results indicate that both Republicans and Independents have changed their minds. For instance, 33 percent of Texas Republicans approved of a mandatory buyback in September, that number now stands at 17 percent. Overall, 21 percent of Texans are still ambivalent about the issue.

Methodology

The UT Tyler-Texas Opinion Survey reflects a statewide random sample of 1,093 registered voters during the ten days between November 5 and November 14. The mixed mode sample includes 397 registered voters who took the survey by phone and 696 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 1,093 registered voters in Texas is +/- 2.96 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 +/- 4.7%).

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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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