

# Texas Politics Project / UT Energy Institute Poll

## Texas Statewide Survey

Field Dates: March 19 to 26, 2021

N=1200 Registered Voters

Margin of error: +/- 2.83% (3.5% adjusted for weighting) unless otherwise noted<sup>1</sup>

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### Interest and Engagement

Q1. Are you registered to vote in the state of Texas?

Q1	Percent
Yes, registered	100

Q2. Generally speaking, would you say that you are extremely interested in politics and public affairs, somewhat interested, not very interested, or not at all interested?

Q2	Percent
Extremely interested	47
Somewhat interested	40
Not very interested	9
Not at all interested	3
Don't know	0

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<sup>1</sup> In calculating the margin of error (MOE) for the survey, we provide two calculations, one that compensates for the relative standard deviation of the weights and one that does not. Without taking the variance of the weights into account, the margin of error for the full sample is 2.83%. To compensate for the additional uncertainty from weighting, we apply a multiplier derived from the coefficient of variation of the weights:  $\sqrt{1+CV^2}$ , where  $CV=sd(weights)/mean(weights)$ . For this weight sensitive calculation, the MOE for the full sample is 3.5%.

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### Most Important Problem

Q4. What would you say is the most important problem facing this country today? [Randomize]

Q4	Percent
Coronavirus/COVID-19	21
Political corruption/leadership	12
Immigration	9
Border security	7
Moral decline	5
Race relations	4
The media	4
The economy	4
Health care	4
Income inequality	3
Voting system	3
Federal spending/national debt	3
Environment	3
Partisan gridlock	2
Unemployment/jobs	2
Taxes	2
National security/terrorism	1
Police brutality/police militarization	1
Opioid/prescription drug abuse	1
Abortion	1
Gun control/gun violence	1
Education	1
Crime	1
North Korea	0
Oil prices	0
Afghanistan/Pakistan	0
Housing	0
Government data collection	0
Gay marriage	0
Russia	0
Sexual Harassment	0
Social welfare programs	0
Gas prices	0
Energy	0
Middle East instability	0

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Q5. What would you say is the most important problem facing the State of Texas today? **[Randomize]**

Q5	Percent
Border security	18
Immigration	17
Coronavirus/COVID-19	16
Political corruption/leadership	10
The economy	3
Energy	3
Health care	3
Unemployment/jobs	2
Homelessness	2
Redistricting	2
Race relations	2
Moral decline	2
Taxes	2
Utility rates	2
Housing	1
Gun control/gun violence	1
Oil prices	1
Gas prices	1
The media	1
Police brutality/police militarization	1
Environment	1
Voting system	1
Education	1
Crime	1
Social welfare programs	1
Abortion	1
State government spending	0
Transportation/roads/traffic	0
Opioid/prescription drug abuse	0
State courts	0
State budget cuts	0
Property rights	0
Pension funding	0
Insurance rates	0
Hurricane recovery	0
Gay marriage	0
Electoral fraud	0
Water supply	0

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## Texas Statewide Survey

### Retrospective Assessments

Q6. How would you rate the job Joe Biden is doing as president? Would you say that you...

POTUS	Approve strongly	Approve somewhat	Neither approve nor disapprove	Disapprove somewhat	Disapprove strongly	Don't know
Mar. 2021	26	18	11	5	39	1
Feb. 2021	30	15	9	5	39	2

Q6A. Do you approve or disapprove of how Joe Biden has handled the response to the coronavirus/COVID-19?

Q6A	Approve strongly	Approve somewhat	Neither approve nor disapprove	Disapprove somewhat	Disapprove strongly	Don't know
Mar. 2021	33	15	14	9	27	1
Feb. 2021	34	15	14	7	29	2

Q7. How would you rate the job the U.S. Congress is doing? Would you say that you...

CONGRESS	Approve strongly	Approve somewhat	Neither approve nor disapprove	Disapprove somewhat	Disapprove strongly	Don't know
Mar. 2021	7	22	19	13	36	3
Feb. 2021	7	15	17	14	43	4
Oct. 2020	5	15	17	23	37	3
June 2020	4	15	16	26	36	3
Apr. 2020	6	17	18	24	32	3
Feb. 2020	5	13	16	19	42	4
Oct. 2019	7	14	18	23	35	4
June 2019	4	14	19	21	39	3
Feb. 2019	4	14	18	26	35	3
Oct. 2018	4	22	16	19	38	2
June 2018	3	15	18	21	38	4
Feb. 2018	2	17	16	22	39	3
Oct. 2017	2	10	15	24	45	3
June 2017	2	13	15	24	43	4
Feb. 2017	5	21	20	18	32	5
Oct. 2016	2	8	18	27	41	4
June 2016	2	8	16	24	45	5
Feb. 2016	2	10	17	24	43	4
Oct. 2015	2	8	17	25	46	3
June 2015	2	13	21	26	36	2
Feb. 2015	3	17	19	24	34	3
Oct. 2014	2	12	13	30	41	2
June 2014	3	8	15	24	48	3
Feb. 2014	3	8	15	23	49	2
Oct. 2013	2	6	12	21	56	3
June 2013	2	10	16	23	46	2
Feb. 2013	3	11	12	23	48	3
Oct. 2012	1	10	18	26	43	3
May 2012	1	9	16	23	48	3
Feb. 2012	1	10	14	26	47	2
Oct. 2011	2	9	10	26	51	2
May 2011	1	15	19	27	35	3
Feb. 2011	1	17	19	26	32	4
Oct. 2009	2	12	11	22	49	4
June 2009	2	18	22	22	36	0
Mar. 2009	4	22	22	15	37	0

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Q8A. How would you rate the job Greg Abbott is doing as Governor? Would you say that you...

GOVERNOR	Approve strongly	Approve somewhat	Neither approve nor disapprove	Disapprove somewhat	Disapprove strongly	Don't know
Mar. 2021	22	23	10	9	34	1
Feb. 2021	21	25	12	12	27	3
Oct. 2020	20	27	12	16	24	2
June 2020	29	20	10	13	26	3
Apr. 2020	31	25	9	14	18	4
Feb. 2020	30	18	11	10	24	7
Oct. 2019	30	22	15	9	19	6
June 2019	29	22	13	11	20	5
Feb. 2019	33	18	12	11	21	5
Oct. 2018	36	16	12	9	23	5
June 2018	27	20	13	12	24	5
Feb. 2018	28	18	18	8	23	5
Oct. 2017	27	21	14	11	22	5
June 2017	27	18	12	9	29	4
Feb. 2017	27	18	17	9	24	5
Oct. 2016	21	21	17	10	23	8
June 2016	20	22	19	10	21	8
Feb. 2016	18	23	24	9	20	6
Oct. 2015	20	22	21	10	19	7
June 2015	22	24	19	8	20	7

Q8A2. Do you approve or disapprove of how Greg Abbott has handled the response to the coronavirus/COVID-19?

	Approve strongly	Approve somewhat	Neither approve nor disapprove	Disapprove somewhat	Disapprove strongly	Don't know
Mar. 2021	24	20	7	13	35	1
Feb. 2021	20	24	12	15	26	3
Oct. 2020	17	27	10	20	26	1
June 2020	27	22	7	12	29	3
Apr. 2020	31	25	9	13	16	5

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## Texas Statewide Survey

Q8B. How would you rate the job Dan Patrick is doing as Lieutenant Governor? Would you say that you...

LTGOVERNOR	Approve strongly	Approve somewhat	Neither approve nor disapprove	Disapprove somewhat	Disapprove strongly	Don't know
Mar. 2021	22	15	17	6	31	10
Feb. 2021	20	17	15	5	31	12
Oct. 2020	18	19	13	6	31	12
June 2020	22	17	12	6	32	11
Apr. 2020	20	20	13	7	29	11
Feb. 2020	21	18	13	7	28	12
Oct. 2019	22	17	15	9	23	14
June 2019	22	19	18	6	25	11
Feb. 2019	24	18	16	6	25	10
Oct. 2018	27	17	14	5	26	11
June 2018	18	18	18	8	26	12
Feb. 2018	19	17	21	8	25	10
Oct. 2017	16	20	19	7	24	13
June 2017	15	19	18	8	28	11
Feb. 2017	16	16	24	8	23	14
Oct. 2016	12	19	20	9	22	18
June 2016	12	19	24	8	22	15
Feb. 2016	8	19	30	7	20	16
Oct. 2015	10	19	28	9	17	16
June 2015	13	19	28	8	16	15

Q8C. How would you rate the job Dade Phelan is doing as Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives? Would you say that you...

SPEAKER	Approve strongly	Approve somewhat	Neither approve nor disapprove	Disapprove somewhat	Disapprove strongly	Don't know
Mar. 2021	6	13	29	8	13	31
Feb. 2021	7	15	30	6	12	30

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[RANDOMIZE Q9A-Q9B]

Q9A. How would you rate the job Ted Cruz is doing as U.S. Senator? Would you say that you...

SENCRUZ	Approve strongly	Approve somewhat	Neither approve nor disapprove	Disapprove somewhat	Disapprove strongly	Don't know
Mar. 2021	28	15	8	5	41	4
Feb. 2021	33	12	8	5	38	4
Oct. 2020	31	15	8	6	36	4
June 2020	30	16	9	9	33	4
Apr. 2020	29	16	9	7	32	6
Feb. 2020	29	13	7	8	36	7
Oct. 2019	28	18	8	9	30	7
June 2019	27	20	10	8	31	4
Feb. 2019	31	15	9	7	34	4
Oct. 2018	34	13	8	5	37	3
June 2018	21	18	13	8	33	7
Feb. 2018	22	18	12	9	32	7
Oct. 2017	19	19	13	12	31	5
June 2017	21	17	12	9	35	6
Feb. 2017	20	18	14	10	29	9
Oct. 2016	16	19	13	11	34	7
June 2016	18	17	13	12	31	9
Feb. 2016	18	19	15	10	32	6
Oct. 2015	27	17	11	9	28	9

Q9B. How would you rate the job John Cornyn is doing as U.S. Senator? Would you say that you...

SENCORNYN	Approve strongly	Approve somewhat	Neither approve nor disapprove	Disapprove somewhat	Disapprove strongly	Don't know
Mar. 2021	12	21	16	14	28	9
Feb. 2021	12	20	18	13	29	8
Oct. 2020	18	21	12	11	28	10
June 2020	15	21	13	13	27	11
Apr. 2020	15	23	13	10	26	13
Feb. 2020	16	20	13	9	30	12
Oct. 2019	15	20	16	10	24	15
June 2019	14	23	17	11	23	12
Feb. 2019	15	21	18	13	22	11
Oct. 2018	17	22	15	9	25	13
June 2018	8	19	21	14	24	13
Feb. 2018	10	19	23	15	23	10
Oct. 2017	7	21	18	15	27	12
June 2017	9	19	18	14	27	12
Feb. 2017	11	19	22	12	22	14
Oct. 2016	8	20	22	14	22	15
June 2016	7	17	24	14	21	17
Feb. 2016	7	20	26	14	18	15
Oct. 2015	7	20	22	16	18	16

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Q10. Thinking about the country, do you think that things are headed in the right direction, or do you think that things are headed off on the wrong track?

USDIR	Right direction	Wrong track	Don't know
Mar. 2021	32	56	12
Feb. 2021	31	56	12
Oct. 2020	29	62	9
June 2020	30	62	9
Apr. 2020	39	52	9
Feb. 2020	40	49	11
Oct. 2019	37	54	9
June 2019	40	50	10
Feb. 2019	39	53	9
Oct. 2018	42	49	9
June 2018	41	47	11
Feb. 2018	39	50	11
Oct. 2017	29	61	10
June 2017	34	54	12
Feb. 2017	39	49	12
Oct. 2016	22	67	11
June 2016	18	70	12
Feb. 2016	22	66	12
Oct. 2015	22	68	10
June 2015	23	64	14
Feb. 2015	26	59	15
Oct. 2014	25	65	10
June 2014	23	65	13
Feb. 2014	25	63	12
Oct. 2013	20	69	11
June 2013	28	60	11
Feb. 2013	29	62	9
Oct. 2012	31	58	11
May 2012	25	61	14
Feb. 2012	28	61	11
Oct. 2011	14	75	11
May 2011	24	63	14
Feb. 2011	26	59	15
Oct. 2010	25	64	11
May 2010	26	62	11
Feb. 2010	31	56	13
Oct. 2009	32	59	10



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Q12. Thinking about the State of Texas, do you think that things are headed in the right direction, or do you think that things are headed off on the wrong track?

<b>TXDIR</b>	<b>Right direction</b>	<b>Wrong track</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
Mar. 2021	41	46	14
Feb. 2021	39	41	20
Oct. 2020	41	44	15
June 2020	41	47	13
Apr. 2020	43	43	15
Feb. 2020	48	37	16
Oct. 2019	47	35	17
June 2019	49	34	17
Feb. 2019	49	35	16
Oct. 2018	50	35	16
June 2018	46	37	16
Feb. 2018	48	36	15
Oct. 2017	43	40	16
June 2017	43	40	17
Feb. 2017	46	36	18
Oct. 2016	42	40	17
June 2016	41	38	22
Feb. 2016	42	37	21
Oct. 2015	45	36	19
June 2015	50	32	18
Feb. 2015	50	30	20
Oct. 2014	48	35	18
June 2014	49	33	17
Feb. 2014	45	35	20
Oct. 2013	42	39	19
June 2013	50	32	18
Feb. 2013	45	39	16
Oct. 2012	43	34	23
May 2012	38	42	21
Feb. 2012	43	38	19
Oct. 2011	39	43	17
May 2011	36	46	18
Feb. 2011	41	41	18
Oct. 2010	45	37	18
May 2010	45	38	17
Feb. 2010	43	37	20
Oct. 2009	38	39	23

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Q13. Compared to a year ago, would you say that you and your family are economically a lot better off, somewhat better off, about the same, somewhat worse off, or a lot worse off?

FAMECON	A lot better off	Somewhat better off	About the same	Somewhat worse off	A lot worse off	Don't know
Mar. 2021	5	17	49	20	8	2
Feb. 2021	5	13	49	19	10	5
Oct. 2020	9	14	44	20	11	2
June 2020	6	18	43	20	11	2
Apr. 2020	9	19	34	21	14	3
Feb. 2020	15	26	38	13	6	3
Oct. 2019	15	25	38	13	5	3
June 2019	15	25	37	14	5	3
Feb. 2019	12	28	39	13	6	2
Oct. 2018	12	27	39	13	6	3
June 2018	10	27	42	14	6	2
Feb. 2018	11	27	42	13	5	1
Oct. 2017	9	22	47	16	5	1
June 2017	5	20	52	15	5	1
Feb. 2017	6	21	50	16	7	1
Oct. 2016	5	22	44	19	8	2
June 2016	5	18	44	20	9	3
Feb. 2016	5	20	45	19	9	2
Oct. 2015	5	18	45	23	7	1
June 2015	5	21	48	17	7	2
Feb. 2015	6	21	44	21	7	2
Oct. 2014	5	22	42	23	7	1
June 2014	6	21	42	21	8	2
Feb. 2014	5	20	43	22	9	1
Oct. 2013	5	17	41	23	12	2
June 2013	6	19	44	23	7	1
Oct. 2012	6	17	43	23	11	1
May 2012	4	15	48	19	13	2
Feb. 2012	4	16	45	23	11	1
Oct. 2011	3	13	40	27	15	1
May 2011	2	16	40	25	16	2
Feb. 2011	3	17	45	24	11	1
Oct. 2010	3	16	38	27	14	2
May 2010	4	16	41	25	13	1
Feb. 2010	3	14	40	29	12	1
Oct. 2009	3	14	39	27	16	1
Mar. 2009	3	14	42	27	14	0
Oct. 2008	4	16	38	29	14	0

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Q14. Compared to a year ago, would you say that the Texas economy is a lot better off, somewhat better off, about the same, somewhat worse off, or a lot worse off?

TXECON	A lot better off	Somewhat better off	About the same	Somewhat worse off	A lot worse off	Don't know
Mar. 2021	5	11	36	30	12	6
Feb. 2021	3	10	31	32	17	7
Oct. 2020	5	10	24	34	22	4
June 2020	5	11	21	36	21	6
Apr. 2020	7	15	19	26	28	6
Feb. 2020	20	23	36	11	4	6
Oct. 2019	17	25	35	13	3	8
June 2019	16	27	35	12	5	6
Feb. 2019	17	28	35	10	5	5
Oct. 2018	20	29	31	10	4	5
June 2018	13	30	34	12	4	7
Feb. 2018	13	30	38	13	3	3
Oct. 2017	8	27	41	16	3	5
June 2017	6	28	39	17	4	6
Feb. 2017	6	22	49	11	5	6
Oct. 2016	3	22	45	19	5	5
June 2016	4	22	41	19	6	8
Feb. 2016	4	22	41	23	5	4
Oct. 2015	4	25	41	20	5	5
June 2015	5	28	44	14	4	4
Feb. 2015	6	26	47	14	3	4
Oct. 2014	9	32	40	12	4	3

Q15. How closely have you been following the Texas Legislature this session?

	Extremely closely	Somewhat closely	Not very closely	Not at all closely	Don't know
Mar. 2021	8	36	40	16	0
June 2019	12	37	31	17	3
June 2017	11	44	32	12	0
June 2015	12	45	32	11	0
June 2013	7	36	41	16	0

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## Texas Statewide Survey

Q16. How familiar would you say you are with each of the following:

Item	Extremely familiar	Very familiar	Somewhat familiar	Not familiar
The Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT)	10	20	50	20
The Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC)	7	16	48	29
Railroad Commission of Texas	5	13	47	35

Q16A. To the best of your knowledge, which of the following statements is *most* true?

Q16A	Percent
Most of Texas's electric generation system is independent from the rest of the United States.	78
Most of Texas's electric generation system is connected to the rest of the United States.	8
Don't know/Unsure	14

*During the second week of February, 2021, the state of Texas experienced a severe winter storm that resulted in interruptions in power and water service to many parts of the state. In this survey, we refer to the storm and its aftermath as the "winter storm" or the "winter storm and its effects." The following questions ask about your experience during the winter storm and its effects.*

Q17. The winter storm involved a number of events. How much have you heard about each of the following related to the winter storm and its effects. **[RANDOMIZE A-N]**

Item	A lot	Some	A little	Nothing at all
Rolling electricity blackouts	77	16	5	3
Extended electricity outages	77	15	6	3
Electricity price spikes	70	21	5	4
Record snow and ice	68	21	8	3
Water outages	68	21	8	3
Contaminated water and/or "boil water" notices	67	22	8	3
Dangerous road conditions	65	23	9	3
Frozen power plant facilities or generators	53	27	11	10
Frozen wind turbines	48	28	12	13
Frozen natural gas pipelines or equipment	41	28	15	16
Food shortages	40	34	14	12
Injuries or deaths of Texans	37	38	19	5
Gasoline shortages (at the pump)	26	29	21	24
Hospital closures	13	22	21	44

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## Texas Statewide Survey

First, we would like to ask you about the response to the winter storm by different officials and entities...

Q18. Do you approve or disapprove of how each of the following has handled the response to the winter storm and its effects?

[RANDOMIZE A-C, D-F, G-I, J-N, O-Q]

Item	Approve strongly	Approve somewhat	Neither approve nor disapprove	Disapprove somewhat	Disapprove strongly	Don't know	TOTAL Approve	TOTAL Disapprove
Governor Greg Abbott	25	16	12	12	33	4	41	45
Senator Ted Cruz	18	13	15	6	43	5	31	49
Senator John Cornyn	12	14	26	10	26	12	26	36
The Texas Legislature	9	19	26	15	22	9	28	37
Your local government	17	30	23	12	14	5	47	26
The Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT)	2	6	11	11	61	8	8	72
The Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC)	3	9	21	16	34	16	12	50
Railroad Commission of Texas	3	9	32	9	16	31	12	25
Your electric provider	21	24	21	11	20	3	45	31
Your water utility	20	26	26	12	10	6	46	22
Your gas utility	18	21	33	5	6	17	39	11
Your neighbors	40	24	25	3	2	6	64	5
Local businesses	31	30	27	4	3	5	61	7
The electric power industry	5	11	18	23	38	6	16	61
The natural gas industry	10	18	31	15	15	12	28	30
The renewable energy industry	9	14	26	14	24	12	23	38

Q18A. How confident are you that the Texas Legislature will pass effective laws to prevent future disruptions in utility services like those that resulted from the winter storm?

Q18A	Percent
Extremely confident	9
Very confident	16
Somewhat confident	31
Not very confident	29
Not at all confident	16

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Next, we have a few questions about what **you** experienced during, or as a result of, the winter storm.

Q19A. Overall, how much difficulty did you face as a result of the winter storm and its effects?

Q19A	Percent
A lot	29
Some	48
Not very much	18
None at all	5

Q19B. Do you think your experience during the winter storm was better than most Texans, about the same, or worse?

Q19B	Percent
Much better	24
Somewhat better	39
About the same	25
Somewhat worse	8
Much worse	3

Q20. Did you experience any of the following during the winter storm? **[RANDOMIZE A-G]**

Item	Yes	No
<b>Electricity stopped working in your home</b>	66	34
<b>Natural gas service to your home was interrupted</b>	13	87
<b>Water service to your home was interrupted</b>	54	46
<b>Dangerous or obstructed roads</b>	60	40
<b>Damaged trees on your property</b>	32	68
<b>Damage to your home</b>	21	79
<b>Damage to your vehicle</b>	8	92

Q20B. Did you experience any of the following during the winter storm?

Item	Yes	No
<b>Did not have enough food</b>	32	68
<b>Had to take out-of-the-ordinary measures to have enough food</b>	25	75
<b>Purchased or had to obtain water for drinking</b>	53	47
<b>Boiled water for cooking, cleaning, and/or drinking</b>	49	51
<b>Could not heat your home at all</b>	41	59
<b>Could heat your home, but not as much as normal</b>	46	54
<b>Did not have reliable internet access in your home</b>	56	44
<b>Did not have reliable internet access on your cell phone</b>	47	53
<b>Did not have reliable phone service (cell phones or landlines)</b>	41	59
<b>Had to stay somewhere other than your home</b>	18	82
<b>Tried to stay somewhere other than your home, but was unable to</b>	13	87
<b>Accommodated others in your home</b>	20	80

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Q20C. [IF Q20B: "Accommodated others in your home" = "Yes"] How many people apart from members of your household did you accommodate during the winter storm?

Q20C	Percent
1	28
2	22
3	17
4	19
5	5
6	4
7	2
8	0
9	1
10 or more	2

Q21. Did you or a member of your household **lose access** to any of the following resources during the winter storm?

Item	Yes	No
Transportation — because personal vehicles stopped working or were inaccessible	16	84
Transportation — because road conditions where you live were too dangerous	53	47
Transportation — because city transportation services, like buses, trains, trolleys, and/or accessibility services, were not available	19	81
In-person learning for school-age children	22	78
Online learning for school-age children	21	79
In person higher education or certificate training	10	90
Online higher education or certificate training	14	86

Q22. Did you or a member of your household experience any of the following during the winter storm?

Item	Yes	No
Difficulties caring for an infant	7	93
Difficulties managing child care	7	93
Difficulties caring for a pet or pets	23	77
Difficulties caring for elderly family members	13	87
Difficulties caring for household members with disabilities	11	89
Difficulties caring for neighbors who needed assistance	11	89

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Q23. Did you or a member of your household experience any of the following as a result of the winter storm and its effects?

Item	Yes	No
Was unable to go to work and lost income	30	70
Was unable to go to work but did not lose income	28	72
A financial hardship related to the effects of the storm	27	73
A car accident	4	96
A non-urgent health problem	9	91
A health emergency	6	94
An electricity bill that was higher than normal	40	60
A natural gas bill that was higher than normal	23	77
A water bill that was higher than normal	27	73

Q24. In the prior questions you identified some of your experiences during the winter storm. For each of these, please indicate the number of days you experienced the issue.

	Less than one day	1-3 Days	4-7 Days	More than a week, but not ongoing	Issue is still ongoing	N	Margin of Error (+/-)
Electricity stopped working in your home	19	49	28	4	0	779	3.51%
Natural gas service to your home was interrupted	23	40	28	7	2	158	7.82%
Water service to your home was interrupted	14	41	33	10	2	633	3.9%
Dangerous or obstructed roads	8	43	42	6	1	705	3.69%
Damaged trees on your property	18	23	16	12	30	377	5.05%
Damage to your home	18	25	17	14	26	246	6.26%
Damage to your vehicle	23	34	16	16	10	91	10.33%
Did not have enough food	47	34	12	6	1	363	5.15%
Had to take out-of-the-ordinary measures to have enough food	21	45	25	8	2	302	5.65%
Purchased or had to obtain water for drinking	13	38	33	14	3	616	3.95%
Boiled water for cooking, cleaning, and/or drinking	7	49	32	11	2	593	4.03%
Could not heat your home at all	17	46	31	5	1	482	4.47%
Could heat your home, but not as much as normal	13	48	31	7	1	530	4.26%
Did not have reliable internet access in your home	22	44	27	6	1	671	3.79%
Did not have reliable internet access on your cell phone	27	43	25	3	1	541	4.22%
Did not have reliable phone service (cell phones or landlines)	33	40	22	4	1	470	4.53%
Had to stay somewhere other than your home	13	42	33	10	3	227	6.52%
Tried to stay somewhere other than your home, but was unable to	27	43	19	9	2	152	7.98%
Accommodated others in your home	8	49	36	6	2	227	6.52%



# Texas Politics Project / UT Energy Institute Poll

## Texas Statewide Survey

Next, we have a few questions about your understanding of what happened and why.

Q25. Please indicate the extent to which you think the following factors contributed to the negative impacts of the winter storm in Texas. [RANDOMIZE A-L]

Item	A major factor	A minor factor	Not a factor	Don't know/No opinion
Over-reliance on renewable energy sources	35	18	32	15
Over-reliance on fossil fuels (e.g. coal, natural gas)	25	19	41	15
Deregulation of the electricity sector	45	17	17	21
Not enough regulation of the gas industry	32	22	24	23
Texas's use of a largely independent electricity grid	50	17	20	13
Climate change	33	16	41	10
Lack of winterization of electricity facilities	75	12	4	8
Lack of winterization of gas production facilities	64	16	8	12
Human error in operating the electric grid	47	22	14	17
Policy making failures by Texas lawmakers	52	23	11	14
Lack of individual preparation	32	35	24	9
The unprecedented nature of the winter storm	68	19	7	6

Q25A. And which of the following do you think was **the biggest factor** contributing to the negative impacts of the winter storm in Texas?

Q25A	Percent
Lack of winterization of electricity facilities	23
The unprecedented nature of the winter storm	16
Texas's use of a largely independent electricity grid	14
Over-reliance on renewable energy sources	11
Policy making failures by Texas lawmakers	10
Human error in operating the electric grid	8
Deregulation of the electricity sector	6
Climate change	4
Lack of individual preparation	3
Lack of winterization of gas production facilities	3
Not enough regulation of the gas industry	1
Over-reliance on fossil fuels (e.g. coal, natural gas)	1

# Texas Politics Project / UT Energy Institute Poll

## Texas Statewide Survey

Q25B. And which of the following do you think was **the second biggest factor** contributing to the negative impacts of the winter storm in Texas?

Q25B	Percent
Lack of winterization of electricity facilities	23
Texas's use of a largely independent electricity grid	15
Policy making failures by Texas lawmakers	10
The unprecedented nature of the winter storm	10
Deregulation of the electricity sector	9
Over-reliance on renewable energy sources	9
Lack of winterization of gas production facilities	7
Human error in operating the electric grid	6
Lack of individual preparation	4
Climate change	3
Over-reliance on fossil fuels (e.g. coal, natural gas)	3
Not enough regulation of the gas industry	2

# Texas Politics Project / UT Energy Institute Poll

## Texas Statewide Survey

Q26. Would you support or oppose each of the following proposals in response to the winter storm and its effects? [RANDOMIZE A-J]

Item	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Neither support nor oppose	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know/No opinion
Require energy providers to weatherize their facilities	68	17	8	2	2	4
Provide government funds to energy providers to weatherize their facilities	29	24	17	11	14	5
Require all Energy Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) board members to reside in Texas	62	13	15	2	2	6
Require that companies and regulators ensure higher levels of reserve energy to meet spikes in demand	57	21	13	3	1	5
Add more renewable energy to Texas's energy supply	40	17	17	6	15	5
Add more fossil fuel generation to Texas's energy supply	33	18	18	7	15	9
Create a council of government energy regulators and emergency managers to coordinate during disasters	41	24	17	5	7	7
Ban products that allow residential customers to pay wholesale electricity prices that may save them money, but may also expose them to high bills during energy shortages	28	17	22	10	11	12
Create a statewide disaster alert system to alert Texans about impending weather-related disasters and power outages	50	23	18	2	3	4
Require the Energy Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) to reduce the price of wholesale power paid by utilities in the electricity market during the winter storm.	51	20	15	2	3	10

Q27. Which, if any, of the following actions will your household take moving forward in response to the winter storm and its effects?

Item	Definitely will	Probably will	Unsure	Probably won't	Definitely won't
Buy a backup generator(s)	18	22	23	20	17
Buy a battery designed to store energy to power your home in an emergency	13	20	28	19	20
Install solar panels	7	11	23	24	35
Purchase electric backup for gas service (e.g. electric heaters)	12	16	22	22	30
Purchase and store emergency food supply	29	34	17	14	6
Purchase and store emergency water supply	30	32	18	12	8
Add a fireplace or wood burning stove to your home	9	9	16	21	44
Create an emergency plan	30	31	22	11	6
Reinforce home with insulation or weatherization upgrades	19	22	24	18	17
Purchase renter's insurance	15	10	17	11	47

# Texas Politics Project / UT Energy Institute Poll

## Texas Statewide Survey

Q28. When thinking about the winter storm and its effects, who do you think was hurt most by the storm? [OPEN-ENDED]

Q28_CODED	Percent
The poor	21
Texans	14
The elderly	12
The Homeless	8
Those who lost electricity	7
Texans who don't prepare for emergencies	3
Residential Consumers	2
Rural areas	2
Those who had water damage	2
Renters	1
Home owners	1
Renewable energy industry	1
Racial/Ethnic minorities	1
Those who died, their families	1
Those who lost heat	1
Urban areas	1
Small business	0
The electric companies	0
The oil & gas companies	0
The public	0
Other	10
Don't know/No opinion	14

Q29. Who did you rely on to provide accurate and reliable information during the winter storm? Please list up to three [OPEN-ENDED]

	Percent
<b>Local News</b>	26
<b>Local Radio</b>	11
<b>Neighbors, Family, Word of Mouth</b>	11
<b>National Weather</b>	10
<b>Internet News</b>	8
<b>Cable or National News</b>	6
<b>Social Media</b>	6
<b>Local Weather</b>	4
<b>Local Government Officials</b>	4
<b>State Government Officials</b>	4
<b>Local Governemnt Website</b>	2

Q30. Do you think climate change is happening, do you think climate change is not happening, or aren't you sure?

	Climate change is happening	Climate change is not happening	Not sure if climate change is happening
Mar. 2021	58	25	18
Oct. 2019	66	23	12

# Texas Politics Project / UT Energy Institute Poll

## Texas Statewide Survey

A few final questions about the coronavirus pandemic...

Q28. Which of the following measures, if any, are you taking in response to the coronavirus/COVID-19?

Item	Mar. 2021	Feb. 2021	Oct. 2020	June 2020
Staying away from large groups	79	82	83	88
Avoiding other people as much as possible	71	72	74	80
Wearing a mask when in close contact with people outside your household	83	88	87	81

### [RANDOMIZE Q29A-Q29B]

Q29A. Do you approve or disapprove of the recent decision by Governor Greg Abbott to end all capacity limits on businesses in Texas?

Q29A	Percent
Strongly approve	34
Somewhat approve	13
Somewhat disapprove	10
Strongly disapprove	39
Don't know/No opinion	4

Q29B. Do you approve or disapprove of the recent decision by Governor Greg Abbott to end Texas's statewide mask mandate?

Q29B	Percent
Strongly approve	34
Somewhat approve	11
Somewhat disapprove	7
Strongly disapprove	44
Don't know/No opinion	4

# Texas Politics Project / UT Energy Institute Poll

## Texas Statewide Survey

### Political Knowledge

[Randomize INFO1-INFO3]

INFO1. Which political party holds the majority in the U.S. House of Representatives? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]

INFO1	Percent
Democratic Party	75
Republican Party	13
Neither	5
Don't know	7

INFO2. What majority of both houses of the U.S. Congress is needed to override a presidential veto?

INFO2	Percent
More than two-thirds	71
More than three-fourths	7
More than one-half	6
Don't know	16

INFO3. Which Texas agency regulates oil and gas production in the state? [RANDOMIZE 1-4]

INFO3	Percent
Texas Railroad Commission	39
Public Utility Commission of Texas	38
Texas Department of Agriculture	4
Texas Department of Public Safety	2
Don't know	17

# Texas Politics Project / UT Energy Institute Poll

## Texas Statewide Survey

### Political Orientation

LIBCON. On a scale from 1 to 7, where 1 is extremely liberal, 7 is extremely conservative, and 4 is exactly in the middle, where would you place yourself?

LIBCON7	Percent
Extremely lib.	10
Somewhat lib.	10
Lean lib.	9
Moderate	26
Lean con.	8
Somewhat con.	18
Extremely con.	18

PID3. Generally speaking, would you say that you usually think of yourself as a...

PID3	Percent
Democrats	41
Independents	13
Republicans	46

PID7. (Uses the four PID3 follow-up questions)

PID7	Percent
StrDem	22
WeakDem	9
LeanDem	11
Ind	13
LeanRep	11
WeakRep	11
StrRep	24

REPCON. [ASK IF PID7 >= 5] Overall, do you think that Republican elected officials in Texas are conservative enough, too conservative, or not conservative enough?

REPCON	Percent
Conservative enough	46
Too conservative	9
Not conservative enough	36
Don't know/No opinion	9

# Texas Politics Project / UT Energy Institute Poll

## Texas Statewide Survey

DEMLIB. [ASK IF PID7 <= 3] Overall, do you think that Democratic elected officials in Texas are liberal enough, too liberal, or not liberal enough?

DEMLIB	Percent
Liberal enough	33
Too liberal	11
Not liberal enough	37
Don't know/No opinion	18

### Demographics

AGE. Please indicate your age group.

AGEG	Percent
18-29	16
30-44	25
45-64	36
65+	24

LOCATE. Would you say that you live in an urban, suburban, or rural community?

LOCATE	Percent
Urban	32
Suburban	49
Rural	19

METRO. Do you live in the Houston, Dallas-Fort Worth, San Antonio, or Austin metropolitan areas?

METRO	Percent
Yes, I live in the Houston area	24
Yes, I live the Dallas-Fort Worth area	26
Yes, I live in the San Antonio area	9
Yes, I live in the Austin area	11
No, I live in another part of Texas	29

CHILD. How many children are currently living with you?

CHILD	Percent
One	14
Two	12
Three	4
Four or more	3
None	67



# Texas Politics Project / UT Energy Institute Poll

## Texas Statewide Survey

SCHOOL. Do you have any children currently enrolled in school in Texas? (check all that apply)

Item	Percent
Yes, I have a child/children under 18 enrolled in public school in Texas.	18
Yes, I have a child/children under 18 enrolled in private school in Texas.	4
Yes, I have a child/children under 18 who are being home schooled in Texas.	3
No, I do not have any children under 18 in school in Texas.	76

INCOME. In which category would you place your household income last year?

INCOME	Percent
Less than \$10,000	6
\$10,000 - \$19,999	7
\$20,000 - \$29,999	7
\$30,000 - \$39,999	8
\$40,000 - \$49,999	8
\$50,000 - \$59,999	9
\$60,000 - \$69,999	7
\$70,000 - \$79,999	8
\$80,000 - \$99,999	8
\$100,000 - \$119,999	6
\$120,000 - \$149,999	7
More than \$150,000	7
Prefer not to say	12

EDU. What is the highest level of education that you received?

EDU	Percent
Less than high school	3
High school degree	26
Some college	23
Two-year college degree	12
Four-year college degree	25
Post-graduate degree	11

# Texas Politics Project / UT Energy Institute Poll

## Texas Statewide Survey

RELIG. What is your primary religious affiliation, if any?[No open response on “other”]

RELIG1	Percent
Agnostic	5
Assembly of God	1
Atheist	5
Baptist	13
Born again	2
Buddhist	0
Catholic	20
Christian Scientist	0
Church of Christ	3
Church of God	1
Disciples of Christ	1
Don't know	1
Episcopal / Anglican	1
Evangelical	2
Hindu	0
Jehovah's Witnesses	0
Jewish	1
Lutheran	2
Methodist	5
Mormon	1
Muslim / Islam	1
No religious affiliation / none	12
Nondenominational Christian	7
Orthodox / Eastern Orthodox	0
Other	4
Pentecostal / charismatic / spirit-filled	2
Presbyterian	1
Protestant (non-specific)	3
Reformed	0
Religious but not spiritual	1
Spiritual but not religious	4
Unitarian / Universalist	0
United Church of Christ	0

# Texas Politics Project / UT Energy Institute Poll

## Texas Statewide Survey

LITERAL. Which of these statements comes closest to describing your feelings about the Bible?

LITERAL	Percent
The Bible is the actual word of God and is to be taken literally, word for word.	28
The Bible is the word of God but not everything in it should be taken literally, word for word.	40
The Bible is a book written by men and is not the word of God.	25
Don't know.	7

IMPORT. How important is religion in your life?

IMPORT	Percent
Extremely important	42
Somewhat important	27
Not very important	11
Not at all important	19

ATTEND. Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services or participate in religious activities?

ATTEND	Percent
More than once a week	12
Once a week	21
A few times a month	8
Once or twice a year	24
Never	35

RACE1. What race do you consider yourself to be?

race	Percent
White / Blanco	58
Black	14
Hispanic	23
Asian	1
Middle Eastern	0
Native American	0
Mixed	1
Other	2

RACE2. [Ask if RACE ~= "Hispanic or Latino"] Do you happen to have a Hispanic-Latino grandparent?

RACE2	Percent
Yes	1
No	98
Don't know	0

# Texas Politics Project / UT Energy Institute Poll

## Texas Statewide Survey

NATIVE1. [Ask if RACE = "Hispanic or Latino"] Were you born in the United States or Puerto Rico, or in another country?

<b>NATIVE1</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Born in the United States or Puerto Rico	85
Born in another country	14
Don't know	2

NATIVE2. [Ask NATIVE2 if answer 1 on NATIVE1] Were your parents born in the United States or Puerto Rico, or another country?

<b>NATIVE2</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Both of my parents were born in the United States or Puerto Rico	69
One of my parents was born in another country	16
Both of my parents were both in another country	15

MOVE. Did you move to Texas from some other state?

<b>MOVE</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	41
No	59

# Texas Politics Project / UT Energy Institute Poll

## Texas Statewide Survey

STATE. [ASK IF MOVE=1] Which state did you move from (most recently)?

STATEFROM	Percent
Alabama	2
Alaska	1
Arizona	2
Arkansas	4
British Columbia	0
California	13
Colorado	6
Connecticut	0
Delaware	0
District of Columbia	0
Florida	5
Georgia	4
Hawaii	0
Illinois	5
Indiana	2
Iowa	1
Kansas	1
Kentucky	1
Louisiana	6
Maine	0
Maryland	1
Massachusetts	3
Michigan	3
Minnesota	1
Mississippi	1
Missouri	1
Montana	1
Nebraska	1
Nevada	1
New Hampshire	1
New Jersey	2
New Mexico	3
New York	4
North Carolina	1
North Dakota	0
Northwest Territories	0
Not in the U.S. or Canada	2
Ohio	4
Oklahoma	4
Ontario	0
Oregon	1
Pennsylvania	2
Puerto Rico	0
Rhode Island	0

# Texas Politics Project / UT Energy Institute Poll

## Texas Statewide Survey

STATEFROM	Percent
South Carolina	0
South Dakota	1
Tennessee	1
Utah	2
Vermont	0
Virginia	1
Washington	2
West Virginia	0
Wisconsin	2
Wyoming	0

# Texas Politics Project / UT Energy Institute Poll

## Texas Statewide Survey

VETERAN. Which of the following best describes your current situation? Please check all that apply:

Item	Percent
Active-duty military	0
Military veteran	14
Active-duty military in my immediate family	3
Military veteran in my immediate family	18
None of the above	68

HOME. Do you own or rent your home?

HOME	Percent
Own	69
Rent	31

MARITAL. What is your marital status?

MARITAL	Percent
Married	52
Separated	2
Divorced	9
Widowed	6
Single	26
Domestic Partnership	5

GENDER. What is your gender?

gender	Percent
Male	47
Female	53

## Texas Statewide Survey

### Sampling and Weighting Methodology for the March 2021 Texas Statewide Study

For the survey, YouGov interviewed 1441 Texas registered voters between March 19 and March 26, 2021, who were then matched down to a sample of 1200 to produce the final dataset. The respondents were matched on gender, age, race, and education. YouGov then weighted the matched set of survey respondents to known characteristics of registered voters of Texas from the 2018 Current Population survey and 2014 Pew Religious Landscape Survey.

The respondents were matched to a sampling frame on gender, age, race, and education. The frame was constructed by stratified sampling from the full 2018 Current Population Survey (CPS) voter registration supplement with selection within strata by weighted sampling with replacements (using the person weights on the public use file). For the main sample, the matched cases were weighted to the sampling frame using propensity scores. The matched cases and the frame were combined and a logistic regression was estimated for inclusion in the frame. The propensity score function included age, gender, race/ethnicity, and years of education. The propensity scores were grouped into deciles of the estimated propensity score in the frame and post-stratified according to these deciles. These weights were then post-stratified on baseline party identification, the 2020 and 2016 presidential vote, ideology, and a full stratification of four-category age, four-category race, gender, and four-category education. The weights were trimmed at 7 and normalized to sum to the sample size.

The margin of error of the weighted data for registered voters is 2.8% for registered voters (if adjusted for weighting, the margin of error for registered voters is 3.5%).

### Survey Panel Data

The YouGov panel, a proprietary opt-in survey panel, is comprised of 1.5 million U.S. residents who have agreed to participate in YouGov Web surveys. At any given time, YouGov maintains a minimum of five recruitment campaigns based on salient current events.

Panel members are recruited by a number of methods and on a variety of topics to help ensure diversity in the panel population. Recruiting methods include Web advertising campaigns (public surveys), permission-based email campaigns, partner sponsored solicitations, telephone-to-Web recruitment (RDD based sampling), and mail-to-Web recruitment (Voter Registration Based Sampling).

The primary method of recruitment for the YouGov Panel is Web advertising campaigns that appear based on keyword searches. In practice, a search in Google may prompt an active YouGov advertisement soliciting opinion on the search topic. At the conclusion of the short survey respondents are invited to join the YouGov panel in order to receive and participate in additional surveys. After a double opt-in procedure, where respondents must confirm their consent by responding to an email, the database checks to ensure the newly recruited panelist is in fact new and that the address information provided is valid.

The YouGov panel currently has over 20,000 active panelists who are residents of Texas. These panelists cover a wide range of demographic characteristics.

### Sampling and Sample Matching

Sample matching is a methodology for selection of “representative” samples from non-randomly selected pools of respondents. It is ideally suited for Web access panels, but could also be used for other types of surveys, such as phone surveys. Sample matching starts with an enumeration of the target population. For general population studies, the target population is all adults, and can be enumerated through the use of the decennial Census or a high-quality survey, such as the American Community Survey. In other contexts, this is known as the sampling frame, though, unlike conventional sampling, the sample is not drawn from the frame. Traditional sampling, then, selects individuals from the sampling frame at random for participation in the study. This may not be feasible or economical as the contact information, especially email addresses, is not available for all individuals in the frame and refusals to participate increase the costs of sampling in this way.

Sample selection using the matching methodology is a two-stage process. First, a random sample is drawn from the target population. We call this sample the target sample. Details on how the target sample is drawn are provided below, but the essential idea is that this sample is a true probability sample and thus representative of the frame from which it was drawn.

Second, for each member of the target sample, we select one or more matching members from our pool of opt-in respondents. This is called the matched sample. Matching is accomplished using a large set of variables that are available in consumer and voter



## Texas Statewide Survey

databases for both the target population and the opt-in panel.

The purpose of matching is to find an available respondent who is as similar as possible to the selected member of the target sample. The result is a sample of respondents who have the same measured characteristics as the target sample. Under certain conditions, described below, the matched sample will have similar properties to a true random sample. That is, the matched sample mimics the characteristics of the target sample.

When choosing the matched sample, it is necessary to find the closest matching respondent in the panel of opt-ins to each member of the target sample. YouGov employs the proximity matching method to find the closest matching respondent. For each variable used for matching, we define a distance function,  $d(x,y)$ , which describes how “close” the values  $x$  and  $y$  are on a particular attribute. The overall distance between a member of the target sample and a member of the panel is a weighted sum of the individual distance functions on each attribute. The weights can be adjusted for each study based upon which variables are thought to be important for that study, though, for the most part, we have not found the matching procedure to be sensitive to small adjustments of the weights. A large weight, on the other hand, forces the algorithm toward an exact match on that dimension.