



**From: Anniken Williams, Public Policy Polling**

**To: Interested Parties**

**Subject: O'Rourke Within Single Digits vs. Cruz; Majority of Texans See Special Interest Money in Texas Elections as a "Major Problem"**

**Date: January 23, 2018**

A new Public Policy Polling survey finds incumbent Republican Ted Cruz potentially vulnerable in his race against Beto O'Rourke. In an initial matchup, Cruz leads O'Rourke 45-37, but on the informed ballot after learning that O'Rourke is not taking a dime from political action committees or special interest group PACs, voters support him over Cruz 43-41.

A sizeable majority of voters - 63% - say they would be more likely to support a candidate who has pledged to not take any money from corporate special interests, which helps O'Rourke close the gap against Cruz. 53% of Texans say they see special interest money in Texas elections as a "major problem."

Other key findings from the survey include:

- Ted Cruz is not very popular. Only 38% of voters have a favorable opinion of him to 49% who have an unfavorable opinion. Beto O'Rourke isn't particularly well known yet with 20% of voters viewing him favorably, 19% unfavorably and 61% having no opinion either way – suggesting he has room to grow as he becomes better known.
- A plurality of Texans (48%) think Cruz is more responsive to his big campaign donors than to ordinary Texans (33%.)
- President Trump is underwater in the state, with 45% of Texans viewing him favorably and 48% unfavorably.

PPP surveyed 757 Texas voters from January 17-18, 2018. The margin of error is +/- 3.6%. 73% of interviews for the poll were conducted over the phone with 27% interviewed over the internet to reach respondents who don't have landline telephones.

