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To: Interested Parties

Subject: Texas Senate Race Competitive as O'Rourke Continues to Close the Gap

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A new Public Policy Polling survey finds that the Texas Senate race between Republican incumbent Ted Cruz and Democratic candidate Beto O'Rourke is competitive as O'Rourke continues to close the gap. In the initial matchup in January, Cruz led O'Rourke 45-37, but the results for August show a closer race with O'Rourke only 4 points behind Cruz, 46-42.

Texans believe that special interest money in Texas elections is a problem and would rather elect Democratic candidate Beto O'Rourke to the U.S. Senate due to his campaign being entirely funded by individuals, while Republican incumbent Ted Cruz has accepted \$1.3 million from corporate PACs. After learning that O'Rourke is not taking a dime from political action committees or special interest group PACs, voters in January supported him over Cruz 43-41, and O'Rourke retains and expands this lead in August, 46-43.

A plurality (48%) of voters believe special interest money in Texas elections is a major problem, and 24% believe it is a minor problem. Also, a majority of voters (56%) would be more likely to support a candidate who has pledged to not take any money from corporate special interests, which is good news for O'Rourke.

Key findings from the survey include:

- O'Rourke's name recognition has grown since January as well as his favorability. In January, only 39% of voters had an opinion of him, and his favorability was 20% while 19% had an unfavorable opinion of him. Now 57% have an opinion of him with 31% having a favorable and 26% having an unfavorable opinion.
- A plurality of Texans (44%) think Cruz is more responsive to his big campaign donors than to ordinary Texans.

PPP surveyed 797 Texas voters from August 1-2, 2018. The margin of error is +/- 3.5%. 75% of interviews for the poll were conducted over the phone with 25% interviewed over the internet to reach respondents who don't have landline telephones.

