

To: End Citizens United
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O'Rourke Within Striking Distance in Tight Texas Senate Race

With just over two weeks to go before the election, Democrat Beto O'Rourke is just a few points behind Republican Senator Ted Cruz in a race that may determine control of the U.S. Senate. Texas is behaving like a truly competitive state this year, with a close generic ballot and Trump's personal standing treading water.

The following are key findings from a recent survey of likely voters in next month's Senate election in Texas¹.

Key Findings

- ***Texas is competitive in 2018.*** A Congressional contest among generic, unnamed candidates results in a 47 – 49 percent deficit for the Democrat. Democrats only have a 2-point disadvantage on partisan self-identification here as well, indicating the ability of a strong Democrat to do well statewide this year.
- ***Trump's standing not stellar.*** President Trump is not necessarily an asset for Ted Cruz in Texas in 2018. Despite winning the state comfortably in 2016, Trump's 46/47 percent favorable/unfavorable standing and 50 percent approval rating are lukewarm. Trump's personal standing among Independent voters is net negative as well (43/46 percent).
- ***O'Rourke nipping at Cruz' heels.*** The race for Senate is close here with Beto O'Rourke at 46 percent and Ted Cruz at 50 percent. Libertarian Neal Dikeman wins 2 percent and 2 percent are undecided. O'Rourke is just 4 points down among Independent voters, outperforming a generic Democrat among this critical bloc.
- ***Money in politics matters to many persuadable voters.*** Thirty-seven percent of Texas voters say that they would be more likely to support a candidate who does not accept corporate PAC money (including 25 percent who say they would be much more likely to support that candidate). That includes 40 percent of Independents and 25 percent of Republicans. It also includes 25 percent of Cruz' 'weak' supporters.

¹ Survey of 1000 likely voters in Texas with a base sample of 600 and oversamples of 240 interviews in the San Antonio media market and 160 interviews in the Harris County suburbs. The survey was conducted by professional interviewers between October 18-21, 2018 and weighted to reflect the regional composition of likely voters in Texas. Respondents were interviewed by live dialers and reached on land lines and cell phones. Weighted results carry a margin of error of +/- 4.0 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence interval.