

UMass Lowell
Survey of Texas Democratic Primary Likely Voters

February 12-18, 2020

N=600 Texas Democratic Primary Likely Voters

The sample has an adjusted margin of error +/-5.9% for LVs

See <http://uml.edu/polls> for full questionnaire/topline results and detailed methodology disclosure.

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Do you have a question about this poll? If so, tweet @UML_CPO and we'll get back to you.

HIGHLIGHTS

Sanders is up 3 points with Biden in second place, Bloomberg in third

In a new poll of likely Democratic primary voters in Texas, Bernie Sanders has an apparent lead over his closest competitor, former Vice President Joe Biden. Sanders receives the support of 23% of Texas likely primary Democratic voters while Biden comes in second at 20%. Close behind is former New York Mayor and businessman Michael Bloomberg at 18%, who has bombarded the airwaves in Super Tuesday states with nearly half a billion dollars in ad buys. Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren comes in 4th at 14%, followed by Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar at 9%, and former South Bend, Indiana Mayor Pete Buttigieg at 7%. Hawaii Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard polls at 4% and businessman and activist Tom Steyer is at 2%, while 3% of Texas Democratic likely voters remain undecided.

Texans get their chance to participate in this year's primary on Super Tuesday, March 3rd. The poll, part of series of Super Tuesday poll releases, was written and conducted by the University of Massachusetts Lowell Center for Public Opinion, a nationally recognized non-partisan polling center.

One of the central storylines going into Super Tuesday is whether Biden would be able to hold early polling leads in southern states with more diverse populations. Among Black voters who intend to vote in the Democratic primary in Texas, Biden leads with 42% of the vote compared to just 23% for Sanders and 16% for Bloomberg. Biden also leads among Latinos at 24%,



compared to Sanders at 19%, Bloomberg at 18% and Warren at 12%. However, among white voters, Sanders outpaces the field polling at 27%, with Warren in 2nd at 18%, Bloomberg at 16% and Biden at 11%.

Predictably, the youth vote continues to propel Sanders in states where he leads. He is supported by 40% of voters under the age of 45 compared to only 14% of voters 45 and over. Biden gets the support of 16% of those under 45 and 22% of those 45 and older. However, Bloomberg is gaining almost no support from young voters; he polls at 25% of likely voters aged 45 and over, but is only supported by 3% of those under 45. For young voters, it is actually Elizabeth Warren who comes in second to Sanders at 21% of the under 45 vote; however she only gets 11% of the vote of those 45 and older.

How the Race Might Change/Vote Stability

With Super Tuesday less than two weeks away, our survey asked voters how certain their vote choice is or if there's a chance they might still change their mind and vote for another candidate. About one third of voters (33%) say they could still change their minds compared to 67% who are firm in their support of their chosen candidate.

Sanders' supporters, as has been found in other states, are the most committed voters; 81% of those supporting Sanders say they will definitely vote for the Vermont Senator. This is 13 points higher than the vote certainty for Biden (68% definitely vote for) and Bloomberg (68% definitely vote for). Notably, for Elizabeth Warren, who has a strong 4th place finish in this poll, about half of her base (49%) say they could still change their mind.

A Shift in Momentum

The poll asked Texas Democratic primary likely voters who is likely to win the nomination. Here, we see that Sanders has emerged as the frontrunner among a plurality of likely voters; 33% expect Sanders to win the Democratic nomination compared to 17% Biden and 16% Bloomberg. Another 21% say they are unsure, reflecting uncertainty in the race and raising the possibility of a contested convention if no candidate is able to capture a majority of delegates ahead of the Democratic convention.

We also see that part of the reason for indecision is that most of the candidates are well liked and have positive net favorability ratings. Sanders is a net +42 (64% favorable, 22% unfavorable), Biden is a net +36 favorable (64% favorable, 28% unfavorable), and Warren is a net +48 (68% favorable, 20% unfavorable). However, for some candidates, their no opinion/never heard of numbers are quite high. For Steyer, no opinion/never heard of is 49%, for Klobuchar 34%, and for Bloomberg, 23%. Also, Bloomberg has the worst net favorability ratings of any of the candidates at +17 (46% favorable, 29% unfavorable). To offer some perspective to these numbers, former President Barack Obama is +78 net favorability (87%



favorable, 9% unfavorable) and President Trump has -81 net favorability rating (8% favorable, 89% unfavorable).