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Contact: Margaret Justus

281-250-8253

2016 Texas Lyceum Poll – Day One

Annual Independent Poll Reveals Most Texans Believe Immigration Helps U.S. More than it Hurts

Not Enthralled with Trump’s Wall

Don’t Support Proposed Ban on All Immigrants from Countries with a History of Terrorism Against the West

Opinions Vary according to party and age on Transgender Rights

The 2016 Texas Lyceum Poll Finds:

- A majority of Texans (59 percent) oppose GOP nominee Donald Trump’s proposal to build a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border to try to stop illegal immigration.
- Texans continue to believe that immigration is the number one issue facing the state, but a plurality of Texas adults (45 percent) also say that immigration helps the U.S. more than it hurts.
- Texas adults oppose (51 percent) a ban on immigration from countries with a history of terrorism against the West.
- When asked broadly, Texans (74 percent) believe that requiring an ID at the polls in order to vote is a good idea.
- Texas adults are inclined to think that transgender students should use the public school facilities that match their birth gender (54 percent), but with sharp partisan and age divides.
- Texans’ attitudes about Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act remain unchanged since 2013, with a plurality (49 percent) preferring to keep Medicaid as is.
- A majority of African American, Texas adults (51 percent) say they’ve had a specific instance in which they’ve felt discriminated against by the police

because of their racial background, compared to 23 percent of Hispanics and 6 percent of Anglos.

- Texans believe that ride-hailing services like Uber and Lyft should be regulated like taxis, and, by a slim margin, that this regulation should take place at the local level – not in the Texas Legislature.
- The economy remains the most important issue facing the country, with national security/terrorism jumping to number two, followed by immigration.

AUSTIN — Six weeks before early voting begins in Texas, the Texas Lyceum, the state’s premier non-partisan, nonprofit statewide leadership group, as a continued public service released its 10th annual independent poll, fielded September 1-11.

For nine straight years, Texas adults say that the economy remains the most important issue facing the country, while immigration remains the most important issue facing the state. However, a majority of Texas adults do not support building a wall between the U.S. and Mexico border to stop illegal immigration, nor a ban on immigrants from countries that have a history of terrorism against the West.

Cool Attitudes Towards Campaign-Induced Immigration Proposals

Immigration and/or border security has remained one of the top three issues for Texans since the inaugural 2007 Texas Lyceum Poll. This year, the survey assessed Texans’ opinions on two new questions surrounding the much-debated topic including, *“Would you say that immigration helps the United States more than it hurts it, or immigration hurts the United States more than it helps it?”*

The survey shows a majority of Texans (54 percent) believe immigration helps more than it hurts, including 72 percent of Democrats, 62 percent of blacks, and 67 percent of Hispanics. Meanwhile, a plurality of Republicans (49 percent) say that immigration hurts more than it helps, while Anglos are divided, with 43 percent indicating that immigration hurts more than it helps, and 41 percent holding the opposite view.

In a direct reflection of the 2016 campaign for President, the poll also asked, *“Do you support or oppose a ban on the immigration of any person who lives in a country where there has been a history of terrorism against the west?”* 51 percent of Texas adults said they oppose it, however, likely voters were more ambivalent, with 47 percent saying they would support the ban and 46 percent saying that they would oppose it. With respect to building a wall on the U.S.- Mexico Border, 59 percent of Texas adults expressed opposition with mixed

opinions among likely voters, 46 percent of whom favor the building of a wall, and 48 percent of whom oppose it.

Transgender Rights

The discussion of transgender rights has escalated across the country and the state as a major issue of late, including whether public school students should have access to public school facilities on the basis of their birth gender or their gender identity. The poll shows race does not play a factor on this question, but age does. A majority of older Texans believe students should access those facilities based on birth gender while younger Texans, those between 18-29, are more likely to support access for transgender students based on their gender identity.

Medicaid Expansion

When it comes to making more low income Texans eligible for Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, a plurality of Texas adults, 49 percent, prefer to keep Medicaid as is, 42 percent would expand the program. This response is similar to the last time the Lyceum asked the question in 2013. Party affiliation clearly plays a roll with a majority of Democrats, 65 percent, supporting Medicaid expansion, and a majority of Republicans, 71 percent, preferring to keep the program as is.

Racial Discrimination

Headlines regarding racial injustice continue to dominate the news across the country and in Texas with the July 2015 death of Sandra Bland in police custody at the Waller County Jail and the lone sniper shooting death of five Dallas police officers after a protest related to police brutality this past summer.

The poll asked the same two questions presented last year about experiencing discrimination by an employer or police officer and like last year, the results are significantly influenced by race. Only 6 percent of Anglo, Texas adults said that they have felt discriminated against by the police, compared to 23 percent of Hispanics and 51 percent of blacks. This same pattern held for feelings about discrimination by an employer or potential employer. Among Anglos, only 13 percent indicated that they had felt discriminated against by an employer at some point in their life because of their racial or ethnic background, but 25 percent of Hispanic and 45 percent of black Texas adults said that they had experienced this form of discrimination.

Regulating Ride Hailing Services

Texans believe ride-hailing services like Uber and Lyft should be regulated like taxis and that this regulation should take place at the local level – not in the

Texas Legislature. Interestingly, opinion on this issue was not influenced by party identification, with 48 percent of Democrats and 50 percent of Republicans saying that regulations should be set at the local level. Therefore, despite the pledge by some in state government to tackle this issue at the state level, it doesn't appear Texans have a strong opinion for state regulation of ride hailing companies.

"The Texas Lyceum conducts our independent, annual poll as a public service to the state, offering the media, policymakers, and the general public an annual look at Texans' views on important issues," said 2016 Texas Lyceum President Dave Shaw. "We hope local, state and federal decision makers find Lyceum Poll results informative when shaping public policy."

Daron Shaw, Ph.D., Professor at The University of Texas at Austin and Joshua Blank, Ph.D., Texas Lyceum Research Director, oversaw the poll, which was conducted September 1 - 11, 2016 and queried 1,000 adult Texans. The poll has a margin of error of +/- 3.1 percentage points. The team used the latest statistically-advisable polling techniques: live interviewers contacted respondents both by landline as well as by cell phone (40 percent) and administered the survey in the respondent's language of choice (English or Spanish).

"The Texas Lyceum Poll continues to provide an invaluable time series of the increasingly diverse population of Texas adults," said Blank, "illustrating that, when taken as a whole, Texans' attitudes towards politics, social issues, and policy, defies simple caricature."

Please view the poll summary and additional information on our [website](#), where we have provided all results for the past ten years.

About The Texas Lyceum

The Texas Lyceum, a non-profit, non-partisan group, is the premier statewide leadership organization focused on identifying the next generation of top Texas leaders. The Lyceum consists of 96 men and women from throughout the state who begin their six-year term while under the age of 46, and have demonstrated leadership in their community and profession, together with a deep commitment to Texas. For more information, please visit www.texaslyceum.org. Texas Lyceum is on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/texaslyceum> and on Twitter @TexasLyceum <http://twitter.com/texaslyceum>