

# Executive Summary and Analysis: Texas

The following executive analysis is a compilation of UnidosUS primary and secondary research. The analysis and data presented is focused on the most important issues for the next president to address, including health care, jobs and the economy, and immigration.

## Latinos in Texas

- Texas is home to more than 11 million Latinos.<sup>1</sup> Currently, Latinos make up 40% of the state's population.<sup>2</sup> Nearly three-quarters (73%) of Hispanic adults in Texas are U.S. citizens;<sup>3</sup> among non-citizens, about 50% are legal permanent residents.<sup>4</sup>
- In Texas, Latino Households contributed more than \$42.5 million in federal, state, and local taxes in 2017. They also possessed a spending power exceeding \$142 million that year.<sup>5</sup>
- Ninety-five percent of Hispanic children in Texas (ages 0-17) are U.S. citizens; nearly half have at least one foreign-born parent.<sup>6</sup>
- In 2018, more than half of Latinos in Texas were burdened by the high cost of rent, meaning that they spent more than 30% of their income on it.<sup>7</sup> Latinos in Texas are more likely (51%) to be burdened by high rental costs than Texans (48%) overall.<sup>8</sup>
- Hispanic workers in Texas continue to play outsized roles in major U.S. industries, most notably, in the construction industry. Latinos account for 60% of construction workers in the state.<sup>9</sup>

## Latinos and the 2020 Election

- In 2020, Latino voters will play a decisive role in at least 23 of the most competitive House races, including seven in Texas.
- In the 2016 presidential election, one in five Texans who cast a ballot was Latino.
- The number of potential voters is much greater—more than 40% of eligible Latino citizens in the state are still in need of registration.
- In Texas, there are more than five million Latino U.S. citizens of voting age.<sup>10</sup>
- According to an UnidosUS poll, 89% of Texas's Latino voters are motivated to vote in the November 2020 election for president, Congress, and other offices.

- Among these voters, 85% say that participating in voting and elections can make a real difference in their lives.
- The most important candidate qualities for Texas Latino voters are someone who values diversity and brings people together; who has realistic, achievable policy ideas and goals; and who fights for their priorities and is willing to compromise to get things done.<sup>11</sup>

**Health Care.** The Affordable Care Act (ACA) resulted with historic coverage gains and consumer protections that are vulnerable to being reversed. We must continue to strengthen the law so that it works for more Americans, including Latinos. More work is needed to increase access, affordability, and quality so that more families have the opportunity for health coverage and care.

- During the 2019 Open Enrollment Period, 1,087,240 Texas purchased Marketplace coverage, including 301,400 Texas Latinos.<sup>12</sup>
- Texas has the highest uninsured rate (20%) in the nation and more than 2.9 million Texas Latinos are uninsured.<sup>13</sup> The uninsured rate for Texas Latinos in 2018 was 27%, compared to 36% in 2013.<sup>14</sup>
- Texas has the highest child uninsured rate in the nation (10.7%). The uninsured rate among Texas Latino children is even higher at 14.4%.<sup>15</sup>
- More than 2.4 million Latinos in Texas are enrolled in Medicaid.<sup>16</sup>
- 364,000 Latinos currently fall in the Medicaid coverage gap because they earn too little to qualify for financial help to purchase Marketplace coverage and too much to qualify for their state Medicaid program.<sup>17</sup>
- According to an UnidosUS poll, 40% of Latino voters in the state said that reducing health care costs would most help them save money for an emergency expense or for the future.
- According to the poll, 56% of Latinos in Texas say they would be much more likely to support a candidate who favored policies to lower the cost of prescription drugs, and another 50% would be much more likely to support a candidate who favored policies that provide increases in financial help to lower the cost of buying health insurance.

**Jobs and the Economy.** The national economy may be growing, but Latinos continue to struggle to get ahead. After paying bills and essentials, the majority of Latinos have no extra money at the end of the month.

- According to an UnidosUS poll, 86% of Latino voters in Texas say that in this economy, housing costs keep going up, and many hardworking Americans can't afford a place to live.
- In Texas, 23% of Latino voters said they spent more than 40% of their income on housing costs.
- Nearly half (48%) of Latino voters say that reducing housing costs would most help them save money for an emergency expense or for the future.
- Nearly half (49%) of Latinos said they would be much more likely to support a candidate for office who favored policies to build more affordable housing.
- Another 77% of Latino voters say wages are stagnant, and many people must work two or three jobs to get by.
- According to the poll, 54% of Latinos in Texas said they would be much more likely to support a candidate for office who favored paid family and sick leave policies that allow all workers and employees to have some income while they take time away from work, and nearly half (48%) would be much more likely to support a candidate who favored raising the minimum wage to \$15 dollars an hour nationwide.

- More than one-third (39%) of voters said higher wages would make the most positive difference in their lives right now.

**Immigration.** Hispanic immigrants play a critical role in our nation's economy. Federal policies attacking the security of Latino immigrants and their families, especially U.S.-born children, is placing the health, education, and economic outlooks of an entire generation of American young people at risk. And, by extension, the current trajectory of our immigration policy and political landscapes are undermining the nation's long term economic, social, and political health and vitality as well. We must urgently correct course.

- In 2017, more than half of three million Hispanic entrepreneurs in the United States were immigrants.<sup>18</sup>
- While Hispanic immigrants made up only 6% of the U.S. population in 2017, they comprised nearly 10% of the country's entrepreneurs.<sup>19</sup>
- Roughly 107,730 Texans are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.<sup>20</sup> Estimates show as many as 46,700 U.S.-born children in Texas may have a DACA recipient parent.<sup>21</sup>
- As of 2017, 45,000 Hispanic Texans had Temporary Protected Status (TPS).<sup>22</sup> They have at least 55,000 U.S.-born children.<sup>23</sup>
- With the Department of Homeland Security's public charge regulation now in effect, the ripple effects are expected to cost the Texas economy \$876 million to \$2.5 billion and 6,800 to 17,000 jobs.<sup>24</sup>

## About

UnidosUS, previously known as NCLR (National Council of La Raza), is the nation's largest Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization. Through its unique combination of expert research, advocacy, programs, and an [Affiliate Network](#) of nearly 300 community-based organizations across the United States and Puerto Rico, UnidosUS simultaneously challenges the social, economic, and political barriers that affect Latinos at the national and local levels.

For more than 50 years, UnidosUS has united communities and different groups seeking common ground through collaboration, and that share a desire to make our country stronger. For more information on UnidosUS, visit [www.unidosus.org](http://www.unidosus.org) or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).

## Endnotes

- 1 UnidosUS calculations using U.S. Census Bureau, "2018 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates," *American Community Survey*, data.census.gov (accessed October 21, 2019).
- 2 UnidosUS calculations using U.S. Census Bureau, "2018 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates," *American Community Survey*, data.census.gov (accessed October 21, 2019).
- 3 U.S. Census Bureau, "2018 American Community Survey," Table B05003I.
- 4 Migration Policy Institute analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from the 2012–2016 pooled American Community Survey (ACS) and the 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation, with legal status assignments using a unique MPI methodology developed in consultation with James Bachmeier of Temple University and Jennifer Van Hook of the Pennsylvania State University, Population Research Institute (unpublished tables, Migration Policy Institute, 2018).
- 5 <https://research.newamericaneconomy.org/report/hispanic-americans-2019/>
- 6 UnidosUS calculation using IPUMS-CPS, University of Minnesota, 2019.
- 7 U.S. Census Bureau, "2018 American Community Survey," Table S0201.
- 8 U.S. Census Bureau, "2018 American Community Survey," Table S0201.

- 9 <https://research.newamericaneconomy.org/report/hispanic-americans-2019/>
- 10 <https://research.newamericaneconomy.org/report/hispanic-americans-2019/>
- 11 UnidosUS June 2019 Latino Electorate poll
- 12 [https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Statistics-Trends-and-Reports/Marketplace-Products/2019\\_Open\\_Enrollment](https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Statistics-Trends-and-Reports/Marketplace-Products/2019_Open_Enrollment)
- 13 <https://www.kff.org/uninsured/state-indicator/distribution-by-raceethnicity-2/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D>
- 14 <https://www.kff.org/uninsured/state-indicator/rate-by-raceethnicity/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D>
- 15 [https://ccf.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/UninsuredKids2018\\_Final\\_asof1128743pm.pdf](https://ccf.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/UninsuredKids2018_Final_asof1128743pm.pdf)
- 16 <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/state-indicator/rate-by-raceethnicity-3>
- 17 <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/the-coverage-gap-uninsured-poor-adults-in-states-that-do-not-expand-medicare/>
- 18 <https://research.newamericaneconomy.org/report/hispanic-americans-2019/>
- 19 <https://research.newamericaneconomy.org/report/hispanic-americans-2019/>
- 20 U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (2019), *Approximate Active DACA Recipients: As of September 30, 2019*, [https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Resources/Reports%20and%20Studies/Immigration%20Forms%20Data/All%20Form%20Types/DACA/DACA\\_Population\\_Receipts\\_since\\_Injunction\\_Sep\\_30\\_2019.pdf](https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Resources/Reports%20and%20Studies/Immigration%20Forms%20Data/All%20Form%20Types/DACA/DACA_Population_Receipts_since_Injunction_Sep_30_2019.pdf) (accessed January 28, 2020).
- 21 Nicole Prchal Svajlenka, "What We Know About DACA Recipients, by State," (Washington, DC: Center for American Progress, September 2019), <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/news/2019/09/12/474422/know-daca-recipients-state/> (accessed February 5, 2020).
- 22 Temporary Protected Status is a designation that USCIS can grant eligible nationals who are present in the U.S. at the time that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) deems their country of residence temporarily unsafe for return, e.g., due to ongoing conflict or natural disaster.
- 23 Robert Warren, "A Statistical and Demographic Profile of the U.S. Temporary Protected Status Populations from El Salvador, Honduras, and Haiti," *Journal on Migration and Human Security* (August 8, 2018), <https://doi.org/10.1177/233150241700500302> (accessed October 21, 2019). <http://fiscalpolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/FINAL-FPI-Public-Charge-2019-MasterCopy.pdf> (accessed November 25, 2019).
- 24 David Dyssegaard Kallick, "Only Wealthy Immigrants Need Apply: The Chilling Effects of 'Public Charge'" (Washington, DC: Fiscal Policy Institute, November 2019), <http://fiscalpolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/FINAL-FPI-Public-Charge-2019-MasterCopy.pdf> (accessed November 25, 2019).

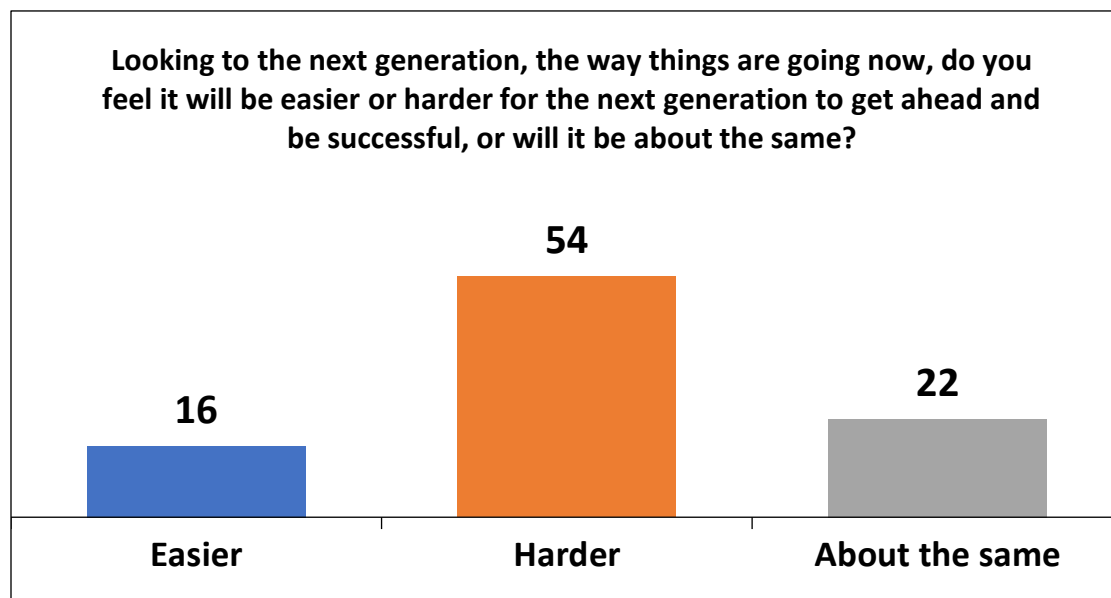
# Texas Latino Voters Poll Results

## A snapshot of top Latino voting issues

This memo presents the key findings based on our recent survey of likely Latino voters in Texas.<sup>1</sup> The survey reached 288 likely Latino voters in Texas concurrent with a larger national survey of Latino voters. It shows an electorate with high motivation and belief in the power of voting, deep economic concerns, and solid support for progressive economic policies to address those concerns.

This sample of likely voters includes 77% who say they are almost certain to vote and 23% who say probably or that the chances are 50/50. Latino voters in Texas are highly motivated to vote this year: 89% rate themselves a 6 or higher on a 0 to 10 motivation scale (**60% are a 10**). Further, these voters solidly see the value of voting: 85% agree that **“Participating in voting and elections can make things better for me and my family”** (54% agree strongly).

These voters come into the election with deep concerns about the future with just over half (**54%**) saying it will be **harder** for the next generation to get ahead, while only 16% believe it will be easier.



<sup>1</sup>Lake Research Partners designed and administered this survey that was conducted between February 5 - 17, 2020 by live telephone interview and text-to-online. The survey was conducted in English and Spanish and reached 1,750 likely general election voters nationally from Latino, Hispanic, or Spanish-speaking backgrounds. It included oversamples in Nevada, Florida, Arizona, Texas, and California. The total sample has a margin of error of +/-2.3% and for the Texas voters it is +/- 5.8.

Texas Latino voters acknowledge growth in the national economy but are not convinced all are benefitting. They strongly believe that housing costs and stagnant wages are fundamental impediments to success and opportunity.

- “In this economy, housing costs keep going up, and many hard-working Americans can't afford a place to live” (86% agree, 58% strongly).
- “In this economy, wages are stagnant, and many people have to work 2 or 3 jobs to get by” (77% agree, 57% strongly).
- “The national economy may be growing, but people like me cannot get ahead” (69% agree, 43% strongly).<sup>2</sup>

The top issue these voters want the next President to focus on is health care, followed by the economy, and immigration.

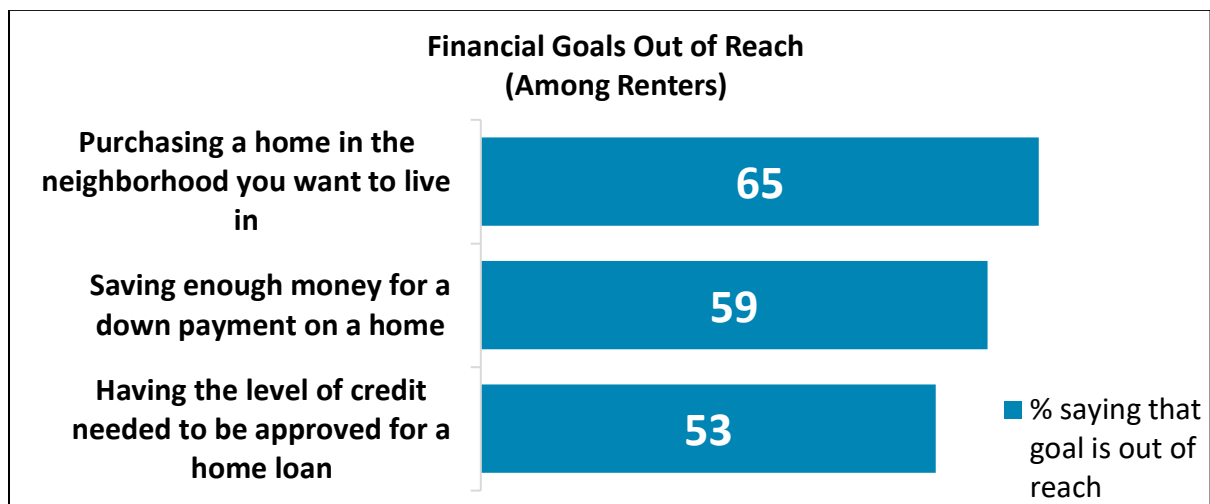
Which one or two of the following issues do you think it is most important for the next President to focus on?	Total	Homeownership	
		Owner	Renter
Health care	34	37	29
Jobs and the economy	29	34	20
Immigration	22	24	21
Corruption in government	20	19	25
Gun violence	20	17	26
Discrimination and racism	15	11	22
Climate change	11	10	13
The cost of housing	11	11	12
Unifying the country	11	10	11
Education	10	10	12

When it comes to their own financial situation, housing costs are a dominant concern. A little more than half of Latino voters in Texas (52%) say they do not have extra money at the end of the month after paying bills and essentials. Housing costs are at the top of list of costs that prevent them from saving money, and much more so for renters.

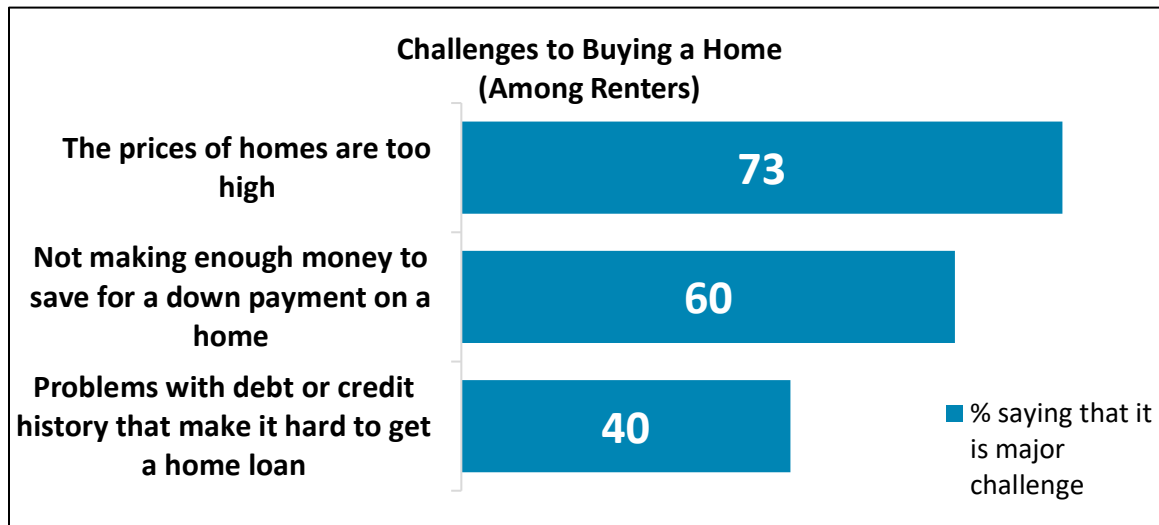
<sup>2</sup> Split sampled.

If you could get help in reducing these costs, which one or two of them would MOST help you to be able to save money for emergency expenses, retirement, or making big purchases?	Total	Homeownership	
		Owner	Renter
Housing costs	48	39	72
Health care costs	40	42	38
Debt, including credit card and student loans	29	30	29
Transportation costs, including care payment	29	27	35
Child care costs	6	6	5

Owning their own home seems out of reach for many Latino voters in Texas. **Among renters, 65% say that purchasing a home in a neighborhood they want to live in is out of reach for them**, and 59% say saving for a down payment is out of reach.

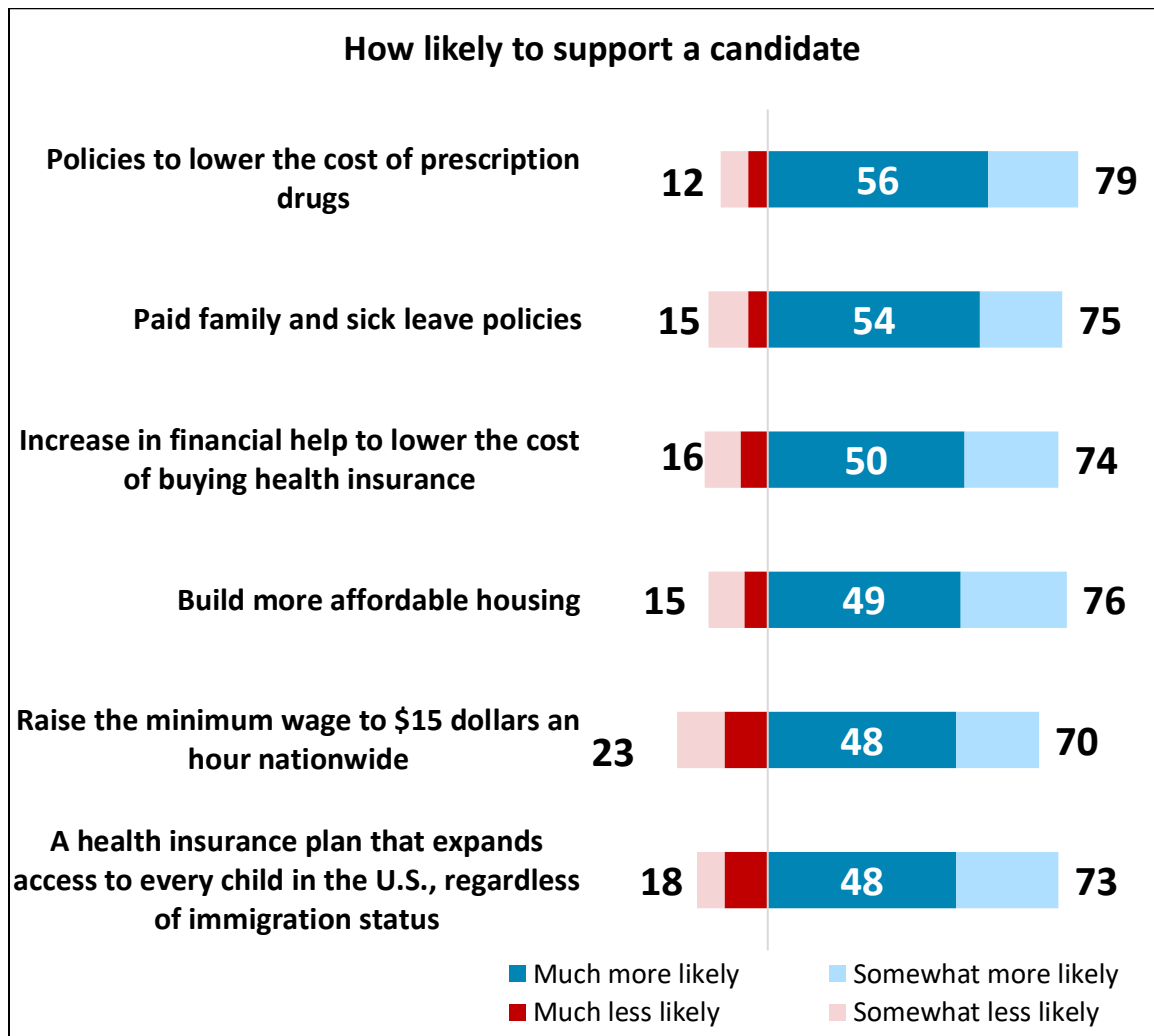


**A little more than 7 in 10 Latino voters (73%) point to the high prices of homes,** followed by not having enough money to save for a down payment, as the key challenges to buying a home.



All of these concerns translate into an appetite for policy proposals. Latino voters in Texas solidly favor a range of proactive economic policies that would drive their support for candidates. The top policies include **lowering prescription drug costs**, financial help to buy **health insurance**, building more **affordable housing**, and **paid family and sick leave**. About three-quarters support these proposals, including half or more who strongly support them.





Much more likely to support a candidate who favored that policy	Total	Homeownership	
		Owner	Renter
Policies to lower the cost of prescription drugs	56	53	65
Paid family and sick leave policies	54	49	65
Increase in financial help to lower the cost of buying health insurance	50	47	57
Build more affordable housing	49	44	58
Raise the minimum wage to \$15 dollars an hour nationwide	48	48	51
A health insurance plan that expands access to every child in the U.S., regardless of immigration status	48	45	52 <sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Smaller N size due to split sample.

**Demographics of Latino Voters in Texas**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Percent</b>
18-29	27
30-39	18
40-49	17
50-64	22
65+	16
<b>Household Income</b>	
Below \$50k	56
Above \$50k	39
<b>Homeownership</b>	
Owner	66
Renter	31
<b>Employment Status</b>	
Employee full-time	52
Employed part-time	16
Unemployed	8
Retired	16
Full student	2
Homemaker	5