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Emerson College Poll: Trump Only Leads Clinton by 6 in Reliably Red Texas; Third-party Candidates are Keeping Things Close; Sanders Voters Still Not Feeling the Love

BOSTON, MA -- A new Emerson College poll in Texas, which has long been a Republican stronghold, shows Donald Trump leading Hillary Clinton by only 6 points (42% to 36%), with 10% of respondents voting for Libertarian Gary Johnson, 6% for the Green Party's Jill Stein and 6% undecided. Trump's lead is within the poll's 3.6% margin of error. The poll was completed before Clinton announced she had been diagnosed with pneumonia.

As a point of comparison, in the 2012 presidential race, Mitt Romney soundly defeated Barack Obama by 16 points in the Lone Star State (57% to 41%). Texas has not voted for a Democratic presidential candidate since 1976, when Jimmy Carter beat GOP incumbent Gerald Ford.

Trump is having mixed success winning over voters who supported Texas Senator Ted Cruz in the state's GOP primary last March. In the Emerson poll, 76% of Cruz voters plan to vote for Trump in November, while 10% support Johnson, 6% are unsure, and the remaining 7% are split between Stein and Clinton. Cruz won the Texas GOP primary, beating Trump 44% to 27%. Clinton is struggling to win over voters who supported Bernie Sanders in the Texas Democratic primary. Only 49% of Sanders supporters plan to vote for Clinton in November; 21% say they will vote for Stein.

Trump is winning the Independent vote 36% to 19% over Clinton, with Stein taking 16% and Johnson 15%. However, it appears Johnson is hurting Trump more than Clinton, taking 12% of registered Republican voters and 15% of Independents while only winning 3% of registered Democrats.

Consistent with most state and national polls, both of the leading candidates have low favorability. Among Texas voters, 33% have a favorable opinion of Clinton while 58% view her unfavorably, a 25-point deficit. Trump does slightly better, with a favorable/unfavorable rating of 38% to 58% (-20). Men support Trump over Clinton, 49% to 35%, while women favor Clinton by a slim two points, 38% to 36%.

Clinton is winning the 18-34 vote, with 36% of young people choosing her. Stein is in second with 20%, followed by Trump (16%) and Johnson (15%). Trump and Clinton are 1-2 in all other age groups. His advantage is 47% to 38% with ages 35-54; 55% to 35% with voters 55-74, and 57% to 33% among those over 75. Trump leads Clinton in four out of six regions. He does best in the Houston suburbs, where his advantage is 49% to 25%. Her greatest strength is in the city of Houston, where she leads 54% to 33%.

Clinton is running away with the minority vote, which comprises more than one-third of the state electorate. She leads Trump among Hispanics 55% to 32% and African Americans 84% to 9%. However,

she is losing the white vote by a wide margin: 55% to 19%. Although Trump has a 2-point lead over Clinton in the ballot test, 46% of voters expect her to win the election while 40% expect him to win.

The Emerson College Polling Society will be releasing its first national poll of the General Election cycle on Wednesday night. The poll includes questions about Clinton's recent diagnosis of pneumonia.

Caller ID
The Emerson College Texas poll was conducted September 7-10 under the supervision of Professor Spencer Kimball. The sample consisted of 700 likely general election voters with a margin of error of +/- 3.6%. Data was weighted by 2012 election results, age, gender, ethnicity and party affiliation. It is important to remember that subsets based on gender, age and party breakdowns carry with them higher margins of error, as the sample size is reduced. Data was collected using an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system of landlines only. The full methodology and results can be found at www.theecps.com.

Frequency Table

Voting Intention

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very likely	700	100.0	100.0	100.0

Party

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Democrat	233	33.3	33.3	33.3
	Republican	241	34.4	34.4	67.7
	Independent	226	32.3	32.3	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	

Gender

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	male	330	47.2	47.2	47.2
	female	370	52.8	52.8	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	

2012 Ballot

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Barack Obama	290	41.4	41.4	41.4
	Mitt Romney	400	57.2	57.2	98.6
	Someone else	10	1.4	1.4	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	

2016 Primary

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Sanders	82	11.8	11.8	11.8
	Clinton	194	27.6	27.6	39.4
	Cruz	112	16.0	16.0	55.4
	Trump	157	22.4	22.4	77.8
	Kasich	37	5.2	5.2	83.1
	Rubio	46	6.6	6.6	89.7
	Other	69	9.9	9.9	99.6
	No vote	3	.4	.4	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	

Clinton Name Rec

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	favorable	233	33.3	33.3	33.3
	unfavorable	407	58.1	58.1	91.4
	undecided	60	8.6	8.6	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	

Trump Name Rec

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	favorable	262	37.5	37.5	37.5
	unfavorable	407	58.2	58.2	95.6
	undecided	30	4.3	4.3	99.9
	never heard of		.1	.1	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	

Presidential Ballot

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Hillary Clinton	252	36.1	36.1	36.1
	Donald Trump	297	42.4	42.4	78.4
	Gary Johnson	69	9.9	9.9	88.3
	Jill Stein	38	5.5	5.5	93.8
	Unsure	43	6.2	6.2	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	

Intensity of Vote

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Won't Change	542	77.5	82.6	82.6
	Will Listen	114	16.3	17.4	100.0
	Total	657	93.8	100.0	
Missing	System	43	6.2		
Total		700	100.0		

Presidential Expectation

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Trump	282	40.2	40.2	40.2
	Clinton	323	46.1	46.1	86.4
	Johnson	14	2.1	2.1	88.4
	Stein	1	.1	.1	88.5
	Unsure	80	11.5	11.5	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	

Age

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	18-34	171	24.5	24.5	24.5
	35-54	282	40.3	40.3	64.8
	55-74	187	26.7	26.7	91.5
	75+	59	8.5	8.5	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	

Education

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	<HS	15	2.1	2.1	2.1
	HS	186	26.6	26.6	28.7
	Some College	174	24.9	24.9	53.6
	College +	325	46.4	46.4	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	

Race

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	white	426	60.9	60.9	60.9
	black	99	14.1	14.1	75.0
	American Indian	10	1.5	1.5	76.5
	Asian	14	2.0	2.0	78.5
	Hawaiian	1	.1	.1	78.6
	Hispanic	141	20.2	20.2	98.8
	2+/Other	8	1.2	1.2	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	

Region

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Houston	80	11.4	11.4	11.4
	Dallas	131	18.7	18.7	30.1
	West	92	13.2	13.2	43.3
	Dallas Suburbs	138	19.7	19.7	63.0
	Houston Suburbs	179	25.6	25.6	88.6
	South	79	11.4	11.4	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	