COVID-19 IN TEXAS

A STUDY OF THE IMPACTS ON, AND THE PREFERENCES AND BEHAVIORS OF, TEXANS AND TEXAS HISPANICS

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IN COLLABORATION WITH





Executive Summary

This report examines Texas public opinion amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic, with particular focus on the policy preferences of Texans vis-à-vis governmental responses to the pandemic, the impact of the pandemic on Texans, and Texan mask-wearing behavior. The report is based on an online representative survey of 846 Texas registered voters carried out between August 4 and August 13, 2020.

A plurality of Texans (44.0%) believes that Texas has relaxed restrictions on business openings and social distancing requirements too quickly, with 28.0% of the opinion they have been relaxed at about the right pace and 28.0% thinking Texas has been moving too slowly in its relaxation of restrictions and requirements. However, there exist profound ethnic/racial differences in these opinions, with only a third of Anglos (34.5%) believing things have moved too quickly, compared to more than half of Hispanics (55.5%) and African Americans (61.0%).

Texans are evenly split 47.9% to 52.1% between those who believe the country's top priority should be to get the economy going by sending people back to work (even if it means more people might be exposed to COVID-19) and those who believe the country's top priority should be slowing the spread of the Coronavirus, even if the economy is hurt. Once again however, there exists a deep ethnic/racial cleavage in regard to these two priorities. While 77.7% of African Americans and 66.1% of Hispanics believe slowing the spread of the Coronavirus should be the country's top priority, only 40.2% of Anglos share this opinion. In a similar vein, there is a noteworthy gender split, with 58.6% of women believing that slowing the spread of the virus should be the top priority compared to only 44.2% of men.

Nine out of ten Texans report that when they enter a grocery store (92.9%) or other indoor retail space (89.9%) they are either extremely likely or likely to wear a mask. In contrast, more than half of Texans state that they are unlikely or very unlikely to wear a mask when they enter a friend's home (53.8%) or a relative's home (58.3%). Compared to African Americans (11.6%, 16.7%) and Hispanics (39.6%, 40.6%), Anglos (69.9%, 55.6%) are especially unlikely to wear a mask when they enter a friend's home or a relative's home respectively.

In line with the public health data now being released by the state of Texas, Hispanics (29.4%) and African Americans (23.7%) are significantly more likely than Anglos (12.3%) to report that they or an immediate family member has tested positive for COVID-19.

Only 1 in 30 Texans (3.4%) appears to be engaged in the extreme self-quarantining that would lend a strong degree of credibility to their claim that, by not providing a mail ballot option to those under 65 who fear contracting the Coronavirus, the state of Texas is forcing them to choose between their health and suffrage. But, the very limited data suggest if these individuals do not turn out to vote, Republican candidates may well be advantaged, and Democratic candidates disadvantaged.

COVID-19 IN TEXAS: A Study Of The Impacts On, And The Preferences And Behaviors Of, Texans And Texas Hispanics

This report is the second of a three-part series focusing on the 2020 Presidential and U.S. Senate Elections, the COVID-19 Pandemic, and Hispanic Voters. This report analyzes Texas opinions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, its impact on Texas and how Texans have responded and adapted to it.

The first report examined the presidential and U.S. Senate voting preferences among Texas voters as well as Texans' evaluation of Presidential Trump's performance in key policy areas. It also explored the overall favorability ratings of national and state politicians along with the impact of Donald Trump's tenure in office on voter evaluations of the Texas Republican Party.

METHODOLOGY

The survey was conducted between August 4, 2020 and August 13, 2020 for the Texas Hispanic Policy Foundation (THPF) in coordination with Rice University's Baker Institute. Data was collected via a YouGov panel by interviewing 892 respondents online who were then matched down to a sample of 846 Texas registered voters to produce the final dataset, which contains an oversample of Hispanics to allow for more detailed intra-group analysis than is possible in a standard survey.

YouGov is the nation's most prestigious online survey company, conducting U.S. election related surveys for CBS News, Yahoo News, HuffPost and The Economist, among others. In addition, in Texas YouGov has for more than a decade conducted the highly regarded and influential triennial University of Texas/Texas Tribune Poll.

The respondents were matched to a sampling frame on gender, age, race, and education. The frame was constructed by stratified sampling from the 2018 Current Population Survey (CPS) sample with selection within strata by weighted sampling with replacements (using the person weights on the public use file). The matched cases were weighted to the sampling frame using propensity scores. The matched cases and the frame were combined and a logistic regression was estimated for inclusion in the frame. The propensity score function included age, gender, race/ethnicity, years of education, and region. The propensity scores were grouped into deciles of the estimated propensity score in the frame and post-stratified according to these deciles. The weights were then post-stratified on 2016 Presidential vote choice, and a four-way stratification of gender, age (4-categories), race (4-categories), and education (4-categories), to produce the final weight.

COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS IN TEXAS

In the survey respondents were asked if they believed that the COVID-19 restrictions on business operations and social distancing requirements in Texas were being relaxed too quickly, too slowly, or at just about the right pace.

Overall, 44.0% of Texans believe the restrictions are being relaxed too quickly versus 28.0% who believe they are being relaxed too slowly, and another 28.0% who are of the opinion that the pace of restriction and requirement relaxation in Texas is proceeding at about the right pace.

Table 1 provides the overall distribution of opinions as well as the distribution broken down among the three principal ethnic/racial groups in Texas: Anglos (non-Hispanic Whites), Hispanics, and African Americans. Anglos accounted for 57.1% of the survey respondents, Hispanics for 25.5%, African Americans for 13.9% and others for 3.6% (this latter group is too small for reliable analysis and is therefore excluded from the tables).

Response	Overall	Anglos	Hispanics	African Americans
Too Quickly	44.0	34.5	55.5	61.0
Right Pace	28.0	32.3	22.8	19.4
Too Slowly	28.0	33.2	21.7	19.6

Table 1.	Ethnicity/Race	& Relaxation	of COVID-19	Restrictions	(%)
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Anglos are split into thirds with equal sized groups believing the pace of relaxation is happening too quickly (34.5%), too slowly (33.2%), and at about the right pace (32.3%). This stands in sharp contrast to both Hispanics and African Americans, where a large majority (55.5% and 61.0%) believe the relaxation of restrictions and social distancing requirements is taking place too quickly, versus only a fifth (21.7% and 19.6% respectively) who believe it is taking place too slowly and a fifth who believe it is occurring at just about the right pace (22.8% and 19.4% respectively).

Table 2 provides a breakdown of opinions related to the relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions and social distancing requirements by gender. Women account for 55.0% of the respondents and men for 45.0%.

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Response	Overall	Women	Men
Too Quickly	44.0	47.4	39.7
Right Pace	28.0	29.5	26.2
Too Slowly	28.0	23.1	34.1

There exists a moderate gender difference in regard to the respondents' views regarding the relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions and social distancing requirements. Women are modestly more likely than men to believe the relaxation is occurring too quickly (47.4% to 39.7%) while men are modestly more likely than women to believe the relaxation is occurring too slowly (34.1% to 23.1%). Relatively equal shares of women and men believe the pace of relaxation is about right (29.5% vs. 26.2% respectively).

Table 3 provides a breakdown of opinions related to the relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions and social distancing requirements by generation. For the purposes of this analysis the members of the Silent Generation (born between 1928 and 1945) are grouped together with the Baby Boomers (1946-1964), and Millenials (1981-1996) and members of Generation Z (1997-) are grouped together. Generation X (1965-1980) is examined on its own. The three groups account for 47.3%, 31.0% and 21.7% of the survey population respectively.

Response	Overall	Silent Generation	Generation X	Millenials &
		& Baby Boomers		Generation Z
Too Quickly	44.0	40.8	49.1	45.1
Right Pace	28.0	32.5	23.0	24.7
Too Slowly	28.0	26.7	27.9	30.2

Table 3. Generation & Relaxation of COVID-19 Restrictions (%)

There are relatively limited generational differences in regard to the pace of relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions and social distancing requirements. Members of Generation X are slightly more likely than members of the Silent Generation & Baby Boomers (49.1% to 40.8%) to believe things are progressing too quickly, with the obverse true in regard to belief that things are progressing at the right pace (23.0% vs. 32.5%). Other than that, there exist little in the way of notable generational differences on this policy dimension.

Table 4 provides a breakdown of opinions on the relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions and social distancing requirements by education. Respondents were split into three groups based on their highest level of educational attainment: primary through high school (30.0%), some college through a two-year college degree (30.6%), and a four-year degree through a post graduate degree (39.4%).

Response	Overall	Primary +	Some College +	4 Year Degree +
		High School	2 Year Degree	Post Graduate
Too Quickly	44.0	46.1	43.5	42.5
Right Pace	28.0	25.8	30.9	26.5
Too Slowly	28.0	28.1	25.7	31.0

Table 4. Education & Relaxation of COVID-19 Restrictions (%)

Table 4 reveals that there do not appear to exist any notable differences in respondent opinion vis-à-vis the relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions and social distancing requirements based on education. The proportions of each of the three educational groups that believe the pace is going too quickly, too slowly and at the right pace are substantively similar.

TOP PRIORITY FOR THE COUNTRY: THE ECONOMY VS. SLOWING THE SPREAD

The respondents were asked to choose between two options for what they considered the top priority for the country should be now: Option 1: Try to get the economy going by sending people back to work, even if it means more people might be exposed to the Coronavirus; Option 2: Try to slow the spread of the Coronavirus by keeping people home and social distancing, even if the economy is hurt.

Texans as a group are split right down the middle on this issue, with 52.1% listing the second option of slowing the spread of the Coronavirus as the top priority and 47.9% listing the first option of getting the economy going as the top priority.

Response	Overall	Anglos	Hispanics	African
				Americans
Slow the	52.1	40.2	66.1	77.7
Spread of				
Coronavirus				
Get the	47.9	59.8	33.9	22.3
Economy				
Going				

Table 5. Ethnicity/Race and the Top Priority for the Country (%)

Table 5 underscores the existence of very strong ethnic/racial differences regarding whether the country should prioritize the economy or slowing the spread of the Coronavirus. A notable majority of Anglos (59.8%) think that getting the economy going should be the top priority while to the contrary an even larger proportion of Hispanics (66.1%), and a still larger proportion African Americans (77.7%), believe that slowing the spread of the virus should be the country's top priority.

Table 6. Gender and the Top Priority for the Country (%)

Response	Overall	Women	Men
Slow the Spread of	52.1	58.6	44.2
Coronavirus			
Get the Economy	47.9	41.4	55.8
Going			

While not as pronounced as the differences between Anglos and non-Anglos seen in Table 5, Table 6 nevertheless reveals significant gender differences in regard to the top priority for the country. A majority of women (58.6%) believe slowing the Coronavirus's spread should be the country's top priority while a majority of men (55.8%) believe getting the economy going should be the top priority.

Response	Overall	Silent Generation &	Generation X	Millenials &
		Baby Boomers		Generation Z
Slow the Spread of Coronavirus	52.1	47.2	60.5	53.8
Get the Economy Going	47.9	52.8	39.5	46.2

Table 7. Generation and the Top Priority for the Country (%)

Table 7 presents relatively limited differences in the top priority for the country among the three generational groups. The only noteworthy generational difference is that found between the Silent Generation & Baby Boomers on one hand, who are equally split between those who prioritize the slowing the spread of the Coronavirus (47.2%) and those who view getting the economy going as the top priority (52.8%), and their generational neighbors, Generation X, the members of which prioritize slowing the spread of the virus (60.5%) over getting the economy going (39.5%) by a notable margin.

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Response	Overall	Primary +	Some College +	4 Year Degree +
		High School	2 Year Degree	Post Graduate
Slow the	52.1	53.1	50.5	52.6
Spread of				
Coronavirus				
Get the	47.9	46.9	49.5	47.4
Economy				
Going				

Table 8 indicates that there do not exist any notable differences based on educational attainment in regard to the prioritization of slowing the spread of the Coronavirus vs. getting the economy going.

GOING BACK TO WORK?

Respondents who have gone back to work outside of their home were asked the extent to which they agreed with the statement that they would have preferred to have waited to go back to work, but for financial reasons felt they had no choice but to return to work. Respondents were given the options of strongly agree, agree,

neither agree nor disagree, disagree, and strongly disagree. For the purposes of this analysis the two agree and disagree categories are respectively merged to create a three-point scale of agree, neither (agree nor disagree), and disagree. Overall 35.4% of the respondents agreed with the statement, 40.1% disagreed, and 24.4% neither agreed nor disagreed.

Response	Overall	Anglos	Hispanics	African
				Americans
Agree	35.4	28.3	42.5	39.7
Neither	24.4	24.2	19.7	38.3
Disagree	40.1	47.3	37.9	21.9

Table 9.	Ethnicity	/Race &	Going	Back to	Work ([%]
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Table 9 signals that Hispanics (42.5%) and to a lesser extent African Americans (39.7%) are significantly more likely to agree than Anglos (28.3%) that they would have preferred to have waited to go back to work outside of the home but felt they had to for financial reasons, just as Anglos (47.3%) are significantly more likely than Hispanics (37.9%) and especially African Americans (21.9%) to disagree with the statement.

Table 10. Gender & Going Back to Work (%)

Response	Overall	Women	Men
Agree	35.4	42.1	28.3
Neither	24.4	26.6	22.1
Disagree	40.1	31.4	49.6

Table 10 highlights strong gender differences in agreement with the statement, with women (42.1%) significantly more likely to agree with the statement than men (28.3%), and men (49.6%) significantly more likely than women (31.4%) to disagree with the statement.

Table 11. Generation & Going Back to Work (%
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Response	Overall	Silent Generation & Baby Boomers	Generation X	Millenials & Generation Z
Agree	35.4	39.0	32.2	35.7
Neither	24.4	22.7	31.5	19.6
Disagree	40.1	38.3	36.3	44.7

Table 11 reveals that generational differences are largely absent in regard to the respondents' agreement or disagreement with the statement. A similar lack of differences based on education is illustrated in Table 12, with the partial exception of a notable difference between those with a primary or high school education

(45.3%) being somewhat more likely to disagree with the statement than those with some college or a two-year degree (35.8%).

Response	Overall	Primary + High School	Some College + 2 Year Degree	4 Year Degree+ Post Graduate
Agree	35.4	35.1	38.7	32.7
Neither	24.4	19.7	25.5	27.1
Disagree	40.1	45.3	35.8	40.2

Table 12. Education & Going Back to Work (%)

MASK WEARING BEHAVIOR BY TEXANS

One of the most visible elements of the battle against COVID-19 in Texas is the wearing of a mask when outside of the home. We queried respondents about whether they were extremely likely, likely, unlikely, or very unlikely to wear a mask when they entered a series of different locations: a grocery store, an indoor (non-grocery) retail establishment, an outdoor retail establishment, a place of worship, a friend's home, a relative's home, a restaurant, a public park, and a gym. The respondents were also given the option of responding that they were not going to the location these days.

Table 13 contains the results for the entire population. For each of the nine locations the first row contains the proportions for all respondents and the second row contains the proportions for those who are going to the location at the present time (that is excluding those who are not going to the location these days).

Location	Extremely	Likely	Unlikely	Extremely	Not Going
	Likely			Unlikely	These Days
Grocery	73.5	14.9	3.5	3.3	4.9
Store					
Grocery	77.3	15.6	3.7	3.4	
Store					
Shoppers					
Other	58.9	18.5	4.5	4.2	14.0
Indoor					
Retail					
Other	68.4	21.5	5.2	4.9	
Indoor					
Retail					
Shoppers					
Outdoor	39.3	18.6	12.6	10.2	19.3
Retail					
Outdoor	48.7	23.0	15.6	12.7	
Retail					
Shoppers					
Place of	35.9	12.5	4.8	6.7	40.0
Worship					
Place of	59.9	20.9	8.1	11.2	
Worship					
Attendees					
Friend's	18.2	14.4	17.8	20.2	29.5
Home					
Friend's	25.9	20.4	25.2	28.6	
Home					
Visitors					
Relative's	17.9	14.3	21.3	23.7	22.8
Home					
Relative's	23.2	18.5	27.6	30.7	
Home					
Visitors					
Restaurant	39.0	17.0	7.9	7.2	29.0
Restaurant	54.9	23.9	11.1	10.1	
Patrons					
Public Park	22.0	11.6	17.4	26.7	22.9
Public Park	28.5	15.0	22.5	34.6	
Visitors					
Gym	26.1	8.8	2.7	6.2	56.3
Gym	59.6	20.1	6.1	14.2	
Patrons					

 Table 13. Likelihood of Using Mask When Entering Location (%)



Figure 1: Proportion Who Are Extremely Likely to Wear a Mask When Entering

Figure 1 displays the percentage of those individuals who are going to the respective location these days who are extremely likely to wear a mask when entering the location. More than three out of four individuals who enter a grocery store (77%) are extremely likely to wear a mask when entering, followed in frequency by those entering other indoor retail establishments (68%), attending worship (60%), working out at a gym (60%), patronizing a restaurant (55%), and shopping at an outdoor retail establishment (49%). In contrast, only around one in four respondents was extremely likely to wear a mask when entering a relative's home (23%) or a friend's home (26%), proportions that are even slightly lower than those who are extremely likely to wear a mask when entering a public park (29%).



Figure 2: Proportion Who Are Unlikely to Wear a Mask When Entering

Figure 2 provides something of a flip-side to Figure 1, containing the proportion of respondents who reported that they were either unlikely or very unlikely to wear a mask when entering the location. More than half of the survey respondents are unlikely to wear a mask when entering a relative's home (58%), visiting a public park (57%), and entering a friend's home (54%). At the other end of the spectrum only one in ten respondents was unlikely to wear a mask when entering a grocery store (7%) or other (non-grocery) indoor retail establishment (10%), and only one in five was unlikely to wear a mask when entering a place of worship (19%), a gym (20%), or a restaurant (21%).

The results above suggest that a significant share of the population is potentially placing themselves and others at substantially greater risk when visiting the homes of friends or relatives, especially if they are not certain that both they and their friends or relatives are not infected with the COVID-19 virus.



Figure 3: Proportion Who Are Not Going to Location These Days

Finally, Figure 3 lists the proportion of individuals who at the present time are not visiting the respective location. More than half of respondents (56%) are not visiting gyms and 40% not visiting places of worship. At the other end of the spectrum, only 5% of the population is not visiting grocery stores and only 14% is not visiting other indoor retail establishments.

Below we examine mask-wearing practices when entering four key locations (Grocery Stores, Places of Worship, Friend's Home, Relative's Home) broken down by ethnicity/race, gender, generation, and education. The focus is on the percentage of those entering the location, but we also provide in a separate column the proportion of respondents who are not going to the location these days.

Table 14 breaks down mask wearing behavior by ethnicity/race for the state's three most prominent ethnic/racial groups: Anglos (non-Hispanic Whites), Hispanics, and African Americans.

Ethnic/racial differences are relatively moderate in regard to mask wearing behavior at grocery stores, but with a notable gap existing between those who are extremely likely to wear masks, with only 73.1% of Anglos extremely likely to wear a mask compared to 85.9% of African Americans. Differences related to attendance of houses of worship are more even more notable, with African Americans (81.0%)

most likely to wear masks when entering and Anglos (51.7%) least likely, with Hispanics (64.1%) in between these two extremes.

Far more substantial differences however exist in behavior when entering a friend's home or a relative's home. Anglos are significantly less likely to wear a mask when entering a friend or relative's house than either Hispanics or African Americans, and in turn Hispanics are significantly less likely to wear a mask when entering a friend or relative's home than are African Americans. For example, 69.9% and 75.6% of Anglos are either unlikely or very unlikely to wear a mask when entering a friend or relative's home respectively. This contrasts with 39.6% and 40.6% of Hispanics who are unlikely or very unlikely to wear a mask when entering a friend's home or a relative's home respectively, and 11.6% and 16.7% of African Americans who respectively are unlikely or very unlikely to wear a mask when entering a friend's or relative's home respectively.

Location	Ethnicity/Race	Extremely	Likely	Unlikely	Very	Not
		Likely			Unlikely	Going
Grocery	Anglos	73.1	17.7	5.5	3.7	(5.4)
Store						
	Hispanics	81.3	14.8	1.0	2.9	(2.4)
	African	85.9	10.0	1.0	3.2	(2.1)
	Americans					
Place of	Anglos	51.7	22.2	12.1	14.0	(41.7)
Worship						
	Hispanics	64.1	26,8	3.5	5.6	(39.7)
	African	81.0	9.5	2.9	6.6	(39.7)
	Americans					
Friend's	Anglos	15.0	15.2	30.7	39.2	(27.1)
Home						
	Hispanics	37.1	23.3	24.2	15.4	(37.9)
	African	52.1	36.4	5.8	5.8	(20.3)
	Americans					
Relative's	Anglos	13.6	10.7	32.7	42.9	(20.3)
Home						
	Hispanics	35.2	24.2	23.9	16.7	(29.7)
	African	42.1	41.2	12.4	4.3	(14.7)
	Americans					

Table 14: Ethnic/Race and Mask Wearing When Entering a Location (%)

Table 15 breaks down mask wearing behavior by gender. Women are moderately more apt to be more likely to wear a mask when entering the home of a friend or

relative than are men, while men were moderately more unlikely to wear a mask when entering those same two locations.

Location	Gender	Extremely	Likely	Unlikely	Very	Not
		Likely			Unlikely	Going
Grocery	Women	80.5	12.2	4.0	3.3	(5.9)
Store						
	Men	73.5	19.7	3.2	3.6	(3.6)
Place of	Women	66.9	15.6	6.8	10.6	(43.7)
Worship						
	Men	52.4	26.5	9.4	11.8	(35.5)
Friend's	Women	32.5	21.4	21.9	24.2	(34.5)
House						
	Men	19.0	19.3	28.5	33.2	(23.3)
Relative's	Women	27.5	19.1	26.0	27.4	(24.3)
House						
	Men	18.1	17.9	29.5	34.6	(21.1)

Table 15: Gender and Mask Wearing When Entering a Location (%)

Table 16 breaks down mask wearing behavior by generation. Overall there are very few significant differences in mask wearing behavior across the three generational groups (Silent Generation + Baby Boomers, Generation X, Millenials + Generation Z). The one exception is related to those extremely likely to wear a mask when entering a place of worship, where Millenials and Generation Z members were notably less likely than members of the other two generational groups to be extremely likely to wear a mask. Other than that one instance, there were no significant generational differences in mask wearing behavior.

Location	Generation	Extremely Likely	Likely	Unlikely	Very Unlikely	Not Going
Grocery	Silent +	80.3	14.8	3.0	2.0	(4.2)
Store	Boomers					
	Gen. X	77.3	13.9	4.6	4.3	(3.1)
	Millenials +	72.6	18.2	4.1	5.2	(7.0)
	Gen. Z					
Place of	Silent +	63.5	22.0	8.2	6.4	(42.6)
Worship	Boomers					
	Gen. X	65.9	11.1	10.4	12.6	(35.9)

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	Millenials +	49.6	25.8	6.6	18.1	(38.9)
	Gen. Z					
Friend's	Silent +	24.7	20.3	27.2	27.8	(31.1)
Home	Boomers					
	Gen. X	27.5	18.9	23.7	29.8	(29.1)
	Millenials +	26.4	21.5	23.2	28.9	(27.4)
	Gen. Z					
Relative's	Silent +	22.1	19.1	27.1	31.7	(22.4)
Home	Boomers					
	Gen. X	27.2	15.6	29.6	27.7	(25.1)
	Millenials +	22.2	19.7	26.9	31.3	(21.8)
	Gen. Z					

Table 17 breaks down mask-wearing behavior by the respondents' highest level of educational attainment. As the table makes abundantly clear, there exist no significant differences in mask wearing behavior across members of the three different educational attainment groups (primary and high school, some college and a two-year degree, a four-year degree and post graduate study).

Location	Education	Extremely Likely	Likely	Unlikely	Very Unlikely	Not Going
Grocery Store	Primary + High School	76.7	14.4	5.8	3.1	(3.9)
	Some College + 2 Year	73.8	20.4	2.2	3.6	(3.7)
	4 Year + Post Graduate	80.6	12.8	3.2	3.5	(6.5)
Place of Worship	Primary + High School	61.9	16.7	6.0	15.4	(40.9)
	Some College + 2 Year	57.8	19.0	13.4	9.7	(41.5)
	4 Year + Post Graduate	59.9	25.3	5.6	9.2	(38.3)

Table 17: Education and Mask Wearing When Entering a Location (%)

Friend's Home	Primary + High School	29.6	19.6	23.0	27.9	(28.4)
	Some College + 2 Year	23.7	19.6	26.2	30.5	(27.2)
	4 Year + Post Graduate	24.7	21.7	26.0	27.6	(32.0)
Relative's Home	Primary + High School	26.1	24.3	22.1	27.5	(18.8)
	Some College + 2 Year	22.1	15.9	30.7	31.2	(22.0)
	4 Year + Post Graduate	21.7	15.8	29.5	33.0	(26.5)

POSITIVE COVID-19 TEST AND ETHNICITY/RACE

Table 18 contains information on the proportion of respondents who reported that either they or an immediate family member has tested positive for COVID-19. All together 18.0% of the respondents reported that either they or an immediate family member had tested positive vs. 82.0% who indicated that neither they nor an immediate family member had tested positive for COVID-19. The table reinforces the conclusions gleaned from official Texas public health data that Hispanics and African Americans have been more likely to test positive for COVID-19 than Anglos, with 29.4% and 23.7% of Hispanics and African Americans reporting positive COVID-19 tests within their immediate family compared to 12.3% of Anglos.

Positive Test	Overall	Anglos	Hispanics	African Americans
Yes	18.0	12.3	29.4	23.7
No	82.0	87.3	70.6	76.4

Table 18: Positive COVID-19 Test & Ethnicity/Race (%)

MAIL BALLOTS IN TEXAS IN THE MIDST OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

A great deal of energy on both sides of the political aisle has been devoted to the topic of providing mail ballots to those individuals who fear that voting in-person could cause them to contract COVID-19 and in doing so put their health as well as the health of their family members at risk. The very valid argument made by

proponents of more expansive mail ballot options is that people should not be forced to have to choose between protecting their and their family's health and exercising their right of suffrage.

In Texas, state and county officials have highlighted a number of measures they have taken to make in-person voting safer this year including the extension of the early voting period, greater spacing between voting machines, finger gloves, and the frequent sanitizing of voting machines and polling locations. Together, these measures arguably make voting in-person notably safer than going to the grocery store.

Referring back to Table 13, we know that only 4.9% of the respondents (all of whom are registered voters) are not going to the grocery store these days. These individuals would appear to be engaged in the form of extreme social distancing that would suggest that they truly believe that voting in-person would represent a serious health risk to either them and/or someone with whom they live. Furthermore, in Texas those who are 65 and older can request a mail ballot for any reason. When they are excluded, that drops to overall proportion of Texas registered voters who are quite likely adversely affected by the decision to not allow voters to request a mail ballot due to fear of contracting COVID-19 to 3.4%.

The proportion of 3.4% is not a large number, suggesting that relatively few Texans are truly being put in a position of choosing between their health and their right of suffrage. That said, the proportion is also not 0.0%, indicating that about 1 in every 33 Texas voters will quite possibly be forced this fall to choose between engaging in practices that they believe safeguard their or their family's health and casting a vote in one of the most consequential elections in recent memory.

The population of 3.4% is too small to provide any accurate analysis, but with that very substantial caveat in mind, we provide the ethnic/racial breakdown of this group of 3.4% as well as their presidential and U.S. Senate vote preferences. The ethnic/racial breakdown is: Anglo (48.5%), Latino (16.9%), African American (8.6%) and Others (26.0%). The presidential vote distribution is 51.9% for Democrat Joe Biden, 24.1% for Republican Donald Trump, 9.7% for Green Howie Hawkins and 14.4% unsure. The Texas U.S. Senate vote choice is 61.6% for Democrat MJ Hegar, 36.0% for Republican John Cornyn, and 2.4% unsure. As was already mentioned, the small size of this population renders any data analysis inconclusive. That said, these data do at least tend to suggest the possibility that if this small sub-group of Texans chooses to prioritize their health over voting inperson this fall, the Republicans Trump and Cornyn would be advantaged while the Democrats Biden and Hegar would be disadvantaged.

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