



## **SAN ANTONIO RESIDENTS GIVE MIXED REVIEWS TO MAYOR GINA ORTIZ JONES AFTER ONE YEAR IN OFFICE**

RESIDENTS REMAIN DIVIDED ON PROJECT MARVEL DURING SPURS FINALS RUN, RATE LOCAL LEADERS MORE FAVORABLY THAN NATIONAL OFFICIALS

**BEXAR COUNTY PANEL SURVEY—JUNE 9-16, 2026**

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**SAN ANTONIO, TX** – The UTSA Center for Public Opinion Research (CPOR) conducted a survey of 1,064 San Antonio residents who are members of its Bexar County Panel. The findings below summarize residents' evaluations of local and national political leaders, political parties, government performance, and Project Marvel.

**Key findings:**

- Former San Antonio mayor and candidate for Bexar County judge Ron Nirenberg receives the highest feeling thermometer rating among a group of several political leaders, including current mayor Gina Ortiz Jones, City Manager Erik Walsh, and President Donald Trump.
- One year into her term as mayor, Gina Ortiz Jones has a net negative approval rating of -5. Current Bexar County Judge Peter Sakai has a net positive rating of +18.
- Amidst the San Antonio Spurs return to the NBA Finals, residents remain divided on Project Marvel.
- Democrats continue to be viewed much more favorably than Republicans.
- Trust in local government substantially exceeds trust in state and federal government.

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### Leadership Feeling Thermometers

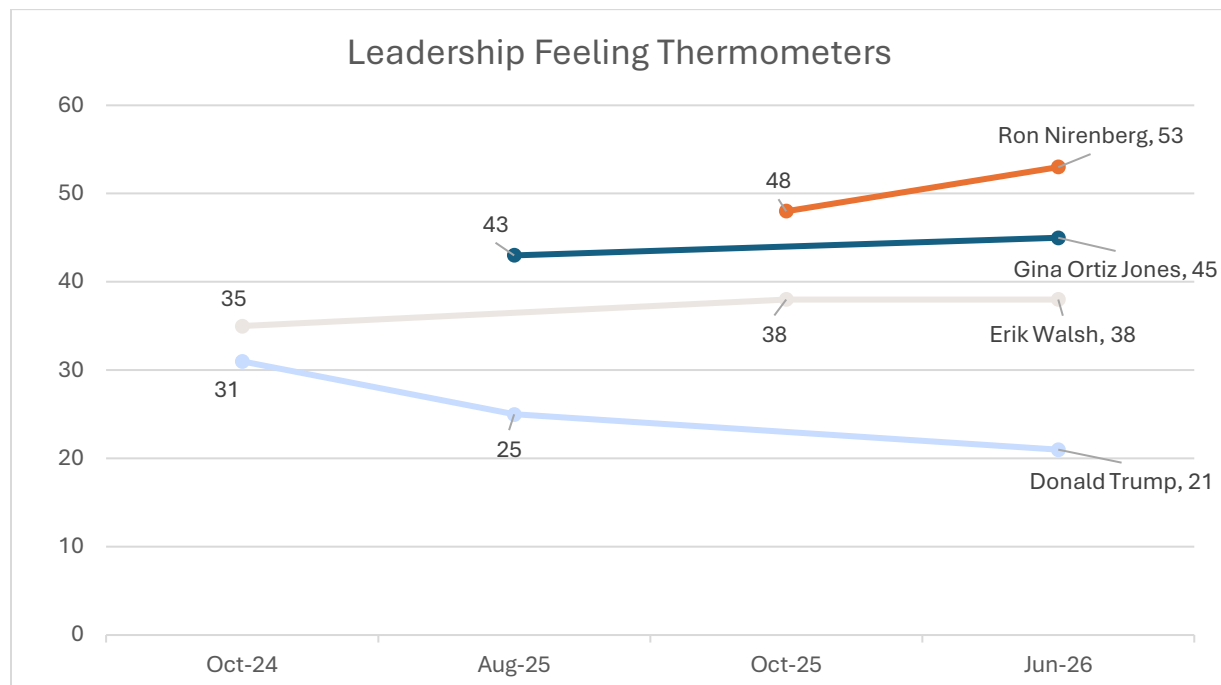
Panelists were asked to evaluate several political subjects, using a 0-100 feeling thermometer.

Ratings between 50 and 100 degrees mean that residents feel favorable and warm towards the subject. Ratings between 0 and 50 mean residents don't feel favorable towards the subject. Residents rated the subjects at the 50-degree mark if they felt neither warm nor cold towards the subject.

In the June 2026 survey, San Antonio residents evaluated Gina Ortiz Jones, the mayor of San Antonio, Ron Nirenberg, the former mayor of San Antonio and current candidate for Bexar County judge, San Antonio City Manager Erik Walsh, and United States President Donald Trump.

Nirenberg received the highest feeling thermometer score (53), followed by Jones (45), Walsh (38), and Trump (21). Nirenberg's score was 5 points higher than it was in October 2025 (48), when Bexar County Panelists last assessed him. Donald Trump's score, on the other hand, was 4 points lower than it was August 2025 (25), and 10 points lower than it was in October 2024.

Overall, local political figures received considerably warmer evaluations than President Donald Trump, continuing a pattern observed in previous CPOR surveys in which local institutions and leaders are viewed more favorably than national political figures.



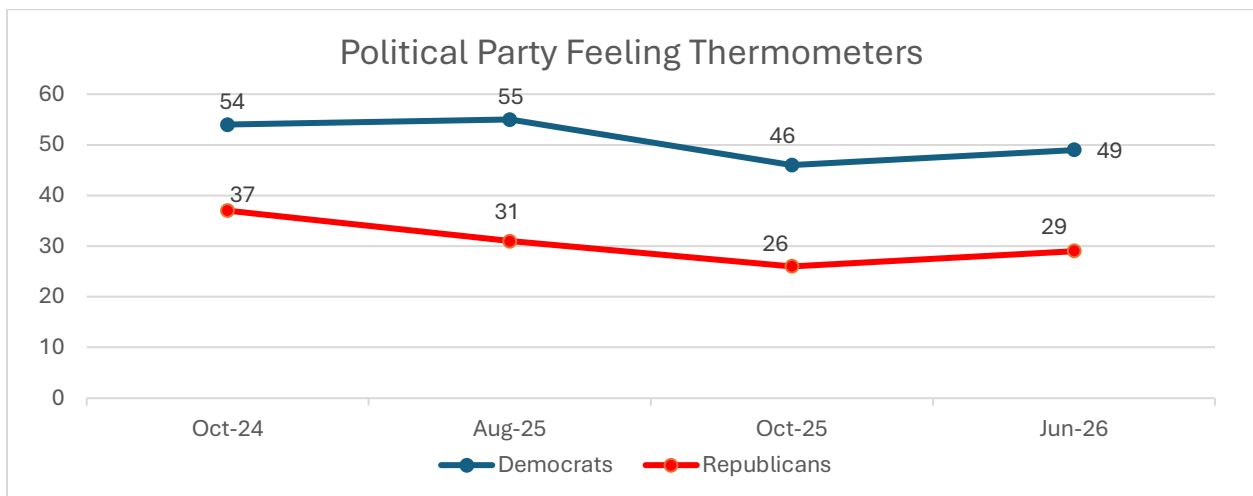
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The June 2026 survey continued to track San Antonio residents' feelings toward the Democratic and Republican parties using a 0-100 feeling thermometer. Democrats continued to receive substantially warmer evaluations than Republicans. Democrats received an average rating of 50, while Republicans received a rating of 28.

Although Democrats remain more positively viewed than Republicans, Democratic ratings have softened compared to earlier waves of the panel. After averaging 55 in both October 2024 and August 2025, Democratic ratings declined to 47 in October 2025 before rebounding slightly to 50 in June 2026. Republican ratings have been remarkably stable over the same period, remaining near 30 in each of the last three surveys after declining from 37 in October 2024.

The roughly 20-point gap between evaluations of the two major political parties has remained relatively consistent across panel waves.



### Approval of Elected Officials

San Antonio residents were also asked whether they approve or disapprove of the job performance of several elected officials. Bexar County Judge Peter Sakai received the strongest evaluations, with a net approval rating of +18. Although only about one-third of respondents expressed approval, relatively few disapproved of his performance, and many residents either reported being unfamiliar with him or expressed no opinion.

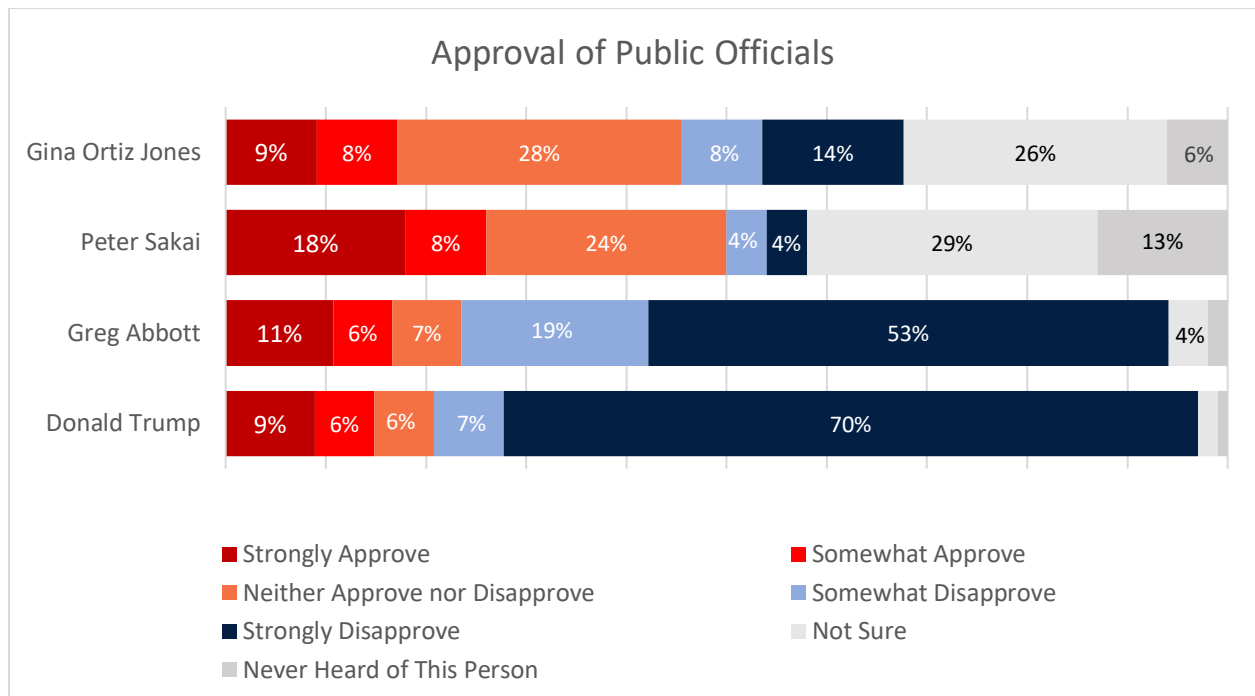
Mayor Gina Ortiz Jones' net approval rating was -5, reflecting a nearly even balance between approval and disapproval. While Jones has now been in office for one year, a substantial share of residents

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continued to express neutral opinions or uncertainty, suggesting many are still forming evaluations of the new mayor.

Governor Greg Abbott (-55) and President Donald Trump (-62) remained deeply unpopular among San Antonio residents. Large majorities expressed disapproval of both officials, continuing a pattern observed in previous CPOR surveys and reflecting the city's strongly Democratic political environment.



*Note: values may not add up exactly to 100% due to rounding*

| Net Approval of Elected Officials—Most to Least Support |     |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----|
|                                                         | Net |
| Peter Sakai                                             | +18 |
| Gina Ortiz Jones                                        | -5  |
| Greg Abbott                                             | -55 |
| Donald Trump                                            | -62 |

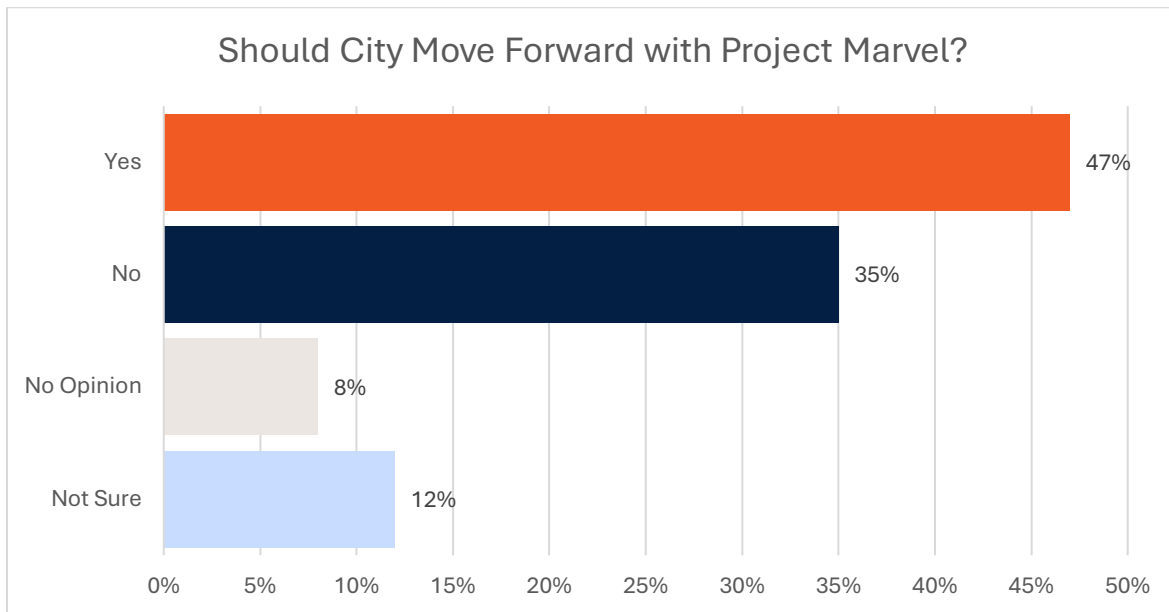
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### Support for Project Marvel

During the Spurs' return trip to the NBA Finals, residents remained divided over Project Marvel, the city's long-term plan to redevelop Hemisfair into a sports and entertainment district that includes a new arena for the Spurs. In the survey, which was in the field during the Spurs' Finals run, 47% percent of San Antonio residents believe the city should move forward with the project, while 35% oppose moving forward. Another 12% are unsure, and 8% report having no opinion.

Compared to the October 2025 CPOR voter poll, support for Project Marvel has remained stable. The current findings suggest that supporters continue to outnumber opponents, although a sizable minority remains unconvinced or uncertain about the project.



*Note: values may not add up exactly to 100% due to rounding*

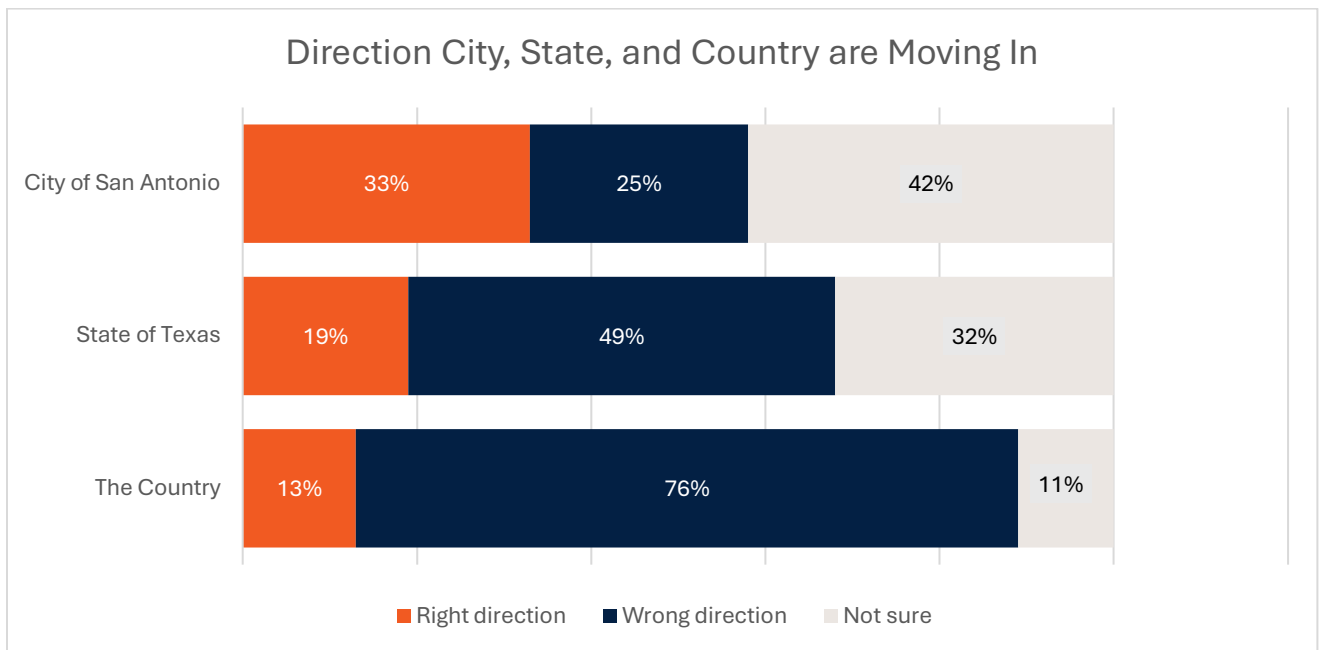
### Direction of City, State, and Country

Residents are considerably more optimistic about the direction of San Antonio than about either Texas or the nation. A plurality (33%) believe San Antonio is headed in the right direction, compared with 25% who believe the city is headed in the wrong direction. However, more than two in five residents (42%) remain unsure.

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Views of the state and nation are substantially more pessimistic. Almost half believe Texas (52%) is moving in the wrong direction, and a super-majority (76%) believe the country is. Only 19% believe Texas is headed in the right direction, while just 13% say the same about the country.



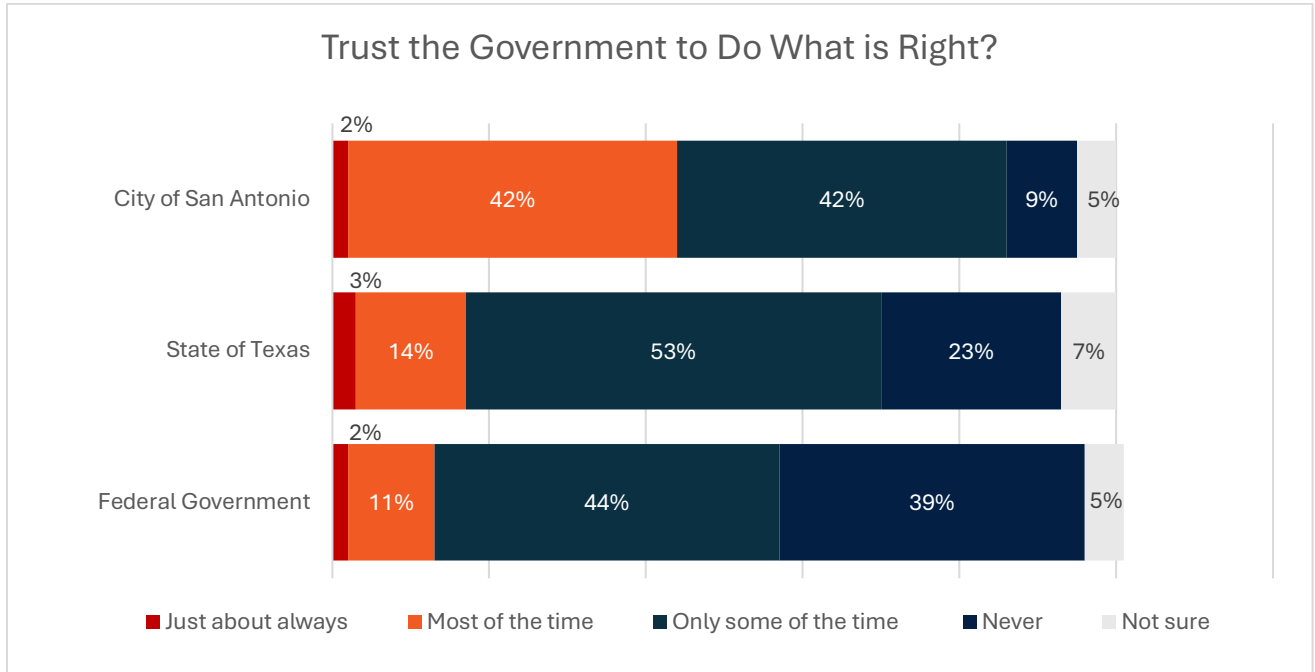
*Note: values may not add up exactly to 100% due to rounding*

Local government enjoys substantially higher levels of trust than either the state or federal government. Forty-four percent of San Antonio residents say they trust the City of San Antonio government to do what is right "just about always" or "most of the time." This compares with only 17% for the State of Texas and 13% for the federal government.

Conversely, more than eight in ten residents (83%) say they trust the federal government to do what is right only some of the time or never, while approximately three-quarters (76%) express the same level of distrust toward state government. Although confidence in local government exceeds that of state and federal institutions, a majority of residents still report trusting city government "only some of the time" or "never" and only 2% trust it "just about always," indicating room for improvement in public confidence.

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### Conclusions

Several themes emerge from the June 2026 survey.

First, San Antonio residents continue to distinguish sharply between local and national politics. Local leaders and institutions receive substantially warmer evaluations than state and federal officials.

Second, although Democrats remain considerably more popular than Republicans among San Antonio residents, evaluations of both parties have been relatively stable over the past two years.

Third, residents remain divided over Project Marvel, suggesting that public opinion on the city's most prominent redevelopment initiative has not shifted substantially since likely voters were asked about their support in late 2025.

Finally, while trust in local government exceeds trust in state and federal government, fewer than half of residents express high levels of trust even in city government, highlighting an opportunity for civic leaders to strengthen public confidence.

### Methodology

The UTSA Center for Public Opinion Research (CPOR) conducted a survey of San Antonio residents using the Bexar County Panel from June 9<sup>th</sup> to June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026. The Bexar County Panel is a probability-based



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panel of approximately 3,000 adult residents (18 and older) of Bexar County, Texas. Panelists were recruited using a combination of Random Digit Dialing (RDD), Registration-Based Sampling (RBS), and Address-Based Sampling (ABS), ensuring broad and representative coverage of the county population.

### ***Mode and Language***

Respondents were invited via email, which provided a link to the survey hosted on the computer-assisted self-interviewing platform, Qualtrics. Reminder emails were sent out to subjects who had not completed the survey several days after the initial recruitment email was sent out. The survey was bilingual. Respondents were given the option to complete the survey in either English or Spanish.

### ***Sample Size, Sampling Error, Response Rates, and Weighting***

CPOR invited 2,956 Bexar County Panelists to complete the survey online. The response rate was 40%, and 1,064 San Antonio residents completed the survey. The sample was weighted on education, race and ethnicity, age, and gender, based on 1-year American Community Survey (ACS) estimates for San Antonio, TX. Missing values on each of the above items were imputed to reduce missing weight values. With weighting, the effective sample was 1,030 and the margin of error was +/- 3.1%.

### ***Data Processing and Quality***

Bots, fraudulent responses, and multiple submissions were prevented via tools included on the survey platform Qualtrics. Surveys completed in less than two minutes were flagged for straightlining, but no surveys in this poll violated the two-minute rule.

### ***Acknowledgement of Limitations***

As with all research, this poll has limitations, and we acknowledge the unmeasured error associated with all forms of public opinion research.

For more information about the poll's methodology, contact Dr. Bryan Gervais via email at [bryan.gervais@utsa.edu](mailto:bryan.gervais@utsa.edu) or phone at (210)458-5644.





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| Sample Demographics            |      |
|--------------------------------|------|
| <b>Education</b>               |      |
| Less than a high school degree | 15%  |
| High school degree/GED         | 27%  |
| Some college but no degree     | 21%  |
| Associate degree               | 8%   |
| Bachelor's degree              | 18%  |
| Professional/graduate degree   | 11%  |
|                                | 100% |
| <b>Race</b>                    |      |
| Hispanic/Latino                | 64%  |
| Non-Hispanic White             | 23%  |
| Black or African American      | 7%   |
| Asian                          | 3%   |
| Two or More Races              | 2%   |
| Other                          | 1%   |
|                                | 100% |
| <b>Gender</b>                  |      |
| Female                         | 50%  |
| Male                           | 50%  |
|                                | 100% |
| <b>Age</b>                     |      |
| 18-29                          | 25%  |
| 30-44                          | 29%  |
| 45-64                          | 29%  |
| 65+                            | 18%  |
|                                | 101% |

*Note: values may not add up exactly to 100% due to rounding*



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### Survey Question Wording and Response Options

**\*Note: ordering of direction, approval, and Project Marvel questions randomized.**

| Survey Question Wording                                                                                                                                                                             | Response Options                                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, or an Independent?                                                                                                | Republican / Democrat / Independent                                             |
| [If Republican or Democrat]: Would you call yourself a strong [Republican/Democrat] or a not very strong [Republican/Democrat]?                                                                     | Strong / Not very strong                                                        |
| [If Independent]: Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican or Democratic party?                                                                                                         | Republican / Democratic / Neither                                               |
| Next, we'd like to learn about how you think things are going. Generally speaking, would you say things in San Antonio are headed in the right direction, the wrong direction, or are you not sure? | Right direction / Wrong direction / Not sure                                    |
| Generally speaking, would you say things in the state of Texas are headed in the right direction, the wrong direction, or are you not sure?                                                         | Right direction / Wrong direction / Not sure                                    |
| And finally, generally speaking, would you say things in the country are headed in the right direction, the wrong direction, or are you not sure?                                                   | Right direction / Wrong direction / Not sure                                    |
| How much of the time do you think you can trust the San Antonio city government to do what is right?                                                                                                | Just about always / Most of the time / Only some of the time / Never / Not sure |
| How much of the time do you think you can trust the government of the State of Texas in Austin to do what is right?                                                                                 | Just about always / Most of the time / Only some of the time / Never / Not sure |
| How much of the time do you think you can trust the federal government in Washington to do what is right?                                                                                           | Just about always / Most of the time / Only some of the time / Never / Not sure |

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| Survey Question Wording                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Response Options                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Do you approve or disapprove of the way Gina Ortiz Jones is handling her job as mayor of the City of San Antonio?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Approve / Disapprove / Neither approve nor disapprove / Not sure / Never heard of this person                                                                                                  |
| Do you approve or disapprove of the way Peter Sakai is handling his job as Bexar County Judge?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Approve / Disapprove / Neither approve nor disapprove / Not sure / Never heard of this person                                                                                                  |
| Do you approve or disapprove of the way Greg Abbott is handling his job as governor of Texas?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Approve / Disapprove / Neither approve nor disapprove / Not sure / Never heard of this person                                                                                                  |
| Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president of the United States?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Approve / Disapprove / Neither approve nor disapprove / Not sure / Never heard of this person                                                                                                  |
| [Official approve follow-up]: Do you strongly [approve/disapprove] or only somewhat [approve/disapprove] of the job [official] is doing?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Strongly [approve/disapprove]/Somewhat [approve/disapprove]                                                                                                                                    |
| <p>The City of San Antonio is planning to redevelop a portion of Hemisfair in downtown San Antonio into a sports and entertainment district. The project, code-named "Project Marvel," includes construction of a new arena for the San Antonio Spurs, expansion of the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, and upgrades to the Alamodome.</p> <p>Do you think the city should move forward with its current Project Marvel plans?</p> | Yes, I think the city should move forward with its Project Marvel plan / No, I think the city should not move forward with its Project Marvel plans / I'm not sure / I have no opinion on this |
| <p>We will now like you to use feeling thermometers to evaluate several political subjects, using a feeling thermometer.</p> <p>Ratings between 50 and 100 degrees mean that you feel favorable and warm towards the subject. Ratings between 0 and 50 mean you</p>                                                                                                                                                                     | Slider question, scale: 0-100.                                                                                                                                                                 |

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| Survey Question Wording                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Response Options |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| don't feel favorable towards the subject. You would rate the candidate at the 50-degree mark if you felt neither warm nor cold towards the subject.<br><b>[Order randomized]:</b><br>Democrats<br>Republicans<br>Donald Trump<br>Ron Nirenberg<br>Erik Walsh<br>Gina Ortiz Jones |                  |