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JONES LEADS PACK IN MAYOR'S RACE, BUT PLURALITY OF VOTERS REMAIN UNDECIDED

SUPPORT FOR PROJECT MARVEL AND NEW MISSIONS STADIUM DIP; VOTERS SAY FIESTA WILL NOT AFFECT LIKELIHOOD OF VOTING IN MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

RESULTS FROM SAN ANTONIO LIKELY VOTER POLL—APRIL 7-9, 2025

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SAN ANTONIO, TX – A poll of likely San Antonio voters (n=685, MOE = ±3.7%) conducted by the UTSA Center for Public Opinion Research (CPOR) finds Gina Ortiz Jones leading the crowded field of 27 candidates hoping to succeed Ron Nirenberg as mayor. Jones currently garners 12.8% support, followed by John Courage (7.1%) and Beto Altamirano (6.6%). Six other candidates— Manny Pelaez, Rolando Pablos, Melissa Cabello Havrda, Adriana Rocha Garcia, Clayton Perry, and Tim Westley—each receive between 3% and 5% support. However, a plurality of voters remain undecided, indicating that the race is still wide open. Nearly all respondents also reported that Fiesta, which coincides with early voting and Election Day, will not affect their likelihood of participating in the municipal election. **(Part 1)**

Voters indicate slightly less support for the plan to redevelop Hemisfair (code-named Project Marvel), with about 34% voicing support for the plan, compared with 41% in CPOR's February 2025 poll. About 40% say they would vote in favor of using Bexar County's venue tax to pay for part of a new San Antonio Spurs arena in a future election. Support for the plan to build a new stadium for the San Antonio Missions minor league baseball team also slightly declined **(Part 2)**.

Consistent with CPOR's prior polling, voters give relatively high marks to local government and local officials compared to state and federal government/officials. San Antonio voters are also more optimistic about the direction the city is going in than they are about the state and country **(Part 3)**.

The study's methodology is included in **Part 4**, and cross tabulations and question wording are included in the appendix.

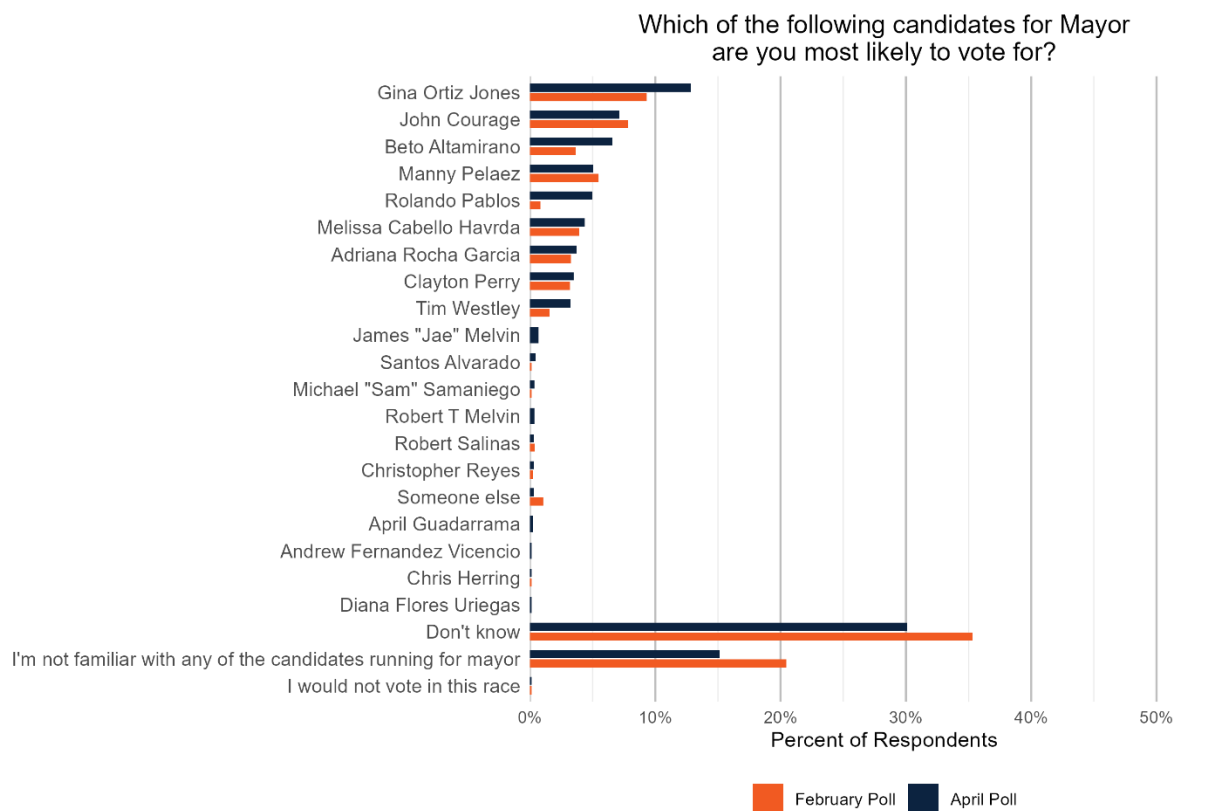
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Part 1. 2025 San Antonio Mayor's Race

San Antonio likely voters are slightly more certain about how they will vote in the May 2025 mayoral election to succeed Mayor Ron Nirenberg, with the percentage of voters saying they do not know who they will vote for declining to 30.0%, from 35.3% in CPOR's February poll. Less than 1 in 7 voters (15.2%) said they were unfamiliar with any of the 27 candidates vying to become mayor, a slight decline from the more than 20% who said the same in February.



Note: values may not add up exactly to 100% due to rounding. Candidates who received no support in the poll were not included in the figure; for full list of candidates, see appendix.

Given that a plurality of voters is still undecided, the mayor's race remains wide open. However, Gina Ortiz Jones (12.8%) continues to lead the pack, increasing her share by about 3.5 points from CPOR's February poll. Jones was followed by John Courage with (7.1%) and Beto Altamirano (6.6%). Altamirano increased his support by 3 points from February.

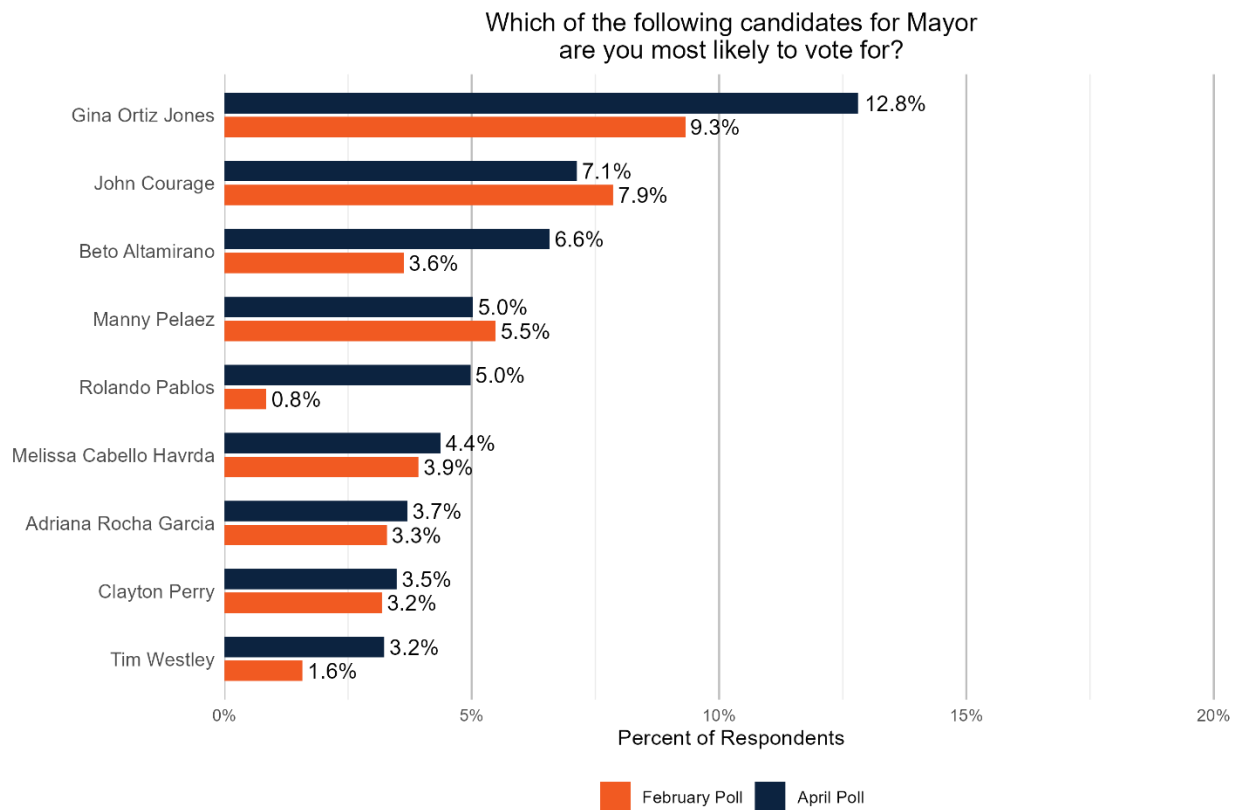
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Rounding out the top tier were Manny Pelaez (5.0%), Rolando Pablos (5.0%), Melissa Cabello Havrda (4.4%), Adriana Rocha Garcia (3.7%), Clayton Perry (3.5%), and Tim Westley (3.2%). No other candidate polled above 1%. Pablos, notably, polled below 1% in CPOR's February poll.

Candidate Leads, Margins of Error, and Statistical Significance



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

The common practice of calculating candidate leads by doubling the margin of error (MOE) for the poll is not appropriate for assessing candidate leads when there is more than one response option and no candidate is close to 50 percent support; in this case, an alternative margin of error must be calculated for each comparison.¹

¹ The formula used for calculating the margins of error for differences in candidate proportions is:

$$1.96 \cdot \sqrt{\frac{(p1+p2)-(p1-p2)^2}{n-1}}$$
 where p1 equals candidate 1's proportion, p2 equals candidate 2's proportion, and n=sample size. More information can be found [here](#).

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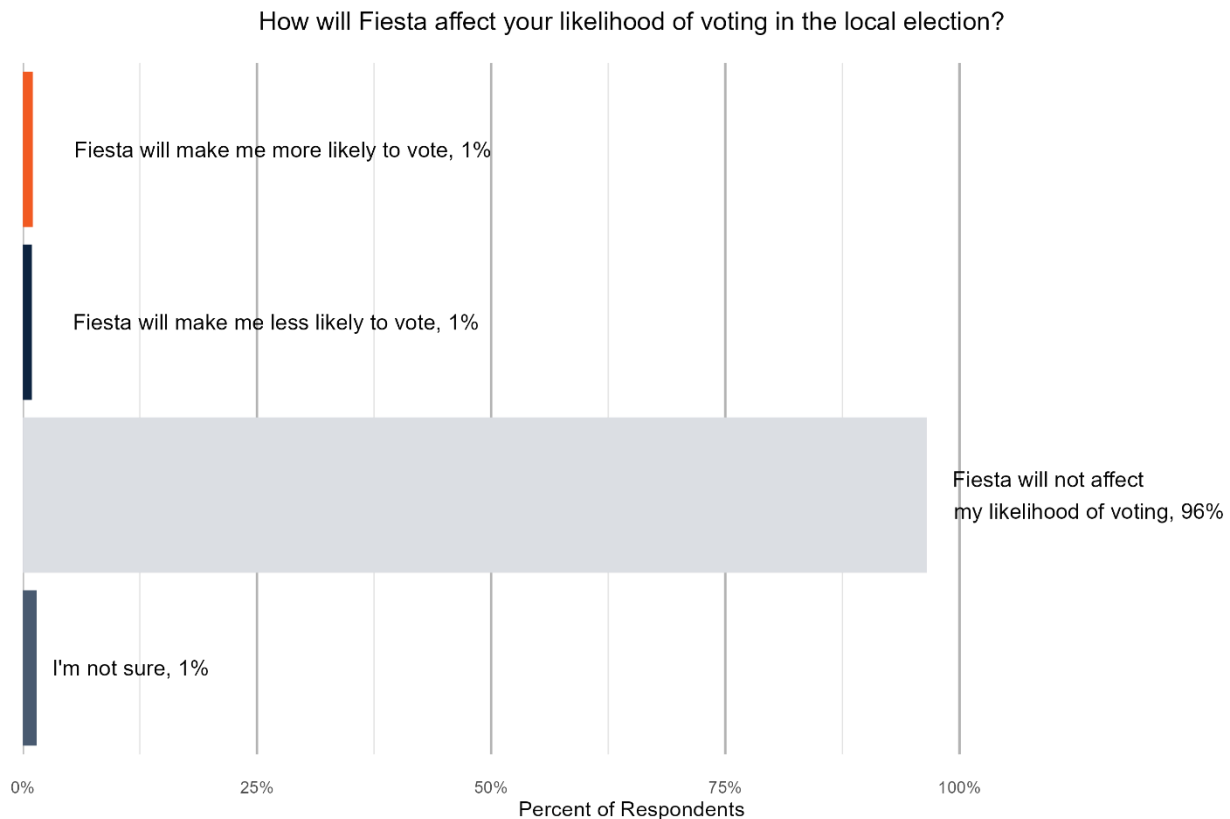
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All nine candidates polling at least 3% hold statistically significant leads over the other 18 candidates. Looking at support within this group, Gina Ortiz Jones' leads over John Courage (5.7 points, MOE=3.3%) and Beto Altamirano (6.2 points, MOE=3.3%) are statistically significant, as are her leads over the remainder of the field. Courage's leads over Altamirano (0.6 points, MOE=2.8%), Pablos (2.1 points, MOE=2.6%), and Pelaez (2.1 points, MOE=2.6%) are not significant, but his leads over the remainder of the field are significant. Altamirano has statically significant leads over all candidates polling below 4%.

Fiesta and Likelihood of Voting in Municipal Election

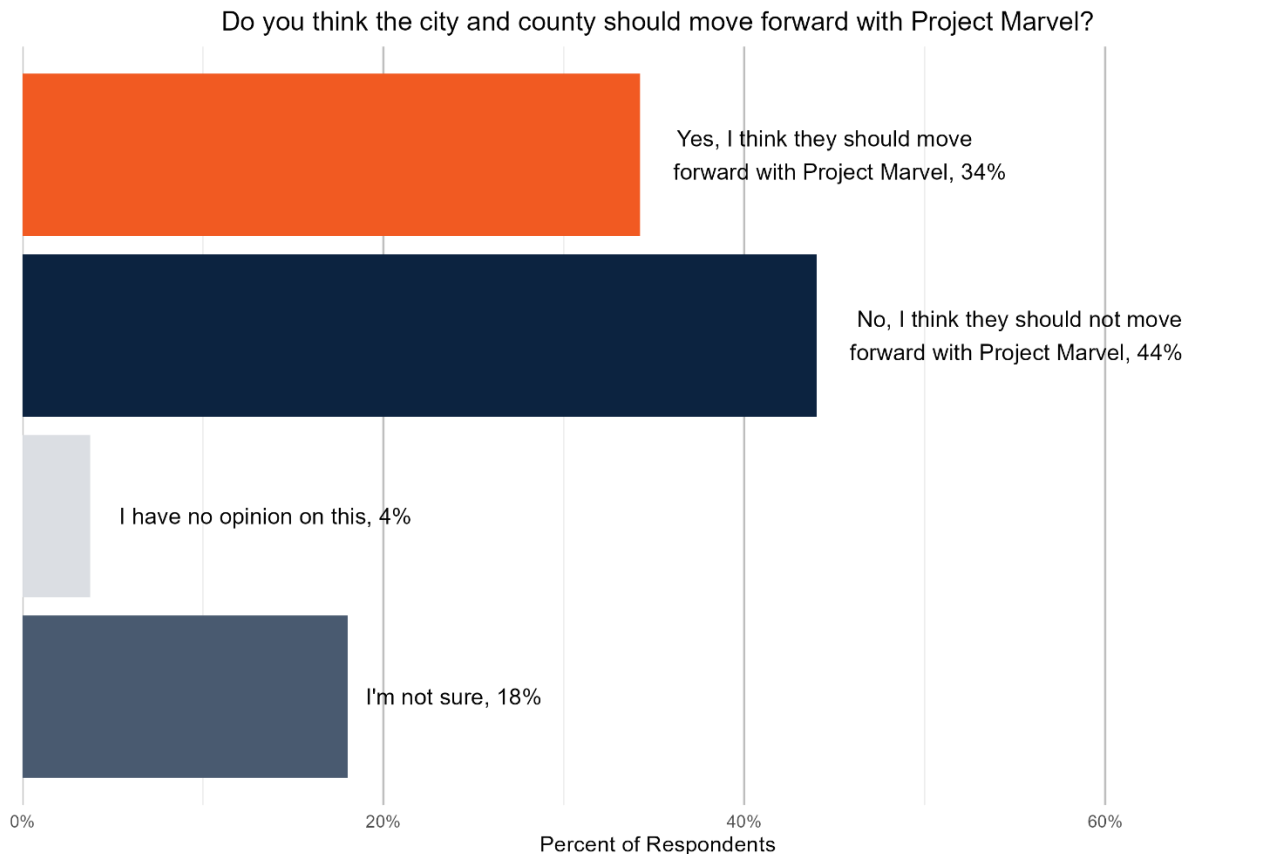
The dates of Fiesta (April 24th to May 4th), San Antonio's annual celebration, coincide with Early Voting (April 22nd to April 29th) and Election Day (May 3rd) for the municipal election. Most voters (96.5%), however, indicate the celebration will not affect their likelihood of participating in the election. About 1.5% said they weren't sure how Fiesta would affect their chance of voting. Equally small shares (1%) said Fiesta would make them more likely to vote or less likely to vote.



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Part 2. Project Marvel, Venue Tax, and Missions Stadium

Support for the plan to redevelop a portion of Hemisfair in downtown San Antonio into a sports and entertainment district is slightly lower among San Antonio likely voters, compared to support in February. The plan, code-named "Project Marvel," includes construction of a new arena for the San Antonio Spurs, a land bridge over Interstate 37, and expansions of the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center and the Alamodome. About 34% said they think the city and county should move forward with Project Marvel, 44% said they think they should not move forward with Project Marvel, 18% were not sure and 3% had no opinion. In February, 41% reported they supported the project, with 36 percent opposed.



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

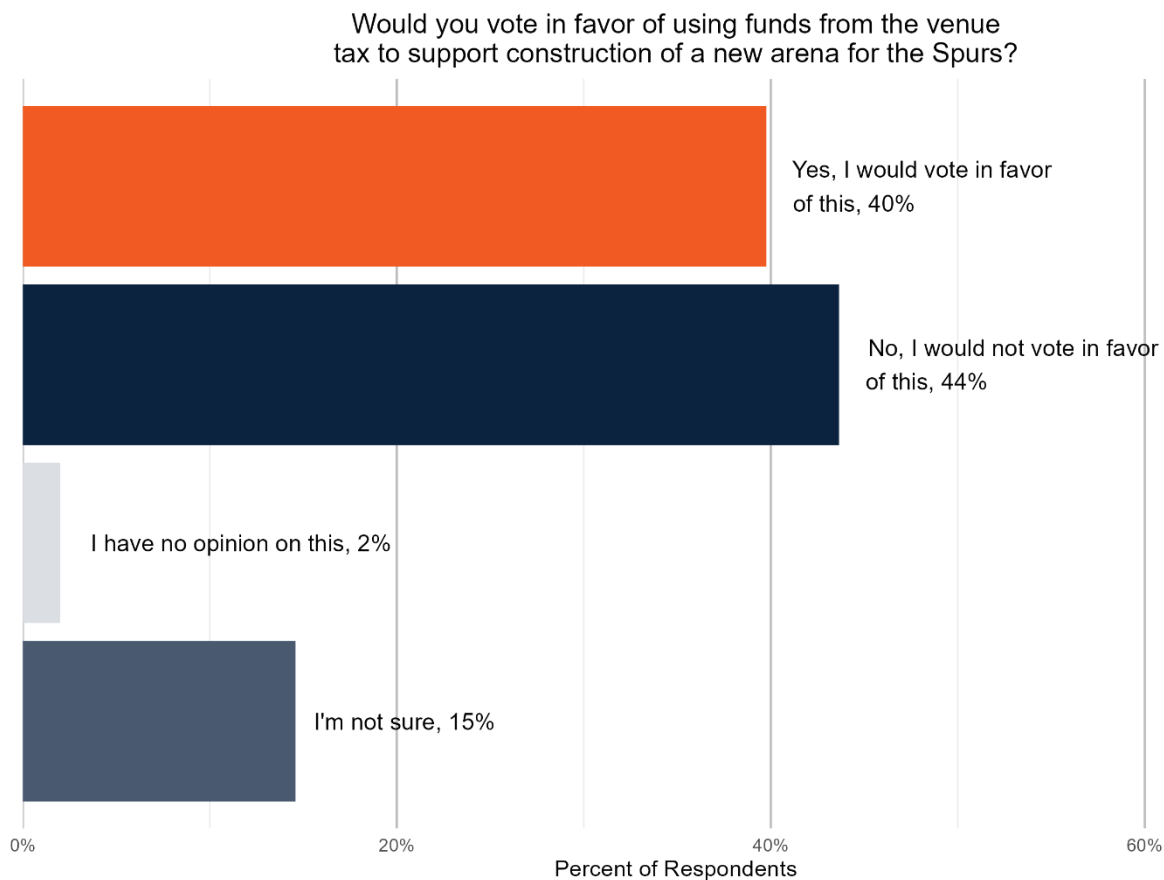
As part of the Project Marvel plan, some of the funding for the new San Antonio Spurs arena could come from Bexar County's venue tax, which is a tax on rental cars and hotel rooms. However, Bexar County

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voters would have to vote to approve this, potentially in November 2025. Regardless of their overall position on Project Marvel, voters were asked if they would vote in favor of using funds from the venue tax to support construction of a new arena for the Spurs. A plurality (44%) say they would not vote in favor of this, with 40% saying they would vote in favor and 15% unsure. These numbers are relatively unchanged from February, when slightly more were in favor (42%) than not (41%).



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

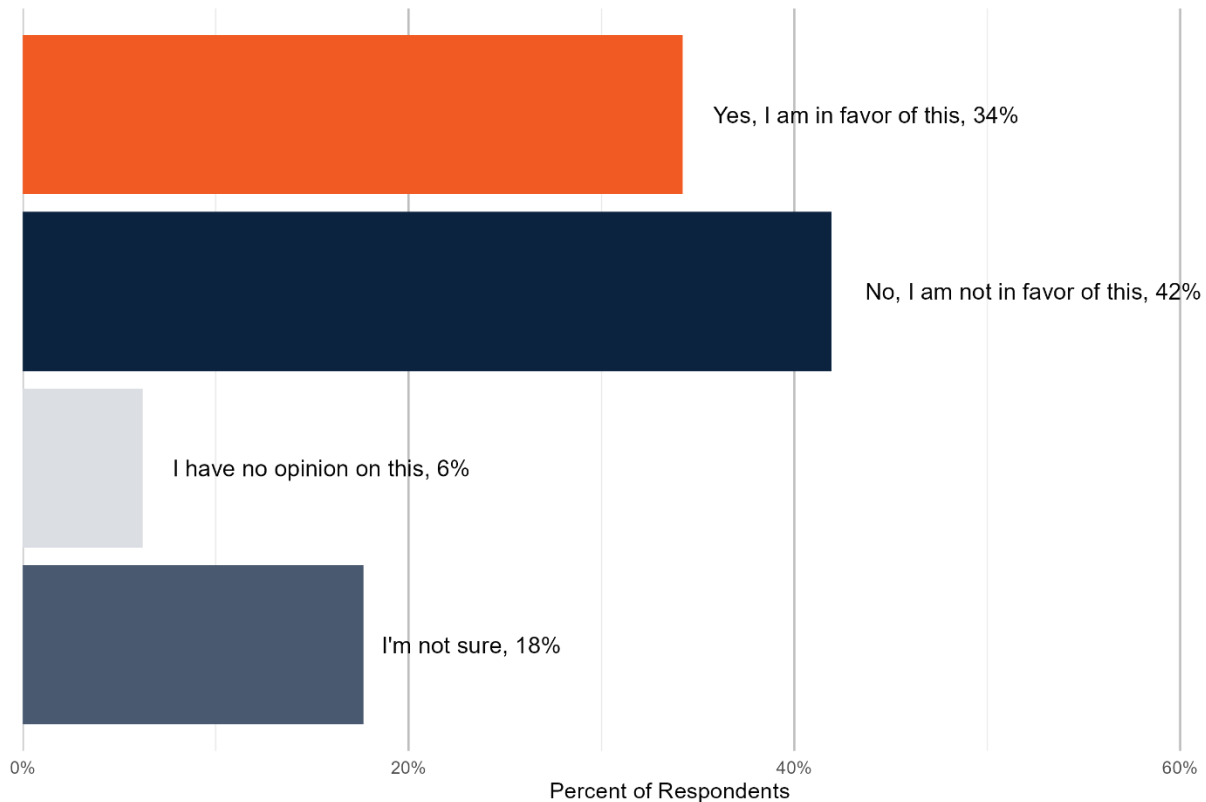
Voters also weighed in on a separate plan proposed by the owners of the San Antonio Missions minor league baseball team to build a new 7,500-8,000 seat stadium just north of downtown San Antonio, with costs offset by nearby land development. Like support for Project Marvel, the percentage in favor of the Missions ballpark plan dipped from 41% to 34%, with 32% opposed and about 18% unsure. This is the first time support for the Missions Stadium plan has dipped below 40% in CPOR's polling.

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Are you in favor of the plan to build the new downtown stadium for the San Antonio Missions?



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Part 3. Evaluations of City, State, and National Government

Direction City, State, and Country are Heading In

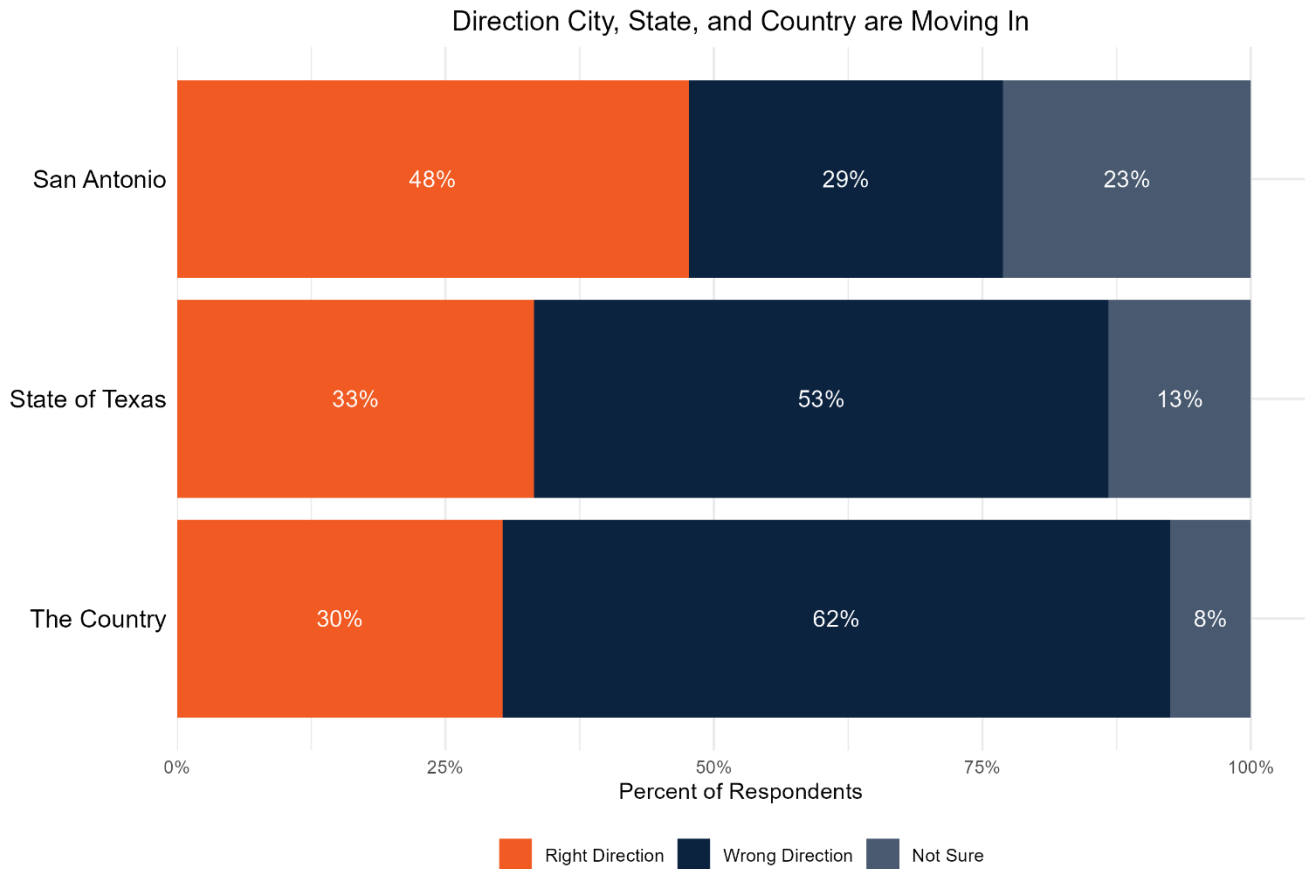
Voters assessed the direction they thought the City of San Antonio, the State of Texas, and the country were headed in. Similar to the results of previous CPOR surveys, local voters were the most sanguine about the direction of the City the San Antonio: 48% selected “right direction” (50% in February poll) and 29% selected “wrong direction,” (25% in February) with 23% of respondents unsure.

San Antonio voters were more pessimistic about the direction the state and country were moving in. Majorities believed the state (53%) and country (62%) were moving in the wrong direction (56% and 60% in February, respectively). The percentage of voters who thought the state (33%) and country (30%) were moving in the right direction were similar (30% and 29% in February).

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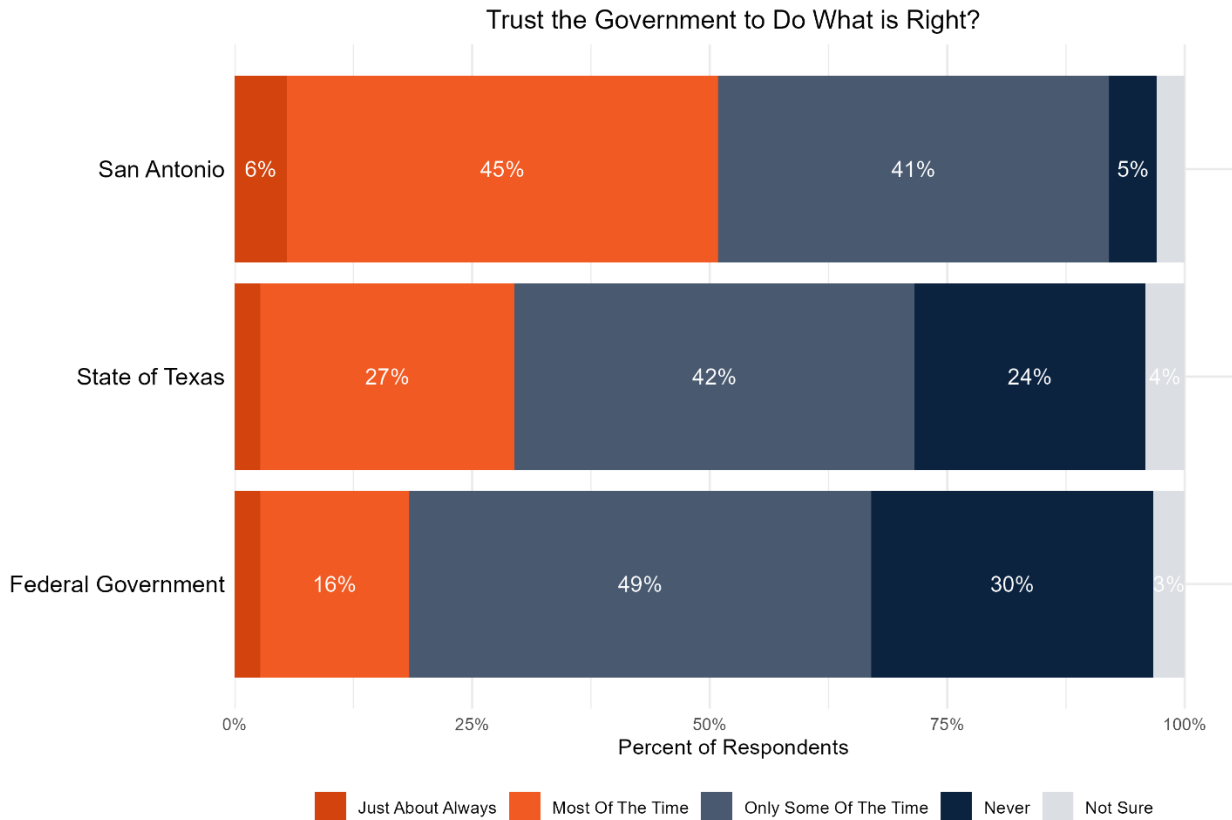
Trust in Government: National, State, and Local

A majority of San Antonio voters trust the government of the City of San Antonio to do the right thing just about always (6%) or most of the time (45%), respectively 7% and 48% in February. About 29% trusted the State of Texas just about always or some of the time (27% in February), and about 18% said the same for the federal government (14% in February). About 5% said they thought they could never trust local government to do what is right. About 24% said that the state government could never be trusted, and 30% said the same about the federal government.

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Approval of Local, State, and National Leaders

Higher marks for government at the local level also extend to approval of public officials. A majority (56%) strongly approved or somewhat approved of the job Rob Nirenberg was doing as mayor of San Antonio (58% in February), with 25% strongly or somewhat disapproving of his job performance (22% in February). This is consistent with CPOR’s previous polls gauging approval of Nirenberg’s performance. Approval of Peter Sakai, the Bexar County Judge, slightly dipped to 40% (46% in February) while the percentage who disapproved was 11% (7% in February). More than a quarter (26% were unsure about Sakai’s performance or reported they had not heard of him (21% in February).

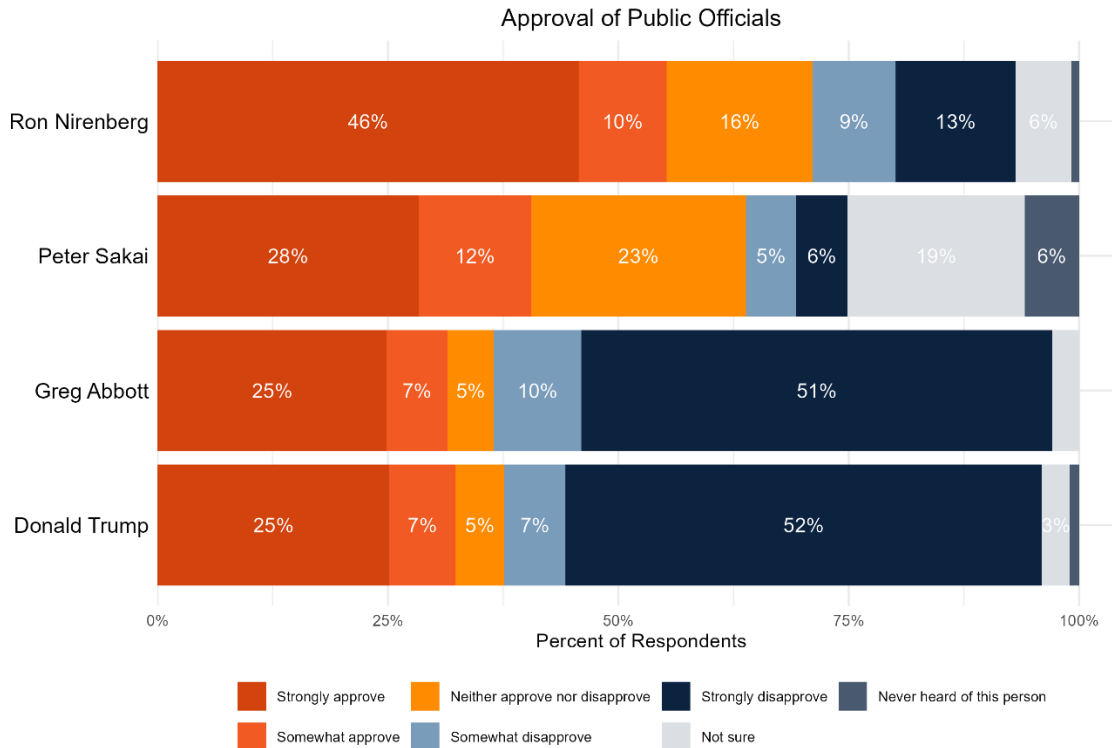
Disapproval of both Governor Greg Abbott and President Donald Trump was again high. More than half (61%) of voters voiced disapproval of Abbott’s performance as governor of Texas (64% in February). However, approval of Abbott inched up 32%, compared with 28% in February. Likewise, 32% approved of

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Donald Trump’s performance as president, compared with 28% in February, with 59% disapproving of his job performance.



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

Part 4. Methodology

Sample and Sampling Frame

The sample consisted of likely voters residing in the City of San Antonio, TX. The sampling frame consisted of all registered voters with San Antonio residential addresses and verified email addresses. Information on registered voters, voter history, and their verified contact information came from a list purchased from the data broker, L2. Respondents who did not consent to participate, indicated that they did not live in the City of San Antonio, or indicated they were not likely to vote at all in the May 2025 City of San Antonio municipal elections were ineligible to participate in the poll. The survey was conducted from April 7 - 9, 2025.

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Sampling Methodology, Recruitment, and Weighting

Stratified registration-based sampling (RBS) was used to select the sample. Registered voters with verified email addresses and residential addresses in the City of San Antonio were stratified into three categories, based on personal vote history in prior San Antonio mayoral elections: voters, abstainers, and new registrants with no vote history. Estimates of the rates at which each of the three strata were expected to vote in the May 2025 election were then produced based on an analysis of previous San Antonio mayoral elections: the rates at which 2017 voters, abstainers, and new registrants voted in the 2019 election were calculated, as were the rates for these groups in the 2021 and 2023 elections. Weighted average turnout rates for each of the groups were then used as the benchmark voting rates for the May 2025 election. The number of registered voters in each stratum was then multiplied by the estimated voting rates to produce the fraction of the sample each stratum should make up. After the survey was fielded, data were weighted by these strata fractions and self-reported likelihood of voting.

Mode and Language

Respondents were recruited 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, and Response Rates

The samples consisted of 683 likely voters. Approximately 68,000 voters were randomly selected in total for participation in the poll. 1,003 individuals began the survey, and 109 respondents were deemed ineligible for one of several reasons (see Sample and Sampling Frame). The response rate was approximately 1.5%, and the completion rate was 80%. The (unadjusted) margin of error for the poll was $\pm 3.7\%$.

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 or phone at (210) 458-5644.

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Appendix

Would you say you follow what's going on in government and public affairs most of the time, some of the time, only now and then, or hardly at all?				
	Hardly at all	Only now and then	Some of the time	Most of the time
Sex				
Female	0%	3%	16%	35%
Male	0%	2%	13%	28%
Other	0%	0%	0%	0%
Prefer not to say	0%	1%	1%	1%
Education				
Less than HS	0%	0%	1%	0%
HS/GED	0%	1%	2%	5%
Some college, assoc., cert.	0%	3%	9%	18%
Bachelor's or more	0%	2%	18%	41%
Party ID				
Democrat	0%	2%	11%	27%
Republican	0%	1%	8%	18%
Independent	0%	3%	10%	19%
Ideology				
Liberal	0%	1%	8%	24%
Moderate	0%	1%	8%	12%
Conservative	0%	2%	10%	25%
Haven't thought much about this	0%	2%	4%	3%
Prefer not to say	0%	1%	0%	1%

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In May, San Antonio residents will be heading to the polls to cast votes for Mayor and the City Council. How much thought have you given to the May local election?				
	None	Only a little	A lot	Quite a lot
Sex				
Female	2%	16%	19%	18%
Male	1%	17%	17%	9%
Other	0%	0%	0%	0%
Prefer not to say	0%	1%	1%	0%
Education				
Less than HS	0%	1%	0%	0%
HS/GED	1%	2%	2%	3%
Some college, assoc., cert.	2%	8%	12%	9%
Bachelor's or more	1%	23%	23%	14%
Party ID				
Democrat	1%	14%	15%	11%
Republican	1%	10%	10%	6%
Independent	1%	10%	12%	10%
Ideology				
Liberal	1%	11%	12%	9%
Moderate	0%	6%	10%	4%
Conservative	2%	14%	11%	9%
Haven't thought much about this	0%	3%	3%	3%
Prefer not to say	0%	0%	1%	1%

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Thinking about the May election in which San Antonio residents will vote for Mayor and City Council, how likely is it that you will vote in the local election?					
	Slightly likely	Moderately likely	Very likely	Extremely likely	Don't know
Sex					
Female	1%	2%	8%	43%	0%
Male	1%	3%	6%	34%	0%
Other	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Prefer not to say	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%
Education					
Less than HS	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%
HS/GED	0%	1%	2%	6%	0%
Some college, assoc., cert.	1%	2%	5%	24%	0%
Bachelor's or more	1%	3%	8%	48%	0%
Party ID					
Democrat	1%	1%	5%	32%	0%
Republican	1%	2%	4%	21%	0%
Independent	0%	2%	6%	25%	0%
Ideology					
Liberal	0%	1%	4%	28%	0%
Moderate	1%	2%	4%	14%	0%
Conservative	1%	2%	6%	28%	0%
Haven't thought much about this	0%	1%	1%	7%	0%
Prefer not to say	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%

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Survey Question Wording and Response Options

Survey Question Wording	Response Options
Do you live in the City of San Antonio or somewhere else in Bexar County?	I live in the City of San Antonio / I live in Bexar County but not in the City of San Antonio / I do not live in the City of San Antonio or somewhere else in Bexar County
Would you say you follow what's going on in government and public affairs most of the time, some of the time, only now and then, or hardly at all?	Most of the time / Some of the time / Only now and then / Hardly at all
In May, San Antonio residents will be heading to the polls to cast votes for Mayor and the City Council. How much thought have you given to the May local election?	Quite a lot / A lot / Only a little / None
Thinking about the May election in which San Antonio residents will vote for Mayor and City Council, how likely is it that you will vote in the local election?	Extremely likely / Very likely / Moderately likely / Slightly likely / Not likely at all / Don't know
Early voting and election day for the upcoming local election will occur the same time as Fiesta (San Antonio's annual celebration) in April and May. How will Fiesta affect your likelihood of voting in the local election?	Fiesta will not affect my likelihood of voting / Fiesta will make me less likely to vote / Fiesta will make me more likely to vote / I'm not sure
A number of individuals are running for Mayor of San Antonio in the May 2025 election. Which of the following candidates for Mayor are you most likely to vote for?	Rolando Pablos / Sonia Traut / Robert T Melvin / Christopher Reyes / Jade McCullough / Brandon Gonzales / Tim Westley / Manny Pelaez / Bill Ruppel / Armando Dominguez / Adriana Rocha Garcia / Gina Ortiz Jones / Diana Flores Uriegas / Clayton Perry / John Courage / Chris Herring / James "Jae" Melvin / Andrew Fernandez Vicencio / G Zambrano / Arturo Espinosa / April Guadarrama / Michael "Sam" Samaniego / Beto Altamirano / Robert Salinas / Melissa Cabello Havrda / Mauricio Mau Sanchez / Santos Alvarado / Someone else / I'm not familiar with any of the

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Survey Question Wording	Response Options
	candidates / Don't know / I would not vote in this race
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
Do you approve or disapprove of the way Ron Nirenberg is handling his 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

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Survey Question Wording	Response Options
[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]
The City of San Antonio and Bexar County are considering a plan to redevelop a portion of Hemisfair in downtown San Antonio into a sports and entertainment district. The plan, code-named "Project Marvel," includes construction of a new arena for the San Antonio Spurs, a land bridge over Interstate 37, and expansions of the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center and the Alamodome. Do you think the city and county should move forward with Project Marvel?	Yes, I think they should move forward with Project Marvel / No, I think they should not move forward with Project Marvel/ I'm not sure / I have no opinion on this
As part of the Project Marvel plan, some of the funding for the new San Antonio Spurs arena could come from Bexar County's venue tax, which is a tax on rental cars and hotel rooms. However, Bexar County voters would have to vote to approve this. Would you vote in favor of using funds from the venue tax to support construction of a new arena for the Spurs?	Yes, I would vote in favor of this/ No, I would not vote in favor of this/ I'm not sure / I have no opinion on this
The owners of the San Antonio Missions minor league baseball team have proposed a new 7,500-8,000 seat stadium just north of downtown San Antonio, with costs offset by nearby land development. Are you in favor of the plan to build the new stadium?	Yes, I am in favor of this/ No, I am not in favor of this/ I'm not sure / I have no opinion on this
What is the highest level of school you have completed or the highest degree you have received?	Less than high school / High school diploma or equivalent / Some college, no degree / Associate degree / Bachelor's degree / Master's degree / Doctoral degree / Professional degree (JD, MD)

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Survey Question Wording	Response Options
Choose one or more races that you consider yourself to be.	White / Black or African American / American Indian or Alaska Native / Asian / Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander / Other (specify)
Are you Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino?	Spanish / Hispanic / Latino / None of these
What is your sex?	Male / Female / Other / Prefer not to say
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
Where would you place yourself on the political ideology scale?	Extremely liberal / Liberal / Slightly liberal / Moderate / Slightly conservative / Conservative / Extremely conservative / Haven't thought much about this