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Cornyn at risk with Republicans next year

Raleigh, N.C. – PPP's newest Texas poll finds that John Cornyn is in grave danger of losing a primary next year if a serious campaign is run against him. Cornyn's approval with Republican primary voters is only 46%, with 33% of voters disapproving of him. And 49% say they would like their candidate next year to be someone more conservative, compared to only 33% who say they support Cornyn.

Ted Cruz's star in Texas Republican politics is making Cornyn's life a lot harder. 62% of GOP voters say they have a higher opinion of Cruz than they do of Cornyn, and among voters describing themselves as 'very conservative' Cruz is seen more favorably by a 78/8 margin. If someone challenges Cornyn and is able to effectively present themselves as another Cruz they'll have a very good chance in a Republican primary.

The good news for Cornyn is that he starts out with leads in head to head match ups with some of the names that have been bandied about the most as potential primary challengers. He leads David Barton 51/18 (who announced he wasn't running this morning) and Louie Gohmert 40/31 in hypothetical contests.

Despite Cornyn's weak overall approval numbers- 30% think he's doing a good job to 42% who disapprove- he still has decent sized leads in hypothetical head to heads with two Democrats who are probably stronger than the party's eventual nominee will be anyway. Cornyn leads Julian Castro 49/35 and Bill White 44/39. The two Democrats would be more competitive if Gohmert was the Republican standard bearer- he leads Castro 44/35 and White just 40/39. But basically the conclusion there is that even if 1) Democrats got their best candidate possible and 2) Cornyn got taken out in the primary by someone voters saw as an extremist, it's still not a certainty Democrats would be able to make the race competitive.

“If there's any intrigue in the Texas Senate race next year it looks like it's going to come in the primary,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “GOP voters are open to replacing John Cornyn, it's just a question of whether there will be a candidate strong enough to pull it off.”

PPP surveyed 500 Texas voters and an oversample of 388 Republican primary voters from November 1st to 4th. The margin of error for the overall survey is +/- 4.4% and for the Republican survey it's +/-5.0%. PPP's surveys are conducted through automated telephone interviews.





Texas Survey Results

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator John Cornyn's job performance?

Approve46% *Not sure*20%

Disapprove.....33%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Louie Gohmert?

Favorable.....22%

Unfavorable16%

Not sure62%

Q3 If the Republican candidates for Senate next year were David Barton and John Cornyn, who would you vote for?

David Barton18%

John Cornyn51%

Not sure31%

Q4 If the Republican candidates for Senate next year were Louie Gohmert and John Cornyn, who would you vote for?

Louie Gohmert.....31%

John Cornyn40%

Not sure29%

Q5 If the Republican candidates for Senate next year were Rick Perry and John Cornyn, who would you vote for?

Rick Perry.....46%

John Cornyn35%

Not sure20%

Q6 Generally speaking, would you like the Republican candidate for Senate next year to be John Cornyn or someone more conservative than him?

John Cornyn33%

Someone more conservative49%

Not sure18%

Q7 Do you have a higher opinion of John Cornyn or Ted Cruz?

John Cornyn23%

Ted Cruz62%

Not sure15%

Q8 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal.....2%

Somewhat liberal3%

Moderate.....15%

Somewhat conservative.....36%

Very conservative44%

Q9 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman48%

Man.....52%

Q10 If you are 18 to 45 years old, press 1. If 46 to 65, press 2. If you are older than 65, press 3.

18 to 45.....28%

46 to 65.....37%

Older than 65.....35%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Cornyn Approval						
Approve	46%	13%	24%	47%	49%	47%
Disapprove	33%	79%	71%	35%	27%	33%
Not sure	20%	8%	5%	18%	24%	20%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Gohmert Favorability						
Favorable	22%	13%	5%	15%	21%	28%
Unfavorable	16%	64%	8%	15%	18%	13%
Not sure	62%	23%	87%	70%	61%	59%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Barton/Cornyn						
David Barton	18%	25%	15%	21%	15%	19%
John Cornyn	51%	33%	48%	49%	58%	48%
Not sure	31%	41%	37%	30%	27%	33%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Gohmert/Cornyn						
Louie Gohmert	31%	59%	10%	25%	25%	38%
John Cornyn	40%	8%	45%	45%	46%	35%
Not sure	29%	34%	45%	30%	30%	27%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Perry/Cornyn						
Rick Perry	46%	23%	15%	24%	45%	57%
John Cornyn	35%	25%	48%	63%	38%	22%
Not sure	20%	51%	37%	13%	17%	21%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Cornyn or Someone More Conservative						
John Cornyn	33%	33%	56%	63%	39%	16%
Someone more conservative	49%	54%	26%	21%	39%	67%
Not sure	18%	13%	18%	16%	22%	16%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Higher Opinion of Cornyn or Cruz						
John Cornyn	23%	38%	56%	47%	27%	8%
Ted Cruz	62%	41%	13%	38%	59%	78%
Not sure	15%	21%	31%	14%	14%	14%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Cornyn Approval			
Approve	46%	43%	49%
Disapprove	33%	28%	39%
Not sure	20%	29%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gohmert Favorability			
Favorable	22%	22%	22%
Unfavorable	16%	6%	25%
Not sure	62%	72%	52%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Barton/Cornyn			
David Barton	18%	13%	23%
John Cornyn	51%	46%	57%
Not sure	31%	42%	20%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gohmert/Cornyn			
Louie Gohmert	31%	28%	33%
John Cornyn	40%	34%	46%
Not sure	29%	38%	21%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Perry/Cornyn			
Rick Perry	46%	46%	46%
John Cornyn	35%	33%	36%
Not sure	20%	21%	18%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Cornyn or Someone More Conservative			
John Cornyn	33%	33%	33%
Someone more conservative	49%	45%	52%
Not sure	18%	22%	15%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Higher Opinion of Cornyn or Cruz			
John Cornyn	23%	17%	28%
Ted Cruz	62%	60%	64%
Not sure	15%	22%	8%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Cornyn Approval				
Approve	46%	37%	46%	53%
Disapprove	33%	43%	33%	27%
Not sure	20%	20%	21%	19%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gohmert Favorability				
Favorable	22%	20%	21%	24%
Unfavorable	16%	18%	19%	12%
Not sure	62%	62%	60%	64%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Barton/Cornyn				
David Barton	18%	24%	16%	15%
John Cornyn	51%	43%	50%	60%
Not sure	31%	33%	34%	25%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gohmert/Cornyn				
Louie Gohmert	31%	41%	28%	25%
John Cornyn	40%	29%	36%	53%
Not sure	29%	31%	36%	21%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Perry/Cornyn				
Rick Perry	46%	55%	41%	44%
John Cornyn	35%	29%	33%	41%
Not sure	20%	16%	26%	16%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Cornyn or Someone More Conservative				
John Cornyn	33%	35%	28%	38%
Someone more conservative	49%	47%	52%	47%
Not sure	18%	18%	20%	16%



Crosstabs

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Higher Opinion of Cornyn or Cruz				
John Cornyn	23%	26%	18%	26%
Ted Cruz	62%	62%	68%	56%
Not sure	15%	13%	13%	18%



Texas Survey Results

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of President Barack Obama's job performance?

Approve 42%
Disapprove..... 56%
Not sure 2%

Q2 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator John Cornyn's job performance?

Approve 30% *Not sure* 27%
Disapprove..... 42%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Louie Gohmert?

Favorable..... 13%
Unfavorable 18%
Not sure 69%

Q4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Julian Castro?

Favorable..... 18%
Unfavorable 29%
Not sure 53%

Q5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Bill White?

Favorable..... 24%
Unfavorable 21%
Not sure 56%

Q6 If the candidates for Senate next year were Republican John Cornyn and Democrat Julian Castro, who would you vote for?

John Cornyn 49%
Julian Castro..... 35%
Not sure 17%

Q7 If the candidates for Senate next year were Republican Louie Gohmert and Democrat Julian Castro, who would you vote for?

Louie Gohmert..... 44%
Julian Castro..... 35%
Not sure 21%

Q8 If the candidates for Senate next year were Republican John Cornyn and Democrat Bill White, who would you vote for?

John Cornyn 44%
Bill White..... 39%
Not sure 17%

Q9 If the candidates for Senate next year were Republican Louie Gohmert and Democrat Bill White, who would you vote for?

Louie Gohmert..... 40%
Bill White..... 39%
Not sure 21%

Q10 In the last presidential election, did you vote for Barack Obama or Mitt Romney?

Barack Obama..... 41%
Mitt Romney..... 53%
Someone else/Don't remember 6%

Q11 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal 8%
Somewhat liberal 14%
Moderate..... 26%
Somewhat conservative..... 26%
Very conservative 25%

Q12 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 50%
Man..... 50%



Q13 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

Democrat 35%
Republican..... 42%
Independent/Other..... 24%

Q14 If you are Hispanic, press 1. If white, press 2. If African-American, press 3. If other, press 4.

Hispanic..... 19%
White 63%
African-American 11%
Other..... 7%

Q15 If you are 18 to 45 years old, press 1. If 46 to 65, press 2. If you are older than 65, press 3.

18 to 45..... 33%
46 to 65..... 41%
Older than 65..... 26%



Crosstabs

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama Approval				
Approve	42%	90%	6%	36%
Disapprove	56%	8%	93%	50%
Not sure	2%	2%	1%	14%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
Cornyn Approval				
Approve	30%	10%	47%	19%
Disapprove	42%	58%	30%	44%
Not sure	27%	32%	23%	37%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
Gohmert Favorability				
Favorable	13%	6%	20%	-
Unfavorable	18%	21%	18%	7%
Not sure	69%	73%	63%	93%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
Castro Favorability				
Favorable	18%	38%	3%	11%
Unfavorable	29%	15%	42%	7%
Not sure	53%	47%	55%	81%





Crosstabs

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
White Favorability				
Favorable	24%	36%	14%	23%
Unfavorable	21%	11%	30%	6%
Not sure	56%	53%	56%	71%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
Cornyn/Castro				
John Cornyn	49%	10%	81%	31%
Julian Castro	35%	76%	5%	17%
Not sure	17%	14%	14%	52%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
Gohmert/Castro				
Louie Gohmert	44%	5%	76%	17%
Julian Castro	35%	77%	5%	21%
Not sure	21%	17%	19%	62%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
Cornyn/White				
John Cornyn	44%	7%	74%	21%
Bill White	39%	77%	11%	32%
Not sure	17%	15%	14%	46%





Crosstabs

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
Gohmert/White				
Louie Gohmert	40%	6%	70%	15%
Bill White	39%	77%	10%	31%
Not sure	21%	17%	20%	54%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama Approval						
Approve	42%	82%	84%	68%	15%	7%
Disapprove	56%	18%	16%	27%	83%	93%
Not sure	2%	-	-	6%	2%	-

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Cornyn Approval						
Approve	30%	10%	10%	18%	46%	45%
Disapprove	42%	69%	69%	48%	24%	32%
Not sure	27%	21%	21%	33%	30%	24%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Gohmert Favorability						
Favorable	13%	10%	1%	6%	14%	26%
Unfavorable	18%	40%	23%	17%	18%	10%
Not sure	69%	50%	77%	76%	68%	64%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Castro Favorability						
Favorable	18%	32%	34%	30%	9%	1%
Unfavorable	29%	34%	20%	14%	34%	41%
Not sure	53%	34%	47%	56%	57%	58%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
White Favorability						
Favorable	24%	49%	40%	29%	16%	10%
Unfavorable	21%	21%	11%	14%	25%	28%
Not sure	56%	30%	49%	58%	59%	62%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Cornyn/Castro						
John Cornyn	49%	24%	16%	21%	73%	80%
Julian Castro	35%	63%	72%	57%	13%	4%
Not sure	17%	13%	12%	22%	14%	17%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Gohmert/Castro						
Louie Gohmert	44%	19%	14%	14%	59%	83%
Julian Castro	35%	69%	71%	57%	14%	4%
Not sure	21%	13%	15%	29%	28%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Cornyn/White						
John Cornyn	44%	11%	10%	13%	69%	79%
Bill White	39%	70%	76%	68%	14%	6%
Not sure	17%	19%	15%	19%	17%	14%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Gohmert/White						
Louie Gohmert	40%	16%	7%	10%	60%	79%
Bill White	39%	73%	80%	62%	14%	6%
Not sure	21%	11%	12%	28%	26%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	42%	47%	38%
Disapprove	56%	50%	61%
Not sure	2%	3%	1%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Cornyn Approval			
Approve	30%	26%	35%
Disapprove	42%	39%	45%
Not sure	27%	35%	20%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gohmert Favorability			
Favorable	13%	10%	16%
Unfavorable	18%	12%	25%
Not sure	69%	79%	59%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Castro Favorability			
Favorable	18%	19%	17%
Unfavorable	29%	19%	38%
Not sure	53%	62%	45%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
White Favorability			
Favorable	24%	25%	22%
Unfavorable	21%	11%	30%
Not sure	56%	64%	47%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Cornyn/Castro			
John Cornyn	49%	46%	52%
Julian Castro	35%	36%	33%
Not sure	17%	18%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gohmert/Castro			
Louie Gohmert	44%	37%	50%
Julian Castro	35%	37%	33%
Not sure	21%	26%	17%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Cornyn/White			
John Cornyn	44%	40%	48%
Bill White	39%	41%	38%
Not sure	17%	19%	14%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gohmert/White			
Louie Gohmert	40%	32%	49%
Bill White	39%	42%	36%
Not sure	21%	26%	15%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	42%	85%	5%	43%
Disapprove	56%	13%	94%	53%
Not sure	2%	2%	1%	4%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Cornyn Approval				
Approve	30%	11%	49%	25%
Disapprove	42%	55%	25%	54%
Not sure	27%	34%	26%	21%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gohmert Favorability				
Favorable	13%	10%	17%	10%
Unfavorable	18%	24%	15%	17%
Not sure	69%	66%	68%	73%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Castro Favorability				
Favorable	18%	37%	2%	18%
Unfavorable	29%	20%	41%	21%
Not sure	53%	44%	57%	61%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
White Favorability				
Favorable	24%	33%	12%	30%
Unfavorable	21%	16%	30%	12%
Not sure	56%	51%	58%	58%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Cornyn/Castro				
John Cornyn	49%	16%	80%	43%
Julian Castro	35%	70%	5%	35%
Not sure	17%	14%	15%	22%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gohmert/Castro				
Louie Gohmert	44%	12%	72%	40%
Julian Castro	35%	73%	5%	33%
Not sure	21%	16%	23%	27%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Cornyn/White				
John Cornyn	44%	10%	80%	30%
Bill White	39%	72%	7%	49%
Not sure	17%	18%	13%	20%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gohmert/White				
Louie Gohmert	40%	9%	70%	33%
Bill White	39%	74%	8%	42%
Not sure	21%	17%	22%	24%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Obama Approval					
Approve	42%	58%	27%	91%	56%
Disapprove	56%	41%	71%	7%	44%
Not sure	2%	1%	2%	2%	-

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Cornyn Approval					
Approve	30%	20%	37%	9%	29%
Disapprove	42%	47%	38%	52%	51%
Not sure	27%	32%	25%	39%	20%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Gohmert Favorability					
Favorable	13%	13%	13%	6%	20%
Unfavorable	18%	23%	18%	18%	8%
Not sure	69%	64%	68%	76%	72%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Castro Favorability					
Favorable	18%	35%	14%	11%	21%
Unfavorable	29%	34%	29%	22%	19%
Not sure	53%	31%	57%	67%	59%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
White Favorability					
Favorable	24%	24%	23%	27%	24%
Unfavorable	21%	25%	22%	6%	25%
Not sure	56%	50%	56%	67%	51%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Cornyn/Castro					
John Cornyn	49%	40%	60%	17%	28%
Julian Castro	35%	47%	27%	54%	37%
Not sure	17%	13%	13%	29%	35%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Gohmert/Castro					
Louie Gohmert	44%	29%	54%	14%	34%
Julian Castro	35%	52%	25%	60%	37%
Not sure	21%	18%	21%	26%	28%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Cornyn/White					
John Cornyn	44%	39%	54%	3%	28%
Bill White	39%	37%	33%	73%	45%
Not sure	17%	24%	12%	24%	27%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Gohmert/White					
Louie Gohmert	40%	32%	49%	12%	34%
Bill White	39%	49%	30%	70%	37%
Not sure	21%	19%	21%	18%	28%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval				
Approve	42%	46%	45%	33%
Disapprove	56%	54%	52%	64%
Not sure	2%	-	3%	3%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Cornyn Approval				
Approve	30%	25%	29%	39%
Disapprove	42%	42%	45%	38%
Not sure	27%	33%	25%	23%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gohmert Favorability				
Favorable	13%	12%	11%	16%
Unfavorable	18%	18%	20%	17%
Not sure	69%	70%	69%	67%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Castro Favorability				
Favorable	18%	19%	17%	17%
Unfavorable	29%	33%	26%	27%
Not sure	53%	47%	57%	56%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
White Favorability				
Favorable	24%	25%	25%	21%
Unfavorable	21%	26%	19%	16%
Not sure	56%	49%	56%	63%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Cornyn/Castro				
John Cornyn	49%	49%	44%	57%
Julian Castro	35%	40%	32%	31%
Not sure	17%	11%	24%	12%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gohmert/Castro				
Louie Gohmert	44%	47%	37%	49%
Julian Castro	35%	39%	34%	33%
Not sure	21%	14%	29%	18%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Cornyn/White				
John Cornyn	44%	42%	40%	52%
Bill White	39%	42%	40%	35%
Not sure	17%	16%	20%	13%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gohmert/White				
Louie Gohmert	40%	44%	36%	44%
Bill White	39%	40%	40%	36%
Not sure	21%	16%	25%	20%

