March 1, 2019

Dear Legislator,

The Texas Public Health Coalition (TPHC), a member-based coalition representing more than 30 health care professional organizations works to reduce preventable disease by advancing effective public policies that promote a safe and healthy environment and healthy behaviors for all Texans.

TPHC is pleased to share results of a statewide poll of primary voters conducted in July 2018 about public school immunizations and immunization policies in Texas.

The poll was conducted by Chris Perkins of Ragnar Research Partners.

Chris Perkins is an expert in quantitative and qualitative analysis having conducted and analyzed survey data for over a decade on behalf of Republican candidates, colleges and universities, and Fortune 500 companies. Perkins is considered one of the top public opinion experts in the United States and has been cited as among the most accurate pollsters in the country.


In Texas, Perkins was named the top pollster by Capitol Inside’s bi-partisan “Texas Power Consultants” rankings for five consecutive election cycles, and is widely recognized to have been the most accurate pollster conducting surveys in Texas since 2010. Perkins is the pollster to five Republican statewide elected officials, six Republican members of Congress, and 65 Republican members of the Texas Legislature.

If you have any questions about the survey, its methodology, or results, please contact Anna Stelter at 512-370-1362.

Sincerely,

John Carlo, MD
Chair, Texas Public Health Coalition
On behalf of the Texas Public Health Coalition, Ragnar Research Partners conducted a scientific survey among n=750 2018 Republican Primary Voters across Texas. Interviews were conducted July 7-10, 2018 by telephone, including landlines and cell phones. The margin of error for this study is ±4%.

### 2018 Texas Republican Primary Voters Overwhelmingly Support Child Immunization Laws

A substantial majority of Republican primary voters (86%) said they support the current laws that require school age children to be immunized to attend public school. Of those that said they support these laws, 71% of them said they “strongly supported” the laws.

> Q7. As you may know, current laws require school age children to be immunized to attend public school. Do you **rotate** oppose or support requiring school age children to be immunized to attend public school?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly Support</th>
<th>Somewhat Support</th>
<th>Don't Know</th>
<th>Somewhat Oppose</th>
<th>Strongly Oppose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Support - Oppose</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2018 Texas Republican Primary Voters Agree with Government Involvement in Immunization Law

A heavy majority of Republican primary voters (67%) agreed that the government should have a role in reducing the number of vaccine preventable deaths.

Furthermore, about half (49%) of all Republican primary voters said that they would not side with elected officials who oppose requiring children to be immunized before attending public school.

Q18. Do you agree or disagree that the government should have a role in reducing the number of vaccine preventable deaths?

Q19. If you learned that one of your elected officials in the state legislature opposed requiring school age children to be vaccinated, would that make you less likely or more likely to support your Legislator.

2018 Texas Republican Primary Voters Prefer Further Changes to Laws that Protect Public School Children

When asked if parents of children in public schools should be allowed to opt-out of Texas vaccine requirements for non-medical reasons, a strong majority of Republican primary voters (68%) were opposed to the idea.

Likewise, 79% of Republican primary voters said they would support a potential law that would require schools to report the number of unvaccinated children enrolled in public school.
Q20. Do you *rotate* oppose or support *end rotation* allowing parents of children in public schools to opt-out of Texas vaccine requirements for non-medical reasons?

Q22. Would you *rotate* oppose or support *end rotation* a law to require schools to report the number of unvaccinated children enrolled in public school?

Finally, participants were read two opposing statements and asked which statement was closer to their views. A strong majority of Republican primary voters (79%) said that the statement reading “laws requiring children to be vaccinated for school entry provide protection against contagious diseases, and the laws should be enforced” was closer to their views as opposed to the statement reading “it’s the right of the parent to decide if their child is not vaccinated for school entry and we need a law that allows the parent to opt out of vaccines for any non-medical reasons.”

Q23. Please tell me which is closer to your own views: rotate

(Some people/Others) say laws requiring children to be vaccinated for school entry provides protection against contagious diseases, and the laws should be enforced.

(Some people/Others) say it’s the right of the parent to decide if their child is not vaccinated for school entry and we need a law that allows the parent to opt-out of vaccines for non-medical reasons.
Conclusion

A strong majority of 2018 Texas Republican primary voters support the current laws that require school age children to be immunized to attend public school.

When given two different points of view, Republican primary voters side strongly with the idea immunizations protect our children from diseases. The results also show that Republican primary voters are less likely to support an elected official that votes against vaccine requirements.

Overall, it’s clear that Republican primary voters support immunization requirements, agree that these requirements protect our children, and do not believe parents of children in public schools should be able to opt out for any non-medical reason.