



Written by [Warren Mass](#) on November 18, 2015

Immigration and Terrorist Groups Named by Texans as Greatest Threats to U.S.

An online survey of Texas voters conducted by the University of Texas/*Texas Tribune* from October 30 to November 8 indicated that Texans think that immigration and foreign terrorist groups comprise the greatest threat to the United States. Twenty-two percent of those participating chose illegal immigration as the greatest threat, followed by 18 percent who chose foreign terrorist groups such as ISIS and al-Qaeda (which were named as examples in the survey).



Commenting on the results of the poll, which was concluded several days before the terrorist attacks in Paris, Daron Shaw, co-director of the poll and a professor of government at the University of Texas at Austin, said:

Even before the terrorist attacks in Paris last Friday, Texans expressed deep concern over border security. I may be going out on a limb here, but I doubt Texas voters agree with Bernie Sanders' statement [in Saturday's Democratic debate] that climate change represents a more urgent threat than jihadist terrorism.

Among the other threats listed by the pollsters and the percentage of Texans who named them as the greatest threat, were:

- Polarization/intractable partisan conflict: 12 percent
- Decaying American infrastructure: 10 percent
- Gun violence/mass shootings: 9 percent
- Unfriendly foreign nations (e.g., Russia, Iran, China): 8 percent
- Racial tensions: 6 percent
- Climate change: 5 percent
- Computer network vulnerabilities: 2 percent
- Other: 6 percent
- Don't know/no opinion 3 percent

When Rasmussen Reports conducted a national survey on immigration on November 5 and 8, 55 percent of likely U.S. voters responded that they think that the policies and practices of the federal government encourage people to enter the United States illegally. Only 27 percent disagreed, while 18 percent said they are not sure.

Another Rasmussen poll conducted on November 11 and 12 (the day before the Paris attacks) asked, "Who is winning the War on Terror ... the United States and its allies or the terrorists?"



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Thirty-nine percent replied that the terrorists were winning the war.

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