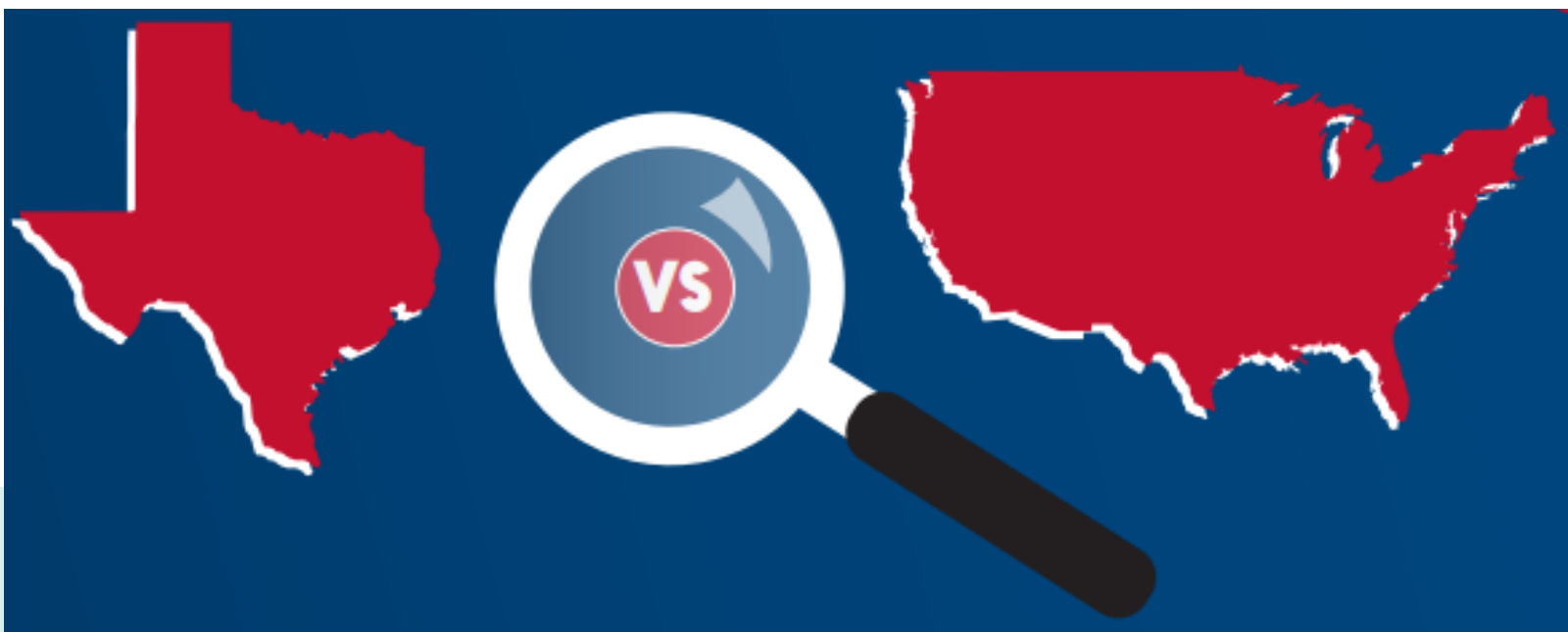




# VIEWS ON THE MEDIA, CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, & POLITICS

## The Texas Media & Society Survey



### THE TEXAS MEDIA & SOCIETY SURVEY

In 2016 and 2017, researchers at the Annette Strauss Institute at the University of Texas surveyed around one thousand Americans and one thousand Texans to measure views on journalism, civic life, and politics.

The survey also measures habits of news consumption, how people become informed in the digital age, and how people engage in their communities.



### DEMOGRAPHICS



Survey respondents were mostly over the age of 44 (80 percent in Texas and 62 in the US), but were split more evenly among other key demographics like gender and political affiliation. Education attainment for both groups was around the same: 36 percent had a high school education or less, 27 percent had some college, and 36 percent graduated college.

### NEWS CONSUMPTION HABITS

While most Americans still get news primarily through television, **2 out of 3** Texans and Americans report that they either often or sometimes get news from a **computer**.



### "FAKE NEWS" STORIES

Around **80 percent** of Texans and Americans come across fake news stories about politics and government online that they do not believe are fully accurate. Of those respondents, **15 percent** believe they shared such stories.



### PAID ACCESS TO NEWS

**58%** of Texans and **53 percent** of Americans **did not pay for access to any kind of news** in the past year. About 1 out of 3 paid for a cable subscription that includes news channels. Just **14 percent** of Texans, compared to **21 percent** of Americans, paid for a newspaper.



## PHOTO IDENTIFICATION



**10%** of Texans believe that they do not have to show photo ID to vote. However, the state **now requires such identification** including a driver's license, military ID, or other approved government-issued identification.

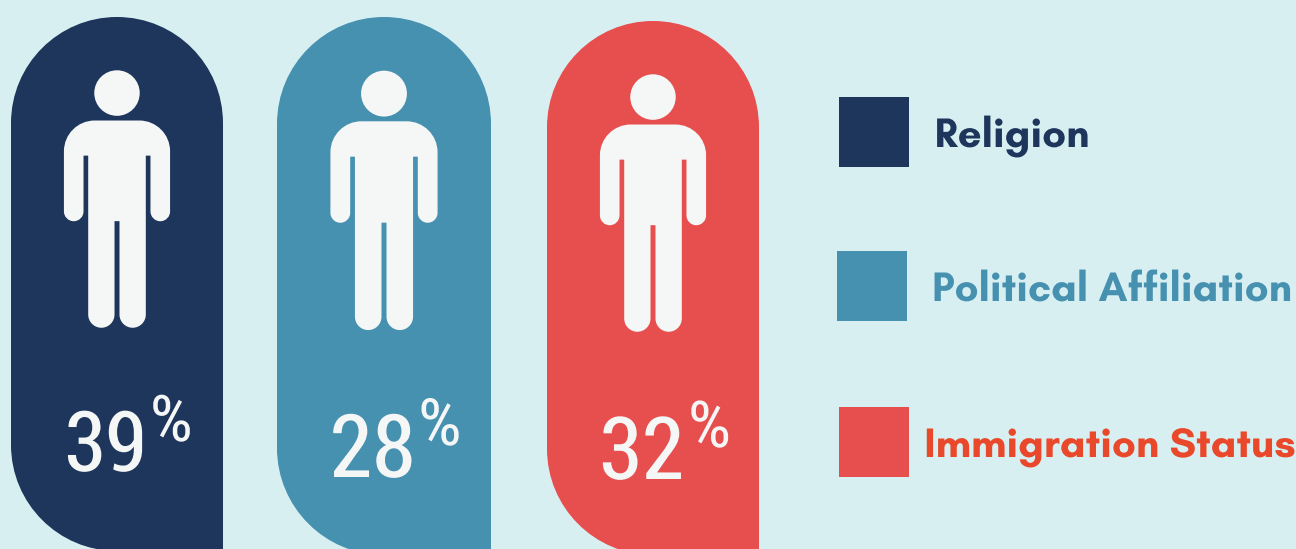
## VOTER REGISTRATION

More than **1 out of 5 Texans** (incorrectly) believe that you can register to vote on Election Day. Texas law states that you must **register 30 days in advance**.



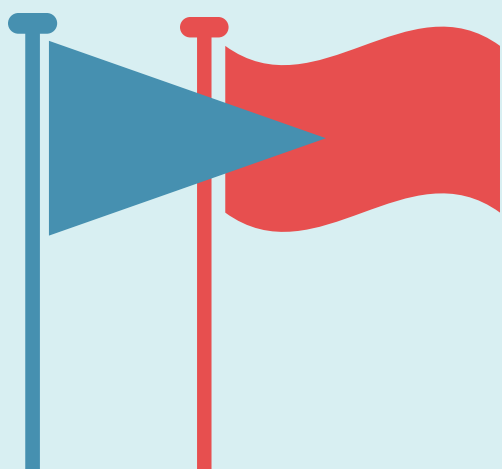
## JOURNALIST DISCLOSURES

**39 percent** of Americans believe journalists should disclose their religion, while **28 percent** say they should disclose their political affiliation and nearly **one-third** believe they should report their immigration status. These numbers are **slightly higher** in Texas.



## NEWS MEDIA BIAS

**26%** of Texans, and the same number of Americans, believe that the media has a **strong liberal bias**. CNN, The New York Times, MSNBC, and The Huffington Post were identified as the most liberal-leaning news outlets. The Rush Limbaugh Show, Fox, and Breitbart were identified as the most conservative.



## CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

**36%** of Texans and **34 percent** of Americans do not think they have a say in what the government does. Nearly **1 in 4** respondents do not believe their vote matters, and **almost half** do not trust the federal government to "do what is right."



## MILLENNIAL NEWS HABITS

Millennials, respondents from 18 to 29 years old, are **more likely** than other generations to get news about local politics from **social networking sites and mobile apps**. But only **36 percent** reported watching news on television, **18 percent** listened to news on the radio, and **16 percent** read the newspaper in the past month.