



To: Jeff Moseley
FM: Joe Counter
DT: July 31, 2017
RE: Legislative Surveys / Bathroom Bill Results

Counter Consulting (in conjunction with Conquest Communications in Richmond, VA) conducted five surveys the Week of July 24th in GOP-held legislative districts on behalf of the Texas Association of Business. The surveys sought the opinions of 'likely Republican Primary voters' on a host of issues including the so-called 'Bathroom Bill'. Each survey was an n=300 with a MOE of +/- 5.77%.

The districts represented a cross-section from around the state: SD8 in Collin County in North Texas, SD22 in Central Texas, HD15 in Montgomery County North of Houston, HD106 in Denton County in North Texas, and HD136 Northwest of Austin.

As you will see from the results and topline/crosstab sheets related to those questions, there was very little variation in the results from district-to-district or in the cumulative totals (which included 1,500 completed interviews). While these cumulative results cannot be assigned a MOE (that would normally be around 2% for an overall sample size this large), it is safe to say given the similar results in the different districts, that these views do in fact reflect those of 'likely GOP voters' statewide.

Specifically, two questions were asked about the 'bathroom bill' legislation.

Q. The Texas Governor has called a Special Session to address issues that he felt went unresolved in the Regular Session. Among these is the so-called ‘Bathroom Bill’ for which there are a number of competing versions. Can you tell me which of the below statements comes closest to what you think will happen if this legislation is passed?

- a. It will make Texas a better, more pro-family state.
- b. Texas families will suffer from immediate job loss due to discrimination being legalized in the minds of many corporate leaders who will take their businesses elsewhere.
- c. Nothing much will change—Texas already has laws to punish people who misbehave in bathrooms and public place.
- d. I don't really have an opinion on this.

Results:

- a minority (25%) of likely GOP voters are in favor of a bathroom bill passing
- a slightly smaller percentage (20%) cite ‘negative ramifications’ from job loss due to perceived discriminatory laws
- a plurality (40%) feel ‘nothing much will change’ if some version of the bathroom bill is passed

Topline/Crosstab:

		Total	HD015	HD106	District HD136	SD08	SD22
Which of the below statements comes closest to what you think will happen if the Bathroom Bill legislation is passed?	Make Texas a better, more pro-family state	398	86	84	66	81	81
		26.5%	28.7%	28.0%	22.0%	27.0%	27.0%
	TX families will suffer immediate job loss due to legalized discrimination	321	57	73	70	67	54
		21.4%	19.0%	24.3%	23.3%	22.3%	18.0%
	Nothing much will change	608	117	115	133	116	127
		40.5%	39.0%	38.3%	44.3%	38.7%	42.3%
	Unsure	163	39	28	29	35	32
		10.9%	13.0%	9.3%	9.7%	11.7%	10.7%
	Refused	10	1	0	2	1	6
		.7%	0.3%	0.0%	0.7%	0.3%	2.0%

A follow-up question was asked of the three-quarters of respondents who were NOT in favor of the legislation.

Q. What would you say is the main reason why you oppose the so-called ‘Bathroom Bill’?

- a. It is a discriminatory law.
- b. If passed, it will cause our economy to suffer, as there is evidence that some businesses will relocate out of Texas, some out-of-state organizations will stop coming to Texas for their conventions, and there are threats that major sporting events would be moved out of Texas.
- c. This law is a distraction from the real issues that Texans face, as Texas law already punishes people who harass or assault people in bathrooms.
- d. Unsure

Results:

- only 12% cited ‘discriminatory concerns’ as the reason they are opposed to the legislation
- only 12% cited ‘economic repercussions’ as the reason they are opposed to the legislation
- the overwhelming percentage (61%) stated that the “law is a distraction from the real issues facing the state”

Topline/Crosstab:

		Total	HD015	HD106	District		
					HD136	SD08	SD22
What would you say is the main reason why you oppose the so-called ‘Bathroom Bill’?	It is a discriminatory law	110	17	31	27	11	24
		11.8%	9.8%	16.5%	13.3%	6.0%	13.3%
	Will cause economy to suffer	107	25	23	21	22	16
		11.5%	14.4%	12.2%	10.3%	12.0%	8.8%
	Law is a distraction from the real issues	566	102	107	127	130	100
		60.9%	58.6%	56.9%	62.6%	71.0%	55.2%
Unsure	127	25	23	25	16	38	
	13.7%	14.4%	12.2%	12.3%	8.7%	21.0%	
Refused	19	5	4	3	4	3	
	2.0%	2.9%	2.1%	1.5%	2.2%	1.7%	