



# Opinion Strategies

## Political Consulting and Opinion Polling

### San Antonio City Charter Amendments

### Opinion Poll

October 9th– 16th, 2018

Three proposed city charter amendments on the November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 ballot appear to be headed for defeat. A recent opinion survey by conducted by Opinion Strategies, a political consulting and polling firm, indicates that support for the amendments is weak.

- **Favorable support** for all three amendments ranged from **29% to 35%**.
- **Opposition** to the amendments ranged from **47% to 50%**.

Opinion Strategies conducted a robo-poll of San Antonio likely voters. The poll was conducted from October 9<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>. **Five hundred voters** participated in an automated robo-poll. Voters were asked if they supported or opposed each of the three city charter amendments. These amendments involve:

- A) a process that makes it easier to place a proposed ordinance on a city-wide referendum,
- B) placement of limitations on City Manager's salary, and
- C) binding arbitration option for San Antonio firefighters and the City of San Antonio.

#### A. Process for Citizen Proposed Ordinances

**Proposition A** allows for citizen groups to place proposed ordinances on city-wide referendums by decreasing the number of required signatures from 70,000 to 20,000 voters. The time period for gathering these signatures is lengthened from 40 to 180 days.

**29%** of voters were in **favor** of the amendment. This was in contrast to **49%** of voters who opposed the amendment.

Men (**51%**) were more opposed to this amendment than women (**47%**).

Opposition to the amendment was significantly higher for **non-Hispanic (53%)** versus **Hispanic (41%) voters**.

Opposition to this amendment was similar for both Democratic (**48%**) and Republican (**51%**) voters.

Voters in County Commissioner **Precinct 4** were most in favor (**44%**) of the amendment. Voters in **Precinct 3** had the highest opposition (**58%**)

### B. Limitation of City Manager's Salary

Proposition B places limits on the amount of salary that the City Manager can received. Specifically, the city manager's salary cannot exceed the equivalent of 10 times the lowest paid city employee. Employment tenure is also limited to eight years.

**35%** of voters indicated they were in **favor** of this amendment. This was the highest support of all the amendments. **Opposition** to the amendment (**50%**).

Men (**51%**) were slightly more opposed to the amendment than women (**49%**).

Hispanic (**46%**) and Non-Hispanic voters (**52%**) had similar opposition to the amendment.

Democratic (**51%**) and Republican (**50%**) voters were similarly opposed to the amendment.

Voters in **Precinct 2** were most in favor (**41%**) of the amendment. Voters in **Precinct 3** had the greatest opposition (**57%**).

### C. Binding Arbitration for Firefighters Association and City

Proposition C allows for binding arbitration in the event the Firefighters Association and City of San Antonio can not reach agreement on a labor contract. The proposition allows the Firefighters Association to decide when negotiations are stalled and an arbitrator is needed.

**29%** of voters were in favor of this amendment. This is lowest level of support of all three amendments. **47%** of voters opposed the amendment.

Men (**51%**) indicated more opposition to the amendment than women (**44%**).

Hispanic (**44%**) and Non-Hispanic (**49%**) were similarly opposed to the amendment.

Republican (**51%**) voters were more opposed to the amendment than Democratic voters (**45%**).

Voters in **Precinct 4** were most in favor (**38%**) of the amendment. Voters in **Precinct 3** had the greatest level of opposition (**56%**) to the amendment.

## **Methodology**

Surveys were conducted during a two-week time period running from October 9<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018. A random sample of 500 San Antonio voters were interviewed for the survey. The survey was conducted through a robo-poll methodology also known as automatic dialing. Participants were asked questions regarding their opinions of the three city charter amendments. The margin of error for the poll is 4.38%.

## **Demographic Profile**

The demographic profile for the survey respondents was 45% male and 55% females. Hispanics represented 36% of the sample. Non-Hispanics were 64% % of the sample. Democrats were 53% of the sample. Republicans were 47%. Geographic distribution of the sample by County Commissioner precinct was: Precinct 1 – 33%, Precinct 2 - 25%, Precinct 3 – 39%, Precinct 4 – 3%.

## **Background**

Opinion Strategies is a San Antonio political campaign and opinion polling firm. Gabriel Salazar has many years experience working in political campaigns in south Texas. Dionisio Salazar has a broad range of experience in opinion research, non-profit work and community development initiatives.

For more information, call 210-722-2860 or 210-843-7708.



**San Antonio City Charter  
Amendments  
Public Support  
October 12th - 16th, 2018**

3. Are you in favor or against binding arbitration for the Firefighter's Association and the City of San Antonio in the event they can not reach a contract agreement?

	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Favor</b>	134	29%
<b>Against</b>	222	47%
<b>Undecided</b>	113	24%
<b>Total</b>	469	

	<b>Hisp.</b>	<b>Non.Hisp.</b>
	29%	28%
	44%	49%
	27%	23%
	100%	100%

<b>Gender</b>	
<b>Men</b>	<b>Women</b>
28%	29%
51%	44%
21%	27%
100%	100%

	<b>Party</b>	
	<b>Dem.</b>	<b>Rep.</b>
<b>Favor</b>	27%	29%
<b>Against</b>	45%	51%
<b>Undecided</b>	28%	20%
	100%	100%

	<b>County Commissioner</b>			
	<b>Pct 1</b>	<b>Pct 2</b>	<b>Pct 3</b>	<b>Pct 4</b>
	27%	33%	24%	38%
	41%	42%	56%	38%
	31%	25%	18%	24%
	100%	100%	100%	100%