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EMERSON POLL: CRUZ CLINGS TO NARROW LEAD IN TEXAS; TRUMP ROMPS IN BAY STATE, CLINTON PULLS AWAY FROM SANDERS

Boston, MA – In two tracking polls released by Emerson College on the eve of Super Tuesday, Ted Cruz and Hillary Clinton are leading in the Texas presidential primary for their respective parties, while Clinton and Donald Trump are poised for convincing wins in the Massachusetts primary race.

Home Field Advantage Goes to Cruz

In his home state of Texas, Cruz has carved out a narrow lead over Trump, 35% to 32%. Cruz is up 6 points and Trump is up 4 points since initial poll results were reported five days ago. Their gains come largely at the expense of Marco Rubio, whose support fell from 25% to 16% in the same time period. Ohio's John Kasich and retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson are holding steady at 9% and 4%, respectively.

In the Lone Star State's Democratic primary, Clinton has dramatically extended her lead over Bernie Sanders. On February 24, Clinton held a 14-point advantage, 56% to 40% but now leads by 40-plus points, 68% to 26%. Sanders's 63-point edge (81% to 18%) with voters 18-34 plummeted to just 22 points (59% to 37%), and Clinton is crushing him by margins of 49% or more in all other age categories. Support from men is way up; they now favor her 67% to 25% over Sanders, while women give her the nod, 68% to 27%.

As was the case in South Carolina last Saturday, Clinton receives overwhelming support from African Americans, 82% to Sanders's 15% and data suggests that Hispanic/Latino voters were breaking for Clinton by a wide margin, 71% to 16%, among those surveyed.

Clinton Pulls Away in the Bay State

In Massachusetts, a State where Bernie Sanders is hoping for a much-needed Super Tuesday win, Clinton has broken a 46-all tie that existed just a week ago and built an 11-point lead, 54% to 43%. She continues to enjoy a large advantage with women (60% to 38%), voters age 55 and up, and those who say the economy is their top concern (57% to 38%).

In the last few days Sander's 24-point edge with likely primary voters ages 18-34 has slipped to 18 points (59% to 41%). His support among men has likewise eroded, from 24 points to four points (50% to 46%). Similarly, a 28-point advantage among independent voters is down to 19 points (58% to 39%) in the latest poll.

Consistent with last week's ECPS results, Trump appears to have an insurmountable lead among likely GOP primary voters in the Bay State. One of every two (51%) plan to vote for him, and 69% view him favorably, compared to Rubio (46%) and Cruz (33%). All but guaranteeing a large delegate haul, Trump also leads by substantial margins in all nine Congressional districts.

Caller ID – Massachusetts and Texas Polls

The Emerson College Polling Society polls were both conducted from February 26-28, 2016. The Massachusetts poll consisted of 408 likely GOP primary voters, with a margin of error of +/-4.8%, and the Democratic primary consisted of 670 likely primary voters, with a margin of error of +/-3.7%. The Texas poll consisted of 449 likely GOP primary voters, with a margin of error of +/-4.6%, and the Democratic primary consisted of 275 likely primary voters, with a margin of error of +/-5.9%. Data was collected using an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system of landlines only and weighted by 2012 general election results, gender and age. The full methodology and results can be found at www.theecps.com