POLLING QUESTION: “As you may know, the average annual interest rate on payday loans is 391%. Would you support or oppose a proposal to put a cap on the interest rates that payday lenders may charge at 36% annual interest?”

- 51% strongly support the 36% rate cap
- 17% somewhat support
- 6% somewhat oppose
- 8% strongly oppose
- 18% don’t know/no opinion

68% of Texas voters support a 36% interest rate cap on payday loans.

POLLING QUESTION: “As you may know, loans issued to members of the military are capped by federal law at 36% annual interest including fees. Some have suggested that another way to cap loans for all consumers would be to cap them at 36% annual interest plus additional fees in addition to the annual interest. Which of the following options would you prefer for all consumers?”

- 87% prefer 36% annual interest rate including fees
- 13% prefer 36% annual interest rate plus additional fees

87% of Texas voters overwhelmingly prefer all-in rate cap that includes fees on loans for all consumers.

PAYDAY AND AUTO-TITLE LENDERS IN TEXAS operate with no state limits on fees charged. The result is average APRs that often exceed 500%. In 2018, payday and auto-title lenders drained over $1.86 billion in fees from Texans, through exorbitant loan charges. City-based payday and auto-title loan protections, adopted by 46 Texas cities, have helped struggling borrowers. But, high-cost loan operations continue to seek out loopholes to get around the few protections that exist. Recent polling shows that Texans support reforms proven to stop the debt trap: a 36% rate cap that includes fees.

Texas Voters Overwhelmingly Support 36% Rate Cap

TX payday and auto-title lenders disproportionately HARM:
LOW-INCOME FAMILIES • WOMEN • VETERANS • PEOPLE OF COLOR

61% of the voters who oppose a 36% rate cap do so because they believe the rate should be lower than 36% annual interest.

Voters overwhelmingly prefer all-in rate cap that includes fees for all consumers.
POLLING QUESTION: “As you may know, the annual interest rate with fees for consumer installment loans can range from below 10% to well over 100%. Would you support or oppose a proposal to put a cap on the interest rates of these loans at no more than 36% annual interest?”

- 66% of Texas voters support a 36% interest rate cap on installment loans
- 39% strongly support the 36% rate cap

METHODOLOGY: This poll was conducted between January 9–15, 2020 among a national sample of 9,962 registered voters. The interviews were conducted online, and the data were weighted to approximate a target sample of registered voters based on age, educational attainment, gender, race, and region. Results from the full survey have a margin of error of +/- 1%. State results use a statistical technique called multilevel regression with post-stratification (MRP) to estimate state-level public opinion from the national survey data for a specific month. Responses to each survey question are modeled via multilevel regression as a function of both individual level and state-level variables. Morning Consult models use age, gender, education, and race as individual-level predictor variables. For state-level variables, Morning Consult chose variables that may influence state-level vote choice such as the percent change in state gross domestic product (GDP), state unemployment rates, state median household income, and state-level outcomes from the 2016 presidential election. Morning Consult obtained population parameters for registered voters from the November 2016 Current Population Survey. Morning Consult applied post-stratification weights at the state level based on gender, age, educational attainment, and race using the American Community Survey (ACS). Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

POLLING QUESTION: “Do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of the following: Payday lenders”

- 63% of Texas voters have an unfavorable opinion of payday lenders
- 46% of Texas voters have a very unfavorable opinion of payday lenders

TEXAS VOTERS OVERWHELMINGLY SUPPORT 36% RATE CAP

- 39%
- 27%
- 7%
- 5%
- 22%

Strongly support
Somewhat support
Somewhat oppose
Strongly oppose
Don’t know/No opinion

- 66%
- 12%

66% support
12% oppose
8% don’t know

Very unfavorable
Somewhat unfavorable
Somewhat favorable
Very favorable
Heard of, no opinion
Never heard of

- 46%
- 17%
- 9%
- 5%
- 17%
- 7%

63%
14%