

Attitudes and Perceptions on PGA San Antonio Surveys 2002¹ by Arturo Vega

Issue

Over the last year, the city council and area residents have had extensive dialogues and debates over the creation of a Professional Golf Village over the Edwards Underground Water Aquifer—the area’s principal water supply. Early in the year, the San Antonio City Council proposed creating a special district for the PGA Village. Opponents undertook a referendum drive, collected over 80,000 signatures, and forced the Council to withdraw the original plan. The Professional Golf Association, then, decided to pull the proposal, “citing the divisiveness of the issue for the community” as their reasons for withdrawing from this plan. In response, Mayor Garza crafted an alternative plan to “jump start” the issue and re-engage the PGA. In this version of the plan, the City would agree to a fifteen year, non-annexation agreement with the developers of the PGA Village. On October 24th, 2002, the Council vote unanimously to approve the plan.

What were area residents’ attitudes and perceptions on the City Council’s plans to assist developers of the Professional Golf Association (PGA) Village over the Edwards Underground Water Aquifer? And, did these attitudes and perceptions change from the plan as a special district to the plan as a non-annexation issue? Fortunately, data from two University of Texas at San Antonio’s surveys conducted this year permit an answer to these questions.

Sample Information

Comparative data on the PGA issue are from two telephone surveys of Bexar County residents. The *San Antonio Surveys* are probability studies conducted by telephone to a stratified random sample of adults with telephones. The Spring 2002 survey was conducted during the week of April 29th-May 4th, 2002. The sample of this survey was 397 Bexar County area residents and had a standard error of +/-4.9 percent, with a 95 percent confidence level. The Fall survey was conducted October 5-14, 2002. The population sample for this survey comprised 457 people and had a standard error of +/- 4.6 percent with a 95 percent confidence level. Both surveys were weighted by gender and sex using Census 2000 data for Bexar County.

Analysis

When respondents were asked “How strongly do you agree or disagree with the Council’s decision in the Spring survey,² nearly 60 percent of the area residents said they opposed the city council’s decision (see Table 1). When respondents were asked about the Council’s proposal in the Fall Survey,³ nearly half of respondents said they concurred

¹ *San Antonio Survey Spring 2002*, Arturo Vega, Principal Investigator, Michael Gilbert, co-investigator, April 29-May 4, 2002. Hispanic Research Center/Metropolitan Research and Policy Institute, University of Texas San Antonio. *San Antonio Survey Fall 2002*, Juanita M. Firestone, Principal Investigator; Richard J. Harris, Arturo Vega, Georgia Johnston and Jeffery Cancino, co-investigators, October 5-October 14, 2002, Hispanic Research Center/Metropolitan Research and Policy Institute and the Survey Research Lab, University of Texas San Antonio.

² The Spring survey question was worded: “Recently, the City Council voted to approve creating a special district over the Edwards Underground Water Aquifer to build a Professional Golf Association (PGA) Village. Do you agree or disagree with the Council’s decision?”

³ The Fall survey question was worded in the following way: “The City Council of San Antonio is proposing a non-annexation agreement with developers to enable them to build a Professional Golf Association (PGA)

Table 1: Comparing Spring and Fall 2002 Survey Data on the PGA Issue						
Spring Survey	%	Cum%		Fall Survey	%	Cum%
Strongly Agree	6.6			Strongly Agree	15.0	
Agree	29.7	36.3		Agree	34.6	49.7
Disagree	34.1			Disagree	25.4	
Strongly Disagree	22.2	56.3		Strongly Disagree	16.0	41.4
dk/na	7.3			dk/na	9.0	
total	397			total	457	

with the non-annexation agreement. Clearly area resident's opinions on the issue of PGA changed and were now more nearly divided than they were earlier in the Spring.

Examining the responses by race and ethnic characteristics finds significantly different views. In the Spring survey, for example, 53 percent of the Anglo respondents either strongly agreed or agreed with the council's special district-PGA proposal. This compared to 24.2 percent for Mexican American and 28.1 percent for African American counterparts. By the Fall, each of the three ethnic groups had increased in their agreement with the Council's non-annexation proposal but significant differences remained. Here, 57 percent of the Anglo respondents either strongly agreed or agreed with the Council's proposal, compared to 43 percent for Mexican American and 52 percent for African Americans. Notably a majority (49.8%) of the Mexican American respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed with the Council proposal (see Table 2).

Table 2: Comparing Spring and Fall 2002 Survey Data on the PGA Issue by RaceEth								
Spring Survey	Anglo	MexAm	AfrAm		Fall Survey	Anglo	MexAm	AfrAm
Strongly Agree	10.6%	4.0%	4.1%		Strongly Agree	21.0%	10.9%	13.6%
Agree	42.4%	20.2%	24.0%		Agree	36.0%	32.1%	38.4%
Disagree	23.6%	41.5%	44.3%		Disagree	18.1%	30.4%	35.2%
Strongly Disagree	15.5%	28.6%	15.6%		Strongly Disagree	14.0%	19.4%	4.8%
Dk/na	7.9%	5.7%	12.1%		dk/na	11.0%	7.2%	8.0%
total	159	205	28		total	178	230	32
	P=.000	V=.226				P=.01	V=.158	

Similar patterns were found when examining responses by gender, family income, age and educational level. Table 3, for example, demonstrates the difference among males and females from the Spring to the Fall surveys and proposals. In the Spring proposal, there was no significant difference among men and women in their disagreement with the proposal. By the Fall proposal, 53.3 percent of the males either strongly agreed or agreed with the city council compared to only forty-six percent of the female respondents.

Village over part of the Edwards Underground Water Aquifer. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the Council's proposal?"

Spring Survey	Male	Female		Fall Survey	Male	Female
Strongly Agree	7.7%	5.6%		Strongly Agree	18.7%	11.7%
Agree	27.3%	32.0%		Agree	34.6%	34.7%
Disagree	30.9%	37.1%		Disagree	23.4%	27.2%
Strongly Disagree	28.1%	16.7%		Strongly Disagree	17.5%	14.7%
dk/na	6.0%	8.6%		dk/na	5.8%	11.9%
total	192	205		total	218	239
	P=.459	V=.063			P=.05	V=.146

Significant differences were also found in both surveys among family income categories. Here in the Spring survey seven in ten respondents with family income less than \$40,000 either strongly disagreed or disagreed with the council special district proposal. This compared to four in ten for respondents with family incomes of \$41,000 or more (44.4% for \$41-70k; 46.0% for \$71k or greater). By the Fall, half the respondents with family incomes less than \$40,000 still disagreed with the council non-annexation agreement, while only three in ten disagree with family incomes greater than \$41,000 (28.4% for \$41-70k; 33% for \$66k or greater).

No significant differences were found among age categories in the Spring survey where majorities across all age categories opposed the special district proposal.⁴ By the Fall, significant differences but a weak relationship emerged among respondents by age. Here, only a strong majority agreement with the council's non-annexation agreement emerged among the 30 to 44 year olds. Among all other age groups, high variations of opinion were found, with less agreement as one moved from younger to older age categories (see Table 4).

Spring Survey	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+		Fall Survey	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+
Strongly Agree	8.0%	2.1%	9.3%	6.6%		Strongly Agree	9.8%	24.3%	12.3%	11.2%
Agree	28.7%	32.6%	31.3%	26.0%		Agree	39.3%	31.8%	35.1%	32.6%
Disagree	46.1%	37.7%	30.2%	30.4%		Disagree	37.1%	22.6%	24.5%	22.5%
Strongly Disagree	17.1%	23.3%	20.3%	24.4%		Strongly Disagree	9.2%	12.5%	18.8%	21.0%
dk/na	0%	4.3%	9.0%	12.6%		Dk/na	4.6%	8.9%	9.4%	12.7%
Total	54	103	144	90		total	81	134	134	100
	P=.135	Gamma=.09					P=.04	gamma=.12		

⁴This compares to 36% agreement among respondents between the ages of 18-29, 34.7% for 30-44, 32% for 65 and older.

Similar to the pattern in age, strong opposition was found among all educational levels with the exception of college-educated respondents in the Spring survey. The college-educated respondents split on the issue nearly evenly with 48 percent disagreeing, 46 percent agreeing and 5 percent indicating that they did not know or did not answer. By the time of the non-annexation proposal in the Fall, agreement increased as educational categories increased. Forty-five percent of the respondents with a high school education or less either agreed or strongly agreed with the council's proposal. This compared to a simple majority (50.2%) among respondents with some education, 54 percent among college educated and 57 percent among respondents with post-college educations.

Finally, Table 5 demonstrates that while attitudes changed from the Spring survey to the Fall survey and the two city council proposals, much of the opposition of the residents in the far south and south remained, while stronger agreement emerged in the north and far north. In the Spring survey, for example, approximately three in ten of the respondents from the far south and south agreed to the council special district plan. By Fall, agreement from this area rose by only six percent. In contrast, in the Spring only 32 percent of the north and a small majority of the far north respondents indicated that they agreed with the council's special district proposal. By Fall, agreement among north respondents had risen by thirteen percentage points but remained flat among far north respondents.

Table 5: Spring and Fall 2002 Survey Data on the PGA Issue by Age Group										
Spring Survey	Far South	South	North	Far North	Fall Survey	Far South	South	North	Far North	
Strongly Agree	3.0%	3.0%	8.0%	8.9%	Strongly Agree	6.0%	4.6%	8.6%	15.3%	
Agree	27.9%	23.0%	23.8%	41.5%	Agree	30.0%	32.3%	37.1%	35.3%	
Disagree	31.8%	40.7%	38.3%	28.3%	Disagree	36.0%	23.1%	21.0%	23.7%	
Strongly Disagree	24.7%	27.2%	21.0%	17.0%	Strongly Disagree	18.0%	30.8%	9.3%	15.9%	
dk/na	12.6%	6.0%	9.0%	4.3%	Dk/na	10.0%	9.2%	7.3%	9.8%	
Total	50	74	128	137	total	50	65	139	208	
	P=.03	V=.14				P=.000	V=.19			

When respondents views are examined from Inside Loop 410 (inclusive of North and South from Table 5) against those from those living outside 410 (including respondents from Far South and Far North categories, again see Table 5), a significant but weak associated relationship ($v=.165$) and difference emerged in the Spring survey (see Table 6). Here, six in ten (62.4%) of the Spring respondents living inside 410 disagreed or strongly disagreed with the City Council's special district PGA proposal. In contrast, respondents living outside 410 were more evenly divided on the proposal. While 45.1 percent of the outside loop 410 respondents agreed with the council's proposal, 48.3 percent disagreed and 6.5% were undecided.

By the Fall, while opposition to the city's non-annexation PGA proposal had declined for both inside and outside loop 410 respondents, significant differences in attitudes still existed between the two areas and this difference was moderately related ($v=.24$). Now, a strong majority (57%) of the respondents living outside 410 either

Table 6: Comparing Spring and Fall 2002 Survey Data on the PGA Issue by Inner and Outer Loop 410					
Spring Survey	Outside 410	Inside 410	Fall Survey	Outside 410	Inside 410
Strongly Agree	7.3%	6.2%	Strongly Agree	21.6%	7.4%
Agree	37.8%	23.5%	Agree	35.7%	34.8%
Disagree	29.2%	39.1%	Disagree	23.9%	23.5%
Strongly Disagree	19.1%	23.3%	Strongly Disagree	11.0%	22.1%
dk/na	6.5%	7.9	dk/na	7.8%	12.3%
Total	187	202	total	255	204
	P=.03	V=.165		P=.000	V=.24

agreed or strongly agreed with the proposal, while inner 410 respondents were more evenly divided with four in ten (42.2%) agreeing with the council proposal, 46 percent disagreeing and 12 percent undecided.

Conclusion

Clearly, attitudes and perceptions on PGA and the two council proposals changed from Spring to Fall 2002. On the one hand, strong opposition to the special district proposal as found in the Spring declined when the PGA question included the council's non-annexation plan. On the other hand, if the council was attempting to put an end to the divisiveness of the issue among the community with the non-annexation plan, they did not succeed as the Fall survey found high variations in agreement and disagreement among the various subpopulations. In the Fall survey, Anglos, males, individuals with higher family incomes, middle aged and higher educated respondents from the far north portions of the area and outside loop 410 were more favorable in their agreement with the proposal than their ethnic minority, female, individuals with lower family incomes, younger and older aged, less educated and inner city counterparts.