

Texas Lyceum Poll

Spring 2011

Texas Statewide Survey

N=707 Adults

May 24-May 31, 2011

SECTION I: GENERAL MOOD AND 2012 ELECTION ITEMS

Are you registered to vote in the state of Texas?

76% Yes, registered.
23% No, not registered.
1% DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA.

Generally speaking, would you say that you are extremely interested in politics and public affairs, somewhat interested, not very interested, or not at all interested?

29% Extremely interested.
50% Somewhat interested.
13% Not very interested.
8% Not at all interested.
1% DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA.

There are many elections in the state of Texas. Furthermore, many people intend to vote in a given election, but sometimes personal and professional circumstances keep them from the polls. Thinking back over the past two or three years, would you say that you voted in all elections, almost all, about half, one or two, or none at all?

23% Every election.
27% Almost every election.
11% About half.
12% One or two.
27% None at all.
1% DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA.

Thinking about the country, do you think things are moving in the right direction or are we off on the wrong track?

	All Texans:	Likely Voters:
Right direction.	33%	31%
Off on the wrong track.	58%	65%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA.	8%	4%

What do you think is the most important issue facing the country today?

All Texans:

32%	The economy
12%	Unemployment/jobs
9%	National debt
8%	Federal spending/budget deficit
8%	Political corruption/leadership
7%	Health care
3%	Education
3%	Immigration
2%	Moral decline
2%	National security/terrorism
1%	Border security
1%	Gas prices
1%	Energy
1%	Social welfare programs
1%	Afghanistan/Pakistan
1%	Iran/nuclear weapons

Likely Voters:

35%	The economy
11%	Unemployment/jobs
11%	National debt
9%	Federal spending/budget deficit
9%	Political corruption/leadership
6%	Health care
4%	Immigration
3%	National security/terrorism
2%	Moral decline
2%	Border security
1%	Taxes
1%	Energy
3%	Education
1%	Iran/nuclear weapons

What do you think is the most important issue facing the state of Texas today?

All Texans:

23%	Education
13%	Immigration
8%	Unemployment/jobs
8%	The economy
7%	State budget deficit/budget shortfall
6%	Border security
2%	Gas prices
2%	Health care
2%	Water supply
1%	Crime and drugs
1%	State government spending
1%	Taxes
1%	Social welfare programs
1%	Energy
1%	Transportation/roads/traffic
1%	Abortion

Likely Voters:

33%	Education
11%	State budget deficit/budget shortfall
11%	Immigration
8%	Unemployment/jobs
6%	The economy
6%	Border security
6%	Political corruption/leadership
1%	Health care
1%	Gas prices
1%	State government spending
1%	Taxes
1%	Social welfare programs
2%	Water supply
1%	Energy
1%	Transportation/roads/traffic

How well do you think Barack Obama is handling his job as president? Is he doing a very good job, somewhat good job, somewhat poor job, or very poor job?

	Likely Voters:
Very good job.	23%
Somewhat good job.	28%
Somewhat poor job.	17%
Very poor job.	31%
DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA	0%

How good a job is President Obama doing on the economy?

	Likely Voters:
Very good job.	15%
Somewhat good job.	31%
Somewhat poor job.	16%
Very poor job.	38%
Don't Know / Refused / NA	1%

Would you say that you approve or disapprove of the job that Rick Perry is doing as Texas governor? Would that be somewhat or strongly approve/disapprove?

	Likely Voters:
Strongly approve.	16%
Somewhat approve.	38%
Somewhat disapprove.	11%
Strongly disapprove.	33%
DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA	3%

**Would you say that you approve or disapprove of the job that the Texas state legislature is doing?
Would that be somewhat or strongly approve/disapprove?**

	Likely Voters:
Strongly approve.	7%
Somewhat approve.	42%
Somewhat disapprove.	23%
Strongly disapprove.	23%
DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA	5%

Thinking ahead to 2012, do you think you will vote in the Democratic primary, the Republican primary, or do you not usually vote in primary elections?

	Registered:	Likely Voters:
Republican primary.	33%	48%
Democratic primary.	32%	33%
Don't usually vote in primaries.	26%	11%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	9%	8%

If the 2012 Democratic primary for Senate were held today, which of the following possible candidates would you vote for, or haven't you thought much about it (for those respondents indicating that they would vote in the Democratic primary)?

Likely Voters (n=103):

9%	Chris Bell.
6%	John Sharp.
6%	Chet Edwards.
6%	Ricardo Sanchez.
5%	Sylvia Garcia.
64%	Haven't thought much about it.

If the 2012 Republican primary for Senate were held today, which of the following possible candidates would you vote for, or haven't you thought much about it (for those respondents indicating that they would vote in the Republican primary)?

Likely Voters (n=147):

27%	David Dewhurst.
4%	Roger Williams.
3%	Tom Leppert.
3%	Michael McCaul.
2%	Elizabeth Ames Jones.
1%	Ted Cruz.
0%	Michael Williams.
56%	Haven't thought much about it.

If the 2012 Republican primary for president were held today, which of the following possible candidates would you vote for, or haven't you thought much about it?

Likely Voters (n=147):

16%	Mitt Romney.
14%	Sarah Palin.
10%	Ron Paul.
9%	Rick Perry.
8%	Herman Cain.
7%	Tim Pawlenty.
4%	Newt Gingrich.
4%	Rick Santorum.
4%	Michelle Bachman.
1%	Mitch Daniels.
0%	Jon Huntsman.
22%	Haven't thought much about it.

If the 2012 election for president were held today, would you vote for Barack Obama or the Republican candidate, or haven't you thought much about it?

Likely Voters (n=309):

35%	Barack Obama.
44%	Republican candidate.
2%	Another candidate.
17%	Haven't thought much about it.

Do you consider yourself to be part of the Tea Party movement?

	Likely Voters:
Yes	17%
No	79%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	4%

SECTION II: PERSONAL ECONOMIC PERCEPTIONS

Thinking about the national economy, do you think the country is better off, worse off, or about the same compared to a year ago?

	All Texans:	Likely Voters:
Better off.	35%	35%
Worse off.	36%	40%
About the same.	28%	24%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA.	1%	1%

Now thinking about you and your family's economic situation, would you say that you are better off, worse off, or about the same economically compared to a year ago?

	All Texans:	Likely Voters:
Better off.	21%	20%
Worse off.	31%	34%
About the same.	48%	47%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA.	0%	0%

Looking ahead to the future, do you think your children will be better off than you are, worse off, or about the same economically?

	All Texans:	Likely Voters:
Better off.	39%	26%
Worse off.	26%	41%
About the same.	28%	23%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA.	8%	10%

Thinking about the condition of the national economy, do you think the worst is over or is the worst yet to come?

	All Texans:	Likely Voters:
Worst is over.	38%	35%
Worst is yet to come.	53%	57%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA.	9%	9%

Do you think Texas's economy is better off, worse off, or about the same as the rest of the country?

	All Texans:	Likely Voters:
Better off.	60%	63%
Worse off.	10%	7%
About the same.	28%	28%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA.	2%	1%

As you may know, the U.S. Congress is currently debating whether to raise the nation's debt ceiling, which establishes how much money the country can borrow. Which of the following comes closest to your view on this issue?

All Texans:

- 23% In times of a bad economy and multiple wars, there isn't a choice -- Congress has to raise the debt limit to fund the government and to cover the country's commitments /OR/
- 66% Federal spending is out of control -- Congress must send a message to the world that the U.S. is serious about getting its financial house in order and not raise the debt limit, even if that hurts the economy in the short term or limits our ability to fund military operations.
- 2% DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA

Likely Voters:

- 29% In times of a bad economy and multiple wars, there isn't a choice... /OR/
- 68% Federal spending is out of control...
- 4% DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA

Next I would like to ask you some questions about the price of gasoline. I'm going to ask you a list of actions – for each one, please tell me if you have taken that action because of the price of gas.

All Texans:

	Have Taken that Action	Have Not Taken that Action	Don't Know/NA/Refused
Have you cut down on driving because of the price of gasoline?	60%	39%	1%
Have you given up necessities to be able to afford gas because of the price of gasoline?	40%	60%	1%
Have you considered buying a more fuel-efficient car because of gasoline prices?	48%	49%	3%
Have you considered changing your summer travel plans because of the price of gasoline?	50%	47%	3%

SECTION III: ISSUES & POLICY

Now we'd like to ask your opinion on energy policy. For each of the following, please tell us whether you support or oppose the proposed policy.

All Texans:

	Support	Oppose	Don't know/ NA/ Refused
Increased drilling in the Gulf of Mexico.	62%	31%	7%
Drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska.	46%	46%	8%
Building more nuclear reactors.	37%	57%	6%
Increased investment in "green" energy, such as solar and wind energy.	83%	12%	4%

Likely Voters:

	Support	Oppose	Don't know/ NA/ Refused
Increased drilling in the Gulf of Mexico.	74%	23%	3%
Drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska.	58%	40%	3%
Building more nuclear reactors.	42%	52%	6%
Increased investment in "green" energy, such as solar and wind energy.	81%	16%	3%

As you may know, the Arizona legislature recently passed a law empowering state law agencies to enforce federal immigration laws, including asking about the immigration status of anyone stopped for any offense. Would you support or oppose a similar immigration enforcement law for the state of Texas? Would that be strongly or just somewhat support/oppose?

	All Texans:	Likely Voters:
Strongly support.	38%	50%
Somewhat support	13%	13%
Somewhat oppose	10%	5%
Strongly oppose	36%	30%
DON'T KNOW/NA	3%	3%

As you may know, the 14th amendment to the constitution grants automatic citizenship status to any child born in the United States, regardless of their parent's citizenship status. Would you favor or oppose a constitutional amendment to REPEAL this part of the 14th amendment?

	All Texans:	Likely Voters:
Favor	44%	44%
Oppose	52%	52%
DON'T KNOW/NA	4%	4%

Some illegal immigrants were brought to Texas as children by their parents. Do you think that these individuals should receive in-state tuition rates, or should they have to pay the higher rates of out-of-state residents?

	All Texans:	Likely Voters:
In-state rates.	52%	40%
Out-of-state rates.	43%	56%
DON'T KNOW/NA	5%	4%

Gambling policy was discussed in the recent legislative session. Some people say that Texas should allow gambling. They contend that the government does not have the right to tell people whether they should gamble or not, and that Texas loses billions of dollars every year as many Texans go to neighboring states to gamble. Others oppose such a change, arguing that gambling is morally wrong and can lead to other sorts of crime. Opponents also claim that the people who can least afford it are the most likely to gamble their money away. Would you say that you:

	All Texans:	Likely Voters:
Support full-blown gambling in Texas.	34%	36%
Support expanding gambling and gaming in existing or pre-approved locations.	25%	23%
Support current law, which permits on-track betting and state-run lotteries, or	20%	22%
Support a complete ban on gambling in Texas.	16%	17%
DON'T KNOW/NA	5%	3%

Currently, tuition rates at Texas colleges are not regulated by the state. Some say that we should cap tuition at Texas public universities so that college remains affordable for all qualified Texans. Others say that allowing public universities to adjust tuition rates gives them necessary flexibility to meet budgets, and remain competitive. Still others say we should allow universities to maintain or increase their budgets with de-regulation, but help low income students offset the costs. Which of these is closest to your own position?

	All Texans:	Likely Voters:
Re-regulate tuition.	32%	34%
Keep tuition de-regulation, or	18%	17%
Keep tuition de-regulation but help low income students offset costs	44%	43%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA.	6%	6%

Do you think that students attending college get their money's worth for what they spend on higher education, or do they not receive a fair return on their investment?

	All Texans:	Likely Voters:
Students get their moneys worth.	46%	55%
Students do not receive a fair return on their investment.	39%	33%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA.	15%	12%

The legislature is currently considering legislation that would allow some individuals to carry concealed handguns on college campuses. Are you in favor of or opposed to this law?

	All Texans:	Likely Voters:
Favor.	25%	31%
Oppose.	74%	67%
DON'T KNOW/NA	1%	2%

Do you think that the use of marijuana should be made legal or not?

	All Texans:	Likely Voters:
Legal.	33%	33%
Not Legal.	65%	65%
DON'T KNOW/NA	2%	2%

If the legalization of marijuana would provide significant tax revenue, would that change your opinion (if respondent said use of marijuana should not be legal)?

	All Texans:	Likely Voters:
Yes.	11%	6%
No.	87%	91%
DON'T KNOW/NA	2%	3%

As you may know, the Texas House recently voted to strip state funding to all hospitals and clinics that perform abortions or even "abortion-related services." Do you support or oppose this measure?

	All Texans:	Likely Voters:
Support.	39%	39%
Oppose.	57%	58%
DON'T KNOW/NA	4%	3%

The Texas legislature also passed into law a measure that requires doctors to conduct a sonogram prior to an abortion, and then show and discuss the picture with the woman. Do you support or oppose this measure?

	All Texans:	Likely Voters:
Support.	62%	58%
Oppose.	37%	40%
DON'T KNOW/NA	2%	2%

SECTION V: DEMOGRAPHICS

NEWS. What is your primary source for news about politics?

All Texans:

11%	Daily Newspaper
15%	Local television news
14%	National network television news (ABC, NBC, CBS)
26%	Cable TV news (FOX, CNN, MSNBC)
7%	Radio (talk, news programming)
1%	News magazine (i.e. Time, Newsweek)
16%	Internet (internet news sites, blogs, social media)_
1%	Late night TV comedy/entertainment TV
2%	OTHER (SPECIFY)
9%	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED

LOCATE. Would you say you live in an urban area, a suburban area, a small town, or rural area?

	All Texans:	Likely Voters:
Urban	24%	29%
Suburban	31%	30%
Small town	29%	22%
Rural	14%	19%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	3%	1%

MARRIED. What is your current martial status?

All Texans:

26%	Never married
59%	Married
7%	Divorced
5%	Widowed
2%	Separated
1%	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA.

INCOME. What was your total household income for 2010? READ CATEGORIES

	All Texans:	Likely Voters:
Less than \$15,000	17%	7%
\$15,000-\$25,000	15%	8%
\$25,000-\$40,000	13%	8%
\$40,000-\$75,000	20%	27%
\$75,000-\$150,000	19%	28%
More than \$150,000	7%	9%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA.	11%	12%

EDOFR. What is the highest level of education you completed? READ CATEGORIES AS NECESSARY

	All Texans:	Likely Voters:
Less than high school	10%	4%
High school	24%	13%
Some college	24%	21%
College degree	24%	32%
Post-graduate degree (MA, LLD, PhD)	18%	30%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA.	0%	0%

RELIGION. What is your religious denomination [PRON: DEE-NOM-I-NATION]?

	All Texans:	Likely Voters:
Protestant	32%	45%
Catholic	29%	21%
Other Christian	21%	19%
Jewish	1%	1%
Muslim, Buddhist, or other non-Christian	1%	1%
Agnostic/Atheist	3%	2%
None	8%	7%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	5%	4%

FUND. Would you say that you are evangelical, fundamentalist, or born-again (if Protestant)?

	All Texans:	Likely Voters:
Yes	65%	64%
No	26%	27%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	9%	9%

LIBCON. Generally speaking, would you say that you are...

	Registered:	Likely Voters:
Liberal	24%	19%
Moderate, or	32%	33%
Conservative.	39%	46%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	5%	2%

PID. Do you consider yourself to be a Democrat, a Republican, or neither?

	Registered:	Likely Voters:
Democratic.	39%	40%
Republican.	36%	48%
Independent.	24%	12%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA.	0%	0%

GENDER.

Male	47%	47%
Female	53	53