2016 Texas Lyceum Poll

Executive Summary of
Presidential Election Trial Ballots, Issue Strengths, Job Approval, Favorability Evaluations, and Economic Assessments

A September 1-11, 2016 survey of adult Texans reveals that Donald Trump is leading Hillary Clinton in the Lone Star state among likely voters by 7-points with the inclusion of Libertarian Party candidate Gary Johnson and Green Party candidate Jill Stein.

Among Texas adults, Greg Abbott and Barack Obama outpace other politicians in their overall assessments of the two executives, while both receive high marks for their job performance, despite sharp partisan and racial differences of opinion.

Economic evaluations of Texas' economy appear to have bounced back – somewhat – from 2015. Texans aren't ebullient about the national economy, the state economy, or their own economic situation, but they're less negative than they were one year ago.

Summary of Findings

2016 Presidential Election

Donald Trump leads Hillary Clinton among likely voters in the 2016 Presidential race among likely voters with 39% of the vote to Clinton's 32%, with Libertarian candidate Gary Johnson polling at 9% and Green Party Candidate Jill Stein polling at 3%. At this early stage in the Fall campaign, another 17% said that they hadn't thought enough about it to have an opinion, or didn't know who they would support (the margin of error among likely voters is +/- 4.37%, n = 502).
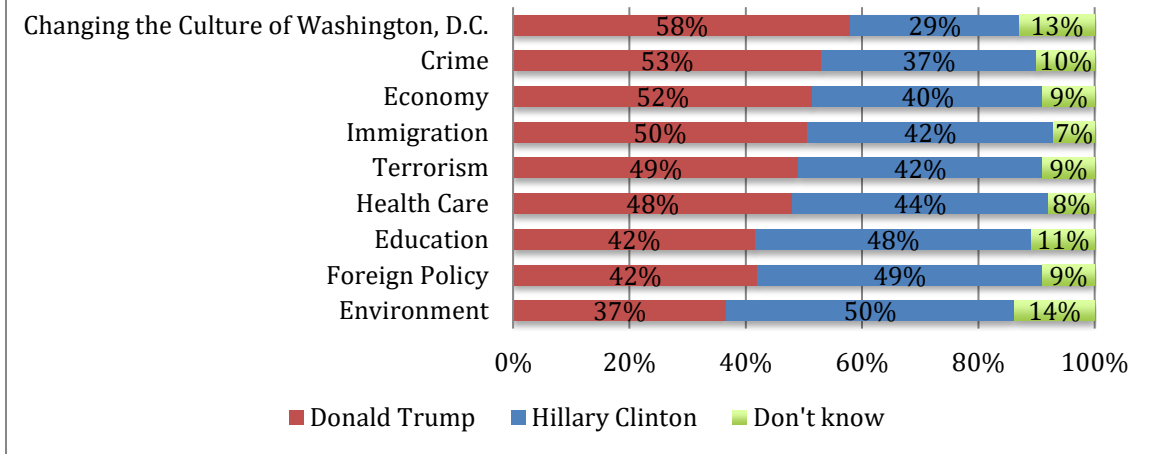
2016 Presidential Election Trial Ballot (likely voters)

Donald Trump: 39%
Hillary Clinton: 32%
Gary Johnson: 9%
Jill Stein: 3%
Don't know/Refused: 17%
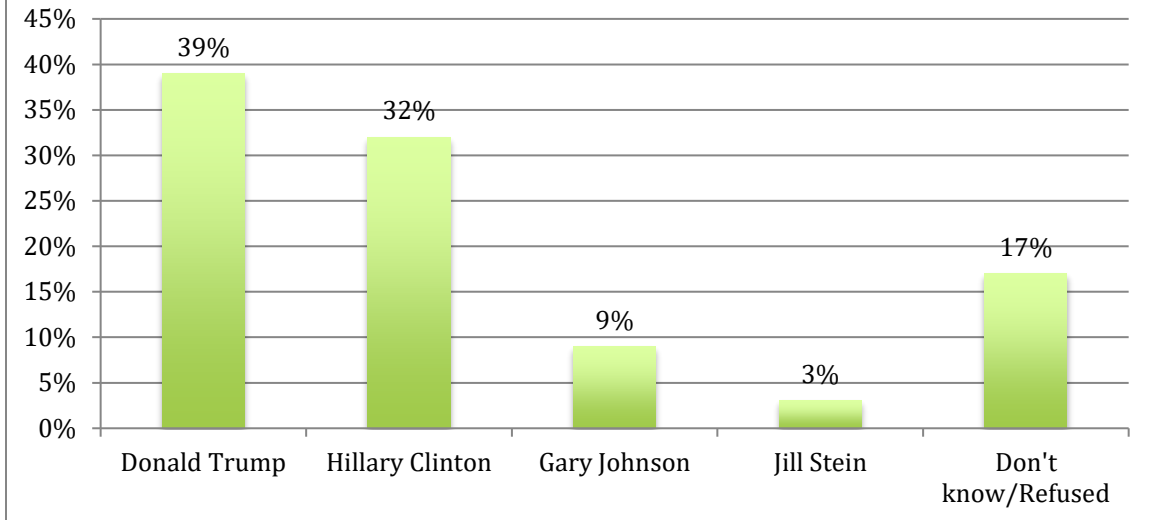
Trump leads among Anglos with 54% to Clinton's 19%, while Clinton maintains her lead among African Americans and Hispanics over Trump, 69% to 2% and 39% to 27% respectively.

The 2016 Texas Lyceum Poll further asked Texas voters whether Donald Trump or Hillary Clinton would do a better job at handling each of the following issues: Immigration, Terrorism, the economy, foreign policy, health care, the environment, crime, education, and changing the culture of Washington, D.C. Despite Texas' conservative leanings, among likely voters, Hillary Clinton was perceived as better able to handle the issues of education, the environment, and foreign policy, with Trump seen as the better candidate among the remaining issues.

Which candidate do you think would do a better job handling each of the following issues (among likely voters)

Issue	Donald Trump	Hillary Clinton	Don't know
Changing the Culture of Washington, D.C.	58%	29%	13%
Crime	53%	37%	10%
Economy	52%	40%	9%
Immigration	50%	42%	7%
Terrorism	49%	42%	9%
Health Care	48%	44%	8%
Education	42%	48%	11%
Foreign Policy	42%	49%	9%
Environment	37%	50%	14%

Not surprisingly, partisanship heavily shapes attitudes on which candidates are better equipped to deal with these major issues, and in each issue area tested, a large majority of likely Democratic voters expressed the opinion that Clinton would do the better job, and a large majority of likely Republican voters think that Trump would do the better job.

A majority of Anglos think that Trump would be the better candidate for each of the 9 issues tested, while a majority of blacks think that Clinton would be the better candidate on each of the issues tested. A majority of Hispanic likely voters said that Clinton would do the better job on each of the issues save one: changing the culture of Washington, D.C., among whom 43% said that Trump would do the better job compared to 40% who said the same of Clinton.

Potential for Change?

The 2016 Texas Lyceum Poll comes on the heels of a recently released Washington Post / Survey Monkey Poll showing Clinton leading Trump by 1-point among registered voters in a 2-way matchup (i.e. not including Johnson and Stein). The registered voter poll is more diverse than the pool of voters who historically show up in Texas elections, but some combination of the slow march of demographic change and Trump's rhetoric appears to have made Texas' registered voter pool more Democratic in their preferences in the 2016 election than we have seen in previous races.

If one limits themselves to looking at all registered voters, instead of just likely voters, Clinton leads Trump in the 2-way trial ballot 39% to 34%; the inclusion of Johnson and Stein change's the state of the race to a 1 point Clinton deficit, with Trump leading 30% to 29%.

This may be one of the only times in recent memory in which the Democratic candidate appears to be the preference of a plurality of voters, if that definition of voters includes all registered voters. We know that those who show up on Election

Day are likely to be more Republican and less diverse than the registered voter pool, but this could signal an interesting development in Texas politics, or like so many other observations during the 2016 Election, a reflection of the candidates.

2016 Texas Congressional and State House Elections
Among likely voters, 42% say that they will be voting for the Republican candidate in their local Congressional Election while 31% say that they will be voting for the Democratic candidate.

When asked about who they would like to represent them in the Texas State House, 39% said that they would vote for the Republican candidate and 31% said that they would vote for the Democratic candidate.

Split-Ticket Voting?
With the low favorability ratings of both major party presidential candidates, there has been a lot of speculation about the possibility of increased split-ticket voting, in which voters vote for one party's presidential candidate and another party's candidate, or candidates, in down ballot races. In the Texas Lyceum Poll, we don't see much evidence of this among likely voters. Only 2% of Trump supporters (in the two-way trial ballot) say that they'll vote for a Democratic candidate for Congress, and only 2% say that they'll vote for a Democratic candidate for the Texas State House. Among Clinton supporters, only 6% say that they'll vote for a Republican candidate for Congress, and only 4% say that they'll vote for a Republican candidate for the Texas State House.

Job Approval
Among adult Texans, President Obama enjoys a job approval rating of 58%. This includes those saying that Obama is either doing a "very good" or "somewhat good" job as president. Among registered voters, the President's job approval rating drops by 2 points to 56%. Democrats overwhelmingly approve of the President's job performance while Republicans overwhelmingly disapprove. Hispanics and African American adults in Texas also approve of the job approval of the president (74% and 90%, respectively), while a majority of Anglos (63%) disapprove of the president's job performance.

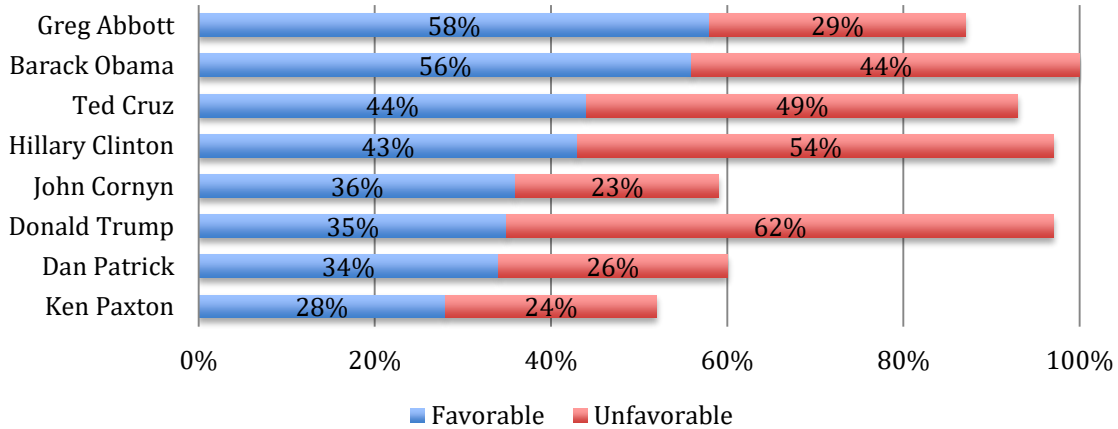## Job Approval ("Very good job" plus "Somewhat good job")
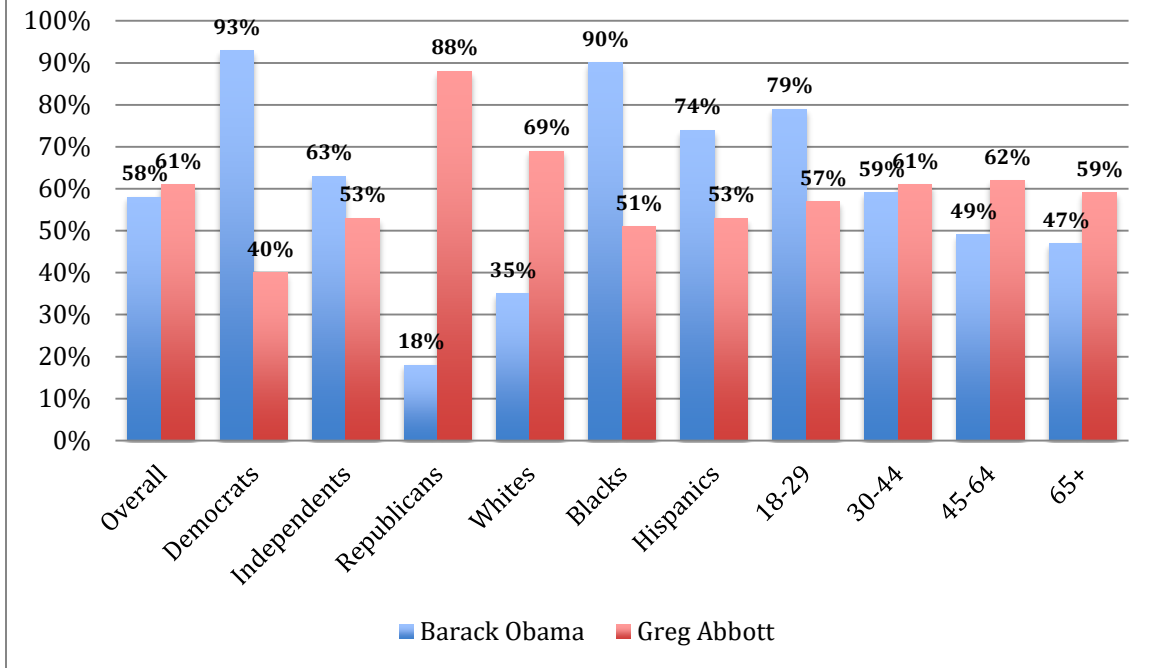
Sixty-one percent of Texas adults approve of Governor Abbott's job performance in his second year on the job, with sharp partisan differences similar to that of the President. While 88% of Republicans hold a favorable view of the job that Abbott has done as governor, only 40% of Democrats agree. Abbott's job approval among racial groups is generally positive, with a majority of whites (69%), blacks (51%), and Hispanics (53%) indicating that the governor is doing a good job — similar to last year's results.

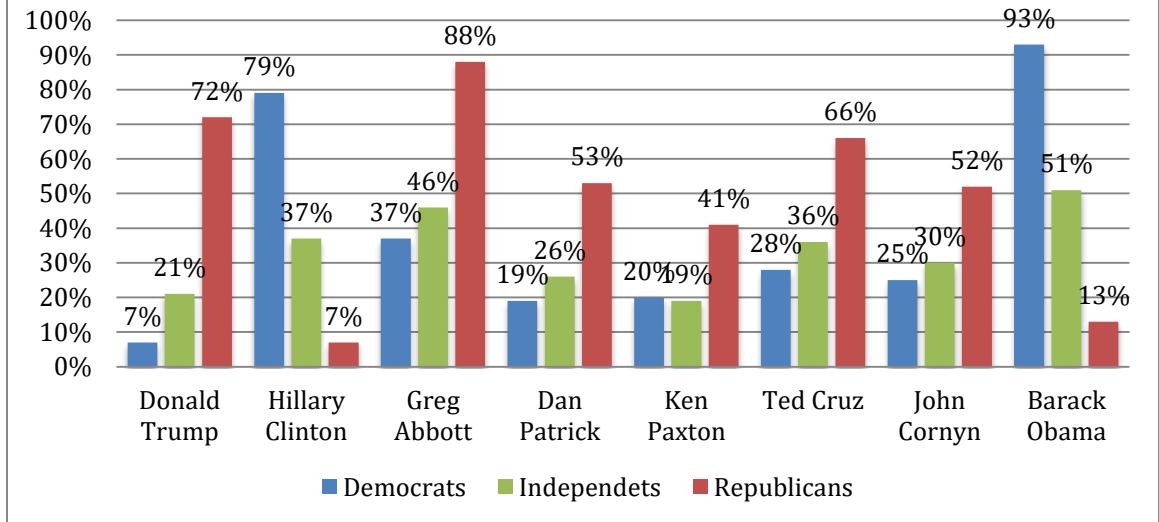### *Favorability Ratings*

The 2016 Texas Lyceum Poll asked Texas Adults whether they had a favorable or unfavorable impression of a number of political figures. Among those figures, Greg Abbott was the most favorably viewed figure among Texas adults (59%), followed by Barack Obama (56%), Ted Cruz (44%), Hillary Clinton (43%), John Cornyn (36%), Donald Trump (35%), Dan Patrick (34%), and Ken Paxton (28%).
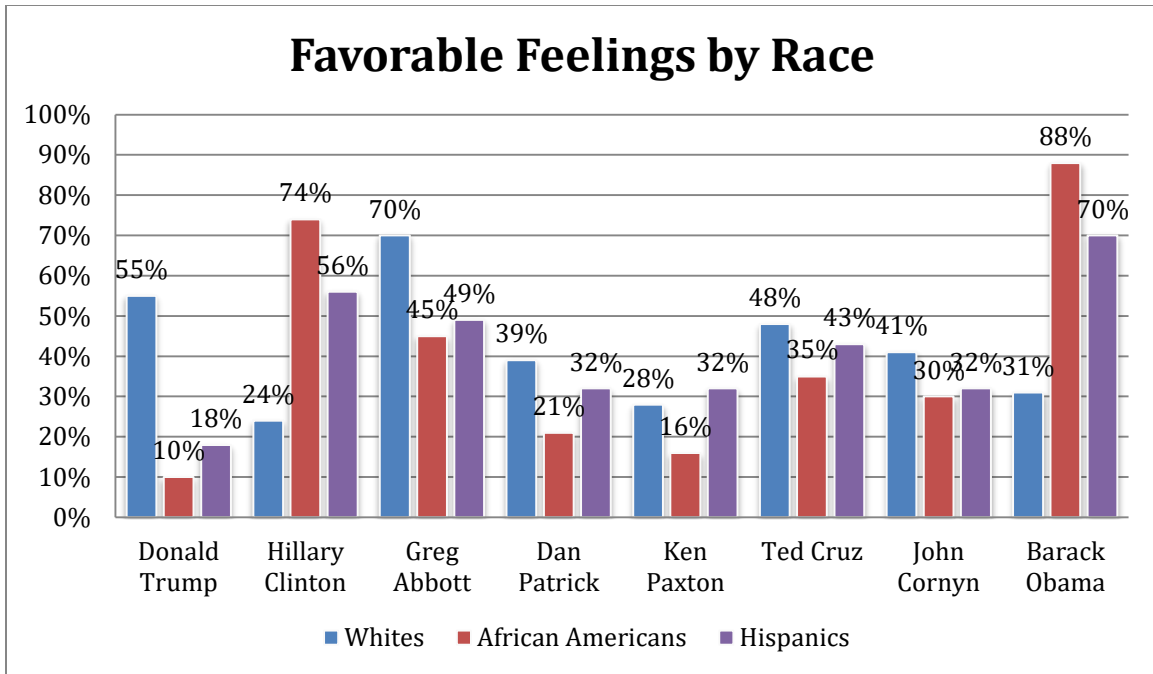
Would you say that your feelings towards the following people and groups are generally favorable or unfavorable?

	Favorable	Unfavorable
Greg Abbott	58%	29%
Barack Obama	56%	44%
Ted Cruz	44%	49%
Hillary Clinton	43%	54%
John Cornyn	36%	23%
Donald Trump	35%	62%
Dan Patrick	34%	26%
Ken Paxton	28%	24%

The most favorably viewed figure among Republicans was Greg Abbott (88%); among Democrats, Barack Obama (93%); among Anglos Greg Abbott (70%); African Americans, Barack Obama (88%); and among Hispanics Barack Obama (70%).

Favorable Feelings by Party Identification

	Democrats	Independets	Republicans
Donald Trump	7%	21%	72%
Hillary Clinton	79%	37%	7%
Greg Abbott	37%	46%	88%
Dan Patrick	19%	26%	53%
Ken Paxton	20%	19%	41%
Ted Cruz	28%	36%	66%
John Cornyn	25%	30%	52%
Barack Obama	93%	51%	13%

Favorable Feelings by Race

Bar chart showing favorable feelings by race (Whites, African Americans, Hispanics) for various politicians:

|	Whites	African Americans	Hispanics
Donald Trump	55%	10%	18%
Hillary Clinton	24%	74%	56%
Greg Abbott	70%	45%	49%
Dan Patrick	39%	21%	32%
Ken Paxton	28%	16%	32%
Ted Cruz	48%	35%	43%
John Cornyn	41%	30%	32%
Barack Obama	31%	88%	70%

Economy

Similar to last year, Texans remained mixed on the state of the national economy. A plurality says that we are about the same compared to last year (35%), with an almost equal proportion (34%) saying that the national economy is worse off (29% say that the economy is better). With the attendant rhetoric of an election year, it's not surprising to find that partisan identification colors Texans' views of the economy. Among Democrats, 50% think that the economy is doing better, 37% think that it is about the same, and only 12% think that it is doing worse. The opposite pattern holds true for Republicans, among whom 58% thinks that the economy is worse off, 30% think that it is about the same, and only 11% think that is better off – almost unchanged from last year.

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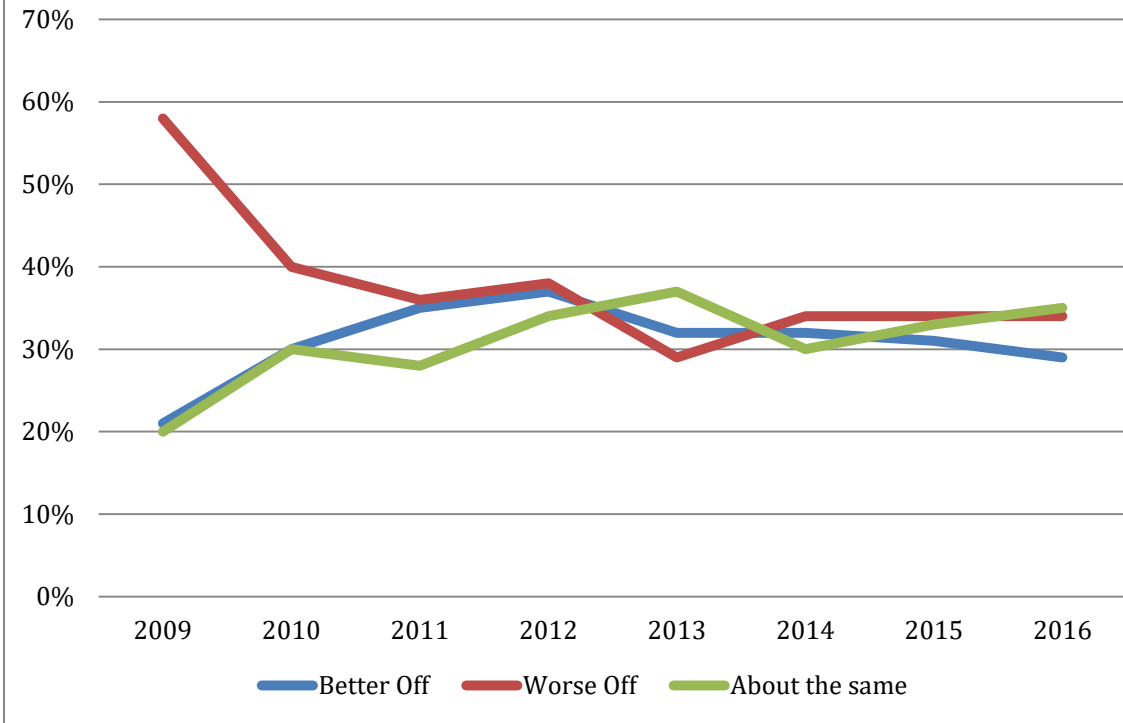

When asking respondents to assess Texas' economy compared to the rest of the country; Texans, as usual, express more optimism about the economic health of the Lone Star state. Overall, 60% said that Texas' economy is better off when compared to the rest of the country (up from 52% last year), 25% said that it is about the same, and only 11% said that it is worse off.

Do you think Texas's economy is better off, worse off, or about the same as the rest of the country?
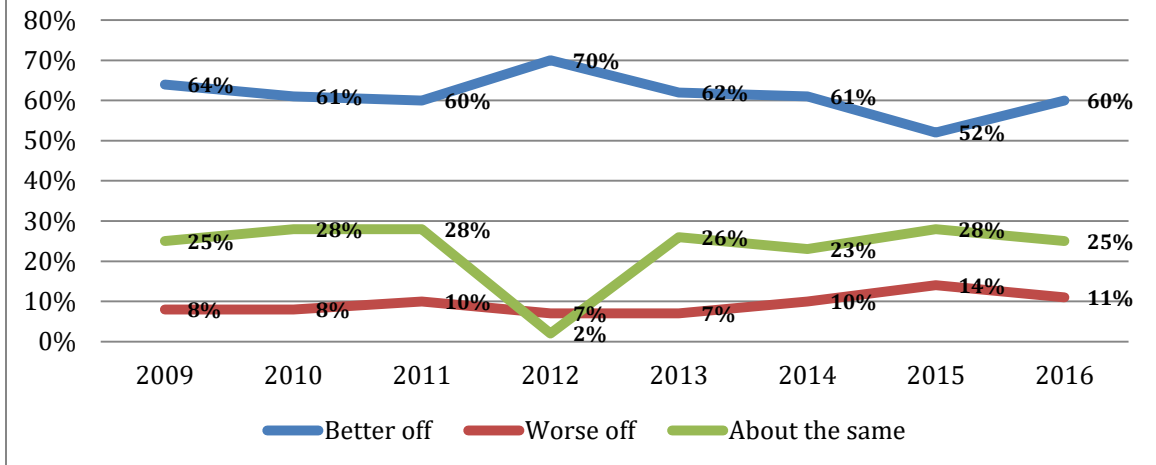
When asked to examine their family's personal economic situation, a majority of Texans say that theirs remains unchanged compared with one year ago (50%). Thirty-percent say that their personal economic situation is better off (up from 25% in 2015), while 19% say that it is worse off (down from 23% in 2015). This represents a big reversion back to the historical trend of Texans viewing their family's economic situation as stagnant, after a large drop in positive perceptions of their economic situation in 2015, as the graphic below illustrates.

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?

Better off — Worse off — About the same
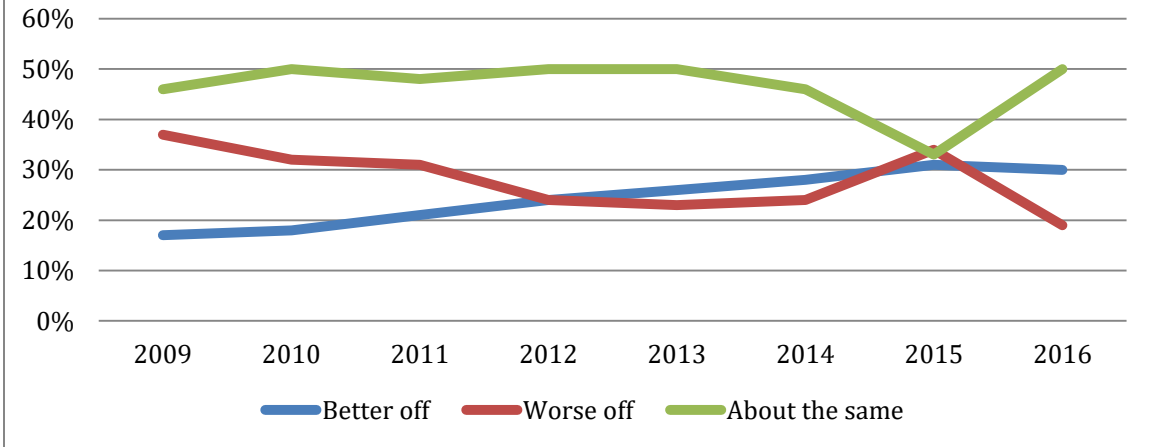
When asked about their children's future, 42% of Texans said that their children would be better off than they are economically, 29% said that they would be worse off, and 20% said that they would be about the same. These results are essentially unchanged from 2015.

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

Better off — Worse off — About the same
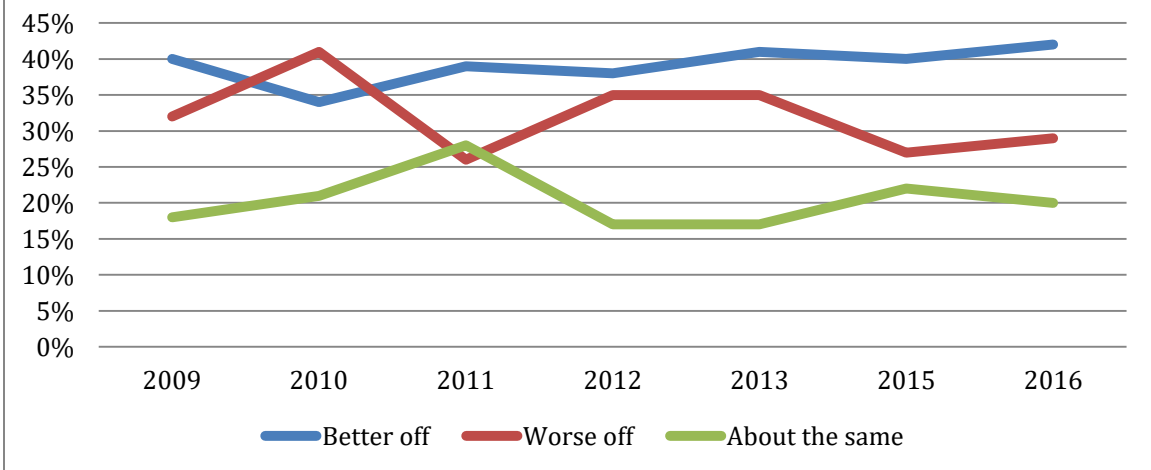
Methodology

From September 1-11, 2016, The Texas Lyceum conducted a statewide telephone survey of adult citizens. The survey utilized a stratified probability sample design, with respondents being randomly selected at the level of the household. The survey also employed a randomized cell phone supplement, with 40 percent of completed interviews being conducted among cell phone only or cell phone dominant households. A Spanish-language instrument was developed and bilingual interviewers offered respondents a chance to participate in English or Spanish. On average, respondents completed the interview in 19 minutes. Approximately 6,100 records were drawn to yield 1,000 completed interviews. The final data set is weighted by race/ethnicity, age and gender to achieve representativeness as defined by the Texas Department State Health Services 2016 population projections. The overall margin of error for the poll is +/- 3.1 percentage points.

The Texas Lyceum

The Texas Lyceum has committed to annual probability samples of the state of Texas to bolster the understanding of public opinion on crucial policy issues. The professional rationale for the Texas Lyceum Poll is straightforward: a non-partisan, high quality, scientific survey designed to provide (1) specific data points on issues of interest, and (2) a time series of key demographics, attitudes, and opinions. Towards this end, the trademark of the Texas Lyceum Poll is transparency. Top-line and detailed cross-tabular results of each poll will be made available on the Texas Lyceum website at **www.texaslyceum.org.**

The Texas Lyceum, now 36 years strong, is a non-profit, non-partisan statewide leadership organization focused on identifying the next generation of Texas leaders. The Texas Lyceum consists of 96 men and women from throughout the state. Directors begin their service while under the age of 46 and have demonstrated leadership in their community and profession, together with a deep commitment to Texas.

The Texas Lyceum acts as a catalyst to bring together diverse opinions and expertise to focus on national and state issues, and seeks to emphasize constructive private sector, public sector, and individual responses to the issues.

To accomplish these purposes, the Lyceum conducts periodic public forums, commissions The Texas Lyceum Poll, and convenes programs for the Directors to explore and discuss key economic and social issues of the state and nation.

Q7.   How well do you think Barack Obama **[PRON: BA-ROCK O-BAMA]** is handling his job as president? Is he doing a very good job, somewhat good job, somewhat poor job, or very poor job?

    1. Very good job.   26%
    2. Somewhat good job.   32
    3. Somewhat poor job.   13
    4. Very poor job.   28
    5. DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA   2

Q7A.   Would you say that you approve or disapprove of the job that Greg Abbott is doing as Texas governor? Would that be somewhat or strongly approve/disapprove?

    1. Strongly approve   23%
    2. Somewhat approve   38
    3. Somewhat disapprove   11
    4. Strongly disapprove   17
    5. DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA   11

Thinking ahead to the 2016 Elections…

[Q8A-Q11: ASK ONLY OF REGISTERED VOTERS]

[Likely voters are defined as those respondents who are registered to vote, say that they have voted in "Every" or "Almost" every election on Q3, and are "Extremely" or "Somewhat" interested in politics on Q2]

Q8A.   If the 2016 election for president were held today, would you vote for **[RANDOMIZE]** the Republican ticket of Donald Trump and Mike Pence, the Democratic ticket of Hillary Clinton and Tim Kaine, or haven't you thought enough about it?

(Among likely voters: n = 502, MOE +/- 4.37%)
    1. Trump/Pence   42%
    2. Clinton/Kaine   36
    3. Haven't thought enough about it   15
    4. DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA   6

(Among registered: n = 862, MOE +/- 3.34%)
    1. Trump/Pence   35%
    2. Clinton/Kaine   39
    3. Haven't thought enough about it   18
    4. DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA   8

Q8B.   And what if the candidates were **[RANDOMIZE]** the Republican ticket of Donald Trump and Mike Pence, the Democratic ticket of Hillary Clinton and Tim Kaine, the Libertarian ticket of Gary Johnson and Bill Weld, the Green Party ticket of Jill Stein, or haven't you thought enough about it?

(Among likely voters: n = 502, MOE +/- 4.37%)
    1. Trump/Pence   39%
    2. Clinton/Kaine   32
    3. Johnson/Weld   9
    4. Stein   3
    5. Haven't thought enough about it/Don't know   14
    6. DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA   3

(Among registered: n = 862, MOE +/- 3.34%)
1.	Trump/Pence	30%
2.	Clinton/Kaine	29
3.	Johnson/Weld	10
4.	Stein	3
5.	Haven't thought enough about it/Don't know	24
6.	DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA	3

Q9.   If the election for representative to the U.S. Congress were held today, would you vote for the Democratic candidate, the Republican candidate, someone else, or haven't you thought enough about it?

(Among likely voters: n = 502, MOE +/- 4.37%)
1.	Democratic Candidate	31%
2.	Republican Candidate	42
3.	Someone else	6
4.	Haven't thought enough about it/Don't know	20
5.	DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA	1

(Among registered: n = 862, MOE +/- 3.34%)
1.	Democratic Candidate	31%
2.	Republican Candidate	33
3.	Someone else	8
4.	Haven't thought enough about it/Don't know	26
5.	DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA	1

Q10.   And if the election for representative to the Texas State House were held today, would you vote for the Democratic candidate, the Republican candidate, someone else, or haven't you thought enough about it?

(Among likely voters: n = 502, MOE +/- 4.37%)
6.	Democratic Candidate	31%
7.	Republican Candidate	39
8.	Someone else	6
9.	Haven't thought enough about it/Don't know	23
10.	DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA	1

(Among registered: n = 862, MOE +/- 3.34%)
6.	Democratic Candidate	31%
7.	Republican Candidate	32
8.	Someone else	6
9.	Haven't thought enough about it/Don't know	29
10.	DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA	1

Q11.   Suppose the Tea Party movement organized itself as a political party. When thinking about the next election for Congress, would you vote for [Randomize] the Republican candidate from your district, the Democratic candidate from your district, or the Tea Party candidate from your district? **[Randomize 1-2]**

(Among likely voters: n = 502, MOE +/- 4.37%)
1.	Republican candidate	26%
2.	Democratic candidate	34
3.	Tea Party candidate	14
4.	Don't know	27

(Among registered: n = 862, MOE +/- 3.34%)

1. Republican candidate 24%
1. Democratic candidate 37
2. Tea Party candidate 13
3. Don't know 27

Would you say that your feelings towards the following people and groups are generally favorable or unfavorable? Would that be extremely or just somewhat favorable/unfavorable? **[RANDOMIZE Q12-Q19]**

(Among registered: n = 862, MOE +/- 3.34%; among likely voters: n = 502, MOE +/- 4.37%)

		Extremely favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Extremely unfavorable	Don't know
Q12. Donald Trump	*Adults*	14	21	11	51	3
	Registered Voters	15	22	11	49	3
	Likely Voters	21	25	7	44	3
Q13. Hillary Clinton	*Adults*	17	26	11	43	3
	Registered Voters	17	26	10	44	3
	Likely Voters	20	19	7	51	2
Q14. Greg Abbott	*Adults*	20	38	14	15	13
	Registered Voters	23	36	14	15	11
	Likely Voters	31	34	13	16	6
Q15. Dan Patrick	*Adults*	6	28	14	12	40
	Registered Voters	7	27	15	13	38
	Likely Voters	10	33	11	18	28
Q16. Ken Paxton	*Adults*	4	24	12	12	48
	Registered Voters	4	25	13	13	45
	Likely Voters	7	28	13	14	39
Q17. Ted Cruz	*Adults*	13	31	20	29	8
	Registered Voters	13	31	20	29	7
	Likely Voters	16	29	19	33	4
Q18. John Cornyn	*Adults*	7	29	14	9	41
	Registered Voters	8	29	15	9	39
	Likely Voters	12	35	17	11	25
Q19. Barack Obama	*Adults*	26	28	15	29	2
	Registered Voters	27	27	14	30	2
	Likely Voters	27	19	13	40	1

Regardless of how you intend to vote for president in 2016, which candidate do you think would do a better job handling each of the following issues – Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump? **[RANDOMIZE Q20-Q28]**

(Among registered: n = 862, MOE +/- 3.34%; among likely voters: n = 502, MOE +/- 4.37%)

	Registered Voters			Likely Voters		
	Hillary Clinton	Donald Trump	Don't know	Hillary Clinton	Donald Trump	Don't know
Q20. Immigration	49	43	8	42	50	7
Q21. Terrorism	43	46	12	42	49	9
Q22. The Economy	43	47	10	40	52	9
Q23. Foreign Policy	55	34	10	49	42	9
Q24. Health Care	49	41	10	44	48	8
Q25. The Environment	58	28	14	50	37	14
Q26. Crime	40	48	12	37	53	10

Q27. Education	56	33	12	48	42	11
Q28. Changing the culture of Washington, D.C.	33	58	13	29	58	13

Q29.   Thinking about the national economy, do you think the country is better off, worse off, or about the same compared to a year ago?

1.	Better off.	29%
2.	Worse off.	34
3.	About the same.	35
4.	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA.	2

Q30.   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?

1.	Better off.	30%
2.	Worse off.	19
3.	About the same.	50
4.	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA.	1

Q31.   Do you think Texas's economy is better off, worse off, or about the same as the rest of the country?

1.	Better off	60%
2.	Worse off	11
3.	About the same	25
4.	DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA	4

Q32.   Looking ahead to the future, do you think your children will be better off than you are, worse off, or about the same economically?

1.	Better off	42%
2.	Worse off	29
3.	About the same	20
4.	DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA	9