

University of Texas / Texas Tribune
Texas Statewide Survey

Winter 2010 Initial Results Summary
N=800 Registered Voters
Margin of error: +/- 3.46%
February 1-7, 2010

***Note: Due to rounding, not all percentages will sum to 100**

Q1. Are you registered to vote in the state of Texas?

(All poll respondents are registered voters)

Q2. Generally speaking, would you say that you are extremely interested in politics and public affairs, somewhat interested, not very interested, or not interested at all?

51%	Extremely interested
39%	Somewhat interested
8%	Not very interested
2%	Not at all interested
0%	Don't know

Most Important Problem

Q3. What would you say is the most important problem facing this country today?

30%	The economy
18%	Unemployment/jobs
16%	Federal spending/national debt
10%	Health care
9%	Political corruption/leadership
5%	National security/terrorism
3%	Moral decline
2%	Immigration
2%	Taxes
1%	Gay marriage
1%	Education
1%	Social welfare programs
1%	Environment
1%	Abortion
1%	Crime and drugs
1%	Afghanistan/Pakistan
1%	Iraq
0%	Gas prices
0%	Energy
0%	The media
0%	Housing
0%	Federal courts/nominees
0%	Foreign trade

0% Voting system

Q4. What would you say is the most important problem facing the state of Texas today?

19% Unemployment/jobs
16% Immigration
14% The economy
14% Border security
8% Political corruption/leadership
6% Health care
6% Education
3% State government spending
2% Moral decline
2% Taxes
2% Social welfare programs
2% Transportation
1% Gas prices
1% Crime and drugs
1% Insurance rates
1% Water supply
1% Gay marriage
1% Energy
1% Environment
1% The media
1% Housing
0% Abortion
0% State courts
0% Voting system

Retrospective Assessments

Q5. How would you rate the job Barack Obama has done as president? Would you say that you...

21% Approve strongly
20% Approve somewhat
7% Neither approve nor disapprove
10% Disapprove somewhat
40% Disapprove strongly
2% Don't know

Q6. How would you rate the job Rick Perry has done as governor? Would you say that you...

11% Approve strongly
27% Approve somewhat
17% Neither approve nor disapprove
17% Disapprove somewhat
23% Disapprove strongly
4% Don't know

Q7. How would you rate the job Kay Bailey Hutchison has done as U.S. Senator? Would you say that you...?

8%	Approve strongly
28%	Approve somewhat
23%	Neither approve nor disapprove
20%	Disapprove somewhat
15%	Disapprove strongly
7%	Don't know

Q8. Thinking about the country, do you think that things are headed in the right direction, or do you think that things are headed off on the wrong track?

31%	Right direction
56%	Wrong track
13%	Don't know

Q9. Thinking about the state of Texas, do you think that things are headed in the right direction, or do you think that things are headed off on the wrong track?

43%	Right direction
37%	Wrong track
20%	Don't know

Q10. Compared to a year ago, would you say that the country is economically a lot better off, somewhat better off, about the same, somewhat worse off, or a lot worse off?

3%	A lot better off
25%	Somewhat better off
19%	About the same
23%	Somewhat worse off
29%	A lot worse off
1%	Don't know

Q11. Now thinking specifically about Texas, do you believe that economic conditions in Texas are getting better or worse?

38%	Better
40%	Worse
22%	Don't know

Q12. Compared to a year ago, would you say that you and your family are economically a lot better off, somewhat better off, about the same, somewhat worse off, or a lot worse off?

3%	A lot better off
14%	Somewhat better off
41%	About the same
29%	Somewhat worse off
12%	A lot worse off
2%	Don't know

Q27. On a scale from 1 to 7, where 1 is extremely liberal, 7 is extremely conservative, and 4 is exactly in the middle, where would you place yourself?

- 3% (1) Extremely liberal
- 7% (2)
- 9% (3)
- 27% (4) In the middle
- 14% (5)
- 26% (6)
- 11% (7) Extremely conservative

- 3% Don't know

Now, on the same scale, where would you place the following politicians:

Q28. Rick Perry?

- 3% (1) Extremely liberal
- 1% (2)
- 3% (3)
- 14% (4) In the middle
- 18% (5)
- 25% (6)
- 26% (7) Extremely conservative

- 10% Don't know

Q29. Kay Bailey Hutchison?

- 2% (1) Extremely liberal
- 2% (2)
- 9% (3)
- 21% (4) In the middle
- 20% (5)
- 21% (6)
- 15% (7) Extremely conservative

- 12% Don't know

Q30. Debra Medina?

- 1% (1) Extremely liberal
- 1% (2)
- 5% (3)
- 12% (4) In the middle
- 11% (5)
- 13% (6)
- 14% (7) Extremely conservative

- 43% Don't know

Q31. Bill White?

- 6% (1) Extremely liberal
- 11% (2)
- 18% (3)
- 24% (4) In the middle
- 6% (5)
- 2% (6)
- 2% (7) Extremely conservative

- 31% Don't know

Q32. Farouk Shami?

- 9% (1) Extremely liberal
- 13% (2)
- 12% (3)
- 13% (4) In the middle
- 4% (5)
- 2% (6)
- 1% (7) Extremely conservative

- 47% Don't know

Q33. **[Asked if respondent selected 1 or 2 in Q13]** People want a great many things from their candidates for public office. Using a 0-10 scale, where 10 means "extremely important," 0 means "extremely unimportant," and 5 means "neither important nor unimportant," please rate how important the following specific factors are for YOUR vote in the 2010 Texas gubernatorial primary election.

- a. Choosing a nominee who will not reward political and financial supporters with job appointments.

mean=8.37; stdev=2.38; n=362

- b. Choosing a nominee who is not influenced by politics in Washington, DC.

mean=8.58; stdev=2.27; n=364

- c. Choosing a nominee whose political beliefs most closely resemble mine.

mean=8.83; stdev=1.64; n=365

- d. Choosing a nominee who has a record of government experience.

mean=6.97; stdev=2.88; n=365

- e. Choosing a nominee who will bring a fresh new perspective to state government.

mean=7.07; stdev=2.69; n=365

- f. Choosing a nominee who is most likely to win in the general election and keep the governor's mansion in Republican control.

mean=7.42; stdev=2.87; n=365

- g. Choosing a nominee who will drastically shrink the size and role of state government.

mean=7.82; stdev=2.67; n=362

Q34. [Asked if respondent selected 3 or 4 in Q13] People want a great many things from their candidates for public office. Using a 0-10 scale, where 10 means "extremely important," 0 means "extremely unimportant," and 5 means "neither important nor unimportant," please rate how important the following specific factors are for YOUR vote in the 2010 Texas gubernatorial primary election.

- a. Choosing a nominee who is a political outsider and will bring a fresh new perspective to state government.

mean=5.86; stdev=3.12; n=251

- b. Choosing a nominee who grew up in Texas and understands the state well.

mean=6.22; stdev=3.04; n=252

- c. Choosing a nominee whose political beliefs most closely resemble mine.

mean=8.16; stdev=2.20; n=254

- d. Choosing a nominee who has a life story that proves he can overcome adversity.

mean=5.81; stdev=3.06; n=254

- e. Choosing a nominee who has a record of government experience.

mean=6.36; stdev=2.66; n=252

- f. Choosing a nominee who is most likely to win in the general election and give Texas its first Democratic governor since 1994.

mean=7.79; stdev=2.84; n=251

Q35. How would you assess the differences between the political/policy views of Rick Perry and the political/policy views of Kay Bailey Hutchison?

- 11% Their views differ greatly
- 45% Their views differ somewhat
- 23% Their views are largely the same
- 6% Their views are almost entirely the same
- 14% Don't know

Q36. How would you assess the differences between the political/policy views of Bill White and the political/policy views of Farouk Shami?

- 9% Their views differ greatly
- 21% Their views differ somewhat
- 13% Their views are largely the same
- 2% Their views are almost entirely the same
- 55% Don't know

Policy Questions

Q40. Some people feel there should be a government insurance plan which would cover all medical and hospital expenses for everyone. Suppose these people are at one end of a scale, at point 1. Others feel that all medical expenses should be paid by individuals through private insurance plans like Blue Cross or other company paid plans. Suppose these people are at the other end, at point 7. Other people have opinions somewhere in between. Where would you place yourself on this scale, or haven't you thought much about this?

- 14% 1 (There should be a government insurance plan for everyone)
- 10% 2
- 9% 3
- 15% 4
- 12% 5
- 12% 6
- 25% 7 (Medical expenses should be paid by individuals through private plans)

- 5% Don't know

Q41. What is your opinion on gay marriage or civil unions?

- 28% Gays and lesbians should have the right to marry.
- 35% Gays and lesbians should have the right to civil unions but not marriage.
- 30% Gays and lesbians should not have the right to civil unions or marriage.
- 7% Don't know

Q42. Which of the following best characterizes your opinion on the death penalty for those convicted of violent crimes?

- 53% Strongly support.
- 25% Somewhat support.
- 10% Somewhat oppose.
- 8% Strongly oppose
- 4% Don't know

Q43. Generally speaking, do you believe the death penalty is applied fairly or unfairly in Texas today?

- 59% Fairly
- 27% Unfairly

14% Don't know

Q44. Gambling policy was discussed by the Texas legislature this past session. Which of the following gambling policy proposals would you most support?

- 10% Banning all gambling and gaming in Texas
- 21% Leaving current gambling laws unchanged
- 13% Allowing limited expansion of gambling, but only in existing locations
- 6% Expanding gambling but only to Indian reservations
- 40% Allowing full casino gambling in Texas
- 10% Don't know

Q45. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Generally speaking, the way state government runs in Texas serves as a good model for other states to follow?

- 18% Strongly agree
- 39% Somewhat agree
- 17% Somewhat disagree
- 14% Strongly disagree
- 12% Don't know

Political Knowledge

INFO1. Which position does Nancy Pelosi hold in the current federal government?

- 1% Secretary of the Treasury
- 1% Secretary of State
- 86% Speaker of the House
- 2% U.S. Senator
- 10% Don't know

INFO2. What is the majority party in the Texas Senate?

- 16% Democrats
- 73% Republicans
- 12% Don't know

INFO3. How often does the Texas state legislature meet?

- 36% Every year
- 31% Every other year
- 6% Every four years
- 27% Don't know

Political Orientation

We're almost done. Now we just have a few basic questions for statistical purposes.

LIBCON. On a scale from 1 to 7, where 1 is extremely liberal, 7 is extremely conservative, and 4 is exactly in the middle, where would you place yourself?

4%	(1) Extremely liberal
8%	(2)
10%	(3)
28%	(4) In the middle
16%	(5)
25%	(6)
11%	(7) Extremely conservative

PID3. Generally speaking, would you say that you usually think of yourself as a...

38%	Democrat
19%	Independent
39%	Republican
1%	Other
3%	Not sure

PID7. Generally speaking, would you say that you usually think of yourself as a...

28%	Strong Democrat
12%	Not very strong Democrat
5%	Lean Democrat
6%	Independent
8%	Lean Republican
14%	Not very strong Republican
26%	Strong Republican
1%	Other

This is the PID7 variable in the available spss dataset. It derives as follows: respondents who answer that they are Democrats or Republicans for PID3 are then asked if they consider themselves to be strong Democrats (Republicans) or not so strong Democrats (Republicans). If they respond to PID3 by indicating that they are independents, they are then asked if they lean toward one party or the other or are pure independents. Respondents who select Other or Not Sure in PID3 are also asked whether they lean Republican or Democrat. All of these responses are incorporated into the PID7 variable.

Demographics

AGE. Please indicate your age group.

13%	18-29
28%	30-44
33%	45-64
26%	65 and up

COUNTY. In which county do you reside?

See dataset.

LOCATE. Would you say that you live in an urban, suburban, or rural community?

31%	Urban
49%	Suburban
20%	Rural

METRO. Do you live in the Houston, Dallas-Fort Worth, San Antonio, or Austin metropolitan areas?

20%	Yes, I live in the Houston area.
31%	Yes, I live the Dallas-Fort Worth area
9%	Yes, I live in the San Antonio area
11%	Yes, I live in the Austin area
30%	No, I live in another part of Texas.

CHILD. How many children are currently living with you?

17%	One
15%	Two
6%	Three
2%	Four or more
60%	None

INCOME. In which category would you place your household income last year?

2%	Less than \$10,000
4%	\$10,000 to \$14,999
4%	\$15,000 to \$19,999
4%	\$20,000 to \$24,999
6%	\$25,000 to 29,999
10%	\$30,000 to \$39,999
11%	\$40,000 to \$49,999
9%	\$50,000 to \$59,999
7%	\$60,000 to \$69,999
7%	\$70,000 to \$79,999
9%	\$80,000 to \$99,999
5%	\$100,000 to \$119,999
6%	\$120,000 to \$149,999
6%	\$150,000 or more
10%	Prefer not to say

EDU. What is the highest level of education that you received?

2%	Less than high school
35%	High school degree
29%	Some college
5%	Two-year college degree
21%	Four-year college degree
8%	Post-graduate degree

RELIG. What is your religious affiliation? **[No open response on "other"]**

4%	Agnostic
2%	Assembly of God*
2%	Atheist
20%	Baptist*
0%	Buddhist
20%	Catholic*
3%	Church of Christ
1%	Church of God
1%	Disciples of Christ
2%	Episcopal/Anglican*
0%	Hindu
1%	Jewish
2%	Lutheran*
6%	Methodist*
1%	Mormon
1%	Muslim/Islam
10%	Nondenominational Christian*
0%	Orthodox/Eastern Orthodox*
3%	Pentecostal*
3%	Presbyterian*
3%	Protestant (non-specific)*
0%	Reformed*
0%	Unitarian/Universalist
0%	United Church of Christ*
8%	Spiritual but not religious
7%	Other*
1%	Don't know

RACE. What race do you consider yourself to be?

61%	White
14%	African American
20%	Hispanic or Latino
1%	Asian/Pacific Islander
0%	Native American
4%	Multi-racial

NATIVE1. **[Asked if respondent indicated they are Hispanic or Latino]** Were you born in the United States or Puerto Rico, or in another country?

91%	Born in the United States or Puerto Rico
9%	Born in another country

NATIVE2. **[Asked if respondent indicated they were born in the United States for NATIVE1]** Were your parents born in the United States or Puerto Rico, or another country?

58%	Both of my parents were born in the United States or Puerto Rico
17%	One of my parents was born in another country
24%	Both of my parents were both in another country

HOME. Do you own or rent your home?

75%	Own
25%	Rent

MARITAL. What is your marital status?

61%	Married
2%	Separated
13%	Divorced
3%	Widowed
16%	Single
5%	Domestic partnership

GENDER. What is your gender?

45%	Male
55%	Female