

University of Texas / Texas Tribune
Texas Statewide Survey

Field dates: May 11-18, 2011
N=800 registered voters; margin of error = +/-3.46 unless otherwise noted
Note: due to rounding, not all percentages sum to 100

Interest and Engagement

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

1. Yes, registered 100%

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?

1. Extremely interested 50%
2. Somewhat interested 39%
3. Not very interested 7%
4. Not at all interested 4%
5. Don't know 0%

Q3. How closely have you been following the current Texas legislative session?

1. Extremely closely 13%
2. Somewhat closely 44%
3. Not that closely 30%
4. Not at all 13%
5. Don't know 0%

Most Important Problem

Q4. What would you say is the most important problem facing this country today? **[Randomize]**

1. The economy 29%
2. Unemployment/jobs 14%
3. Federal spending/national debt 17%
4. Political corruption/leadership 9%
5. Health care 3%
6. Moral decline 3%
7. National security/terrorism 2%
8. Immigration 4%
9. Taxes 0%
10. Gas prices 7%
11. Energy 1%

12. Gay marriage 0%
13. Education 3%
14. Social welfare programs 1%
15. Environment 3%
16. The media 1%
17. Abortion 0%
18. Crime and drugs 0%
19. Afghanistan/Pakistan 1%
20. Iraq 0%
21. Federal courts/nominees 0%
22. Voting system 0%
23. Border security 3%
24. War in Libya 0%

Q5. What would you say is the most important problem facing the state of Texas today? **[Randomize]**

1. Immigration 16%
2. The economy 12%
3. Unemployment/jobs 10%
4. Border security 15%
5. Political corruption/leadership 8%
6. Health care 2%
7. Gas prices 8%
8. Crime and drugs 1%
9. Education 12%
10. State government spending 3%
11. Moral decline 2%
12. Taxes 1%
13. Social welfare programs 1%
14. Insurance rates 0%
15. Water supply 1%
16. Energy 0%
17. Environment 1%
18. Transportation/roads/traffic 1%
19. Abortion 0%
20. Housing 0%
21. State budget shortfall 8%
22. Utility rates 0%
23. Electoral fraud 0%

Retrospective Assessments

Q6. How would you rate the job Barack Obama has done as president? Would you say that you...

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Approve strongly | 20% |
| 2. Approve somewhat | 15% |
| 3. Neither approve nor disapprove | 9% |
| 4. Disapprove somewhat | 9% |
| 5. Disapprove strongly | 46% |
| 6. Don't know | 1% |

Q7. Overall, how strongly do you approve of the job the U.S. Congress is doing?

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Approve strongly | 1% |
| 2. Approve somewhat | 15% |
| 3. Neither approve nor disapprove | 20% |
| 4. Disapprove somewhat | 27% |
| 5. Disapprove strongly | 35% |
| 6. Don't know | 3% |

Q8. How would you rate the job Rick Perry has done as governor? Would you say that you...

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Approve strongly | 12% |
| 2. Approve somewhat | 29% |
| 3. Neither approve nor disapprove | 15% |
| 4. Disapprove somewhat | 14% |
| 5. Disapprove strongly | 28% |
| 6. Don't know | 3% |

Q9. Overall, how strongly do you approve of the job the Texas state legislature is doing?

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Approve strongly | 7% |
| 2. Approve somewhat | 28% |
| 3. Neither approve nor disapprove | 22% |
| 4. Disapprove somewhat | 18% |
| 5. Disapprove strongly | 20% |
| 6. Don't know | 5% |

Q10. 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?

- | | |
|--------------------|-----|
| 1. Right direction | 24% |
| 2. Wrong track | 63% |
| 3. Don't know | 14% |

Q11. 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?

- | | |
|--------------------|-----|
| 1. Right direction | 36% |
| 2. Wrong track | 46% |
| 3. Don't know | 18% |

Q12. 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?

- | | |
|------------------------|-----|
| 1. A lot better off | 2% |
| 2. Somewhat better off | 20% |
| 3. About the same | 26% |
| 4. Somewhat worse off | 24% |
| 5. A lot worse off | 25% |
| 6. Don't know | 3% |

Q13. Now thinking specifically about Texas, do you believe that economic conditions in Texas are getting better or worse?

- | | |
|---------------|-----|
| 1. Better | 36% |
| 2. Worse | 48% |
| 3. Don't know | 16% |

Q14. 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?

- | | |
|------------------------|-----|
| 1. A lot better off | 2% |
| 2. Somewhat better off | 16% |
| 3. About the same | 40% |
| 4. Somewhat worse off | 25% |
| 5. A lot worse off | 16% |
| 6. Don't know | 2% |

Q15. Thinking ahead to the 2012 elections, do you think you will vote in the Republican Primary, the Democratic Primary, or do you usually not vote in primary elections?

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Republican Primary | 48% |
| 2. Democratic Primary | 32% |
| 3. Don't usually vote in primaries | 20% |

Q16. [Ask if Q15=1] If the 2012 Republican primary election for US Senator were held today, which of the following possible candidates would you vote for, or haven't you thought about it enough to have an opinion? [Randomize 1-7] (N=388; MoE=+/-4.98)

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Roger Williams | 2% |
| 2. David Dewhurst | 25% |
| 3. Michael Williams | 6% |
| 4. Elizabeth Ames Jones | 1% |
| 5. Ted Cruz | 2% |
| 6. Tom Leppert | 4% |
| 7. Michael McCaul | 4% |
| 8. Another Republican candidate | 7% |
| 9. Don't Know | 50% |

Q17. [Ask if Q15=1] If the 2012 Republican primary election for President were held today, which of the following possible candidates would you vote for, or haven't you thought about it enough to have an opinion? [Randomize 1-12] (N=388; MoE=+/-4.98)

- | | |
|----------------------|-----|
| 1. Mitt Romney | 7% |
| 2. Sarah Palin | 12% |
| 3. Michelle Bachmann | 7% |
| 4. Newt Gingrich | 11% |
| 5. Mike Huckabee | 10% |
| 6. Tim Pawlenty | 4% |
| 7. Mitch Daniels | 1% |
| 8. Rick Perry | 4% |
| 9. Ron Paul | 10% |
| 10. Donald Trump | 6% |
| 11. Rick Santorum | 3% |
| 12. Jon Huntsman | 1% |
| 13. Someone else | 10% |
| 14. Don't know | 14% |

Q18. [Ask if Q15=2] If the 2012 Democratic primary election for US Senator were held today, which of the following possible candidates would you vote for, or haven't you thought about it enough to have an opinion? [Randomize 1-4] (N=252; MoE=+/-6.17)

- | | |
|--------------------|-----|
| 1. John Sharp | 6% |
| 2. Chris Bell | 7% |
| 3. Chet Edwards | 11% |
| 4. Ricardo Sanchez | 14% |
| 5. Don't know | 63% |

Q19. If the 2012 general election for U.S. president were held today, would you vote for [randomize] Barack Obama, the Republican candidate, someone else, or haven't you thought enough about it to have an opinion? [Randomize 1-2]

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Republican candidate | 48% |
| 2. Barack Obama | 30% |
| 3. Someone else | 11% |
| 4. Haven't thought about it enough to have an opinion | 12% |

Q20. If the 2012 general election for U.S. Senator from Texas were held today, would you vote for the [randomize] Republican candidate, the Democratic candidate, someone else, or haven't you thought enough about it to have an opinion? [Randomize 1-2]

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Republican candidate | 46% |
| 2. Democratic candidate | 30% |
| 3. Someone else | 6% |
| 4. Haven't thought about it enough to have an opinion | 18% |

Q21. Suppose the Tea Party movement organized itself as a political party. When thinking about the next election for Congress, would you vote for the Republican candidate from your district, the Democratic candidate from your district, or the Tea Party candidate from your district? [Randomize 1-2]

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| 1. Republican Candidate | 17% |
| 2. Democratic candidate | 33% |
| 3. Tea Party candidate | 24% |
| 4. Don't know | 27% |

Policy Questions

Q22. How do you feel about the following statement: Generally speaking, the way state government runs in Texas serves as a good model for other states to follow?

- | | |
|----------------------|-----|
| 1. Strongly agree | 15% |
| 2. Somewhat agree | 37% |
| 3. Somewhat disagree | 16% |
| 4. Strongly disagree | 19% |
| 5. Don't know | 13% |

Q23. What do you think about a proposed law requiring that doctors who perform abortions make available to pregnant women sonogram images of their fetuses, and have the women listen to the heartbeat of their fetus before they have an abortion?

- 1. Strongly support 36%
- 2. Somewhat support 14%
- 3. Somewhat oppose 10%
- 4. Strongly oppose 29%
- 5. Don't know 11%

Q24. What is your opinion on gay marriage or civil unions?

- 1. Gays and lesbians should have the right to marry 30%
- 2. Gays and lesbians should have the right to civil unions but not marriage 31%
- 3. Gays and lesbians should not have the right to civil unions or marriage 33%
- 4. Don't know 6%

Q25. What is your opinion concerning the amount of state revenue that should be used to make education at state colleges and universities more affordable for Texans?

- 1. It should be increased to make college education more affordable for all Texans. 42%
- 2. It should be increased to make college education more affordable for only the most needy Texans 11%
- 3. It should stay the same 18%
- 4. It should be decreased 15%
- 5. Don't know 14%

As you may know, Texas faces a budget shortfall of between \$16 billion and \$27 billion over the next two-year budget period. We will now ask you a short series of questions about how lawmakers should deal with this shortfall.

Q27. In attempting to deal with the budget shortfall, state lawmakers have two basic options at their disposal: cutting spending and increasing revenue. Please choose your preference for how state lawmakers should close the budget gap on a 0-10 scale, where 10 indicates that you prefer that state lawmakers close the gap *entirely through revenue increases*, and 0 indicates that you prefer that state lawmakers close the gap *entirely through spending cuts*. [Use a 10-point scale with wording: (0) "Close the gap entirely through spending cuts," (10) "Close the gap entirely through revenue increases." "Don't know" response box available for each]

Response		Percent
0	Entirely through spending cuts	18%
1		8%

2		10%
3		9%
4		5%
5	In the middle	18%
6		6%
7		6%
8		5%
9		2%
10	Entirely through revenue increases	4%
	don't know	9%

[Randomize order of Q28 and Q29]

Q28. The Texas legislature is currently discussing different ways to reduce state spending in order to address the state's budget shortfall. Please think about the following list of proposals for cutting the budget, and check all of the measures you think should be taken to reduce spending. (Check all that apply) [randomize 1-13]

Cut the state's share of primary and secondary education funding

- 1. Yes 15%
- 2. No 85%

Cut the state's share of higher education funding

- 1. Yes 27%
- 2. No 73%

End funding for pre-kindergarten classes

- 1. Yes 40%
- 2. No 60%

Reduce funding of state grants to college students

- 1. Yes 28%
- 2. No 72%

Reduce state contributions to teacher and state employee retirement programs

- 1. Yes 35%
- 2. No 65%

End funding for the children's health insurance program

1. Yes	10%
2. No	90%

End state environmental regulation and leave it to the federal government

1. Yes	32%
2. No	68%

Cut payments to Medicaid providers like doctors and hospitals

1. Yes	14%
2. No	86%

Cut state funding for nursing home care

1. Yes	7%
2. No	93%

Close one or more prisons for adults

1. Yes	30%
2. No	70%

Close one or more prisons for juveniles

1. Yes	31%
2. No	69%

Reduce funding for new highway construction

1. Yes	28%
2. No	72%

Reduce funding for border security

1. Yes	16%
2. No	84%

Q29. Below is a list of ways in which state lawmakers might raise additional revenue in order to address the expected budget gap. Which of the following methods of increasing revenue would you support? (Check all that apply) **[randomize 1-9; option #10 cannot be selected along with other answer choices (i.e. selecting any of answer choices 1-9 should disallow respondents from selecting 10, and vice versa)]**

Legalize gambling and impose taxes on casinos

1. Yes	62%
2. No	38%

Increase taxes on alcoholic beverages

1. Yes	49%
2. No	51%

Legalize the use of marijuana and impose taxes on its purchase

1. Yes	41%
2. No	59%

Adopt a fuel inefficiency surcharge on certain new vehicles

1. Yes	18%
2. No	82%

Ban the use of cell phones while driving and charge fines for individuals who break this law

1. Yes	48%
2. No	52%

Eliminate the August state sales tax holiday if the budget situation does not improve

1. Yes	41%
2. No	59%

Increase the state tax on businesses

1. Yes	18%
2. No	82%

Increase the state sales tax rate (currently 6.25%)

1. Yes	12%
2. No	88%

Implement a state income tax on individuals

1. Yes	6%
2. No	94%

I do not support any of these measures

1. Yes	11%
2. No	89%

Q30. As you may know, the Texas Legislature has been debating whether to address the state's budget shortfall by tapping into the Rainy Day Fund, which contains money that the state has set aside for emergency uses. Some people say that state should use some or all of the money in the Rainy Day Fund for the next two-year budget period in order to avoid potentially devastating cuts in spending. Other people say that the current budget deficit does not count as an emergency, and that using money from the Rainy Day Fund will eventually cause state

government to grow in size. What is your opinion on whether to spend money in the Rainy Day fund for the next two-year budget period?

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Spend some or all of the money in the Rainy Day Fund | 43% |
| 2. Do not spend money in the Rainy Day Fund | 39% |
| 3. Don't know | 19% |

Q31. Please indicate your opinion on the following immigration proposals. **[Randomize a-b]**

Q31a. Passing a law that would allow illegal immigrants brought to the U.S. as children to gain legal resident status if they join the military.

- | | |
|---------------------|-----|
| 1. Strongly support | 25% |
| 2. Somewhat support | 34% |
| 3. Somewhat oppose | 12% |
| 4. Strongly oppose | 25% |
| 5. Don't know | 5% |

Q31b. Passing a law that would allow illegal immigrants brought to the U.S. as children to gain legal resident status if they go to college.

- | | |
|---------------------|-----|
| 1. Strongly support | 16% |
| 2. Somewhat support | 20% |
| 3. Somewhat oppose | 13% |
| 4. Strongly oppose | 45% |
| 5. Don't know | 6% |

Q31c. Passing a comprehensive immigration overhaul at the federal level that would provide a pathway to citizenship for most illegal immigrants currently living in the United States.

- | | |
|---------------------|-----|
| 1. Strongly support | 19% |
| 2. Somewhat support | 18% |
| 3. Somewhat oppose | 14% |
| 4. Strongly oppose | 43% |
| 5. Don't know | 5% |

Q32. Which of the following comes closest to your view on whether local law enforcement officials should enforce federal immigration laws?

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Local law enforcement officials should be required to actively enforce federal immigration laws. | 39% |
| 2. Local law enforcement officials should be | 38% |

allowed to enforce federal immigration laws, but it should not be a primary responsibility of theirs.

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 3. Cities and counties should be allowed to restrict local law enforcement officials from enforcing federal immigration laws. | 12% |
| 4. Don't know | 11% |

Q33. On the whole, do you think immigration is a good thing or a bad thing for this country today?

- | | |
|---------------|-----|
| 1. Good thing | 42% |
| 2. Bad thing | 44% |
| 3. Don't know | 14% |

Political Knowledge

[Randomize INFO1-INFO3]

INFO1. Which political party holds the majority in the U.S. House of Representatives?

- | | |
|---------------------|-----|
| 1. Republican Party | 76% |
| 2. Democratic Party | 14% |
| 3. Neither | 3% |
| 4. Don't know | 7% |

INFO2. What majority of both houses of the U.S. Congress is needed to override a presidential veto?

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| 1. More than one-half | 6% |
| 2. More than two-thirds | 73% |
| 3. More than three-fourths | 13% |
| 4. Don't know | 9% |

INFO3. Who is the current Attorney General of Texas?

- | | |
|---------------------|-----|
| 1. Greg Abbott | 66% |
| 2. Michael Williams | 2% |
| 3. Susan Combs | 5% |
| 4. Victor Carrillo | 2% |
| 5. Don't know | 26% |

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? [Wording on scale: (1) "Extremely liberal," (4) "In the middle," (7) "Extremely conservative"]

Response		Percent
1	Extremely liberal	6%
2		7%
3		7%
4	In the middle	29%
5		14%
6		21%
7	Extremely conservative	16%

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

1. Democrat **Please see PID7 (next page) for results*
2. Independent
3. Republican
4. Other
5. Not sure

[If respond Democrat to PID3] Do you consider yourself a...

- Strong Democrat
- Not very strong Democrat

[If respond Democrat to PID3] Have you always been a Democrat, or did you previously consider yourself to be a Republican or independent?

- Always a Democrat
- Previously a Republican
- Previously independent

[If respond Republican to PID3] Do you consider yourself a...

- Strong Republican
- Not very strong Republican

[If respond Republican to PID3] Have you always been a Republican, or did you previously consider yourself to be a Democrat or independent?

- Always a Republican
- Previously a Democrat
- Previously independent

[If respond Independent to PID3] As an independent, do you consider yourself to...

- Lean Republican **Report in PID7 as "Lean Republican"*
- Lean Democrat **Report in PID7 as "Lean Democrat"*
- Not lean either way **Report in PID7 as "Independent"*

[If respond Independent to PID3] Have you always been independent, or did you previously consider yourself to be a Republican or Democrat?

- Always independent
- Previously a Republican
- Previously a Democrat

[If respond Other to PID3] Generally speaking, do you consider yourself to...

- Lean Republican **Report in PID7 as "Lean Republican"*
- Lean Democrat **Report in PID7 as "Lean Democrat"*
- Support a third party **Report in PID7 as "Other"*
- None of these **Report in PID7 as "Other"*

PID7. (Uses the four PID3 follow-up questions)

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Strong Democrat | 21% |
| 2. Not very strong Democrat | 10% |
| 3. Lean Democrat | 7% |
| 4. Independent | 12% |
| 5. Lean Republican | 16% |
| 6. Not very strong Republican | 8% |
| 7. Strong Republican | 25% |
| 8. Other | 2% |

Demographics

AGE. Please indicate your age group.

- | | |
|--------------|-----|
| 1. 18-29 | 16% |
| 2. 30-44 | 27% |
| 3. 45-64 | 41% |
| 4. 65 and up | 16% |

COUNTY. In which county do you reside? (Please select from the pull-down menu. Counties are listed in alphabetical order)

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

- | | |
|-------------|-----|
| 1. Urban | 27% |
| 2. Suburban | 49% |
| 3. Rural | 24% |

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

1. Yes, I live in the Houston area.	20%
2. Yes, I live the Dallas-Fort Worth area	30%
3. Yes, I live in the San Antonio area	8%
4. Yes, I live in the Austin area	9%
5. No, I live in another part of Texas	34%

CHILD. How many children are currently living with you?

1. One	19%
2. Two	12%
3. Three	6%
4. Four or more	3%
5. None	60%

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

1. Less than \$10,000	5%
2. \$10,000 to \$14,999	6%
3. \$15,000 to \$19,999	4%
4. \$20,000 to \$24,999	6%
5. \$25,000 to \$29,999	7%
6. \$30,000 to \$39,999	13%
7. \$40,000 to \$49,999	8%
8. \$50,000 to \$59,999	7%
9. \$60,000 to \$69,999	8%
10. \$70,000 to \$79,999	7%
11. \$80,000 to \$99,999	6%
12. \$100,000 to \$119,999	5%
13. \$120,000 to \$149,999	3%
14. More than \$150,000	4%
15. Prefer not to say	11%

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

1. Less than high school	4%
2. High school degree	38%
3. Some college	30%
4. Two-year college degree	10%
5. Four-year college degree	13%
6. Post-graduate degree	5%

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

1. Agnostic	5%
2. Assembly of God*	2%
3. Atheist	4%
4. Baptist*	20%
5. Buddhist	1%

6. Catholic*	16%
7. Christian Scientist*	4%
8. Church of Christ*	4%
9. Church of God*	1%
10. Disciples of Christ*	1%
11. Episcopal/Anglican*	2%
12. Hindu	0%
13. Jehovah's Witnesses	0%
14. Jewish	1%
15. Lutheran*	2%
16. Methodist*	5%
17. Mormon*	1%
18. Muslim/Islam	0%
19. Nondenominational Christian*	9%
20. Orthodox/Eastern Orthodox*	0%
21. Pentecostal*	2%
22. Presbyterian*	2%
23. Protestant (non-specific)*	4%
24. Reformed*	0%
25. Unitarian/Universalist*	0%
26. United Church of Christ*	0%
27. Spiritual but not religious	9%
28. Other*	7%
29. Don't know	2%

EVANG. **[Ask if respond _ to RELIG]** Do you consider yourself to be a "born again" or "evangelical" Christian?

1. Yes	48%
2. No	52%

LITERAL. Which of these statements comes closest to describing your feelings about the Bible?

1. The Bible is the actual word of God and is to be taken literally, word for word.	34%
2. The Bible is the word of God but not everything in it should be taken literally, word for word.	43%
3. The Bible is a book written by men and is not the word of God.	23%

IMPORT. How important would you say that religious beliefs are to your daily life?

1. Extremely important	49%
2. Somewhat important	27%
3. Not very important	12%
4. Not at all important	12%

ATTEND. Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services or participate in religious activities?

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| 1. More than once a week | 17% |
| 2. Once a week | 16% |
| 3. A few times a month | 11% |
| 4. Once or twice a year | 27% |
| 5. Never | 29% |

RACE. What race do you consider yourself to be?

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| 1. White | 63% |
| 2. African American | 12% |
| 3. Hispanic or Latino | 18% |
| 4. Asian/Pacific Islander | 1% |
| 5. Native American | 1% |
| 6. Mixed | 2% |
| 7. Other | 3% |

NATIVE1. **[Ask if RACE = "Hispanic or Latino"]** Were you born in the United States or Puerto Rico, or in another country?

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Born in the United States or Puerto Rico | 86% |
| 2. Born in another country | 14% |

NATIVE2. **[Ask NATIVE2 if answer 1 on NATIVE1]** Were your parents born in the United States or Puerto Rico, or another country?

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Both of my parents were born in the United States or Puerto Rico | 67% |
| 2. One of my parents was born in another country | 22% |
| 3. Both of my parents were both in another country | 12% |

HOME. Do you own or rent your home?

- | | |
|---------|-----|
| 1. Own | 71% |
| 2. Rent | 29% |

MARITAL. What is your marital status?

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| 1. Married | 57% |
| 2. Divorced | 12% |
| 3. Separated | 2% |
| 4. Widowed | 4% |
| 5. Domestic partnership | 5% |
| 6. Single | 20% |

GENDER. What is your gender?

- | | |
|-----------|-----|
| 1. Male | 47% |
| 2. Female | 53% |

P08. In the 2008 presidential election, who did you vote for?

- | | |
|-----------------|-----|
| 1. Barack Obama | 37% |
| 2. John McCain | 49% |
| 3. Someone else | 5% |
| 4. Did not vote | 9% |