

**University of Texas / Texas Tribune
 Texas Statewide Survey**

Field dates: February 11-17, 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%

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*.

Response		Percent
0	Entirely through spending cuts	17%
1		8%
2		9%
3		8%
4		7%
5	In the middle	22%
6		5%
7		4%
8		6%
9		3%
10	Entirely through revenue increases	4%
<i>don't know</i>		8%

[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)

Cut the state's share of public education funding

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 1. Yes | 18% |
| 2. No | 82% |

End funding for pre-kindergarten classes

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 1. Yes | 38% |
| 2. No | 62% |

Reduce funding of state grants to college students

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

Reduce state contributions to teacher and state employee retirement programs

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 1. Yes | 32% |
| 2. No | 69% |

End funding for the children's health insurance program

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 1. Yes | 13% |
| 2. No | 87% |

End state environmental regulation and leave it to the federal government

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

Cut payments to Medicaid providers like doctors and hospitals

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 1. Yes | 14% |
| 2. No | 86% |

Cut state funding for nursing home care

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 1. Yes | 10% |
| 2. No | 90% |

Close one or more prisons for adults

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 1. Yes | 33% |
| 2. No | 67% |

Close one or more prisons for juveniles

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 1. Yes | 33% |
| 2. No | 67% |

Reduce funding for new highway construction

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 1. Yes | 37% |
| 2. No | 63% |

Reduce funding for border security

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

Close four community colleges

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 1. Yes | 24% |
| 2. No | 77% |

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)

Legalize gambling and impose taxes on casinos

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 1. Yes | 61% |
| 2. No | 39% |

Increase taxes on alcoholic beverages

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 1. Yes | 52% |
| 2. No | 49% |

Legalize the use of marijuana and impose taxes on its purchase

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 1. Yes | 39% |
| 2. No | 61% |

Adopt a fuel inefficiency surcharge on certain new vehicles

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 1. Yes | 21% |
| 2. No | 80% |

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

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 1. Yes | 46% |
| 2. No | 54% |

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

- 1. Yes 39%
- 2. No 61%

Increase the state sales tax rate (currently 6.25%)

- 1. Yes 14%
- 2. No 86%

Implement a state income tax

- 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 Rainy Day Fund contains money the state has set aside for emergency uses. Lawmakers are currently discussing whether to spend some of the \$9.4 billion in the rainy day account to help address the budget shortfall in the next budget, which is at least \$16 billion and perhaps as much as \$27 billion. What is your opinion on whether to spend money in the Rainy Day fund?

- 1. Spend all of that money to avoid budget cuts 9%
- 2. Spend none of that money to avoid budget cuts 24%
- 3. Spend some, but not all, of that money to avoid budget cuts 55%
- 4. Don't know 12%

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	4%
2		6%
3		10%
4	In the middle	28%
5		15%
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 Republican to PID3] Do you consider yourself a...

- Strong Republican
- Not very strong Republican

[If respond Independent, Other, or Not sure to PID3] Do you think of yourself as closer to the Democratic or the Republican Party?

- The Republican Party **Report in PID7 as "Lean Republican"*
- The Democratic Party **Report in PID7 as "Lean Democrat"*
- Neither **Report in PID7 as "independent"*
- Not sure **Report in PID7 as "not sure"*

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

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Strong Democrat | 21% |
| 2. Not very strong Democrat | 12% |
| 3. Lean Democrat | 8% |
| 4. Independent | 10% |
| 5. Lean Republican | 14% |
| 6. Not very strong Republican | 9% |
| 7. Strong Republican | 25% |
| 8. Not sure | 2% |

Demographics

AGE. Please indicate your age group.

- | | |
|--------------|-----|
| 1. 18-29 | 15% |
| 2. 30-44 | 30% |
| 3. 45-64 | 40% |
| 4. 65 and up | 14% |

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

- | | |
|-------------|-----|
| 1. Urban | 30% |
| 2. Suburban | 47% |

3. Rural 22%

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

1. Yes, I live in the Houston area 21%
2. Yes, I live the Dallas-Fort Worth area Rural 28%
3. Yes, I live in the San Antonio area 9%
4. Yes, I live in the Austin area 11%
5. No, I live in another part of Texas 31%

CHILD. How many children are currently living with you?

1. One 19%
2. Two 15%
3. Three 6%
4. Four or more 2%
5. None 58%

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

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

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

1. No high school 4%
2. High school degree 38%
3. Some college 33%
4. Two-year college degree 6%
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*	17%
5. Buddhist	2%
6. Catholic*	17%
7. Christian Scientist*	0%
8. Church of Christ*	4%
9. Church of God*	0%
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*	11%
20. Orthodox/Eastern Orthodox*	0%
21. Pentecostal*	2%
22. Presbyterian*	2%
23. Protestant (non-specific)*	3%
24. Reformed*	0%
25. Unitarian/Universalist*	0%
26. United Church of Christ*	0%
27. Spiritual but not religious	8%
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	50%
2. No	50%

RENEW. **[Ask if respond _ to RELIG]** Do you consider yourself to be a “spirit filled” or “charismatic” Christian?

1. Yes	36%
2. No	64%

SOCJUST. [Ask if respond * to RELIG] Do you consider social justice to be at the heart of the Gospel?

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

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. | 32% |
| 2. The Bible is the word of God but not everything in it should be taken literally, word for word. | 45% |
| 3. The Bible is a book written by men and is not the word of God. | 22% |

IMPORT. How important is religion in your life?

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| 1. Extremely important | 48% |
| 2. Somewhat important | 31% |
| 3. Not very important | 11% |
| 4. Not at all important | 10% |

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 | 18% |
| 3. A few times a month | 14% |
| 4. Once or twice a year | 24% |
| 5. Never | 28% |

SPANISH. Does your church offer religious services or programs in Spanish?

- | | |
|---------------|-----|
| 1. Yes | 31% |
| 2. No | 53% |
| 3. Don't know | 16% |

RACE. What race do you consider yourself to be?

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| 1. White | 65% |
| 2. African American | 13% |
| 3. Hispanic or Latino | 16% |
| 4. Asian/Pacific Islander | 2% |
| 5. Native American | 0% |
| 6. Multi-racial | 1% |

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 | 85% |
| 2. Born in another country | 14% |
| 3. Don't know | 1% |

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 | 70% |
| 2. One of my parents was born in another country | 20% |
| 3. Both of my parents were both in another country | 10% |

HOME. Do you own or rent your home?

- | | |
|---------|-----|
| 1. Own | 72% |
| 2. Rent | 28% |

MARITAL. What is your marital status?

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| 1. Married | 61% |
| 2. Separated | 2% |
| 3. Divorced | 12% |
| 4. Widowed | 4% |
| 5. Single | 18% |
| 6. Domestic partnership | 4% |

GENDER. What is your gender?

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