

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%
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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	48%
2. Somewhat interested	41%
3. Not very interested	9%
4. Not at all interested	3%
5. Don't know	0%

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

1. Extremely closely	12%
2. Somewhat closely	46%
3. Not that closely	30%
4. Not at all	12%
5. Don't know	0%

Q4. 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	26%
2. Wrong track	59%
3. Don't know	15%

Q5. 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	41%
2. Wrong track	41%
3. Don't know	18%

Most Important Problem

Q6. What would you say is the most important problem facing this country today? **[Randomize]**

1. The economy	22%
2. Federal spending/national debt	19%
3. Unemployment/jobs	16%
4. Political corruption/leadership	10%
5. Health care	5%
6. Education	5%
7. Moral decline	4%
8. Immigration	4%
9. Border security	3%
10. National security/terrorism	2%
11. Social welfare programs	2%
12. Environment	2%
13. Gas prices	2%
14. Taxes	1%
15. Energy	1%
16. The media	1%
17. Abortion	1%
18. Crime and drugs	1%
19. Afghanistan/Pakistan	1%
20. Iran/nuclear weapons	1%
21. Gay marriage	0%
22. Housing	0%
23. Iraq	0%
24. Federal courts/nominees	0%
25. Foreign trade	0%
26. Voting system	0%

Q7. What would you say is the most important problem facing the state of Texas today?
[Randomize]

1. Immigration	16%
2. Border security	15%
3. Unemployment/jobs	12%
4. State budget shortfall	11%
5. The economy	9%
6. Political corruption/leadership	8%
7. Education	8%
8. State government spending	5%
9. Gas prices	3%
10. Health care	2%
11. Crime and drugs	2%
12. Taxes	2%
13. Social welfare programs	2%
14. Moral decline	1%
15. Insurance rates	1%
16. Water supply	1%

17. Environment	1%
18. Transportation/roads/traffic	1%
19. Abortion	1%
20. Utility rates	1%
21. Gay marriage	0%
22. Energy	0%
23. Housing	0%
24. State courts	0%
25. The media	0%
26. Voting system	0%
27. Electoral fraud	0%

Retrospective Assessments

Q8. 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	3%
2. Somewhat better off	24%
3. About the same	30%
4. Somewhat worse off	24%
5. A lot worse off	17%
6. Don't know	2%

Q9. 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	3%
2. Somewhat better off	17%
3. About the same	45%
4. Somewhat worse off	24%
5. A lot worse off	11%
6. Don't know	1%

Q10. How would you rate the job Barack Obama has done as president? Would you say that you...

1. Approve strongly	15%
2. Approve somewhat	21%
3. Neither approve nor disapprove	8%
4. Disapprove somewhat	9%
5. Disapprove strongly	46%
6. Don't know	1%

Q11. Overall, how strongly do you approve of the job the U.S. Congress is doing?

1. Approve strongly	2%
2. Approve somewhat	17%
3. Neither approve nor disapprove	19%
4. Disapprove somewhat	26%
5. Disapprove strongly	33%
6. Don't know	4%

Q12. How would you rate the job Rick Perry has done as governor? Would you say that you...

1. Approve strongly	11%
2. Approve somewhat	28%
3. Neither approve nor disapprove	17%
4. Disapprove somewhat	15%
5. Disapprove strongly	25%
6. Don't know	3%

Q13. Overall, how strongly do you approve of the job the Texas state legislature is doing?

1. Approve strongly	6%
2. Approve somewhat	26%
3. Neither approve nor disapprove	27%
4. Disapprove somewhat	20%
5. Disapprove strongly	15%
6. Don't know	6%

Vote Intention

Q14. 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	45%
2. Democratic Primary	37%
3. Don't usually vote in primaries	18%

Q15. **[Ask if Q14=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 1-6] (N=374; MoE=+/-5.07)**

1. Roger Williams	2%
2. David Dewhurst	27%
3. Michael Williams	5%
4. Michael McCaul	4%
5. Elizabeth Ames Jones	3%
6. Ted Cruz	3%
7. Another Republican candidate	5%
8. Don't know	52%

Q16. **[Ask if Q14=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 1-3] (N=297; MoE=+/-5.69)**

- | | |
|-----------------|-----|
| 1. John Sharp | 12% |
| 2. Chris Bell | 16% |
| 3. Chet Edwards | 13% |
| 4. Don't know | 59% |

Q17. 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 | 16% |
| 2. Democratic candidate | 34% |
| 3. Tea Party candidate | 22% |
| 4. Don't know | 28% |

Policy Questions

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%