



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 27, 2008

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TEXAS LYCEUM POLL: DAY THREE **Hutchison Favored Among Texans for Governor**

Gas prices and immigration identified as most important issues for state

(AUSTIN) The Texas Lyceum, the statewide, non-profit leadership group, released more results from its second annual public opinion poll. Respondents were asked to think about an election that is still two years away – the 2010 Texas Gubernatorial contest. While she has not announced if she will run for Texas Governor in 2010, U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison leads a field of possible Republican opponents and potential Democrats.

Hutchison has more support right now than any other Republicans, but nobody earned a majority. 35% said they are likely to support Hutchison in a Republican contest, and 22% said they're likely to support Governor Rick Perry in 2010. Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst was next, at 4%, and state Senator Florence Shapiro and Railroad Commissioner Michael Williams each got 2%. One in five said they don't have a favorite, and 16% said they were not likely to support anyone on that list. A subgroup of Republican voters was just as emphatic: Hutchison, 50%; Perry, 23%; Dewhurst, 7%; Williams, 2%; and Shapiro, 2%.

Among Democrats, former U.S. Representative Chris Bell was the most popular with 13%, followed by Houston Mayor Bill White (10%), former Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk (8%), former Comptroller John Sharp (7%), and former comptroller candidate Paul Hobby (2%). More than four in ten (42%) said they don't know who they'll support, and 17% said nobody on this list would be their favorite. Among Democratic voters, the numbers were: Bell, 17%; Kirk, 12%; White, 10%; Sharp, 7%; and Hobby, 2%.

In head-to-head match-ups between Republicans and Democrats, both Perry and Hutchison would defeat White in an election held today. In the first matchup, Perry holds a 32% to 29% edge over White, with 39% undecided. In a Hutchison-White match-up, the Republican Senator leads 34% to 25%, with 41% undecided.

Poll respondents were also asked to identify the most important issue facing Texas today. Gas and oil prices topped the list, mentioned by 21%, followed by immigration, 20%; the economy, 17%; education, 12%; and leadership, politics and gridlock, 7%. The issue list a year ago started with immigration, 22%; education, 21%; prices, inflation, gas prices, and cost of living, 7%; health care, 4%; and crime, drugs, and violence, 4%. The economy registered as most important only among 2% of those polled in 2007.

The survey of 1,000 Texans, selected randomly and interviewed via telephone, was taken June 12-20, 2008. The objective of the Texas Lyceum Poll is to annually produce a non-partisan, high quality, scientific survey that is designed to provide specific data points on issues of interest, as well as a time series of key demographics, attitudes, and opinions.

Results of the 2008 Texas Lyceum Poll are available at www.texaslyceum.org. The complete data set will be posted in the fall to coincide with the group's annual public conference, to be held this year on October 3rd in Houston.

About The Texas Lyceum

The Texas Lyceum, a non-profit, non-partisan group, is the premier statewide leadership organization. The Lyceum consists of 96 men and women from throughout the state, who begin their six-year term while under the age of 46, and have demonstrated leadership in their community and profession, together with a deep commitment to Texas.

In 2008, the Lyceum will conduct the second annual Texas Lyceum Poll, an independent survey of Texans' attitudes about issues facing the state and the nation, and in October, the organization will hold its 23rd annual public conference in Houston on the topic of Transportation Infrastructure in Texas. The conference is open to the media.

The Lyceum has an impressive list of former members who are serving or have served in the public office including: President George W. Bush, Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, Governor Rick Perry, former Texas Comptroller John Sharp, Texas State Senators Rodney Ellis and Kirk Watson, Houston Mayor Bill White, Texas Supreme Court Justice Don Willett, and Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings.

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, publishes the Lyceum Journal, produces The Texas Lyceum Poll, and convenes programs for the Directors to explore and discuss key economic and social issues of the state and nation. For more information visit: www.texaslyceum.org.

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