



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 24, 2009

Contact: Margaret Justus
281-250-8253

Texas Lyceum Poll Day Two: 2010 Match-ups

Governor Perry has early lead over Senator Hutchison

Both share high job marks with President Obama

Houston Mayor White leads in field of eight in Senate special election, but 71 percent of voters still undecided

(AUSTIN) A recent statewide, independent poll shows most Texans have yet to focus on the 2010 gubernatorial and a possible U.S. Senate race. However, as it stands, Texas Governor Rick Perry leads his major challenger, U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison 33 percent to her 21 percent. When it comes to job performance, Texans give high marks to President Barack Obama, Senator Hutchison and Governor Perry, with Hutchison and Obama almost tied and both slightly outpacing the governor.

“With nine months to go before the election, it is clear that the majority of Texans remain undecided,” noted **Dr. Daron Shaw of the University of Texas**, who, with Dr. James Henson, conducted this poll. “Although Governor Perry enjoys a lead with those who intend to participate in the Republican primary for governor, the fact that 45 percent of those polled have yet to choose a candidate shows that this is still anyone’s race.”

The Texas Lyceum, a non-partisan, non-profit statewide leadership organization, conducted the poll June 5th – 12th, surveying roughly 1,000 Texans via telephone. Participants who indicated they were ‘certain’ or ‘probably going’ to vote Republican or Democratic primary were asked candidate preference questions. The margin of error is plus or minus three percent.

80 percent of Democrats polled have yet to choose a candidate in the Democratic gubernatorial primary. Humorist, author, and former independent gubernatorial candidate Kinky Friedman pulled 10 percent of respondents’ support, while former U.S. Ambassador Tom Schieffer and Texas State Senator Leticia Van de Putte drew 6 percent and 3 percent, respectively.

In the U.S. Senate race, which will only happen if Senator Hutchison resigns her seat to run for governor, prompting a special election, voters are also still largely undecided, with 71 percent reporting that they have yet to decide on a candidate. Amongst voters who expressed a preference, Houston Mayor Bill White leads the pack with 9 percent of the vote, followed by Lt. Governor David Dewhurst and Attorney General Greg Abbott with 4 percent apiece; Railroad Commissioner Elizabeth Ames Jones and former Texas Secretary of State Roger Williams with 3 percent apiece; and state Sen. Florence Shapiro, former Comptroller John Sharp, and Railroad Commissioner Michael Williams at 2 percent. Sharp and White are Democrats; the other potential candidates are Republicans.

Grading the Officeholders

The majority of Texans say Kay Bailey Hutchinson, President Barack Obama and Rick Perry are all doing a "very" or "somewhat" good job. Governor Perry shares a 58 percent approval rating with the recently wrapped Texas Legislature, while Senator Hutchison holds a 65 percent approval rating and President Obama stands at 68 percent.

"The relatively high approval numbers for political leaders across parties and institutions are a tribute to the ability of Texans to confound the partisanship of their political leadership," said **Dr. James Henson, Director of the Texas Politics Project at the University of Texas at Austin**. "After months of Governor Perry pushing back at a Democratic president by talking about tea parties, secession, and his rejection of a chunk of federal stimulus money, both the Governor *and* President Obama received solid approval ratings. It's hard to know whether Texans are ignoring politics or just tolerating them while they wait to see if anyone can help the economy."

"We are extremely proud to have successfully completed our 3rd annual Texas Lyceum Poll," said **Jay Rutherford, President of the Texas Lyceum**. "We hope that this look at Texans' attitudes and opinions during such a critical time for our state and country will help guide our officeholders and opinion leaders in the weeks and months ahead."

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 2009 Texas Lyceum Poll are available at www.texaslyceum.org. The trademark of the Texas Lyceum Poll is transparency, therefore the top-line and detailed cross-tabular results of the poll along with the weighted data sets will be made available on the www.texaslyceum.org later this summer.

About the Texas Lyceum

The Texas Lyceum, a non-profit, non-partisan group, is a premier statewide

leadership organization focused on identifying the next generation of top Texas leaders. 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 2009, the Lyceum conducted the third annual Texas Lyceum Poll, an independent survey of Texan's attitudes about issues facing the state and the nation, and held its 24th Annual Public Conference in Austin entitled: "The 2009 Stimulus Package: What's in it (or not) for Texas?"

The Lyceum has an impressive list of former members who are serving or have served in 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, former Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings, Congressman Pete Olson and current Directors, Texas Representatives Veronica Gonzalez, Allen Vaught and Marc Veasey. Dr. Daron Shaw and Dr. Jim Henson, who conducted the annual poll, are also Lyceum Alumni.

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, commissions 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:

<http://www.texaslyceum.org/>

#