

2011 Texas Lyceum Poll

Executive Summary of Job Approval Numbers and 2012 Matchups

A recent Texas Lyceum poll finds that Governor Rick Perry gets a thumbs up from 54% of likely voters on his job performance in 2011 while President Barack Obama receives 51% approval overall. The state legislature registers just below Perry and Obama with 49% approval. Looking ahead to the 2012 Republican presidential primary, former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney and former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin are at the forefront of a large pack of contenders. With most voters undecided at this point, Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst leads the list of possible candidates for the Republican Senate primary while no Democratic Senate primary candidate garners more than 9%. Approximately 17% of likely voters call themselves members of the Tea Party.

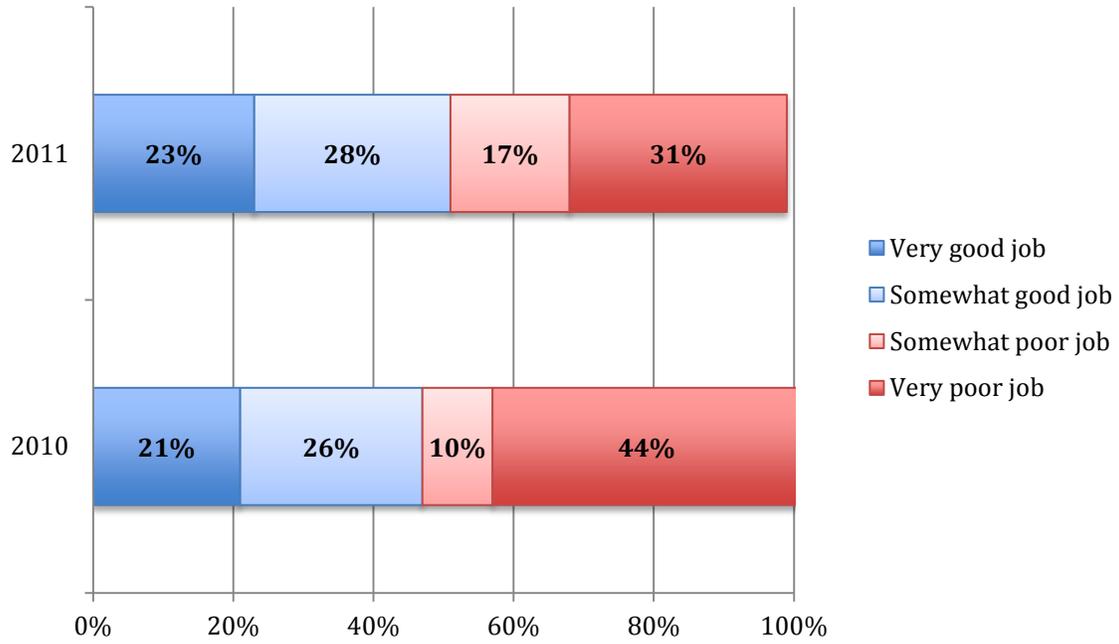
Summary of Findings:

Job Approval:

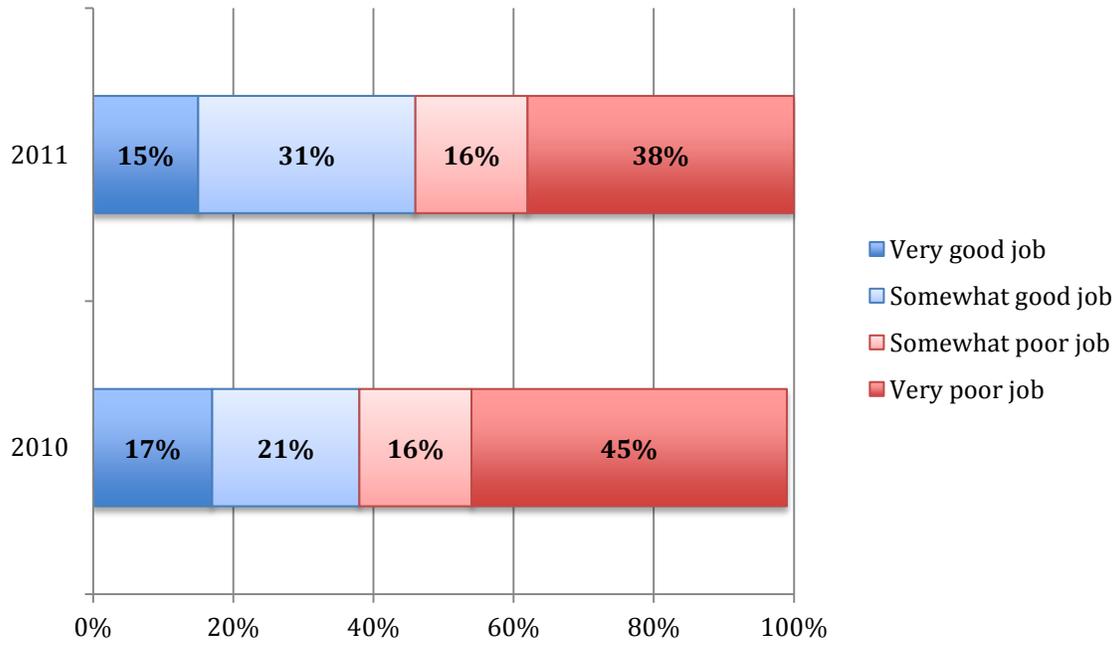
President Obama

Fifty-one percent of likely voters say Barack Obama is doing a good job as president in 2011. This number is up slightly from 47% in 2010. The four point improvement in Obama's rating is at least in part attributable to the success of the U.S. military operation that killed Osama bin Laden (the poll was in the field beginning on May 24, a little more than three weeks after bin Laden's death). When it comes to handling the economy, 46% of likely voters say he is doing a good job, compared to 54% who say he is doing a poor job. Although this rating is up a bit from 2010 (when 38% of likely voters said Obama was doing a good job), it remains the case that his negative ratings are more intense. Thirty eight percent of likely voters say Obama is doing a "very poor job" on the economy, while 15% say he is doing a "very good job."

How well do you think Barack Obama is handling his job as president? (Likely Voters)

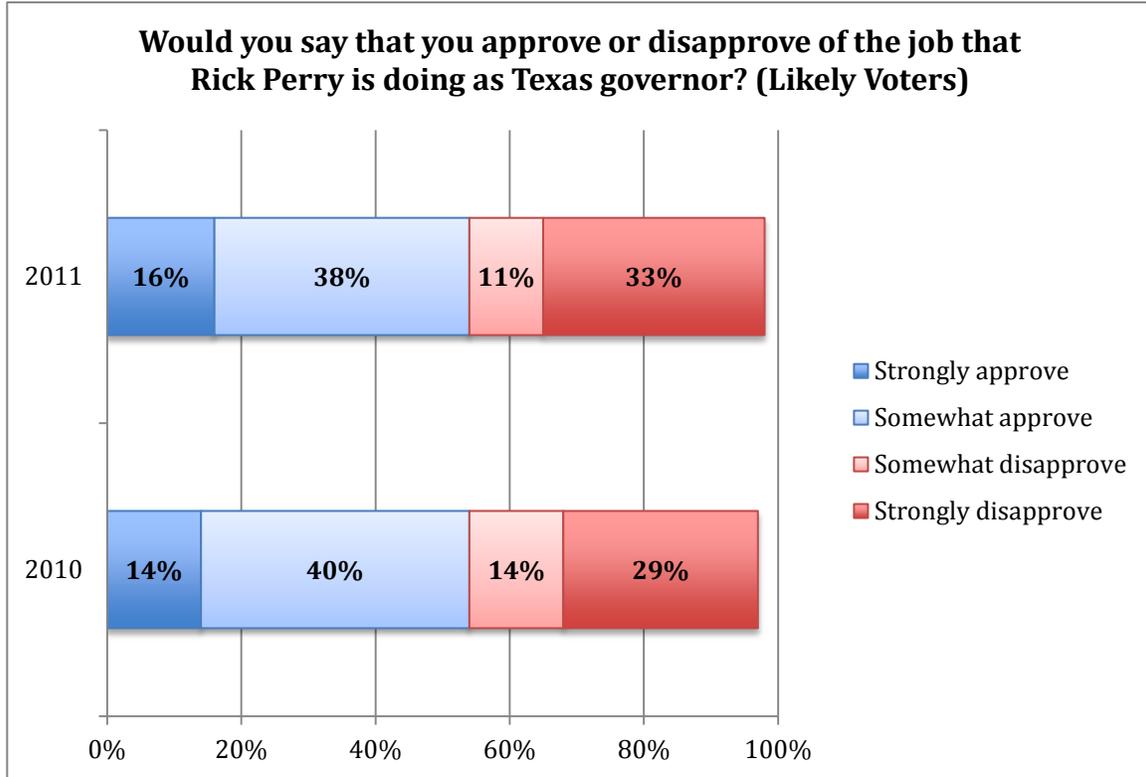


How good a job is President Obama doing on the economy? (Likely Voters)



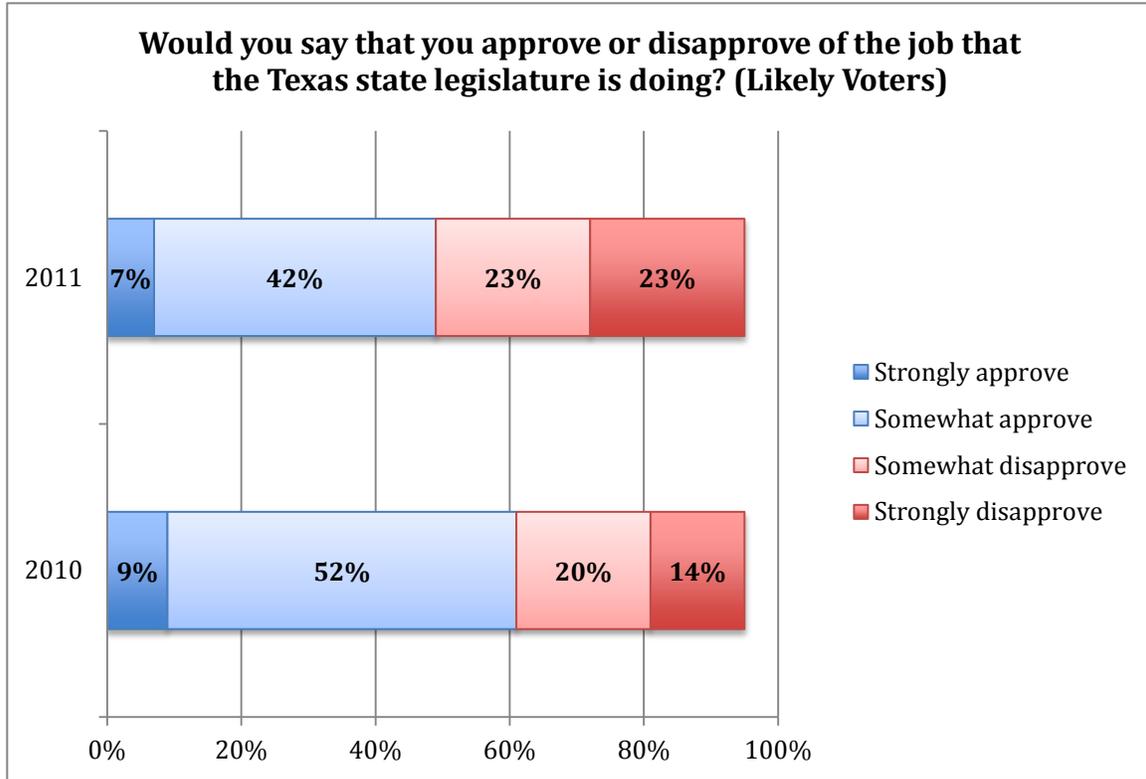
Governor Perry

Among likely voters, 54% approve (16% strongly approve) of the way Rick Perry is handing his job as Governor. These numbers are similar to likely voters' assessments last year (54% approve, 14% strongly approve). Again, those disapproving of Perry's performance as governor are more intense in their assessments, with 33% strongly disapproving.



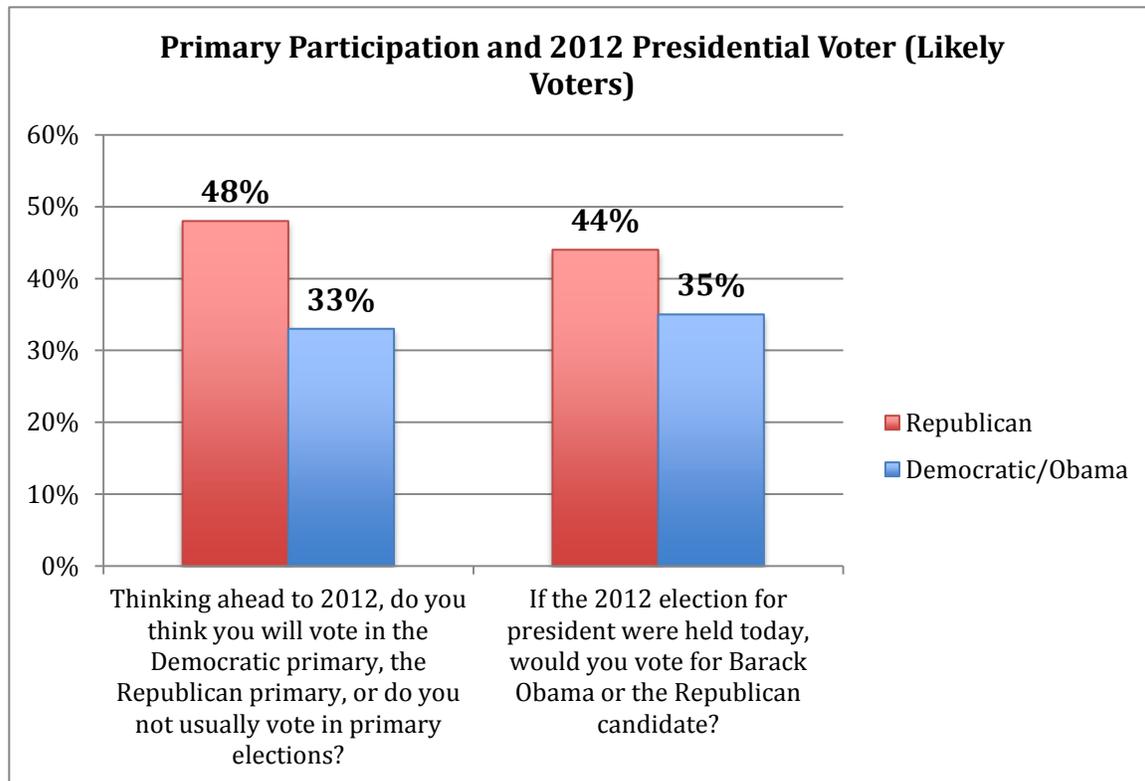
Texas Legislature

At the end of the 2011 legislative session, likely voters are split in their rating of the Texas legislature; 49% of likely voters approve or strongly approve of the job that the state legislature is doing in 2011 while 46% disapprove or strongly disapprove. Approval ratings are down from 61% in 2010 while disapproval is up to 46% in 2011 from 34% in 2010.



2012 Elections

Looking ahead to 2012, 48% of the sample's 310 likely voters intend to vote in the Republican primary while 33% will vote in the Democratic primary. Thinking ahead to the 2012 presidential election, almost 80% have already made up their minds on their candidate of choice: 44% of likely voters plan to vote for the Republican candidate while 35% plan to vote for Barack Obama.



Republican Presidential Primary

Although the Republican primary in Texas appears to be wide open, Mitt Romney and Sarah Palin have a small edge over a pack of contenders. Among the survey's 147 likely Republican primary voters, 22% report that they haven't thought much about the race. Mitt Romney (16%), Sarah Palin (14%), and Texas Congressman Ron Paul (10%) pull down double-digit support with Texas Governor Rick Perry (9%) coming in close behind (although has not officially announced that he is a candidate). Businessman Herman Cain (8%) and Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty (7%) trail closely behind. A slew of others have not yet surpassed the 5% threshold of support – former U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich (4%), former Pennsylvania Governor Rick Santorum (4%), and Minnesota Congresswoman Michelle Bachman (4%). The margin of error for the Republican primary voter sub-sample is +/- 8 percentage points.

Republican U. S. Senate Primary

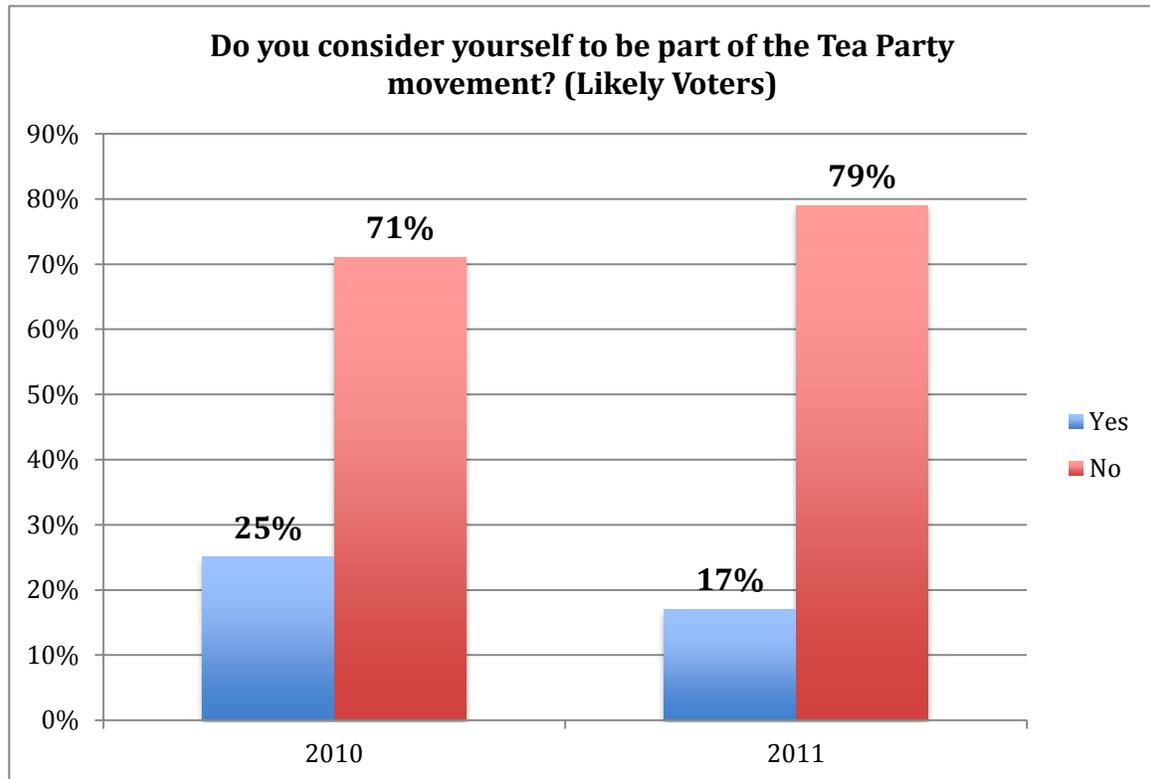
Over 50% of likely voters have not yet thought much about the 2012 Republican Senate contest. David Dewhurst leads the list of possible contenders among those likely voters who have thought about the race with 27% support. No other possible candidate earns double-digit support at this point. Former Texas Secretary of State Roger Williams (4%), former Dallas Mayor Tom Leppert (3%), Congressman Michael McCaul (3%), Texas Railroad Commissioner Elizabeth Ames Jones (2%), and former Solicitor General of Texas Ted Cruz (1%) all garner support under 5%. Again, the margin of error for these estimates is +/- 8 points, reinforcing the observation that the race remains up in the air.

Democratic U. S. Senate Primary

Of the survey's 310 likely voters, 103 stated an intention to vote in the 2012 Democratic primary election. Over 60% of these likely voters indicated that they have not thought much about the election. No clear leaders have emerged from a pack of possible contenders including former Congressman Chris Bell (9%), former Comptroller John Sharp (6%), former Congressman Chet Edwards (6%), retired U.S. Army Lieutenant General Ricardo Sanchez (6%), or former Harris County Commissioner Sylvia Garcia (5%). The margin of error for the Democratic primary voter sub-sample is +/- 9.6 points.

Tea Party

When asked if they consider themselves part of the Tea Party movement, 17% of likely voters consider themselves members of the Tea Party.



Methodology:

From May 24 through May 31, 2011, The Texas Lyceum conducted a statewide telephone survey. The survey utilized a stratified probability sample design, with respondents being randomly selected at the level of the household. On average, respondents completed the interview in 17 minutes. Approximately 5,000 records were drawn to yield 707 completed interviews. The final data set is weighted by race/ethnicity, age and gender to achieve representativeness. The margin of error for the poll is +/- 3.69 percentage points.

Some numbers and analysis were produced with a screen for likely voters. Voters were deemed "likely" if they indicated that they were registered to vote, indicated that they were "somewhat" or "extremely" interested in politics, and indicated that they had voted in "almost every" or "every" election in the last 2-3 years. This screen produced 303 likely voters, 43% of the full sample and 77% of registered voters. The margin of error for the survey of likely voters is +/- 5.63 percentage points.

The Texas Lyceum:

The Texas Lyceum has committed to annual probability samples of the state of Texas to bolster its understanding of public opinion on crucial policy issues. The professional rationale for the Texas Lyceum Poll is straightforward: a non-partisan, high quality, scientific survey designed to provide (1) specific data points on issues of interest, and (2) a time series of key demographics, attitudes, and opinions. Towards this end, the trademark of the Texas Lyceum Poll is transparency. Top-line and detailed cross-tabular results of each poll will be made available on the Texas Lyceum website at **www.texaslyceum.org**.

The Texas Lyceum, now 31 years strong, is a non-profit, non-partisan statewide leadership organization focused on identifying the next generation of Texas leaders. The Texas Lyceum consists of 96 men and women from throughout the state. Directors begin their service while under the age of 46 and have demonstrated leadership in their community and profession, together with a deep commitment to Texas.

The Lyceum has an impressive list of former members who are serving or have served in public office, including: Former President George W. Bush, Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, Governor Rick Perry, State Attorney General Greg Abbott, former Texas Comptroller John Sharp, Texas State Senators Rodney Ellis and Kirk Watson, Texas State Representatives Dawnna Dukes, Jose Menendez, David Farabee, Tommy Merritt, Pete Gallego, Garnet Coleman, Veronica Gonzales and Allen Vaught, Houston Mayor Bill White, Galveston Mayor Joe Jaworski, Texas Supreme Court Justices Don Willett and Dale Wainwright, U.S. District Judge Vanessa Gilmore, former Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings, former Congressman Chris Bell and Congressmen

Pete Olson, Henry Cuellar and Jim Turner. Marc Veasey is a current Lyceum Director serving in the Texas House.

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.

Poll Questions:

How well do you think Barack Obama is handling his job as president? Is he doing a very good job, somewhat good job, somewhat poor job, or very poor job?

| | Likely Voters: |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Very good job. | 23% |
| Somewhat good job. | 28% |
| Somewhat poor job. | 17% |
| Very poor job. | 31% |
| DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA | 0% |

How good a job is President Obama doing on the economy?

| | Likely Voters: |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Very good job. | 15% |
| Somewhat good job. | 31% |
| Somewhat poor job. | 16% |
| Very poor job. | 38% |
| Don't Know / Refused / NA | 1% |

Would you say that you approve or disapprove of the job that Rick Perry is doing as Texas governor? Would that be somewhat or strongly approve/disapprove?

| | Likely Voters: |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Strongly approve. | 16% |
| Somewhat approve. | 38% |
| Somewhat disapprove. | 11% |
| Strongly disapprove. | 33% |
| DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA | 3% |

Would you say that you approve or disapprove of the job that the Texas state legislature is doing? Would that be somewhat or strongly approve/disapprove?

| | Likely Voters: |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Strongly approve. | 7% |
| Somewhat approve. | 42% |
| Somewhat disapprove. | 23% |
| Strongly disapprove. | 23% |
| DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA | 5% |

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

| | Likely Voters: |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Republican primary. | 48% |
| Democratic primary. | 33% |
| Don't usually vote in primaries. | 11% |
| DON'T KNOW/REFUSED | 8% |

If the 2012 Democratic primary for Senate were held today, which of the following possible candidates would you vote for, or haven't you thought much about it (for those respondents indicating that they would vote in the Democratic primary)?*

Likely Voters (n=103):

| | |
|-----|--------------------------------|
| 9% | Chris Bell. |
| 6% | John Sharp. |
| 6% | Chet Edwards. |
| 6% | Ricardo Sanchez. |
| 5% | Sylvia Garcia. |
| 64% | Haven't thought much about it. |

If the 2012 Republican primary for Senate were held today, which of the following possible candidates would you vote for, or haven't you thought much about it (for those respondents indicating that they would vote in the Republican primary)?*

Likely Voters (n=147):

| | |
|-----|--------------------------------|
| 27% | David Dewhurst. |
| 4% | Roger Williams. |
| 3% | Tom Leppert. |
| 3% | Michael McCaul. |
| 2% | Elizabeth Ames Jones. |
| 1% | Ted Cruz. |
| 0% | Michael Williams. |
| 56% | Haven't thought much about it. |

If the 2012 Republican primary for president were held today, which of the following possible candidates would you vote for, or haven't you thought much about it?*

Likely Voters (n=147):

| | |
|-----|--------------------------------|
| 16% | Mitt Romney. |
| 14% | Sarah Palin. |
| 10% | Ron Paul. |
| 9% | Rick Perry. |
| 8% | Herman Cain. |
| 7% | Tim Pawlenty. |
| 4% | Newt Gingrich. |
| 4% | Rick Santorum. |
| 4% | Michelle Bachman. |
| 1% | Mitch Daniels. |
| 0% | Jon Huntsman. |
| 22% | Haven't thought much about it. |

If the 2012 election for president were held today, would you vote for Barack Obama or the Republican candidate, or haven't you thought much about it?

Likely Voters (n=309):

| | |
|-----|--------------------------------|
| 35% | Barack Obama. |
| 44% | Republican candidate. |
| 2% | Another candidate. |
| 17% | Haven't thought much about it. |

Do you consider yourself to be part of the Tea Party movement?

| | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| | Likely Voters: |
| Yes | 17% |
| No | 79% |
| DON'T KNOW/REFUSED | 4% |