

## **2012 Texas Lyceum Poll**

### **Executive Summary of Economic Evaluations, Job Approval, and Trial Ballots**

A September 10-26, 2012 survey of registered voters from the state of Texas reveals that while Lone Star registrants are fairly positive about the state's economy, they remain pessimistic about the national economy and prospects for a full recovery. Job approval and favorability numbers for political figures and groups also suggest a mixed bag. Likely voters are slightly disapproving of President Obama and slightly approving of Governor Perry. Current ballot tests indicate the pro-Republican results of recent elections in Texas may well continue in 2012: Mitt Romney leads Obama by 19 points in the presidential vote among likely voters, while Republican Ted Cruz leads Democrat Paul Sadler by 24 points in the Senate vote. The small silver-lining for Democrats is that voters remain unengaged, with between one-quarter and one-third of the electorate saying that they haven't thought enough about the down-ballot races to have an opinion.

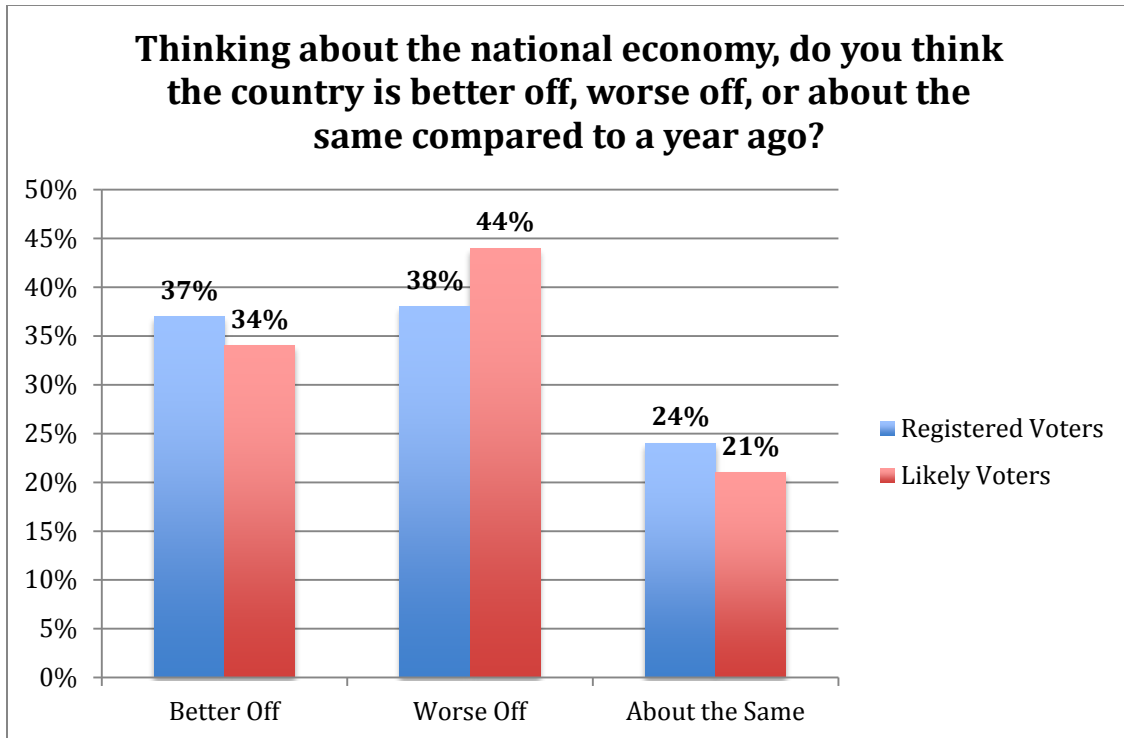
### **Summary of Findings**

#### ***General and Economic Evaluations:***

We asked a series of questions about the respondents' general and economic evaluations in Texas and in the country. Though respondents were positive about the Texas economy, their views of the national economy were very negative while their views of their own personal economic situations were also pessimistic.

Forty-two percent of registered voters believe that the country is moving in the right direction, while 51% believe that we're off on the wrong track. When limiting our analysis to likely voters, only 39% say that we're headed in the right direction while 57% say that we're off on the wrong track.

Compared with one year ago, 37% of registered voters and 34% of likely voters think that the national economy is better off, while 38% and 44% of registered and likely voters respectively think that the economy is worse off. Twenty-four and 21% believe that things have remained the same.

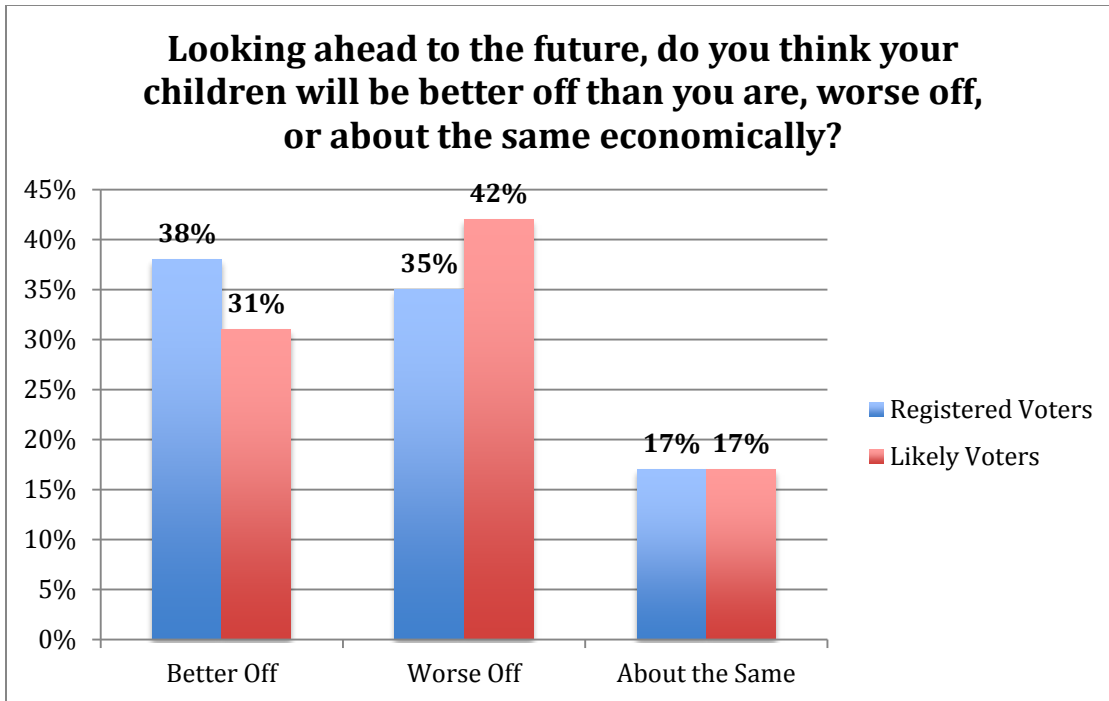


When asked whether they think the worst is over, or the worst is yet to come with respect to the economy, a plurality of likely voters (47%) and registered voters (45%) think that the worst is still yet to come. Smaller proportions of likely voters (36%) and registered voters (40%) think that the worst is over.

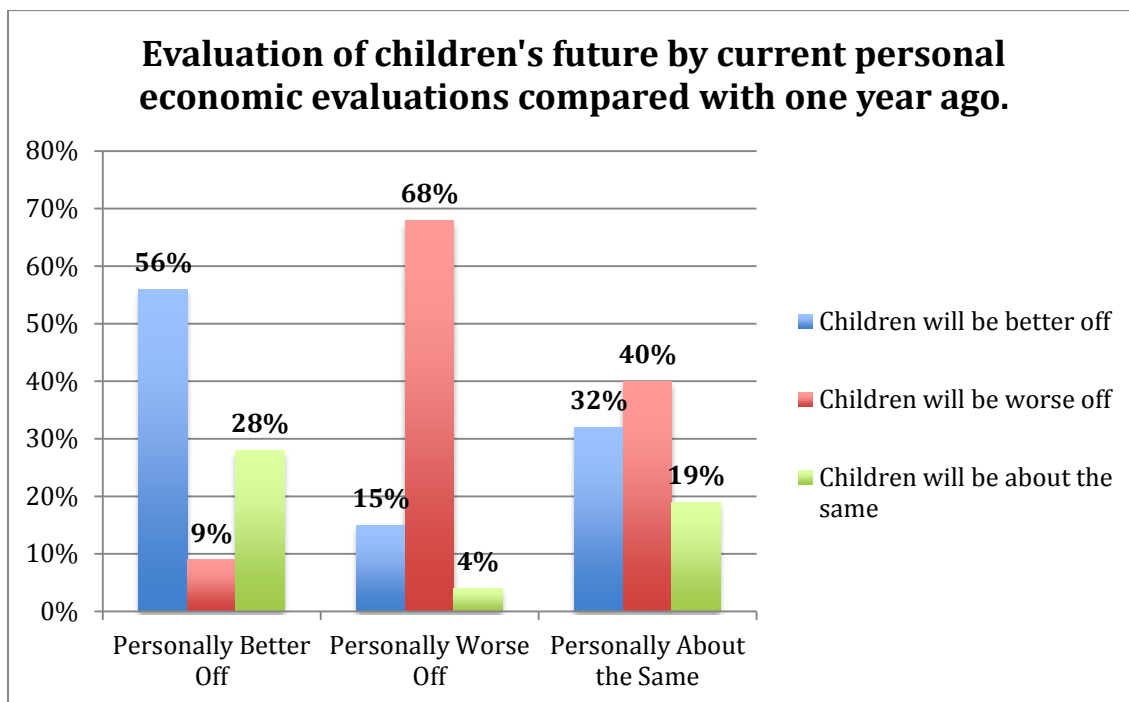
Despite these negative national assessments, when asked to rate the condition of Texas' economy compared to the rest of the country, 70% of registered voters and 72% of likely voters say that Texas is better off. Among registered voters, 7% say Texas is worse off and 22% say that Texas is about the same as the rest of the country, 6% and 21% of likely voters say the same thing.

Turning to personal economic evaluations, we asked respondents whether, compared to one year ago, they were personally better off, personally worse off, or personally about the same economically. Among registered voters, equal proportions said that they were better and worse off than they were a year ago (24%), while 50% said that they were doing about the same. Among likely voters, 22% said they were better off, 30% said they were worse off, and 48% said that they were doing about the same.

When asked whether their children will be better off, worse off, or about the same as they are economically, respondents were equally pessimistic. Only 31% of likely voters (and 38% of registered voters) expressed the opinion that their children will be better off, while 42% (and 35%) indicated that they thought their children would be worse off (17% of both groups said they thought their children's economic situation would be about the same).

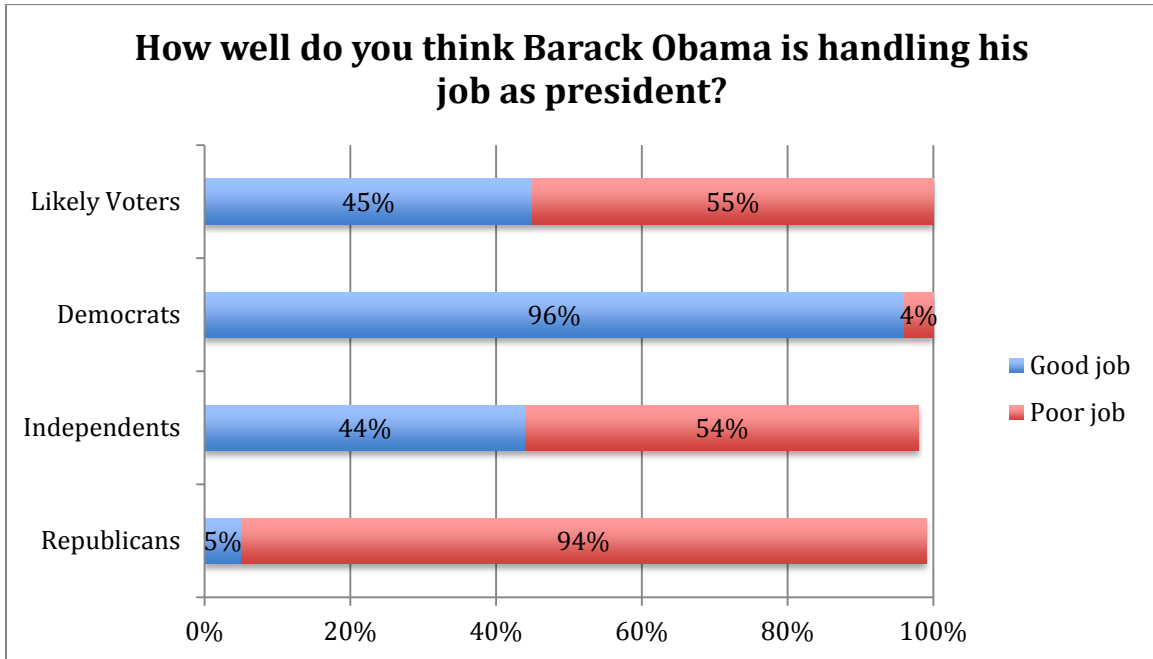


These forward-looking results are clearly reflective of one's own current situation. Focusing on likely voters, those who feel that they're better off than they were a year ago were more likely to think that their children will be better off, those who think that they are worse off than a year ago think that their children will be worse off, and those who think that their situation hasn't changed think that their children will be in the same position.

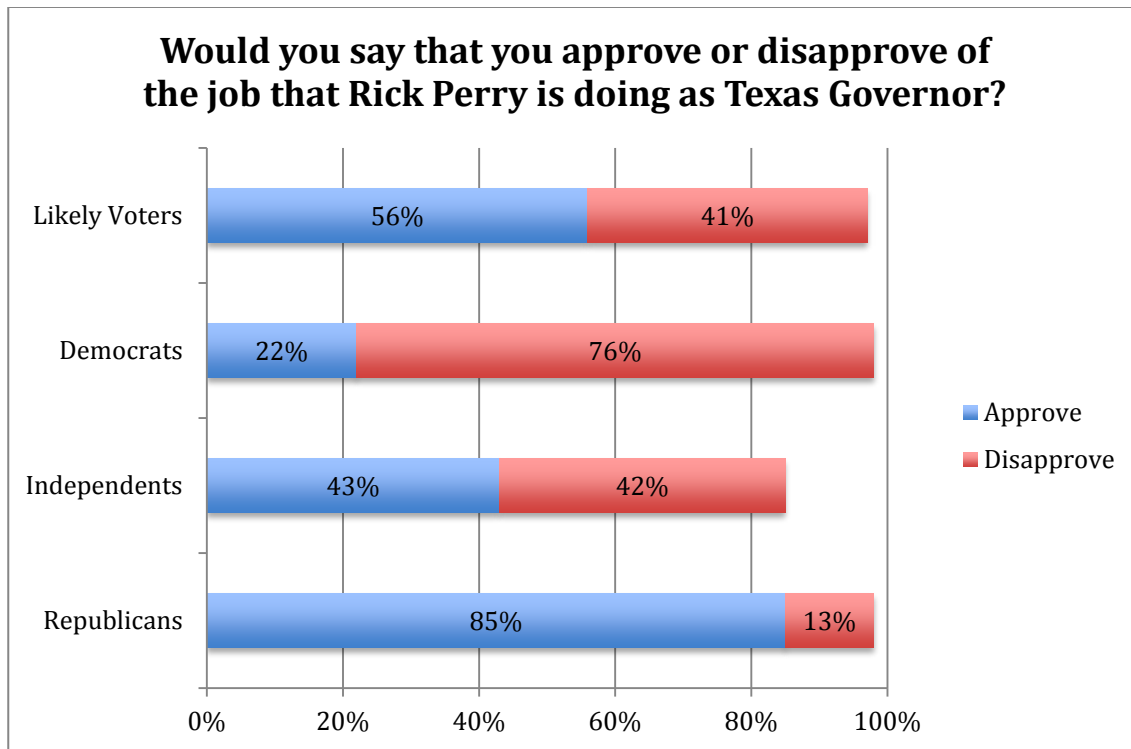


**Job Approval:**

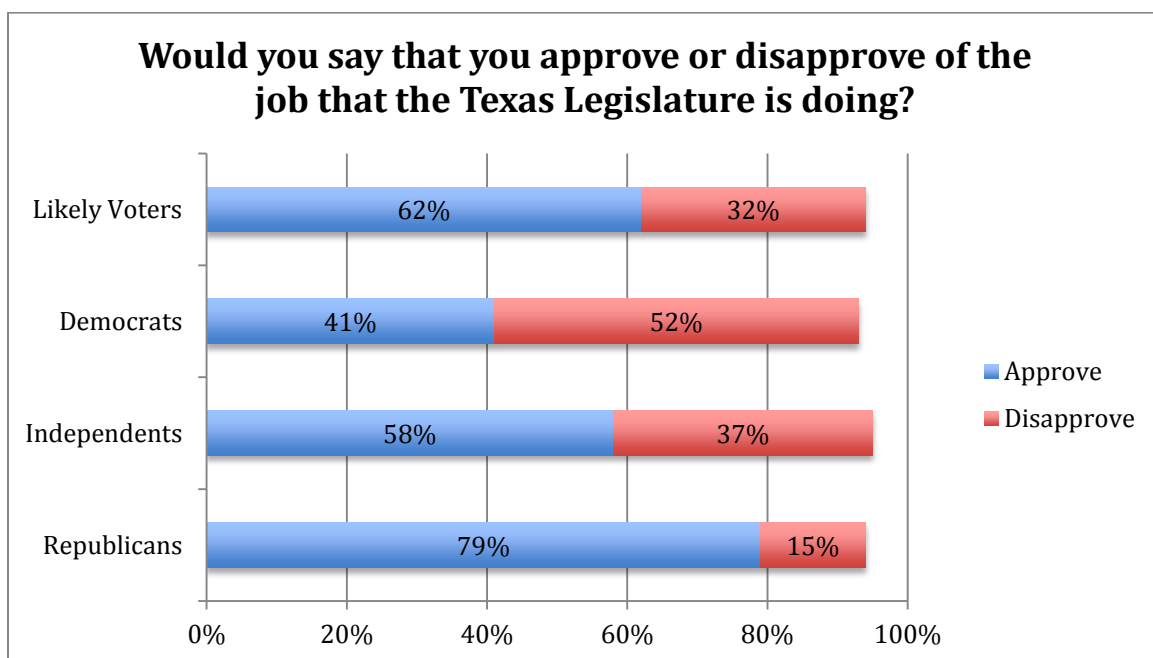
Turning next to approval numbers, 45% of likely voters think President Obama is doing a good job, while 55% think that the president is doing a poor job. On the economy, 44% think he’s doing a good job while 55% think he’s doing a poor job. Not surprisingly, there is a big divergence of opinion by party. While 96% of Democrats approve of the job President Obama has done, only 5% of Republicans share this opinion. Among independents, 45% approve of the President’s job performance compared with 54% who disapprove.



As for Rick Perry, 56% of likely voters strongly or somewhat approve of the job he is doing as governor, while 41% somewhat or strongly disapprove. Rick Perry fares slightly better than Barack Obama when looked at through the lens of partisanship. Twenty-two percent of Democrats approve of the job the governor is doing, and among independents, an almost even 43% approve while 42% disapprove.

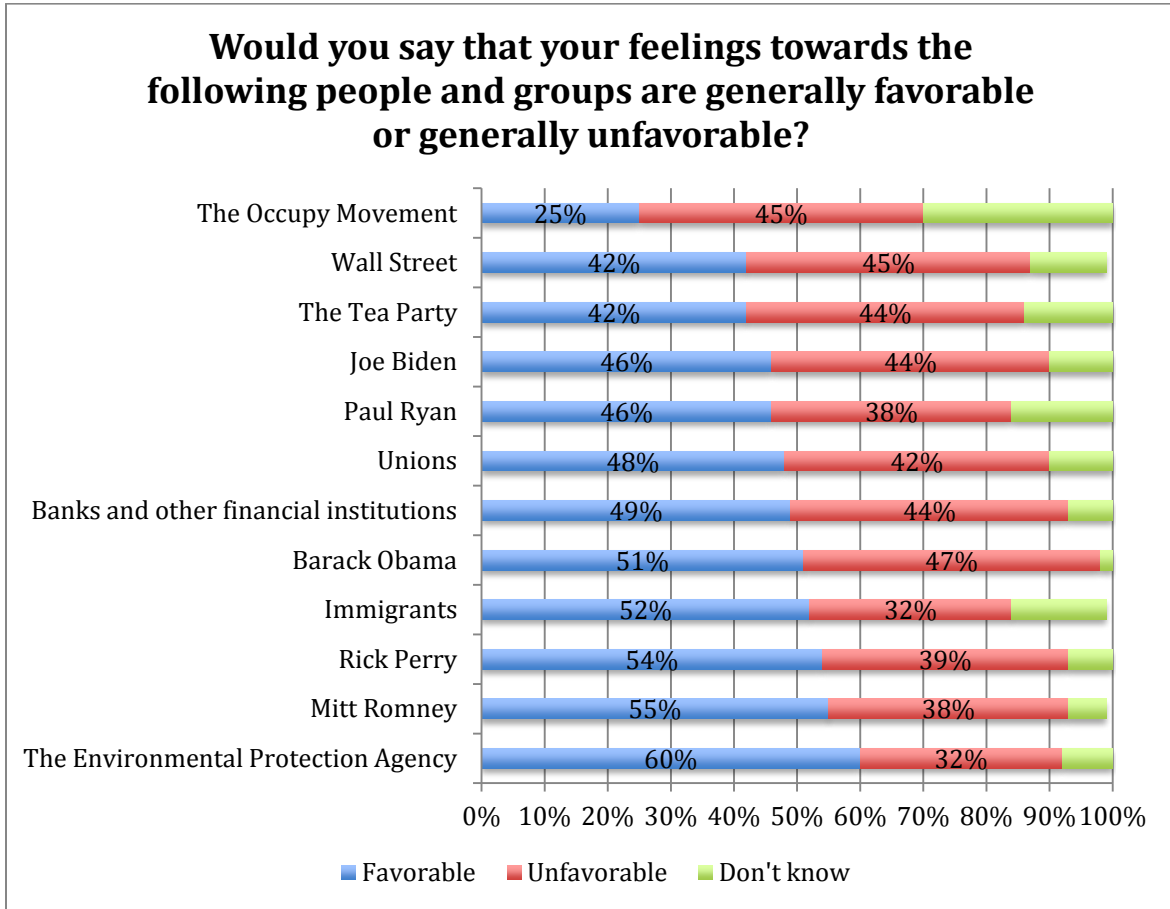


Finally, turning to the Texas Legislature, we found that among likely voters, 62% somewhat or strongly approve of the job that the Texas legislature is doing, compared to only 32% who somewhat or strongly disapprove. The legislature actually fares best in our job approval numbers with approval from 79% of Republicans, 58% of independents, and 41% of Democrats.



**Favorability:**

We asked respondents whether they have favorable or unfavorable opinions towards a large number of political people, groups, and institutions. While The Occupy Movement received the lowest favorability rating (25%), the Environmental protection agency received the highest (60%), followed by Mitt Romney (55%), Rick Perry (44%), immigrants (52%), and finally, the President at (51%).



**Trial Ballots:**

We asked respondents about their vote choices for President, U.S. Senate, U.S. Congress, and the Texas Legislature. Among likely voters, 58% support the Romney-Ryan ticket while 39% support Obama-Biden. In the Senate race, 50% support Ted Cruz while 24% support Paul Sadler, with 26% remaining undecided. When voting for their member of the U.S. Congress, 42% of likely voters say that they will support the Republican candidate, 26% the Democratic candidate, and 29% saying that they have not thought about it enough to make a decision. Similarly, 41% would vote for a Republican candidate for the Texas State House, while 27% would support a Democratic candidate, with an additional 30% having not thought enough about it.

Finally, we asked our respondents whether they would vote for Rick Perry, vote against Rick Perry, or wait to see whom he was running against if he runs for Governor again in 2014. Among likely voters, 53% say that they would have to wait and see, while 30% would vote against him, and only 18% would vote for him.

### **Methodology**

From September 10-26, 2012, The Texas Lyceum conducted a statewide telephone survey of registered voters. The survey utilized a stratified probability sample design, with respondents being randomly selected at the level of the household. The survey also employed a randomized cell phone supplement, with approximately 16% of completed interviews being conducted among cell phone only or cell phone dominant households. A Spanish-language instrument was developed and bilingual interviewers offered respondents a chance to participate in English or Spanish. On average, respondents completed the interview in 19 minutes. Approximately 6,500 records were drawn to yield 1,175 completed interviews. The final data set is weighted by race/ethnicity, age and gender to achieve representativeness as defined by the Texas specifications from the 2010 Current Population Study. The overall margin of error for the poll is +/- 2.83 percentage points.

The ballot questions were asked of a random subset of the overall sample. All told, 666 registrants were asked the ballot question (margin of error = +/- 3.80 percentage points).

Some numbers and analysis—including the ballot items—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. Overall, this screen produced 805 likely voters out of 1,175 registrants, 68.5% of registered voter sample. The overall margin of error for the survey of likely voters is +/- 3.45 percentage points. For the ballot items, 443 respondents out of the 666 were likely voters, creating a margin of error of +/- 4.66 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](http://www.texaslyceum.org)**.

The Texas Lyceum, now 32 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

### GENERAL MOOD AND 2012 ELECTION ITEMS

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?

- |                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Very good job.            | 27% |
| 2. Somewhat good job.        | 26% |
| 3. Somewhat poor job.        | 11% |
| 4. Very poor job.            | 34% |
| 5. DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA | 1%  |

Among Likely Voters (MOE +/- 3.45%):

- |                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Very good job.            | 27% |
| 2. Somewhat good job.        | 18% |
| 3. Somewhat poor job.        | 12% |
| 4. Very poor job.            | 43% |
| 5. DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA | 1%  |

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

- |                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Very good job.            | 20% |
| 2. Somewhat good job.        | 29% |
| 3. Somewhat poor job.        | 12% |
| 4. Very poor job.            | 37% |
| 5. Don't Know / Refused / NA | 2%  |

Among Likely Voters (MOE +/- 3.45%):

- |                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Very good job.            | 20% |
| 2. Somewhat good job.        | 24% |
| 3. Somewhat poor job.        | 9%  |
| 4. Very poor job.            | 46% |
| 5. 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?

- |                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Strongly approve          | 14% |
| 2. Somewhat approve          | 37% |
| 3. Somewhat disapprove       | 16% |
| 4. Strongly disapprove       | 27% |
| 5. DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA | 5%  |

Among Likely Voters (MOE +/- 3.45%):

- |                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| 1. Strongly approve    | 17% |
| 2. Somewhat approve    | 39% |
| 3. Somewhat disapprove | 14% |
| 4. Strongly disapprove | 27% |

5. 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?

1. Strongly approve 9%  
2. Somewhat approve 50%  
3. Somewhat disapprove 17%  
4. Strongly disapprove 14%  
5. DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA 10%

Among Likely Voters (MOE +/- 3.45%):

1. Strongly approve 11%  
2. Somewhat approve 51%  
3. Somewhat disapprove 17%  
4. Strongly disapprove 15%  
5. DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA 6%

**[Respondents were first asked the questions below. If they initially answered that they didn't know, they were then asked a follow-up question: "If you had to make a choice, who would you choose?" Responses to the follow-up questions were collapsed into the results found below.]**

If the 2012 election for president were held today, would you vote for the Democratic ticket of Barack Obama and Joe Biden, the Republican ticket of Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan, or haven't you thought enough about it?

Among Likely Voters (MOE +/- 4.66%):

1. Obama/Biden 39%  
2. Romney/Ryan 58%  
3. Haven't thought enough about it/Don't know 4%

If the election for U.S. Senate were held today, would you vote for the Democratic candidate Paul Sadler, the Republican candidate Ted Cruz, or haven't you thought enough about it?

Among Likely Voters (MOE +/- 4.66%):

1. Paul Sadler 24%  
2. Ted Cruz 50%  
3. Haven't thought enough about it 26%

If the election for representative to the U.S. Congress were held today, would you vote for the Democratic candidate, the Republican candidate, someone else, or haven't you thought enough about it?

Among Likely Voters (MOE +/- 4.66%):

1. Democratic candidate 26%  
2. Republican candidate 42%  
3. Someone else 3%

4. Haven't thought enough about it 29%

And if the election for representative to the Texas State House were held today, would you vote for the Democratic candidate, the Republican candidate, someone else, or haven't you thought enough about it?

Among Likely Voters (MOE +/- 4.66%):

1. Democratic candidate 27%  
 2. Republican candidate 41%  
 3. Someone else 1%  
 4. Haven't thought enough about it 30%

If Rick Perry were to run for governor again in 2014, would you vote for him, would you vote against him, or would you need to wait and see who is running against him?

Among Likely Voters (MOE +/- 4.66%):

1. Vote for Perry 18%  
 2. Vote against Perry 30%  
 3. Wait and see 53%

Would you say that your feelings towards the following people and groups are generally favorable or unfavorable? Would that be extremely or just somewhat favorable/unfavorable?

(MOE Ranges from +/- 3.94% to 4.17%)

	Extremely Favorable	Somewhat Favorable	Somewhat Unfavorable	Extremely Unfavorable	Don't Know
Q17A. The Tea Party	14%	28%	14%	30%	14%
Q17B. The Occupy Movement	8%	17%	14%	31%	30%
Q17C. The Environmental Protection Agency	14%	46%	20%	12%	8%
Q17D. Barack Obama	27%	24%	13%	34%	2%
Q17E. Mitt Romney	21%	34%	15%	23%	6%
Q17F. Paul Ryan	21%	25%	13%	25%	16%
Q17G. Joe Biden	17%	29%	15%	29%	10%
Q17H. Rick Perry	16%	38%	14%	25%	7%
Q17I. Immigrants	14%	38%	20%	12%	15%
Q17J. Unions	21%	27%	20%	22%	10%
Q17K. Banks and other Financial Institutions	8%	41%	29%	15%	7%
Q17L. Wall Street	5%	37%	25%	20%	12%