



THE TEXAS LYCEUM

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2013 Texas Lyceum Poll – Day One ***Texans will vote in favor of Rainy Day Fund*** ***to pay for state’s water crisis***

Texans would:

- Support Proposition 6 – The constitutional amendment on the upcoming November 5th ballot – (49 percent to 36 percent among likely voters) to pay for water infrastructure projects.
- Pay more in taxes to fix and/or expand existing roads, highways and bridges.

Texans believe:

- Texting and driving is the biggest threat to their safety while on the road.
- Teachers need a pay raise from restored education funding.
- The Legislature did the right thing in reducing the number of standardized tests.
- Education is the most important issue facing the state, while the economy is the most important issue facing the nation.
- The Affordable Care Act remains unpopular, but majority of uninsured (57%) surveyed said they will likely sign up for health insurance exchanges.

(AUSTIN) An independent statewide poll conducted by the Texas Lyceum, a non-partisan, nonprofit statewide leadership group, shows Texans support using \$2 billion of the state’s Rainy Day Fund to pay for water infrastructure projects designed to address the water crisis in Texas (49 percent to 36 percent among likely voters).

The Texas Lyceum's 7th annual poll, which was conducted September 6 – 20 among Texas adults, shows that when it comes to transportation infrastructure, an overall majority, 64 percent, say they are willing to pay more in taxes to fix existing roads, highways and bridges. Building additional lanes on highways and roads and adding rail between cities were the second and third most popular ideas to improve the states' transportation infrastructure.

"It seems likely that the public's willingness to spend more on transportation infrastructure is because people can see and judge the quality of roads by the nature of their commute," said Lyceum pollster Professor Daron Shaw. "The state of water infrastructure is less obvious, so long as you can use your tap."

When it comes to driving on Texas roads, a plurality believes that other drivers texting while driving is the biggest threat to their safety – 47 percent believe texting and driving is a threat to safety while 27 percent believe drunk drivers are the greater road danger.

For the past three years in the Texas Lyceum poll, Texans have said that the most important issue facing the nation is the economy. On the state level, Texans believe that education is the most important issue facing the state. In fact, when given a variety of options for how to allocate the education funds restored by the Legislature in 2013, Texans overwhelmingly supported hiring more teachers (24 percent) and increasing their pay (31 percent). When it comes to standardized testing, a plurality of Texans believe the Legislature should have "eliminated standardized tests and left evaluation to local jurisdictions" - an attitude that was reflected in last year's Lyceum Poll.

Although it hasn't been fully implemented, the Affordable Care Act is viewed unfavorably by 41 percent of adult Texans. However, among Texans who don't have health insurance, 57 percent said they would be very or somewhat likely to purchase insurance through insurance exchanges which open today online nationwide.

Regarding Governor Rick Perry's decision not to participate in the provision in the Affordable Care Act that expands Medicaid to low income Texans, a plurality of Texans agree with the governor, 49

percent, compared with 41 percent who want Medicaid expanded. However, the support is clearly split among partisan lines with 72 percent of Republicans against Medicaid expansion while 62 percent of Democrats favor expansion.

The University of Texas Professor Daron Shaw, PhD (Texas Lyceum Class of 2003) conducted the poll of 1,000 Texas adults which has a margin of error of + /- 3.1 percentage points. Dr. Shaw and his assistant, University of Texas PhD candidate Joshua Blank, used the latest in polling techniques, contacting respondents both by landline as well as cell phones with the use of English and Spanish language instrumentation.

“For the past seven years the Texas Lyceum has brought an independent and transparent poll as a public service to Texans” said 2013 Texas Lyceum President Collin Cox. “We want to thank Professor Shaw and his team for volunteering their time and expertise to this effort and all the other Lyceum Directors across the state who also volunteer their leadership skills and give back to Texas.”

About the Texas Lyceum

The Texas Lyceum, a nonprofit, non-partisan group is the 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. For more information, please visit www.texaslyceum.org.

Texas Lyceum is on Facebook
at <https://www.facebook.com/texaslyceum> and on Twitter
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TEXAS LYCEUM POLL

Texas Statewide Survey

CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENT

N=1,000 ADULTS

MOE=+/-3.1 PERCENTAGE POINTS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

CELL PHONE SUPPLEMENT

BILINGUAL INSTRUMENT/INTERVIEWERS

September 6-20, 2013

Q4. What do you think is the most important issue facing the country today?

1. <i>The economy</i>	25%
2. Syria	11
3. <i>Unemployment/jobs</i>	10
4. Health care	9
5. Political corruption/leadership	6
6. Education	4
7. <i>Federal spending/budget deficit</i>	4
8. National security/terrorism	3
9. Immigration	3
10. <i>National debt</i>	1
11. Moral decline	1
12. <i>Taxes</i>	1
13. <i>Gas prices</i>	1
14. Social welfare programs	1
15. Abortion	1
16. Foreign trade	1
17. Middle East unrest	1
18. Gun violence/gun control	1
19. Border security	0
20. Energy	0
21. Gay marriage	0
22. Environment	0
23. The media	0
24. Crime and drugs	0
25. Afghanistan/Pakistan	0
26. <i>Housing</i>	0
27. Iraq	0
28. Federal courts/nominees	0
29. Voting system	0
30. Iran/nuclear weapons	0
31. Polarization/Gridlock/Partisanship	0
32. Other	15

Q5. What do you think is the most important issue facing the state of Texas today?

1. Education	13%
2. Immigration	11
3. <i>The economy</i>	11
4. <i>Unemployment/jobs</i>	9
5. Health care	7
6. Political corruption/leadership	5
7. Border security	3
8. <i>Gas prices</i>	2
9. <i>State government spending (i.e. too much spending)</i>	2
10. Water supply	2
11. Gun violence/gun control	2
12. <i>Taxes</i>	2
13. Moral decline	1
14. Transportation/roads/traffic	1
15. Abortion	1
16. Voting system	1
17. Insurance rates	1
18. Gay marriage	1
19. Crime and drugs	1
20. <i>State government spending cuts</i>	0
21. Social welfare programs	0
22. Energy	0
23. Environment	0
24. <i>Housing</i>	0
25. State courts	0
26. The media	0
27. State budget deficit/budget shortfall	0
28. Utility rates	0
29. Other	26

SECTION III:
ISSUES & POLICY

TRANSPORTATION

Q20. Would you say that you are satisfied with the quality of roads and highways in Texas, unsatisfied, or are you in between? Would that be very or just somewhat satisfied/unsatisfied?

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Very satisfied | 26% |
| 2. Somewhat satisfied | 26 |
| 3. Neither satisfied nor unsatisfied | 33 |
| 4. Somewhat unsatisfied | 7 |
| 5. Very unsatisfied | 7 |
| 6. Don't know/REF | 1 |

Q21. Please tell us how willing you would be to pay more in taxes or fees on each of the following ideas. Would you be very willing, somewhat willing, somewhat UN-willing, very UN-willing, or haven't you thought enough about it? **[RANDOMIZE Q21A-Q21E]**

	Very willing	Somewhat willing	Somewhat UN-willing	Very UN-willing	Haven't thought about it enough	Don't know / NA
Q21A. Build new roads and highways	20%	32%	13%	16%	17%	2%
Q21B. Add lanes to highways and roads	22%	35%	10%	14%	18%	1%
Q21C. Repair and improve existing roads, highways, and bridges	32%	32%	8%	12%	15%	1%
Q21D. Add more bus routes and increase service	21%	27%	13%	16%	16%	4%
Q21E. Build light rail or commuter rail lines between cities	24%	29%	11%	16%	16%	4%

Q22. Which of the following do you consider the biggest threat to your safety while driving?
[RANDOMIZE]

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Other drivers texting | 42% |
| 2. Drunk drivers | 27 |
| 3. Traffic congestion | 10 |
| 4. Younger drivers | 8 |
| 5. Commercial trucks and trailers | 8 |
| 6. Quality of roads and highways | 2 |
| 7. Older drivers | 2 |
| 8. Bicyclists | 1 |

K-12 EDUCATION

Now we'd like to know what you think about education and education policy in Texas. Thinking about Kindergarten through 12th grade...

Q23. Who is most responsible for ensuring that our children are educated?

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| 1. Individual families | 53% |
| 2. Local government | 13 |
| 3. State government | 18 |
| 4. National government | 12 |
| 5. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA | 4 |

Q24. As you may know, in 2013 the Texas Legislature [**PRON: LEDGE-A-SLATE-CHER**] restored some of the cuts made to public education in 2011. Which of the following should be the top priority when allocating the restored funds?

[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Increased pay for teachers | 31% |
| 2. Hiring additional teachers | 24 |
| 3. Investment in computers and high tech equipment | 16 |
| 4. Construction of new schools | 7 |
| 5. Additional instruction in music and art | 5 |
| 6. Additional investment in physical education classes and sports | 4 |
| 7. Increased pay for school staff | 4 |
| 8. Increased pay for district administrators | 0 |
| 9. Don't know/NA [DON'T READ] | 8 |

Q25. In 2013 the Texas Legislature reduced the number of standardized tests that students would be required to take over the course of their primary education from fifteen to five. Which of the following is closest to your opinion?

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. The legislature should have left it alone; standards matter and 15 tests was fine | 14% |
| 2. The legislature did the right thing; standards are fine but 15 was too many | 17 |
| 3. The legislature should have eliminated these tests because they force the schools to "teach to the test" | 25 |
| 4. The legislature should have eliminated these tests and left evaluation to local jurisdictions | 31 |
| 5. Don't know/No opinion | 13 |

Q26. Do you currently have children in the Texas public school system?

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 1. Yes | 40% |
| 2. No | 60 |

WATER POLICY

Q28. As you may know, this year, the Texas Legislature [**PRON: LEDGE-A-SLATE-CHER**] decided to take approximately \$2 billion dollars out of the state's Rainy Day Fund - a fund containing more than \$12 billion that the state has set aside for emergency uses - to help start water infrastructure projects around the state. But taking this money out of the Rainy Day Fund requires the approval of voters in November's constitutional amendment election.

If you plan to vote in that election, will you be in favor of withdrawing the funds, or opposed to withdrawing the funds?

Among registered voters (n=798, MOE is +/-3.47%)

1. In favor	44%
2. Opposed	42
3. Not voting	1
4. DON'T KNOW / REFUSED	13

Among Likely Voters – those registered to vote and who indicated that they are “Extremely interested” in politics and public affairs (n=611, MOE is +/- 3.96%)

1. In favor	49%
2. Opposed	36
3. Not voting	0
4. DON'T KNOW / REFUSED	15

Q30. Please tell us whether you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, neither favorable nor unfavorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable opinion of the Affordable Care Act.

1. Very favorable	14%
2. Somewhat favorable	22
3. Neither favorable nor unfavorable	6
4. Somewhat unfavorable	12
5. Very unfavorable	29
6. Don't know/No opinion	18

Q31. What type of health insurance do you currently have?

1. Employer provided	43%
2. Individually pay for it	13
3. Enrolled in a government health insurance program (for example, Medicare or Medicaid)	23
4. Do not currently have health insurance	18
5. Don't know/Refused	3

Q32 As you may know, the Affordable Care Act offers states the opportunity to expand Medicaid to provide health insurance to more low-income uninsured adults. The federal government would subsidize this expansion initially, after which Texas taxpayers would have to pay for the expanded coverage. What do you think Texas should do?

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| 1. Keep Medicaid as is | 49% |
| 2. Expand Medicaid | 41 |
| 3. Don't know/No opinion | 9 |

Q33. **[ASK IF Q31 EQ 4]** As you may know, the federal government is currently setting up a health insurance exchange in Texas where people can go to buy health insurance from a number of providers. How likely are you to purchase insurance in this exchange?

(n=181, MOE is +/-7.28%)

- | | |
|----------------------|-----|
| 1. Very likely | 17% |
| 2. Somewhat likely | 40 |
| 3. Not very likely | 14 |
| 4. Not at all likely | 22 |
| 5. Don't know | 7 |

