

2014 Texas Lyceum Poll

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

*We're anxious about the (national) economy, we like our leaders,
and we weren't aware there is another election just around the corner*

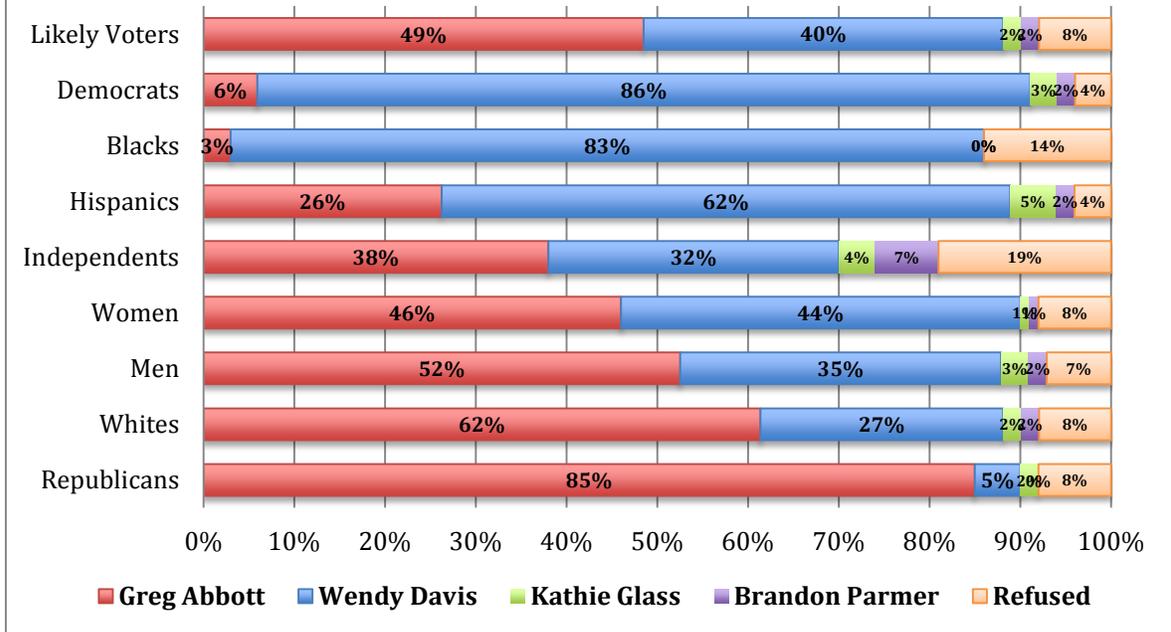
A September 11-25, 2014 survey of 1,000 adults shows Texas Republicans leading in all three statewide trial ballots for Texas governor, lieutenant governor, and U.S. Senator, but Democratic gubernatorial candidate Wendy Davis is running slightly ahead of her down ballot ticket-mates. Turning to our current Governor, Texans are reserving judgment on Governor Rick Perry's recent indictment, but express almost uniformly that the charges brought were "political" in nature. Meanwhile, the survey shows Texans remaining positive about the Texas economy while still viewing the nation's overall economy poorly.

Summary of Findings

2014 Elections

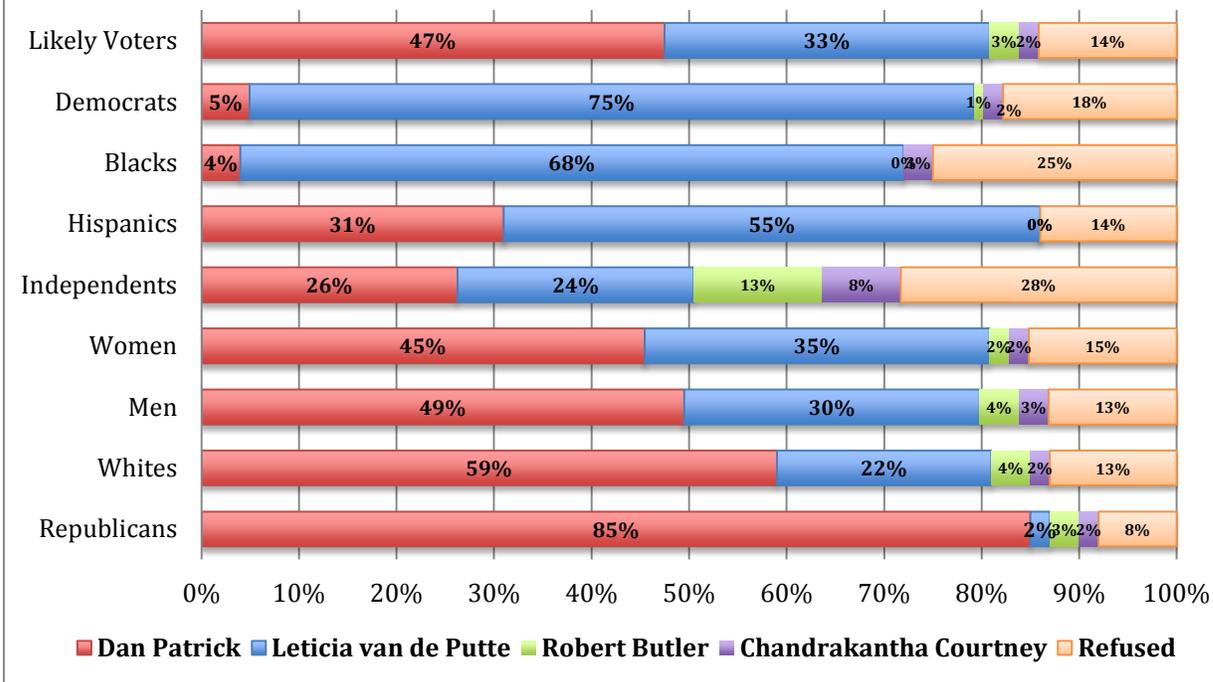
With the first open-seat governor's race since 1990, the 2014 Texas elections are drawing both statewide and national attention. Among likely voters (666 respondents, margin of error +/-3.8%), the Republican, Attorney General Greg Abbott, leads the Democrat, State Senator Wendy Davis, by 9 points, 49 percent to 40 percent. Davis holds the lead among Democrats (86 percent to 6 percent), blacks (83 percent to 3 percent), and Hispanics (62 percent to 26 percent). Abbott leads among independents (38 percent to 32 percent), women (46 percent to 44 percent), men (52 percent to 35 percent), whites (62 percent to 27 percent), and Republicans (85 percent to 5 percent).

2014 Gubernatorial Trial Ballot (Among Likely Voters)



In the race for Lieutenant Governor, Republican State Senator Dan Patrick leads Democratic State Senator Leticia van de Putte by 14 points, 47 percent to 33 percent. Van de Putte leads Patrick among Democrats (75 percent to 5 percent), blacks (68 percent to 4 percent), and Hispanics (55 percent to 31 percent). Patrick leads van de Putte among independents (26 percent to 24 percent), women (45 percent to 35 percent), men (49 percent to 30 percent), whites (59 percent to 22 percent), and Republicans (85 percent to 2 percent).

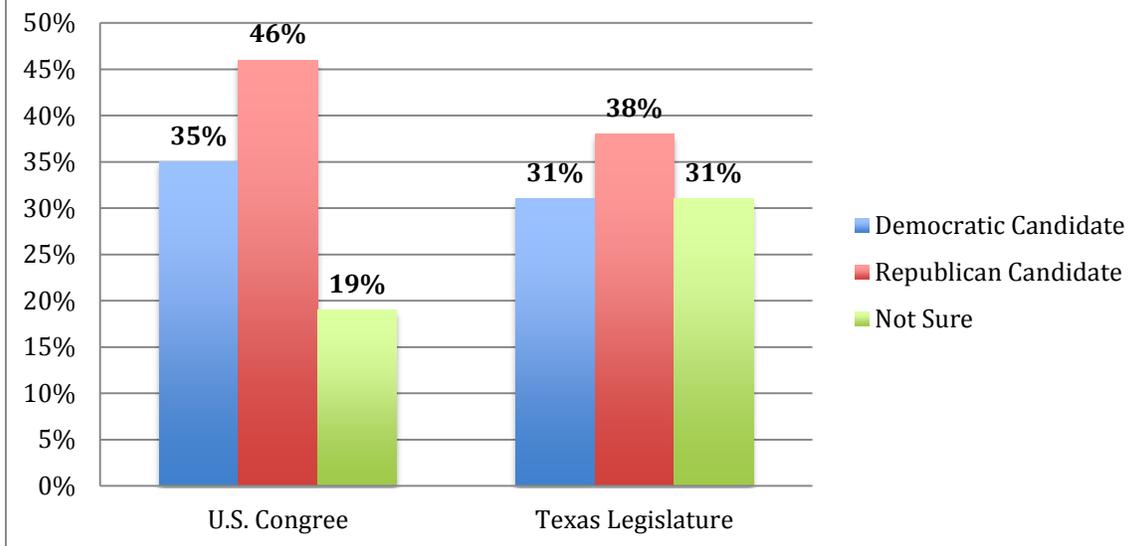
2014 Lieutenant Governor Trial Ballot (Among Likely Voters)



In the race for U.S. Senate, incumbent Republican John Cornyn leads Democratic challenger David Alameel by 18 points, 49 percent to 30 percent.

In the races for U.S. Congress and the Texas Legislature, our generic ballots show the Republican candidate leading the Democratic candidate in both races. For U.S. Congress, the Republican candidate outpaces the Democratic one 46 percent to 35 percent, and in the race for the Texas Legislature, the Republican candidate garners 38 percent of the vote compared with 31 percent for the Democratic candidate.

2014 Trial Ballots for U.S. Congress and Texas Legislature

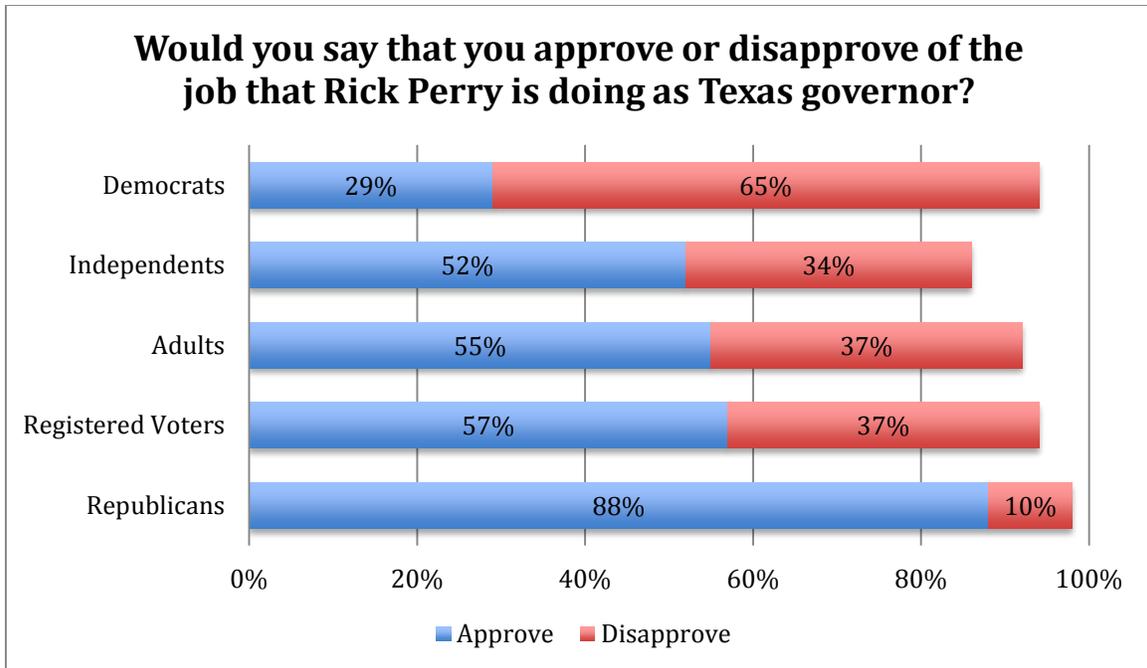


In addition to these important races to elect the state's new leadership, there is also an important constitutional amendment election taking place in 2014 that would transfer money from the state's Rainy Day Fund to the state's highway fund. According to the results found in this survey, this measure should pass with relative ease. Among likely voters, 74 percent said that they would support the measure compared with only 17 percent who said that they are in opposition.

Finally, the Tea Party remains a force in Texas politics, as we found when we asked respondents who they would vote for in a hypothetical three-way matchup for Congress between a Republican candidate, a Democratic candidate, and a Tea Party candidate. We found that among likely voters, 27 percent would vote for the Republican candidate, while 20 percent would vote for the Tea Party candidate – a likely indication that the Tea Party will continue to hold sway going into the 84th Legislature.

Rick Perry

Turning from the 2014 elections to our longest serving governor, Rick Perry will be exiting office with his job approval numbers exhibiting a stasis that has come to define the latter portion of his governorship. In the 2013 Texas Lyceum Poll, 55 percent of adults, and 56 percent of registered voters approved of the job Rick Perry was doing as Texas governor. In 2014, those numbers remain essentially unchanged: among all adults, 55 percent approve of the job that the governor is doing while among registered voters, 57 percent approve. Also in 2014, Republicans overwhelmingly approve of the governor's job performance (88 percent), while Democrats less overwhelmingly disapprove (65 percent).

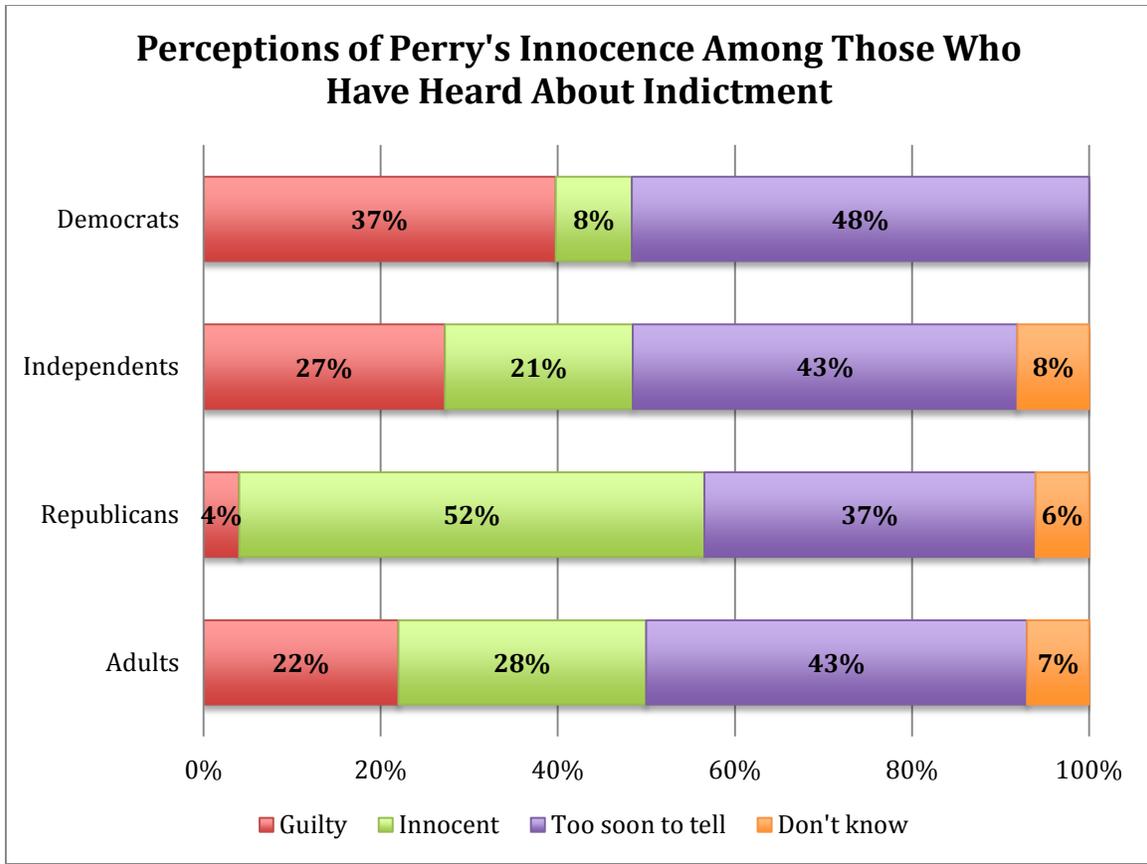


Rick Perry has been in the news a lot lately, both for his decision to order a surge of National Guard troops to the southern border, but also for his being indicted by a Travis County grand jury over his threat to veto funds for the public integrity unit unless District Attorney Rosemary Lehmberg resigned.¹ To ascertain the degree to which Perry’s indictment has entered the public consciousness, we asked respondents how much they had heard about Perry’s indictment. Among all Texans, 24 percent said that they had heard “a lot,” 39 percent said that they had heard “some,” 20 percent said that they hadn’t heard very much, and 17 percent had heard “nothing at all” about Gov. Perry’s indictment.

Among the 65 percent of Texans who said that they had heard a lot or some about the indictment, we asked if, based on what they had heard, they thought Gov. Perry was guilty of the crimes that he’s been accused of committing, innocent, or whether it’s too soon to tell. Overall, 22 percent think that the governor is guilty, 28 percent think that he’s innocent, and 43 percent think that it’s too soon to tell.

Democrats are split on the question of Perry’s innocence or guilt. Thirty-seven percent of Texas Democrats think that Perry is guilty, while 48 percent think it’s too soon to tell. Among Republicans, 52 percent believe that the governor is innocent, while 37 percent think that it’s too soon to tell.

¹ Lehmberg was arrested in the Spring of 2013 for driving while intoxicated.



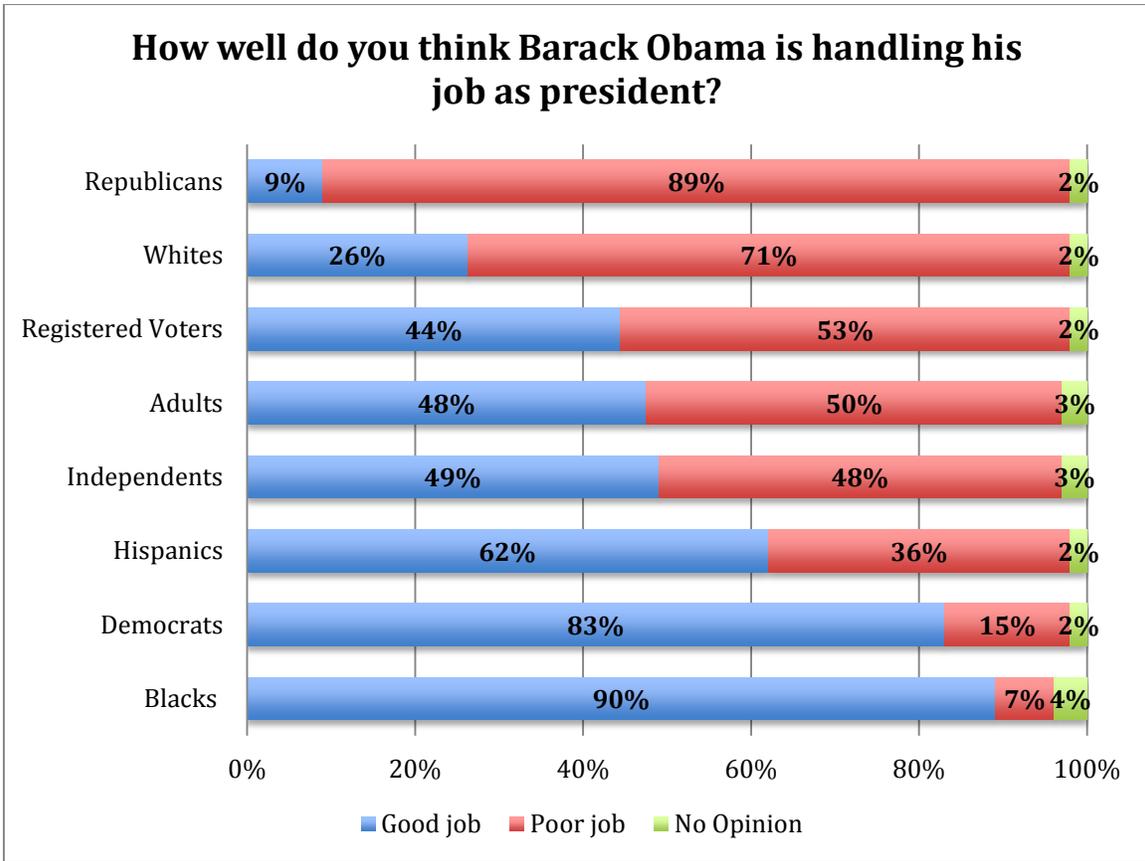
Much of Perry’s public defense against the charges have centered on the contention that the charges against him are purely political. Again, among those respondents who had heard some or a lot about the indictment, we directly asked them, “*Would you say that the charges against Governor Perry are mostly political or are they legitimate criminal charges?*” It turns out that most Texans agree with Perry’s contention—72 percent to be exact. Only 28 percent of Texans who have heard about the indictment think that they are legitimate political charges. This contention seems to hold across party lines, where a majority of Democrats (53 percent), independents (64 percent), and Republicans (94 percent) believe that the charges are political in nature.

President Obama

President Obama has long been a lightning rod here in Texas, and has consistently been an object of scorn among Republican politicians in the Lone Star State. Overall, Obama’s job approval numbers are rather tepid: among Texas adults, 48 percent approve while 50 percent disapprove, similar to the 44 percent of registered voters who approve along with the 53 percent who disapprove.

Least approving among Texas voters are self-identified Republicans, 89 percent of whom disapprove of the job that the president is doing. On the other side, black Texans overwhelmingly approve of the president (90 percent), followed closely by Texas Democrats, 83 percent of whom approve of the president’s job performance.

Hispanics, many of whom have voiced frustration with the president’s handling of border and immigration issues, still give him favorable marks: 62 percent approve while 36 percent disapprove.



General and Economic Evaluations

We asked a series of questions about the respondents’ general and economic evaluations of Texas and the country. Consistent with recent years, Texans rate the state’s economy as better off than that of the nation’s economy.

Twenty-seven percent of adult Texans believe that the country is headed in the right direction, compared with 60 percent who believe we are off on the wrong track, similar to 2013, in which 30 percent thought that the country was headed in the right direction and 59 percent thought that we were off on the wrong track.

Looking specifically to the economy, 32 percent of Texans expressed the opinion that the national economy is better off compared with a year ago, while 34 percent said that it was worse off, a slight uptick from last year when 29 percent said that it was worse off. Thirty percent said that it was about the same.

Similar to previous Texas Lyceum Polls, Texans remain optimistic about the state their state’s economy compared to the nations’. When asked whether Texas’ economy is better off, worse off, or about the same as the rest of the country, 61 percent of respondents expressed the opinion that Texas’ economy is the better off,

compared with only 10 percent who thought Texas was worse off, and the remaining 23 percent who said that it was about the same.

Methodology

From September 11-25, 2014, The Texas Lyceum conducted a statewide telephone survey of adult citizens. 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 43 percent 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 18 minutes. Approximately 6,700 records were drawn to yield 1,000 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 +/- 3.1 percentage points.

The general election ballot questions were asked of the survey's 827 registered voters (margin of error is +/- 3.41 percentage points), and results are presented for the survey's 666 likely voters (margin of error is +/- 3.80 percentage points). Likely voters are determined by a model of turnout based on self-reported turnout intention, political interest, age, race/ethnicity, and strength of partisanship. This model was estimated using validated vote data from the American National Election Studies, and its parameters are used here to model turnout probability for individual respondents.

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 34 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 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.