



The Texas Lyceum

The Texas Lyceum Poll

June 26, 2008 - Economic & National Issues

Plus 2008 election match ups

Summary of Findings

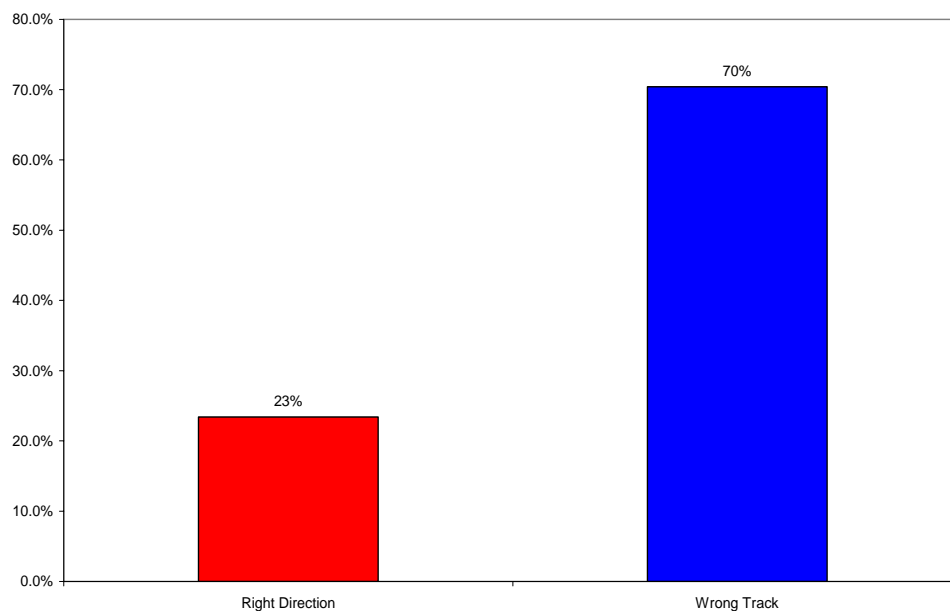
The second in the ongoing series of Texas Lyceum Polls finds Texans concerned about the direction of the country and holding their favorite in this year's presidential race to a single-digit margin.

They're in a sour mood about the political environment, but tend to be more optimistic about their own and their children's economic status and prospects.

The Political Environment

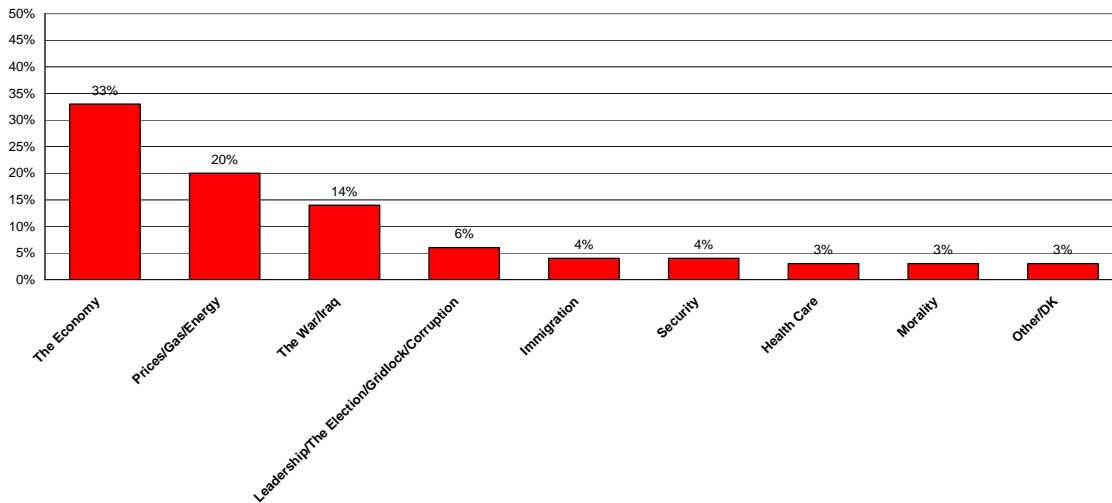
Texans overwhelmingly believe the country is on the wrong track, with 70% in that column and only 23% saying "things are moving in the right direction." That's a change from a year ago, when 62% thought the country was on the wrong track.

2008 Texas Lyceum Poll - Is the USA Moving in the Right Direction, or on the Wrong Track?



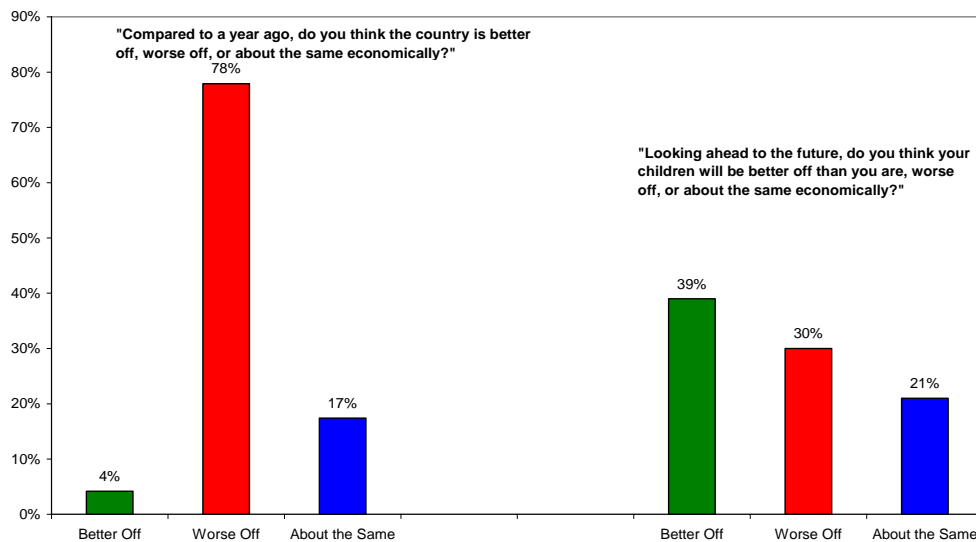
The economy is the most important issue facing the country, with 33% putting that at the top of the list. Next came gas and oil, 20%; Iraq and The War, 14%; then leadership, politics and gridlock, 6%; security, 4%; and immigration, 4%. A year ago, Iraq and The War led, at 39%, followed by immigration, 10%; the economy and employment, 6%; politics, leadership and government, 6%; and lack of values and morals, 4%.

**2008 Texas Lyceum Poll -
Most Important Problem Facing the Nation**



Asked about the economic environment, 78% said the country is worse off than it was a year ago, while 17% said things are about the same. This is also a change from last year when 35% of respondents said the country was worse off and 43% said things were about the same. Respondents this year were less gloomy when asked about their own personal economic situation, with 42% saying they're in about the same shape as they were a year ago, 35% saying their situation is worse now, and 22% saying their economic condition has improved over the last 12 months. And they were more optimistic still when asked whether they think their children will do better or worse economically: 39% said better off, 30% said worse off, and 21% think their children will do about the same as they have done.

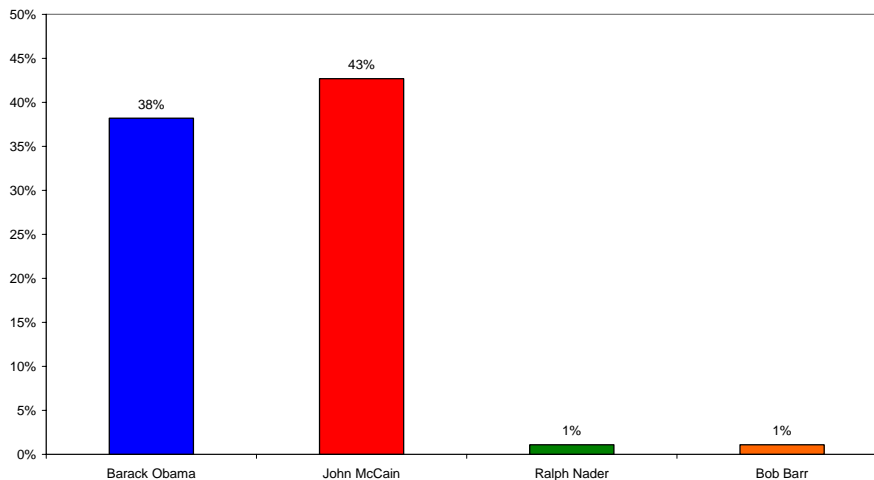
**2008 Texas Lyceum Poll -
Is the Country's Economy Better or Worse Off Than Last Year? Will Your
Children's Economy be Better or Worse Off Than Today?**



The 2008 Presidential and U.S. Senate Races

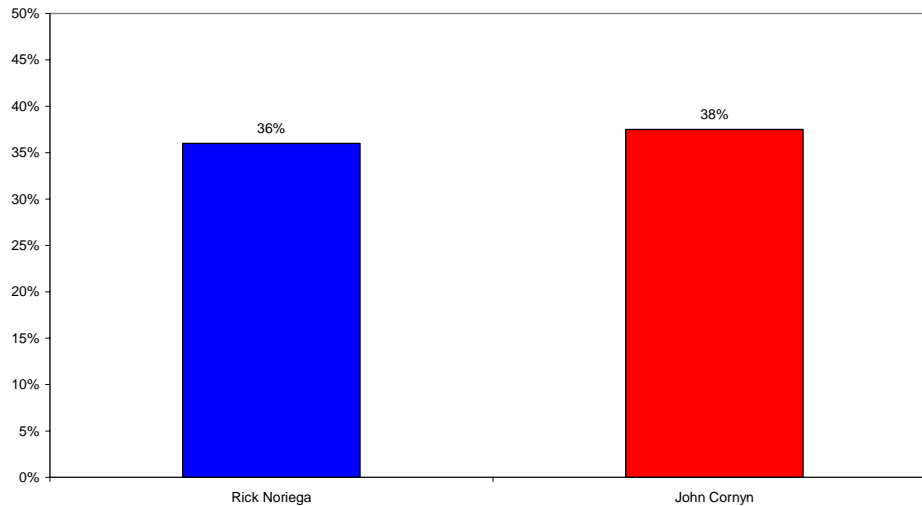
Republican John McCain would beat Democrat Barack Obama in Texas if the race were held now. But a significant number of Texans said they haven't picked a favorite yet. Among likely voters, McCain had the support of 43% of those polled to 38% for Obama. Libertarian Bob Barr and independent Ralph Nader had about 1% each. One of every six voters — 17% — said they haven't decided who will get their vote in November.

**2008 Texas Lyceum Poll -
2008 Presidential Election Preferences
(among likely voters)**



Freshman U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, a Republican, leads Democratic challenger Rick Noriega in the poll, but the margin is slim and a large number of voters haven't made up their minds. Cornyn had the support of 38% of the likely voters in the survey, to Noriega's 36%, with 24% saying they're not committed to either candidate.

**2008 Texas Lyceum Poll -
2008 Senate Election Preferences**
(among likely voters)



General Information

We interviewed Texas adults during the June 12-20 period, talking to 1,000 adults, half of them male, half of them female. Eight out of ten said they are registered to vote.

The highly contested presidential contest apparently has Texans more tuned into politics than they were a year ago. Half identify themselves as voters in "every" or "almost every" election, and 85% consider themselves "extremely interested" or "somewhat interested" in politics and public affairs.

The respondents come from a variety of places, 42% suburban, 28% urban, and 27% rural. Most — 59% — are married, and 43% have one or more college degrees. Most — 54% — identify themselves as White; 32% as Hispanic; and 11% as African-American. The party splits are 32% Republican and 44% Democrat — but the ideological splits go the other way, with 42% calling themselves

conservative, 34% saying they are moderate, and 19% identifying themselves as liberals.

Methodology

The 2008 Texas Lyceum Poll is a telephone-based multi-stage cluster sample of Texas adults. Telephone coverage within the state of Texas is approximately 97%. Randomized selection procedures were assiduously followed throughout the process, even at the level of selecting individuals within the household. The final sample size is 1,000 adult Texans. The instrument itself relies on questions that have been used previously in national polls, and have been shown to be both valid (correlating with plausible independent and dependent variables) and reliable (robust to question order and interviewer effects). A Spanish version of the instrument was developed and respondents were given a choice of participating in English or Spanish. Bilingual interviewers were utilized, and approximately 48 interviews (5% of the sample) were completed in Spanish. The overall response rate (completed interviews/contacts) is 37%. This rate is partially the result of an extended time in the field, which facilitated call-backs. The overall margin of error for the sample is +/- 3.1 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. The data used to generate top-lines and tables are weighted by U.S. Census Bureau estimates with respect to age, gender, and race. For example, Census data indicate the proportion of 18-29 year old Hispanic females in Texas, and we use these estimates to weight the survey data. As expected, the most significant weights are applied to young, male, minority respondents (who are under-represented here, as they are in almost all polls in the U.S.).