



The Texas Lyceum

Texas Lyceum Poll

Spring 2009

Texas Statewide Survey

N=860 Adults

June 5-12, 2009

Hello. We're conducting a survey on behalf of the Texas Lyceum, a nonprofit, non-partisan organization focused on public policy issues affecting Texas and the United States. We're interested in your views on several current issues. We would like to include your responses to this survey, which will be kept absolutely confidential, with the responses of several hundred other voters like you. The survey should take about ten minutes to complete.

SECTION I: INTRO & 'STAPLE' QUESTIONS

Q1. Are you registered to vote in the state of Texas?

- 76% Yes, registered.
- 24% No, not registered.
- * Don't know/Refused/NA.

Q2. Generally speaking, would you say that you are extremely interested in politics and public affairs, somewhat interested, not very interested, or not at all interested?

- 33% Extremely interested.
- 46% Somewhat interested.
- 10% Not very interested.
- 10% Not at all interested.
- 1% Don't know/Refused/NA.

Q3. There are many elections in the state of Texas. Furthermore, many people intend to vote in a given election, but sometimes personal and professional circumstances keep them from the polls. Thinking back over the past two or three years, would you say that you voted in all elections, almost all, about half, one or two, or none at all?

- 24% Every election.
- 25% Almost every election.
- 12% About half.
- 13% One or two.

24% None.
2% Don't know/Refused/NA.

Q4. Thinking about the country, do you think things are moving in the right direction or are we off on the wrong track?

48% Right direction.
45% Wrong track.
7% Don't know/Refused/NA.

Q5. What do you think is the most important issue facing the country today?

62% Economy/Employment.
12% Health Care.
6% Politics/Leadership/Government.
6% War in Iraq/Supporting Troops.
5% Immigration/Border Control/Illegal Immigrants.
3% Terrorism.
3% Lack of Values and/or Morals.
2% Crimes/Drugs.
2% Foreign Affairs/International Relations.
2% Religions/Spirituality.

Q6. What do you think is the most important issue facing the state of Texas today?

35% Economy/Employment.
13% Immigration/Border Control/Illegal Immigrants.
8% Health Care/Vaccination.
7% Education/School Funding.
4% Politics/Leadership.
4% Other.
3% Crimes/Drugs.
2% Gas Prices/Primary Resources (i.e., Water)/Energy.
2% Social Security/Welfare.
1% Taxes.
1% Texas Staying In or Leaving Union/Stateism.
1% Environment/Global Warming.
1% Infrastructure(especially Roads).
1% Laws/Penalty.
1% Lack of Values and/or Morals.

Q7. 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?

18% Strongly approve
39% Somewhat approve
15% Somewhat disapprove
15% Strongly disapprove
13% Don't know / Refused / NA

Q8. Would you say that you approve or disapprove of the job that John Cornyn is doing as U.S. senator?
Would that be somewhat or strongly approve/disapprove?

20% Strongly approve
35% Somewhat approve
11% Somewhat disapprove
8% Strongly disapprove
26% Don't know / Refused / NA

Q9. Would you say that you approve or disapprove of the job that Kay Bailey Hutchison is doing as U.S. senator? Would that be somewhat or strongly approve/disapprove?

26% Strongly approve
39% Somewhat approve
10% Somewhat disapprove
7% Strongly disapprove
18% Don't know / Refused / NA

Q10. 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?

18% Strongly approve
40% Somewhat approve
18% Somewhat disapprove
10% Strongly disapprove
14% Don't know / Refused / NA

Q11. Thinking ahead to the 2010 elections, would you say that you:

19% Are certain to vote in the Republican Primary
12% Are likely to vote in the Republican Primary
16% Are certain to vote in the Democratic Primary
14% Are likely to vote in the Democratic Primary
17% Are likely to vote in the primary, but don't know which one
18% Are unlikely to vote in the primary
4% Don't know / Refused / NA

[IF Q11 EQ 1 OR 2]

Q12. If the Republican primary election for governor of Texas were today, would you support Rick Perry, Kay Bailey Hutchison, Leo Berman, or haven't you thought enough about it?

33% Rick Perry
21% Kay Bailey Hutchison
1% Leo Berman
41% Haven't thought enough about it
4% Don't know / Refused / NA

[IF Q11 EQ 3 OR 4]

Q13. If the Democratic primary election for governor of Texas were today, would you support Tom Schieffer, Kinky Friedman, Leticia Van de Putte, or haven't you thought enough about it?

6% Tom Schieffer
10% Kinky Friedman
3% Leticia Van de Putte
73% Haven't thought enough about it
8% Don't know / Refused / NA

Q14. If Kay Bailey Hutchison were to resign her seat at the end of this year, there could be a special election in May 2010. In that election, would you support Michael Williams, John Sharp, Bill White, Roger Williams, Elizabeth Jones, Florence Shapiro, David Dewhurst, Greg Abbott, or haven't you thought enough about it?

4% Greg Abbott
2% Michael Williams
3% Roger Williams
3% Elizabeth Jones
2% Florence Shapiro
2% John Sharp
9% Bill White
4% David Dewhurst
47% Haven't thought enough about it
24% Don't know / Refused / NA

SECTION II: PERSONAL ECONOMIC PERCEPTIONS & BEHAVIOR

Q15. Thinking about the national economy, do you think the country is better off, worse off, or about the same compared to a year ago?

21% Better off.
58% Worse off.
20% About the same.
1% Don't know/Refused/NA.

Q16. What do you think is the most important economic issue facing Texas today?

41% Unemployment/Lack of Jobs/Jobs.
6% Housing/Foreclosures.
6% Health Care.
6% Immigration (Too many people living here illegally).
5% Financial Issues-Budget/Debt.
5% Taxes.
5% Energy/Utilities (Oil/Natural Gas)/Availability.
4% Poor Government/Would like New Government.
4% Cost of Education/Lack of Funding.
4% Gas Prices/Fuel.
4% Other.
3% Economy (General).
3% Cost of Living (Grocery Prices/Inflation).

3% Wages (Not enough, keep getting cut).

Q17. Now thinking about you and your family's economic situation, would you say that you are better off, worse off, or about the same economically compared to a year ago?

17% Better off.

37% Worse off.

46% About the same.

* Don't know/Refused/NA.

Q18. Looking ahead to the future, do you think your children will be better off than you are, worse off, or about the same economically?

40% Better off.

32% Worse off.

18% About the same.

10% Don't know/Refused/NA.

Q19. What do you think is the most important economic issue facing YOU AND YOUR FAMILY today?

27% Unemployment/Lack of Jobs/Jobs.

8% Health Care/Being Available in Future.

7% Financial Issues-Budget/Debt.

6% Taxes.

6% Cost of Living/Inflation.

5% Wages (Not enough, keep getting cut).

5% Economy (General).

3% Affordable Housing.

3% Cost of Education/Lack of Funding.

3% Retirement Planning.

3% None/Nothing.

2% Governance/Leadership.

2% Government Financial Issues/Overspending.

2% Gas/Fuel Prices.

2% Other.

1% Stock Market/Investments.

1% Cost of Energy/Utilities (Oil/Natural Gas).

1% Poor Programs (Social Services).

13% Don't Know/NA

Q20. Thinking about the condition of the national economy, do you think the worst is over or is the worst yet to come?

37% Worst is over.

53% Worst is yet to come.

9% Not sure.

1% Refused / NA

Q21. Do you think Texas's economy is better off, worse off, or about the same as the rest of the country?

64% Better off

8% Worse off

25% About the same
3% Don't Know / Refused / NA

Now I am going to read you a few items. For each of them, please tell me whether you feel very confident about it, somewhat confident, not very confident, or not at all confident.

Q22. First, how confident do you feel about your ability to pay your mortgage or rent?

53% Very confident.
25% Somewhat confident.
11% Not very confident.
4% Not at all confident
7% Don't Know / Refused / NA

Q23. ... the stability of the bank where you keep your money?

54% Very confident.
31% Somewhat confident.
8% Not very confident.
3% Not at all confident
4% Don't Know / Refused / NA

Q24. ... the security of your job?

30% Very confident.
32% Somewhat confident.
10% Not very confident.
11% Not at all confident
17% Don't Know / Refused / NA

Q25. ... the safety of your retirement funds?

16% Very confident.
31% Somewhat confident.
26% Not very confident.
20% Not at all confident
7% Don't Know / Refused / NA

Q26. ... investing in the U.S. stock market?

8% Very confident.
22% Somewhat confident.
32% Not very confident.
32% Not at all confident
6% Don't Know / Refused / NA

Now, thinking about your personal finances, please tell me if you (or your spouse) have done any of the following in the past 12 months.

Q27. First, have you or your spouse stopped putting money into a 401K, IRA (individual retirement account), or other retirement accounts?

31% Yes
60% No
9% Don't Know / Refused / NA

Q28. ...started saving in a 401K, IRA (individual retirement account), or other retirement account?

27% Yes
69% No
4% Don't Know / Refused / NA

Q29. ...prematurely withdrawn money from your retirement savings?

14% Yes
81% No
5% Don't Know / Refused / NA

Q30. ...gone back to school to gain additional skills or training?

19% Yes
80% No
1% Don't Know / Refused / NA

Q31. ...moved your retirement savings into less risky investments?

22% Yes
73% No
5% Don't Know / Refused / NA

Q32. ...delayed retirement due to economic concerns?

15% Yes
78% No
7% Don't Know / Refused / NA

Q33. ...put off purchasing a car?

37% Yes
61% No
2% Don't Know / Refused / NA

Q34. ...put off selling your home?

14% Yes
80% No
6% Don't Know / Refused / NA

Q35. ...put off pursuing additional education or training?

24% Yes
 72% No
 4% Don't Know / Refused / NA

SECTION III: ATTITUDES ON ECONOMIC ISSUES & POLICY

Q36. I'm going to read two statements and I'd like you tell me which one concerns you more?

(a) That the federal government will spend too much money trying to boost the economy and as a result will drive up the budget deficit.

(b) That the federal government will spend too little money trying to boost the economy and as a result the recession will be longer.

65% (a) – spend too much
 30% (b) – spend too little
 5% Don't Know / Refused / NA

Now I'm going to read you some areas where federal spending might be increased to try to stimulate the economy and improve economic conditions over the long term. Please tell me if you would favor or oppose each of the following spending increases, even if it means raising the federal budget deficit.

Q37. First, would you favor or oppose increased spending to build and repair roads, bridges and other infrastructure even if it means raising the deficit?
 (Follow-up: Is that strongly favor/oppose?)

25% Strongly favor
 38% Somewhat favor
 15% Somewhat oppose
 20% Strongly oppose
 2% Don't Know / Refused / NA

Q38. ... to provide additional support to large financial institutions?

10% Strongly favor
 15% Somewhat favor
 21% Somewhat oppose
 50% Strongly oppose
 4% Don't Know / Refused / NA

Q39. ... to prevent American automakers from collapse?

13% Strongly favor
 18% Somewhat favor
 26% Somewhat oppose
 38% Strongly oppose
 5% Don't Know / Refused / NA

Q40. ... to develop new energy technology?

44% Strongly favor
 30% Somewhat favor
 8% Somewhat oppose
 14% Strongly oppose
 4% Don't Know / Refused / NA

Q41. ... to make health care more accessible and affordable?

54% Strongly favor
 13% Somewhat favor
 9% Somewhat oppose
 24% Strongly oppose
 * Don't Know / Refused / NA

Q42. ... to improve education systems?

66% Strongly favor
 13% Somewhat favor
 8% Somewhat oppose
 12% Strongly oppose
 1% Don't Know / Refused / NA

Q43. Now, what about cutting taxes? Would you favor cutting taxes even if it means raising the deficit?

33% Strongly favor
 20% Somewhat favor
 21% Somewhat oppose
 21% Strongly oppose
 5% Don't Know / Refused / NA

Q44. Is increased government regulation of major financial companies something you would support or oppose?
 (Follow-up: Is that strongly support/oppose or just somewhat?)

29% Strongly favor
 18% Somewhat favor
 17% Somewhat oppose
 29% Strongly oppose
 7% Don't Know / Refused / NA

Q45. Some people believe that the federal government should do what it can to help the US auto makers because those companies have a large impact on the economy and employ thousands of people. Others think that the country will be better off if these companies are allowed to succeed or fail on their own. Which is closer to your opinion?

33% Government should help U.S. automakers
 63% Let them succeed or fail on own
 4% Don't Know / Refused / NA

Q46. Would you say that the North American Free Trade Agreement, known as NAFTA, has been good or bad for the Texas economy?

43% Good
28% Bad
29% Don't Know / Refused / NA

Q47. Which of the following is closest to your view?

- (a) America needs open markets and free trade practices. These are inherently good for the overall economy.
- (b) When it comes to trade, other countries have too great an advantage because they lack the environmental standards and worker protections we have in America. We should only open our markets to those who agree to honor these standards.
- (c) America should always adopt tariff and trade policies that protect its agricultural and industrial workers even if there other countries can provide produce, goods, and services at lower costs.

33% (a) – free trade
35% (b) – fair trade
26% (c)—protectionist
6% Don't Know / Refused / NA

Q48. There's a proposed system called "cap and trade." The government would issue permits limiting the amount of greenhouse gases companies can put out. Companies that did not use all their permits could sell them to other companies. Supporters argue that many companies would find ways to put out less greenhouse gases, because that would be cheaper than buying permits. Opponents argue that this amounts to a huge tax on large companies. Would you support or oppose this system?

47% Support
42% Oppose
11% Don't Know / Refused / NA

SECTION IV: EVALUATIONS OF GOVERNMENT, PEOPLE, & POLICIES

Q49. How well do you think Barack Obama is handling the economy in his first few months in office? Is he doing a very good job, somewhat good job, somewhat poor job, or very poor job handling the economy?

29% Very good job.
34% Somewhat good job.
12% Somewhat poor job.
22% Very poor job.
3% Don't Know / Refused / NA

Q50. How well would you say he is handling his job as president more generally?

- 36% Very good job.
- 32% Somewhat good job.
- 13% Somewhat poor job.
- 17% Very poor job.
- 2% Don't Know / Refused / NA

Q51. How confident are you that the economic stimulus plan is making the current economic downturn less severe than it would be otherwise--very confident, somewhat confident, not so confident or not confident at all?

- 15% Very confident
- 42% Somewhat confident
- 18% Not so confident
- 24% Not confident at all
- 1% Don't Know / Refused / NA

Q52. How long are you willing to wait to decide if the Obama Administration's economic policies are a success? Would you say you are willing to be patient for about one year, about two years, longer than two years, or are you already running out of patience?

- 24% 2 or more years
- 20% about 2 years
- 29% about 1 year
- 23% already out of patience
- 4% Don't Know / Refused / NA

Finally, we'd like to ask a couple of questions about some issues facing Texas right now...

Q53. Some people say that Governor Perry was wrong to reject federal stimulus dollars that could have significantly shored up the unemployment insurance fund in Texas. Others say he was right because the money came with too many strings attached. Which is closer to your opinion?

- 58% Did the right thing in rejecting money
- 34% Did the wrong thing in rejecting the money
- 8% Don't Know / Refused / NA

Q54. Would you support or oppose the use of Texas state tax dollars to fund embryonic stem cell research? Would that be strongly or just somewhat support/oppose?

- 27% Strongly support
- 21% Somewhat support
- 16% Somewhat oppose
- 30% Strongly oppose
- 6% Don't know/ Refused/ NA

Q55. The Texas legislature recently considered legislation stating that people have to provide photo ID in order to vote in Texas elections. Supporters say such an ID check is required to purchase groceries or receive any government services, and is needed to guarantee the integrity of the

electoral system. Opponents say that there is no evidence that unregistered people are voting in Texas and that a voter ID requirement would disproportionately discourage Hispanics and senior citizens, who are less likely to have ID, from voting. Do you support or oppose voter ID legislation? Would that be strongly or just somewhat?

- 54% Strongly support
- 17% Somewhat support
- 8% Somewhat oppose
- 18% Strongly oppose
- 3% Don't know/ Refused/ NA

[Gay Marriage vs. Civil Unions]

Q56. Recently, there are some debates about what rights should be afforded to same sex couples. Some favor civil unions which would give them access to healthcare, retirement, and other benefits given to married couples. Others argue that same sex couples should have the right to marry as well. Still others oppose affording either of these rights to same sex couples. Which is closest to your opinion?

- 32% Civil Unions Only
- 25% Permit Same Sex Marriage
- 36% Neither
- 7% Don't know

SECTION V: DEMOGRAPHICS

AGE. In what year were you born?

- 25% 18-29
- 30% 30-44
- 18% 45-54
- 12% 55-64
- 15% 65+

REGION. In which county do you reside?

- 28% North
- 35% East
- 16% South
- 21% West/Center

HEALTH REGION. In which county do you reside?

- 3% High Plains
- 3% Northwest
- 23% Metroplex
- 6% Upper East
- 2% Southeast
- 27% Gulf Coast
- 14% Central
- 9% Upper South
- 3% West
- 4% Upper Rio
- 6% Lower South

LOCATE. Would you say you live in an urban, suburban, or rural area?

34% Urban.
40% Suburban.
26% Rural.

MARRIED. What is your current martial status?

18% Never married.
66% Married.
8% Divorced.
7% Widowed.
1% Separated.
* Don't know/Refused/NA.

INCOME. What was your total household income for 2006?

15% Less than \$15K.
11% \$15K-\$25K.
10% \$25K-\$40K.
22% \$40K-\$75K.
18% \$75K-\$150K.
6% \$150K+.
18% Don't know/Refused/NA.

EDOFR. What is the highest level of education you completed?

6% Less than high school.
24% High school.
24% Some college.
25% College degree.
20% Post-graduate degree (MA, LLD, PhD).
1% Don't know/Refused/NA.

RELIGION. What is your religious denomination?

15% Baptist.
1% Episcopalian/Anglican/Church of England
2% Lutheran
5% Methodist
* Reformed
* Evangelical United Brethren
5% Protestant. (non-specific)
12% Christian (non-specific)
* Christian Scientist
2% Church of Christ
* United Church of Christ
* Disciples of Christ
* Church of God
* Assembly of God
* Congregationalist
* Holiness
3% Pentecostal

- * Orthodox/Eastern Orthodox
- 1% Mormon
- 2% Jehovah's Witnesses
- * Latter Day Saints
- * Unitarian/Universalist
- * Buddhist
- * Hindu
- 2% Muslim/Islam
- 27% Catholic
- 1% Jewish.
- 5% Other.
- 4% Agnostic
- 1% Atheist.
- 9% None.
- 3% Don't know/Refused/NA

RACE. Would you say that you are...

- 54% White.
- 11% African American.
- 32% Hispanic.
- 1% Asian/Pacific Islander.
- * Native American.
- 2% Multi-racial.
- * Don't know/Refused/NA.

LIBCON. Generally speaking, would you say that you are...

- 19% Liberal.
- 35% Moderate.
- 46% Conservative.

PID. Do you consider yourself to be a Democrat, a Republican, or neither?

- 28% Democratic.
- 25% Republican.
- 46% Independent.
- 1% Don't know/Refused/NA.

STRONG. Would that be a strong or not so strong Democrat/Republican?

- 65% Strong.
- 34% Weak.
- 1% Don't know/Refused/NA.

LEAN. Would you say that you are closer to the Democrats, the Republicans, or neither?

- 22% Democratic.
- 29% Republican.
- 46% Neither.
- 3% Don't know/Refused/NA.

GENDER.

- 49% Male

51% Female

LANGUAGE OF INTERVIEW

83% English

17% Spanish