

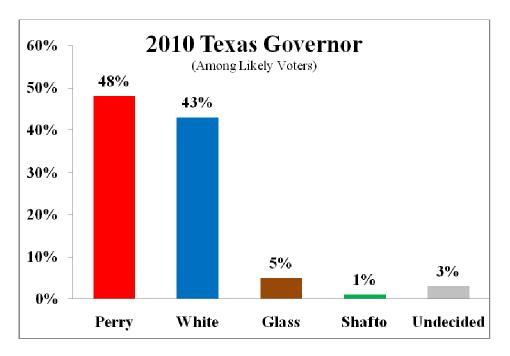
# The 2010 Texas Lyceum Poll Executive Summary of Trial Ballots

#### **General Information**

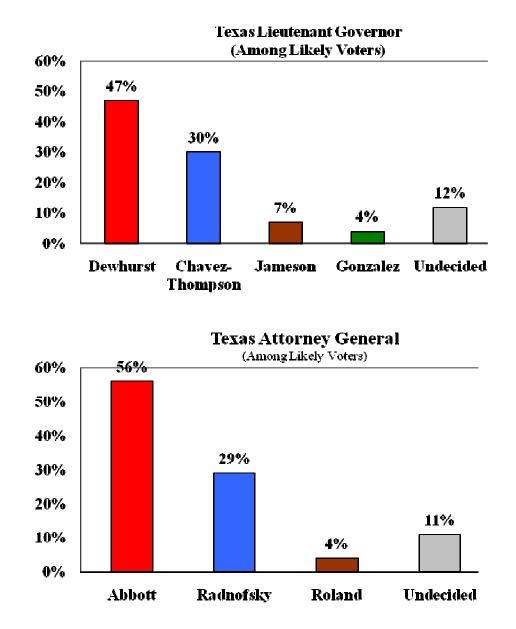
From September 22-30, 725 adult Texans responded to a statewide telephone survey asking about their attitudes towards the current political and economic environment, the 2010 elections, and issues likely to come up in the 2011 Texas state legislative session. Since all numbers reported herein pertain to the upcoming November elections, they are based on a sample of 416 likely voters, with a margin of error of +/- 4.75 percentage points.

# <u>Trial Ballots</u>

With one month left before the election, Republican Rick Perry has a 5-point advantage over Democrat Bill White (Perry 48%, White 43%). Libertarian Kathie Glass garners 5% of the vote and Green Party Candidate Deb Shafto has 1%.



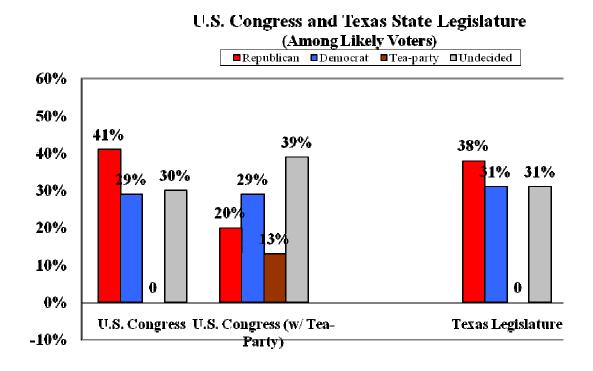
In the Lieutenant Governor's race, Republican David Dewhurst leads Democrat Linda Chavez-Thompson by 17-points (Dewhurst 47%, Chavez-Thompson 30%). Likewise, in the race for Attorney General, Republican Greg Abbott leads Democrat Barbara Ann Radnofsky by 17-points (Abbott 56%, Radnofsky 29%).



In the race for Governor, only 3% of the electorate remains undecided. Compare this with 12% undecided in the race for Lieutenant Governor and 11% in the race for Attorney General.

Examining the political terrain more broadly, the generic ballot for the Texas State House gives Republicans a 7-point advantage (Republican Candidate 38%, Democratic Candidate 31%). In the generic race for the U.S. Congress, Republicans perform better, with a 12-point advantage (Republican Candidate 41%, Democratic Candidate 29%).

If the generic congressional ballot were to include a Tea Party candidate, the Republican candidate loses considerable support. In this hypothetical three-way race, the Democratic Candidate holds 29% of the vote, the Republican's support is reduced to 20% (down 21 points), the Tea Party candidate receives 13% of the vote, and Undecided voters increase by 9-points (at 30% in the two way race and 39% in the three way race).



# Partisanship, Ideology, and Independents

As one would expect, partisans are much more likely to support their respective candidates and those who identify as liberals and conservatives are more likely to support the Democratic and Republican candidates respectively.

Amongst self-identified independent voters, Bill White has a 16-point advantage (White 50%, Perry 34%) with Glass also garnering a not-insignificant 10% of the independent vote. Moderates also support White over Perry (White 67%, Perry 22%). Perry dominates among Republicans and conservatives, however, and it is this support that fuels his overall edge.

Down ballot, Dewhurst leads Chavez-Thompson among independents (Dewhurst 35%, Chavez-Thompson 21%), but trails among moderates (Dewhurst 34%, Chavez-Thompson 42%). Abbott leads amongst both independents and moderates,

but overwhelmingly among independents (Abbott 45%, Radnofsky 14%) and only slightly among moderates (Abbott 43%, Radnofsky 37%). Independents favor the Republican Party in the Congressional election (Republican Candidate 32%, Democratic Candidate 25%), but moderates favor the Democratic party candidate by 10-points (Democratic candidate 39%, Republican Candidate 29%). As for the State House election, Democrats lead amongst both independents and moderates, by 13-points in the case of independents (Democratic Candidate 24%, Republican Candidate 11%) and 18-points in the case of moderates (Democratic Candidate 39%, Republican Candidate 39%, Republican Candidate 11%).

#### <u>Gender</u>

Rick Perry has a 5-point advantage among women over Bill White (Perry 49%, White 44%). This edge is slightly greater among men, where Perry has a 7-point advantage (Perry 49%, White 42%). David Dewhurst has a 15-point advantage among women (Dewhurst 48%, Chavez-Thompson 33%) compared with a 21-point advantage among men (Dewhurst 49%, Chavez-Thompson 28%). Greg Abbott has a 19-point advantage among women (Abbott 54%, Radnofsky 35%) compared with a 23-point advantage among men (Abbott 58%, Radnofsky 25%).

The generic ballots show similar results of the gender gap. Republicans have a 15point advantage among women on the Congressional ballot (Republican Candidate 45%, Democratic Candidate 30%) and an 8-point advantage on the Texas State Legislature ballot (Republican Candidate 40%, Democratic Candidate 32%), but these generic ballot advantages amongst women trail the Republican advantages among men similar to the candidate specific numbers.

#### <u>Regional Overview</u>

Regionally, Republicans tend to have an advantage in the North and East of Texas, with Democrats doing better in Central and South Texas. This generalization varies in magnitude across candidates. The strongest regional differentiation can be seen in the Governor's race. Rick Perry has commanding advantages in the North (Perry 50%, White 37%) and the East (Perry 53%, White 41%), but trails Bill White in South (Perry 43%, White 49%) and Central Texas (Perry 45%, White 50%). Dewhurst leads Chavez-Thompson by substantial margins in North, Central, and East Texas, but trails her in South Texas by 7-points (Chavez-Thompson 43%, Dewhurst 36%). Greg Abbot and Generic Republican Congressional candidates lead their Democratic counterparts in all regions. The State House races mirror the Lieutenant Governor's race, with the Republican candidate leading the Democratic Candidate in North, Central, and East Texas, but trailing in South Texas.

# <u>Tea Party</u>

Those identifying as part of the tea party movement tend to be equally dispersed amongst gender, age, region, income, marital status, and education. Self-identified

Tea Party members, who comprise 25% of likely voters, are far more likely to identify as Republicans and Conservatives. 71% of likely voters do not consider themselves part of the Tea Party.