



*The Texas Lyceum*

## **DAY 3: Texas Lyceum 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Poll**

**2012 GOP Presidential Primary: Governor Perry could be a tough contender**

***Likely Texas Voters rate Governor Perry and President Obama  
above 50% on job performance***

**TEXAS LEGISLATURE'S RATING DIPS 12%**

***Lt. Governor Dewhurst ahead of pack in GOP U.S. Senate Primary at 27%  
Potential Democratic candidates for Senate not on folks' radar yet***

(AUSTIN) The third and final installment of the 2011 Texas Lyceum statewide poll results were released today show both Texas Governor Rick Perry and President Barack Obama above the 50 percent mark on their job approval numbers and both have held fairly steady since October 2010. Governor Perry held at 54% while President Obama moved up slightly from 47% to 51%. While President Obama's handling of the economy garners 46%, he has picked up 8 points since October 2010 (38%).

"The poll was completed a little more than three weeks after U.S. forces killed Osama Bin Laden and this historic event undoubtedly increased the President's overall job approval rating," said Lyceum alumnus University of Texas Professor Daron Shaw, who conducted the poll. "However, when asked specifically how he is doing on the economy, the president's negatives rise. Thirty eight percent of likely voters say he is doing a "very poor job" while only 15% say he is doing a "very good job."

### **Texas Legislature rating dips during session**

When grading the job of the Texas Legislature at the end of the regular session, likely voters were split; 49% approve of the job that the state legislature is doing while 46% disapprove. However, this shows a 12-point dip from October 2010.

"It would be very difficult for the legislature to gain a positive bounce when it is the group that has to make the hard choices in these tough economic times," said University of Texas at San Antonio Professor Amy Jasperson, a Lyceum Director who assisted in the poll findings.

### **2012 Presidential contenders**

Among the survey's 310 likely voters, 147 indicated that they intended to vote in the Republican presidential primary next March. Unsurprisingly, 22% of these Republican primary voters haven't thought enough about the race to have made a choice. Of those who have made an early choice, however, the results show former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney leading the pack at 16%, former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin at 14% and Texas Congressman Ron Paul at 10%. Meantime, even though he emphatically said he wasn't going to get in the race when this survey was conducted, Texas Governor Rick Perry is the presidential choice of 9% of respondents, followed by former Godfather's Pizza CEO Herman Cain with 8% and Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty at 7%. The margin of error for these estimates is +/- 8 points, indicating that there is no clear favorite.

### **Republican U.S. Senate Primary**

Over 50% of likely Republican primary voters have not yet thought much about the 2012 Republican U.S. Senate contest. Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst leads the list of contenders and possible choices among those likely voters who made an early choice with 27% support. No other potential candidate earns double-digit support at this point. Former Texas Secretary of State Roger Williams (4%), former Dallas Mayor Tom Leppert (3%), Congressman Michael McCaul (3%), Railroad Commissioner Elizabeth Ames Jones (2%), and former Solicitor General of Texas Ted Cruz (1%) all garner support under 5%. Again, with a margin of error of +/- 8 points, the main feature of the Republican senate primary at this point is that it has yet to come into clear focus.

### **Democratic U.S. Senate Primary**

Among the 310 likely voters in the sample, only 103 indicated that they would vote in the March 2012 Democratic primary election (the margin of error for this sub-sample is +/- 9.6 points). Again, indecision reigns among this small sub-sample, with three of five likely Democratic primary voters saying they haven't yet thought enough about the race to favor a candidate. Thus, no clear favorites have emerged from a pack of possible contenders including former Congressman Chris Bell (9%), former Texas Comptroller John Sharp (6%), former Congressman Chet Edwards (6%), retired Army Lieutenant General Ricardo Sanchez (6%), and former Harris County Commissioner Sylvia Garcia (5%).

"We are proud to share the results of our fifth annual Texas Lyceum Poll with the media and the general public," said Lyceum President Dathan Voelter. "Our mission remains the same: to offer an independent, non-partisan survey that provides a scientific snapshot of the issues most important to Texans. We believe the Texas Lyceum Poll is a valuable instrument that leads to better policy decisions in our great state."

### **Methodology:**

From May 24 through May 31, 2011, The Texas Lyceum conducted a statewide telephone survey. The survey utilized a stratified probability sample design, with respondents being randomly selected at the level of the household. On average, respondents completed the interview in 17 minutes. Approximately 5,000 records were drawn to yield 707 completed interviews. The final data set is weighted by race/ethnicity, age and gender to achieve representativeness. The margin of error for the poll is +/- 3.69 percentage points.

Some numbers and analysis were produced with a screen for likely voters. Voters were deemed "likely" if they indicated that they were registered to vote, indicated that they were "somewhat" or "extremely" interested in politics, and indicated that they had voted in "almost every" or "every" election in the last 2-3 years. This screen produced 303 likely voters, 43% of the full sample and 77% of registered voters. The margin of error for the survey of likely voters is +/- 5.63 percentage points.

### **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](http://www.texaslyceum.org)**.

The Texas Lyceum, now 31 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 Lyceum has an impressive list of former members who are serving or have served in public office, including: Former President George W. Bush, Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, Governor Rick Perry, State Attorney General Greg Abbott, former Texas Comptroller John Sharp, Texas State Senators Rodney Ellis and Kirk Watson, Texas State Representatives Dawnna Dukes, Jose Menendez, David Farabee, Tommy Merritt, Pete Gallego, Garnet Coleman, Veronica Gonzales and Allen Vaught, Houston Mayor Bill White, Galveston Mayor Joe Jaworski, Texas Supreme Court Justices Don Willett and Dale Wainwright, U.S. District Judge Vanessa Gilmore, former Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings, former Congressman Chris Bell and Congressmen Pete Olson, Henry Cuellar and Jim Turner. Marc Veasey is a current Lyceum Director serving in the Texas House.

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.

### Poll Questions

***How well do you think Barack Obama is handling his job as president? Is he doing a very good job, somewhat good job, somewhat poor job, or very poor job?***

|                           | Likely Voters: |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Very good job.            | 23%            |
| Somewhat good job.        | 28%            |
| Somewhat poor job.        | 17%            |
| Very poor job.            | 31%            |
| DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA | 0%             |

***How good a job is President Obama doing on the economy?***

|                           | Likely Voters: |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Very good job.            | 15%            |
| Somewhat good job.        | 31%            |
| Somewhat poor job.        | 16%            |
| Very poor job.            | 38%            |
| Don't Know / Refused / NA | 1%             |

***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?***

|                           | Likely Voters: |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Strongly approve.         | 16%            |
| Somewhat approve.         | 38%            |
| Somewhat disapprove.      | 11%            |
| Strongly disapprove.      | 33%            |
| DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA | 3%             |

***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?***

|                           | Likely Voters: |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Strongly approve.         | 7%             |
| Somewhat approve.         | 42%            |
| Somewhat disapprove.      | 23%            |
| Strongly disapprove.      | 23%            |
| DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA | 5%             |

***Thinking ahead to 2012, do you think you will vote in the Democratic primary, the Republican primary, or do you not usually vote in primary elections?***

|                                  | Likely Voters: |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Republican primary.              | 48%            |
| Democratic primary.              | 33%            |
| Don't usually vote in primaries. | 11%            |
| DON'T KNOW/REFUSED               | 8%             |

***If the 2012 Democratic primary for Senate were held today, which of the following possible candidates would you vote for, or haven't you thought much about it (for those respondents indicating that they would vote in the Democratic primary)?\****

Likely Voters (n=103):

- 9% Chris Bell.
- 6% John Sharp.
- 6% Chet Edwards.
- 6% Ricardo Sanchez.
- 5% Sylvia Garcia.
- 64% Haven't thought much about it.

***If the 2012 Republican primary for Senate were held today, which of the following possible candidates would you vote for, or haven't you thought much about it (for those respondents indicating that they would vote in the Republican primary)?\****

Likely Voters (n=147):

- 27% David Dewhurst.
- 4% Roger Williams.
- 3% Tom Leppert.
- 3% Michael McCaul.
- 2% Elizabeth Ames Jones.
- 1% Ted Cruz.
- 0% Michael Williams.
- 56% Haven't thought much about it.

***If the 2012 Republican primary for president were held today, which of the following possible candidates would you vote for, or haven't you thought much about it?\****

Likely Voters (n=147):

- 16% Mitt Romney.
- 14% Sarah Palin.
- 10% Ron Paul.
- 9% Rick Perry.
- 8% Herman Cain.
- 7% Tim Pawlenty.
- 4% Newt Gingrich.
- 4% Rick Santorum.
- 4% Michelle Bachman.
- 1% Mitch Daniels.
- 0% Jon Huntsman.
- 22% Haven't thought much about it.

***If the 2012 election for president were held today, would you vote for Barack Obama or the Republican candidate, or haven't you thought much about it?***

Likely Voters (n=309):

|     |                                |
|-----|--------------------------------|
| 35% | Barack Obama.                  |
| 44% | Republican candidate.          |
| 2%  | Another candidate.             |
| 17% | Haven't thought much about it. |

***Do you consider yourself to be part of the Tea Party movement?***

|                    | Registered: | Likely Voters: |
|--------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Yes                | 15%         | 17%            |
| No                 | 77%         | 79%            |
| DON'T KNOW/REFUSED | 7%          | 4%             |

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