



The Texas Lyceum

2011 Texas Lyceum Poll

5th Anniversary – DAY 2

***Texans vary on 'hot button' issues facing
the Texas Legislature***

LYCEUM POLL SHOWS TEXANS:

- ***Support expanded gambling more than in the past***
- ***Want additional help with the costs of college tuition (although they believe college is worth the expense)***
- ***Prefer concealed handguns off of university campuses***
- ***Support sonograms before abortion procedures, but they oppose eliminating abortion related service funding from hospitals***
- ***Favor Green Energy, but are also OK with drilling in the Gulf of Mexico for oil***
- ***Want immigration laws similar to Arizona***
- ***Oppose legalization of marijuana***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 15, 2011

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(AUSTIN) The 5th Anniversary Texas Lyceum poll surveyed approximately 700 Texans from May 24th through May 31st (margin of error = +/-3.69%), on a variety of hot button issues, some of which are still being debated in the 82nd Texas Legislature.

“Polling on social policy issues can be challenging yet revealing. Contrary to the conventional wisdom, Texans are not universally conservative on many of these ‘values’ issues,” said University of Texas at Austin Professor Daron Shaw, a Texas Lyceum alumnus who has conducted the poll for the past five years.

More support for full blown gambling

Last October when Texans were asked for their opinion on gambling, 29% of adult Texans said they would support full blown gambling while 21% would support expanding gambling and gaming. Seven months later it appears that opinion is shifting more in that direction, with 34% supporting full blown gambling and 25% favoring an expansion for a total of 59% of Texans in support of more growth in this industry.

“Texans in 2011 seem to be more open to expanding gambling in light of the legislative session. Perhaps the public sees gambling as an acceptable source of revenue in tough times,” said University of Texas at San Antonio Professor Amy Jaspersen, who assisted with the poll findings.

College Tuition: Most think we are getting our money’s worth

When it comes to the question of paying for higher education, most Texans (62% of adult Texans; 60% of likely voters) support tuition deregulation. Of those, 44% of Texans and 43% of likely voters believe that low-income students should get some help to offset their tuition costs. Meantime, more Texans say they are getting their money’s worth than say they do not receive a fair return on their investment at Texas universities, particularly among likely voters.

Strong majority oppose handguns on campus

The ability to carry concealed handguns on campus is another hot-button issue for many Texans. A strong majority (74% of adult Texans; 67% of likely voters) opposes a law that would allow individuals to carry concealed handguns on college campuses.

Texans not one-sided on abortion issue

The Texas legislature passed a law in the regular session requiring doctors to present sonogram results and discuss them with the mother. A majority of Texans support this measure (62% of adult Texans; 58% of likely voters). However, when asked about the recent vote by the Texas House to strip state funding from all hospitals and clinics that perform abortions or even “abortion-related services,” a similar majority (57% of adult Texans; 58% of likely voters) opposes such a measure.

Green energy good, but drill on in the Gulf

A large majority of Texans (83% of adult Texans; 81% of likely voters) support investing in green energy such as solar and wind. Their second most popular choice to meet our energy needs is drilling in the Gulf of Mexico (62% of adult Texans; 74% of likely voters). Interestingly, Texans seem to be split on drilling in the Alaskan Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (46% of adult Texans in favor of drilling; 58% of likely voters in favor of drilling).

Majority still supports Arizona style law on immigration

Since the Arizona legislature passed a law empowering state law agencies to enforce federal immigration laws, including asking about the immigration status of anyone stopped for any offense, such a law has been a hot topic of debate in Texas. Support for such a law has dropped slightly from Fall 2010

with 55% of adult Texans supporting such a law in 2010 while 51% of Texans support it today. Still, those who vote are more strongly supportive; 63% of likely voters would support such a law.

“We began the Texas Lyceum Poll project five years ago to gain a better understanding of issues that most concern Texans,” said Dathan Voelter, 2011 Texas Lyceum President. “We accomplished this goal and are proud to share our scientific, independent and transparent findings on our website at www.texaslyceum.org.”

Lyceum Poll Questions Related to June 15th Rollout
Charts and more details in June 15th executive summary

Now we’d like to ask your opinion on energy policy. For each of the following, please tell us whether you support or oppose the proposed policy.

All Texans:

	Support	Oppose	Don’t know/ NA/ Refused
Increased drilling in the Gulf of Mexico.	62%	31%	7%
Drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska.	46%	46%	8%
Building more nuclear reactors.	37%	57%	6%
Increased investment in “green” energy, such as solar and wind energy.	83%	12%	4%

Likely Voters:

	Support	Oppose	Don’t know/ NA/ Refused
Increased drilling in the Gulf of Mexico.	74%	23%	3%
Drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska.	58%	40%	3%
Building more nuclear reactors.	42%	52%	6%
Increased investment in “green” energy, such as solar and wind energy.	81%	16%	3%

As you may know, the Arizona legislature recently passed a law empowering state law agencies to enforce federal immigration laws, including asking about the immigration status of anyone stopped for any offense. Would you support or oppose a similar immigration enforcement law for the state of Texas? Would that be strongly or just somewhat support/oppose?

	All Texans:	Likely Voters:
Strongly support.	38%	50%
Somewhat support	13%	13%
Somewhat oppose	10%	5%
Strongly oppose	36%	30%
DON'T KNOW/NA	3%	3%

As you may know, the 14th amendment to the constitution grants automatic citizenship status to any child born in the United States, regardless of their parent's citizenship status. Would you favor or oppose a constitutional amendment to REPEAL this part of the 14th amendment?

	All Texans:	Likely Voters:
Favor	44%	44%
Oppose	52%	52%
DON'T KNOW/NA	4%	4%

Some illegal immigrants were brought to Texas as children by their parents. Do you think that these individuals should receive in-state tuition rates, or should they pay have to pay the higher rates of out-of-state residents?

	All Texans:	Likely Voters:
In-state rates.	52%	40%
Out-of-state rates.	43%	56%
DON'T KNOW/NA	5%	4%

As you may know, House Bill 12 would prevent cities, counties, and other governmental entities from adopting policies that would prohibit law enforcement from asking legally detained or arrested persons about their immigration status. Do you support or oppose this measure? Would that be strongly or somewhat support/oppose?

	All Texans:	Likely Voters:
Strongly support	25%	26%
Somewhat support	18%	15%
Somewhat oppose	12%	10%
Strongly oppose	39%	41%
DON'T KNOW/NA	7%	9%

Gambling policy was discussed in the recent legislative session. Some people say that Texas should allow gambling. They contend that the government does not have the right to tell people whether they should gamble or not, and that Texas loses billions of dollars every year as many Texans go to neighboring states to gamble. Others oppose such a change, arguing that gambling is morally wrong and can lead to other sorts of crime. Opponents also claim that the people who can least afford it are the most likely to gamble their money away. Would you say that you:

	All Texans:	Likely Voters:
Support full-blown gambling in Texas.	34%	36%
Support expanding gambling and gaming in existing or pre-approved locations.	25%	23%
Support current law, which permits on-track betting and state-run lotteries, or	20%	22%
Support a complete ban on gambling in Texas.	16%	17%
DON'T KNOW/NA	5%	3%

Currently, tuition rates at Texas colleges are not regulated by the state. Some say that we should cap tuition at Texas public universities so that college remains affordable for all qualified Texans. Others say that allowing public universities to adjust tuition rates gives them necessary flexibility to meet budgets, and remain competitive. Still others say we should allow universities to maintain or increase their budgets with de-regulation, but help low income students offset the costs. Which of these is closest to your own position?

	All Texans:	Likely Voters:
Re-regulate tuition.	32%	34%
Keep tuition de-regulation, or	18%	17%
Keep tuition de-regulation but help low income students offset costs	44%	43%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA.	6%	6%

Do you think that students attending college get their money's worth for what they spend on higher education, or do they not receive a fair return on their investment?

	All Texans:	Likely Voters:
Students get their moneys worth.	46%	55%
Students do not receive a fair return on their investment.	39%	33%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA.	15%	12%

The legislature is currently considering legislation that would allow some individuals to carry concealed handguns on college campuses. Are you in favor of or opposed to this law?

	All Texans:	Likely Voters:
Favor.	25%	31%
Oppose.	74%	67%
DON'T KNOW/NA	1%	2%

Do you think that the use of marijuana should be made legal or not?

	All Texans:	Likely Voters:
Legal.	33%	33%
Not Legal.	65%	65%
DON'T KNOW/NA	2%	2%

If the legalization of marijuana would provide significant tax revenue, would that change your opinion (if respondent said use of marijuana should not be legal)?

	All Texans:	Likely Voters:
Yes.	11%	6%
No.	87%	91%
DON'T KNOW/NA	2%	3%

As you may know, the Texas House recently voted to strip state funding to all hospitals and clinics that perform abortions or even "abortion-related services." Do you support or oppose this measure?

	All Texans:	Likely Voters:
Support.	39%	39%
Oppose.	57%	58%
DON'T KNOW/NA	4%	3%

The Texas legislature also passed into law a measure that requires doctors to conduct a sonogram prior to an abortion, and then show and discuss the picture with the woman. Do you support or oppose this measure?

	All Texans:	Likely Voters:
Support.	62%	58%
Oppose.	37%	40%
DON'T KNOW/NA	2%	2%

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**.

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 State Representative and 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.

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