University of Texas / Texas Tribune

Texas Statewide Survey

Field dates: October 19-26, 2011

N=800 Adults

Margin of error: +/-3.46% unless otherwise noted

Version: 11/1/11 12:18:13 PM

Interest and Engagement

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

1. Yes, registered 100%

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

1.	Extremely interested	53%
2.	Somewhat interested	35%
3.	Not very interested	8%
4.	Not at all interested	4%
5.	Don't know	0%

Most Important Problem

Q3. What would you say is the most important problem facing this country today? [Randomize]

1.	The economy	27%
2.	Unemployment/jobs	19%
3.	Federal spending/national debt	18%
4.	Political corruption/leadership	10%
5.	Health care	4%
6.	Moral decline	5%
7.	National security/terrorism	0%
8.	Immigration	3%
9.	Taxes	1%
10.	Gas prices	1%
11.	Energy	0%
	Gay marriage	0%
	Education	2%
	Social welfare programs	1%
	Environment	1%
16.	The media	0%
	Abortion	1%
	Crime and drugs	2%
	Afghanistan/Pakistan	0%
	Housing	0%
	Iraq	0%
	Federal courts/nominees	0%
	Foreign trade	0%
24.	Voting system	0%

25. Border security	1%
26. Partisan gridlock	4%

Q4. What would you say is the most important problem facing the state of Texas today? **[Randomize]**

		400/
1.	Immigration	18%
2.	The economy	14%
3.	Unemployment/jobs	14%
4.	Border security	16%
5.	Political corruption/leadership	8%
6.	Health care	3%
7.	Gas prices	3%
8.	Crime and drugs	1%
9.	Education	8%
10.	State government spending	1%
11.	Moral decline	3%
12.	Taxes	1%
13.	Social welfare programs	1%
14.	Insurance rates	0%
15.	Water supply	3%
16.	Gay marriage	1%
	Energy	1%
	Environment	1%
19.	Transportation/roads/traffic	0%
	Abortion	0%
21.	Housing	0%
	State courts	0%
23.	The media	0%
24.	Voting system	0%
	State budget cuts	4%
	Utility rates	0%
	Electoral fraud	0%
		3,0

Retrospective Assessments

Q5. How would you rate the job Barack Obama has done as president? Would you say that you...

1.	Approve strongly	15%
2.	Approve somewhat	18%
3.	Neither approve nor disapprove	9%
4.	Disapprove somewhat	8%
5.	Disapprove strongly	49%
6.	Don't know	1%

Q6. How would you rate the job Barack Obama has done handling the economy? Would you say that you...

1.	Approve strongly	11%
2.	Approve somewhat	17%
3.	Neither approve nor disapprove	10%
4.	Disapprove somewhat	8%
5.	Disapprove strongly	53%
6.	Don't know	1%

Q7. Overall, how do you rate the job the U.S. Congress is doing?

1.	Approve strongly	2%
2.	Approve somewhat	9%
3.	Neither approve nor disapprove	10%
4.	Disapprove somewhat	26%
5.	Disapprove strongly	51%
6.	Don't know	2%

[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF Q8-Q9]

Q8. How would you rate the job Rick Perry has done as governor? Would you say that you...

1.	Approve strongly	14%
2.	Approve somewhat	25%
3.	Neither approve nor disapprove	14%
4.	Disapprove somewhat	13%
5.	Disapprove strongly	31%
6.	Don't know	2%

Q9. How would you rate the job Rick Perry has done handling the Texas economy? Would you say that you...

1.	Approve strongly	19%
2.	Approve somewhat	23%
3.	Neither approve nor disapprove	16%
4.	Disapprove somewhat	12%
5.	Disapprove strongly	29%
6.	Don't know	2%

Q10. Where would you put Rick Perry on this scale?

1%
2%
4%
10%
10%
33%
30%
10%

Q11. Thinking about the country, do you think that things are headed in the right direction, or do you think that things are headed off on the wrong track?

1.	Right direction	14%
2.	Wrong track	75%
3.	Don't know	11%

Q12. Compared to a year ago, would you say that the national economy is a lot better off, somewhat better off, about the same, somewhat worse off, or a lot worse off?

1.	A lot better off	2%
2.	Somewhat better off	12%
3.	About the same	25%
4.	Somewhat worse off	28%
5.	A lot worse off	31%
6.	Don't know	2%

Q13. Thinking about the state of Texas, do you think that things are headed in the right direction, or do you think that things are headed off on the wrong track?

1.	Right direction	39%
2.	Wrong track	43%
3.	Don't know	18%

Q14. Again thinking specifically about Texas, do you believe that economic conditions in Texas are getting better or worse?

1.	Better	38%
2.	Worse	45%
3.	Don't know	17%

Q15. Compared to a year ago, would you say that you and your family are economically a lot better off, somewhat better off, about the same, somewhat worse off, or a lot worse off?

1.	A lot better off	3%
2.	Somewhat better off	13%
3.	About the same	40%
4.	Somewhat worse off	28%
5.	A lot worse off	15%
6.	Don't know	1%

Q16. Thinking ahead to the 2012 elections, do you think you will vote in the **[RANDOMIZE PARTY NAMES]** Republican Primary, the Democratic Primary, or do you usually not vote in primary elections?

1.	Republican Primary	50%
2.	Democratic Primary	30%
3.	Don't usually vote in primaries	21%

Q17. [Ask if Q16=1] If the 2012 Republican primary election for President were held today, which of the following candidates would you vote for, or haven't you thought about it enough to have an opinion? [Randomize 1-9] (n=395; MoE=+/- 4.93)

1.	Mitt Romney	9%
2.	Ron Paul	12%
3.	Gary Johnson	1%
4.	Michele Bachmann	2%
5.	Newt Gingrich	8%
6.	Herman Cain	27%
7.	Rick Perry	26%
8.	Rick Santorum	1%
9.	Jon Huntsman	1%
10.	Another Republican candidate	1%
11.	Don't know	11%

Q18. **[Ask if Q16=1]** If the 2012 Republican primary election for U.S. Senator were held today, which of the following possible candidates would you vote for, or haven't you thought about it enough to have an opinion? **[Randomize 1-6] (n=395; MoE= +/-4.93%)**

1.	David Dewhurst	22%
2.	Elizabeth Ames Jones	2%
3.	Ted Cruz	10%
4.	Tom Leppert	5%
5.	Michael McCaul	5%
6.	Glenn Addison	0%
7.	Another Republican candidate	7%
8.	Don't Know	50%

Q19. [Ask if Q17=1] If the 2012 Republican primary election for lieutenant governor were held today, which of the following possible candidates would you vote for, or haven't you thought about it enough to have an opinion? [Randomize 1-5] (n=397; MoE= +/-4.92%)

1.	Susan Combs	14%
2.	Todd Staples	2%
3.	Jerry Patterson	5%
4.	Dan Branch	1%
5.	Dan Patrick	9%
6.	Another Republican candidate	5%
7.	Don't know	64%

Q20. **[Ask if Q17=2]** If the 2012 Democratic primary election for U.S. Senator were held today, which of the following possible candidates would you vote for, or haven't you thought about it enough to have an opinion? **[Randomize 1-3] (n=235; MoE= +/-6.39%)**

1.	Chris Bell	15%
2.	Chet Edwards	9%
3.	Ricardo Sanchez	11%
4.	Another Democratic candidate	10%
5.	Don't know	55%

[Randomize Q22, Q23, Q24, Q25]

Q21. If the 2012 general election for U.S. president were held today and Rick Perry was the Republican nominee, would you vote for **[randomize]** Barack Obama, Rick Perry, someone else, or haven't you thought enough about it to have an opinion? **[Randomize 1-2]**

1.	Rick Perry	45%
2.	Barack Obama	37%
3.	Someone else	10%
4.	Haven't thought about it enough to have an opinion	8%

(By political Interest)

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	•	Extremely	Somewhat	Not Very	Not at all	
1.	Rick Perry	54%	40%	17%	14%	
2.	Barack Obama	35%	44%	25%	34%	
3.	Someone else	9%	12%	17%	3%	
4.	Haven't though	2%	5%	41%	48%	

Q22. If the 2012 general election for U.S. president were held today and Mitt Romney was the Republican nominee, would you vote for **[randomize]** Barack Obama, Mitt Romney, someone else, or haven't you thought enough about it to have an opinion? **[Randomize 1-2]**

1.	Mitt Romney	36%
2.	Barack Obama	34%
3.	Someone else	19%
4.	Haven't thought about it enough to have an opinion	11%

(By political Interest)

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		Extremely	Somewhat	Not Very	Not at all
1.	Mitt Romney	45%	29%	9%	20%
2.	Barack Obama	33%	40%	20%	30%
3.	Someone else	19%	19%	23%	3%
4.	Haven't thought	3%	12%	47%	47%

Q23. If the 2012 general election for U.S. president were held today and Ron Paul was the Republican nominee, would you vote for **[randomize]** Barack Obama, Ron Paul, someone else, or haven't you thought enough about it to have an opinion? **[Randomize 1-2]**

1.	Ron Paul	38%
2.	Barack Obama	33%
3.	Someone else	17%
4.	Haven't thought about it enough to have an opinion	13%

(By political Interest)

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		Extremely	Somewhat	Not Very	Not at all
1.	Ron Paul	48%	31%	17%	7%
2.	Barack Obama	33%	37%	22%	27%
3.	Someone else	18%	18%	15%	7%
4.	Haven't thought	2%	14%	46%	60%

Q24. If the 2012 general election for U.S. president were held today and Herman Cain was the Republican nominee, would you vote for **[randomize]** Barack Obama, Herman Cain, someone else, or haven't you thought enough about it to have an opinion? **[Randomize 1-2]**

1.	Herman Cain	40%
2.	Barack Obama	35%
3.	Someone else	13%
4.	Haven't thought about it enough to have an opinion	12%

(By political Interest)

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	·	Extremely	Somewhat	Not Very	Not at all
1.	Herman Cain	53%	30%	14%	14%
2.	Barack Obama	34%	40%	19%	29%
3.	Someone else	9%	17%	16%	10%
4.	Haven't thought	3%	13%	52%	46%

Q25. If the 2012 general election for U.S. Senator from Texas were held today, would you vote for the **[randomize]** Republican candidate, the Democratic candidate, someone else, or haven't you thought enough about it to have an opinion? **[Randomize 1-2]**

1.	Republican candidate	47%
2.	Democratic candidate	30%
3.	Someone else	4%
4.	Haven't thought about it enough to have an opinion	18%

Q26. Suppose the Tea Party movement organized itself as a political party. When thinking about the next election for Congress, would you vote for **[randomize]** the Republican candidate from your district, the Democratic candidate from your district, or the Tea Party candidate from your district? **[Randomize 1-2]**

1.	Republican Candidate	20%
2.	Democratic candidate	33%
3.	Tea Party candidate	24%
4.	Don't know	24%

Q27. Do you think the Tea Party movement has too much influence, too little influence, or the right amount of influence in the Republican Party?

1.	Too much influence	30%
2.	Too little influence	23%
3.	The right amount of influence	25%
4.	Don't know	22%

Q28. Do you support or oppose the "Occupy Wall Street" or "99 percent" protests taking place in cities across the country, or haven't you thought about it enough to have an opinion?

1.	Strongly support	20%
2.	Somewhat support	17%
3.	Somewhat oppose	8%
4.	Strongly oppose	32%
5.	Haven't thought about it enough to have an opinion	23%

Q29. Do you think most people you know would vote for a Mormon presidential candidate if they agreed with him or her on the issues?

1.	Yes	53%
2.	No	23%
3.	Don't Know/No Answer	25%

Q30. How do you feel about the following statement: Generally speaking, the way state government runs in Texas serves as a good model for other states to follow?

1.	Strongly agree	21%
2.	Somewhat agree	29%
3.	Somewhat disagree	16%
4.	Strongly disagree	22%
5.	Don't know	12%

Political Traits

Q31. Here are several descriptive words or phrases. Using a 0-10 scale, where 0 means "not at all well" and 10 means "extremely well," please tell us how well each item describes Governor Rick Perry. [Randomly select 5 items from Q31a-Q31j] [Include "don't know" option for every scale.]

a. Honest (n=387):

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mean=5.05; sd=3.24; don't know=6%
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b. Career politician (n=385):

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mean=7.11; sd=3.06; don't know=5%
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c. Conservative (n=421):

d. Corrupt (n=409):

e. Strong leader (n=406):

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mean=5.89; sd=3.12; don't know=5%
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f. Competent (n=405):

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mean=5.60; sd=3.23; don't know=4%
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g. Outsider (n=372):

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mean=3.86; sd=2.74; don't know=10%
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h. Self-serving (n=380):

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mean=5.64; sd=2.96; don't know=7%
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i. Straight talker (n=406):

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mean=5.36; sd=3.23; don't know=6%
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j. A real Texan (n=394):

Q32. Regardless of how you view Rick Perry, do you think his candidacy has helped, hurt, or had no effect on Texas's image among voters outside of the state.

1.	Helped Texas's image	19%
2.	Hurt Texas's image	37%
3.	Had no effect on Texas's image	34%
4.	Don't know	11%

Policy Questions

Q33. Should illegal immigrants who have graduated from a Texas high school and lived in the state for at least a year receive lower in-state tuition rates at Texas public colleges and universities, or should they have to pay the higher tuition rate for out-of-state students?

1.	In-state tuition	28%
2.	Out-of-state tuition	55%
3.	Don't know	17%

Q34. **[Ask if Q33=1]** Should illegal immigrants brought to Texas as children by their parents be eligible to receive state-funded financial aid for college? (n=223)

1.	Yes	67%
2.	No	26%
3.	Don't Know	7%

Q35. Which of the following best characterizes your opinion on the federal proposal that would provide a pathway to citizenship for most illegal immigrants currently living in the United States?

1.	Strongly support	19%
2.	Somewhat support	20%
3.	Somewhat oppose	15%
4.	Strongly oppose	36%
5.	Don't know	11%

[Note: For Q36, the sample was randomly split and the question was asked in two different ways to each sub-sample. One sub-sample received the wording as presented below, while for the other, the orders of the arguments and response options were reversed. Results shows here are for the entire (combined) sample]

Q36. Some say that Rick Perry's leadership in promoting policies such as low taxes, lenient regulation, and small government, is the main reason the Texas economy has fared better than the national economy.

Others say that long-existing economic policies such as a constitutional requirement for a balanced budget, no income tax, and a lenient regulatory environment, in addition to Texas' natural resources, have been the main reasons the Texas economy has fared better than the national economy.

Which would you say is closer to your own view:

1.	Rick Perry's leadership has helped	040/
	Texas fare better than the rest of the country.	21%
2.	Long-standing policies have helped T	
	Texas fare better than the rest of the country.	65%
3.	Don't Know	14%

Q37. Which of the following best characterizes your opinion on the death penalty for those convicted of violent crimes?

1.	Strongly support	49%
2.	Somewhat support.	25%
3.	Somewhat oppose.	9%
4.	Strongly oppose	12%
5.	Don't know	5%

Q38. How often do you think people are wrongly convicted of death penalty offenses in the state of Texas?

 Never 		3%
2. Almost	never	30%
Occasi	onally	41%
4. A great	t deal of the time	15%
5. Don't k	now	11%

Q39. What is your opinion on the availability of abortion?

1.	By law, abortion should never be permitted	16%
2.	The law should permit abortion only in case of rape,	
	incest or when the woman's life is in danger	31%
3.	The law should permit abortion for reasons other	
	than rape, incest, or danger to the	
	woman's life, but only after the need for the abortion	
	has been clearly established.	12%
4.	By law, a woman should always be able to obtain an	
	abortion as a matter of personal	
	Choice.	36%
5.	Don't know	5%

Q40. Would you say that the quality of K-12 public school education in Texas is:

1.	Excellent	7%
2.	Good	36%
3.	Not very good	32%
4.	Terrible	19%
5.	Don't know	7%

Q41. Do you think that Texas spends too much, too little, or about the right amount on primary and secondary education?

1.	Too much	14%
2.	Too little	53%
3.	About the right amount	22%
4.	Don't Know	11%

Political Knowledge

[Randomize INFO1-INFO3]

INFO1. Which political party holds the majority in the U.S. House of Representatives?

1.	Republican Party	75%
2.	Democratic Party	14%
3.	Neither	3%
4.	Don't know	8%

INFO2. What majority of both houses of the U.S. Congress is needed to override a presidential veto?

1.	More than one-half	5%
2.	More than two-thirds	72%
3.	More than three-fourths	12%
4.	Don't know	12%

INFO3. Who is the current Attorney General of Texas?

1.	Greg Abbott	65%
2.	Michael Williams	1%
3.	Susan Combs	7%
4.	Victor Carrillo	2%
5.	Don't know	25%

Political Orientation

We're almost done. Now we just have a few basic questions for statistical purposes.

LIBCON. On a scale from 1 to 7, where 1 is extremely liberal, 7 is extremely conservative, and 4 is exactly in the middle, where would you place yourself? [Wording on scale: (1) "Extremely liberal," (4) "In the middle," (7) "Extremely conservative"]

1.	Extremely liberal	5%
2.	Somewhat liberal	8%
3.	Slightly liberal	9%
4.	In the middle	25%
5.	Slightly conservative	16%

6.	Somewhat conservative	22%
7.	Extremely conservative	14%

PID3. Generally speaking, would you say that you usually think of yourself as a...

1.	Democrat	29%
2.	Independent	27%
3.	Republican	34%
4.	Other	6%
5.	Not sure	5%

PID7. (Uses the four PID3 follow-up questions)

1.	Strong Democrat	20%
2.	Not very strong Democrat	9%
3.	Lean Democrat	8%
4.	Independent	13%
5.	Lean Republican	15%
6.	Not very strong Republican	10%
7.	Strong Republican	24%
8.	Not sure	2%

Demographics

AGE. Please indicate your age group.

1.	18-29	16%
2.	30-44	28%
3.	45-64	39%
4.	65 and up	16%

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

1.	Urban	29%
2.	Suburban	46%
3	Rural	25%

METRO. Do you live in the Houston, Dallas-Fort Worth, San Antonio, or Austin metropolitan areas?

1.	Yes, I live in the Houston area.	17%
2.	Yes, I live the Dallas-Fort Worth area Rural	29%
3.	Yes, I live in the San Antonio area	11%
4.	Yes, I live in the Austin area	11%
5.	No, I live in another part of Texas.	33%

CHILD. How many children are currently living with you?

1.	One	18%
2.	Two	12%
3.	Three	8%
4.	Four or more	1%
5.	None	61%

SCHOOL. Do you have any children currently enrolled in school in Texas? (check all that apply)

1.	Yes, I have a child/children under 18 enrolled in	
	public school in Texas	24%
2.	Yes, I have a child/children under 18 enrolled in	
	private school in Texas	4%
3.	Yes, I have a child/children under 18 who are being	
	home schooled in Texas	2%
4.	No, I do not have any children under 18 in school in	
	Texas	71%

INCOME. In which category would you place your household income last year?

1.	Less than \$10,000	5%
2.	\$10,000 to \$14,999	4%
3.	\$15,000 to \$19,999	6%
4.	\$20,000 to \$24,999	6%
5.	\$25,000 to \$29,999	6%
6.	\$30,000 to \$39,999	11%
7.	\$40,000 to \$49,999	10%
8.	\$50,000 to \$59,999	6%
9.	\$60,000 to \$69,999	9%
10	. \$70,000 to \$79,999	6%
11	. \$80,000 to \$99,999	9%
12	. \$100,000 to \$119,999	5%
13	. \$120,000 to \$149,999	3%
14	. \$150,000 or more	4%
15	. Prefer not to say	10%

EDU. What is the highest level of education that you received?

Less than high school	3%
2. High school degree	39%
3. Some college	29%
4. Two-year college degree	10%

5.	Four-year college degree	13%
6.	Post-graduate degree	5%

RELIG. What is your religious affiliation? [No open response on "other"]

 Agnostic Assembly of God* Atheist Baptist* Buddhist Catholic* Christian Scientist* Church of Christ* Church of God* Disciples of Christ* Episcopal/Anglican* Hindu Jehovah's Witnesses Jewish Lutheran* Methodist* Mormon* 	5% 1% 3% 16% 17% 0% 3% 1% 2% 0% 0% 1% 3% 4% 1%
18. Muslim/Islam 19. Nondenominational Christian*	0% 10%
20. Orthodox/Eastern Orthodox*	0%
21. Pentecostal*	2%
22. Presbyterian*	2%
23. Protestant (non-specific)*	4%
24. Reformed*	0%
25. Unitarian/Universalist*	1%
26. United Church of Christ*	1%
27. Spiritual but not religious	8%
28. Other*	9%
29. Don't know	3%

EVANG. **[Ask if respond * to RELIG]** Do you consider yourself to be a "born again" or "evangelical" Christian?

1.	Yes	48%
2.	No	52%

MORMON. Do you believe that Mormons are Christians?

1. Yes	43%
2. No	29%
3. Don't Know	28%

IMPORT. How important is religion in your life?

1.	Extremely important	47%
2.	Somewhat important	28%
3.	Not very important	13%
4.	Not at all important	12%

ATTEND. Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services or participate in religious activities?

1.	More than once a week	16%
2.	Once a week	18%
3.	A few times a month	11%
4.	Once or twice a year	28%
5.	Never	27%

RACE. What race do you consider yourself to be?

1.	White	63%
2.	African American	12%
3.	Hispanic or Latino	18%
4.	Asian/Pacific Islander	2%
5.	Native American	1%
6.	Multi-racial	1%

NATIVE1. **[Ask if RACE = "Hispanic or Latino"]** Were you born in the United States or Puerto Rico, or in another country?

1.	Born in the United States or Puerto Rico	87%
2.	Born in another country	13%

NATIVE2. **[Ask NATIVE2 if answer 1 on NATIVE1]** Were your parents born in the United States or Puerto Rico, or another country?

1.	Both of my parents were born in the United States	
	or Puerto Rico	69%
2.	One of my parents was born in another country	19%
3.	Both of my parents were both in another country	13%

NATIVE3. **[Ask NATIVE3 if answer 1 on NATIVE1]** Were you born in Texas, or did you move here later in life?

	Born in Texas Born somewhere else	72% 28%
HOME. D	o you own or rent your home?	
	Own Rent	73% 28%
MARITAL	. What is your marital status?	
2. 3. 4.	Single Married Divorced Widowed Domestic Partnership	17% 61% 12% 17% 4%
GENDER. What is your gender?		
	Male Female	47% 53%
P08. In the 2008 presidential election, who did you vote for?		
2. 3.	Barack Obama John McCain Someone else Did not vote	40% 46% 6% 8%