Interest and Engagement

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

1. Yes  90%
2. No  10%
3. Don’t know  0%

Q2. On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is extremely uninterested, 10 is extremely interested, and 5 is exactly in the middle, how interested, generally speaking, would you say you are politics and public affairs?

Enter a number between 0 and 10  7.3 mean

Q3. On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is not at all, 10 is extremely closely, and 5 is exactly in the middle, how closely would you say you will be following the Texas legislative session this year?

Enter a number between 0 and 10  5.2 mean

Most Important Problem

Q4. What would you say is the most important problem facing this country today? (Open ended)

1. The economy  63%
2. Growth of government (expanding scope of federal government, “socialism,” etc.)  6%
3. Fiscal issues (federal spending, taxes, federal deficit)  5%
4. Social and moral issues  4%
5. Problems with the political system (partisanship, corruption, etc.)  4%
6. Immigration  4%
7. Health care  3%
8. New presidential administration  3%
9. National security/Terrorism  1%
10. Wars (Iraq and Afghanistan)  0.5%
11. Energy issues  0.5%
12. Miscellaneous  3%
13. Don’t know/No response  3%
Q5. Thinking about the economy, what is the *most important economic challenge* facing the country today? (Split-sample: Half of respondents receive open-ended Q4; half receive multiple choices Q5.) \textbf{N=417}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Unemployment/Jobs</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Inflation/Prices</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Mortgages/Home ownership/foreclosures</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. The federal budget deficit</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. The national debt</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Banking crisis/Credit crunch</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Taxes</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Other (specify)</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. Don’t know</td>
<td>2</td>
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</table>

Q6. What would you say is the *most important problem* facing the state of Texas today? \textbf{(Open ended)}

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. The economy and jobs</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Immigration and Border security</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Problems with the political system (partisanship, corruption, etc.)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Education</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Housing problems</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Health care</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Energy issues</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Fiscal issues (taxes, spending, state budget)</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. National issues</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Water/drought</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>11. Social issues</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>12. Infrastructure issues</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>13. Crime</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>14. The environment</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>15. Miscellaneous</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>16. Don’t know/No response</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q7: Thinking about the economy in Texas, what is the *most important economic challenge* facing the state today? (Split-sample: Half of respondents receive open-ended Q6; half receive multiple choices Q7.) \textbf{N=383}

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Unemployment/Jobs</td>
<td>34</td>
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<td>2. Inflation/Prices</td>
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<td>3. Mortgages/Home ownership/foreclosures</td>
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<td>7. Taxes</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Other (specify)</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. Don’t know</td>
<td>5</td>
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</table>
**Feeling Thermometer Scores:** We’d like to get your feelings toward some political figures and groups using something we call a “feeling thermometer.” A rating of 100 degrees means that you feel extremely favorable and warm toward the person or group. A rating of 0 degrees means that you feel extremely unfavorable and cold toward that same person/group. A rating of 50 degrees means that you feel neither particularly warm nor particularly cold. Or if you haven’t heard enough about the person or group to provide a rating, just say so. On this 0 to 100 scale, how do you feel about... (Randomize, select 3 from Q8-Q14, all of Q15-Q18)

Q8. Barack Obama? 53.2 mean; 39.64 stdv; N=331
Q9. Sarah Palin? 50.1 mean; 36.26 stdv; N=310
Q10. Kay Bailey Hutchison? 56.9 mean; 28.00 stdv; N=310
Q11. John Cornyn? 54.5 mean; 31.68 stdv; N=281
Q12. Rick Perry? 51.3 mean; 30.38 stdv; N=310
Q13. Joe Straus 44.4 mean; 23.68 stdv; N=166
Q14. David Dewhurst 50.8 mean; 24.68 stdv; N=193

**Vote Intention**

I’m going to give you some information about a few people who might be running for U.S. Senate from Texas if Kay Bailey Hutchison resigns her seat this year. For each, please tell me how likely you would be to vote for them using a 0-100 scale in which 100 means you would definitely vote for them, 0 means you would definitely not vote for them, and 50 means you are equally divided on whether to vote for them or not. (Randomize Q15-Q22)

Q15. Roger Williams (Republican) is a former Texas Secretary of State and served as chair of the Texas Republican Party’s 2008 campaign committee. He is a former college baseball star from Texas Christian University who embarked on a career in business and public affairs after playing and coaching baseball.

44.1 mean

Q16. David Dewhurst (Republican) is the current Lieutenant Governor of Texas and former Texas Land Commissioner. He is a rancher from Houston, a former officer in the U.S. Air Force, and also worked for the CIA.

48.5 mean

Q17. Greg Abbott (Republican) is the first Republican Attorney General of Texas since reconstruction. Abbott is from Duncanville and previously served as a state trial judge and Texas Supreme Court justice. He was disabled in a jogging accident shortly after earning his law degree and is bound to a wheelchair.

51.4 mean

Q18. Michael Williams (Republican) is currently Chairman of the Texas Railroad Commission. He is the first African American to hold statewide elective office in Texas. Williams began his career as an assistant district attorney in Midland. He later served as a federal prosecutor and was Assistant Secretary of Education for Civil rights under President George H. W. Bush.

47.7 mean
Q19. Florence Shapiro (Republican) is a member of the Texas Senate. Before her election to the state senate, Shapiro was a mayor and city council member in Plano, and a public school teacher.

44.3 mean

Q20. John Sharp (Democrat) is a former Texas State Comptroller for two terms and also served in the Texas House of Representatives, Texas Senate, and Texas Railroad Commission. He was born in Placedo, graduated from Texas A&M, and served in the U.S. Army Reserves. He currently heads a tax consulting firm and was chair of the 2005 Texas Tax Reform Commission.

47.2 mean

Q21. Bill White (Democrat) was twice elected Mayor of Houston. White is a plaintiff attorney who graduated from the University of Texas Law School after earning a B.A. from Harvard. He served as U.S. Deputy Secretary of Energy under President Clinton and has organized several oil and gas development companies.

45.4 mean

Q22. Elizabeth Ames Jones (Republican) is a member of the Texas Railroad Commission. She is the second woman to win election to the railroad commission. Prior to serving on the commission, Jones represented northern San Antonio as a member of the Texas House of Representatives.

44.8 mean

Hypothetical Senate Match-ups

Hypothetical senate election match-ups are calculated by comparing the percentage of respondents who rated their likelihood of voting for one candidate higher than the other. Respondents who did not rate the candidates or rated the candidates equally are considered “undecided.” N=715, MOE +/- 3.66

Republicans v. John Sharp (D)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Greg Abbott</th>
<th>John Sharp</th>
<th>Undecided</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>36%</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Abbot +8)</td>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Michael Williams</th>
<th>John Sharp</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>33%</td>
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<td>37%</td>
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<tr>
<td>(M. Williams +3)</td>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Elizabeth Ames Jones</th>
<th>John Sharp</th>
<th>Undecided</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>37%</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Jones +2)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>David Dewhurst</th>
<th>John Sharp</th>
<th>Undecided</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>33%</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Dewhurst +1)</td>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Florence Shapiro</th>
<th>John Sharp</th>
<th>Undecided</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Shapiro -1)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Roger Williams 29% (R. Williams -4)
John Sharp 33%
Undecided 38%

Republicans v. Bill White (D)

Greg Abbott 37% (Abbot +9)
Bill White 28%
Undecided 36%

Michael Williams 35% (M. Williams +4)
Bill White 31%
Undecided 34%

Elizabeth Ames Jones 33% (Jones +3)
Bill White 30%
Undecided 37%

David Dewhurst 38% (Dewhurst +2)
Bill White 36%
Undecided 26%

Florence Shapiro 32% (Shapiro +1)
Bill White 31%
Undecided 37%

Roger Williams 31% (R. Williams -2)
Bill White 33%
Undecided 38%

State Retrospective Assessments

Q23. Overall, how strongly do you approve or disapprove of the way Rick Perry has been handling his job as governor?

1. Approve strongly 11%
2. Approve somewhat 28%
3. Neither approve nor disapprove 27%
4. Disapprove somewhat 17%
5. Disapprove strongly 17%

Q24. Overall, how strongly do you approve or disapprove of the job the Texas state legislature is doing?

1. Approve strongly 4%
2. Approve somewhat 26%
3. Neither approve nor disapprove 40%
4. Disapprove somewhat 24%
5. Disapprove strongly 6%
Broader Retrospective Assessments

Q25. Overall, how strongly do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president?

1. Approve strongly 29%
2. Approve somewhat 16%
3. Neither approve nor disapprove 13%
4. Disapprove somewhat 12%
5. Disapprove strongly 30%

Q26. How strongly do you approve or disapprove of the way the U.S. Congress is handling its job?

1. Approve strongly 4%
2. Approve somewhat 22%
3. Neither approve nor disapprove 22%
4. Disapprove somewhat 15%
5. Disapprove strongly 37%

Q27. Thinking about the 2010 primary elections in Texas, do you think that you will:

1. Vote in the Republican Primary 38%
2. Vote in the Democratic Primary 33%
3. Not Vote 9%
4. Don’t Know 20%

Q28. If the 2010 Republican Primary election for governor were held today, would you vote for [rotate names] Rick Perry, Kay Bailey Hutchison, someone else, or haven’t you thought about it enough to have an opinion?” (Only registered GOP primary voters from Q31 and Q1) N=277, MOE +/- 5.89

1. Perry 29%
2. Hutchison 37%
3. Someone else 10%
4. Undecided 24%

Q29. Compared to a year ago, would you say that the country is economically

1. A lot better off 2%
2. Somewhat better off 4%
3. About the same 13%
4. Somewhat worse off, or 33%
5. A lot worse off? 48%

Q30. What about you? Compared to a year ago, would you say that you and your family are economically

1. A lot better off 3%
2. Somewhat better off 14%
3. About the same 42%
4. Somewhat worse off, or 27%
5. A lot worse off? 14%
Policy Views

Next we are going to ask some questions about your opinions on policy issues:

Q31. Overall, do you support or oppose reinstating legislative control over tuition rates at Texas public colleges and universities?

1. Strongly support 19%
2. Somewhat support 28%
3. Somewhat oppose 16%
4. Strongly opposed 10%
5. Don’t know 27%

Q32. The State Board of Education has been discussing whether or how to include the teaching of creationism or intelligent design as alternative theories to evolution in public schools. Which of the following is closest to your view of how such theories should be taught in schools?

1. They should not be included at all 23%
2. They should be included as competing theories 45%
3. They should replace evolution as the main theories taught to students 13%
4. Don’t know 19%

Q33. Which of the following education proposals would you most like to see enacted?

1. Increasing the number of charter schools in Texas 7%
2. Creating a government financial aid or public school “voucher” program to help parents send their child to a private or religious school 19%
3. Increasing funding and access to pre-K programs at Texas public schools 9%
4. Increasing teacher salaries 27%
5. Allocating new funding to the poorest school districts in Texas 16%
6. There should be no new education spending in this legislative session 11%
7. Don’t know 11%

Q34. In your opinion, who should be primarily responsible for setting academic standards for public schools?

1. National government 16%
2. State government 41%
3. Local school boards 31%
4. Don’t know 12%
Q35. Generally speaking, do you think standardized tests are an unbiased measure of a student’s academic abilities, or do you think they are biased against black and Hispanic students, and students from low-income households?

1. Standardized tests are unbiased measures 50.5%
2. Standardized tests are biased against certain students 32.5%
3. Don’t know 17%

Q36. Under current Texas law, students graduating in the top 10% of their high school class are guaranteed admittance to the Texas public university of their choice. Opponents of this “top 10% rule” argue that too many students qualify for automatic admission, giving universities almost no discretion over their own admissions and leaving very few openings for other students to gain admission to Texas public universities. Supporters of the “top 10% rule” argue that it has helped to increase the number of minorities and students from low-income households admitted to Texas public universities. If the Texas legislature were to reconsider the “top 10% rule,” what is your opinion on what the legislature should do?

1. Leave the “top 10% rule” as it currently is 33%
2. Raise the bar to the top 5% of a high school graduating class 17%
3. Cap the number of students eligible for college admission under the “top 10% rule” 8%
4. Eliminate the “top 10% rule” altogether 22%
5. Don’t know 20%

Q37. What is your opinion concerning the amount of state revenue that should be used to make education at state colleges and universities more affordable for Texans?

1. State revenues should be increased to make college education more affordable for all Texans 46%
2. State revenues should be increased to make college education more affordable for only the most needy Texans 15%
3. State revenues should stay the same with no changes in the affordability of college education for Texans 14%
4. State revenues should be decreased even if it means making college education more expensive for Texans 6%
5. Don’t know 19%

Q38. Gambling policy is expected to be a hot topic in the state legislature this year. Which of the following gambling policy proposals would you most support?

1. Banning all gambling and gaming in Texas 12%
2. Leaving current gambling laws unchanged 17%
3. Allowing limited expansion of gambling, but only in existing locations 13%
4. Expanding gambling but only to Indian reservations 6%
5. Allowing full casino gambling in Texas 40%
6. Don’t know 12%
Immigration reform is also on the 2009 legislative agenda. Please tell us whether you would strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the following proposals. If you neither support nor oppose, please feel free to say so:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q39. Ending in-state tuition at Texas public colleges and universities for undocumented or illegal immigrants.</th>
<th>STRONG SUPPORT</th>
<th>SW SUPPORT</th>
<th>SW OPPOSE</th>
<th>STRONG OPPOSE</th>
<th>DK/REF/N/A</th>
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<tr>
<td>59%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>11%</td>
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<tr>
<th>Q40. Passing an English-only amendment to the Texas constitution.</th>
<th>STRONG SUPPORT</th>
<th>SW SUPPORT</th>
<th>SW OPPOSE</th>
<th>STRONG OPPOSE</th>
<th>DK/REF/N/A</th>
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<tr>
<td>43%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<tr>
<th>Q41. Requiring businesses to verify the immigration status of every worker and fine businesses if they are caught intentionally employing undocumented or illegal immigrants.</th>
<th>STRONG SUPPORT</th>
<th>SW SUPPORT</th>
<th>SW OPPOSE</th>
<th>STRONG OPPOSE</th>
<th>DK/REF/N/A</th>
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<tr>
<td>63%</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>7%</td>
<td>7%</td>
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<tr>
<th>Q42. Ending bilingual education in Texas public schools.</th>
<th>STRONG SUPPORT</th>
<th>SW SUPPORT</th>
<th>SW OPPOSE</th>
<th>STRONG OPPOSE</th>
<th>DK/REF/N/A</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>34%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>6%</td>
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Q43. Every ten years states redraw the boundaries of congressional and legislative districts based on new Census figures in a process called redistricting. Currently the state legislature and governor are primarily responsible for redistricting. Would you favor or oppose a change in state law that removed redistricting authority from the legislature and governor, giving it instead to an independent, appointed commission?

1. Favor 40%  
2. Oppose 22%  
3. Don’t know 38%

Q44. Some people argue that requiring registered voters to present government-issued photo identification at the polls reduces voter fraud and does not place major obstacles on anyone who is legally entitled to vote. Other people argue that such a requirement has a negligible effect on voter fraud but places significant obstacles on elderly, low-income, disabled, and minority voters. Do you agree or disagree with the idea that registered voters should be required to present a government-issued photo id at the polls before they can be allowed to vote?

1. Agree 69%  
2. Disagree 18%  
3. Don’t know 13%
PID. Generally speaking, would you say that you usually think of yourself as a...

1. Strong Democrat 21%
2. Not very strong Democrat 11%
3. Independent, leaning Democrat 8%
4. Independent 13%
5. Independent, leaning Republican 11%
6. Not very strong Republican 10%
7. Strong Republican 22%
8. Not Sure 4%

We’re nearly done now. Here are some questions to which not everyone may know the right answer. If you come to one to which you don’t know the right answer, don’t worry about it. Just mark “couldn’t say” and move on to the next one.

INFO1. Which party is the majority party in the Texas State House of Representatives?

1. The Democrats 18%
2. The Republicans 57%
3. Neither 2%
4. Don’t know 23%

INFO2. The Texas Lieutenant Governor is an appointed position.

1. True 30%
2. False 41%
3. Don’t know 29%

INFO3. Voters are currently legally required to present a government-issued photo ID in order to legally vote:

1. True 42%
2. False 49%
3. Don’t know 9%

CONTACT. Political parties, interest groups, and candidates are increasingly using new electronic techniques to communicate with people. Please think back over the past year and indicate if you have received emails, text messages, online social network or other electronic communications, not including telephone calls, from any of the following. Please indicate ALL that apply, you can select more than one. (Examples of each category are offered to respondents)

1. National politician or candidate 49%
2. State politician or candidate 40%
3. Local politician or candidate 22%
4. National political party 36%
5. State political party 24%
6. Local-level political party or club 14%
7. National political interest group 28%
8. State-level political interest group 17%
9. Local-level political interest group 12%
INVOLVE1. People participate in the political system in many different ways. Please think back over the past year and indicate if you have done any of the following. Please mark ALL that apply.

1. Voted in an election 80.0%
2. Publicly supported a political candidate (example: display a bumper sticker) 35%
3. Joined an online social network group supporting a political candidate 20%
4. Forwarded an email from a political party, candidate, or interest group to others 35%
5. Encouraged others to vote for a particular candidate 51%
6. Volunteered for a political campaign 9%
7. Attended a political rally, protest, or event 13%
8. Contacted an elected official to express an opinion 30%
9. Donated money to a political candidate 22%
10. Donated money to a political party organization 14%
11. Donated money to a political interest group 8%

INVOLVE2. People often discuss politics informally in many different settings. Please think back over the past year and indicate whether you heard or took part in a conversation involving politics in any of the following settings. Please mark ALL that apply.

1. Office or workplace 51%
2. Informally with friends or family 81%
3. Civic or charitable club or organization 9%
4. Social club or organization 14%
5. Recreational or sporting event or club 17%
6. Business or labor association 8%
7. A child’s school or related activity 10%
8. Church or religious organization 20%
9. Political club or organization 7%
10. Online social network such as MySpace or Facebook 22%
11. Online blog 17%

Demographics

Finally, a few questions for statistical purposes...

CHILD. How many children do you have currently living with you? (If you don’t have any just enter 0.)

0. 64%
1. 15%
2. 13%
3. 7%
4. 1%
ATTEND. Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services?

More than once a week. 12%
Once a week. 19%
A few times a month. 13%
Once or twice a year. 23%
Never. 24%
Prefer not to say. 9%

RACE. What race do you consider yourself to be?

White 53%
African American 10%
Hispanic or Latino 31%
Asian/Pacific Islander 1%
Native American 1%
Multi-racial 2%
Don’t know/Refused/NA 2%

ETHNIC. [Ask if RACE = “Hispanic or Latino”] People of Hispanic or Latino origin come to the United States from many different countries. From which country do you trace your Hispanic or Latino heritage? (If you trace your heritage from more than one country, please select your primary country of origin.)

Mexican 73%
Puerto Rican 3%
Cuban 1%
Dominican 0%
Salvadoran 2%
Other Central American 3%
Other South American 1%
Spain 10%
Other 3%
Don’t know/Refused/NA 4%

PREFER. [Ask if RACE = “Hispanic or Latino”] Thinking about yourself, which term do you prefer to describe your racial or ethnic heritage?

Hispanic 68%
Latino 9%
Chicano 9%
A national identifier (such as Mexican American, Cuban American, Mexicano, Salvadoran, or something similar) 14%