

# University of Texas / Texas Tribune Texas Statewide Survey

Fall 2009 Results Summary  
N=800 Registered Voters  
Margin of error: +/- 3.46%  
October 20–27, 2009

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**Note: Due to rounding, not all percentages will sum to 100**

## Interest and Engagement

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

(Poll is a registered voter sample)

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?

54%	Extremely interested
36%	Somewhat interested
7%	Not very interested
2%	Not at all interested
0%	Don't know

## Most Important Problem

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

24%	The economy
14%	Unemployment/jobs
15%	Federal spending/national debt
15%	Political corruption/leadership
13%	Health care
4%	Moral decline
3%	Immigration
2%	National security/terrorism
1%	Taxes
1%	Gas prices
1%	Energy
1%	Gay marriage
1%	Education
1%	Social welfare programs
1%	Environment
1%	The media
1%	Crime and drugs
1%	Afghanistan/Pakistan
1%	Iraq

- 0% Housing
- 0% Abortion
- 0% Federal courts/nominees
- 0% Foreign trade
- 0% Voting system

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

- 19% Immigration
- 15% Unemployment/jobs
- 13% The economy
- 13% Border security
- 9% Health care
- 7% Political corruption/leadership
- 5% Crime and drugs
- 5% Education
- 2% State government spending
- 2% Moral decline
- 2% Taxes
- 2% Social welfare programs
- 2% Insurance rates
- 1% Gas prices
- 1% Water supply
- 1% Gay marriage
- 1% Energy
- 1% Environment
- 1% Transportation
- 0% Abortion
- 0% Housing
- 0% State courts
- 0% The media
- 0% Voting system

### **Retrospective Assessments**

Q5. Overall, how strongly do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama has been handling his job as president?

- 21% Approve strongly
- 20% Approve somewhat
- 7% Neither approve nor disapprove
- 8% Disapprove somewhat
- 44% Disapprove strongly
- 0% Don't know

Q6. Overall, how strongly do you approve or disapprove of the way Rick Perry has been handling his job as governor?

10%	Approve strongly
26%	Approve somewhat
15%	Neither approve nor disapprove
18%	Disapprove somewhat
26%	Disapprove strongly
6%	Don't know

Q7. Overall, how strongly do you approve or disapprove of the way Kay Bailey Hutchison has been handling her job as United States Senator?

10%	Approve strongly
29%	Approve somewhat
24%	Neither approve nor disapprove
17%	Disapprove somewhat
10%	Disapprove strongly
9%	Don't know

Q8. Overall, how strongly do you approve or disapprove of the way the United States Congress has been handling its job?

2%	Approve strongly
12%	Approve somewhat
11%	Neither approve nor disapprove
22%	Disapprove somewhat
49%	Disapprove strongly
4%	Don't know

Q9. Overall, how strongly do you approve or disapprove of the way the Texas state legislature has been handling its job?

3%	Approve strongly
28%	Approve somewhat
25%	Neither approve nor disapprove
21%	Disapprove somewhat
15%	Disapprove strongly
9%	Don't know

Q10. 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?

32%	Right direction
59%	Wrong track
10%	Don't know

Q11. 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?

- 38% Right direction
- 39% Wrong track
- 23% Don't know

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

- 5% A lot better off
- 19% Somewhat better off
- 16% About the same
- 23% Somewhat worse off
- 36% A lot worse off
- 1% Don't know

Q13. 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?

- 3% A lot better off
- 14% Somewhat better off
- 39% About the same
- 27% Somewhat worse off
- 16% A lot worse off
- 1% Don't know

### **Vote Intention**

(Q14 is used as a screen for subsequent questions that pertain to party primaries. Respondents who respond to Q14 as "definitely" or "probably" voting in the Republican primary will only receive questions that pertain to Republican primary races. Similarly those who respond as "definitely" or "probably" voting in the Democratic primary will only receive questions that pertain to Democratic primary races. Those who respond as voting only in general elections or "don't know" will not receive any questions pertaining to party primaries.)

Q14. Thinking about the 2010 primary elections in Texas, do you think that you will:

- 33% Definitely vote in the Republican primary
- 12% Probably vote in the Republican primary
- 23% Definitely vote in the Democratic primary
- 7% Probably vote in the Democratic primary
- 10% I only vote in general elections
- 16% Don't Know

Now we're going to list some potential races for political office in 2010. If the election were held today, please tell us which candidate you would most likely vote for or if you haven't thought enough about it to have an opinion. (Candidate order was randomized on trial ballots)

Q15. If the 2010 Republican primary election for governor were held today, would you vote for Rick Perry, Kay Bailey Hutchison, Debra Medina, someone else, or haven't you thought enough about it to have an opinion? **(N=357, MoE=5.19% at a 95% confidence interval)**

42%	Rick Perry
30%	Kay Bailey Hutchison
7%	Debra Medina
4%	Someone else
18%	Don't know

Q16. If the 2010 Republican primary election for lieutenant governor were held today, would you vote for David Dewhurst, Greg Abbott, someone else, or haven't you thought enough about it to have an opinion? **(N=356, MoE=5.19% at a 95% confidence interval)**

26%	David Dewhurst
16%	Greg Abbott
11%	Someone else
47%	Don't know

Q17. If the 2010 Democratic primary election for governor were held today, who would you vote for, or haven't you thought enough about it to have an opinion? **(N=266, MoE=6.01% at a 95% confidence interval)\***

19%	Kinky Freidman
10%	Tom Schieffer
3%	Mark Thompson
5%	Ronnie Earle
2%	Felix Alvarado
.3%	Hank Gilbert
6%	Someone else
55%	Don't know

Q18. If Rick Perry were the Republican nominee for governor, and the 2010 general election were held today, would you vote for Republican Rick Perry, the Democratic nominee, a third party candidate, or haven't you thought enough about it to have an opinion?

34%	Rick Perry
33%	The Democratic nominee
8%	Third party candidate
24%	Don't know

Q19. If Kay Bailey Hutchison were the Republican nominee for governor, and the 2010 general election were held today, would you vote for Republican Kay Bailey Hutchison, the Democratic nominee, a third party candidate, or haven't you thought enough about it to have an opinion?

36% Kay Bailey Hutchison  
25% The Democratic nominee  
9% Third party candidate  
30% Don't know

Q20. If the 2010 election for governor were held today, in a race between Democrat Tom Scheiffer, Republican Rick Perry, and a third party candidate, who would you vote for, or haven't you thought enough about it to have an opinion?

25% Tom Scheiffer  
36% Rick Perry  
11% Third party candidate  
28% Don't know

Q21. If the 2010 election for governor were held today, in a race between Democrat Tom Scheiffer, Republican Kay Bailey Hutchison, and a third party candidate, who would you vote for, or haven't you thought enough about it to have an opinion?

20% Tom Scheiffer  
40% Kay Bailey Hutchison  
10% Third party candidate  
31% Don't know

Q22. If the 2010 election for governor were held today, in a race between Democrat Kinky Freidman, Republican Rick Perry, and a third party candidate, who would you vote for, or haven't you thought enough about it to have an opinion?

23% Kinky Freidman  
38% Rick Perry  
15% Third party candidate  
24% Don't know

Q23. If the 2010 election for governor were held today, in a race between Democrat Kinky Freidman, Republican Kay Bailey Hutchison, and a third party candidate, who would you vote for, or haven't you thought enough about it to have an opinion?

21% Kinky Freidman  
41% Kay Bailey Hutchison  
12% Third party candidate  
26% Don't know

Q24. If the 2010 election for governor were held today, in a race between Democrat Ronnie Earle, Republican Rick Perry, and a third party candidate, who would you vote for, or haven't you thought enough about it to have an opinion?

21%	Ronnie Earle
38%	Rick Perry
12%	Third party candidate
29%	Don't know

Q25. If the 2010 election for governor were held today, in a race between Democrat Ronnie Earle, Republican Kay Bailey Hutchison, and a third party candidate, who would you vote for, or haven't you thought enough about it to have an opinion?

18%	Ronnie Earle
42%	Kay Bailey Hutchison
10%	Third party candidate
31%	Don't know

Q26. If Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison resigns from the senate in order to run for governor and there is a special election to fill her senate seat, which of the following candidates would you vote for, or haven't you thought enough about it to have an opinion?

1%	Roger Williams (Republican)
13%	David Dewhurst (Republican)
3%	Michael Williams (Republican)
3%	Florence Shapiro (Republican)
10%	John Sharp (Democrat)
13%	Bill White (Democrat)
2%	Elizabeth Ames Jones (Republican)
56%	Don't know

Q27. If the 2010 election for U.S. Congress in your district were held today, would you vote for the Democratic candidate, the Republican candidate, neither, or haven't you thought enough about it to have an opinion?

33%	Democratic candidate
42%	Republican candidate
7%	Neither
19%	Don't know

Q28. If the 2010 election for the Texas state legislature in your district were held today, would you vote for the Democratic candidate, the Republican candidate, neither, or haven't you thought enough about it to have an opinion?

- 33% Democratic candidate
- 39% Republican candidate
- 6% Neither
- 22% Don't know

### Policy Questions

Q29. How satisfied are you with you and your family's current health care?

- 30% Very satisfied
- 33% Somewhat satisfied
- 14% Somewhat dissatisfied
- 20% Not at all satisfied
- 3% Don't know

Q30. How worried are you about losing your health care coverage within the next 12 months or so?

- 23% Very worried
- 21% Somewhat worried
- 23% Not very worried
- 26% Not at all worried
- 7% Don't know

Q31. As you may know, there has been a lot of discussion lately about making changes to health care in the United States. Some people feel there should be a government insurance plan which would cover all medical and hospital expenses for everyone. Suppose these people are at one end of a scale, at point 1. Others feel that all medical expenses should be paid by individuals through private insurance plans like Blue Cross or other company paid plans. Suppose these people are at the other end, at point 7. Other people have opinions somewhere in between. Where would you place yourself on this scale, or haven't you thought much about this? **[Wording on scale: (1) "Government insurance plan," (7) "Private insurance plans," "Don't know" response box available]**

- 31% Government insurance plan (1-3)
- 12% In the middle (4)
- 51% Private insurance plans (5-7)
- 7% Don't know



Q32. How important do you think it is that the health care reform bill that becomes law include the following?

Q32a. Ensure that every American has health care coverage.

57% Important (1-3)  
11% In the middle (4)  
29% Not important (5-7)  
2% Don't know

Q32b. Institute a government-run public option to compete with private health insurance.

41% Important (1-3)  
10% In the middle (4)  
43% Not important (5-7)  
6% Don't know

Q32c. Make sure that health care reform does not add to the national debt.

80% Important (1-3)  
10% In the middle (4)  
9% Not important (5-7)  
1% Don't know

Q32d. End frivolous medical malpractice lawsuits.

78% Important (1-3)  
10% In the middle (4)  
9% Not important (5-7)  
3% Don't know

Q32e. Stop the denial of health coverage for preexisting conditions.

80% Important (1-3)  
11% In the middle (4)  
7% Not important (5-7)  
3% Don't know

Q32f. Let individuals retain control over their own health care choices.

88% Important (1-3)  
5% In the middle (4)  
5% Not important (5-7)  
2% Don't know

Q32g. Protect the Medicare program from cuts.

79% Important (1-3)  
10% In the middle (4)  
9% Not important (5-7)  
3% Don't know

Q33. What is your opinion on expanding the Texas Children's Health Insurance Program in order to allow more children to enroll in the program so long as their families pay a share of the program's cost?

37%	Strongly support
41%	Somewhat support
5%	Somewhat oppose
4%	Strongly oppose
12%	Don't know

Q34. Do you approve or disapprove of the way President Obama and the Democrats in Congress are handling the issue of health care?

13%	Strongly approve
24%	Somewhat approve
9%	Somewhat disapprove
49%	Strongly disapprove
5%	Don't know

Q35. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Republicans in Congress are handling the issue of health care?

9%	Strongly approve
24%	Somewhat approve
21%	Somewhat disapprove
33%	Strongly disapprove
12%	Don't know

Q36. What is your opinion on the proposed "cap and trade" legislation that would impose limits on the amount of greenhouse gases that a company can emit and cause them to buy permits when they need to exceed their limit?

15%	Strongly support
22%	Somewhat support
8%	Somewhat oppose
36%	Strongly oppose
19%	Don't know

Q37. In order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, what is your opinion on the Texas state government requiring new homes, commercial buildings, and industrial plants to be more energy efficient?

36%	Strongly support
32%	Somewhat support
11%	Somewhat oppose
10%	Strongly oppose
12%	Don't know

Q38. In your opinion, is the federal government helping to bring the country out of economic recession, making it harder for the economy to recover from recession, or not doing much either way?

- 28% Helping to bring the country out of economic recession
- 43% Making it harder for the economy to recover from recession
- 23% Not doing much either way
- 6% Don't know

Q39. In your opinion, is the Texas state government helping to bring the state out of economic recession, making it harder for the state economy to recover from economic recession, or not doing much either way?

- 23% Helping to bring the state out of economic recession
- 17% Making it harder for the state to recover from economic recession
- 43% Not doing much either way
- 17% Don't know

Q40. As a result of the United States' military action in Afghanistan, do you think the threat of terrorism against the United States has increased, decreased, or stayed about the same?

- 28% Increased
- 21% Decreased
- 44% Stayed about the same
- 7% Don't know

Q41. Which concerns you more: the United States will stay in Afghanistan too long, or the United States will leave Afghanistan too soon?

- 52% Stay too long
- 49% Leave too soon

Q42. If you had to choose, what do you think should happen to most illegal immigrants who have lived and worked in the United States for at least two years?

- 41% They should be given a chance to keep their jobs and eventually apply for legal status
- 50% They should be deported back to their native country
- 10% Don't know

Q43. What is your opinion on the availability of abortion?

- 15% By law, abortion should never be permitted
- 33% The law should permit abortion only in case of rape, incest or when the woman's life is in danger
- 14% 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
- 34% By law, a woman should always be able to obtain an abortion as a matter of personal choice
- 5% Don't know

Q44. The Texas Constitution grants the Governor the power to appoint individuals to many boards and commissions. Do you believe that that it is appropriate for the Governor to remove these individuals for political reasons?

- 26% Yes
- 52% No
- 22% Don't know

Q45. Would you say that the quality of K-12 public school education in Texas is:

- 5% Excellent
- 42% Good
- 35% Not very good
- 13% Terrible
- 5% Don't know

Q46. 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?

- 48% Favor
- 21% Oppose
- 32% Don't know

### **Political Knowledge**

INFO1. Which position does Hillary Clinton hold in the current federal administration?

- 2% Secretary of the Treasury
- 90% Secretary of State
- 0% Solicitor General
- 4% U.S. Senator
- 4% Don't know

INFO2. What is the majority party in the Texas House of Representatives?

25%	Democrats
62%	Republicans
13%	Don't know

INFO3. Are the justices on the Texas Supreme Court appointed or elected?

48%	Appointed
33%	Elected
20%	Don't know

### 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"]**

19%	Liberal (1-3)
35%	In the middle (4)
47%	Conservative (5-7)

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

32%	Democrat
31%	Independent
32%	Republican
1%	Other
4%	Not sure

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

20%	Strong Democrat
12%	Not very strong Democrat
9%	Lean Democrat
12%	Independent
13%	Lean Republican
12%	Not very strong Republican
20%	Strong Republican
2%	Not sure

## Demographics

AGE. Please indicate your age group.

17%	18-29
27%	30-44
39%	45-64
18%	65 and up

COUNTY. In which county do you reside?

(Too numerous to list, please see data file)

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

30%	Urban
49%	Suburban
21%	Rural

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

22%	Yes, I live in the Houston area.
31%	Yes, I live the Dallas-Fort Worth area
9%	Yes, I live in the San Antonio area
8%	Yes, I live in the Austin area
31%	No, I live in another part of Texas.

BIG4. (Calculated from METRO demographic)

31%	Not a "big 4" metro area resident
69%	"Big 4" metro area resident

CHILD. How many children are currently living with you?

18%	One
14%	Two
8%	Three
3%	Four or more
31%	None

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

11%	Less than \$20,000
11%	\$20,000 to \$30,000
10%	\$30,000 to \$40,000
10%	\$40,000 to \$50,000
8%	\$50,000 to \$60,000
7%	\$60,000 to \$70,000
7%	\$70,000 to \$80,000
8%	\$80,000 to \$100,000
7%	\$100,000 to \$120,000
6%	\$120,000 to \$150,000
6%	More than \$150,000
9%	Prefer not to say

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

3%	Less than high school
35%	High school degree
29%	Some college
4%	Two-year college degree
21%	Four-year college degree
8%	Post-graduate degree

RELIG. What is your religious affiliation?

3%	Agnostic
2%	Assembly of God*
3%	Atheist
20%	Baptist*
1%	Buddhist
21%	Catholic*
0%	Christian Scientist*
3%	Church of Christ*
0%	Church of God*
0%	Disciples of Christ*
2%	Episcopal/Anglican*
0%	Hindu
0%	Jehovah's Witnesses
1%	Jewish
2%	Lutheran*
6%	Methodist*
1%	Mormon
0%	Muslim/Islam
11%	Nondenominational Christian*
0%	Orthodox/Eastern Orthodox*
2%	Pentecostal*
2%	Presbyterian*
3%	Protestant (non-specific)*

0%	Reformed*
0%	Unitarian/Universalist
0%	United Church of Christ*
10%	Spiritual but not religious
7%	Other*
1%	Don't know

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

49%	Yes
51%	No

IMPORT. How important would you say that religious beliefs are to your daily life?

54%	Extremely important
29%	Somewhat important
9%	Not very important
8%	Not at all important

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

15%	More than once a week
21%	Once a week
15%	A few times a month
26%	Once or twice a year
24%	Never

RACE. What race do you consider yourself to be?

61%	White
14%	African American
20%	Hispanic or Latino
1%	Asian/Pacific Islander
1%	Native American
3%	Multi-racial

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

86%	Born in the United States or Puerto Rico
14%	Born in another country



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

60%	Both of my parents were born in the United States or Puerto Rico
22%	One of my parents was born in another country
18%	Both of my parents were both in another country

HOME. Do you own or rent your home?

75%	Own
25%	Rent

MARITAL. What is your marital status?

63%	Married
1%	Separated
11%	Divorced
3%	Widowed
16%	Single
5%	Domestic partnership

GENDER. What is your gender?

46%	Male
54%	Female

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\* Hank Gilbert was inadvertently omitted from the original response options on Q17 in the survey. The 350 respondents who registered an intent to vote in the Democratic primary in the initial survey were therefore re-contacted between October 29-November 1 and asked for their preference with Hank Gilbert included as an option.