University of Texas / Texas Tribune
Texas Statewide Survey

Field dates: October 11-19, 2010
N=800 Adults; Margin of error=+-3.46
*Due to rounding, not all percentages sum to 100

Interest and Engagement

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

1. Yes, registered 100%
2. No, not registered 0%
3. Don't know 0%

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 36%
3. Not very interested 9%
4. Not at all interested 2%
5. Don't know 1%

Q3. Thinking back over the past 3-4 years, how often would you say that you have voted in local, state, or national elections?

1. Every time 43%
2. Almost every time 31%
3. Some of the time 12%
4. Once or twice 9%
5. Never 4%
6. Don't know 1%

Q4. How closely would you say you have been following the campaign for governor of Texas this year?

1. Extremely closely 34%
2. Somewhat closely 18%
3. Not very closely 13%
4. Not at all 6%
5. Don't know 1%
Most Important Problem

Q5. What would you say is the most important problem facing this country today? [Randomize]

1. The economy 34%
2. Unemployment/jobs 18%
3. Federal spending/national debt 13%
4. Political corruption/leadership 9%
5. Health care 5%
6. Moral decline 3%
7. National security/terrorism 2%
8. Immigration 5%
9. Taxes 1%
10. Gas prices 0%
11. Energy 1%
12. Gay marriage 0%
13. Education 2%
14. Social welfare programs 1%
15. Environment 1%
16. The media 0%
17. Abortion 0%
18. Crime and drugs 1%
19. Afghanistan/Pakistan 0%
20. Housing 0%
21. Iraq 0%
22. Federal courts/nominees 0%
23. Foreign trade 0%
24. Voting system 0%
25. Border security 3%
26. Iran/nuclear weapons 0%
27. Gulf oil spill 0%

Q6. What would you say is the most important problem facing the state of Texas today? [Randomize]

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

Retrospective Assessments

Q7. How would you rate the job Barack Obama has done as president? Would you say that you...

1. Approve strongly 14%
2. Approve somewhat 21%
3. Neither approve nor disapprove 4%
4. Disapprove somewhat 6%
5. Disapprove strongly 53%
6. Don't know 1%

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 31%
3. Neither approve nor disapprove 13%
4. Disapprove somewhat 14%
5. Disapprove strongly 23%
6. Don't know 5%

Q9. 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 25%
2. Wrong track 64%
3. Don't know 11%

Q10. 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 45%
2. Wrong track 37%
3. Don't know 18%
Q11. 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?

1. A lot better off 3%
2. Somewhat better off 19%
3. About the same 20%
4. Somewhat worse off 23%
5. A lot worse off 33%
6. Don't know 3%

Q12. Now thinking specifically about Texas, do you believe that economic conditions in Texas are getting better or worse?

1. Better 40%
2. Worse 40%
3. Don't know 21%

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?

1. A lot better off 3%
2. Somewhat better off 16%
3. About the same 38%
4. Somewhat worse off 27%
5. A lot worse off 14%
6. Don't know 2%

Vote Intention

[For Q14-Q16 and Q18-Q20, respondents were first asked the questions below. If they initially answered that they were undecided, they were then asked a follow-up question: “If you had to make a choice, who would you choose?” Responses to the follow-up questions were folded into the results found below. Only respondents who indicated that they were undecided in the original question and then skipped the follow-up question are categorized as undecideds for these results.]

Q14. If the election for Texas Governor were held today, would you vote for: [Randomize 1-4] (N=797; MoE=+/-.47)

1. Rick Perry (Republican) 50%
2. Bill White (Democrat) 40%
3. Kathie Glass (Libertarian) 8%
4. Deb Shafto (Green) 2%
5. Undecided 0%
• Strength of support for Rick Perry (asked only of respondents who selected Rick Perry in the initial question)
  1. Very strongly 53%
  2. Somewhat strongly 47%

• Strength of support for Bill White (asked only of respondents who selected Bill White in the initial question)
  1. Very strongly 72%
  2. Somewhat strongly 29%

• Strength of support for Kathie Glass (asked only of respondents who selected Kathie Glass in the initial question)
  1. Very strongly 40%
  2. Somewhat strongly 60%

• Strength of support for Deb Shafto (asked only of respondents who selected Deb Shafto in the initial question)
  1. Very strongly 0%
  2. Somewhat strongly 100%

Q15. If the election for Texas Lieutenant Governor were held today, would you vote for: 
[Randomize 1-4] (N=798; MoE=+/3.47)
  1. David Dewhurst (Republican) 51%
  2. Linda Chavez-Thompson (Democrat) 38%
  3. Scott Jameson (Libertarian) 9%
  4. Herb Gonzales Jr. (Green) 2%
  5. Undecided 0%

Q16. If the election for Texas Attorney General were held today, would you vote for: 
[Randomize 1-3] (N=799; MoE=+/3.47)
  1. Greg Abbott (Republican) 55%
  2. Barbara Ann Radnofsky (Democrat) 35%
  3. Jon Roland (Libertarian) 11%
  4. Undecided 0%

Q17. If the election for Texas Comptroller were held today, would you vote for:
**Undecideds were not pushed to choose between candidates in the race for Texas comptroller.**

Q18. If the election for Texas State Land Commissioner were held today, would you vote for:

**[Randomize 1-3] (N=798; MoE=+/-3.47)**

1. Jerry Patterson (Republican) 50%
2. Hector Uribe (Democrat) 37%
3. James L. Holdar (Libertarian) 12%
4. Undecided 2%

Q19. If the election for Texas State Agriculture Commissioner were held today, would you vote for:

**[Randomize 1-3] (N=797; MoE=+/-3.47)**

1. Todd Staples (Republican) 50%
2. Hank Gilbert (Democrat) 37%
3. Rick Donaldson (Libertarian) 12%
4. Undecided 2%

Q20. If the election for Texas State Railroad Commissioner were held today, would you vote for:

**[Randomize 1-4] (N=797; MoE=+/-3.47)**

1. David Porter (Republican) 50%
2. Jeff Weems (Democrat) 34%
3. Roger Gary (Libertarian) 10%
4. Art Browning (Green) 5%
5. Undecided 2%

Q21. If the 2010 election for U.S. Congress in your district were held today, would you vote for the Democratic candidate, the Republican candidate, or haven’t you thought enough about it to have an opinion? **[Randomize 1-2]**

1. Republican candidate 51%
2. Democratic candidate 33%
3. Neither 8%
4. Don’t know 8%
Q22. 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, or haven’t you thought enough about it to have an opinion? [Randomize 1-2]

1. Republican candidate  48%
2. Democratic candidate  33%
3. Neither             8%
4. Don’t know           10%

Q23. Do you consider yourself to be part of the Tea Party movement?

1. Yes                 32%
2. No                  69%

Q24. Suppose the Tea Party movement organized itself as a political party. When thinking about the next election for Congress, would you vote for 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  18%
2. Democratic candidate  33%
3. Tea Party candidate   20%
4. Don’t know            28%

Q25. If you had to choose, which type of congressional candidate would you rather vote for in November?

1. A candidate who has been in Congress  29%
2. A candidate who has never been in Congress. 71%

Q26. Most U.S. representatives deserve re-election:

1. Strongly agree  2%
2. Somewhat agree   16%
3. Somewhat disagree 31%
4. Strongly disagree 40%
5. Don’t know       10%

[Q26-Q28: Include the following lead above each question: “How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?”]
Q27. Most U.S. Senators deserve re-election

1. Strongly agree 2%
2. Somewhat agree 13%
3. Somewhat disagree 32%
4. Strongly disagree 44%
5. Don’t know 10%

Q28. The U.S. representative from my congressional district deserves re-election:

1. Strongly agree 15%
2. Somewhat agree 22%
3. Somewhat disagree 22%
4. Strongly disagree 26%
5. Don’t know 16%

Q29. If a televised debate were held between the main candidates for governor of Texas, how much of it would you watch?

1. I would watch the whole debate 43%
2. I would watch parts of the debate on TV or certain clips online 24%
3. I would not watch it, but I would pay attention to media coverage of it 13%
4. I would probably not pay attention to it 13%
5. Don’t know 7%

Q30. What is your view on the importance of holding televised debates among the candidates for governor of Texas?

1. Gubernatorial debates are an important part of the political process. 65%
2. Gubernatorial debates are not an important part of the political process. 19%
3. Don’t know 16%

Q31. How much of an impact have televised debates had on your voting decisions in previous governor’s races?

1. A big impact 27%
2. Not much impact 38%
3. No impact 25%
4. Don’t know/can’t remember 10%
Q32. Which is the more important qualification for a candidate for statewide office (such as governor or U.S. senator): previous experience in elected office or previous experience in the private sector?

1. Experience in elected office 22%
2. Experience in the private sector 56%
3. Don't know 22%

Q33. What is the most important factor influencing your vote choice in the race for governor of Texas? [randomize 1-4]

1. The views of the candidates on the issues 68%
2. The party affiliations of the candidates 9%
3. The professional backgrounds of the candidates 6%
4. The personal qualities of the candidates 12%
5. Something else 4%

Q34. 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 the major party candidates for governor, Rick Perry and Bill White.  [Randomly select 5 items from Q35a-Q35i. List each of the following on a separate page, with two scales for “Rick Perry” and “Bill White.” Include “don’t know” option for every scale. Randomize order of items]

Q34a. Honest (N=442)

Rick Perry: mean=5.01; sd=3.27; don’t know=7%
Bill White: mean=4.81; sd=2.98; don’t know=11%

Q34b. Career politician (N=446)

Rick Perry: mean=8.01; sd=2.47; don’t know=6%
Bill White: mean=6.24; sd=2.73; don’t know=14%

Q34c. Partisan (N=472)

Rick Perry: mean=6.65; sd=3.00; don’t know=13%
Bill White: mean=6.06; sd=3.09; don’t know=18%

Q34d. Corrupt (N=440)

Rick Perry: mean=5.24; sd=3.62; don’t know=10%
Bill White: mean=4.66; sd=3.26; don’t know=16%
Q34e. Strong leader (N=457)

Rick Perry: mean=6.09; sd=3.23; don't know=5%
Bill White: mean=5.27; sd=3.03; don't know=12%

Q34f. Experienced (N=425)

Rick Perry: mean=7.59; sd=2.61; don't know=4%
Bill White: mean=5.64; sd=2.74; don't know=10%

Q34g. Competent (N=463)

Rick Perry: mean=5.85; sd=3.35; don't know=4%
Bill White: mean=5.29; sd=3.04; don't know=10%

Q34h. Outsider (N=444)

Rick Perry: mean=2.71; sd=3.02; don't know=10%
Bill White: mean=4.19; sd=2.93; don't know=14%

Q34i. Self-serving (N=420)

Rick Perry: mean=6.87; sd=3.00; don't know=8%
Bill White: mean=5.7; sd=3.00; don't know=14%

Q35. How positive or negative would you say Rick Perry’s campaign has been?

1. Very positive 13%
2. Somewhat positive 30%
3. Somewhat negative 24%
4. Very negative 21%
5. Don’t know 12%

Q36. How positive or negative would you say Bill White’s campaign has been?

1. Very positive 7%
2. Somewhat positive 28%
3. Somewhat negative 33%
4. Very negative 18%
5. Don’t know 14%
Q37. Please indicate how often you watch or listen to these news channels/programs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Channel Description</th>
<th>Regularly</th>
<th>Sometimes</th>
<th>Hardly ever</th>
<th>Never</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. The NATIONAL nightly network news on CBS, ABC, NBC, or PBS?</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Cable news channels</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. The LOCAL news in your viewing area</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Talk radio</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Comedy news shows like The Daily Show or Saturday Night Live’s Weekend Update</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Insert POP-UP if respondent answers “regularly” or “sometimes” for Q38c:
“Cable news channels”

Which cable news channels do you watch? Check all that apply. [randomize 1-4]

1. CNN 43%
2. BBC 12%
3. Fox News Channel 61%
4. MSNBC 32%
5. Other 19%]

Q38. Now please indicate how often you read the following types of publications:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Publication Description</th>
<th>Regularly</th>
<th>Sometimes</th>
<th>Hardly ever</th>
<th>Never</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Printed versions of your local daily or weekly community newspaper</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. TV station news websites such as CNN.com, ABCnews.com, or MSNBC.com</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. The websites of major national newspapers such as the USA Today.com, New York Times.com, or the Wall Street Journal online</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. The websites of your local newspaper or TV stations</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q39. Finally, please indicate how often you use the options below AS NEWS SOURCES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Regularly</th>
<th>Sometimes</th>
<th>Hardly ever</th>
<th>Never</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Individual blogger websites</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Websites that offers a mix of news and commentary, such as Slate, Drudge Report, or Huffington Post</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Social networking site like Facebook or MySpace</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Twitter updates</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Video sharing sites like YouTube</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Political Knowledge**

**[Randomize INFO1-INFO4]**

**INFO1.** Which position does Timothy Geithner hold in the current federal government?

1. Secretary of the Treasury 61%
2. Secretary of State 1%
3. Speaker of the House 2%
4. Senate majority leader 3%
5. Don't know 34%

**INFO2.** What is the term of service for U.S. Supreme Court Justices?

1. Five years 6%
2. Ten years 4%
3. Twenty years 1%
4. Life 76%
5. Don’t know 14%

**INFO3.** Who is the current speaker of the Texas House?

1. Rick Perry 3%
2. Joe Straus 31%
3. Kay Bailey Hutchison 11%
4. David Dewhurst 20%
5. Don’t know 36%
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”]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scale</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>(Extremely liberal)</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-3</td>
<td></td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>(In the middle)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-6</td>
<td></td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>(Extremely conservative)</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

1. Democrat  *
2. Independent
3. Republican
4. Other
5. Not sure

*Please see PID7 for results

[If respond Democrat to PID3] Do you consider yourself a…
  • Strong Democrat
  • Not very strong Democrat

[If respond Republican to PID3] Do you consider yourself a…
  • Strong Republican
  • Not very strong Republican

[If respond Independent to PID3] As an independent, do you consider yourself to…
  • Lean Republican  *Report in PID7 as “Lean Republican”
  • Lean Democrat    *Report in PID7 as “Lean Democrat”
  • Not lean either way *Report in PID7 as “Independent”

[If respond Other to PID3] Generally speaking, do you consider yourself to…
  • Lean Republican  *Report in PID7 as “Lean Republican”
  • Lean Democrat    *Report in PID7 as “Lean Democrat”
  • Support a third party  *Report in PID7 as “Other”
  • None of these     *Report in PID7 as “Other”
PID7. (Uses the four PID3 follow-up questions)

1. Strong Democrat 21%
2. Not very strong Democrat 13%
3. Lean Democrat 6%
4. Independent 8%
5. Lean Republican 12%
6. Not very strong Republican 12%
7. Strong Republican 28%
8. Other 5%
9. Not sure 2%

Demographics

AGE. Please indicate your age group.

1. 18-29 13%
2. 30-44 33%
3. 45-64 37%
4. 65 and up 17%

COUNTY. In which county do you reside? (See dataset)

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

1. Urban 28%
2. Suburban 49%
3. Rural 23%

REGION.

1. East Texas 21%
2. Dallas/Ft. Worth (Dallas and Tarrant Counties only) 17%
3. Houston (Harris County only) 15%
4. South Central 19%
5. West 14%
6. South/Hispanic 14%
METRO. Do you live in the Houston, Dallas-Fort Worth, San Antonio, or Austin metropolitan areas?

1. Yes, I live in the Houston area. 22%
2. Yes, I live the Dallas-Fort Worth area 27%
3. Yes, I live in the San Antonio area 8%
4. Yes, I live in the Austin area 11%
5. No, I live in another part of Texas. 31%

CHILD. How many children are currently living with you?

1. One 17%
2. Two 13%
3. Three 8%
4. Four or more 3%
5. None 60%

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

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

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

1. Less than high school 3%
2. High school degree 40%
3. Some college 34%
4. Two-year college degree 5%
5. Four-year college degree 13%
6. Post-graduate degree 5%
**RELIG.** What is your religious affiliation? **[No open response on “other”]**

1. Agnostic 5%
2. Assembly of God* 1%
3. Atheist 3%
4. Baptist* 19%
5. Buddhist 1%
6. Catholic* 20%
7. Christian Scientist* 0%
8. Church of Christ* 4%
9. Church of God* 0%
10. Disciples of Christ* 1%
11. Episcopalian/Anglican* 2%
12. Jewish 1%
13. Lutheran* 2%
14. Methodist* 5%
15. Mormon* 1%
16. Muslim/Islam 1%
17. Nondenominational Christian* 10%
18. Pentecostal* 2%
19. Presbyterian* 2%
20. Protestant (non-specific)* 3%
21. Reformed* 0%
22. Unitarian/Universalist 0%
23. United Church of Christ* 0%
24. Spiritual but not religious 9%
25. Other* 7%
26. Don’t know 3%

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

1. More than once a week 14%
2. Once a week 18%
3. A few times a month 13%
4. Once or twice a year 28%
5. Never 28%

**RACE.** What race do you consider yourself to be?

1. White 65%
2. African American 12%
3. Hispanic or Latino 18%
4. Asian/Pacific Islander 1%
5. Native American 1%
6. Multi-racial 3%
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 85%
2. Born in another country 15%
3. Don’t know 0%

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 65%
2. One of my parents was born in another country 22%
3. Both of my parents were both in another country 14%

HOME. Do you own or rent your home?

1. Own 75%
2. Rent 25%

MARITAL. What is your marital status?

1. Married 61%
2. Separated 1%
3. Divorced 10%
4. Widowed 4%
5. Single 19%
6. Domestic Partnership 6%

GENDER. What is your gender?

1. Male 47%
2. Female 53%

P08. In the 2008 presidential election, who did you vote for?

1. Barack Obama 37%
2. John McCain 52%
3. Someone else 5%
4. Did not vote 7%