

University of Texas / Texas Tribune
Texas Statewide Survey

Field dates: February 11-17, 2011

N=800 registered voters; margin of error = +/-3.46 unless otherwise noted

Note: 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%
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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	48%
2. Somewhat interested	41%
3. Not very interested	9%
4. Not at all interested	3%
5. Don't know	0%

Q3. How closely have you been following the current Texas legislative session?

1. Extremely closely	12%
2. Somewhat closely	46%
3. Not that closely	30%
4. Not at all	12%
5. Don't know	0%

Q4. 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	26%
2. Wrong track	59%
3. Don't know	15%

Q5. 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	41%
2. Wrong track	41%
3. Don't know	18%

Most Important Problem

Q6. What would you say is the most important problem facing this country today? **[Randomize]**

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

Q7. What would you say is the most important problem facing the state of Texas today?
[Randomize]

1. Immigration	16%
2. Border security	15%
3. Unemployment/jobs	12%
4. State budget shortfall	11%
5. The economy	9%
6. Political corruption/leadership	8%
7. Education	8%
8. State government spending	5%
9. Gas prices	3%
10. Health care	2%
11. Crime and drugs	2%
12. Taxes	2%
13. Social welfare programs	2%
14. Moral decline	1%
15. Insurance rates	1%
16. Water supply	1%

17. Environment	1%
18. Transportation/roads/traffic	1%
19. Abortion	1%
20. Utility rates	1%
21. Gay marriage	0%
22. Energy	0%
23. Housing	0%
24. State courts	0%
25. The media	0%
26. Voting system	0%
27. Electoral fraud	0%

Retrospective Assessments

Q8. 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	24%
3. About the same	30%
4. Somewhat worse off	24%
5. A lot worse off	17%
6. Don't know	2%

Q9. 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	17%
3. About the same	45%
4. Somewhat worse off	24%
5. A lot worse off	11%
6. Don't know	1%

Q10. How would you rate the job Barack Obama has done as president? Would you say that you...

1. Approve strongly	15%
2. Approve somewhat	21%
3. Neither approve nor disapprove	8%
4. Disapprove somewhat	9%
5. Disapprove strongly	46%
6. Don't know	1%

Q11. Overall, how strongly do you approve of the job the U.S. Congress is doing?

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Approve strongly | 2% |
| 2. Approve somewhat | 17% |
| 3. Neither approve nor disapprove | 19% |
| 4. Disapprove somewhat | 26% |
| 5. Disapprove strongly | 33% |
| 6. Don't know | 4% |

Q12. How would you rate the job Rick Perry has done as governor? Would you say that you...

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Approve strongly | 11% |
| 2. Approve somewhat | 28% |
| 3. Neither approve nor disapprove | 17% |
| 4. Disapprove somewhat | 15% |
| 5. Disapprove strongly | 25% |
| 6. Don't know | 3% |

Q13. Overall, how strongly do you approve of the job the Texas state legislature is doing?

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Approve strongly | 6% |
| 2. Approve somewhat | 26% |
| 3. Neither approve nor disapprove | 27% |
| 4. Disapprove somewhat | 20% |
| 5. Disapprove strongly | 15% |
| 6. Don't know | 6% |

Vote Intention

Q14. Thinking ahead to the 2012 elections, do you think you will vote in the Republican Primary, the Democratic Primary, or do you usually not vote in primary elections?

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Republican Primary | 45% |
| 2. Democratic Primary | 37% |
| 3. Don't usually vote in primaries | 18% |

Q15. **[Ask if Q14=1]** If the 2012 Republican primary election for US 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=374; MoE=+/-5.07)**

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Roger Williams | 2% |
| 2. David Dewhurst | 27% |
| 3. Michael Williams | 5% |
| 4. Michael McCaul | 4% |
| 5. Elizabeth Ames Jones | 3% |
| 6. Ted Cruz | 3% |
| 7. Another Republican candidate | 5% |
| 8. Don't know | 52% |

Q16. **[Ask if Q14=2]** If the 2012 Democratic primary election for US 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=297; MoE=+/-5.69)**

- | | |
|-----------------|-----|
| 1. John Sharp | 12% |
| 2. Chris Bell | 16% |
| 3. Chet Edwards | 13% |
| 4. Don't know | 59% |

Q17. 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 | 16% |
| 2. Democratic candidate | 34% |
| 3. Tea Party candidate | 22% |
| 4. Don't know | 28% |

Policy Questions

Q18. As you may know, the 14th Amendment to the Constitution says that all children born in the United States are automatically U.S. citizens regardless of their parents' legal status. Would you favor or oppose changing the Constitution to REPEAL this part of the 14th Amendment?

- | | |
|---------------|-----|
| 1. Favor | 53% |
| 2. Oppose | 37% |
| 3. Don't know | 10% |

Q19. Some illegal immigrants were brought to Texas as children by their parents. Should these individuals receive 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 | 27% |
| 2. Out-of-state tuition | 59% |
| 3. Don't know | 14% |

Q20. 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 | 75% |
| 2. Disagree | 17% |
| 3. Don't know | 8% |

Q21. What is your opinion on the availability of abortion?

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. By law, abortion should never be permitted | 13% |
| 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 | 14% |
| 4. By law, a woman should always be able to obtain an abortion as a matter of personal choice | 37% |
| 5. Don't know | 4% |

Q22. Do you support or oppose passing a law requiring that doctors who perform abortions make available to pregnant women sonogram images of their fetuses, and have the women listen to the heartbeat of their fetus before they have an abortion?

- | | |
|---------------------|-----|
| 1. Strongly support | 38% |
| 2. Somewhat support | 16% |
| 3. Somewhat oppose | 11% |
| 4. Strongly oppose | 25% |
| 5. Don't know | 10% |

Q23. Which of the following best characterizes your opinion on the death penalty for those convicted of violent crimes?

- | | |
|---------------------|-----|
| 1. Strongly support | 54% |
| 2. Somewhat support | 24% |
| 3. Somewhat oppose | 9% |
| 4. Strongly oppose | 9% |
| 5. Don't know | 5% |

Q24. In some states, it is legal for doctors to prescribe lethal doses of drugs so that a terminally ill patient can commit suicide. Do you approve or disapprove of laws that let doctors assist patients who want to end their lives this way?

- | | |
|---------------|-----|
| 1. Approve | 47% |
| 2. Disapprove | 36% |
| 3. Don't know | 17% |

Q25. Do you believe that the government has a responsibility to provide many, some, few, or no social services for the poor?

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. The government has a responsibility to provide MANY social services | 23% |
| 2. The government has a responsibility to provide SOME social services | 37% |
| 3. The government has a responsibility to provide FEW social services | 25% |
| 4. The government has a responsibility to provide NO social services | 12% |
| 5. Don't know | 3% |

Q26. 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 | 44% |
| 2. Oppose | 24% |
| 3. Don't know | 32% |

As you may know, Texas faces a budget shortfall of between \$16 billion and \$27 billion over the next two-year budget period. We will now ask you a short series of questions about how lawmakers should deal with this shortfall.

Q27. In attempting to deal with the budget shortfall, state lawmakers have two basic options at their disposal: cutting spending and increasing revenue. Please choose your preference for how state lawmakers should close the budget gap on a 0-10 scale, where 10 indicates that you prefer that state lawmakers close the gap *entirely through revenue increases*, and 0 indicates that you prefer that state lawmakers close the gap *entirely through spending cuts*.

Response		Percent
0	Entirely through spending cuts	17%
1		8%
2		9%
3		8%
4		7%
5	In the middle	22%
6		5%
7		4%
8		6%
9		3%
10	Entirely through revenue increases	4%
<i>don't know</i>		8%

[Randomize order of Q28 and Q29]

Q28. The Texas legislature is currently discussing different ways to reduce state spending in order to address the state's budget shortfall. Please think about the following list of proposals for cutting the budget, and check all of the measures you think should be taken to reduce spending. (Check all that apply)

Cut the state's share of public education funding

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 1. Yes | 18% |
| 2. No | 82% |

End funding for pre-kindergarten classes

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 1. Yes | 38% |
| 2. No | 62% |

Reduce funding of state grants to college students

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 1. Yes | 27% |
| 2. No | 73% |

Reduce state contributions to teacher and state employee retirement programs

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 1. Yes | 32% |
| 2. No | 69% |

End funding for the children's health insurance program

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 1. Yes | 13% |
| 2. No | 87% |

End state environmental regulation and leave it to the federal government

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 1. Yes | 35% |
| 2. No | 65% |

Cut payments to Medicaid providers like doctors and hospitals

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 1. Yes | 14% |
| 2. No | 86% |

Cut state funding for nursing home care

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 1. Yes | 10% |
| 2. No | 90% |

Close one or more prisons for adults

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 1. Yes | 33% |
| 2. No | 67% |

Close one or more prisons for juveniles

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 1. Yes | 33% |
| 2. No | 67% |

Reduce funding for new highway construction

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 1. Yes | 37% |
| 2. No | 63% |

Reduce funding for border security

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 1. Yes | 15% |
| 2. No | 85% |

Close four community colleges

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 1. Yes | 24% |
| 2. No | 77% |

Q29. Below is a list of ways in which state lawmakers might raise additional revenue in order to address the expected budget gap. Which of the following methods of increasing revenue would you support? (Check all that apply)

Legalize gambling and impose taxes on casinos

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 1. Yes | 61% |
| 2. No | 39% |

Increase taxes on alcoholic beverages

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 1. Yes | 52% |
| 2. No | 49% |

Legalize the use of marijuana and impose taxes on its purchase

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 1. Yes | 39% |
| 2. No | 61% |

Adopt a fuel inefficiency surcharge on certain new vehicles

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 1. Yes | 21% |
| 2. No | 80% |

Ban the use of cell phones while driving and charge fines for individuals who break this law

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 1. Yes | 46% |
| 2. No | 54% |

Eliminate the August state sales tax holiday if the budget situation does not improve

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 1. Yes | 39% |
| 2. No | 61% |

Increase the state sales tax rate (currently 6.25%)

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 1. Yes | 14% |
| 2. No | 86% |

Implement a state income tax

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 1. Yes | 6% |
| 2. No | 94% |

I do not support any of these measures

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 1. Yes | 11% |
| 2. No | 89% |

Q30. As you may know, the Rainy Day Fund contains money the state has set aside for emergency uses. Lawmakers are currently discussing whether to spend some of the \$9.4 billion in the rainy day account to help address the budget shortfall in the next budget, which is at least \$16 billion and perhaps as much as \$27 billion. What is your opinion on whether to spend money in the Rainy Day fund?

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Spend all of that money to avoid budget cuts | 9% |
| 2. Spend none of that money to avoid budget cuts | 24% |
| 3. Spend some, but not all, of that money to avoid budget cuts | 55% |
| 4. Don't know | 12% |

Q31. Gambling policy will probably be discussed again in the current session. Which of the following gambling policy proposals would you most support?

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Banning all gambling and gaming in Texas | 8% |
| 2. Leaving current gambling laws unchanged | 11% |
| 3. Allowing limited expansion of gambling, but only in existing locations | 12% |
| 4. Expanding gambling but only to Indian reservations | 6% |
| 5. Allowing full casino gambling in Texas | 56% |
| 6. Don't know | 9% |

Q32. What should be the priority for U.S. immigration policy? Should it be allowing new immigrants who already have family members living in the U.S., or allowing new immigrants who already have useful job skills?

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Immigrants with family members living in U.S. | 21% |
| 2. Immigrants with useful job skills | 46% |
| 3. Don't know | 33% |

Q33. Please indicate your opinion on the following proposals. **[Item a first. Then, randomize items b-d]**

Q33a. Passing comprehensive immigration overhaul at the federal level that would provide a pathway to citizenship for most illegal immigrants currently living in the United States.

- | | |
|---------------------|-----|
| 1. Strongly support | 17% |
| 2. Somewhat support | 23% |
| 3. Somewhat oppose | 13% |
| 4. Strongly oppose | 41% |
| 5. Don't know | 7% |

Q33b. Requiring businesses to verify the immigration status of every worker and fine businesses if they are caught intentionally employing illegal immigrants.

- | | |
|---------------------|-----|
| 1. Strongly support | 70% |
| 2. Somewhat support | 17% |
| 3. Somewhat oppose | 7% |
| 4. Strongly oppose | 4% |
| 5. Don't know | 4% |

Q33c. Requiring law enforcement officials to check someone's immigration status when they suspect him/her of being in the country illegally.

- | | |
|---------------------|-----|
| 1. Strongly support | 55% |
| 2. Somewhat support | 15% |
| 3. Somewhat oppose | 8% |
| 4. Strongly oppose | 17% |
| 5. Don't know | 5% |

Q33d. Prohibiting businesses from soliciting laborers at day labor sites.

- | | |
|---------------------|-----|
| 1. Strongly support | 35% |
| 2. Somewhat support | 17% |
| 3. Somewhat oppose | 19% |
| 4. Strongly oppose | 15% |
| 5. Don't know | 14% |

Q34. In so-called “sanctuary cities,” local law enforcement officials do not actively enforce some federal immigration laws. Do you approve or disapprove of city governments that choose not to enforce some immigration laws?

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Approve of sanctuary cities | 17% |
| 2. Disapprove of sanctuary cities | 69% |
| 3. Don't know | 14% |

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”]**

Response		Percent
1	Extremely liberal	4%
2		6%
3		10%
4	In the middle	28%
5		15%
6		21%
7	Extremely conservative	16%

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

1. Democrat **Please see PID7 (next page) for results*
2. Independent
3. Republican
4. Other
5. Not sure

[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, Other, or Not sure to PID3] Do you think of yourself as closer to the Democratic or the Republican Party?

- The Republican Party **Report in PID7 as “Lean Republican”*
- The Democratic Party **Report in PID7 as “Lean Democrat”*
- Neither **Report in PID7 as “independent”*
- Not sure **Report in PID7 as “not sure”*

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

1. Strong Democrat	21%
2. Not very strong Democrat	12%
3. Lean Democrat	8%
4. Independent	10%
5. Lean Republican	14%
6. Not very strong Republican	9%
7. Strong Republican	25%
8. Not sure	2%

Demographics

AGE. Please indicate your age group.

1. 18-29	15%
2. 30-44	30%
3. 45-64	40%
4. 65 and up	14%

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

1. Urban	30%
2. Suburban	47%
3. Rural	22%

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

1. Yes, I live in the Houston area	21%
2. Yes, I live the Dallas-Fort Worth area Rural	28%
3. Yes, I live in the San Antonio area	9%
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	19%
2. Two	15%
3. Three	6%
4. Four or more	2%
5. None	58%

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

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

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

1. No high school	4%
2. High school degree	38%
3. Some college	33%
4. Two-year college degree	6%
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*	2%
3. Atheist	4%
4. Baptist*	17%
5. Buddhist	2%
6. Catholic*	17%
7. Christian Scientist*	0%
8. Church of Christ*	4%
9. Church of God*	0%
10. Disciples of Christ*	1%
11. Episcopal/Anglican*	2%
12. Hindu	0%
13. Jehovah's Witnesses	0%
14. Jewish	1%
15. Lutheran*	2%
16. Methodist*	5%
17. Mormon*	1%
18. Muslim/Islam	0%
19. Nondenominational Christian*	11%
20. Orthodox/Eastern Orthodox*	0%

21. Pentecostal*	2%
22. Presbyterian*	2%
23. Protestant (non-specific)*	3%
24. Reformed*	0%
25. Unitarian/Universalist*	0%
26. United Church of Christ*	0%
27. Spiritual but not religious	8%
28. Other*	7%
29. Don't know	2%

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

1. Yes	50%
2. No	50%

RENEW. **[Ask if respond * to RELIG]** Do you consider yourself to be a “spirit filled” or “charismatic” Christian?

1. Yes	36%
2. No	64%

SOCJUST. **[Ask if respond * to RELIG]** Do you consider social justice to be at the heart of the Gospel?

1. Yes	40%
2. No	60%

LITERAL. Which of these statements comes closest to describing your feelings about the Bible?

1. The Bible is the actual word of God and is to be taken literally, word for word.	32%
2. The Bible is the word of God but not everything in it should be taken literally, word for word.	45%
3. The Bible is a book written by men and is not the word of God.	22%

IMPORT. How important is religion in your life?

1. Extremely important	48%
2. Somewhat important	31%
3. Not very important	11%
4. Not at all important	10%

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

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| 1. More than once a week | 17% |
| 2. Once a week | 18% |
| 3. A few times a month | 14% |
| 4. Once or twice a year | 24% |
| 5. Never | 28% |

SPANISH. Does your church offer religious services or programs in Spanish?

- | | |
|---------------|-----|
| 1. Yes | 31% |
| 2. No | 53% |
| 3. Don't know | 16% |

RACE. What race do you consider yourself to be?

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| 1. White | 65% |
| 2. African American | 13% |
| 3. Hispanic or Latino | 16% |
| 4. Asian/Pacific Islander | 2% |
| 5. Native American | 0% |
| 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 | 85% |
| 2. Born in another country | 14% |
| 3. Don't know | 1% |

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 | 70% |
| 2. One of my parents was born in another country | 20% |
| 3. Both of my parents were both in another country | 10% |

HOME. Do you own or rent your home?

- | | |
|---------|-----|
| 1. Own | 72% |
| 2. Rent | 28% |

MARITAL. What is your marital status?

1. Married	61%
2. Separated	2%
3. Divorced	12%
4. Widowed	4%
5. Single	18%
6. Domestic partnership	4%

GENDER. What is your gender?

1. Male	47%
2. Female	53%