

Texas Statewide Survey

Field Dates: February 6 to 15, 2015

N=1200 Adults

Margin of error: +/- 2.83% (3.28% adjusted for weighting) unless otherwise noted*

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 at all interested?

1. Extremely interested	44%
2. Somewhat interested	43
3. Not very interested	8
4. Not at all interested	4
5. Don't know	1

Q3. There are many elections in the state of Texas. Furthermore, many people intend to vote in a given election, but sometimes personal and professional circumstances keep them from the polls. Thinking back over the past two or three years, would you say that you voted in all elections, almost all, about half, one or two, or none at all?

1. Every election	37%
2. Almost every election	37
3. About half	9
4. One or two	9
5. None	5
6. Don't know	2

* In calculating the margin of error (MOE) for the survey, we provide two calculations, one that compensates for the relative standard deviation of the weights and one that does not. Without taking the variance of the weights into account, the margin of error for the full sample is 2.83%. To compensate for the additional uncertainty from weighting, we apply a multiplier derived from the coefficient of variation of the weights: $\sqrt{1+CV^2}$, where $CV=sd(weights)/mean(weights)$. For this weight sensitive calculation, the MOE for the full sample is 3.28%.

Most Important Problem

Q4. What would you say is the most important problem facing this country today? **[Randomize]**

1. The economy	12%
2. Federal spending/national debt	12
3. National security/terrorism	10
4. Political corruption/leadership	9
5. Immigration	6
6. Health care	5
7. Moral decline	5
8. Income inequality	5
9. Unemployment/jobs	4
10. Partisan gridlock	4
11. Border security	3
12. Education	3
13. Middle East instability	3
14. Taxes	2
15. Gun control/gun violence	2
16. Crime and drugs	2
17. Gay marriage	2
18. Environment	2
19. Social welfare programs	1
20. Gas prices	1
21. Abortion	1
22. Voting system	1
23. Police brutality/police militarization	1
24. Race relations	1
25. The media	1
26. Government data collection	0
27. Energy	0
28. Housing	0
29. Afghanistan/Pakistan	0
30. Foreign trade	0
31. Russia/Ukraine	0
32. Gender inequality	0

Q5. What would you say is the most important problem facing the state of Texas today?
[Randomize]

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

Retrospective Assessments

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

1. Approve strongly	17%
2. Approve somewhat	20
3. Neither approve nor disapprove	9
4. Disapprove somewhat	8
5. Disapprove strongly	46
6. Don't know	1

Q7. How would you rate the job the U.S. Congress is doing? Would you say that you...

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| 1. Approve strongly | 3% |
| 2. Approve somewhat | 17 |
| 3. Neither approve nor disapprove | 19 |
| 4. Disapprove somewhat | 24 |
| 5. Disapprove strongly | 34 |
| 6. Don't know | 3 |

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

Q10. Compared to a year ago, would you say that the national economy is a lot better off, somewhat better off, about the same, somewhat worse off, or a lot worse off?

- | | |
|------------------------|-----|
| 1. A lot better off | 11% |
| 2. Somewhat better off | 25 |
| 3. About the same | 33 |
| 4. Somewhat worse off | 18 |
| 5. A lot worse off | 11 |
| 6. Don't know | 3 |

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?

- | | |
|--------------------|-----|
| 1. Right direction | 50% |
| 2. Wrong track | 30 |
| 3. Don't know | 20 |

Q12. 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 | 6% |
| 2. Somewhat better off | 21 |
| 3. About the same | 44 |
| 4. Somewhat worse off | 21 |
| 5. A lot worse off | 7 |
| 6. Don't know | 2 |

Q13. Compared to a year ago, would you say that the Texas economy is a lot better off, somewhat better off, about the same, somewhat worse off, or a lot worse off?

1. A lot better off	6%
2. Somewhat better off	26
3. About the same	47
4. Somewhat worse off	14
5. A lot worse off	3
6. Don't know	4

Political Figures and Elections

[For Q17 and Q18, after indicating their first choice, respondents were asked, “Of the remaining possible candidates, who would be your second choice, or have you not thought about it enough to have an opinion?”]

Q17. [ASK IF Q16=1] If the 2016 Republican primary election for president 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 1-16]**

(n=547, MOE is +/- 4.19%; MOE is +/- 4.70% when adjusted for weighting)

	First Choice	Second Choice
1. Ted Cruz	20%	12%
2. Scott Walker	19	15
3. Jeb Bush	9	6
4. Ben Carson	9	13
5. Rick Perry	8	8
6. Mike Huckabee	5	7
7. Rand Paul	4	7
8. Marco Rubio	4	7
9. Sarah Palin	3	4
10. Chris Christie	2	3
11. Bobby Jindal	1	5
12. Rick Santorum	1	2
13. John Kasich	1	2
14. Carly Fiorina	0	1
15. John Bolton	0	1
16. Lindsey Graham	0	0
17. Haven’t thought enough about it to have an opinion	13	7

Q18. [ASK IF Q16=2] If the 2016 Democratic primary election for president 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 1-7]**

(n=401, MOE is +/- 4.89%; MOE is +/- 6.14% when adjusted for weighting)

	First Choice	Second Choice
1. Hillary Clinton	62%	12%
2. Elizabeth Warren	12	25
3. Joe Biden	6	26
4. Bernie Sanders	5	10
5. Jim Webb	1	3
6. Martin O’Malley	1	2
7. Haven’t thought enough about it to have an opinion	14	22

[RANDOMIZE Q19-Q23]

Q19. Please tell us whether you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, neither favorable nor unfavorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable opinion of Ted Cruz.

	Very Favorable	Somewhat Favorable	Neither Favorable nor Unfavorable	Somewhat Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable	Don't Know/No Opinion
Feb. 2015	26	15	12	8	28	10
Oct. 2014	26	18	11	8	28	8
June 2014	29	17	10	6	28	11
Feb. 2014	29	14	10	8	29	10
Oct. 2013	23	15	14	6	31	10
June 2013	26	14	13	7	24	17

Q20. Please tell us whether you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, neither favorable nor unfavorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable opinion of Rick Perry.

	Very Favorable	Somewhat Favorable	Neither Favorable nor Unfavorable	Somewhat Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable	Don't Know/No Opinion
Feb. 2015	10	21	20	14	16	18
Oct. 2014	23	22	10	11	29	4
June 2014	21	24	11	9	28	7
Feb. 2014	21	23	11	10	30	5

Q21. Please tell us whether you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, neither favorable nor unfavorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable opinion of Greg Abbott.

	Very Favorable	Somewhat Favorable	Neither Favorable nor Unfavorable	Somewhat Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable	Don't Know/No Opinion
Feb. 2015	25	21	16	9	19	10
Oct. 2014	23	24	12	11	23	8
June 2014	25	20	15	7	18	15
Feb. 2014	23	22	15	9	16	16
Oct. 2013	16	20	23	11	13	18
June 2013	12	17	20	9	11	31

Q22. Please tell us whether you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, neither favorable nor unfavorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable opinion of Dan Patrick.

	Very Favorable	Somewhat Favorable	Neither Favorable nor Unfavorable	Somewhat Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable	Don't Know/No Opinion
Feb. 2015	10	17	23	9	15	26
Oct. 2014	12	24	20	7	15	20
June 2014	15	23	17	8	16	21
Feb. 2014	10	16	23	8	10	33

Q23. Please tell us whether you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, neither favorable nor unfavorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable opinion of Joe Straus.

	Very Favorable	Somewhat Favorable	Neither Favorable nor Unfavorable	Somewhat Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable	Don't Know/No Opinion
Feb. 2015	3	9	25	7	7	49
June 2013	1	8	20	9	7	55

Political Knowledge

[Randomize INFO1-INFO4]

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

- | | |
|---------------------|-----|
| 1. Republican Party | 79% |
| 2. Democratic Party | 7 |
| 3. Neither | 3 |
| 4. Don't know | 11 |

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

- | | |
|----------------------------|----|
| 1. More than one-half | 5% |
| 2. More than two-thirds | 72 |
| 3. More than three-fourths | 8 |
| 4. Don't know | 15 |

INFO3. To the best of your knowledge, what percent of Texas's population is made up of Latinos/Hispanics? **[PROVIDE DROP-DOWN WITH OPTIONS RANGING FROM 0% to 100%]**

- | | |
|-------------|----|
| 1. 0-10% | 2% |
| 2. 11-20% | 9 |
| 3. 21-30% | 18 |
| 4. 31-40% | 25 |
| 5. 41-50% | 20 |
| 6. 51-60% | 11 |
| 7. 61-70% | 5 |
| 8. 71-80% | 3 |
| 9. 81-90% | 1 |
| 10. 90-100% | 0 |

INFO4. To the best of your knowledge, what percent of Texas's population is made up of African Americans/Blacks? **[PROVIDE DROP-DOWN WITH OPTIONS RANGING FROM 0% to 100%]**

- | | |
|-------------|-----|
| 1. 0-10% | 16% |
| 2. 11-20% | 44 |
| 3. 21-30% | 21 |
| 4. 31-40% | 9 |
| 5. 41-50% | 4 |
| 6. 51-60% | 0 |
| 7. 61-70% | 0 |
| 8. 71-80% | 1 |
| 9. 81-90% | 0 |
| 10. 90-100% | 0 |

Political Orientation

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

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

1. Extremely liberal	5%
2. Somewhat liberal	8
3. Lean liberal	7
4. In the middle	32
5. Lean conservative	13
6. Somewhat conservative	20
7. Extremely conservative	15

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

1. Democrat	40%
2. Independent	11%
3. Republican	49

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

1. Strong Democrat	20%
2. Not very strong Democrat	12
3. Lean Democrat	8
4. Independent	11
5. Lean Republican	15
6. Not very strong Republican	11
7. Strong Republican	23

Demographics

AGE. Please indicate your age group.

1. 18-29	15%
2. 30-44	25
3. 45-64	37
4. 65 and up	23

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

1. Urban	32%
2. Suburban	45
3. Rural	23

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

1. Yes, I live in the Houston area.	23%
2. Yes, I live the Dallas-Fort Worth area	27
3. Yes, I live in the San Antonio area	10
4. Yes, I live in the Austin area	10
5. No, I live in another part of Texas.	29

CHILD. How many children are currently living with you?

1. One	16%
2. Two	11
3. Three	4
4. Four or more	2
5. None	67

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

1. Yes, I have a child/children under 18 enrolled in public school in Texas.	20%
2. Yes, I have a child/children under 18 enrolled in private school in Texas.	1
3. Yes, I have a child/children under 18 who are being home schooled in Texas.	1
4. No, I do not have any children under 18 in school in Texas.	78

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

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

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

1. Less than high school	3%
2. High school degree	32
3. Some college	28
4. Two-year college degree	8
5. Four-year college degree	20
6. Post-graduate degree	10

ONEDU. These days many colleges and universities offer courses online. Have you ever taken a course online?

1. Yes	27%
2. No	73

RELIG. What is your religious affiliation? **[No open response on “other”]**

1. Agnostic	7%
2. Assembly of God*	1
3. Atheist	5
4. Baptist*	19
5. Buddhist	0
6. Catholic*	19
7. Christian Scientist*	0
8. Church of Christ*	3
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*	3
16. Methodist*	6
17. Mormon*	1
18. Muslim/Islam	1
19. Nondenominational Christian*	10
20. Orthodox/Eastern Orthodox*	0
21. Pentecostal*	2
22. Presbyterian*	2
23. Protestant (non-specific)*	2
24. Reformed*	0
25. Unitarian/Universalist*	0
26. United Church of Christ*	0
27. Spiritual but not religious	9
28. Other*	5
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	46%
2. No	54

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.	34%
2. The Bible is the word of God but not everything in it should be taken literally, word for word.	38
3. The Bible is a book written by men and is not the word of God.	22
4. Don’t know.	7

IMPORT. How important is religion in your life?

1. Extremely important	46%
2. Somewhat important	28
3. Not very important	11
4. Not at all important	15

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

1. More than once a week	15%
2. Once a week	20
3. A few times a month	13
4. Once or twice a year	24
5. Never	28

RACE1. What race do you consider yourself to be?

1. White	62%
2. African American	13
3. Hispanic or Latino	23
4. Asian/Pacific Islander	1
5. Native American	0
6. Multi-racial	2

RACE2. **[Ask if RACE ~= "Hispanic or Latino"]** Do you happen to have a Hispanic-Latino grandparent?

1. Yes	3%
2. No	96
3. Don't know	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	88%
2. Born in another country	10
3. Don't know	2

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	66%
2. One of my parents was born in another country	21
3. Both of my parents were both in another country	13

MOVE. Did you move to Texas from some other state?

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 1. Yes | 43% |
| 2. No | 57 |

STATE. **[ASK IF MOVE=1]** Which state did you move from (most recently)? **[DROPDOWN LIST OF STATES]**

- | | |
|-------------------------|----|
| 1. Alabama | 2% |
| 2. Alaska | 0 |
| 3. Arizona | 2 |
| 4. Arkansas | 2 |
| 5. California | 15 |
| 6. Colorado | 2 |
| 7. Connecticut | 1 |
| 8. Delaware | 0 |
| 9. District of Columbia | 0 |
| 10. Florida | 5 |
| 11. Georgia | 4 |
| 12. Hawaii | 1 |
| 13. Idaho | 1 |
| 14. Illinois | 5 |
| 15. Indiana | 1 |
| 16. Iowa | 2 |
| 17. Kansas | 2 |
| 18. Kentucky | 1 |
| 19. Louisiana | 5 |
| 20. Maine | 0 |
| 21. Maryland | 2 |
| 22. Massachusetts | 1 |
| 23. Michigan | 4 |
| 24. Minnesota | 1 |
| 25. Mississippi | 1 |
| 26. Missouri | 2 |
| 27. Montana | 0 |
| 28. Nebraska | 1 |
| 29. Nevada | 1 |
| 30. New Hampshire | 1 |
| 31. New Jersey | 2 |
| 32. New Mexico | 3 |
| 33. New York | 5 |
| 34. North Carolina | 2 |
| 35. North Dakota | 0 |
| 36. Ohio | 4 |
| 37. Oklahoma | 3 |
| 38. Oregon | 1 |
| 39. Pennsylvania | 2 |
| 40. Rhode Island | 3 |
| 41. South Carolina | 0 |
| 42. South Dakota | 1 |

43. Tennessee	1
44. Utah	0
45. Vermont	0
46. Virginia	1
47. Washington	1
48. West Virginia	0
49. Wisconsin	1
50. Wyoming	0

HOME. Do you own or rent your home?

1. Own	73%
2. Rent	27

MARITAL. What is your marital status?

1. Married	55%
2. Separated	2
3. Divorced	11
4. Widowed	6
5. Single	22
6. Domestic Partnership	4

GENDER. What is your gender?

1. Male	47%
2. Female	53