

University of Texas / Texas Tribune
Texas Statewide Survey

Field Dates: May 31 to June 9, 2013

N=1200 Adults

Margin of error: +/- 2.83% (3.3% 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	45%
2. Somewhat interested	41
3. Not very interested	10
4. Not at all interested	3
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	31%
2. Almost every election	36
3. About half	12
4. One or two	13
5. None	7
6. Don't know	1

* 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 3.3%.

Most Important Problem

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

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

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

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

Retrospective Assessments

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

1. Approve strongly	19%
2. Approve somewhat	24
3. Neither approve nor disapprove	7
4. Disapprove somewhat	8
5. Disapprove strongly	42
6. Don't know	1

Q7. Overall, how do you rate the job the U.S. Congress is doing?

1. Approve strongly	2%
2. Approve somewhat	10
3. Neither approve nor disapprove	16
4. Disapprove somewhat	23
5. Disapprove strongly	46
6. Don't know	2

Q8. Overall, how do you rate the job the Texas Legislature is doing?

1. Approve strongly	8%
2. Approve somewhat	27
3. Neither approve nor disapprove	26
4. Disapprove somewhat	19
5. Disapprove strongly	16
6. Don't know	4

Q9. How would you rate the job Rick Perry has done as governor? Would you say that you...

1. Approve strongly	16%
2. Approve somewhat	25
3. Neither approve nor disapprove	15
4. Disapprove somewhat	13
5. Disapprove strongly	28
6. Don't know	3

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?

1. Right direction	28%
2. Wrong track	60
3. Don't know	11

Q11. 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	7%
2. Somewhat better off	28
3. About the same	31
4. Somewhat worse off	18
5. A lot worse off	15
6. Don't know	1

Q12. 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 | 32 |
| 3. Don't know | 18 |

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 | 6% |
| 2. Somewhat better off | 19 |
| 3. About the same | 44 |
| 4. Somewhat worse off | 23 |
| 5. A lot worse off | 7 |
| 6. Don't know | 1 |

Political Figures and Elections

Q14. If Rick Perry were to run for governor again in 2014, would you vote for him, would you vote against him, or would you need to wait and see who is running against him?

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| 1. Vote for Perry | 25% |
| 2. Vote against Perry | 38 |
| 3. Wait and see | 31 |
| 4. Don't know | 6 |

Q15. Do you usually vote in Republican primaries, Democratic primaries, or don't you normally vote in primaries?

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Republican primaries | 41% |
| 2. Democratic primaries | 31 |
| 3. Don't usually vote in primaries | 23 |
| 4. Don't know | 4 |

[For Q16-Q18 and Q29, respondents were filtered to their respective primary elections by their response to Q15. Sample size and MOE are presented for each of these questions based on the reduced sample size.]

Q16. **[ASK IF Q15=1]** If the 2014 Republican primary election for lieutenant governor 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 1-4]**

(N=492, MOE is +/- 4.42%; adjusted for weighting, MOE is +/- 5.27%)

1. David Dewhurst	19%
2. Todd Staples	5
3. Jerry Patterson	6
4. Dan Patrick	10
5. Haven't thought enough about it to have an opinion	61

Q17. **[ASK IF Q15=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 1-8]**

(N=492, MOE is +/- 4.42%; adjusted for weighting, MOE is +/- 5.27%)

1. Rick Perry	10%
2. Ted Cruz	25
3. Marco Rubio	11
4. Rand Paul	13
5. Chris Christie	8
6. Paul Ryan	8
7. Rick Santorum	2
8. Bobby Jindal	2
9. Haven't thought enough about it to have an opinion	21

Q18. **[ASK IF Q15=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=376, MOE is +/- 5.05%; adjusted for weighting, MOE is +/- 5.89%)

1. Hillary Clinton	66%
2. Joe Biden	11
3. Andrew Cuomo	1
4. Martin O'Malley	0
5. Kirsten Gillibrand	1
6. Brian Schweitner	0
7. Mark Warner	1
8. Haven't thought enough about it to have an opinion	19

Q19. Suppose the Tea Party movement organized itself as a political party. When thinking about the next election for Congress, would you vote for **[Randomize]** 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 | 38 |
| 3. Tea Party candidate | 20 |
| 4. Don't know | 23 |

Q20. Do you think the Tea Party movement has too much influence, too little influence, or the right amount of influence in the Republican Party?

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Too much influence | 31% |
| 2. Too little influence | 27 |
| 3. The right amount of influence | 20 |
| 4. Don't know | 22 |

[RANDOMIZE Q21-Q28]

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

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Very favorable | 26% |
| 2. Somewhat favorable | 14 |
| 3. Neither favorable nor unfavorable | 13 |
| 4. Somewhat unfavorable | 7 |
| 5. Very unfavorable | 24 |
| 6. Don't know/No Opinion | 17 |

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

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Very favorable | 12% |
| 2. Somewhat favorable | 19 |
| 3. Neither favorable nor unfavorable | 18 |
| 4. Somewhat unfavorable | 12 |
| 5. Very unfavorable | 17 |
| 6. Don't know/No Opinion | 22 |

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

1. Very favorable	5%
2. Somewhat favorable	16
3. Neither favorable nor unfavorable	24
4. Somewhat unfavorable	14
5. Very unfavorable	15
6. Don't know/No Opinion	26

Q24. Please tell us whether you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, neither favorable nor unfavorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable opinion of Rick Perry.

1. Very favorable	16%
2. Somewhat favorable	25
3. Neither favorable nor unfavorable	12
4. Somewhat unfavorable	12
5. Very unfavorable	30
6. Don't know/No Opinion	5

Q25. Please tell us whether you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, neither favorable nor unfavorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable opinion of Greg Abbott.

1. Very favorable	12%
2. Somewhat favorable	17
3. Neither favorable nor unfavorable	20
4. Somewhat unfavorable	9
5. Very unfavorable	11
6. Don't know/No Opinion	31

Q26. Please tell us whether you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, neither favorable nor unfavorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable opinion of Joe Straus.

1. Very favorable	1%
2. Somewhat favorable	8
3. Neither favorable nor unfavorable	20
4. Somewhat unfavorable	9
5. Very unfavorable	7
6. Don't know/No Opinion	55

Q27. Please tell us whether you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, neither favorable nor unfavorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable opinion of Wendy Davis.

1. Very favorable	4%
2. Somewhat favorable	7
3. Neither favorable nor unfavorable	19
4. Somewhat unfavorable	6
5. Very unfavorable	6
6. Don't know/No Opinion	58

Q28. Please tell us whether you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, neither favorable nor unfavorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable opinion of Julian Castro.

1. Very favorable	11%
2. Somewhat favorable	9
3. Neither favorable nor unfavorable	17
4. Somewhat unfavorable	7
5. Very unfavorable	9
6. Don't know/No Opinion	46

Q29. **[ASK IF Q15=1]** If the 2014 Republican primary election for governor 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 1-2]**

(N=492, MOE is +/- 4.42%; adjusted for weighting, MOE is +/- 5.27%)

1. Rick Perry	45%
2. Greg Abbott	19
3. Someone else	11
4. Haven't thought about it enough to have an opinion	25

Policy Questions

Q30. How closely have you been following the Texas Legislature this session?

1. Extremely closely	7%
2. Somewhat closely	36
3. Not very closely	41
4. Not at all closely	16

Q31. Below are some proposals that the Texas Legislature has debated this session. Please tell us whether you would support or oppose each of the following proposals: **[Randomize A-E and grid with response options “Strongly support”, “Somewhat support”, “Somewhat oppose”, “Strongly oppose”, “Don’t know”]**

A. Reducing the number of required state tests necessary to graduate from high school from 15 to 5.

1. Strongly support	35%
2. Somewhat support	25
3. Somewhat oppose	18
4. Strongly oppose	13
5. Don’t know	9

B. Spending \$2 billion from the state’s Rainy Day Fund (a fund containing more than \$12 billion that the state has set aside for emergency uses) to help start water infrastructure projects around the state.

1. Strongly support	31%
2. Somewhat support	37
3. Somewhat oppose	12
4. Strongly oppose	8
5. Don’t know	13

C. **[SPLIT SAMPLE a AND b]**

a. Prohibiting abortions after 20 weeks based on the argument that a fetus can feel pain at that point.

1. Strongly support	49%
2. Somewhat support	13
3. Somewhat oppose	8
4. Strongly oppose	19
5. Don’t know	11

b. Prohibiting abortions after 20 weeks.

1. Strongly support	47%
2. Somewhat support	15
3. Somewhat oppose	8
4. Strongly oppose	22
5. Don’t know	9

Q32. Would you say that the quality of K-12 public school education in Texas is:

1. Excellent	5%
2. Good	40
3. Not very good	36
4. Terrible	14
5. Don’t know	5

Q33. Do you think that public high schools in Texas should have course and graduation requirements that encourage all students to attend college?

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| 1. Yes | 49% |
| 2. No | 38 |
| 3. Don't know/no opinion | 13 |

Q34. In 2013, the Texas Legislature has restored some, but not all of the approximately \$5.4 billion dollars in cuts made to public education in 2011. Which of the following comes closest to your opinion?

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. The Legislature should have made additional cuts beyond those made in 2011 | 8% |
| 2. The Legislature should have left the 2011 cuts in place | 11 |
| 3. The Legislature restored about the right amount of the 2011 cuts | 17 |
| 4. The Legislature should have restored the full amount of the 2011 cuts | 19 |
| 5. The Legislature should have restored more than the full amount of the 2011 cuts | 23 |
| 6. Don't know/no opinion | 23 |

Q37. What is your opinion on the availability of abortion?

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1. By law, abortion should never be permitted. | 16% |
| 2. The law should permit abortion only in case of rape, incest or when the woman's life is in danger. | 30 |
| 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. | 13 |
| 4. By law, a woman should always be able to obtain an abortion as a matter of personal choice. | 36 |
| 5. Don't know | 5 |

Q38. Do you think that laws restricting abortion here in Texas should be made more strict, less strict, or left as they are now?

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| 1. More strict | 38% |
| 2. Less strict | 26 |
| 3. Left as they are now | 21 |
| 4. Don't know/no opinion | 14 |

Political Knowledge

[Randomize INFO1-INFO3]

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

- | | |
|---------------------|-----|
| 1. Republican Party | 70% |
| 2. Democratic Party | 15 |
| 3. Neither | 3 |
| 4. Don't know | 12 |

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

- | | |
|----------------------------|----|
| 1. More than one-half | 6% |
| 2. More than two-thirds | 69 |
| 3. More than three-fourths | 12 |
| 4. Don't know | 13 |

INFO3. Who is the current Attorney General of Texas?

- | | |
|---------------------|-----|
| 1. Greg Abbott | 72% |
| 2. Michael Williams | 0 |
| 3. Susan Combs | 2 |
| 4. Victor Carrillo | 1 |
| 5. Don't know | 24 |

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	6%
2. Somewhat liberal	8
3. Lean liberal	10
4. In the middle	27
5. Lean conservative	14
6. Somewhat conservative	19
7. Extremely conservative	15

PID3.

1. Democrat	45%
2. Independent	10
3. Republican	46

PID7.

1. Strong Democrat	22
2. Not very strong Democrat	11
3. Lean Democrat	9
4. Independent	9
5. Lean Republican	11
6. Not very strong Republican	10
7. Strong Republican	23
8. Other	4

Demographics

AGE. Please indicate your age group.

1. 18-29	16%
2. 30-44	27
3. 45-64	38
4. 65 and up	19

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

1. Urban	27%
2. Suburban	50
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. | 20% |
| 2. Yes, I live the Dallas-Fort Worth area | 31 |
| 3. Yes, I live in the San Antonio area | 9 |
| 4. Yes, I live in the Austin area | 10 |
| 5. No, I live in another part of Texas. | 30 |

CHILD. How many children are currently living with you?

- | | |
|-----------------|-----|
| 1. One | 16% |
| 2. Two | 14 |
| 3. Three | 6 |
| 4. Four or more | 3 |
| 5. None | 61 |

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. | 24% |
| 2. Yes, I have a child/children under 18 enrolled in private school in Texas. | 2 |
| 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. | 73 |

SCHQ. **[ASK IF SCHOOL1=YES OR SCHOOL2=YES]** Would you say that the quality of your child's school is:

- | | |
|------------------|-----|
| 1. Excellent | 29% |
| 2. Good | 53 |
| 3. Not very good | 13 |
| 4. Terrible | 4 |
| 5. Don't know | 4 |

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

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

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

1. Less than high school	8%
2. High school degree	26
3. Some college	26
4. Two-year college degree	10
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	5%
2. Assembly of God*	1
3. Atheist	5
4. Baptist*	20
5. Buddhist	1
6. Catholic*	20
7. Christian Scientist*	0
8. Church of Christ*	3
9. Church of God*	1
10. Disciples of Christ*	0
11. Episcopal/Anglican*	2
12. Hindu	0
13. Jehovah’s Witnesses	0
14. Jewish	1
15. Lutheran*	3
16. Methodist*	5
17. Mormon*	1
18. Muslim/Islam	0
19. Nondenominational Christian*	9
20. Orthodox/Eastern Orthodox*	0
21. Pentecostal*	2
22. Presbyterian*	2
23. Protestant (non-specific)*	3
24. Reformed*	0
25. Unitarian/Universalist*	1
26. United Church of Christ*	0
27. Spiritual but not religious	7
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.	30%
2. The Bible is the word of God but not everything in it should be taken literally, word for word.	40
3. The Bible is a book written by men and is not the word of God.	23
4. Don’t know.	7

IMPORT. How important is religion in your life?

1. Extremely important	45%
2. Somewhat important	30
3. Not very important	12
4. Not at all important	13

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	19
3. A few times a month	12
4. Once or twice a year	26
5. Never	28

RACE1. What race do you consider yourself to be?

1. White	61%
2. African American	13
3. Hispanic or Latino	20
4. Asian/Pacific Islander	1
5. Native American	1
6. Multi-racial	4

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

1. Yes	1%
2. No	98
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	12
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	64%
2. One of my parents was born in another country	19
3. Both of my parents were both in another country	17

CALI. Did you move to Texas from California?

- | | |
|--------|----|
| 1. Yes | 8% |
| 2. No | 92 |

HOME. Do you own or rent your home?

- | | |
|---------|-----|
| 1. Own | 71% |
| 2. Rent | 29 |

MARITAL. What is your marital status?

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| 1. Married | 53% |
| 2. Separated | 2 |
| 3. Divorced | 10 |
| 4. Widowed | 5 |
| 5. Single | 24 |
| 6. Domestic Partnership | 6 |

GENDER. What is your gender?

- | | |
|-----------|-----|
| 1. Male | 47% |
| 2. Female | 53 |