

University of Texas / Texas Tribune
Texas Statewide Survey

Field dates: May 11-18, 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%

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 50%
- 2. Somewhat interested 39%
- 3. Not very interested 7%
- 4. Not at all interested 4%
- 5. Don't know 0%

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

- 1. Extremely closely 13%
- 2. Somewhat closely 44%
- 3. Not that closely 30%
- 4. Not at all 13%
- 5. Don't know 0%

Retrospective Assessments

Policy Questions

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*. [Use a 10-point scale with wording: (0) "Close the gap entirely through spending cuts," (10) "Close the gap entirely through revenue increases." "Don't know" response box available for each]

| Response | Percent |
|----------|---------|
|----------|---------|

| | | |
|----|------------------------------------|-----|
| 0 | Entirely through spending cuts | 18% |
| 1 | | 8% |
| 2 | | 10% |
| 3 | | 9% |
| 4 | | 5% |
| 5 | In the middle | 18% |
| 6 | | 6% |
| 7 | | 6% |
| 8 | | 5% |
| 9 | | 2% |
| 10 | Entirely through revenue increases | 4% |
| | | |
| | don't know | 9% |

[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) [randomize 1-13]

Cut the state's share of primary and secondary education funding

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

Cut the state's share of higher education funding

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

End funding for pre-kindergarten classes

- 1. Yes 40%
- 2. No 60%

Reduce funding of state grants to college students

- 1. Yes 28%
- 2. No 72%

Reduce state contributions to teacher and state employee retirement programs

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

End funding for the children's health insurance program

- 1. Yes 10%

| | |
|---|-----|
| 2. No | 90% |
| End state environmental regulation and leave it to the federal government | |
| 1. Yes | 32% |
| 2. No | 68% |
| Cut payments to Medicaid providers like doctors and hospitals | |
| 1. Yes | 14% |
| 2. No | 86% |
| Cut state funding for nursing home care | |
| 1. Yes | 7% |
| 2. No | 93% |
| Close one or more prisons for adults | |
| 1. Yes | 30% |
| 2. No | 70% |
| Close one or more prisons for juveniles | |
| 1. Yes | 31% |
| 2. No | 69% |
| Reduce funding for new highway construction | |
| 1. Yes | 28% |
| 2. No | 72% |
| Reduce funding for border security | |
| 1. Yes | 16% |
| 2. No | 84% |

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) **[randomize 1-9; option #10 cannot be selected along with other answer choices (i.e. selecting any of answer choices 1-9 should disallow respondents from selecting 10, and vice versa)]**

| | |
|---|-----|
| Legalize gambling and impose taxes on casinos | |
| 1. Yes | 62% |
| 2. No | 38% |
| Increase taxes on alcoholic beverages | |

| | |
|--|-----|
| 1. Yes | 49% |
| 2. No | 51% |
| Legalize the use of marijuana and impose taxes on its purchase | |
| 1. Yes | 41% |
| 2. No | 59% |
| Adopt a fuel inefficiency surcharge on certain new vehicles | |
| 1. Yes | 18% |
| 2. No | 82% |
| Ban the use of cell phones while driving and charge fines for individuals who break this law | |
| 1. Yes | 48% |
| 2. No | 52% |
| Eliminate the August state sales tax holiday if the budget situation does not improve | |
| 1. Yes | 41% |
| 2. No | 59% |
| Increase the state tax on businesses | |
| 1. Yes | 18% |
| 2. No | 82% |
| Increase the state sales tax rate (currently 6.25%) | |
| 1. Yes | 12% |
| 2. No | 88% |
| Implement a state income tax on individuals | |
| 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 Texas Legislature has been debating whether to address the state's budget shortfall by tapping into the Rainy Day Fund, which contains money that the state has set aside for emergency uses. Some people say that state should use some or all of the money in the Rainy Day Fund for the next two-year budget period in order to avoid potentially devastating cuts in spending. Other people say that the current budget deficit does not count as an emergency, and that using money from the Rainy Day Fund will eventually cause state government to grow in size. What is your opinion on whether to spend money in the Rainy Day fund for the next two-year budget period?

- 1. Spend some or all of the money in the Rainy Day Fund 43%
- 2. Do not spend money in the Rainy Day Fund 39%
- 3. Don't know 19%

Political Knowledge

[Randomize INFO1-INFO3]

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

- 1. Republican Party 76%
- 2. Democratic Party 14%
- 3. Neither 3%
- 4. Don't know 7%

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 73%
- 3. More than three-fourths 13%
- 4. Don't know 9%

INFO3. Who is the current Attorney General of Texas?

- 1. Greg Abbott 66%
- 2. Michael Williams 2%
- 3. Susan Combs 5%
- 4. Victor Carrillo 2%
- 5. Don't know 26%

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 | 6% |
| 2 | | 7% |
| 3 | | 7% |

| | | |
|---|------------------------|-----|
| 4 | In the middle | 29% |
| 5 | | 14% |
| 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 Democrat to PID3] Have you always been a Democrat, or did you previously consider yourself to be a Republican or independent?

- Always a Democrat
- Previously a Republican
- Previously independent

[If respond Republican to PID3] Do you consider yourself a...

- Strong Republican
- Not very strong Republican

[If respond Republican to PID3] Have you always been a Republican, or did you previously consider yourself to be a Democrat or independent?

- Always a Republican
- Previously a Democrat
- Previously independent

[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 Independent to PID3] Have you always been independent, or did you previously consider yourself to be a Republican or Democrat?

- Always independent
- Previously a Republican
- Previously a Democrat

[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 | 10% |
| 3. Lean Democrat | 7% |
| 4. Independent | 12% |
| 5. Lean Republican | 16% |
| 6. Not very strong Republican | 8% |
| 7. Strong Republican | 25% |
| 8. Other | 2% |

Demographics

AGE. Please indicate your age group.

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| 1. 18-29 | 16% |
| 2. 30-44 | 27% |
| 3. 45-64 | 41% |
| 4. 65 and up | 16% |

COUNTY. In which county do you reside? (Please select from the pull-down menu. Counties are listed in alphabetical order)

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

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| 1. Urban | 27% |
| 2. Suburban | 49% |
| 3. Rural | 24% |

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 | 30% |
| 3. Yes, I live in the San Antonio area | 8% |
| 4. Yes, I live in the Austin area | 9% |
| 5. No, I live in another part of Texas | 34% |

CHILD. How many children are currently living with you?

| | |
|--------|-----|
| 1. One | 19% |
| 2. Two | 12% |

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

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

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| 1. Less than high school | 4% |
| 2. High school degree | 38% |
| 3. Some college | 30% |
| 4. Two-year college degree | 10% |
| 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* | 20% |
| 5. Buddhist | 1% |
| 6. Catholic* | 16% |
| 7. Christian Scientist* | 4% |
| 8. Church of Christ* | 4% |
| 9. Church of God* | 1% |
| 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* | 9% |
| 20. Orthodox/Eastern Orthodox* | 0% |
| 21. Pentecostal* | 2% |
| 22. Presbyterian* | 2% |
| 23. Protestant (non-specific)* | 4% |
| 24. Reformed* | 0% |
| 25. Unitarian/Universalist* | 0% |
| 26. United Church of Christ* | 0% |
| 27. Spiritual but not religious | 9% |
| 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 | 48% |
| 2. No | 52% |

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. | 43% |
| 3. The Bible is a book written by men and is not the word of God. | 23% |

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

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| 1. Extremely important | 49% |
| 2. Somewhat important | 27% |
| 3. Not very important | 12% |
| 4. Not at all important | 12% |

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 | 16% |
| 3. A few times a month | 11% |
| 4. Once or twice a year | 27% |
| 5. Never | 29% |

RACE. What race do you consider yourself to be?

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| 1. White | 63% |
| 2. African American | 12% |
| 3. Hispanic or Latino | 18% |
| 4. Asian/Pacific Islander | 1% |
| 5. Native American | 1% |
| 6. Mixed | 2% |
| 7. Other | 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 | 86% |
| 2. Born in another country | 14% |

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 | 67% |
| 2. One of my parents was born in another country | 22% |
| 3. Both of my parents were both in another country | 12% |

HOME. Do you own or rent your home?

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

MARITAL. What is your marital status?

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| 1. Married | 57% |
| 2. Divorced | 12% |
| 3. Separated | 2% |
| 4. Widowed | 4% |
| 5. Domestic partnership | 5% |
| 6. Single | 20% |

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 | 49% |
| 3. Someone else | 5% |
| 4. Did not vote | 9% |