



The Texas Lyceum

The 2010 Texas Lyceum Poll Executive Summary of State Attitudes

Summary of Findings

From September 22-30, 725 adult Texans responded to a random, scientific statewide telephone sample asking about their attitudes towards the current political and economic environment, the 2010 elections, and issues likely to come up in the 2011 Texas state legislative session.

In broad terms, the data reveal an ambivalent electorate—they are satisfied with conditions and the performance of public figures and institutions in Texas, but are concerned about the direction of the country and the federal government. When asked whether they approve or disapprove of the job the Texas state legislature is doing, 56% of respondents were generally positive, with 32% expressing disapproval. A majority of Texans (45%) have positive feelings towards state government, compared to 33% who have negative feelings.

The economy continues to weigh heavily on the minds of voters and concerns about jobs and unemployment are high. Although there is little enthusiasm for raising taxes, voters are open to a number of revenue-enhancing remedies, including gambling and excise taxes, but remain somewhat skeptical about accepting federal dollars.

Beyond these broad findings, Texans' attitudes are diverse on many issues, from same-sex marriage, gambling, education funding and textbook standards.

General Information

The sample is representative of the adult population of Texas. It is 50% female and 50% male. About a third of the respondents (32%) are identified as Hispanic, 11% as African American, and 54% as White. Most respondents reside in the metropolises of Dallas-Ft. Worth, Houston, and San Antonio, while 13% live in the state's rural areas. Close to two-thirds are married (59%). Politically, more respondents (46%) identified themselves as Independents than as Republicans (23%) or Democrats (28%). Asked about their political outlook, more consider themselves Conservative (41%) than Moderate (34%) or Liberal

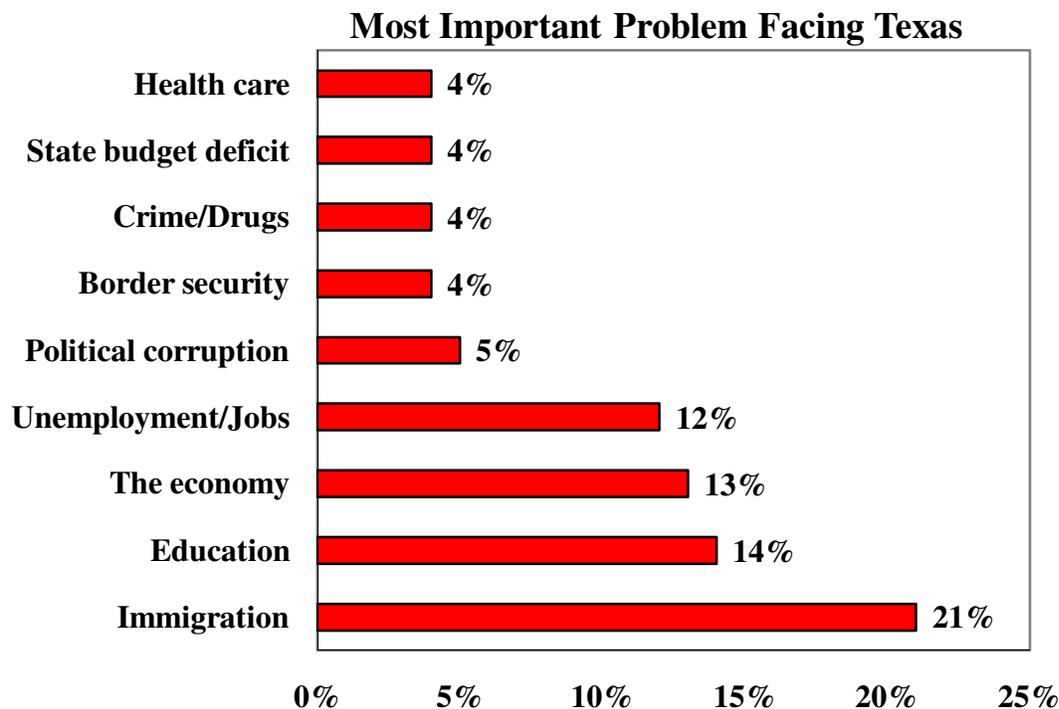
(20%).

Political Mood

Close to four-fifths (79%) of Texans state that they are registered voters. But only one-third are "extremely interested" in politics and public affairs, while another 48% are "somewhat interested." More than half — 53% — said they vote in "every" or "almost every" election. And another 25% said they haven't voted in any election "over the last two or three years."

State Issues for the 2011 Legislative Session

Immigration, education and the economy are the top concerns facing the state of Texas, according to voters. When asked what is the most important issue facing the state, 21% responded with immigration as their top issue. Education is second with 14% of the response, and the economy third with 13%.

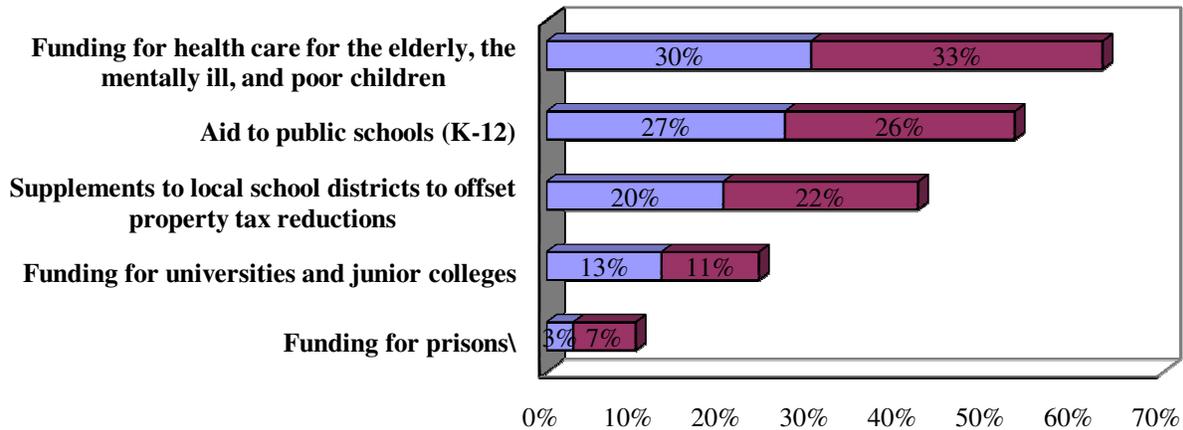


The issue of immigration is a hot-topic nationally, so it is no real surprise that it is on the minds of Texans. We asked voters whether they would support a law similar to the Arizona immigration law: A majority of Texans (55%) support passing a similar immigration law, while 41% oppose such a measure in Texas.

Education is another important issue facing the state of Texas, according to voters. When told that the state is facing budget shortfalls as high as \$21 billion dollars and with budget cuts looming, voters were asked "Which of the following would be your first priority for

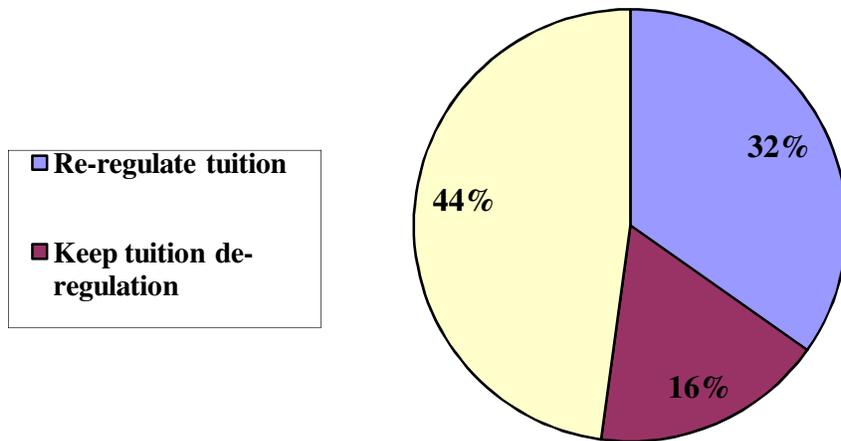
maintaining or increasing funding during the next round of state budget negotiations.” Aid to public schools was the most mentioned, receiving a combined 53% for the respondents’ first and second choices.

Priorities for Maintaining or Increasing Funding During the next Round of Budget Negotiations...



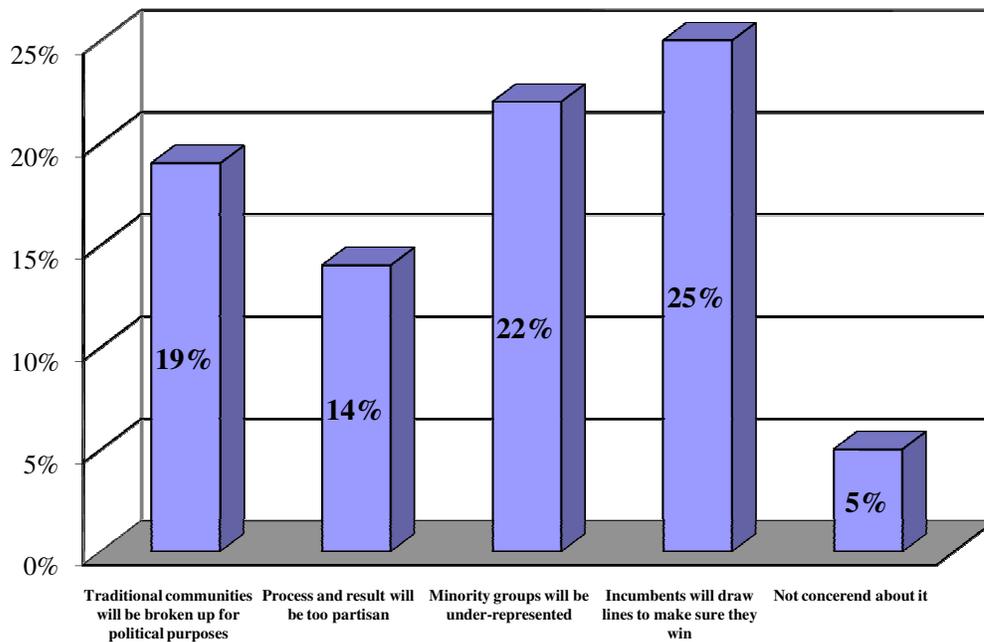
While funding K-12 education is a priority to Texas voters, tuition rates at colleges and universities are on the rise. Currently, tuition rates at Texas colleges are not regulated by the state. 44% of voters feel that the state should keep tuition de-regulation but help students offset costs, 16% feel the state should keep tuition de-regulation, and 32% feel that the state should re-regulate tuition.

Attitudes towards Tuition De-Regulation at Texas Universities and Colleges



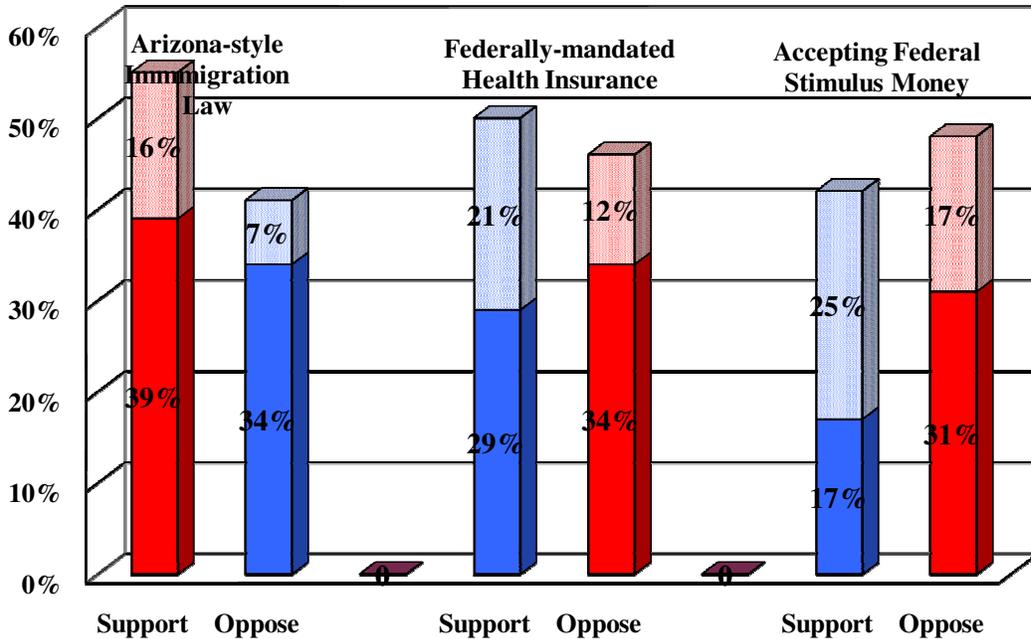
Redistricting happens every 10 years following the Census. Our sample shows that a quarter (25%) of respondents are concerned that incumbents will draw district lines to make sure they win. The second biggest concern is that minority groups will be under-represented (22%).

Concerns about Re-Districting in Texas



An issue that has been occupying headlines all year is healthcare and health insurance. We asked voters if they support requiring uninsured people to purchase health insurance. 29% strongly support requiring the purchase of insurance, while 34% strongly oppose the mandate. However, when the “somewhat support/oppose” numbers are added, support jumps to 50% and opposition rises to 46%.

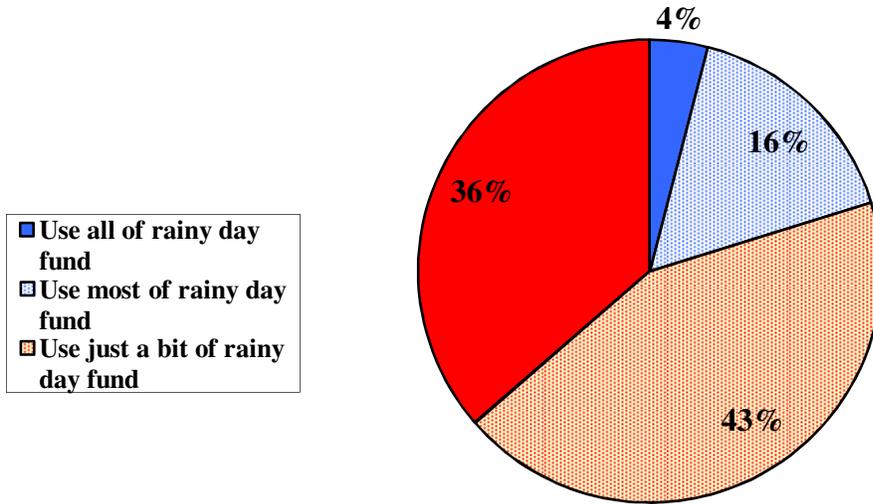
Statewide Opinions on Top Legislative Issues



State Budget Issues

As mentioned, the state of Texas faces a budget deficit of between \$10 and \$21 billion dollars next year. First, we asked how voters feel about using the \$9 billion dollar rainy day fund maintained by the state for emergency use. Most Texans only want to use “a little bit” of the rainy day fund or “none at all” to help fund the deficit. 16% of voters support using most of the rainy day fund to offset the state’s deficit. 43% of Texans support using “a little bit” of the rainy day fund and 36% say the state should use none of the rainy day fund to pay for the deficit.

Use of "Rainy Day" Fund to Meet Projected State Budget Short-Fall

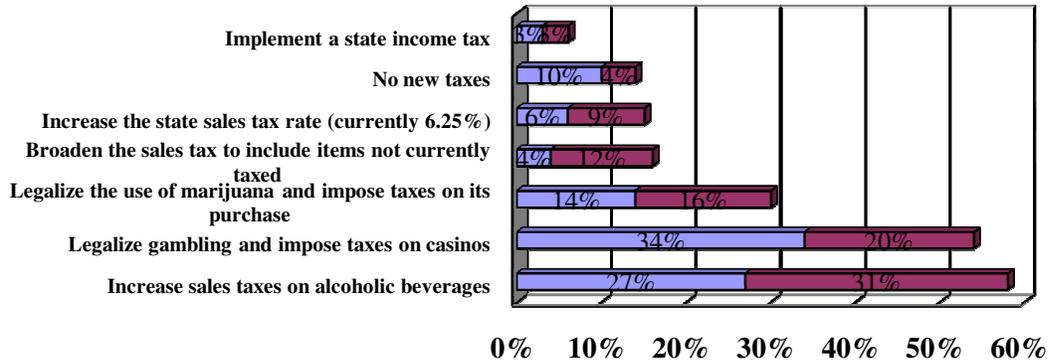


Federal stimulus money has also been a recurring issue in Texas over the past eighteen months. The federal government has established programs that would give money to Texas to offset some of the state's funding challenges. When asked if Texans support accepting federal funds if it has strings attached, 31% strongly oppose accepting such funds, with an overall opposition of 48%. 17% strongly support accepting such funds, with the total support at 42%.

Looking at other options for tackling the budget deficit, 34% of voters support legalizing gambling and imposing taxes on casinos. 27% support increasing the taxes on alcoholic beverages and 14% support legalizing the use of marijuana and imposing taxes on its purchase.

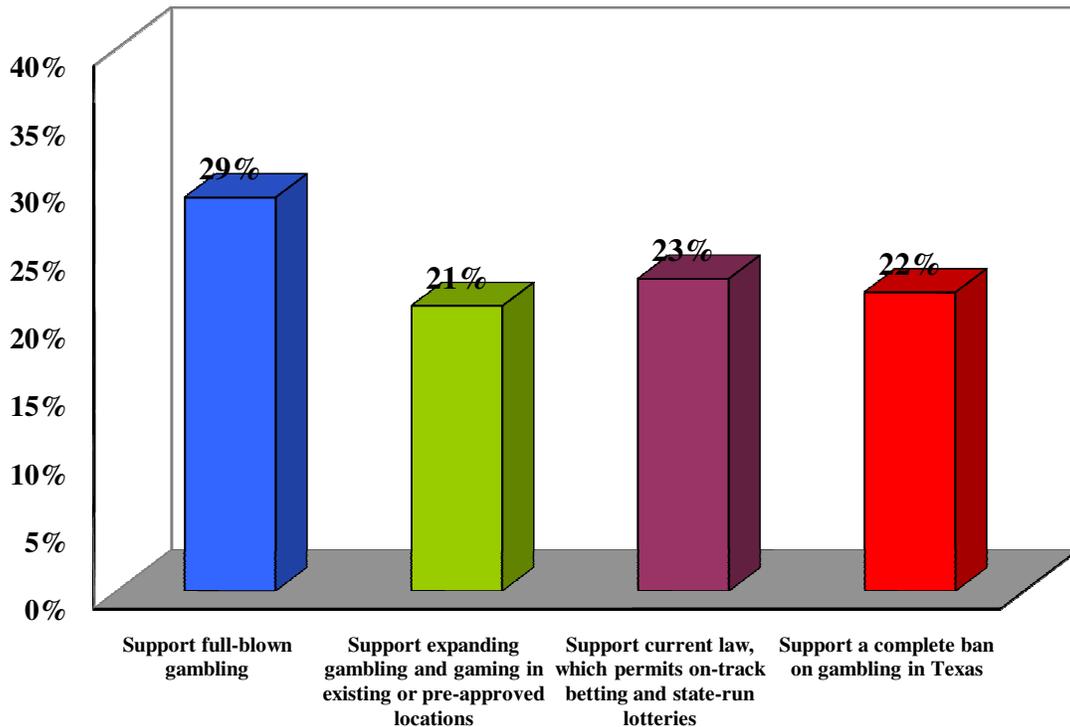
How Best to Raise Revenue to Meet Budget Short-Fall?

(First and second mentions)



A separate but related question is whether Texas should allow gambling. 29% of voters support full-blown gambling in Texas with 51% supporting some expansion of the gambling laws.

Attitudes towards Gambling in Texas



Social Issues: Textbook Revisions and Same Sex Marriage

The State Board of Education's revisions of textbooks standards have garnered national media. 41% of Texas voters feel that professional standards were overpowered by conservative and religious interests. 38% feel that the revisions promoted alternative ideas to balance the prevalence of liberal, secular viewpoints.

We asked for the respondent's opinion on the rights that same sex couples should have. 24% feel that civil unions should be afforded, 28% feel that same sex couples should have the right to marry and 40% feel that same sex couples should not be allowed to have civil unions or to get married. More than half (52%) of Texans feel that same sex couples should have at some form of expanded rights.

Should Same-Sex Unions be Permitted in Texas?

