Texas Lyceum Poll

Fall 2010

Texas Statewide Survey

N=725 Adults, including 573 Registered Voters and 416 Likely Voters

September 22-30, 2010

SECTION I: GENERAL MOOD AND 2010 ELECTION ITEMS

Q.1   Are you registered to vote in the state of Texas?

79%   Yes, registered.
21%   No, not registered.

Q.2   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?

32%   Extremely interested.
48%   Somewhat interested.
10%   Not very interested.
10%   Not at all interested.
0%   Don't know/Refused/NA.

Q.3   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?

23%   Every election.
30%   Almost every election.
9%   About half.
12%   One or two.
25%   None.
0%   Don't know/Refused/NA.

Q.4   *Thinking about the country, do you think things are moving in the right direction or are we off on the wrong track?*

37%   Right direction.
55%   Wrong track.
8%   Don't know/Refused/NA.

Q.5   *What do you think is the most important issue facing the country today?*

34%   The economy
16%   Unemployment/jobs
4%   Federal spending/budget deficit
3%   National debt
4%   Political corruption/leadership
6%   Health care
1%   Moral decline
1%   National security/terrorism
6%   Immigration
0%   Border security
1%   Taxes
0%   Energy
5%   Education
0%   Social welfare programs
1%   Environment
0%   The media
0%   Abortion
3%   Crime and drugs
1%   Afghanistan/Pakistan
0%   Housing
0%   Iraq
0%   Gulf oil spill
5%   War/Peace in world/Middle East
7%   Other
3%   Don't know

Q.6 *What do you think is the most important issue facing the state of Texas today?*

21%	Immigration
13%	The economy
12%	Unemployment/jobs
4%	Border security
5%	Political corruption/leadership
4%	Health care
4%	Crime and drugs
14%	Education
1%	State government spending
0%	Moral decline
1%	Taxes
0%	Social welfare programs
1%	Insurance rates
1%	Water supply
0%	Energy
1%	Environment
1%	Transportation/roads/traffic
0%	Abortion
0%	Housing
4%	State Budget Deficit/Budget shortfall
2%	Governor election
4%	Other
9%	Don't know/NA/Ref

Q. 7   *How well do you think Barack Obama is handling his job as president? Is he doing a very good job, somewhat good job, somewhat poor job, or very poor job?*

15%   Very good job.
42%   Somewhat good job.
16%   Somewhat poor job.
25%   Very poor job.
3%   Don't Know / Refused / NA

57%   Positive
41%   Negative

[Among 417 Likely Voters]

21%   Very good job.
26%   Somewhat good job.
10%   Somewhat poor job.
44%   Very poor job.
0%   Don't Know / Refused / NA

47%   Positive
54%   Negative

Q.8   *How good a job is President Obama doing on the economy?*

21%   Very good job.
35%   Somewhat good job.
15%   Somewhat poor job.
29%   Very poor job.
0%   Don't Know / Refused / NA

56%   Positive
44%   Negative

[Among 417 Likely Voters]

17%   Very good job.
21%   Somewhat good job.
16%   Somewhat poor job.
45%   Very poor job.
1%   Don't Know / Refused / NA

38%   Positive
61%   Negative

Q.9   ***What ONE WORD best describes your current feelings towards the FEDERAL government?***

1%   Hopeful
0%   Proud
1%   Satisfied
2%   Confused
2%   Angry
1%   Frustrated
8%   Disappointed/Unhappy/Failure/Disastrous
3%   Inadequate/Incompetent/Ineffective/Inconsistent/Clueless
2%   Disgust/Disgrace/Disrespect/Ashamed/Appalled
6%   Poor/Terrible/Unsatisfied/Disenchanted/Pathetic/Pitiful
14%   Good/Fair/Fine/Competent/Adequate/Acceptable/Mediocre/Decent
7%   Out of control/Over-grown/Out of touch/Invasive/Dictatorship
4%   Distrust/Untrustworthy/Skeptical
4%   Corrupt/Crooks/Dishonest/Greedy
3%   Positive/Very well/Happy/Pleased/Effective/Optimistic
24%   Miscellaneous negative words
2%   Ambivalence/Apathy/Cautious/Concerned/Necessity/Neutral
5%   Miscellaneous positive words
13%   Don't know/NA/Ref

Q.10 ***What ONE WORD best describes your current feelings towards the STATE government?***

1%   Proud
4%   Satisfied
0%   Confused
0%   Angry
1%   Frustrated
3%   Disappointed/Failure/Disastrous/Unhappy
3%   Inadequate/Incompetent/Ineffective/Inconsistent/Clueless
1%   Disgust/Disgrace/Disrespect/Ashamed/Appalled
5%   Poor/Bad/Terrible/Unsatisfied/Disenchanted/Pathetic/Pitiful
25%   Good/Fair/Fine/Competent/Adequate/Acceptable/Mediocre/Decent
2%   Out of control/Over-grown/Out of touch/Invasive/Dictatorship
0%   Distrust/Untrustworthy/Skeptical
2%   Corrupt/Crooks/Deceptive
4%   Positive/Very well/Happy/Pleased/Effective/Optimistic
15%   Miscellaneous negative words
5%   Ambivalence/Apathy/Cautious/Concerned/Necessity/Neutral
11%   Miscellaneous positive words
1%   Other
17%   Don't know/NA/Refused

Q. 11 ***Would you say that you approve or disapprove of the job that Rick Perry is doing as Texas governor? Would that be somewhat or strongly approve/disapprove?***

12%   Strongly approve
39%   Somewhat approve
16%   Somewhat disapprove
26%   Strongly disapprove
7%   Don't know / Refused / NA

51%   Approve
42%   Disapprove

[Among 417 Likely Voters]

14%   Strongly approve
40%   Somewhat approve
14%   Somewhat disapprove
29%   Strongly disapprove
3   Don't know / Refused / NA

54%   Approve
33%   Disapprove

Q. 12 *Would you say that you approve or disapprove of the job that the Texas state legislature is doing? Would that be somewhat or strongly approve/disapprove?*

8%	Strongly approve
48%	Somewhat approve
19%	Somewhat disapprove
13%	Strongly disapprove
12%	Don't know / Refused / NA

56%	Approve
32%	Disapprove

[Among 417 Likely Voters]

9%	Strongly approve
52%	Somewhat approve
20%	Somewhat disapprove
14%	Strongly disapprove
6%	Don't know / Refused / NA

61%	Approve
34%	Disapprove

Q. 13   **If the election for Texas Governor were held today, would you vote for**:

[Among 416 Likely Voters]

48%   Rick Perry (Republican)
43%   Bill White (Democrat)
5%   Kathie Glass (Libertarian)
1%   Deb Shafto (Green)
3%   Undecided

Q. 14   **If the election for Texas Lieutenant Governor were held today, would you vote for:**

[Among 416 Likely Voters]

47%   David Dewhurst (Republican)
30%   Linda Chavez-Thompson (Democrat)
7%   Scott Jameson (Libertarian)
4%   Herb Gonzales Jr. (Green)
12%   Undecided

Q. 15   **If the election for Texas Attorney General were held today, would you vote for:**

[Among 416 Likely Voters]

56%   Greg Abbott (Republican)
29%   Barbara Ann Radnofsky (Democrat)
4%   Jon Roland (Libertarian)
11%   Undecided

Q. 16   **If the 2010 election for U.S. Congress in your district were held today, would you vote for the Democratic candidate, the Republican candidate, or haven't you thought enough about it to have an opinion?**

[Among 416 Likely Voters]

41%   Republican candidate
29%   Democratic candidate
30%   Undecided

Q. 17   **If the 2010 election for the Texas state legislature in your district were held today, would you vote for the Democratic candidate, the Republican candidate, or haven't you thought enough about it to have an opinion? [Randomize 1-2]**

[Among 416 Likely Voters]

38%   Republican candidate
31%   Democratic candidate
31%   Undecided

Q. 18   Do you consider yourself to be part of the Tea Party movement?

[Among 416 Likely Voters]

25%   Yes
71%   No
4%   Don't know/NA/Refused

Q. 19   Suppose the Tea-Party movement ran third party candidates for office. If the 2010 election for U.S. Congress in your district were held today, would you vote for the Democratic candidate, the Republican candidate, the Tea-Party candidate, or haven't you thought enough about it to have an opinion?

[Among 416 Likely Voters]

20%   Republican candidate
29%   Democratic candidate
13%   Tea-Party candidate
39%   Undecided

SECTION II: PERSONAL ECONOMIC PERCEPTIONS

Q. 20   Thinking about the national economy, do you think the country is better off, worse off, or about the same compared to a year ago?

30%   Better off.
40%   Worse off.
30%   About the same.
1%   Don't know/Refused/NA.

Q. 21   Now thinking about you and your family's economic situation, would you say that you are better off, worse off, or about the same economically compared to a year ago?

18%   Better off.
32%   Worse off.
50%   About the same.
1%   Don't know/Refused/NA.

Q. 22   Looking ahead to the future, do you think your children will be better off than you are, worse off, or about the same economically?

34%   Better off.
41%   Worse off.
21%   About the same.
5%   Don't know/Refused/NA.

Q. 23   ***Thinking about the condition of the national economy, do you think the worst is over or is the worst yet to come?***

41%   Worst is over.
46%   Worst is yet to come.
12%   Not sure.
1%   Refused / NA

Q. 24   ***Do you think Texas's economy is better off, worse off, or about the same as the rest of the country?***

61%   Better off
8%   Worse off
28%   About the same
4%   Don't Know / Refused / NA

Q. 25   ***Please tell me if you think each of the following is having a POSITIVE or NEGATIVE effect on the way things are going today?***

	Positive	Negative	No effect/ Don't know
Q22. Large corporations	37%	50	10
Q23. Small businesses	66%	22	12
Q24. Labor unions	33%	45	22
Q25. Wall Street	25%	53	22
Q26. Churches and religious organizations	67%	19	14
Q27. Colleges and universities	64%	28	8
Q28. Banks and other financial institutions	30%	62	8
Q29. The national news media	28%	66	6

SECTION III: ISSUES & POLICY

Q. 26   According to recent estimates, the state of Texas faces a budget deficit of between $10 and $21 billion next year. The state also maintains a "rainy day" fund of about $9 billion. Some say we should use at least some of the fund to maintain services and limit the state debt. Others say the fund is for true emergencies, such as hurricanes and floods, and not for budget gaps. Which is closest to your opinion? Should the state government...

4%   Use all of the rainy day fund to help pay for the budget deficit
16%   Use most of the rainy day fund to help pay for the budget deficit
43%   Use just a bit of the rainy day fund to help pay for the budget deficit
36%   Use none of the rainy day fund
2%   Don't know/ Refused/ NA

Q. 27   Recently, there has been some controversy about what rights should be afforded to same sex couples. Some favor civil unions which would give them access to healthcare, retirement, and other benefits given to married couples. Others argue that same sex couples should have the right to marry as well. Still others oppose affording either of these rights to same sex couples. Which is closest to your opinion?

24%   Civil Unions Only
28%   Permit Same Sex Marriage
40%   Neither
9%   Don't know

Q. 28   As you may know, the Arizona legislature recently passed a law empowering state law agencies to enforce federal immigration laws, including asking about the immigration status of anyone stopped for any offense. Would you support or oppose a similar immigration enforcement law for the state of Texas? Would that be strongly or just somewhat support/oppose?

39%   Strongly support
16%   Somewhat support
7%   Somewhat oppose
34%   Strongly oppose
4%   Don't know/NA

55%   Support
41%   Oppose

Q. 29 In response to the new federal health care law, Texas's Attorney General joined a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of requiring that uninsured people purchase health insurance. Do you support or oppose this requirement? Would that be strongly or just somewhat support/oppose?

29%   Strongly support
21%   Somewhat support
12%   Somewhat oppose
34%   Strongly oppose
6%   Don't know/NA

50%   Support
46%   Oppose

Q. 30 Several federal programs have recently offered Texas money to offset some of the funding challenges. These programs, however, often have strings attached that some find objectionable. Do you support or oppose the state accepting such federal funding to help pay for our state deficit? Would that be strongly or just somewhat support/oppose?

17%   Strongly support
25%   Somewhat support
17%   Somewhat oppose
31%   Strongly oppose
10%   Don't know/NA

42%   Support
48%   Oppose

Q. 31 Some say recent actions by the federal government are appropriate given the magnitude of the challenges posed by issues such as the economic crisis and health care. Others say the federal government has over-reached. Would you say that the federal government has:

33%   Dramatically over-reached
22%   Somewhat over-reached
21%   Acted just about right
21%   Not done enough
4%   Don't know/NA

Q. 32   *Some people say that Texas should allow gambling. They contend that the government does not have the right to tell people whether they should gamble or not, and that Texas loses billions of dollars every year as many Texans go to neighboring states to gamble. Others oppose such a change, arguing that gambling is morally wrong and can lead to other sorts of crime. Opponents also claim that the people who can least afford it are the most likely to gamble their money away. Would you say that you:*

29%   Support full-blown gambling in Texas.
21%   Support expanding gambling and gaming in existing or pre-approved locations.
23%   Support current law, which permits on-track betting and state-run lotteries.
22%   Support a complete ban on gambling in Texas.
4%   Don't know/NA

Q. 33   *Congressional district boundaries will be re-drawn in 2011. What are you most concerned about when it comes to re-districting?* **[Randomize 1-4]**

19%   Traditional communities will be broken up for political purposes.
14%   The process and result will be too partisan.
22%   Minority groups will be under-represented.
25%   Incumbents will draw lines to make sure they win.
5%   Not really concerned about it.
16%   Don't know/NA

Q. 34   *Last spring, standards for textbooks in the Texas public schools were revised. Some say that the revision was about making the public schools more accountable and promoting alternative ideas to balance the prevalence of secular, liberal viewpoints. Others say that professional standards and practices were over-powered by conservative and religious interests, resulting in the elevation of non-scientific viewpoints. Which of these is closer to your own position?*

38%   Promoting alternative ideas to balance the prevalence of liberal, secular viewpoints.
41%   Illegitimate meddling, resulting in elevation of non-scientific viewpoints.
21%   Don't know/NA.

Q. 35   *Which of the following would be your FIRST choice for raising additional revenue should Texas face a budget short-fall during the next legislative session?* **[Randomize 1-6]**

First Choice	Second Choice	
34%	20%	Legalize gambling and impose taxes on casinos.
4%	12%	Broaden the sales tax to include items not currently taxed.
27%	31%	Increase taxes on alcoholic beverages.
14%	16%	Legalize the use of marijuana and imposes taxes on its purchase.
6%	9%	Increase the state sales tax rate (currently 6.25%).
3%	3%	Implement a state income tax.
10%	4%	I do not support any new taxes.
3%	5%	Don't know/Refused/NA.

Q. 36 *Which of the following would be your FIRST priority for maintaining or increasing funding during the next round of state budget negotiations?*

First Choice	Second Choice	
27%	26%	Aid to public schools (K-12)
20%	22%	Supplements to local school districts to offset property tax reductions
13%	11%	Funding for universities and junior colleges
30%	33%	Funding health care for the elderly, the mentally ill, and poor children
3%	7%	Funding for prisons
6%	2%	Don't know/Refused/NA

Q. 37 *Currently, tuition rates at Texas colleges are not regulated by the state. Some say that we should cap tuition at Texas public universities so that college remains affordable for all qualified Texans. Others say that allowing public universities to adjust tuition rates gives them necessary flexibility to meet budgets, and remain competitive. Still others say we should allow universities to maintain or increase their budgets but help students offset the costs. Which of these is closest to your own position?*

32%   Re-regulate tuition.
16%   Keep tuition de-regulation.
44%   Keep tuition de-regulation, but help students offset costs.
9%   Don't know/Refused/NA.

SECTION V: DEMOGRAPHICS

Q. 38 What is your *primary* source for news about politics?

10%	Daily Newspaper
16%	Local television news
11%	National network television news (ABC, NBC, CBS)
25%	Cable TV news (FOX, CNN, MSNBC)
6%	Radio (talk, news programming)
2%	News magazine (i.e. Time, Newsweek)
22%	Internet (internet news sites, blogs, social media)_
1%	Late night TV comedy/entertainment TV
3%	Other
4%	Don't know/NA/Refused

Q. 39 GENDER

50%	Male
50%	Female

Q. 40 AGE

24%	18-29
29%	30-44
18%	45-54
12%	55-64
14%	65+
3%	Don't know/Refused/NA.

Q. 41 REGION.

4%	High Plains
3%	Northwest
24%	Metroplex
6%	Upper East
4%	Southeast
25%	Gulf Coast
8%	Central
9%	Upper South
1%	West
4%	Upper Rio
12%	Lower South

31%	North
34%	East
21%	South
14%	West/Central

Q. 42   Would you say you live in an urban area, a suburban area, a small town, or rural area?

28%   Urban
37%   Suburban
20%   Small town
13%   Rural
2%   Don't know/NA/Refused

Q. 43   What is your current martial status?

26%   Never married
59%   Married
6%   Divorced
6%   Widowed
2%   Separated
1%   Don't know/Refused/NA.

Q. 44   What was your total household income for 2009?

13%   Less than $15K
8% $15K-$25K
14% $25K-$40K
18% $40K-$75K
22% $75K-$150K
6% $150K+
20%   Don't know/Refused/NA.

Q. 45   What is the highest level of education you completed?

9%   Less than high school
19%   High school
21%   Some college
25%   College degree
23%   Post-graduate degree (MA, LLD, PhD)
2%   Don't know/Refused/NA.

Q. 46   What is your religious denomination?

10%   Mainline Protestant
5%   Evangelical Protestant
31%   Catholic
33%   Other Christian
7%   Other non-Christian
11%   Agnostic/Atheist/None
4%   Don't know/NA/Refused

Q. 47   Would you say that you are…

54%   White/Anglo
11%   African American
32%   Hispanic
1%   Asian/Pacific Islander.
1%   Native American.
2%   Multi-racial
1%   Don't know/Refused/NA.

       [N=417 Likely Voters]

69%   White/Anglo
9%   African American
18%   Hispanic
1%   Asian/Pacific Islander
1%   Native American
2%   Don't know/NA/Refused

Q. 48   Generally speaking, would you say that you are…

20%   Liberal
34%   Moderate
41%   Conservative
6%   Don't know/NA/Refused

Q. 49   PARTY

28%   Democratic
23%   Republican
46%   Independent

       [N=417 Likely Voters]

27%   Democratic
33%   Republican
39%   Independent