

# 2011 Texas Lyceum Poll

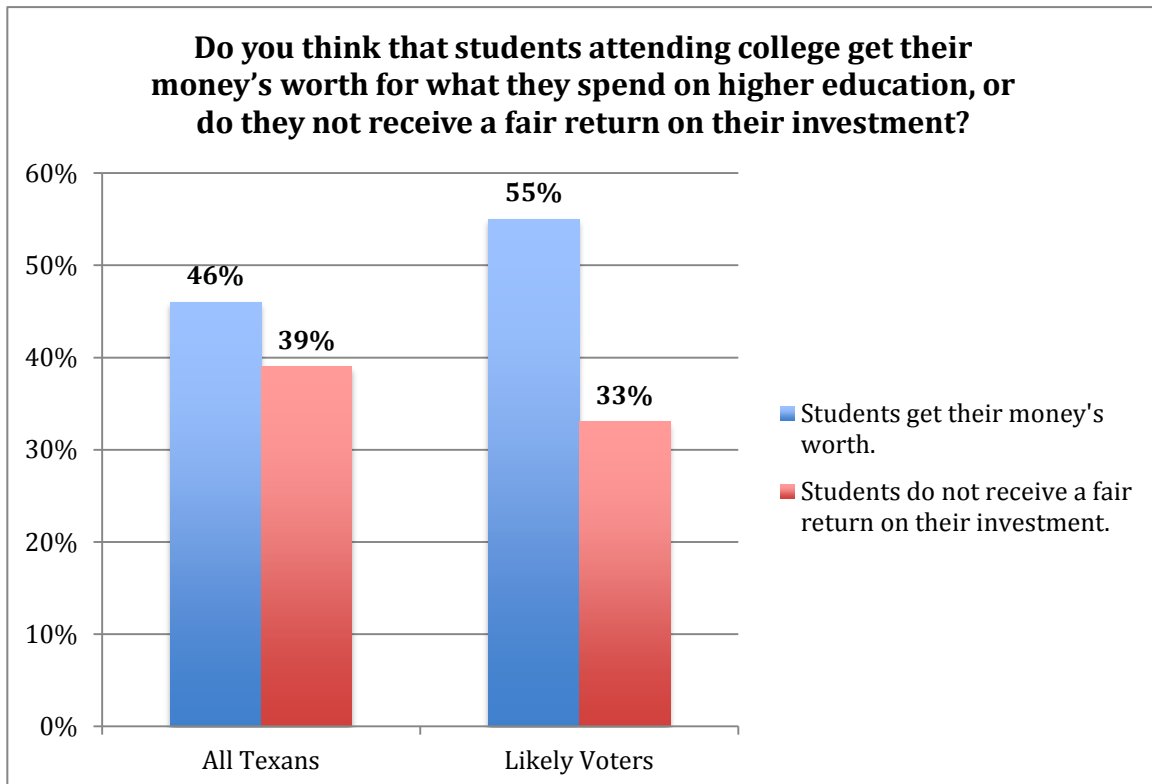
## Executive Summary of Social Policy Issues

A recent Texas Lyceum poll surveyed adult Texans on a range of hot button social and policy issues that were the subject of much debate during the Texas legislative session. Responses show that Texans draw subtle distinctions on a range of these issues.

### Summary of Findings:

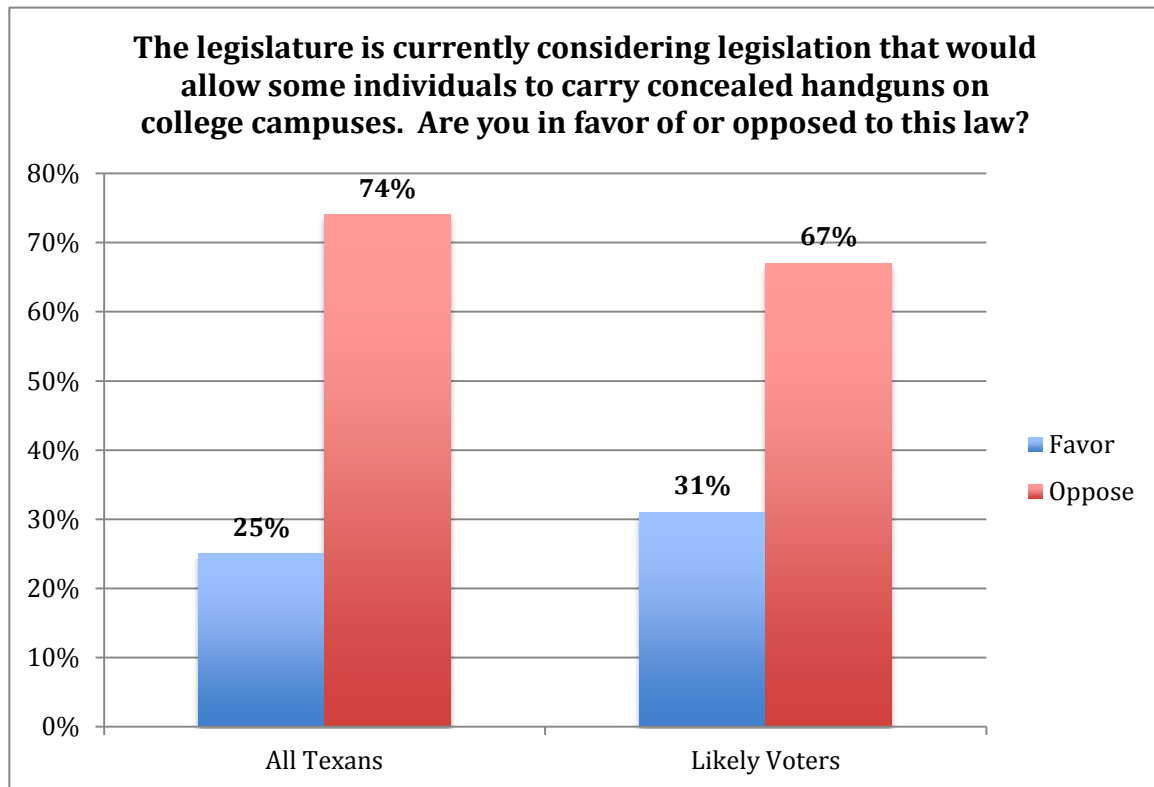
#### ***Higher Education:***

As noted in the Day 1 press release, education was named by 33% of likely voters as the most important problem facing the state of Texas in 2011. When asked if students attending college get their money's worth for their investment in higher education, we see a difference between adult Texans and likely voters. Forty-six percent of all Texans feel that students get their money's worth while 55% of likely voters feel that students receive a fair return on their investment. When considering the issue of tuition regulation, adult Texans and likely voters appear to be on the same page. A majority of both groups (44% of adult Texans; 43% of likely voters) say that we should allow universities to maintain or increase their budgets with deregulation, but help low-income students to offset the costs of higher education. An additional group supports deregulation without helping low income students (18% adult Texans, 17% likely voters). Thirty-two percent of adult Texans and 34% of likely voters support re-regulating tuition.



***Handguns on Campus:***

The ability to carry concealed handguns on campus is another hot-button issue for many Texans. A strong majority (74% of adult Texans; 67% of likely voters) opposes legislation that would allow individuals to carry concealed handguns on college campuses.

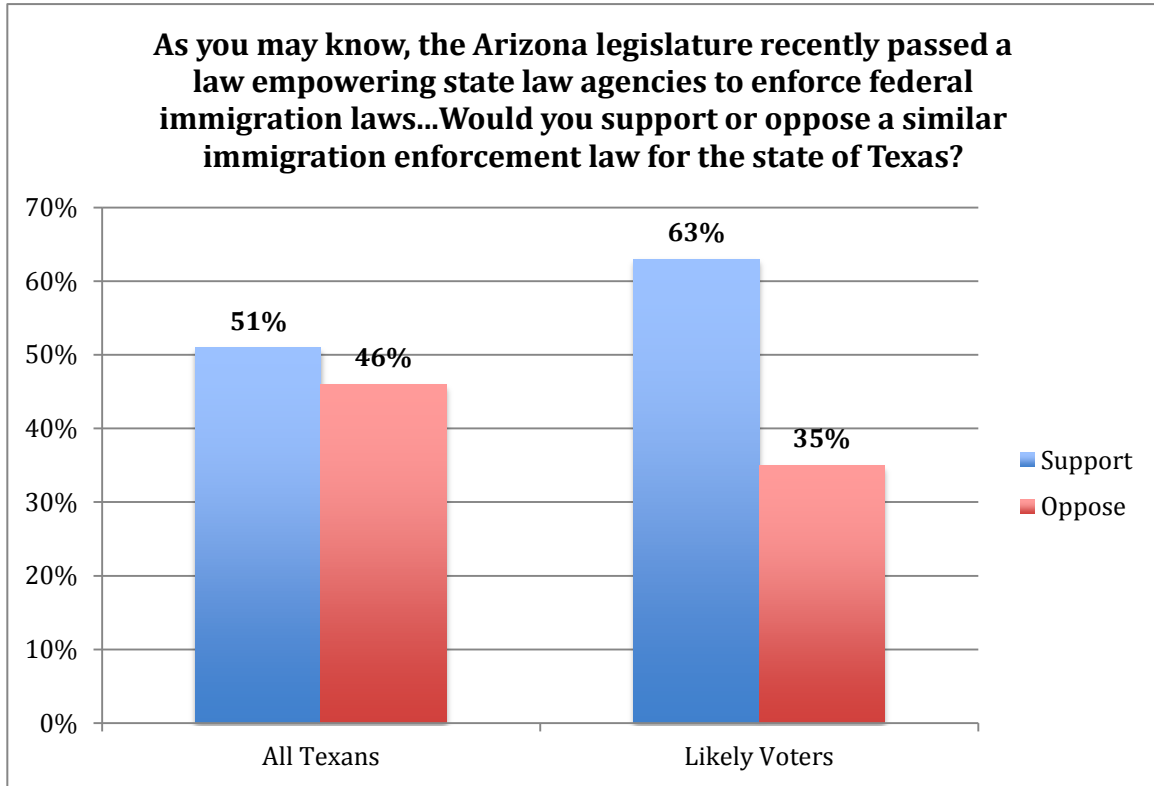


***Immigration:***

A range of questions on immigration show that Texans have opinions that vary with different aspects of immigration law. Texans are generally supportive of allowing law enforcement to actively inquire about legal status. They are mixed on tuition requirements for children of illegal immigrants, and they are opposed to stripping automatic citizenship rights granted in the U.S. Constitution for children of illegal immigrants born in this country.

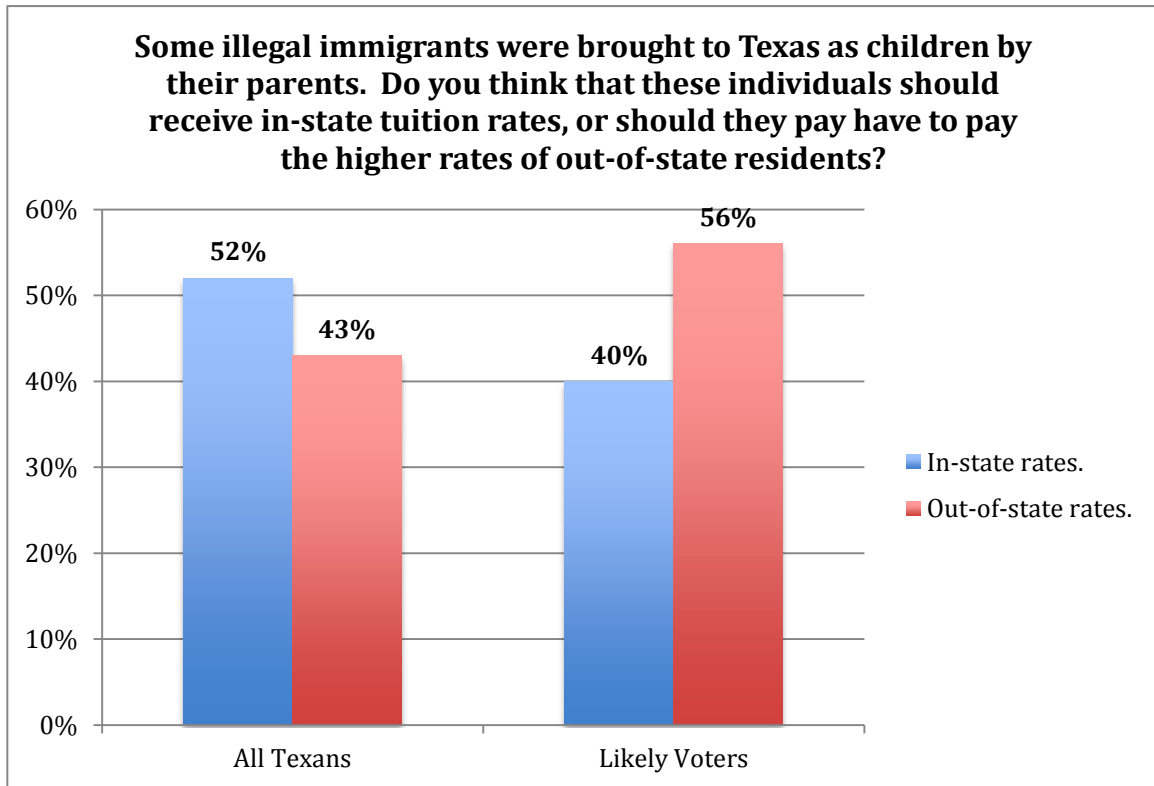
**State Efforts:**

Since the Arizona legislature passed a law empowering state law agencies to enforce federal immigration laws, including asking about the immigration status of anyone stopped for any offense, such a law has been a hot topic of debate in Texas. Support for such a law has dropped slightly from Fall 2010 with 55% of adult Texans supporting such a law in 2010 while 51% of Texans support it today. Still, those who vote are more strongly supportive; 63% of likely voters would support such a law.



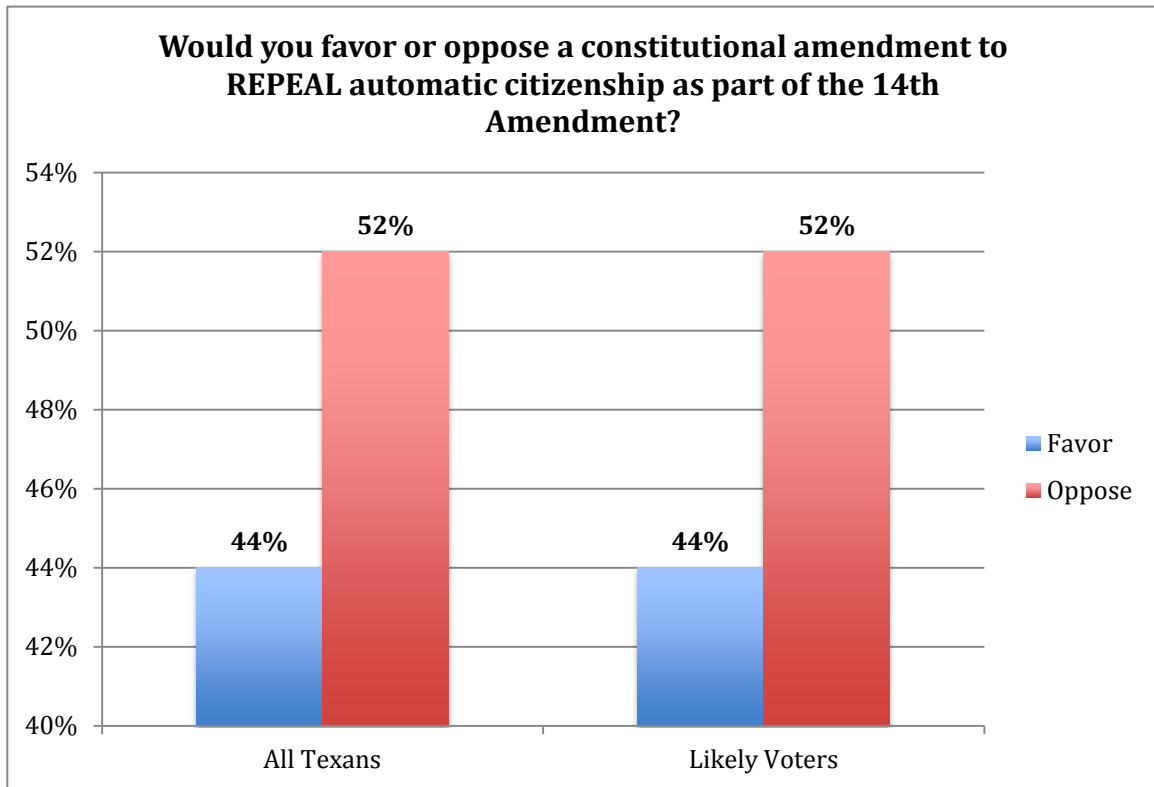
Tuition for Children of Illegal Immigrants:

One of the hotly debated issues is how to treat children of illegal immigrants who were brought to the United States as small children. On this topic, we find an interesting relationship between adult Texans and likely voters. Fifty-two percent of all Texans support the idea that such children should pay in-state tuition rates while 43% feel that they should pay out-of-state rates. However, more likely voters (56%) support such children paying out of state tuition rates, with just 40% supporting in state tuition rates for these illegal children.



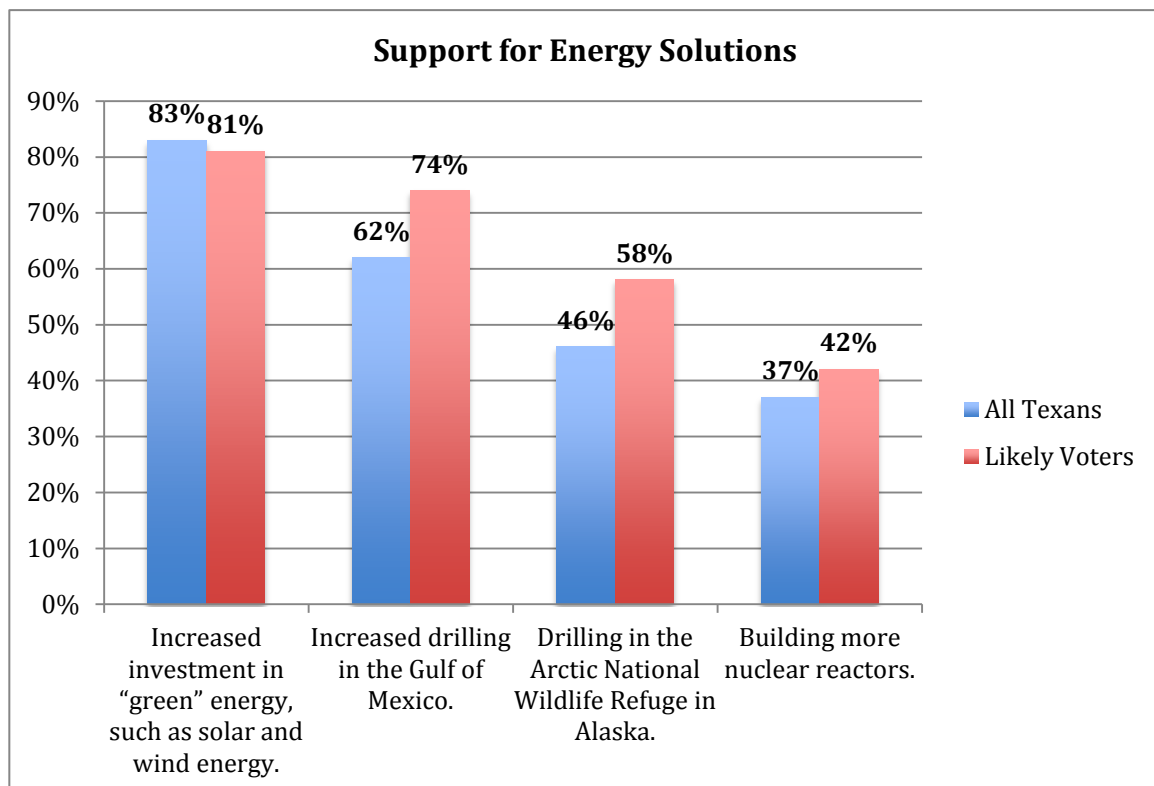
Denying Citizenship to Children of Illegal Immigrants:

Since the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment to the U.S. Constitution grants automatic citizenship status to any child born in the United States, regardless of the parent's citizenship status, some have proposed a repeal of this part of the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment. Both Texans and likely voters draw the line against a repeal, but it is not a strong majority. Fifty-two percent of all Texans and of likely voters oppose repealing this part of the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment, while 44 % favor a repeal of such automatic citizenship protections.



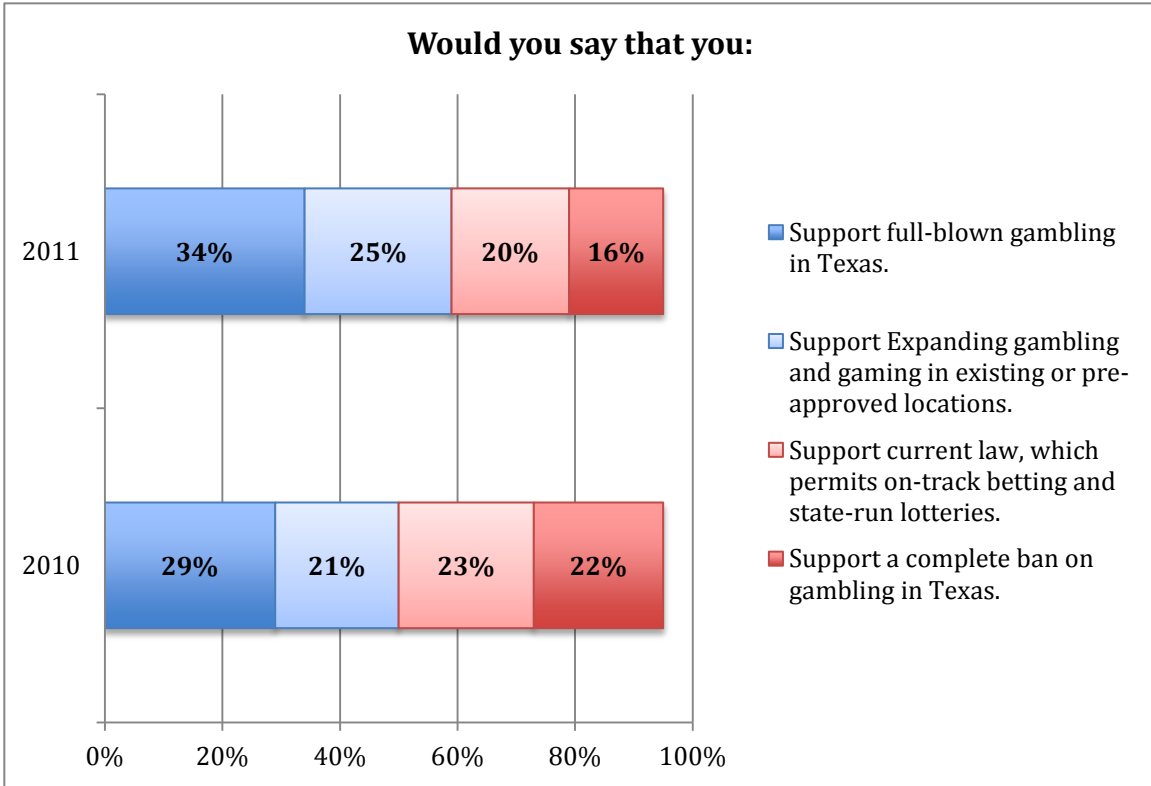
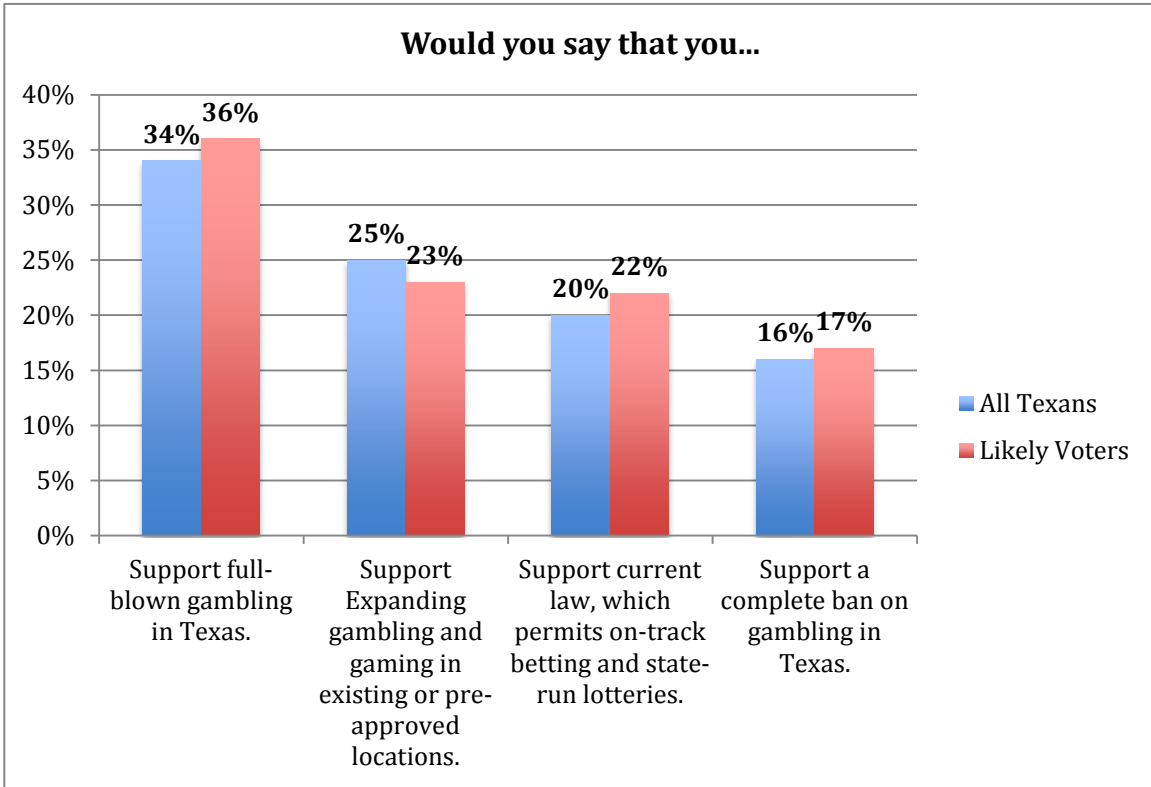
### ***Support for Energy Solutions:***

Adult Texans have nuanced attitudes on the issue of energy policy in the United States. They are most likely to support increasing investment in green energy such as solar and wind energy (83% of adult Texans; 81% of likely voters). As the next most popular option, Texans support increased drilling in the Gulf of Mexico (62% of adult Texans; 74% of likely voters). However, they are more split on drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (46% of adult Texans in favor of drilling; 58% of likely voters in favor of drilling). A slight majority of those surveyed are opposed to building more nuclear reactors as a way of addressing our energy needs (57% of adult Texans opposed; 52% of likely voters opposed).

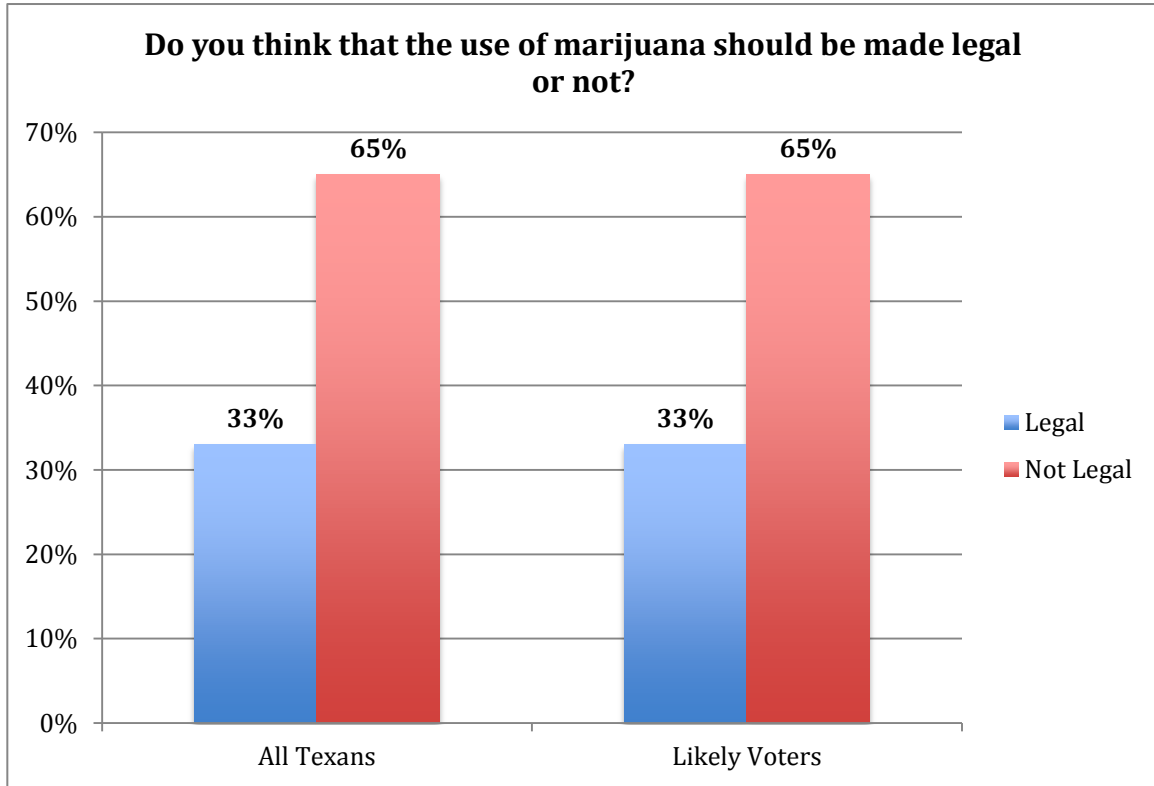


### ***Gambling and Legalizing Marijuana as Funding Sources:***

On the 2010 Lyceum poll, gambling, legalization of marijuana, and sin taxes on alcohol and cigarettes were some different ideas for generating revenue that received support from a segment of the Texas population. In 2011, Texans show that they have increased their support of gambling in the state. The largest segment of Texans surveyed support full-blown gambling in Texas (34% of adult Texans; 36% of likely voters) while less than half of that percentage prefer a complete ban on gambling (16% of adult Texans, 17% of likely voters). One quarter of those surveyed supported expanding gambling and gaming in existing or preapproved locations while around 20-22% support current law that permits on-track betting and state-run lotteries. The percentage of Texans who support expanding gambling in some way is 59% total, up from 50% in 2010.



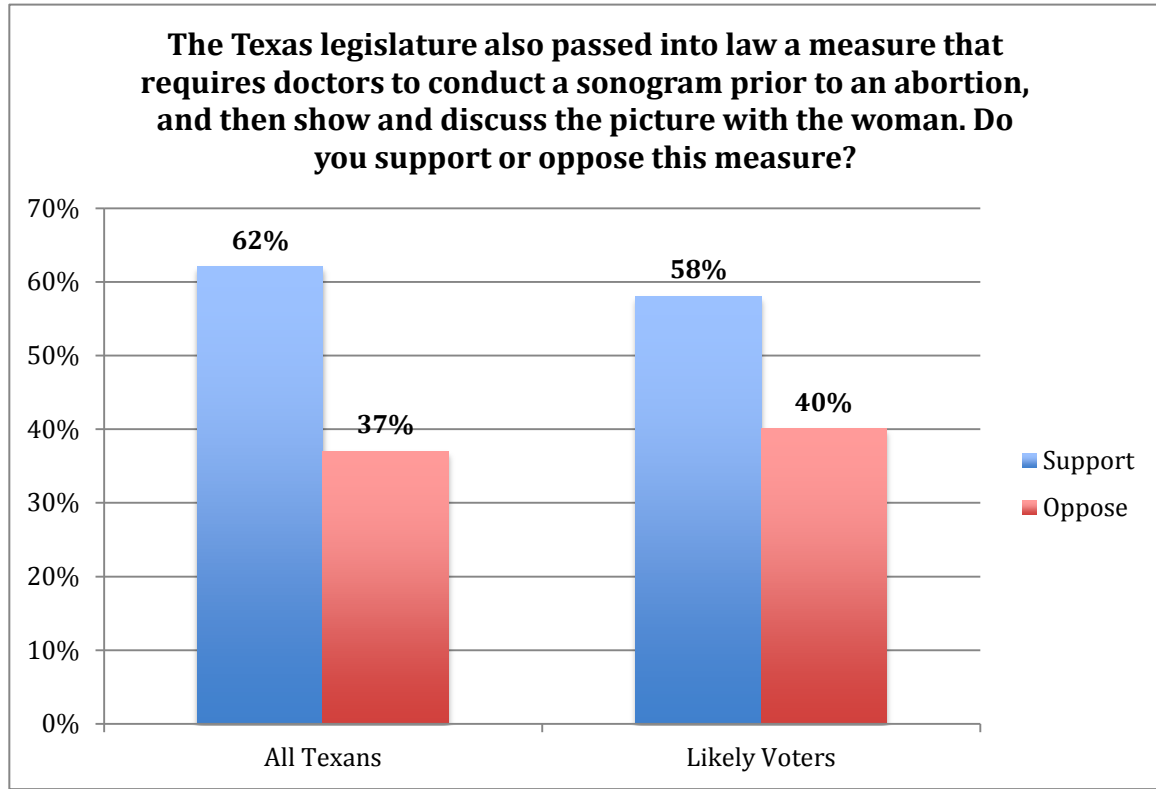
On the topic of the legalization of marijuana, two-thirds of those surveyed oppose making marijuana legal. When a follow-up question pointed out the possible tax revenue benefits from legalization of marijuana, Texans were not swayed, and in fact, simply solidified their existing view.



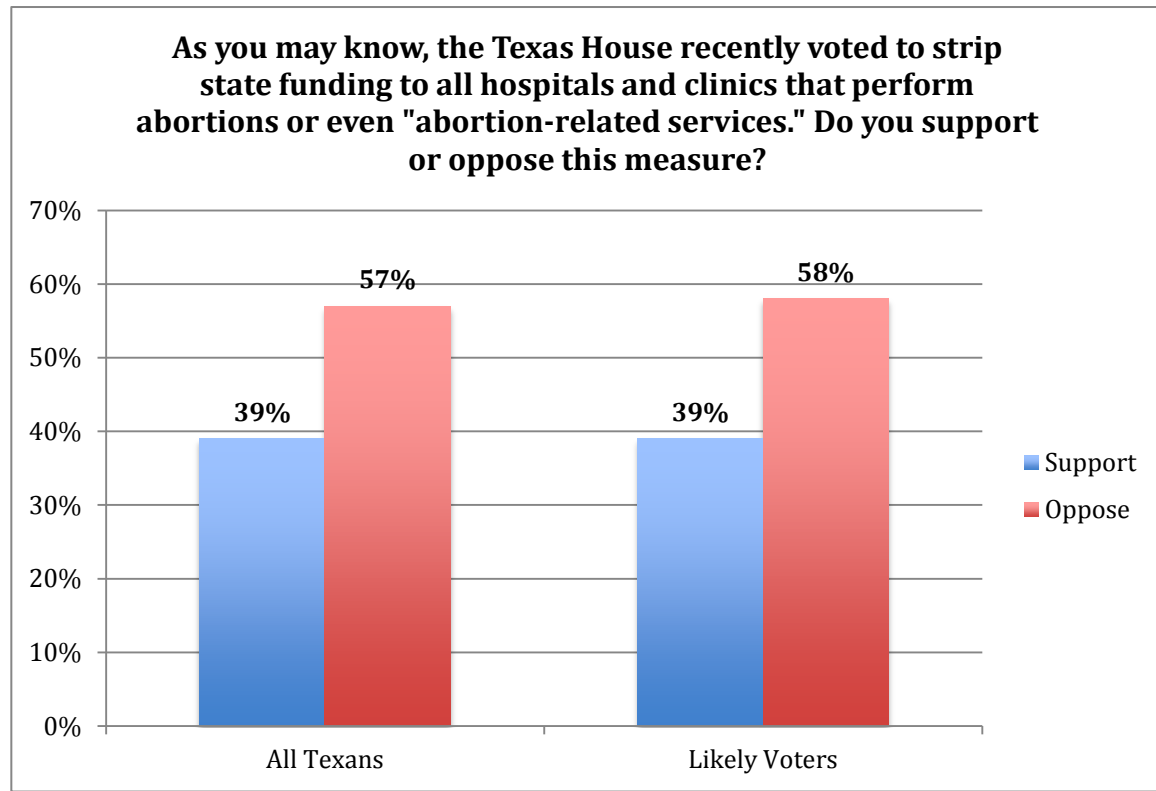


**Abortion:**

Texans also make distinctions when considering the issue of abortion. The Texas legislature has passed a law requiring doctors to conduct a sonogram prior to an abortion and to present and discuss the image with the mother. When asked about this law, a majority of Texans support the measure (62% of adult Texans; 58% of likely voters).



However, when asked about the recent vote by the Texas House to strip state funding from all hospitals and clinics that perform abortions or even “abortion-related services,” a similar majority (57% of adult Texans; 58% of likely voters) opposes such a measure.



### **Methodology:**

From May 24 through May 31, 2011, The Texas Lyceum conducted a statewide telephone survey. The survey utilized a stratified probability sample design, with respondents being randomly selected at the level of the household. On average, respondents completed the interview in 17 minutes. Approximately 5,000 records were drawn to yield 707 completed interviews. The final data set is weighted by race/ethnicity, age and gender to achieve representativeness. The margin of error for the poll is +/- 3.69 percentage points.

Some numbers and analysis were produced with a screen for likely voters. Voters were deemed “likely” if they indicated that they were registered to vote, indicated that they were “somewhat” or “extremely” interested in politics, and indicated that they had voted in “almost every” or “every” election in the last 2-3 years. This screen produced 303 likely voters, 43% of the full sample and 77% of registered voters. The margin of error for the survey of likely voters is +/- 5.63 percentage points.

## **The Texas Lyceum:**

The Texas Lyceum has committed to annual probability samples of the state of Texas to bolster its understanding of public opinion on crucial policy issues. The professional rationale for the Texas Lyceum Poll is straightforward: a non-partisan, high quality, scientific survey designed to provide (1) specific data points on issues of interest, and (2) a time series of key demographics, attitudes, and opinions. Towards this end, the trademark of the Texas Lyceum Poll is transparency. Top-line and detailed cross-tabular results of each poll will be made available on the Texas Lyceum website at **[www.texaslyceum.org](http://www.texaslyceum.org)**.

The Texas Lyceum, now 31 years strong, is a non-profit, non-partisan statewide leadership organization focused on identifying the next generation of Texas leaders. The Texas Lyceum consists of 96 men and women from throughout the state. Directors begin their service while under the age of 46 and have demonstrated leadership in their community and profession, together with a deep commitment to Texas.

The Lyceum has an impressive list of former members who are serving or have served in public office, including: Former President George W. Bush, Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, Governor Rick Perry, State Attorney General Greg Abbott, former Texas Comptroller John Sharp, Texas State Senators Rodney Ellis and Kirk Watson, Texas State Representatives Dawnna Dukes, Jose Menendez, David Farabee, Tommy Merritt, Pete Gallego, Garnet Coleman, Veronica Gonzales and Allen Vaught, Houston Mayor Bill White, Galveston Mayor Joe Jaworski, Texas Supreme Court Justices Don Willett and Dale Wainwright, U.S. District Judge Vanessa Gilmore, former Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings, former State Representative and Congressman Chris Bell and Congressmen Pete Olson, Henry Cuellar and Jim Turner. Marc Veasey is a current Lyceum Director serving in the Texas House.

The Texas Lyceum acts as a catalyst to bring together diverse opinions and expertise to focus on national and state issues, and seeks to emphasize constructive private sector, public sector, and individual responses to the issues.

To accomplish these purposes, the Lyceum conducts periodic public forums, publishes the Lyceum *Journal*, commissions The Texas Lyceum Poll, and convenes programs for the Directors to explore and discuss key economic and social issues of the state and nation.

## Poll Questions:

*Now we'd like to ask your opinion on energy policy. For each of the following, please tell us whether you support or oppose the proposed policy.*

All Texans:

	Support	Oppose	Don't know/ NA/ Refused
<b>Increased drilling in the Gulf of Mexico.</b>	62%	31%	7%
<b>Drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska.</b>	46%	46%	8%
<b>Building more nuclear reactors.</b>	37%	57%	6%
<b>Increased investment in "green" energy, such as solar and wind energy.</b>	83%	12%	4%

Likely Voters:

	Support	Oppose	Don't know/ NA/ Refused
<b>Increased drilling in the Gulf of Mexico.</b>	74%	23%	3%
<b>Drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska.</b>	58%	40%	3%
<b>Building more nuclear reactors.</b>	42%	52%	6%
<b>Increased investment in "green" energy, such as solar and wind energy.</b>	81%	16%	3%

*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?*

	All Texans:	Likely Voters:
Strongly support.	38%	50%
Somewhat support	13%	13%
Somewhat oppose	10%	5%
Strongly oppose	36%	30%
DON'T KNOW/NA	3%	3%

*As you may know, the 14th amendment to the constitution grants automatic citizenship status to any child born in the United States, regardless of their parent's citizenship status. Would you favor or oppose a constitutional amendment to REPEAL this part of the 14th amendment?*

	All Texans:	Likely Voters:
Favor	44%	44%
Oppose	52%	52%
DON'T KNOW/NA	4%	4%

*Some illegal immigrants were brought to Texas as children by their parents. Do you think that these individuals should receive in-state tuition rates, or should they pay have to pay the higher rates of out-of-state residents?*

	All Texans:	Likely Voters:
In-state rates.	52%	40%
Out-of-state rates.	43%	56%
DON'T KNOW/NA	5%	4%

***Gambling policy was discussed in the recent legislative session. 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:***

	All Texans:	Likely Voters:
Support full-blown gambling in Texas.	34%	36%
Support expanding gambling and gaming in existing or pre-approved locations.	25%	23%
Support current law, which permits on-track betting and state-run lotteries, or	20%	22%
Support a complete ban on gambling in Texas.	16%	17%
DON'T KNOW/NA	5%	3%

***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 with de-regulation, but help low-income students offset the costs. Which of these is closest to your own position?***

	All Texans:	Likely Voters:
Re-regulate tuition.	32%	34%
Keep tuition de-regulation, or	18%	17%
Keep tuition de-regulation but help low income students offset costs	44%	43%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA.	6%	6%

***Do you think that students attending college get their money's worth for what they spend on higher education, or do they not receive a fair return on their investment?***

	All Texans:	Likely Voters:
Students get their moneys worth.	46%	55%
Students do not receive a fair return on their investment.	39%	33%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA.	15%	12%

***The legislature is currently considering legislation that would allow some individuals to carry concealed handguns on college campuses. Are you in favor of or opposed to this law?***

	All Texans:	Likely Voters:
Favor.	25%	31%
Oppose.	74%	67%
DON'T KNOW/NA	1%	2%

***Do you think that the use of marijuana should be made legal or not?***

	All Texans:	Likely Voters:
Legal.	33%	33%
Not Legal.	65%	65%
DON'T KNOW/NA	2%	2%

***If the legalization of marijuana would provide significant tax revenue, would that change your opinion (if respondent said use of marijuana should not be legal)?***

	All Texans:	Likely Voters:
Yes.	11%	6%
No.	87%	91%
DON'T KNOW/NA	2%	3%

***As you may know, the Texas House recently voted to strip state funding to all hospitals and clinics that perform abortions or even "abortion-related services." Do you support or oppose this measure?***

	All Texans:	Likely Voters:
Support.	39%	39%
Oppose.	57%	58%
DON'T KNOW/NA	4%	3%

***The Texas legislature also passed into law a measure that requires doctors to conduct a sonogram prior to an abortion, and then show and discuss the picture with the woman. Do you support or oppose this measure?***

	All Texans:	Likely Voters:
Support.	62%	58%
Oppose.	37%	40%
DON'T KNOW/NA	2%	2%