

# TEXAS LYCEUM POLL

## Texas Statewide Survey

CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENT

N=1,000 ADULTS

MOE=+/-3.1 PERCENTAGE POINTS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

CELL PHONE SUPPLEMENT

BILINGUAL INSTRUMENT/INTERVIEWERS

September 6-20, 2013

---

*Hello. We're conducting a survey on behalf of the Texas Lyceum, a nonprofit, non-partisan organization focused on public policy issues affecting Texas and the United States.*

*May I please speak with the person in your home who is 18 or older and who will be having the next birthday?*

*IF ASK WHY BIRTHDAY SELECTION: This helps us make sure we represent adults living within a household correctly.*

*IF NECESSARY: We're interested in your views on several current issues. We would like to include your responses to this survey, which will be kept absolutely confidential, with the responses of several hundred other Texans like you. The survey should take about 18 minutes to complete, depending on your answers.*

### **SECTION I:**

#### **GENERAL MOOD AND 2014 ELECTION ITEMS**

Q1. Are you registered to vote in the state of Texas?

- |                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| 1. Yes, registered.       | 80% |
| 2. No, not registered.    | 20  |
| 3. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA. | 0   |

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.  | 30% |
| 2. Somewhat interested.   | 41  |
| 3. Not very interested.   | 15  |
| 4. Not at all interested. | 13  |
| 5. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA. | 1   |

Q3. Thinking about the country, do you think things are moving in the right direction or are we off on the wrong track?

- |                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| 1. Right direction.        | 30% |
| 2. Off on the wrong track. | 59  |
| 3. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA.  | 11  |

Q4. What do you think is the most important issue facing the country today?

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| 1. The economy                         | 25% |
| 2. Syria                               | 11  |
| 3. Unemployment/jobs                   | 10  |
| 4. Health care                         | 9   |
| 5. Political corruption/leadership     | 6   |
| 6. Education                           | 4   |
| 7. Federal spending/budget deficit     | 4   |
| 8. National security/terrorism         | 3   |
| 9. Immigration                         | 3   |
| 10. National debt                      | 1   |
| 11. Moral decline                      | 1   |
| 12. Taxes                              | 1   |
| 13. Gas prices                         | 1   |
| 14. Social welfare programs            | 1   |
| 15. Abortion                           | 1   |
| 16. Foreign trade                      | 1   |
| 17. Middle East unrest                 | 1   |
| 18. Gun violence/gun control           | 1   |
| 19. Border security                    | 0   |
| 20. Energy                             | 0   |
| 21. Gay marriage                       | 0   |
| 22. Environment                        | 0   |
| 23. The media                          | 0   |
| 24. Crime and drugs                    | 0   |
| 25. Afghanistan/Pakistan               | 0   |
| 26. Housing                            | 0   |
| 27. Iraq                               | 0   |
| 28. Federal courts/nominees            | 0   |
| 29. Voting system                      | 0   |
| 30. Iran/nuclear weapons               | 0   |
| 31. Polarization/Gridlock/Partisanship | 0   |
| 32. Other                              | 15  |

Q5. What do you think is the most important issue facing the state of Texas today?

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

Q6. 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?

1. Very good job.	21%
2. Somewhat good job.	33
3. Somewhat poor job.	14
4. Very poor job.	28
5. DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA	4

*Among registered voters (n=798, MOE is +/-3.47%)*

1. Very good job.	19%
2. Somewhat good job.	31
3. Somewhat poor job.	14
4. Very poor job.	33
5. DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA	4

Q8. 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?

1. Strongly approve	21%
2. Somewhat approve	34
3. Somewhat disapprove	13
4. Strongly disapprove	20
5. DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA	12

*Among registered voters (n=798, MOE is +/-3.47%)*

1. Strongly approve	22%
2. Somewhat approve	34
3. Somewhat disapprove	12
4. Strongly disapprove	22
5. DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA	10

Q9. Would you say that you approve or disapprove of the job that the Texas state legislature **[PRON: LEDGE-A-SLATE-CHER]** is doing? Would that be somewhat or strongly approve/disapprove?

1. Strongly approve	13%
2. Somewhat approve	45
3. Somewhat disapprove	14
4. Strongly disapprove	12
5. DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA	16

*Among registered voters (n=798, MOE is +/-3.47%)*

1. Strongly approve	14%
2. Somewhat approve	45
3. Somewhat disapprove	14
4. Strongly disapprove	13
5. DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA	14

Q10. **[ASK IF Q1 EQ 1]** Thinking ahead to the March 2014 Texas Primary Elections, do you think you will vote in the Republican Primary, the Democratic Primary, or do you think you will skip that election?

*Among registered voters (n=798, MOE is +/-3.47%)*

1. Republican Primary Voter	35%
2. Democratic Primary Voter	29
3. Non-voter	16
4. DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA	20

Q11A. **[ASK IF Q10 EQ 1]** If the Republican Primary election for Governor were held today, would you vote for **[RANDOMIZE CHOICES]** Greg Abbott, Tom Pauken, Miriam Martinez, Larry Kilgore, or haven't you thought enough about it?

*Among self-identified Republican primary voters (n=279, MOE is +/-5.87%)*

1. Greg Abbott	22
2. Tom Pauken	0
3. Miriam Martinez	1
4. Larry Kilgore	2
5. Other (volunteered)	0
6. Haven't thought enough about it	69
7. DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA	5

Thinking ahead to the November 2014 general election...

**[RANDOMLY SELECT ONE OF Q12A OR Q12B]**

Q12A. If the election for representative to the U.S. Congress were held today, would you vote for the **[RANDOMIZE PARTIES]** Democratic candidate, the Republican candidate, someone else, or haven't you thought enough about it?

*Among registered voters (n=408, MOE is +/-4.85%)*

1. Democratic candidate	23%
2. Republican candidate	29
3. Someone else	5
4. Haven't thought enough about it / DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA	43

Q12B. And if the election for representative to the Texas State House were held today, would you vote for the **[RANDOMIZE PARTIES]** Democratic candidate, the Republican candidate, someone else, or haven't you thought enough about it?

*Among registered voters (n=390, MOE is +/-4.96%)*

1. Democratic candidate	19%
2. Republican candidate	23
3. Someone else	5
4. Haven't thought enough about it / DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA	53

Q14. If the 2014 election for Texas governor were held today and the candidates were the Republican Greg Abbott and the Democrat Wendy Davis, would you vote for Gregg Abbott, Wendy Davis, or haven't you thought enough about it to have a preference?

*Among registered voters (n=798, MOE is +/-3.47%)*

1. Greg Abbott	29%
2. Wendy Davis	21
3. Don't know/NA	50

Q15. 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]**

*Among registered voters (n=798, MOE is +/-3.47%)*

- |                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| 1. Republican candidate | 25% |
| 2. Democratic candidate | 32  |
| 3. Tea Party candidate  | 16  |
| 4. Don't know           | 27  |

**SECTION II:**  
**PERSONAL ECONOMIC PERCEPTIONS**

Q16. Thinking about the national economy, do you think the country is better off, worse off, or about the same compared to a year ago?

- |                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| 1. Better off.            | 32% |
| 2. Worse off.             | 29  |
| 3. About the same.        | 37  |
| 4. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA. | 2   |

Q17. 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?

- |                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| 1. Better off.            | 26% |
| 2. Worse off.             | 23  |
| 3. About the same.        | 50  |
| 4. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA. | 1   |

**[RANDOMLY ASSIGN HALF RESPONDENTS TO Q18A AND HALF TO Q18B]**

Q18A. Looking ahead to the future, do you think your children will be better off than you are, worse off, or about the same economically?

*(n=507, MOE is +/-4.35%)*

- |                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| 1. Better off.            | 41% |
| 2. Worse off.             | 35  |
| 3. About the same.        | 17  |
| 4. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA. | 7   |

Q18B. Thinking about the condition of the national economy, do you think the worst is over or is the worst yet to come?

*(n=493, MOE is +/-4.41%)*

- |                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| 1. Worst is over.         | 30% |
| 2. Worst is yet to come.  | 58  |
| 3. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA. | 12  |

Q19. Do you think Texas's economy is better off, worse off, or about the same as the rest of the country?

- |                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Better off                | 62% |
| 2. Worse off                 | 7   |
| 3. About the same            | 26  |
| 4. DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA | 4   |

**SECTION III:  
ISSUES & POLICY**

**TRANSPORTATION**

Q20. Would you say that you are satisfied with the quality of roads and highways in Texas, unsatisfied, or are you in between? Would that be very or just somewhat satisfied/unsatisfied?

- |                                      |     |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Very satisfied                    | 26% |
| 2. Somewhat satisfied                | 26  |
| 3. Neither satisfied nor unsatisfied | 33  |
| 4. Somewhat unsatisfied              | 7   |
| 5. Very unsatisfied                  | 7   |
| 6. Don't know/REF                    | 1   |

Q21. Please tell us how willing you would be to pay more in taxes or fees on each of the following ideas. Would you be very willing, somewhat willing, somewhat UN-willing, very UN-willing, or haven't you thought enough about it? **[RANDOMIZE Q21A-Q21E]**

	Very willing	Somewhat willing	Somewhat UN-willing	Very UN-willing	Haven't thought about it enough	Don't know / NA
Q21A. Build new roads and highways	20%	32%	13%	16%	17%	2%
Q21B. Add lanes to highways and roads	22%	35%	10%	14%	18%	1%
Q21C. Repair and improve existing roads, highways, and bridges	32%	32%	8%	12%	15%	1%
Q21D. Add more bus routes and increase service	21%	27%	13%	16%	16%	4%
Q21E. Build light rail or commuter rail lines between cities	24%	29%	11%	16%	16%	4%

Q22. Which of the following do you consider the biggest threat to your safety while driving?  
**[RANDOMIZE]**

- |                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Other drivers texting          | 42% |
| 2. Drunk drivers                  | 27  |
| 3. Traffic congestion             | 10  |
| 4. Younger drivers                | 8   |
| 5. Commercial trucks and trailers | 8   |
| 6. Quality of roads and highways  | 2   |
| 7. Older drivers                  | 2   |
| 8. Bicyclists                     | 1   |
| 9. Pedestrians                    | 0   |



## K-12 EDUCATION

Now we'd like to know what you think about education and education policy in Texas. Thinking about Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade...

Q23. Who is most responsible for ensuring that our children are educated?

- |                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| 1. Individual families   | 53% |
| 2. Local government      | 13  |
| 3. State government      | 18  |
| 4. National government   | 12  |
| 5. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA | 4   |

Q24. As you may know, in 2013 the Texas Legislature [**PRON: LEDGE-A-SLATE-CHER**] restored some of the cuts made to public education in 2011. Which of the following should be the top priority when allocating the restored funds?

### [RANDOMIZE ITEMS]

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| 1. Increased pay for teachers                                     | 31% |
| 2. Hiring additional teachers                                     | 24  |
| 3. Investment in computers and high tech equipment                | 16  |
| 4. Construction of new schools                                    | 7   |
| 5. Additional instruction in music and art                        | 5   |
| 6. Additional investment in physical education classes and sports | 4   |
| 7. Increased pay for school staff                                 | 4   |
| 8. Increased pay for district administrators                      | 0   |
| 9. Don't know/NA [DON'T READ]                                     | 8   |

Q25. In 2013 the Texas Legislature reduced the number of standardized tests that students would be required to take over the course of their primary education from fifteen to five. Which of the following is closest to your opinion?

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| 1. The legislature should have left it alone; standards matter and 15 tests was fine                        | 14% |
| 2. The legislature did the right thing; standards are fine but 15 was too many                              | 17  |
| 3. The legislature should have eliminated these tests because they force the schools to "teach to the test" | 25  |
| 4. The legislature should have eliminated these tests and left evaluation to local jurisdictions            | 31  |
| 5. Don't know/No opinion  | 13  |

Q26. Do you currently have children in the Texas public school system?

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

## WATER POLICY

Q28. As you may know, this year, the Texas Legislature [**PRON: LEDGE-A-SLATE-CHER**] decided to take approximately \$2 billion dollars out of 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. But taking this money out of the Rainy Day Fund requires the approval of voters in November's constitutional amendment election.

If you plan to vote in that election, will you be in favor of withdrawing the funds, or opposed to withdrawing the funds?

*Among registered voters (n=798, MOE is +/-3.47%)*

- |                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| 1. In favor             | 44% |
| 2. Opposed              | 42  |
| 3. Not voting           | 1   |
| 4. DON'T KNOW / REFUSED | 13  |

*Among Likely Voters – those registered to vote and who indicated that they are “Extremely interested” in politics and public affairs (n=611, MOE is +/- 3.96%)*

- |                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| 1. In favor             | 49% |
| 2. Opposed              | 36  |
| 3. Not voting           | 0   |
| 4. DON'T KNOW / REFUSED | 15  |

## Voting Rights

Q29 Do you think that voting and election laws in Texas discriminate against minorities?

- |                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| 1. Yes                   | 31% |
| 2. No                    | 64  |
| 3. Don't know/no opinion | 6   |

Q30. Please tell us whether you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, neither favorable nor unfavorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable opinion of the Affordable Care Act.

- |                                      |     |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Very favorable                    | 14% |
| 2. Somewhat favorable                | 22  |
| 3. Neither favorable nor unfavorable | 6   |
| 4. Somewhat unfavorable              | 12  |
| 5. Very unfavorable                  | 29  |
| 6. Don't know/No opinion             | 18  |

Q31. What type of health insurance do you currently have?

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| 1. Employer provided   | 43% |
| 2. Individually pay for it   | 13  |
| 3. Enrolled in a government health insurance program (for example, Medicare or Medicaid) | 23  |
| 4. Do not currently have health insurance  | 18  |
| 5. Don't know/Refused  | 3   |

Q32 As you may know, the Affordable Care Act offers states the opportunity to expand Medicaid to provide health insurance to more low-income uninsured adults. The federal government would subsidize this expansion initially, after which Texas taxpayers would have to pay for the expanded coverage. What do you think Texas should do?

- |                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| 1. Keep Medicaid as is   | 49% |
| 2. Expand Medicaid       | 41  |
| 3. Don't know/No opinion | 9   |

Q33. **[ASK IF Q31 EQ 4]** As you may know, the federal government is currently setting up a health insurance exchange in Texas where people can go to buy health insurance from a number of providers. How likely are you to purchase insurance in this exchange?

(n=181, MOE is +/-7.28%)

- |                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| 1. Very likely       | 17% |
| 2. Somewhat likely   | 40  |
| 3. Not very likely   | 14  |
| 4. Not at all likely | 22  |
| 5. Don't know        | 7   |

**SECTION V:  
DEMOGRAPHICS**

*We're almost done. The final questions are for statistical purposes...*

AGE. In what year were you born?

1. 18-29	21%
2. 30-44	32
3. 45-64	33
4. 65+	14

COUNTY. In which county do you reside?

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

1. Urban	28%
2. Suburban	27
3. Small town	24
4. Rural	18
5. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	2

MARRIED. What is your current martial status?

1. Never married	23%
2. Married	56
3. Divorced	11
4. Widowed	6
5. Separated	4

CHILD. How many children are currently living with you?

1. One	17%
2. Two	18
3. Three	10
4. Four or more	5
5. None	49

INCOME. What was your total household income for 2012? READ CATEGORIES

1. Less than \$15,000	15%
2. \$15,000-\$25,000	11
3. \$25,000-\$40,000	14
4. \$40,000-\$75,000	17
5. \$75,000-\$150,000	20
6. More than \$150,000	8
7. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA.	15

EDOFR. What is the highest level of education you completed? READ CATEGORIES AS NECESSARY

1. Less than high school	6%
2. High school	23
3. Some college	27
4. College degree	30
5. Post-graduate degree (MA, LLD, PhD)	13
6. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA.	1

RELIGION. What is your religious denomination [PRON: DEE-NOM-I-NATION]?

1. Protestant	27%
2. Catholic	28
3. Other Christian	26
4. Jewish	1
5. Muslim, Buddhist, or other non-Christian	3
6. Agnostic/Atheist	5
7. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	10

FUND. [IF RELIGION EQ 1] Would you say that you are evangelical, fundamentalist, or born-again?

1. Yes	72%
2. No	28

RACE. Would you say that you are...

1. White	46%
2. Black	11
3. Hispanic	38
4. Other	5

LIBCON. Generally speaking, would you say that you are...

1. Liberal	16%
2. Moderate, or	29
3. Conservative.	48
4. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	7

PID3.

1. Democrat	36%
2. Independent	27
3. Republican	35
4. Other	2

PID7.

1. Strong Democrat	17%
2. Weak Democrat	10
3. Lean Democrat	8
4. Independent	28
5. Lean Republican	12
6. Weak Republican	7
7. Strong Republican	16
8. Other	2

GENDER. (BY OBSERVATION)

1. MALE	50%
2. FEMALE	50

*Thank you very much for your time today/ this evening! Have a good day/evening.*