



THE TEXAS LYCEUM

## **2014 Texas Lyceum Poll – Day One**

***Annual Independent Poll Reveals Texans' Diverse Attitudes  
on Key Campaign Issues: Immigration, Abortion and Affordable Care Act***

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### **The Lyceum Poll Finds:**

- Texans see immigration and border security as the most important issue facing the state (combined total of 31% pushes education to third place this year), while the economy and jobs are seen as the most important issue facing the country (combined total of 20%)
- On immigration, a majority of adult Texans believe unaccompanied children from Central America who illegally crossed the border this past summer should be sent home as soon as possible – but a majority of Hispanics and Democrats feel they have a right to stay.
- On abortion, Texans overwhelmingly believe abortion should be legal in the case of rape, incest and to protect the life of a mother (68% for each respectively). With regard to birth defects, abortion support decreases, but a majority still favors legal abortions in this circumstance.
- The Affordable Care Act remains unpopular with Texans despite more than 7 million Americans having signed up for private health insurance under the law.
- Texans view themselves as healthy (86%) and oppose a tax (68%) on full calorie, sugary soft drinks to encourage better health and curb the obesity epidemic.

(AUSTIN) An independent statewide poll conducted by the Texas Lyceum, a non-partisan, nonprofit statewide leadership group, suggests that Texans are split evenly when it comes to addressing the immigration crisis at the border – the number one issue in the state, surpassing education; Texans are accepting of a woman obtaining an abortion under a number of circumstances, and Texans still feel negatively about the Affordable Care Act.

### **Immigration/Refugee Crisis**

The Texas Lyceum's 8<sup>th</sup> annual poll, which was conducted September 11 – 25, shows most adult Texans (48 percent) supportive of sending unaccompanied

children from Central America who illegally crossed the border this past summer home rather than allowing them to stay to await an immigration hearing. It is important to note support to send refugees home deepens to 56 percent among likely voters. However, opinion varies considerably when looking at ethnicity and race. Sixty-two percent of Anglos believe they should be deported compared to 28 percent who said they should be allowed to stay. Among Hispanics polled, the numbers nearly reverse. Fifty-eight percent of Hispanics support allowing the children to remain in the United States to await immigration hearings, while 33 percent said they should be returned. African Americans were more evenly divided, but a plurality supports the children staying in the United States, 48-41 percent.

“Although the majority response sides with law and order, we do see that the attitudes of Texans depend on context,” said Lyceum pollster University of Texas Professor Daron Shaw. “If immigration is framed in terms of caring for children, our willingness to compromise increases.”

### **Abortion/Various Circumstances**

Abortion has emerged as an important issue in the 2014 Texas gubernatorial election with just five weeks to go. When surveyed, a large majority of adult Texans (68 percent) believe abortion should be legal in cases of rape, incest or to protect the life of the mother. When asked, “there will be a strong chance of a serious defect in the baby,” a smaller majority (54 percent) believe a woman should be able to have an abortion. In the remaining three circumstances queried – the family has a low income, the woman is unmarried, or the third, she doesn’t want any more children - fewer Texans, 33 percent support a woman’s right to obtain an abortion.

### **Affordable Care Act/Healthcare**

While the Affordable Care Act, known as Obamacare, has been in effect for more than a year and 7.2 million Americans have purchased private health insurance under the law, 48 percent of adult Texans still have an unfavorable view of the law, while 33 percent hold a favorable opinion. Among likely voters the ACA gets even lower marks (52 percent unfavorable – 35 percent favorable).

Texans see themselves and their families as healthy, but view most other Texans and Americans as marginally healthy. However, it appears that Texans do not support raising funds for public health initiatives by levying a tax on full-calorie, non-diet, soda drinks, fully 68 percent of adults oppose the idea of a sin tax – among likely voters the percent in opposition increases to 73.

### **Most Important issues facing state/nation**

For the past four years in the Texas Lyceum poll, Texans have said that the most important issue facing the nation is the economy. That remains true with a combined total of 20 percent of adults choosing the economy and jobs. However, on the state level, Texans believe that immigration (19 percent) and border

security (13 percent), for a combined total of 31 percent, are the most important issue facing the state, which could be expected considering the media attention this past summer focusing on the refugee crisis. This replaces education as the top issue from the 2013 poll – education came in third at 11 percent this year.

The University of Texas Professor Daron Shaw, PhD (Texas Lyceum Class of 2003) conducted the poll of 1,000 Texas adults which has a margin of error of +/- 3.1 percentage points. Dr. Shaw and Lyceum Research Director Joshua Blank, used the latest in polling techniques, contacting respondents both by landline as well as cell phones with the use of English and Spanish language instrumentation.

“For the past eight years the Texas Lyceum has produced an independent, transparent and high-quality poll as a public service to Texans,” said 2014 Texas Lyceum President Roberta Schwartz. We want to thank Professor Shaw and Texas Lyceum Poll Research Director Joshua Blank for their hard work. We believe this valuable annual resource that we share on our website, starts important conversations that lead to effective public policy.”

**About The Texas Lyceum** The Texas Lyceum, a non-profit, non-partisan group is the premier statewide leadership organization focused on identifying the next generation of top Texas leaders. The Lyceum consists of [96 men and women from throughout the state](#) who begin their six-year term while under the age of 46, and have demonstrated leadership in their community and profession, together with a deep commitment to Texas. For more information, please visit [www.texaslyceum.org](http://www.texaslyceum.org). Texas Lyceum is on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/texaslyceum> and on Twitter @TexasLyceum <http://twitter.com/texaslyceum>

## TEXAS LYCEUM POLL

**2014 Texas Statewide Survey questions relevant to issues discussed above. The entire poll will be released tomorrow, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014**

CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENT

N=1,000 ADULTS

MOE=+/-3.1 PERCENTAGE POINTS UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED

CELL PHONE SUPPLEMENT

BILINGUAL INSTRUMENT/INTERVIEWERS

September 11-25, 2014

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

- |                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| 1. Yes, registered.       | 83% |
| 2. No, not registered.    | 17  |
| 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.  | 29% |
| 2. Somewhat interested.   | 47  |
| 3. Not very interested.   | 11  |
| 4. Not at all interested. | 11  |
| 5. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA. | 2   |

Q3. **[ASK Q3 IF Q1 EQ 1]** Many times people intend to vote but do not end up doing so because of events or personal circumstances. With this in mind, on a 0-10 scale please rate how likely you are to vote in the upcoming November elections: 10 means you are absolutely certain to vote, 0 means you will definitely NOT vote, and 5 means you may or may not vote.

Mean 9.4, Standard Deviation 0.13

Q5. What do you think is the most important issue facing the country today?

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| 1. <i>The economy</i>                      | 15% |
| 2. National security/terrorism             | 8   |
| 3. Immigration                             | 8   |
| 4. War (unspecified)                       | 7   |
| 5. Political corruption/leadership         | 6   |
| 6. Middle East unrest                      | 6   |
| 7. Health care                             | 5   |
| 8. <i>Unemployment/jobs</i>                | 5   |
| 9. <i>National debt</i>                    | 3   |
| 10. Border security                        | 3   |
| 11. Education                              | 3   |
| 12. Social welfare programs                | 3   |
| 13. <i>Federal spending/budget deficit</i> | 2   |
| 14. Moral decline                          | 2   |
| 15. Gay marriage                           | 1   |
| 16. Polarization/Gridlock/Partisanship     | 1   |
| 17. Income inequality                      | 1   |
| 18. Other/Don't know/Nothing in particular | 13  |

Q6. What do you think is the most important issue facing the state of Texas today?

1. Immigration	18%
2. Border security	13
3. Education	11
4. <i>Unemployment/jobs</i>	6
5. Health care	6
6. Governor/Rick Perry/Gubernatorial Election	5
7. Water supply	3
8. Federal Government/The President	2
9. Social welfare programs	2
10. <i>The economy</i>	2
11. Political corruption/leadership	1
12. Moral decline	1
13. <i>Taxes</i>	1
14. Transportation/roads/traffic	1
15. Abortion	1
16. <i>Housing</i>	1
17. Gun violence/gun control	1
18. Republicans	1
19. Other/Don't know/Nothing in particular	24

Q15. Several states, including Texas, have considered instituting a new tax on full-calorie, non-diet, soda drinks. Supporters say it will work like a cigarette tax, encouraging healthier choices and adding revenue. Opponents say the state shouldn't tax people's freedom to make choices like this. Would you say you support or oppose a soda-tax?

1. Support	27%
2. Oppose	68
3. Don't know	5

*Among likely voters (n=666, MOE is +/-3.80 %)*

1. Support	21%
4. Oppose	74
5. Don't know	4

**SECTION III:**  
**ISSUES & POLICY**

Q19. 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	13%
2. Somewhat favorable	20
3. Neither favorable nor unfavorable	5
4. Somewhat unfavorable	13
5. Very unfavorable	35
6. Don't know/No opinion	14

*Among likely voters (n=539, MOE is +/-4.22 %)*

- 1. Very favorable 14%
- 2. Somewhat favorable 21
- 3. Neither favorable nor unfavorable 4
- 4. Somewhat unfavorable 9
- 5. Very unfavorable 43
- 6. Don't know/No opinion 8

Q20. What type of health insurance do you currently have?

- 1. Employer provided 44%
- 2. Individually pay for it 12
- 3. Enrolled in a government health insurance program (for example, Medicare or Medicaid) 25
- 4. Do not currently have health insurance 16
- 5. Don't know/Refused 4

Q21. How often would you say that you drink full-calorie (non-diet) soda?

- 1. Very often 13%
- 2. Somewhat often 17
- 3. Not very often 32
- 4. Never 36

Q22. What do you think should happen to the unaccompanied children from Central America who have been illegally crossing the border into the US? Should they be allowed to stay in the US while awaiting an immigration hearing, even if it takes a long time, or should they be returned to their own country as soon as possible?

- 1. Allowed to stay 42%
- 2. Returned to their home country 48
- 3. Don't know/Refused 10

*Among likely voters (n=666, MOE is +/-3.80 %)*

- 1. Allowed to stay 36%
- 2. Returned to their home country 58
- 3. Don't know/Refused 7

Q23. Please tell us whether or not you think it should be possible for a pregnant woman to obtain a legal abortion if...**[Response options: "Should be possible", "Should not be possible", "Don't know"]** **[ASK 1 OF A-C, 1 OF D-E, AND 1 OF F-G]**

*(Due to randomization patterns, the n for each question ranges from 317 to 573, producing margins of error between +/-4.17% and +/-5.5%)*

	Should be possible	Should not be possible	Don't know
A. The woman's own health is seriously endangered.	68%	21%	11%
B. She became pregnant as a result of rape.	68%	21%	11%
C. She became pregnant as a	68%	24%	8%

result of incest.			
D. There is a strong chance of a serious defect in the baby.	54%	31%	15%
E. The family has very low income and cannot afford any more children.	35%	55%	10%
F. She is not married and does not want to marry the man.	35%	55%	9%
G. She is married and does not want any more children.	32%	56%	12%

When thinking about the overall health of you, your family, and others, for each of the following, would you say that they are “Extremely healthy”, “somewhat healthy”, “somewhat unhealthy”, or “extremely unhealthy”?

	<b>Extremely healthy</b>	<b>Somewhat healthy</b>	<b>Somewhat unhealthy</b>	<b>Extremely unhealthy</b>	<b>Don't know/ NA</b>
Q27A. Yourself	34%	52%	9%	3%	1%
Q27B. Your immediate family (spouse and children)	40%	47%	5%	1%	7%
Q27C. Your extended family (aunts, uncles, and cousins)	20%	55%	11%	3%	12%
Q27D. Most Texans	5%	45%	25%	7%	18%
Q27E. Most Americans	3%	40%	32%	9%	15%