University of Texas / Texas Tribune
Texas Statewide Survey

Field dates: September 3-8, 2010
N=800 adults, margin of error +/-3.46
Due to rounding, not all percentages sum to 100

Interest and Engagement

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

1.	Yes, registered	100%
2.	No, not registered	0%
3.	Don't know	0%

Q2. Generally speaking, would you say that you are extremely interested in politics and public affairs, somewhat interested, not very interested, or not interested at all?

1.	Extremely interested	53%
2.	Somewhat interested	36%
3.	Not very interested	9%
4.	Not at all interested	2%
5.	Don't know	0%

Most Important Problem

Q3. What would you say is the most important problem facing this country today? **[Randomize]**

1.	The economy	31%
2.	Unemployment/jobs	17%
3.	Federal spending/national debt	11%
4.	Political corruption/leadership	12%
5.	Health care	4%
6.	Moral decline	4%
7.	National security/terrorism	1%
8.	Immigration	5%
9.	Taxes	2%
10.	Gas prices	1%
11.	Energy	1%
12.	Gay marriage	1%
13.	Education	2%
14.	Social welfare programs	1%
15.	Environment	2%
16.	The media	1%
17.	Abortion	1%
18.	Crime and drugs	1%
19.	Afghanistan/Pakistan	1%
20.	Housing	0%

21. Iraq		1%
22. Federal courts/nominees		0%
23. Foreign trade		0%
24. Border security		2%
25. Iran/nuclear weapons		0%
26. Gulf oil spill		0%

Q4. What would you say is the most important problem facing the state of Texas today?
[Randomize]

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

Retrospective Assessments

Q5. How would you rate the job Barack Obama has done as president? Would you say that you…

1.	Approve strongly	13%
2.	Approve somewhat	21%
3.	Neither approve nor disapprove	7%
4.	Disapprove somewhat	8%
5.	Disapprove strongly	50%
6.	Don't know	1%

Q6. How would you rate the job Rick Perry has done as governor? Would you say that you…

1. Approve strongly — 12%
2. Approve somewhat — 28%
3. Neither approve nor disapprove — 16%
4. Disapprove somewhat — 17%
5. Disapprove strongly — 25%
6. Don't know — 3%

Q7. Thinking about the country, do you think that things are headed in the right direction, or do you think that things are headed off on the wrong track?

1. Right direction — 26%
2. Wrong track — 63%
3. Don't know — 12%

Q8. Thinking about the state of Texas, do you think that things are headed in the right direction, or do you think that things are headed off on the wrong track?

1. Right direction — 43%
2. Wrong track — 38%
3. Don't know — 18%

Q9. Compared to a year ago, would you say that the country is economically a lot better off, somewhat better off, about the same, somewhat worse off, or a lot worse off?

1. A lot better off — 3%
2. Somewhat better off — 20%
3. About the same — 21%
4. Somewhat worse off — 20%
5. A lot worse off — 34%
6. Don't know — 2%

Q10. Now thinking specifically about Texas, do you believe that economic conditions in Texas are getting better or worse?

1. Better — 36%
2. Worse — 42%
3. Don't know — 22%

Q11. Compared to a year ago, would you say that you and your family are economically a lot better off, somewhat better off, about the same, somewhat worse off, or a lot worse off?

1.	A lot better off	3%
2.	Somewhat better off	17%
3.	About the same	39%
4.	Somewhat worse off	26%
5.	A lot worse off	14%
6.	Don't know	1%

Vote Intention

Q12. If the election for Texas Governor were held today, would you vote for: **[Randomize 1-4]**

1.	Rick Perry (Republican)	39%
2.	Bill White (Democrat)	33%
3.	Kathie Glass (Libertarian)	5%
4.	Deb Shafto (Green)	1%
5.	Undecided	22%

Q13. If the election for Texas Lieutenant Governor were held today, would you vote for: **[Randomize 1-4]**

1.	David Dewhurst (Republican)	41%
2.	Linda Chavez-Thompson (Democrat)	26%
3.	Scott Jameson (Libertarian)	5%
4.	Herb Gonzales Jr. (Green)	1%
5.	Undecided	27%

Q14. If the election for Texas Attorney General were held today, would you vote for: **[Randomize 1-3]**

1.	Greg Abbott (Republican)	43%
2.	Barbara Ann Radnofsky (Democrat)	26%
3.	Jon Roland (Libertarian)	5%
4.	Undecided	26%

Q15. If the election for Texas State Land Commissioner were held today, would you vote for: **[Randomize 1-3]**

1.	Jerry Patterson (Republican)	35%
2.	Hector Uribe (Democrat)	25%
3.	James L. Holdar (Libertarian)	7%
4.	Undecided	34%

Q16. If the election for Texas State Agriculture Commissioner were held today, would you vote for: **[Randomize 1-3]**

1.	Todd Staples (Republican)	33%
2.	Hank Gilbert (Democrat)	26%
3.	Rick Donaldson (Libertarian)	8%
4.	Undecided	33%

Q17. If the election for Texas State Railroad Commissioner were held today, would you vote for: **[Randomize 1-4]**

1.	David Porter (Republican)	33%
2.	Jeff Weems (Democrat)	25%
3.	Roger Gary (Libertarian)	6%
4.	Art Browning (Green)	2%
5.	Undecided	

Q18. 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? **[Randomize 1-2]**

1.	Republican candidate	48%
2.	Democratic candidate	33%
3.	Neither	5%
4.	Don't know	14%

Q19. 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]**

1.	Republican candidate	47%
2.	Democratic candidate	32%
3.	Neither	6%
4.	Don't know	14%

Q20. Do you consider yourself to be part of the Tea Party movement?

1.	Yes	31%
2.	No	69%

Q21. Thinking ahead to the 2012 presidential primary elections, in which primary do you think you will vote?

1.	Democratic primary	31%
2.	Republican primary	46%
3.	Not sure/don't know	18%
4.	I don't intend to vote in the 2012 primaries	5%

Q22. **[Ask if Q21=1]** If the 2012 Democratic primary election for president were held today, would you vote for: **[Randomize 1-2]**

1.	Barack Obama	61%
2.	Hillary Clinton	32%
3.	Don't know	6%

Q23. **[Ask if Q21=2]** If the 2012 Republican primary election for president were held today, would you vote for: **[Randomize 1-9]**

1.	Mitt Romney	13%
2.	Sarah Palin	20%
3.	Newt Gingrich	15%
4.	Mike Huckabee	13%
5.	Tim Pawlenty	1%
6.	Haley Barbour	2%
7.	Jeb Bush	3%
8.	Rick Perry	7%
9.	Ron Paul	8%
10.	Don't know	19%

Q24. Suppose the Tea Party movement organized itself as a political party. When thinking about the next election for Congress, would you vote for the Republican candidate from your district, the Democratic candidate from your district, or the Tea Party candidate from your district? **[Randomize 1-2]**

1.	Republican candidate	20%
2.	Democratic candidate	33%
3.	Tea Party candidate	18%
4.	Don't know	30%

Feeling Thermometer Scores

We'd like to get your feelings toward some political figures using something we call a "feeling thermometer." A rating of 100 degrees means that you feel extremely favorable and warm toward the person. A rating of 0 degrees means that you feel extremely unfavorable and cold toward him or her. A rating of 50 degrees means that you feel neither warm nor cold toward him or her. Or if you haven't heard enough about the person to rate him or her, just say so. On this 0 to 100 scale, how do you feel about: **[Randomize]**

Q25. Barack Obama   Mean: 42%   Std. dev.: 39.02

Q26. Rick Perry   Mean: 49%   Std. dev.: 31.85

Q27. Bill White   Mean: 50%   Std. dev.: 30.61

Q28. The Republican Party   Mean: 49%   Std. dev.: 32.26

Q29. The Democratic Party   Mean: 40%   Std. dev.: 35.13

Q30. The Tea Party   Mean: 52%   Std. dev.: 36.37

Q31. The Republicans in Congress   Mean: 47%   Std. dev.: 29.95

Q32. The Democrats in Congress   Mean: 38%   Std. dev.: 34.35

Q33. People want a great many things from their candidates for public office. Using a 0-10 scale, where 10 means "extremely important," 0 means "extremely unimportant," and 5 means "neither important nor unimportant," please rate how important the following specific issues or factors are for YOUR vote in the 2010 Texas gubernatorial primary election: **[List each of the following on the same page. Randomize]**

A) Electing a governor who will bring change to state government.

0-4	9%
5	16%
6-10	74%

B) Electing a governor who will stand up for Texas when dealing with the federal government.

0-4	6%
5	10%
6-10	85%

C) Electing a governor who will oppose President Obama's policies.

0-4	36%
5	8%
6-10	56%

D) Electing a governor who will promote economic development in Texas by fostering a friendly business climate.

       0-4   3%
       5   9%
       6-10   88%

E) Electing a governor who will promote economic development in Texas by investing in education.

       0-4   5%
       5   8%
       6-10   87%

F) Electing a governor who will not use his political position for his own financial benefit.

       0-4   6%
       5   5%
       6-10   90%

G) Electing a governor who will not reward political and financial supporters with job appointments and other perks.

       0-4   7%
       5   9%
       6-10   84%

H) Electing a governor whose political beliefs most closely resemble mine.

       0-4   5%
       5   9%
       6-10   86%

Policy Questions

Q34. As you may know, the 14th Amendment to the Constitution says that all children born in the United States are automatically U.S. citizens regardless of their parents' legal status. Would you favor or oppose changing the Constitution to REPEAL this part of the 14th Amendment?

1. Favor   48%
2. Oppose   38%
3. Don't know   14%

Q35. 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?

1. Strongly support   54%
2. Somewhat support   11%
3. Somewhat oppose   8%
4. Strongly oppose   23%
5. Don't know   4%

Q36. The attorney general of Texas recently joined a lawsuit along with a dozen other states seeking to block implementation of President Obama's health care reform legislation, arguing that it is unconstitutional to force citizens to purchase health care insurance. Do you support or oppose this lawsuit to block this component of the health care reform?   Would that be strongly or just somewhat support/oppose?

1. Strongly support   53%
2. Somewhat support   10%
3. Somewhat oppose   7%
4. Strongly oppose   24%
5. Don't know   7%

Q37. What is your opinion on gay marriage or civil unions?

1. Gays and lesbians should have the right to   28%
   marry.
2. Gays and lesbians should have the right to   33%
   civil unions but not marriage.
3. Gays and lesbians should not have the right   31%
   to unions or marriage.
4. Don't know   8%

Q38. Which of the following best characterizes your opinion on the death penalty for those convicted of violent crimes?

1. Strongly support   54%
2. Somewhat support   24%
3. Somewhat oppose   10%
4. Strongly oppose   8%
5. Don't know   5%

As you may know, Texas is expected to face an $18 billion budget shortfall in the next two-year budget period. We will now ask you a short series of questions about how lawmakers should deal with this shortfall.

Q39. **[SPLIT SAMPLE: Half of the sample receives this as Q39 (prior to Q40), the other half receives it as Q43 (after Q42)]** In attempting to deal with the budget shortfall, state lawmakers have two basic options at their disposal: cutting spending and increasing revenue. Please choose your general preference for how state lawmakers should close the budget gap on a 0-10 scale, where 10 indicates that you prefer that state lawmakers close the gap *entirely through revenue increases*, and 0 indicates that you prefer that state lawmakers close the gap *entirely through spending cuts*. **[Use a 10-point scale with wording: (0) "Close the gap entirely through spending cuts," (10) "Close the gap entirely through revenue increases." "Don't know" response box available for each]**

Overall	0-4	47%
	5	19%
	6-10	24%
Split 1	0-4	47%
	5	18%
	6-10	25%
Split 2	0-4	48%
	5	20%
	6-10	22%

[Randomize Q40 and Q41]

Q40. Below is a list of large items in the state budget that lawmakers can cut in order to address the expected budget gap. Please arrange these items according to how important it is to you that their current funding levels are **preserved**, with items that are most important to you nearer to the top and items least important to you nearer to the bottom. **[Use ranking widget]**

1. Aid to public schools (K-12)

First	38%
Second	27%
Third	17%
Fourth	13%
Fifth	5%

2. Supplements to local school districts to offset property tax reductions

First	14%
Second	25%
Third	29%
Fourth	24%
Fifth	8%

3. Funding for universities and junior colleges

First	6%
Second	18%
Third	24%
Fourth	38%
Fifth	13%

4. Funding for health services for the elderly, the mentally ill, and poor children

First	31%
Second	25%
Third	23%
Fourth	14%
Fifth	7%

5. Funding for prisons

First	10%
Second	5%
Third	8%
Fourth	11%
Fifth	66%

Q41. Below is a list of ways in which state lawmakers might raise additional revenue in order to address the expected budget gap. Which of the following methods of increasing revenue would you support? (Check all that apply)

1. Authorize new forms of gambling to generate state revenue

Yes	44%
No	56%

2. Broaden the sales tax to include items not currently taxed

Yes	14%
No	86%

3. Increase taxes on alcoholic beverages

Yes	39%
No	61%

4. Legalize the use of marijuana and imposes taxes on its purchase

Yes	32%
No	68%

5. Increase the state sales tax rate (currently 6.25%)

    Yes   8%
    No   93%

6. Implement a state income tax

    Yes   6%
    No   95%

7. I do not support any new taxes

    Yes   30%
    No   70%

Q42. In addition to cutting spending and raising revenue, state lawmakers may also want to increase spending for certain programs. For which of the following programs would you favor increased spending at the state level? (Check all that apply)

1. Community college funds

    Yes   27%
    No   73%

2. Pre-kindergarten programs

    Yes   28%
    No   72%

3. Nursing homes

    Yes   32%
    No   68%

4. Increasing tax exemptions for business franchises

    Yes   22%
    No   78%

5. Border security

    Yes   56%
    No   44%

6. None of the above

    Yes   16%
    No   85%

Q43. *See Q39.*

Q44. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the situation in Afghanistan?

1.	Approve	33%
2.	Disapprove	47%
3.	Don't know	20%

Q45. What is your impression of how well the war in Afghanistan is going for the United States right now?

1.	Very well	2%
2.	Somewhat well	28%
3.	Somewhat badly	39%
4.	Very badly	18%
5.	Don't know	13%

Q46. Do you support or oppose the current timetable for beginning the withdrawal of U.S. troops in Afghanistan by July 2011?

1.	Strongly support	26%
2.	Somewhat support	21%
3.	Somewhat oppose	16%
4.	Strongly oppose	24%
5.	Don't know	13%

Political Knowledge

[Randomize INFO1-INFO4]

INFO1. What is Barack Obama's religion?

1.	Christian	52%
2.	Muslim	29%
3.	Buddhist	1%
4.	Hindu	0%
5.	Atheist	1%
6.	Agnostic	1%
7.	Something else	2%
8.	Don't know	14%

INFO2. Which position does Harry Reid hold in the current federal government?

1.	Secretary of the Treasury	4%
2.	Secretary of State	1%
3.	Speaker of the House	6%
4.	Senate majority leader	64%
5.	Don't know	26%

INFO3. Who is the Vice President of the United States?

1.	John McCain	0%
2.	Hillary Clinton	2%
3.	Bill White	0%
4.	Joe Biden	95%
5.	Don't know	3%

INFO4. Who is the Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court?

1.	Timothy Geithner	3%
2.	John Roberts	64%
3.	Rahm Emanuel	5%
4.	Nancy Pelosi	6%
5.	Don't know	22%

Political Orientation

We're almost done. Now we just have a few basic questions for statistical purposes.

LIBCON. On a scale from 1 to 7, where 1 is extremely liberal, 7 is extremely conservative, and 4 is exactly in the middle, where would you place yourself? **[Wording on scale: (1) "Extremely liberal," (4) "In the middle," (7) "Extremely conservative"]**

1	(Extremely liberal)	4%
2-3		17%
4	(In the middle)	21%
5-6		34%
7	(Extremely conservative)	21%

PID3. Generally speaking, would you say that you usually think of yourself as a…

1.	Democrat	*Please see PID7 for results*
2.	Independent	
3.	Republican	
4.	Other	
5.	Not sure	

[If respond <u>Democrat</u> to PID3] Do you consider yourself a…
- Strong Democrat
- Not very strong Democrat

[If respond <u>Republican</u> to PID3] Do you consider yourself a…
- Strong Republican
- Not very strong Republican

[If respond <u>Independent</u> to PID3] As an independent, do you consider yourself to…
- Lean Republican   *Report in PID7 as "Lean Republican"*
- Lean Democrat   *Report in PID7 as "Lean Democrat"*
- Not lean either way   *Report in PID7 as "Independent"*

[If respond <u>Other</u> to PID3] Generally speaking, do you consider yourself to…
- Lean Republican   *Report in PID7 as "Lean Republican"*
- Lean Democrat   *Report in PID7 as "Lean Democrat"*
- Support a third party   *Report in PID7 as "Other"*
- None of these   *Report in PID7 as "Other"*

PID7. (Uses the four PID3 follow-up questions)

1.	Strong Democrat	23%
2.	Not very strong Democrat	11%
3.	Lean Democrat	7%
4.	Independent	10%
5.	Lean Republican	13%
6.	Not very strong Republican	10%
7.	Strong Republican	27%
8.	Not sure	1%

Demographics

BIRTHYR. In what year were you born?

Please see data set

COUNTY. In which county do you reside? (Please select from the pull-down menu. Counties are listed in alphabetical order)

Please see data set

LOCATE. Would you say that you live in an urban, suburban, or rural community?

1.	Urban	31%
2.	Suburban	45%
3.	Rural	24%

METRO. Do you live in the Houston, Dallas-Fort Worth, San Antonio, or Austin metropolitan areas?

1.	Yes, I live in the Houston area	21%
2.	Yes, I live the Dallas-Fort Worth area	27%
3.	Yes, I live in the San Antonio area	8%
4.	Yes, I live in the Austin area	10%
5.	No, I live in another part of Texas	34%

CHILD. How many children are currently living with you?

1.	One	18%
2.	Two	16%
3.	Three	10%
4.	Four or more	2%
5.	None	54%

INCOME. In which category would you place your household income last year?

1.	Less than $10,000	4%
2.	$10,000 to $14,999	6%
3.	$15,000 to $19,999	4%
4.	$20,000 to $24,999	4%
5.	$25,000 to $29,999	7%
6.	$30,000 to $39,999	12%
7.	$40,000 to $49,999	8%
8.	$50,000 to $59,999	9%
9.	$60,000 to $69,999	7%
10.	$70,000 to $79,999	6%
11.	$80,000 to $99,999	7%
12.	$100,000 to $119,999	6%
13.	$120,000 to $149,999	5%
14.	$150,000 or more	5%
15.	Prefer not to say	10%

EDU. What is the highest level of education that you received?

1.	Less than high school	3%
2.	High school degree	40%
3.	Some college	34%
4.	Two-year college degree	5%
5.	Four-year college degree	13%
6.	Post-graduate degree	5%

RELIG. What is your religious affiliation? **[No open response on "other"]**

Please see data set for responses, categorized responses below.

1. Assembly of God*
2. Atheist
3. Baptist*
4. Buddhist
5. Catholic*
6. Christian Scientist*
7. Church of Christ*
8. Church of God*
9. Disciples of Christ*
10. Episcopal/Anglican*
11. Hindu
12. Jehovah's Witnesses
13. Jewish
14. Lutheran*
15. Methodist*
16. Mormon*
17. Muslim/Islam
18. Nondenominational Christian*
19. Orthodox/Eastern Orthodox*
20. Pentecostal*
21. Presbyterian*
22. Protestant (non-specific)*
23. Reformed*
24. Unitarian/Universalist
25. United Church of Christ*
26. Spiritual but not religious
27. Other*
28. Don't know

Categorized religion responses:

1.	Atheist/Agnostic	7%
2.	Catholic	19%
3.	Protestant (non-evangelical)	21%
4.	Evangelical Protestant	32%
5.	Other	7%
6.	Spiritual not religion	11%
7.	Don't know	2%

EVANG. **[Ask if respond * to RELIG]** Do you consider yourself to be a "born again" or "evangelical" Christian?

1.	Yes	48%
2.	No	52%

PENT. **[Ask if respond * to RELIG]** Do you consider yourself to be a "spirit filled" or "charismatic" Christian?

    1. Yes   36%
    2. No   64%

SOCJUST. **[Ask if respond * to RELIG]** Do you consider social justice to be at the heart of the Gospel?

    1. Yes   39%
    2. No   61%

LITERAL. Which of these statements comes closest to describing your feelings about the Bible?

    1. The Bible is the actual word of God and is to   37%
        be taken literally, word for word.
    2. The Bible is the word of God but not everything 44%
        in it should be taken literally, word for word.
    3. The Bible is a book written by men and is not   20%
        the word of God.

ATTEND. Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services or participate in religious activities?

    1. More than once a week   15%
    2. Once a week   18%
    3. A few times a month   15%
    4. Once or twice a year   26%
    5. Never   27%

RACE. What race do you consider yourself to be?

    1. White   64%
    2. African American   11%
    3. Hispanic or Latino   19%
    4. Asian/Pacific Islander   2%
    5. Native American   1%
    6. Multi-racial   4%

NATIVE1. **[Ask if RACE = "Hispanic or Latino"]** Were you born in the United States or Puerto Rico, or in another country?

    1. Born in the United States or Puerto Rico   88%
    2. Born in another country   12%

NATIVE2. **[Ask NATIVE2 if answer 1 on NATIVE1]** Were your parents born in the United States or Puerto Rico, or another country?

1. Both of my parents were born in the United   64%
   States or Puerto Rico
2. One of my parents was born in another country 19%
3. Both of my parents were both in another   17%
   country

HOME. Do you own or rent your home?

1. Own   72%
2. Rent   28%

MARITAL. What is your marital status?

1. Married   60%
2. Separated   2%
3. Divorced   12%
4. Widowed   4%
5. Single   19%
6. Domestic partnership   4%

GENDER. What is your gender?

1. Male   47%
2. Female   53%

P08. In the 2008 presidential election, who did you vote for?

1. Barack Obama   38%
2. John McCain   48%
3. Someone else   6%
4. Did not vote   8%