

Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions 230 Appleton Place 301 Ingram Commons Center Nashville, TN 37203-5721

VANDERBILT POLL: November 2011

Hello, I'm calling for the Vanderbilt Poll. This is a new survey asking Tennesseans their opinions and thoughts about topics like the economy, and important decisions that are being made in our state. My name is [\$1] and your phone number has been randomly selected to complete the new survey. Have I reached a home or apartment?

I'm supposed to talk to the adult member of this household who had their birthday most recently even if he or she isn't at home right now. Thinking only of the people living here who are at least 18 years old, who was the last one to have a birthday? May I speak with him/her?

[If Reintroducing yourself]: I'm calling for the Vanderbilt Poll a new survey to ask Tennesseans their opinions and thoughts about topics like the economy and important decisions that are being made in our state. My name is [\$1] and your phone number has been randomly selected to complete the new survey. This survey is anonymous and your participation is voluntary. It takes about 15 minutes to complete the survey. Are you willing to answer the questions? If already speaking to the eligible respondent: This survey is anonymous and your participation is voluntary. It takes about 15 minutes to complete the survey. Would you be willing to answer the questions?

Q1 For statistical purposes only, could you please tell me your race or ethnic background?
White/Caucasian1
Hispanic/Latino
African American/Black 3
Asian American/Asian
Native American 5
Alaskan Native 6 Other 7 Don't Know 8
Don't Know8
Declined to answer
Q2
How old are you? [Open ended]
Q3
GENDER (by observation)
Male
Female2

[Randomize Order of Q4 through Q9. Read Intro for first question only (unless if asked).]

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(I'd like your views on some government officials. As I read each name, please tell me if you approve or disapprove of how each is handling their job.) Barack Obama as President?

Read only Approve or Disapprove (if needed)]	
Approve	. 1
Disapprove	
need to wait and see	
Don't know	
Decline to Answer	

(I'd like your views on some government officials. As I read each name, please tell me if you approve or disapprove of how each is handling their job.) The US Congress?

[Read only Approve or Disapprov	/e (if needed)]	
Approve		
Disapprove		
I need to wait and see		
Don't know	8	
Decline to Answer	9	,

(I'd like your views on some government officials. As I read each name, please tell me if you approve or disapprove of how each is handling their job.) The Tennessee State Legislature?

[Read only Approve or Disapprove (if needed)]	
Approve	1
Disapprove	
I need to wait and see	3
Don't know	8
Decline to Answer	9

O7

(I'd like your views on some government officials. As I read each name, please tell me if you approve or disapprove of how each is handling their job.) Bill Haslam as Governor?

[Read only Approve or Disapprove (if needed)]	
Approve	1
Disapprove	2
I need to wait and see	3
Don't know	
Decline to Answer	

-	`	
	-	133

(I'd like your views on some government officials. As I read each name, please tell me if you approve or disapprove of how each is handling their job.) Lamar Alexander as US Senator?

[Read only Approve or D	isapprove (if need	ed)]
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Approve	1
Disapprove	2
I need to wait and see	
Don't know	8
Decline to Answer	9

09

(I'd like your views on some government officials. As I read each name, please tell me if you approve or disapprove of how each is handling their job.) Bob Corker as US Senator?

[Read only Approve or Disapprove (if needed)]

Approve	 1
Disapprove	
I need to wait and see	
Don't know	 8
Decline to Answer	 9

Q10

If the Tennessee Republican Presidential Primary were held today, who would you vote for?

[Randomize order of 1-7] A Mitt Romney	FRRI
Mitt Romney	1
Rick Perry	2
Michele Bachman	
Newt Gingrich	4
Herman Cain	
Ron Paul	6
Rick Santorum	7
Would rather have another choice	8
Don't Know	9
Declined to answer	10

011

People can use the news in different ways. How about you? Do you, personally, follow the news because...you feel you have a social or civic obligation to stay informed, or is this not really a reason for you?

[Rotate order of 1-3] Yes, it is a reason
No, it is not a reason
I rarely follow the news
Don't know 8
Decline to Answer
Q12A
What do you think should be the top priority of the Tennessee state government?
[Rotate 1-5.]
Health Care
Guns 2
Immigration3
The economy, including jobs
Education
Don't Know8
Declined to answer
Q12B What do you think should be the second-most priority of the Tennessee state government?
[Omit response of Q12A. Rotate remaining.] Health Care
Guns 2
Immigration3
The economy, including jobs
Education
Don't Know
Declined to answer
013
Do you have any children who are currently attending public school?
Yes1
No
Don't know8
Decline to Answer

Q14
What grade would you give public schools in your local school district?

A
Decline to Aliswei
One issue facing the state of Tennessee is how to select judges. Since 1970, judges on the Tennessee Supreme Court have been chosen by the Governor from a list of qualified candidates put forward by a nominating convention. The State Legislature is currently debating whether Tennessee should have voters elect judges. Some support this change because citizens rather than the governor would choose judges. Others oppose this change because it judges would have to campaign for election and it may politicize the judicial process. Which do you think – who how should judges be chosen, or haven't you thought much about it?
[Rotate 1,2]1The Governor chooses judges1Voters choose judges in elections2Don't know8Decline to Answer9
Q16 Thinking of your finances these days, would you say that you and your family in your home are:
Better off financially 1 Worse off financially 2 About the same 3 Don't know 8 Decline to Answer 9
Q17 Looking ahead to the next year, do you think that a year from now, you and your family in your home will be:
Better off financially 1 Worse off financially 2 About the same 3

Some policymakers support increasing government spending during a bad economy to stimulate economic growth. Other policymakers oppose more government spending during a bad economy because it increases the budget deficit. How about you? Do you support or oppose increasing government spending during a bad economy to try to stimulate economic growth?

Don't know...... 8 Decline to Answer 9

Support increasing government spending1 Oppose increasing government spending2
Don't know
Q18a
Do you think public school teachers in the state of Tennessee are over or under paid?
Overpaid. 1 Underpaid. 2 Don't know. 8 Decline to Answer 9
Q19A [1/2 of the sample get Q19A and ½ the same get Q19B] To strengthen our economy, some people think the government needs to regulate the excesses of big corporations. Other people disagree, arguing that we have less government regulation of big corporations. [rotate the order of these two statements]. Which view comes closer to your opinion, or haven't you given this issue much thought? Need more regulation of big corporations
Q19B [1/2 sample] To strengthen our economy, some people think the government needs to regulate the excesses of Wall Street. Other people disagree, arguing that we less government regulation of Wall Street. [rotate the order of these two statements]. Which view comes closer to your opinion, or haven't you given this issue much thought?
More regulation of Wall Street 1 Less regulation of Wall Street 2 Don't know 8

Every 10 years, the state legislature uses information from the U.S. Census to draw new boundaries for districts in the state house, state senate, and in Congress. How important do you think it is that communities and cities are placed in the same district as much as possible when redistricting?

Very important
Somewhat important
Not very important
Unimportant
Don't know
Decline to Answer
Q21A [1/2 of the sample get Q21A and ½ the same get Q21B] Some believe that the Mormon religion is a cult, do you: Agree
Disagree
Don't know
Decline to Answer
Q21B [1/2 Sample]
Some Christians believe that the Mormon religion is a cult, do you:
Agree
Disagree 2
Don't know
Decline to Answer
Decime to This wer
Q22
How closely do you follow news about the Tennessee state legislature and governor? Do you follow it:
[Rotate 1-4]
Very closely
Fairly closely2
Not too closely
Not too closely at all 4
Don't know
Decline to Answer
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Q23
As you may know, the Tennessee State Legislature recently passed a law limiting the ability of
teachers' unions to negotiate employment contracts for school teachers. How much do you
approve or disapprove of this recent law?
[Rotate 1-5]
Strongly approve
Somewhat approve2
Somewhat approve3
Somewhat disapprove 4
Strongly disapprove
Don't know
Decline to Answer 9
=

Now looking ahead to next year's (2012) federal budget, do you think it should or should notinclude higher income taxes on millionaires?
Yes 1 No 2 Don't know 8 Decline to Answer 9
Q25B [1/3 rd sample] Now looking ahead to next year's (2012) federal budget, do you think it should or should notinclude higher income taxes on the rich?
Yes
No
Don't know
Decline to Aliswei
Q25C [1/3 rd sample] Now looking ahead to next year's (2012) federal budget, do you think it should or should notinclude higher income taxes people making more than \$250,000 a year?
Yes
Don't know
Decline to Answer
Q 26A [1/2 sample get Q26A and ½ get Q26B] The Tennessee State Legislature will put an amendment to the state constitution on the ballot in 2014 concerning abortion. Do you think abortion should be:
Legal in all cases1Legal in most cases2Illegal in most cases3

Q24A: [1/3rd of the sample get Q24A, 1/3rd of Sample get Q24B and 1/3rd get Q24C]

Q 26B [1/2 sample]

The Tennessee State Legislature will put an amendment to the state constitution on the ballot in 2014 concerning abortion. On the issue of abortion, would you say you are:

Don't know......8

Definitely pro-choice	1
Somewhat pro-choice	2
Somewhat pro-life	
Definitely pro-life	4
Don't know	8
Decline to Answer	9

For the following questions:

[10% Go Directly to Question 28]

[22% Get Questions 27A1 and then Question 28]

[23% Get Questions 27A1, Question 17A2, and then Question 28]

[22% Get Questions 27B1, 27B2, and then Question 28]

[23% Get Questions 27B1, 27B2, 27B3, and then Question 28]

Q27A1

Based on state standards, what percent of elementary and middle school students in Tennessee do you think performed at grade level or better on Tennessee's end-of-grade math tests?

[Rotate 1-5]	
[Rotate 1-5] Between 80 and 100%	 1
Between 60 and 79 %	 2
Between 40 and 59 %	 3
Between 20 and 39 %	 4
Between 0 and 19 %	5
Don't know	8
Decline to Answer	 9

O27A2

You thought that [FILL RESPONSE FROM 17A1] of elementary and middle school students in Tennessee last year performed at grade level or better on Tennessee's end-of-grade math tests. The actual percentage of students performing at grade level or better on Tennessee's end-of-grade math tests was 34%.

Based on state standards, what percent of elementary and middle school students in Tennessee do you think performed at grade level or better on Tennessee's end-of-grade math tests? [Rotate order, high-to-low]

[Rotate 1-5]	
Between 80 and 100%	1
Between 60 and 79 %	2
Between 40 and 59 %	3
Between 20 and 39 %	4
Between 0 and 19 %	5
Don't know	8
Decline to Answer	

Now thinking about the performance of white and black elementary and middle school students, historically white students have performed more strongly on state math tests than black students. What do you think was the difference between the percentage of white students and black students who performed at grade level or better on Tennessee's end-of-year math tests?

[Rotate 1-9]
No difference in performance
0-5% more white kids than black kids were at grade level 2
6 to 10% more white kids than black kids were at grade level 3
11 to 15% more white kids than black kids were at grade level 4
16 to 20% more white kids than black kids were at grade level 5
21 to 25% more white kids than black kids were at grade level6
26 to 30% more white kids than black kids were at grade level 7
31 to 35% more white kids than black kids were at grade level 8
More than 35% more white kids than black kids were at grade
Level 9
Don't know
Decline to Answer

Q27B3:

You thought that [FILL RESPONSE FROM 17B1] of elementary and middle school students in Tennessee last year performed at grade level or better on Tennessee's end-of-grade math tests. The actual percentage of students performing at grade level or better on Tennessee's end-of-grade math tests was 34%. You also thought that [FILL RESPONSE FROM 17B2]. Actually, the gap between the performance of white kids at grade level and the percentage of black kids at grade level on the Tennessee state math tests was 22 percentage points.

Q 28	
What grade would you give public schools in Tennessee?	
A	1
B	2
C VANIDEDDI	3 T
D.	4 1
Or, F	5
Don't Know/Missing	
Decline to Answer	

What grade would you give the Tennessee Department of Education?

A
B2
C3
D4
Or, F
Don't Know/Missing 8
Decline to Answer
Q30
What grade would you give your local public school board?
A
B
C3
D4
Or, F5
Don't Know/Missing 8
Decline to Answer
Q31
Should teachers whose students do well on tests get paid more than teachers whose students do
poorly on those tests?
poorty on those tests:
Yes
No
Don't know
Decline to Answer
Decline to Aliswei
022
Q32 Congress may yet an whether or not to reputherize the No Child I of Dehind Act in the next few
Congress may vote on whether or not to reauthorize the No Child Left Behind Act in the next few
months. Do you think Congress should reauthorize No Child Left Behind in a form close to its
current one?
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Yes1
No
Don't know8
Decline to Answer
Q33
Should the state of Tennessee spend more money to expand its voluntary pre-K program?
Yes
No
Don't know8
Decline to Answer
2

Q34
Should the state of Tennessee provide publicly-funded tuition vouchers for families to send their

children to private schools?
Yes
No
Don't know 8
Decline to Answer
Q35 Should Tennessee have more charter schools, which are independently-run public schools that operate under fewer restrictions than traditional public schools?
Yes
No
Don't know8
Decline to Answer
036
Q36 Should Tennessee pay higher salaries to teachers who work in schools with large low-income populations?
Yes
No
Don't know8
Decline to Answer
[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF Q37, Q38, Q39 and Q40]
Q37A [1/2 Sample asked Q37A and ½ Sample asked Q37B]
If the 2012 presidential election were held today and the candidates were President Barack Obama, the Democrat, and Texas Governor Rick Perry, the Republican, for whom would you vote for?
Barack Obama 1
Rick Perry2
Don't Know8
Decline to Answer9
Q37B [½ sample] If the 2012 presidential election were held today and the candidates were President Barack Obama, the Democrat, Texas Governor Rick Perry the Republican, or a qualified Independent candidate, for whom would you vote for?
Barack Obama
Rick Perry
Independent candidate
Don't Know8
Decline to Answer9

If the 2012 presidential election were held today and the candidates were President Barack Obama, the Democrat and Former CEO Herman Cain, the Republican, for whom would you vote for?
Barack Obama 1 Herman Cain 2 Don't Know 8 Decline to Answer 9
Q38B [½ sample] If the 2012 presidential election were held today and the candidates were President Barack Obama, the Democrat, Former CEO Herman Cain, the Republican, or a qualified Independent candidate, for whom would you vote for?
Barack Obama 1 Herman Cain 2 Independent candidate 3 Don't Know 8 Decline to Answer 9
Q39A [1/2 Sample asked Q39A and ½ Sample asked Q39B] If the 2012 presidential election were held today and the candidates were President Barack Obama, the Democrat and Former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, the Republican, for whom would you vote for?
Barack Obama 1 Mitt Romney 2 Don't Know 8 Decline to Answer 9
Q39B [½ sample] If the 2012 presidential election were held today and the candidates were President Barack Obama, the Democrat, Former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, the Republican, or a qualified Independent candidate, for whom would you vote for?
Barack Obama 1 Mitt Romney 2 Independent candidate 3 Don't Know 8 Decline to Answer 9
Question 40A: [1/3 rd asked Q40A, 1/3 rd asked Q40B, and 1/3 rd asked Q40C]

Q38A [1/2 Sample asked Q38A and ½ Sample asked Q38B]

There has been some talk about an independent candidate running for president in 2012. We want to get your thoughts on this possibility. If the 2012 presidential election were held today and the candidates were President Barack Obama, the Democrat, Former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, the Republican, and New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, for whom would you

vote for?
Barack Obama 1 Mitt Romney 2 Michael Bloomberg 3 Don't Know 8 Decline to Answer 9
Question 40B: [1/3 rd sample]
There has been some talk about an independent candidate running for president in 2012. We want to get your thoughts on this possibility. If the 2012 presidential election were held today and the candidates were President Barack Obama, the Democrat, Former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, the Republican, and wealthy businessman Warren Buffett, for whom would you vote for?
Barack Obama 1 Mitt Romney 2 Warren Buffet 3 Don't Know 8 Decline to Answer 9
Question 40C: [1/3 rd sample]
There has been some talk about an independent candidate running for president in 2012. We want to get your thoughts on this possibility. If the 2012 presidential election were held today and the candidates were President Barack Obama, the Democrat, Former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, the Republican, and Hollywood Actor, Alec Baldwin, for whom would you vote for?
Barack Obama 1 Mitt Romney 2 Alec Baldwin 3 Don't Know 8 Decline to Answer 9
Q41 What political party do you think has a majority of the seats in the Tennessee state house?

How much of the time do you feel that you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right?

Republican......1 Don't know......

Just about always 1 Most of the time 2 Only some of the time 3 Or, never 4 Don't know 8 Decline to Answer 9
Q43 How much of the time do you feel that you can trust the Department of Defense to do what is right?
Just about always 1 Most of the time 2 Only some of the time 3 Or, never 4 Don't know 8 Decline to Answer 9
Q44 How much of the time do you feel that you can trust the Department of Health and Human Services to do what is right? Just about always
Q45 How much of the time do you feel that you can trust the Environmental Protection Agency to do what is right?
Just about always

As you may know, a health reform bill was signed into law early last year. Given what you know about the health reform law, do you have a generally favorable or generally unfavorable opinion of it?

Generally favorable	. 1
Generally unfavorable	
Don't know	
Decline to Answer	. 9

O47

There's a proposal system called 'cap and trade' that some say would lower the pollution levels that lead to global warming. With Cap and Trade, the government would issue permits limiting the amount of greenhouse gases companies can put out. Companies that did not use all their permits could sell them to other companies. The idea is that many companies would find ways to put out less greenhouse gases, because that would be cheaper than buying permits. Would you support or oppose this system?

Support	 1
Oppose	 2
Decline to Answer	 9

Q48

Some people feel the U.S. should try to develop a ground and space based missile defense system to protect the U.S. from missile attack. Others oppose such an effort because they say it would be too costly and might interfere with existing arms treaties with the Russians. Which position comes closer to your view:

Try to develop missile defense	1
Oppose trying to develop a missile defense	system 2
Don't know	8
Decline to Answer	9

O49

A lot of people think this country is on the wrong track and many reasons have been given for the current problems facing our nation. Which of the following reasons do you think is most responsible:

[Rotate]	
The lack of a third party	1
Too much money in politics	
The news media	
The lack of good Democrat and Republican candidates	4
Some other reason	
Don't know	8
Decline to Answer	

O50

Before taxes, was your total household income in 2010 under or over 45,000?

Under	
Over	
Don't know	
Decline to Answer	9
Q 50A	
(If 50 = Under) Was it: (Read Choices)(Before taxes)	
Under 15,000	
Between 15,000 and 30,000	
Between 30,000 and 45,000	
Don't know	
Decline to Answer	9
Q50B	
(If 50 = Over) Was it: (Read Choices)(Before taxes)	
Between 45,000 and 75,000	
Between 75,000 and 100,000	
Over 100,000	
Don't know	
Decline to Answer	
051	
Q51	[manual
How many years have you lived in Tennessee? [# of	years]
Q52	7
How many years have you lived in your current resid	lence? [# of years]
Q53	
Is this house, apartment, or mobile home: owned with	h mortgage, owned without mortgage, rented,
occupied without rent?	XDILI
[Rotate 1-3]	
Owned with mortgage	
Owned without mortgage	
Rented	
Don't know	
Decline to Answer	9

Q54
How would you rate the condition of the United States economy these days? Is it:

[Rotate 1-4]

Very Good
Fairly Good
Fairly Bad 3
Bad
Don't know8
Decline to Answer
Q55
When you use a telephone at home, are you more likely to use a land line or a wireless phone?
Land line more
Cell phone more
About the same
Don't know8
Decline to Answer
Q56
Are you currently registered to vote?
Yes
No
Don't know
Decline to Answer 9
500mm to 1 mm / 1
Q57
Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a:
Democrat
Republican 2
Independent
Something Else
Don't know 8
Decline to Answer9
Q58A (If Q57=1)
Would you call yourself a: (Strong means "Whatever strong means to you.")
Would you out yourself a. (Sublig means Whatever swong means to you.)
Strong Democrat
Not a Strong Democrat
Don't know
Decline to Answer
058B (If 057 - 2)
Q58B (If Q57 = 2) Would you call yourself a: (Strong means "Whatever strong means to you")
Would you call yourself a: (Strong means "Whatever strong means to you.")

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Strong Republican
Not a Strong Republican
Don't know
Decline to Answer
200mic to 1 min 61
Q58C: (If Q57 = 3)
Do you think of yourself as closer to the:
Republican Party 1
Democratic Party
Don't know
Decline to Answer
Q59
We hear a lot of talk these days about conservatives and liberals. How would you generally
describe your views on most political matters? Are you:
[Rotate 1-3]
Conservative
Moderate 2
Liberal
Don't know
Decline to Answer
Q60
Do you think of yourself as part of the Tea Party movement?
Yes
No
Don't know what the Tea Party is
Don't know8
Decline to Answer
VANDEDBILT
Q61 YATYLER BILL
In general, do you support the Tea Party movement's ideas?
Yes
No
Don't know what the Tea Party is
Don't know8
Decline to Answer

Do you feel voting in elections is a very important obligation, a somewhat important obligation, or not an obligation that a citizen owes to the country?

Very important1Somewhat Important2Not important3Don't know8Decline to Answer9
Q63 What is your zip code?
Q64 How much school have you completed? (Select category closest to stated answer.)
Less than High School1High School Diploma or GED2Vocational or Technical School3Some College4College5Graduate6Don't know8Decline to Answer9
Q65 Can you tell us what school district you live in? [Open ended]
Q66 How often do you attend church, mosque, synagogue or other place of worship?
Never 1 Rarely 2 Less than once a week 3 Once a week 4 More than once a week 5 Don't know 8 Decline to Answer 9
Q67 Would you call yourself a born-again Christian, that is, have you personally had a conversion experience related to Jesus Christ?
Yes 1 No 2 Don't know 8 Decline to Answer 9

How would you rate the condition of the Tennessee state economy these days? Is it:

[Rotate 1-4]

Very Good	1
Fairly Good	
Fairly Bad	
Bad	
Don't know	8
Decline to Answer	9

CLOSE:

THANK YOU again for sharing your thoughts and opinions! This survey is being conducted by the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions at Vanderbilt University. Newspapers will report the results soon. Have a nice rest of the day.



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