



Vanderbilt University Poll
December 2012

Survey Results

Vanderbilt University Poll
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Toplines for REGISTERED VOTERS
N = 829; Margin of Error +/- 4.3%

SEX. Record Respondent's sex

Male	48%
Female	52%

(Q1a-Q1f were randomly ordered.)

Q1. I'd like your views on some government organizations and elected officials. As I read each name, please tell me if you approve or disapprove of how each is handling their job. First, do you approve or disapprove of?

a. The job Barack Obama is doing as President

Approve	45%
Disapprove	51%
Too early to tell (v)	1%
Don't know (v)	2%
Refused (v)	1%

b. The job the U.S. Congress is doing

Approve	21%
Disapprove	68%
Too early to tell (v)	2%
Don't know (v)	8%
Refused (v)	1%

c. The job the Tennessee State Legislature is doing

Approve	53%
Disapprove	28%
Too early to tell (v)	3%
Don't know (v)	15%
Refused (v)	1%

d. The job Bill Haslam is doing as Governor

Approve	68%
Disapprove	19%
Too early to tell (v)	2%
Don't know (v)	9%
Refused (v)	1%

e. The job Lamar Alexander is doing as U.S. Senator

Approve	56%
Disapprove	24%
Too early to tell (v)	2%
Don't know (v)	18%
Refused (v)	1%

f. The job Bob Corker is doing as U.S. Senator

Approve	60%
Disapprove	23%
Too early to tell (v)	2%
Don't know (v)	14%
Refused (v)	1%

(Q2a-Q2d were randomly ordered.)

Q2. We hear a lot of talk these days about liberals and conservatives. On a five-point scale that goes from very liberal to very conservative, where would you place the following people with respect to their views on SOCIAL ISSUES dealing with issues such as such as, gay marriage, abortion, guns, immigration?

a. Yourself

Very liberal	13%
Somewhat liberal	19%
Neither liberal nor conservative	12%
Somewhat conservative	24%
Very conservative	28%
Don't know (v)	4%
Refused (v)	1%

b. Governor Haslam

Very liberal	2%
Somewhat liberal	11%
Neither liberal nor conservative	10%
Somewhat conservative	44%
Very conservative	13%
Don't know (v)	20%
Refused (v)	0%

c. The Tennessee State Legislature

Very liberal	4%
Somewhat liberal	8%
Neither liberal nor conservative	9%
Somewhat conservative	38%
Very conservative	22%
Don't know (v)	18%
Refused (v)	1%

d. Fellow citizens in Tennessee

Very liberal	4%
Somewhat liberal	12%
Neither liberal nor conservative	7%
Somewhat conservative	39%
Very conservative	30%
Don't know (v)	8%
Refused (v)	1%

(Q3a-Q3d were randomly ordered, but were asked in the same order as Q2.)

Q3. On a five-point scale that goes from very liberal to very conservative, where would you place the following people with respect to their views on ECONOMIC ISSUES dealing with issues such as such as government spending, job creation and tax policy?

a. Yourself

Very liberal	8%
Somewhat liberal	15%
Neither liberal nor conservative	15%
Somewhat conservative	29%
Very conservative	30%
Don't know (v)	3%
Refused (v)	1%

b. Governor Haslam

Very liberal	4%
Somewhat liberal	11%
Neither liberal nor conservative	8%
Somewhat conservative	45%
Very conservative	14%
Don't know (v)	17%
Refused (v)	1%

c. The Tennessee State Legislature

Very liberal	5%
Somewhat liberal	12%
Neither liberal nor conservative	10%
Somewhat conservative	39%
Very conservative	16%
Don't know (v)	17%
Refused (v)	2%

d. Fellow citizens in Tennessee

Very liberal	4%
Somewhat liberal	10%
Neither liberal nor conservative	11%
Somewhat conservative	47%
Very conservative	20%
Don't know (v)	7%
Refused (v)	1%

(Q4 political parties were rotated.)

Q4. Thinking about the election held on November 6, which party did you vote for in the race for Tennessee State House? Did you vote for the (Democratic) candidate, the (Republican) candidate, or did you not vote in the most recent election?

Democratic	31%
Republican	44%
Did not vote	17%
A different party (v)	1%
Don't know (v)	3%
Refused (v)	4%

(Q5 candidate names were rotated.)

Q5. Thinking about the election held on November 6, which candidate did you vote for for president? Did you vote for (Barack Obama) or (Mitt Romney), or did you not vote in the most recent election?

Barack Obama	36%
Mitt Romney	46%
Did not vote	14%
A different party (v)	2%
Don't know (v)	1%
Refused (v)	3%

(Q6 response choices were rotated.)

Q6. Which of the following comes closest to your view, even if neither is exactly right? (I would prefer my legislators work with members of the opposing political party even if it means they have to compromise on some of their values and priorities.) Or, (I would prefer my legislators pursue their own values and priorities even if it means they are unwilling to work with members of the opposing political party.)

Work with members of opposing party	74%
Pursue own values and priorities	22%
Don't know (v)	3%
Refused (v)	2%

(Half of the respondents were asked Q7 and half were asked Q8.)

Q7. In general, do you think the state government ought to tell private entities how to operate or should private entities be free to make their own policies?

State government should tell how to operate	17%
Private entities make own policies	69%
Don't know (v)	9%
Refused (v)	5%

Q8. In general, do you think the state government ought to tell private entities, such as religious groups, private universities, and corporations, what their non-discrimination policies should be or should private entities be free to make their own policies?

State government should tell how to operate	21%
Private entities make own policies	71%
Don't know (v)	6%
Refused (v)	2%

(Q9 responses were randomly ordered with "something else" always coming last.)

Q9. Which of the following do you think should be the TOP priority of the Tennessee state government? Do you think it should be...

Economy, including jobs	60%
Healthcare	10%
Education	18%
Immigration	4%
Guns	1%
Social issues like abortion and gay rights	4%
Something else	1%
Don't know (v)	1%
Refused (v)	0%

(Q10 responses were presented in the same order as in Q9. Answer chosen by respondent to Q9 was omitted from the list.)

Q10. Which of the following do you think should be the SECOND highest priority of the Tennessee state government?

Economy, including jobs	25%
Healthcare	28%
Education	30%
Immigration	6%
Guns	3%
Social issues like abortion and gay rights	6%
Something else	1%
Don't know (v)	1%
Refused (v)	0%

(Half of the respondents were asked Q11 and half were asked Q12.)

(Q11 and Q12 responses were randomly ordered 1-4 or 4-1.)

Q11. How would you rate the condition of the Tennessee state economy these days? Is it...

Very good	3%
Fairly good	50%
Fairly bad	31%
Very bad	13%
Don't know (v)	3%
Refused (v)	1%

Q12. How would you rate the condition of the United States economy these days? Is it...

Very good	2%
Fairly good	31%
Fairly bad	36%
Very bad	30%
Don't know (v)	0%
Refused (v)	1%

(Q13 responses were randomly ordered 1-5 or 5-1.)

Q13. Who do you think is most responsible for the state of the economy? Do you think it is...

President Obama	31%
U.S. Congress	25%
President Bush	23%
TN State Legislature	3%
Governor Haslam	5%
Don't know (v)	7%
Refused (v)	7%

(Half of the respondents were asked Q14 and half were asked Q15.)

Q14. Thinking about education in the state of Tennessee...Would you favor or oppose opening more charter schools? Charter schools are public, and function independently of the local district as long as they meet certain standards set by the state government?

Favor	64%
Oppose	26%
Don't know (v)	7%
Refused (v)	3%

Q15. Thinking about education in the state of Tennessee...Would you favor or oppose opening more public schools that function independently of the local district as long as they meet certain standards set by the state government?

Favor	66%
Oppose	27%
Don't know (v)	6%
Refused (v)	2%

(There is no Q16 in this survey instrument.)

Q17. Which comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right? Teachers and counselors in Tennessee public elementary and middle schools should be prohibited from providing any information or material that mentions sexual orientation other than heterosexuality. Or, teachers and counselors should be allowed to mention other sexual orientations.

Only mention heterosexuality	41%
Be allowed to mention other sexual orientations	45%
Don't know (v)	7%
Refused (v)	7%

(Half of the respondents were asked Q18 and half were asked Q19.)

Q18. Overall, what grade would you give public schools in Tennessee? Do they deserve an...

A	4%
B	30%
C	42%
D	16%
F	5%
Don't know (v)	2%
Refused (v)	0%

Q19. Overall, what grade would you give the local public schools in your district in Tennessee? Do they deserve an...

A	13%
B	34%
C	33%
D	11%
F	5%
Don't know (v)	5%
Refused (v)	1%

Q20. Do you favor or oppose the Tennessee Valley Authority, or have you not heard enough about it to have an opinion?

Favor	36%
Oppose	7%
Haven't heard enough about it	54%
Don't know (v)	3%
Refused (v)	1%

(Half of the respondents were asked Q21 and half were asked Q22.)

Q21. Do you favor or oppose the use of nuclear energy as one of the ways to provide electricity for the state of Tennessee, or haven't you thought much about the issue?

Favor	47%
Oppose	15%
Haven't heard enough about it	37%
Don't know (v)	1%
Refused (v)	0%

Q22. Now thinking about wind power, some people argue that wind turbines are a good source of renewable energy with very low environmental impact. Others argue that wind turbines are too big and often placed on mountaintops creating an eye sore. Do you favor or oppose the use of wind turbines to generate energy?

Favor	61%
Oppose	12%
Haven't heard enough about it	25%
Don't know (v)	2%
Refused (v)	1%

(Half of the respondents were asked Q23 and half were asked Q24.)

Q23. Do you think public employees are currently being paid too much, not enough, or about the right amount?

Too much	17%
Not enough	36%
About the right amount	35%
Don't know (v)	10%
Refused (v)	2%

Q24. Do you think public school teachers are currently being paid too much, not enough, or about the right amount?

Too much	3%
Not enough	65%
About the right amount	28%
Don't know (v)	4%
Refused (v)	0%

(Q25 response choices were rotated.)

Q25. There are currently proposals being discussed to expand Medicaid to provide health insurance to more low-income uninsured adults, including adults with no children whose incomes are below about \$16,000 per year. The federal government will initially play the entire cost of this expansion, and after several years, states will pay 10 percent and the federal government will pay 90 percent. If Tennessee chooses not to expand Medicaid, uninsured individuals will likely continue to receive most of their medical treatment in emergency rooms which increases health care costs for the insured. The Supreme Court ruled that states may choose whether or not to participate in this expansion. Which of the following two options is closest to your view even if neither is exactly right? (Keep Medicaid as it is today, with no new funding from the federal government and no change in who will be covered by the program). Or, (expand Medicaid to cover more low-income uninsured people, with the federal government initially paying the entire cost of the expansion and Tennessee eventually paying ten percent)?

Keep Medicaid as is	46%
Expand Medicaid	47%
Don't know (v)	5%
Refused (v)	2%

(There is no Q26 in this survey instrument.)

Q27. Recently, the Tennessee state legislature has been debating whether individuals with handgun carry permits should be allowed to keep guns in their vehicles while on their employer's private property. On one hand, if workers are not permitted to keep a gun in their vehicle, then they will not be able to exercise their right to carry guns on their commute to work. On the other hand, employers have a right to determine whether or not to allow guns on their property. Do you think employers should be required by the state to allow their employees to keep a gun in their vehicle if they have the required permits?

State require employers to allow	53%
State not require employers to allow	44%
Don't know (v)	3%
Refused (v)	1%

(There is no Q28 or Q29 in this survey instrument.)

Q30. 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 commission. The State Legislature has been debating whether Tennessee voters should elect these judges. Some support this change because citizens, rather than the governor, would choose judges. Others oppose the change because judges would have to campaign for election, which might politicize the judicial process. What do you think? Should judges be appointed by the governor, or elected by voters, or haven't you thought much about it?

Governor chooses	28%
Voters choose	44%
Haven't thought much about it	27%
Don't know (v)	1%
Refused (v)	1%

Q31. Some local communities in Tennessee are passing laws that ban discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people. Do you favor or oppose such laws, or haven't you thought much about it?

Favor	36%
Oppose	33%
Haven't thought much about it	26%
Don't know (v)	3%
Refused (v)	2%

Q32. Currently, Tennessee residents are allowed to vote in either the Democratic or the Republican Party's primary when they arrive at the polls on Primary Election Day. Do you think the state should change the rules so that only officially registered party members are allowed to vote in their party's primary, or should people be able to choose which party primary to participate in on Election Day?

Yes, change to closed primaries	11%
No, leave primaries open	85%
Don't know (v)	3%
Refused (v)	1%

(Half of the respondents were asked Q33-Q36 and half were asked Q37-Q40.)

Q33. Given what you know about the Affordable Care Act that passed in 2010, do you have a generally favorable or generally unfavorable view of it, or have you not heard enough about it to form an opinion?

Generally favorable	16%
Generally unfavorable	24%
Haven't heard enough about it	59%
Don't know (v)	1%
Refused (v)	0%

(Half of the respondents were asked Q34 and half were asked Q35.)

Q34. Do you approve or disapprove of a provision in the Affordable Care Act that allows children to stay on their parents' health insurance until the age of 26?

Approve	73%
Disapprove	21%
Don't know (v)	5%
Refused (v)	2%

Q35. Do you approve or disapprove of a provision in the Affordable Care Act that prohibits health insurance companies from charging some customers higher premiums based on pre-existing conditions or medical history?

Approve	40%
Disapprove	49%
Don't know (v)	8%
Refused (v)	4%

Q36. In the coming months, more parts of the Affordable Care Act will go into effect. As you may know, part of the law creates a health insurance exchange which offers a set of health insurance plans from which individuals can choose. Would you rather have the State of Tennessee create and run its own health care exchange system, or would you rather have the state use the health care exchange system created by the federal government?

State should run	54%
Federal government should run	31%
Don't know (v)	12%
Refused (v)	2%

(Half of the respondents were asked Q37 and half were asked Q38.)

Q37. Do you approve or disapprove of a provision in the Affordable Care Act that allows children to stay on their parents' health insurance until the age of 26?

Approve	69%
Disapprove	27%
Don't know (v)	4%
Refused (v)	1%

Q38. Do you approve or disapprove of a provision in the Affordable Care Act that prohibits health insurance companies from charging some customers higher premiums based on pre-existing conditions or medical history?

Approve	32%
Disapprove	63%
Don't know (v)	4%
Refused (v)	1%

Q39. In the coming months, more parts of the Affordable Care Act will go into effect. As you may know, part of the law creates a health insurance exchange which offers a set of health insurance plans from which individuals can choose. Would you rather have the State of Tennessee create and run its own health care exchange system, or would you rather have the state use the health care exchange system created by the federal government?

State should run	52%
Federal government should run	35%
Don't know (v)	12%
Refused (v)	1%

Q40. Given what you know about the Affordable Care Act that passed in 2010, do you have a generally favorable or generally unfavorable view of it, or have you not heard enough about it to form an opinion?

Generally favorable	21%
Generally unfavorable	32%
Haven't heard enough about it	45%
Don't know (v)	2%
Refused (v)	1%

(Q41a-Q41f were randomly ordered.)

Q41. Congress has considered many proposals for reducing the deficit. As I read a list of ideas, please tell me if you would be willing or not willing to see each one be part of the final package that Congress considers to reduce the deficit, or not. First, how about...

- a. Allow the tax cuts passed in 2001 and 2003 to expire for families earning over \$250,000 per year.

Yes, willing	57%
No, not willing	36%
Don't know (v)	6%
Refused (v)	2%

b. Reduce the value of itemized tax deductions, such as for child care and mortgages, for families earning over \$250,000 per year.

Yes, willing	60%
No, not willing	34%
Don't know (v)	5%
Refused (v)	1%

c. Raise the eligibility age for Medicare from 65 to 67 years old.

Yes, willing	35%
No, not willing	61%
Don't know (v)	3%
Refused (v)	1%

d. Place strict limits on how much money Washington will spend on Medicaid and Medicare.

Yes, willing	50%
No, not willing	42%
Don't know (v)	7%
Refused (v)	1%

e. Freeze spending on non-defense domestic programs such as education, parks, and housing through the year 2019.

Yes, willing	40%
No, not willing	51%
Don't know (v)	8%
Refused (v)	1%

SECEDE. Some people have called for their state to remove itself from the United States of America and form a new country. How about you? Do you think Tennessee should become independent from the U.S. and form its own country... OR should Tennessee remain a part of the U.S.?

TN should be independent	7%
TN should remain part of U.S.	90%
Haven't thought much about it	1%
Don't know (v)	2%
Refused (v)	1%

Q42. Which comes closest to your view about illegal immigrants who are currently working in the U.S.? They should be allowed to stay in their jobs and to eventually apply for U.S. citizenship; They should be allowed to stay in their jobs only as temporary guest workers, but not to apply for U.S. citizenship; or, They should be required to leave their jobs and leave the U.S.

Apply for citizenship	48%
Stay as temporary guest workers	15%
Leave jobs and U.S.	33%
Don't know (v)	3%
Refused (v)	2%

Q43. Thinking of your finances these days, would you say that you and your household are...

Better off	15%
Worse off	31%
About the same	53%
Don't know (v)	0%
Refused (v)	0%

Q44. Do you think of yourself as part of the Tea Party movement?

Yes	14%
No	72%
Never heard of Tea Party	6%
Don't know (v)	7%
Refused (v)	1%

Q45. In general, do you support the Tea Party movement's ideas?

Yes	33%
No	49%
Don't know what Tea Party ideas are	12%
Never heard of Tea Party	0%
Don't know (v)	5%
Refused (v)	2%

REGIST. These days, many people are so busy they can't find time to register to vote, or move around so often they don't get a chance to re-register. Are you NOW registered to vote in your precinct or election district or haven't you been able to register so far?

Yes	100%
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A few last questions for statistical purposes only...

AGE. What is your age?

18-34	23%
35-44	17%
45-54	19%
55-64	19%
65 plus	21%
Don't know/Refused (v)	2%

LIVE. About how many years have you lived in Tennessee? [IF LIVED IN TN OFF-AND-ON, READ: Please think about the total time you have lived in Tennessee.]

Less than 10	13%
10 to 19	14%
20 to 29	16%
30 to 39	14%
40 to 49	14%
50 or more	29%
Don't know/Refused (v)	1%

HISP. Are you, yourself, of Hispanic or Latino origin or descent, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Latin American background?

Yes	1%
No	97%
Don't know (v)	0%
Refused (v)	1%

RACE. What is your race? Are you white, black, Asian, or some other race?

[INTERVIEWER NOTE: IF R SAYS HISPANIC OR LATINO, PROBE: Do you consider yourself a WHITE (Hispanic/Latino) or a BLACK (Hispanic/Latino)? IF R DOES NOT SAY WHITE, BLACK OR ONE OF THE RACE CATEGORIES LISTED, RECORD AS "OTHER" (CODE 6)]

White	81%
Black or African American	15%
Asian or Pacific Islander	1%
Mixed race	1%
Native American/American Indian	1%
Other	0%
Don't know (v)	0%
Refused (v)	1%

PARTY. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a...

Democrat	32%
Republican	30%
Independent	28%
Something else	10%
Don't know (v)	0%
Refused (v)	0%

(Half of the respondents were asked IDEO1 and half were asked IDEO2.)

(IDEO1 and IDEO2 response choices were randomly ordered, 1-3 or 3-1.)

IDEO1. 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...

Conservative	38%
Moderate	40%
Liberal	19%
Don't know (v)	3%
Refused (v)	0%

IDEO2. We hear a lot of talk these days about conservatives and progressives. How would you generally describe your views on most political matters? Are you...

Conservative	41%
Moderate	39%
Progressive	14%
Don't know (v)	5%
Refused (v)	2%

EDUC2. What is the highest level of school you have completed or the highest degree you have received? [INTERVIEWER NOTE: Enter code 3-HS grad if R completed training that did NOT count toward a degree.]

Less than high school	9%
High school graduate	34%
Some college	28%
4-year college graduate	16%
More than 4-year degree	13%
Don't know/Refused (v)	0%

ATTEND. How often do you attend church, mosque, synagogue or other place of worship? Do you attend...

Never	11%
Seldom	28%
Almost every week	15%
Once a week	27%
More than once a week	18%
Don't know (v)	0%
Refused (v)	1%

BRNAGAIN. Would you call yourself a born-again Christian – that is, have you personally had a conversion experience related to Jesus Christ?

Yes, born-again Christian	64%
No	33%
Don't know (v)	1%
Refused (v)	2%

INC1. Before taxes, was your total household income in 2011?

Less than \$15,000	10%
\$15,000 - Less than \$30,000	18%
\$30,000 - Less than \$45,000	18%
\$45,000 - Less than \$75,000	18%
\$75,000 - Less than \$100,000	12%
\$100,000 or More	13%
Don't know/Refused (v)	11%