

Questionnaire for Vanderbilt Poll, January 2011

I'm calling for the Vanderbilt Poll a new survey to ask Tennesseans their opinions and thoughts about topics the economy and important decisions that are being made in our state.

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.

1. Barack Obama as President?

Approve
Disapprove
I need to wait and see
Don't Know who that is
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

2. The US Congress?

Approve
Disapprove
I need to wait and see
Don't Know who that is
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

3. The Tennessee state legislature?

Approve
Disapprove
I need to wait and see
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

4. Bill Haslam as Governor?

Approve
Disapprove
I need to wait and see
Don't Know who that is
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

5. Lamar Alexander as US Senator?

Approve
Disapprove
Don't Know who that is
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

6. Bob Corker as US Senator?

Approve
Disapprove
Don't Know who that is
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

7. What do you think should be the top priority of the Tennessee state government?

Health Care
Guns
Immigration
The economy, including jobs
Education
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

8. Turning to the topic of immigration, how should we deal with illegal immigrants currently in the United States?

Arresting them and forcing them to leave
Creating a way for them to become citizens if they meet certain requirements
Granting citizenship without setting requirements
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

9. Would you support or not support fining employers who hire illegal immigrants?

Support
Not Support
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

10. Would you support or not support sending employers to jail for hiring illegal immigrants?

Support
Not Support
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

11. These days elections are very expensive. Do you think each of the following is an acceptable or unacceptable way for candidates in Tennessee to raise money for an election campaign? Contributions made by corporations located in the United States? Are they:

Acceptable
Or, Unacceptable
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

12. Contributions made by labor unions? Are they:

Acceptable
Or, Unacceptable
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

13. Contributions made by individuals who live in countries outside the United States? Are they:

Acceptable
Or, Unacceptable
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

14. Contributions made by corporations with headquarters located outside the United States? Are they:

Acceptable
Or, Unacceptable
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

15. Which statement comes closer to your view on this topic?

Muslims should have the same rights as other groups to build houses of worship in local communities
Or, Local communities should be able to prohibit construction of mosques if they do not want them
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

16. Which one of the following comes closest to what you would like to see lawmakers IN CONGRESS do with the 2010 health care reform--would you like lawmakers to:

- Repeal the reform entirely
- Repeal parts of the reform
- Expand the reform
- Leave it as is
- Or, I don't know enough about it to decide
- Don't Know
- Decline to Answer

17. Do you think the state of Tennessee should get rid of permits for carrying handguns in public?

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know
- Decline to Answer

18. Thinking about your finances Would you say that you and your family in your home are:

- Better off financially
- Worse off financially
- Or about the same as you were a year ago
- Don't Know
- Decline to Answer

19. 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
- Worse off financially
- Or, about the same as now
- Don't Know
- Decline to Answer

20. Thinking about education...

21. Should teachers whose students do well on tests get paid more than teachers whose students do poorly on those tests?

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

Decline to Answer

22. Do you support mandatory testing of students in public schools as the only method for determining how well schools are doing?

Yes

No

Don't Know

Decline to Answer

23. Currently Tennessee certifies teachers based on a teaching degree and coursework. Should Tennessee offer another way for teachers to get certified, like credit for their professional experience?

Yes

No

Don't Know

Decline to Answer

24. What grade would you give your local public schools?

A

B

C

D

Or, F

Don't Know

Decline to Answer

25. Which group you think would be best at running public schools?

Teachers

Trained Administrators

Elected School Boards

Mayors and other Elected Public Officials

Or, Others

Don't Know

Decline to Answer

Which other group? Open end

26. When it comes to kindergarten through 12th grade education in Tennessee, please tell me whether you think our schools work:

Pretty well as they are now

Some changes are needed

Major changes are needed

A complete overhaul is needed?
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

27. Let's say there is a consistently poor-performing school in your community. What do you believe would be the best solution?

Close the school and reopen with a new principal
Close the school and reopen as a public charter school
Close the school and send the students to higher performing schools nearby
Keep the school open with current teachers and principal and provide more support
Don't Know
Decline to answer

28. Of the following state education initiatives, which do you think is most important:

Developing demanding education standards
Creating better test to more accurately measure student achievement
Improving the quality of our teachers
Improving the state's lowest performing schools
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

29. Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military?

Strongly Favor
Favor
Oppose
Strongly Oppose
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

30. What about allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry legally Strongly Favor =1

Favor
Oppose
Strongly Oppose
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

31. What about allowing gays and lesbians to adopt children?

Strongly Favor
Favor
Oppose
Strongly Oppose

Don't Know
Decline to Answer

32. The Tennessee state government currently faces budget problems, and cuts in spending for state programs are made often. For each of these programs, please tell me if there should be: no cuts, some cuts, or large cuts.

33. Health care.

No Cuts
Some Cuts
Or, Large Cuts
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

34. Tennessee's colleges and universities.

No Cuts
Some Cuts
Or, Large Cuts
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

35. Pre-kindergarten

No Cuts
Some Cuts
Or, Large Cuts
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

36. Kindergarten to 12th

No Cuts
Some Cuts
Or, Large Cuts
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

37. Unemployment assistance and job training programs

No Cuts
Some Cuts
Or, Large Cuts
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

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

Very Good
Fairly Good
Fairly Bad
Very Bad
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

39. If the Presidential election happened today, who of the following would you vote for?

Barack Obama
Sarah Palin
Neither
Don't Know
Decline to answer

40. During the election that ended in November, did you give money to Bill Haslam's campaign for Tennessee governor?

Yes
No
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

41. Did you volunteer time for Bill Haslam's campaign for Tennessee governor?

Yes
No
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

42. During the election that ended in November, before you knew who would win, did you give money to Bill Haslam's campaign for Tennessee governor?

Yes
No
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

43. Before you knew who would win, did you volunteer time for Bill Haslam's campaign for Tennessee governor?

Yes
No
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

44. During the election that ended in November, did you give money to any individual candidate running for Tennessee governor?

Yes
No =2
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

45. Which party did the candidate belong to?

Democrat
Republican
Both Democrat and Republican
Or, Other
Don't Know
Decline to Answer)

46. *[if45=other]* What other party? (Open end)

47. Did you volunteer time for any individual candidate running for Tennessee governor?

Yes
No
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

48. *[if47=Yes]* Which party did the candidate belong to?

Democrat
Republican
Both Democrat and Republican
Or, Other
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

49. What other party? (Open end)

50. During the election that ended in November before you knew who would win, did you give money to any individual candidate running for Tennessee governor?

Yes
No
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

51. *[If 50 =Yes]* Which party did the candidate belong to?

Democrat
Republican
Both Democrat and Republican
Or, Other
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

52. *[If Q51=Other]* What other party? (Open end)

53. Before you knew who would win, did you volunteer time for any individual candidate running for Tennessee governor?

Yes
No
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

54. *[if 53=yes]* Which party did the candidate belong to?

Democrat
Republican
Both Democrat and Republican
Or, Other
Don't Know
Decline to Answer =9

55. *[if 54=other]* What other party? (Open end)

56. Do you think all children born on United States soil, regardless of where their parents are from, are American citizens?

Yes
No
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

57. Next, please tell me which of the following two statements comes closer to your own views, even if neither is exactly right:

Today, immigrants strengthen our country because of their hard work and talents
Today, immigrants are a burden on our country because they take our jobs and
use up our tax dollars
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

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

Very Good
Fairly Good
Fairly Bad
Very Bad
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

59. Please tell me how much you agree with this statement: Most elected officials
care
what people like me think. Do you

Completely Agree
Mostly Agree
Mostly Disagree
Or, Completely Disagree
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

60. You have finished the survey questions. In order to understand your information
better, we would like to ask some questions about you.
What is your zip code?

61. How much school have you completed?

Less than High School
High School Diploma or GED
Vocational or Technical School
Some College
College Graduate
Or, Post Graduate
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

62. What is your gender?

Male
Female
Don't Know

Decline to Answer

63. How old are you?

64. Do you currently or have you ever served in the Armed Services for the United States?

Yes

No

Don't Know

Decline to Answer

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

Never

Rarely

Less than once a week

Once a week

Or more than once a week?

Don't Know

Decline to Answer

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

Yes

No

Don't Know

Decline to Answer

67. Was your total household income in 2010 under or over 45,000?

Under

Over

Don't Know

Decline to Answer

68. [If 67 = Under] Was it:

Under 15,000

Between 15,000 and 30,000

Or Between 30,000 and 45,000

Don't Know

Decline to Answer

69. [If 67 = Over] Was it:

Between 45,000 and 75,000
Between 75,000 and 100,000
Or, over 100,000?
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

70. Which of the following racial or ethnic groups do you identify with?

71. Black
Yes
No
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

72. Asian
Yes
No
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

73. Native American
Yes
No
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

74. Hispanic or Latino
Yes
No
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

75. White
Yes
No
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

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

Democrat
Republican
Independent
Something else
Don't Know
Decline to Answer



77. [If Q76=Other] What do you consider yourself? Open end

78. [If Q76 = Democrat] Would you call yourself a:

Strong Democrat
Or, Not a Strong Democrat
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

79. [If Q76 = Republican] Would you call yourself a:

Strong Republican
Or Not a Strong Republican
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

80. [If Q76 = Independent] Do you think of yourself as closer to the

Republican Party
Or the Democratic party
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

81. 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
Moderate
Liberal
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

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

Yes
No
Don't Know what the Tea Party movement is
Don't Know
Decline to Answer

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

Yes
No
Don't Know what the Tea Party movement's ideas are

Don't Know
Decline to Answer

THANK YOU again for sharing your thoughts and opinions! We may contact you again if there are questions about any of your answers. This survey is being conducted by the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions at Vanderbilt University. Newspaper will report the results soon.



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