Vanderbilt University Poll

April 28 – May 13, 2014

1,505 Tennessee Residents
1,245 Tennessee Registered Voters
Obama Approval
Among TN Registered Voters

0% 100%

11-Jan 11-Jun 11-Nov 12-Feb 12-May 12-Dec 13-May 13-Dec 14-May

44% 44% 38% 41% 42% 45% 40% 28% 39%

Registered Voters
Perception of Economy Among TN Registered Voters

US Economy: Very or Fairly Good

TN Economy: Very or Fairly Good

June 2011: 26%
Nov 2011: 17%
Feb 2012: 24%
May 2012: 23%
Dec 2012: 44%
May 2013: 53%
Dec 2013: 52%
May 2014: 60%
Percentage of Voters who think the Tennessee State Economy is Very or Fairly Good

- **East**: 59%
- **Central (Including Nashville)**: 68%
- **Nashville Only**: 79%
- **Memphis/West**: 41%
Approval Ratings of Statewide Officials

- Haslam: 64%, 59%, 55%, 53%, 52%, 49%
- Alexander: 56%, 55%, 55%, 53%, 49%, 49%
- Corker: 52%, 59%, 55%, 52%, 49%, 49%

May 2012 - Dec 2014

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Approval Ratings of Statewide Officials

**Bill Haslam**
- Total: 58%
- Democrats: 49%
- Independents: 60%
- Republicans: 72%
- Tea Party: 72%

**Bob Corker**
- Total: 49%
- Democrats: 48%
- Independents: 44%
- Republicans: 63%
- Tea Party: 54%

**Lamar Alexander**
- Total: 49%
- Democrats: 50%
- Independents: 48%
- Republicans: 56%
- Tea Party: 47%
Republican Primary Voters’ views of US Senate Candidates

Lamar Alexander

- Favorable: 64%
- Unfavorable: 29%
- Never Heard Of: 2%

Joe Carr

- Favorable: 55%
- Unfavorable: 20%
- Never Heard Of: 8%
Republican Primary Voters’ views of US Senate Candidates

- Only Favorable towards Alexander: 50%
- Only Favorable towards Carr: 7%
- Favorable towards Alexander & Carr: 13%
- Not Favorable towards Alexander or Carr: 28%

*Not favorable category includes Unfavorable, Don’t Knows, and Never Heard of
Republican Registered Voters Favorability towards Joe Carr

December 2013
- Favorable: 16%
- Unfavorable: 6%
- Don't Know/Never Heard of: 78%

May 2014
- Favorable: 17%
- Unfavorable: 7%
- Don't Know/Never Heard of: 75%
Which party controls the state house?

- Republicans: 44%
- Democrats: 12%
- Don't Know: 43%
Approval of the Tennessee State Legislature

- 65% in 11-Jan
- 45% in 11-May
- 41% in 11-Nov
- 49% in 12-Feb
- 51% in 12-May
- 53% in 12-Dec
- 51% in 13-May
- 53% in 13-Nov
- 49% in 14-May

Full Sample
Approval of the Tennessee State Legislature

Democrats
Independents
Republicans
Full Sample

Approval of the Tennessee State Legislature

Democrats
Independents
Republicans
Full Sample

0%
20%
40%
60%
80%
100%

11-Jan 11-May 11-Nov 12-Feb 12-May 12-Dec 13-May 13-Nov 14-May

11-Jan 11-May 11-Nov 12-Feb 12-May 12-Dec 13-May 13-Nov 14-May

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Democrats
Independents
Republicans
Full Sample
Top Priority of the TN State Government

- **Economy**: 60% in May 2012, 50% in May 2013, 48% in Nov 2013, 48% in May 2014
- **Health Care**: 21% in May 2012, 18% in Dec 2012, 18% in May 2013, 17% in Nov 2013, 18% in May 2014
- **Education**: 12% in May 2012, 10% in Dec 2012, 15% in May 2013, 28% in Nov 2013, 27% in May 2014
Tennessee Promise

A new state law called the “Tennessee Promise” was recently passed, making tuition at all community and technical colleges free for graduating high school seniors in the state. The program will be funded by the Tennessee Lottery. Do you support or oppose this law?

86% support, 92% oppose.

83% support, 83% oppose.

79% support.
The Common Core State Standards are a set of education standards for math and English Language Arts that were developed with the goal of preparing public school students for college or the workforce. Do you **support** implementing the Common Core standards in Tennessee public schools, or do you oppose it?

![Bar Chart]

- **Total:**
  - Total: 58%
  - Democrats: 76%
  - Independents: 57%
  - Republicans: 44%
  - Tea Party: 42%

**Source:** Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, Vanderbilt University
Favorability towards the Affordable Care Act

Full Sample
Favorability towards the ACA amongst Rural, Suburban, and Urban Voters

- **All Voters**
  - Generally Favorable: 21%
  - Generally Unfavorable: 41%
  - Haven't Heard Enough: 37%

- **Rural Voters**
  - Generally Favorable: 9%
  - Generally Unfavorable: 52%
  - Haven't Heard Enough: 38%

- **Suburban Voters**
  - Generally Favorable: 22%
  - Generally Unfavorable: 43%
  - Haven't Heard Enough: 33%

- **Urban Voters**
  - Generally Favorable: 29%
  - Generally Unfavorable: 29%
  - Haven't Heard Enough: 41%
Abortion State Constitution Amendment

This fall, Tennessee residents will be asked to vote on an amendment to the state constitution that would give the state legislature more power to regulate abortions. Do you favor giving the state legislature the constitutional authority to regulate abortions, or do you oppose this?

Favor: 23%
Oppose: 71%
(VOL) Don't Know: 6%
Abortion State Constitution Amendment

This fall, Tennessee residents will be asked to vote on an amendment to the state constitution that would give the state legislature more power to regulate abortions. Do you favor giving the state legislature the constitutional authority to regulate abortions, or do you oppose this?

- Total: 23%
- Democrats: 15%
- Independents: 21%
- Republicans: 32%

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Guns in Public Parks

Do you favor or oppose allowing Tennessee residents to have firearms in public parks if they have carry-permits?

- **Favor**: 53%
- **Oppose**: 45%
- **(VOL) Don't Know**: 1%
Do you favor or oppose allowing Tennessee residents to have firearms in public parks if they have carry-permits?

53%  32%  59%  68%  72%

Total  Democrats  Independents  Republicans  Tea Party
The Tennessee State Legislature passed a law that allows for the use of the electric chair on death row inmates if drugs used for lethal injection are not available. Do you support or oppose using the electric chair for state executions?

- Favor: 56%
- Oppose: 37%
- (VOL) Don't Know: 5%
Electric Chair

The Tennessee State Legislature passed a law that allows for the use of the electric chair on death row inmates if drugs used for lethal injection are not available. Do you support or oppose using the electric chair for state executions?

[Bar chart showing percentages of support and opposition by party]

- Total: 56%, 61%, 66%
- Democrats: 40%
- Independents: 61%
- Republicans: 66%
Have you heard or read anything about plant workers at the Volkswagen factory in Chattanooga deciding not to join the United Auto Workers union?

54% Yes, have heard or read
46% No, have not heard or read
Unionization of Volkswagen Plant

Have you heard or read anything about plant workers at the Volkswagen factory in Chattanooga deciding not to join the United Auto Workers union?

Pct. Respondents who heard about plant workers’ decision

- Registered Voters: 54%
- Haslam Approvers: 54%
- Haslam Disapprovers: 61%
Judicial Selection

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?

22% Judges should be appointed by the governor
53% Judges should be elected by voters
22% Haven't thought much about it
Legalization of Marijuana

Which comes closer to your view about the use of marijuana by adults?

- It should be legal for personal use: 32%
- It should be legal only for medicinal use: 44%
- It should not be legal: 22%
Legalization of Marijuana

Which comes closer to your view about the use of marijuana by adults?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pct. Respondents who think Marijuana should not be legal</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<tr>
<td>-------</td>
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<td>22%</td>
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