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

Yes
No
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?
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

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
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.