Fall 2019 - Vanderbilt University Poll

November 19 – December 5, 2019

John G. Geer & Joshua D. Clinton, Co-Directors

December 9, 2019

1,000 registered voters in Tennessee

MoE: +/- 3.8 percentage points
Approval of President Trump Over Time by Party ID

CSDI
Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
Approval of President Trump by Community Type over Time

- Fall 2018:
  - Urban: 41%
  - Suburban: 54%
  - Rural: 65%

- Spring 2019:
  - Urban: 40%
  - Suburban: 60%
  - Rural: 67%

- Fall 2019:
  - Urban: 38%
  - Suburban: 50%
  - Rural: 64%
Top 3 Priorities of TN State Government Over Time

Which of the following do you think should be the top priority of the Tennessee state government?
Top Priorities For Tennessee State Government by Party ID

- **Education**: Total: 28%, Republican: 23%, Democrat: 31%, Independent: 32%
- **Economy**: Total: 16%, Republican: 18%, Democrat: 10%, Independent: 10%
- **Health Care**: Total: 24%, Republican: 17%, Democrat: 21%, Independent: 34%
- **Infrastructure**: Total: 16%, Republican: 10%, Democrat: 19%, Independent: 18%
- **Immigration**: Total: 6%, Republican: 10%, Democrat: 2%, Independent: 4%

*CSDI - Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions*
Perceptions of the Economy
(% Responding “Good” or “Fairly Good”)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>TN economy</th>
<th>U.S. economy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 2012</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2012</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 2012</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2013</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 2013</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2014</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 2014</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2015</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 2015</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2016</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 2016</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2017</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 2017</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2018</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 2018</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2019</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CSDI - Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions
Vanderbilt University
Responses on Debt by Party ID

Do you, yourself, currently have any loans or outstanding debt, or not? This includes things like a mortgage, car loan, student loan, medical or credit card bills, etc.

(% Responding “Yes”)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party ID</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Republican</th>
<th>Democrat</th>
<th>Independent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Responses on Debt by Community Type

Do you, yourself, currently have any loans or outstanding debt, or not? This includes things like a mortgage, car loan, student loan, medical or credit card bills, etc. (% Responding “Yes”)

- Total: 73%
- Urban: 72%
- Suburban: 78%
- Rural: 70%
Types of Debt Held by Tennesseans

Which of the following types of debt do you have, or not?

- Unpaid medical bills:
  - Yes: 71%
  - No: 28%
- Credit card debt:
  - Yes: 53%
  - No: 46%
- A car loan:
  - Yes: 51%
  - No: 48%
- A loan owed to a payday lender:
  - Yes: 91%
  - No: 9%
- A student loan:
  - Yes: 73%
  - No: 27%
- A home mortgage:
  - Yes: 55%
  - No: 45%
- Some other type of loan or outstanding debt:
  - Yes: 80%
  - No: 20%
Types of Debt by Party ID
Which of the following types of debt do you have, or not? (% Responding “Yes”)

- Unpaid medical bills: 28% (Total), 26% (Republican), 32% (Democrat), 30% (Independent)
- Credit card debt: 53% (Total), 51% (Republican), 52% (Democrat), 51% (Independent)
- A car loan: 51% (Total), 55% (Republican), 49% (Democrat), 51% (Independent)
- A loan owed to a payday lender: 8% (Total), 5% (Republican), 13% (Democrat), 9% (Independent)
- A student loan: 26% (Total), 20% (Republican), 23% (Democrat), 23% (Independent)
- A home mortgage: 55% (Total), 57% (Republican), 54% (Democrat), 46% (Independent)
- Some other type of loan or outstanding debt: 18% (Total), 20% (Republican), 15% (Democrat), 17% (Independent)
### Types of Debt by Gender

Which of the following types of debt do you have, or not? (% Responding “Yes”)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Debt</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unpaid medical bills</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit card debt</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A car loan</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A loan owed to a payday lender</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A student loan</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A home mortgage</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some other type of loan or outstanding debt</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions (CSDI)*
Types of Debt by Community Type

Which of the following types of debt do you have, or not?
(% Responding “Yes”)

- Unpaid medical bills: 28% 23% 3%
- Credit card debt: 53% 4% 56% 49%
- A car loan: 51% 45% 56% 53%
- A loan owed to a payday lender: 8% 7% 12% 7%
- A student loan: 26% 30% 24% 3%
- A home mortgage: 55% 60% 56% 49%
- Some other type of loan or outstanding debt: 18% 15% 6% 23%

Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions
Vanderbilt University
Types of Debt by Race
Which of the following types of debt do you have, or not? (% Responding “Yes”)

- Unpaid medical bills: 26% White, 39% Non-white
- Credit card debt: 53% White, 56% Non-white
- A car loan: 52% White, 48% Non-white
- A loan owed to a payday lender: 7% White, 14% Non-white
- A student loan: 24% White, 34% Non-white
- A home mortgage: 57% White, 48% Non-white
- Some other type of loan or outstanding debt: 19% White, 18% Non-white
Concerns About Personal Debt by Party ID

Based on your total family income, how concerned are you right now about each of the following financial matters? Are you very worried, moderately worried, not too worried or not worried at all.

- Not having enough money to pay for emergencies, like medical care or car repairs, in the event of a serious accident:
  - Total: 52%
  - Republican: 47%
  - Democrat: 57%
  - Independent: 50%

- Not having enough to pay for normal monthly bills, like housing, food, and transportation:
  - Total: 32%
  - Republican: 26%
  - Democrat: 37%
  - Independent: 32%

- Not having enough in savings for things like retirement or your child's education:
  - Total: 53%
  - Republican: 48%
  - Democrat: 56%
  - Independent: 54%

CSDI
Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions

Vanderbilt University
Concerns About Personal Debt by Community Type

Based on your total family income, how concerned are you right now about each of the following financial matters? Are you very worried, moderately worried, not too worried or not worried at all?

- Not having enough money to pay for emergencies, like medical care or car repairs, in the event of a serious accident
- Not having enough to pay for normal monthly bills, like housing, food and transportation
- Not having enough in savings for things like retirement or your child's education

% reporting very or moderately worried

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Urban</th>
<th>Suburban</th>
<th>Rural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not having enough money to pay for emergencies, like medical care or car repairs, in the event of a serious accident</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not having enough to pay for normal monthly bills, like housing, food and transportation</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not having enough in savings for things like retirement or your child's education</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Opinions on American Dream by Party ID

Which comes closer to your opinion?

- In today's economy everyone has a fair chance to get ahead in the long run
  - Total: 56%
  - Republican: 23%
  - Democrat: 62%
  - Independent: 20%

- In today's economy, it's mainly just a few people at the top who have a chance to get ahead
  - Total: 79%
  - Republican: 40%
  - Democrat: 70%
  - Independent: 33%
Opinions on American Dream by Community Type

Which comes closer to your opinion?

In today's economy everyone has a fair chance to get ahead in the long run:
- Total: 56%
- Urban: 49%
- Suburban: 65%
- Rural: 58%

In today's economy, it's mainly just a few people at the top who have a chance to get ahead:
- Total: 40%
- Urban: 48%
- Suburban: 32%
- Rural: 37%

Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions
Opinions on Well-being of Local Community by Party ID

Compared to five years ago, do you think things in your local community have:

- Gotten better: 43% (Total), 63% (Republican), 42% (Democrat), 15% (Independent)
- Stayed the same: 32% (Total), 24% (Republican), 32% (Democrat), 15% (Independent)
- Gotten worse: 22% (Total), 10% (Republican), 39% (Democrat), 15% (Independent)

CSDI
Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions
Opinions on Well-being of Local Community by Community Type

Compared to five years ago, do you think things in your local community have:

- Gotten better
- Stayed the same
- Gotten worse

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Urban</th>
<th>Suburban</th>
<th>Rural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gotten better</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stayed the same</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gotten worse</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CSDI
Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions

Vanderbilt University
Health Care Cost by Community Type/Gender

In the past 12 months, have you put off or postponed getting health care you needed because of the COST, or not?

(% Responding Yes”)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Urban</th>
<th>Suburban</th>
<th>Rural</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Local Problems by Party ID
How much of a problem, if at all, is each of the following in your local community? (Percent answering “Big Problem”)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Republican</th>
<th>Democrat</th>
<th>Independent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K-12 Education</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to Health Care</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of Well Paying Jobs</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of Quality Roads</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug &amp; Alcohol Addiction</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>Suburban</td>
<td>Rural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-12 Education</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to Health Care</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of Well Paying Jobs</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of Quality Roads</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug &amp; Alcohol Addiction</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Views on Federal Funding Options for TennCare by Party ID

What do you think is the better option for how the state receives federal funding for its Medicaid program, TennCare? Should Tennessee continue to receive federal funding that can increase or decrease, depending on the state’s needs but has stricter federal guidelines, or should it switch to receiving federal block grants that provide a fixed amount of money that can not be increased but allows the state more flexibility in how it spends the money, or do you not know enough to say?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Republican</th>
<th>Democrat</th>
<th>Independent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Continue to receive money as it currently does</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switch to block grants</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know enough to say</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CSDI
Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions

Vanderbilt University
Views on Anti-Poverty Federal Grant Expenditure Options by Party ID

Tennessee has nearly one billion dollars in unspent money from federal grants to help support spending on anti-poverty and child care programs in the state. What comes closest to your opinion about what the state of Tennessee should do with most of the money it has received from the federal government.

- Increase support to the unemployed
- Increase job training opportunities
- Help subsidize child care for low-income parents who are employed
- Create programs to help fight the opioid epidemic
- Do nothing and continue to save the money in a rainy day fund
- Return the money to the federal government

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Republican</th>
<th>Democrat</th>
<th>Independent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increase support to the unemployed</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase job training opportunities</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Help subsidize child care for low-income parents who are employed</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create programs to help fight the opioid epidemic</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do nothing and continue to save the money in a rainy day fund</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Return the money to the federal government</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Views on Anti-Poverty Federal Grant Expenditure Options by Community Type

Tennessee has nearly one billion dollars in unspent money from federal grants to help support spending on anti-poverty and child care programs in the state. What comes closest to your opinion about what the state of Tennessee should do with most of the money it has received from the federal government.

- Increase support to the unemployed
- Increase job training opportunities
- Help subsidize child care for low-income parents who are employed
- Create programs to help fight the opioid epidemic
- Do nothing and continue to save the money in a rainy day fund
- Return the money to the federal government

CSDI
Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
Overall, do you think Roe versus Wade – the 1973 Supreme Court decision that established a constitutional right to an abortion – (was the right decision and should be upheld), or (was the wrong decision and should be overturned)?

- Right decision, should be upheld:
  - Total: 54%
  - Republican: 32%
  - Democrat: 49%
  - Independent: 85%

- Wrong decision, should be overturned:
  - Total: 62%
  - Republican: 39%
  - Democrat: 12%
  - Independent: 41%

- Don't know:
  - Total: 5%
  - Republican: 4%
  - Democrat: 3%
  - Independent: 8%

Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions
Vanderbilt University
Views on Gun Policy by Party ID

Please tell me if you would favor or oppose the following proposals about gun policy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposal</th>
<th>Favor</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Republican</th>
<th>Democrat</th>
<th>Independent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laws to prevent people with mental illness from purchasing guns</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Making private gun sales and sales at gun shows subject to background checks</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A ban on assault-style weapons</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creating a database to track all gun sales</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Views on Nathan Bedford Forrest Bust by Party ID

Do you think a bust of Confederate Calvary General and founder of the KKK Nathan Bedford Forrest should be displayed in the State Legislature building, removed and placed in a museum, or removed and not displayed?

- Displayed in State Legislature Building:
  - Total: 20%
  - Republican: 35%
  - Democrat: 6%
  - Independent: 17%

- Removed and Placed in Museum:
  - Total: 47%
  - Republican: 41%
  - Democrat: 47%

- Removed and not displayed:
  - Total: 60%
  - Republican: 29%
  - Democrat: 20%
  - Independent: 18%
Would you support or oppose raising the legal age to buy cigarettes and other tobacco products from age 18 to age 21 in Tennessee?

Support
- Total: 68%
- Republican: 66%
- Democrat: 71%
- Independent: 67%

Oppose
- Total: 31%
- Republican: 33%
- Democrat: 26%
- Independent: 33%
Concerns about Health Care Cost by Community Type

In the past 12 months, have you put off or postponed getting health care you needed because of the cost?

- Yes: 24% (Total), 18% (Urban), 24% (Suburban), 31% (Rural)
- No: 76% (Total), 82% (Urban), 76% (Suburban), 68% (Rural)
Travel Time to Medical Care by Community Type

If you were sick and needed to see a doctor, how long would you have to drive to get to the closest doctors office or hospital?
Opinions on Impeachment of President Trump by Party ID

Thinking about the recent news about President Trump and his offer to trade military aid to Ukraine for investigating former Vice President, Joe Biden, which comes closest to what you believe?

- President Trump did nothing wrong in asking Ukraine to investigate former Vice President Joe Biden: 67%
  - Republican: 4%
  - Democrat: 25%
  - Independent: 34%

- President Trump did something wrong, but what he did is not an impeachable offense: 23%
  - Republican: 21%
  - Democrat: 5%
  - Independent: 16%

- President Trump broke the law and he should be impeached, but not removed from office: 12%
  - Republican: 8%
  - Democrat: 3%
  - Independent: 7%

- President Trump broke the law and he should be impeached and removed from office: 76%
  - Republican: 2%
  - Democrat: 32%
  - Independent: 35%

Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions