11th Vanderbilt University Poll

April 23 – May 9, 2015
John G. Geer & Joshua D. Clinton, Co-Directors

May 13, 2015

1,001 registered voters in Tennessee

MoE: +/- 4.3 percentage points
Obama Approval
Among TN Registered Voters

Source: Vanderbilt University Polls
May 2015 Poll: N=1,001; MoE: +/- 4.30%
Perceptions of the Economy

Among TN Registered Voters

Source: Vanderbilt University Polls
May 2015 Poll: N=1,001; MoE: +/- 4.30%

% "VERY GOOD" OR "FAIRLY GOOD"


TN economy U.S. economy
Perceptions of the Economy by Partisanship
Among TN Registered Voters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Democrats</th>
<th>Republicans</th>
<th>Independents</th>
<th>Tea Party Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National economy</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TN state economy</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Vanderbilt University Poll
May 2015
N=1,001; MoE: +/- 4.30%
Perceptions of State Economy by Region

Among TN Registered Voters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>&quot;Very Good&quot; or &quot;Fairly Good&quot;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eastern TN</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nashville area</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central TN (ex. Nashville)</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memphis/Western TN</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Vanderbilt University Poll
May 2015
N=1,001; MoE: +/- 4.30%
Approval of Haslam & State Legislature
Among TN Registered Voters

Source: Vanderbilt University Polls
May 2015 Poll: N=1,001; MoE: +/- 4.30%
Approval of Tennessee Senators
Among TN Registered Voters

Source: Vanderbilt University Polls
May 2015 Poll: N=1,001; MoE: +/- 4.30%
Approval of State Leaders by Partisanship
Among TN Registered Voters

Source: Vanderbilt University Poll
May 2015
N=1,001; MoE: +/- 4.30%
Top Priority of TN State Government Over Time
Among TN Registered Voters

Which of the following do you think should be the top priority of the Tennessee state government?

Source: Vanderbilt University Polls
May 2015 Poll: N=1,001; MoE: +/- 4.30%
Thinking back to what the State Legislature accomplished over the past five months, would you say that it (1) spent enough time on issues that you care about, or (2) did not spend enough time on issues that you care about?

Among TN Registered Voters

Source: Vanderbilt University Poll
May 2015
N=1,001; MoE: +/- 4.30%
Thinking back to what the State Legislature accomplished over the past five months, would you say that it (1) spent enough time on issues that you care about, or (2) did not spend enough time on issues that you care about?

Source: Vanderbilt University Poll
May 2015
N=1,001; MoE: +/- 4.30%
Many public officials in Tennessee are considering implementing “Insure Tennessee,” a program proposed by Governor Haslam that would expand health insurance coverage to 280,000 low-income people without health insurance in the state. Do you [support] neither support nor oppose, or [oppose] expanding health care coverage for low-income people in the state?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Neither support nor oppose</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>64%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Vanderbilt University Poll
May 2015
N=1,001; MoE: +/- 4.30%
Many public officials in Tennessee are considering implementing “Insure Tennessee,” a program proposed by Governor Haslam that would expand health insurance coverage to 280,000 low-income people without health insurance in the state. Do you [support] neither support nor oppose, or [oppose] expanding health care coverage for low-income people in the state?

Source: Vanderbilt University Poll
May 2015
N=1,001; MoE: +/- 4.30%
Opinion – Need for Legislative Vote on Insure Tennessee

Recently, the State Legislature and Governor Haslam disagreed over “Insure Tennessee.” Some argue that the legislature was right to not bring the proposal to a vote because some elected officials disagreed with parts of the program. Others say that the full legislature should have been able to vote on the program so that everyone could express their opinions. Do you think that the full legislature should vote on Insure Tennessee, or do you think that a vote isn't needed?

78%

Full legislature should vote

15%

Vote isn't needed

Among TN Registered Voters

Source: Vanderbilt University Poll
May 2015
N=1,001; MoE: +/- 4.30%
Opinion – Need for Legislative Vote on Insure Tennessee by Partisanship

Among TN Registered Voters

Recently, the State Legislature and Governor Haslam disagreed over “Insure Tennessee.” Some argue that the legislature was right to not bring the proposal to a vote because some elected officials disagreed with parts of the program. Others say that the full legislature should have been able to vote on the program so that everyone could express their opinions. Do you think that the full legislature should vote on Insure Tennessee, or do you think that a vote isn't needed?

Source: Vanderbilt University Poll
May 2015
N=1,001; MoE: +/- 4.30%
Favorability of Proposed Gun Control Legislation by Partisanship

Among TN Registered Voters

The Tennessee State Legislature is considering legislation on a number of issues related to gun control. Would you favor or oppose each of the following measures?

Source: Vanderbilt University Polls
May 2015 Poll: N=1,001; MoE: +/- 4.30%

- Banning anyone from carrying a gun from coming within 250 feet of a school: 50% (All), 46% (Democrats), 55% (Republicans), 30% ( Independents), 9% (Tea Party Members)
- Allowing Tennesseans to take their guns to all of the same places allowed for off-duty police: 49% (All), 49% (Democrats), 58% (Republicans), 50% ( Independents), 21% (Tea Party Members)
- Allowing Tennesseans to have firearms in public parks: 44% (All), 50% (Democrats), 49% (Republicans), 49% ( Independents), 12% (Tea Party Members)
- Banning guns on any property owned, used, or operated by schools: 42% (All), 49% (Democrats), 45% (Republicans), 30% ( Independents), 9% (Tea Party Members)
- Allowing Tennesseans to carry guns openly or concealed in public without a permit: 21% (All), 23% (Democrats), 21% (Republicans), 10% ( Independents), 16% (Tea Party Members)
- Allowing Tennesseans to purchase a gun without having a background check: 21% (All), 12% (Democrats), 11% (Republicans), 10% ( Independents), 11% (Tea Party Members)
Elected officials in Tennessee are considering raising the gas tax for the first time in more than 25 years. Revenues from the tax will help fund improvements to roads throughout the state [as well as develop mass transit alternatives that would relieve traffic]. Do you [favor], neither favor nor oppose, or [oppose] an increase in the gas tax, or haven’t you heard enough about it?

Source: Vanderbilt University Poll
May 2015
N=1,001; MoE: +/- 4.30%
Support for State Education Initiatives

Among TN Registered Voters

Of the following state education initiatives, which do you think is the MOST important?

- Improving teacher performance in schools: 29%
- Improving the state's lowest performing schools: 25%
- Developing challenging education standards: 24%
- Creating better tests to more accurately measure student achievement: 17%

Source: Vanderbilt University Poll
May 2015
N=489; MoE: +/- 6.15%
Support for State Education Initiatives by Use

Among TN Registered Voters

(1) Of the following state education initiatives, which do you think is the MOST important?

(2) Do you have children who currently attend K-12 public school in Tennessee?

- Improving teacher performance in schools: 37%
- Improving the state's lowest performing schools: 27%
- Developing challenging education standards: 25%
- Creating better tests to more accurately measure student achievement: 24%

Source: Vanderbilt University Poll
May 2015
N=489; MoE: +/- 6.15%

Has child in TN pub. schools
Does not have child in TN pub. schools

Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions
Vanderbilt University
Views on Marijuana Legalization  
Among TN Registered Voters

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

May 2014 | November 2014 | May 2015
---|---|---
Should be legal for personal use | 32% | 32% | 25%
Should be legal only for medicinal use | 29% | 29% | 24%
Should not be legal | 22% | 26% | 48%

Source: Vanderbilt University Polls  
May 2015 Poll: N=488; MoE: +/- 6.16%
Views on Marijuana Legalization by Partisanship
Among TN Registered Voters

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

Source: Vanderbilt University Poll
May 2015
N=488; MoE: +/- 6.16%
Views on “Right to Die”

Among TN Registered Voters

If a person has a disease that cannot be cured and is living in pain, do you think doctors should be allowed to assist the patient by some painless means to end their life if the patient and his or her family request it?

55% Yes
39% No

Source: Vanderbilt University Poll
May 2015
N=519; MoE: +/- 5.98%
Views on “Right to Die” by Partisanship

Among TN Registered Voters

If a person has a disease that cannot be cured and is living in pain, do you think doctors should be allowed to assist the patient by some painless means to end their life if the patient and his or her family request it?

Source: Vanderbilt University Poll
May 2015
N=519; MoE: +/- 5.98%
Recently, the State Legislature discussed a bill about a person's right to die. Which of the following comes closest to your view about what a person with an **incurable disease** should be able to do?

- **28%** Doctors should be allowed to painlessly end the person's life if the person requests it.
- **25%** Doctors should be allowed to painlessly end the person's life only if the person and the person's family request it.
- **12%** The person should be allowed to have their life ended by any means they desire.
- **31%** There are no circumstances under which an individual should be allowed to end their life.

Source: Vanderbilt University Poll
May 2015
N=482; MoE: +/- 6.20%
Recently, the State Legislature discussed a bill about a person's right to die. Which of the following comes closest to your view about what a person with an **incurable disease** should be able to do?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
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<th>Republicans</th>
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<th>Tea Party Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctors should be allowed to painlessly end the person's life if the person requests it</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctors should be allowed to painlessly end the person's life only if the person and the person's family request it</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The person should be allowed to have their life ended by any means they desire</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There are no circumstances under which an individual should be allowed to end their life</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Vanderbilt University Poll  
May 2015  
N=482; MoE: +/- 6.20%
Support for Bible as State Book
Among TN Registered Voters

The Tennessee State Legislature recently considered a law making the Bible the official state book. [Some elected officials opposed this bill because they believe the Bible deserves more respect than being listed beside the state song or state bird. Others wanted to acknowledge the importance of the Bible.] Do you support or oppose recognizing the Bible as the state book of Tennessee?

Among TN Registered Voters
Source: Vanderbilt University Poll
May 2015
N=1,001; MoE: +/- 4.30%
Support for Police Cameras
Among TN Registered Voters

Would you support or oppose requiring patrol officers in your area to wear small video cameras whenever they’re on duty?

86%
11%
0%
20%
40%
60%
80%
100%

Source: Vanderbilt University Poll
May 2015
N=505; MoE: +/- 6.06%
Support for Repeal of Motorcycle Helmet Law
Among TN Registered Voters

There is currently a state law requiring all motorcycle riders to wear a helmet regardless of age. Would you support or oppose a law making it legal for adults age 21 or over to ride a motorcycle WITHOUT a helmet?

- Support: 22%
- Oppose: 75%

Source: Vanderbilt University Poll
May 2015
N=496; MoE: +/- 6.11%