

Vanderbilt University Poll November 2013 Questionnaire



VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY POLL
NOVEMBER 2013

TOTAL N=1,002 TENNESSEE ADULTS, AGE 18+ [860 REGISTERED VOTERS]

LANDLINE, N=573

CELL PHONE, N=429

MARGINS OF ERROR: ± 3.8 PERCENTAGE POINTS FOR RESULTS BASED ON TOTAL [N=1,002]
 ± 4.1 PERCENTAGE POINTS FOR RESULTS BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=860]

INTERVIEWING DATES: NOVEMBER 20-DECEMBER 5, 2013

INTERVIEW LANGUAGE: ENGLISH ONLY

Q1. I'd like your views on some government organizations and elected officials. As I read each, please tell me if you approve or disapprove of how each is handling their job. (First,) Do you approve or disapprove of...?

- a. The job Barack Obama is doing as President
- b. The job the U.S. Congress is doing
- c. The job the Tennessee State Legislature is doing
- d. The job Bill Haslam [HAS-lam] is doing as Governor
- e. The job Lamar Alexander is doing as U.S. Senator
- f. The job Bob Corker is doing as U.S. Senator
- g. Democrats in the U.S. Congress
- h. Republicans in the U.S. Congress

- 1 Approve
- 2 Disapprove
- 3 **(DO NOT READ)** Need to wait and see/Too early to tell
- 8 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
- 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

Q2. Thinking now just about Tennessee... Do you think things in the state of Tennessee are generally headed in the right direction, or do you feel that things are off on the wrong track?

- 1 Right Direction
- 2 Wrong Track
- 8 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
- 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

Q3. Which of the following do you think should be the TOP priority of the Tennessee state government?

- 1 Health Care
- 2 Guns
- 3 Immigration
- 4 The economy, including jobs
- 5 Education
- 6 Or something else? **(SPECIFY)**
- 8 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
- 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

Q4. Which of the following do you think should be the SECOND highest priority of the Tennessee state government?

- 1 Health Care
- 2 Guns
- 3 Immigration
- 4 The economy, including jobs
- 5 Education
- 6 Or something else? **(SPECIFY)**
- 8 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
- 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

Q5. Now I am going to mention the names of some people in the news. For each one, please tell me if you recognize the name or not. How about... Do you recognize this name, or not?

- a. Ted Cruz
- b. Carrie Underwood
- c. Joe Carr
- d. James Franklin
- e. Kathleen Sebelius
- f. Chris Christie
- g. Butch Jones

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 8 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
- 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

- Q6. [Asked if answered Yes to Q5]Do you have a generally favorable or generally unfavorable opinion of....?
- a. Ted Cruz
 - b. Carrie Underwood
 - c. Joe Carr
 - d. James Franklin
 - e. Kathleen Sebelius
 - f. Chris Christie
 - g. Butch Jones
- 1 Favorable
 - 2 Unfavorable
 - 8 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know/Don't know enough to say
 - 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused
- Q7. Given what you know about the Affordable Care Act that passed in 2010, do you have a generally favorable or generally unfavorable view of it, or have you not heard enough about it to form an opinion?
- 1 Favorable
 - 2 Unfavorable
 - 8 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
 - 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused
- Q8. Some states like Kentucky have expanded Medicaid using money from the federal government to provide medical care for low-income people. Other states, like Georgia, have decided not to expand Medicaid. Tennessee has not yet decided whether or not to expand Medicaid. Do you think Tennessee should expand Medicaid coverage for low-income people in the state, or not?
- 1 Yes, expand
 - 2 No, don't expand
 - 8 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
 - 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused
- Q9. As you may know, the federal government has set up online marketplaces for health insurance that people can use to compare plans and purchase health insurance. Have you visited any of these online health insurance exchanges, such as healthcare.gov, or haven't you done this?
- 1 Yes
 - 2 No
 - 3 **(DO NOT READ)** Tried, but I could not access
 - 8 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
 - 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

Q10. Which of the following comes closest to your view, even if neither is exactly right? (I would prefer my legislators work with members of the other political party even if it means they have to compromise on some of their values and priorities.) Or, (I would prefer my legislators pursue their own values and priorities even if it means they are unwilling to work with members of the other political party.)

- 1 Work with members of opposing party
- 2 Pursue own values and priorities
- 8 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
- 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

Q11a. As you may know, Republicans in Congress and President Barack Obama failed to reach a final agreement on the federal budget in October. As a result, the federal government was shut down. Did you view the shutdown as

- 1 A crisis
- 2 A major problem but not a crisis
- 3 A minor problem, OR
- 4 Not a problem at all?
- 8 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
- 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

Q11b. Current funding for the U.S. government runs out on January 15, 2014. As a result, the federal government may be shut down again if a deal cannot be reached. In your opinion, when, if ever, would you support shutting the federal government down?

- 1 To force a deal to balance the federal budget
- 2 To force a delay of the Affordable Care Act, OR
- 3 The government should not be shut down over these issues?
- 8 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
- 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

- Q12. Congress has considered many proposals for reducing the federal budget deficit. As I read a list of ideas, please tell me if you would be willing or not willing to see each one be part of the final package that Congress considers to reduce the deficit. (First,/Next,) how about...?Would you be willing or not willing to see this be part of the final package that Congress considers to reduce the deficit?
- a. Raising taxes for families earning over \$250,000 per year
 - b. Raising the eligibility age for Medicare from 65 to 67 years old
 - c. Placing strict limits on how much money Washington will spend on Medicaid and Medicare
 - d. Freezing spending on non-defense domestic programs such as education, parks, and housing through the year 2019
 - e. Cutting spending on defense
- 1 Yes, willing
 - 2 No, not willing
 - 8 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
 - 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused
- Q13a. Next year, Tennessee residents will be asked to vote on an amendment to the state constitution that would allow the state legislature to pass laws that would make all abortions illegal. Do you favor giving the state legislature the constitutional authority to outlaw abortions under all circumstances, or do you oppose this?
- 1 Favor
 - 2 Oppose
 - 8 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
 - 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused
- Q13b. On the issue of abortion, would you say you are...
- 1 Definitely pro-choice
 - 2 Somewhat pro-choice
 - 3 Somewhat pro-life, OR
 - 4 Definitely pro-life?
 - 8 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
 - 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

- Q14. Next, please tell me which of the following two statements comes closer to your own views, even if neither is exactly right:
- 1 Today, Immigrants strengthen our country because of their hard work and talents (OR)
 - 2 Today, immigrants are a burden on our country because they take our jobs and use up our tax dollars (OR)
 - 8 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
 - 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused
- Q15. Currently, Tennessee residents can vote in either the Democratic or the Republican Party's primary on Primary Election Day. Do you think the state should change the rules and allow only registered party members to vote in the primary for their party, or should the rules be left as they are now?
- 1 Yes, change the rules
 - 2 No, rules should be left how they are
 - 8 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
 - 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused
- Q16a. Thinking about education in the state of Tennessee, specifically school vouchers, which are government-funded scholarships that support students attending private or religious schools... Would you favor a statewide voucher program, would you favor a limited voucher program for low-income families in poor performance schools, or would you oppose a voucher program altogether?
- 1 Favor statewide program
 - 2 Favor limited program
 - 3 Oppose program altogether
 - 8 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
 - 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused
- Q16b. Thinking about education in the state of Tennessee... Would you favor or oppose opening more charter schools in the state? Charter schools are public, and function independently of the local district as long as they meet certain standards set by the state government.
- 1 Favor
 - 2 Oppose
 - 8 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
 - 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

Q17a. Do you think public school teachers are currently being paid too much, not enough or about the right amount?

- 1 Too much
- 2 Not enough
- 3 About the right amount
- 8 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
- 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

Q17b. Should teachers whose students do well on statewide tests get paid more than teachers whose students do poorly on tests?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 8 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
- 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

Q18a. Tennessee has been providing scholarships to all young people who have a certain minimum grade-point-average, or GPA, and who attend college in the state using profits from the state lottery. A debate has arisen over how to hand out these scholarships. In your opinion, should scholarships be given to the very best Tennessee students who attend college in the state, regardless of need and even if they are from high-income families... or should scholarships be given only to students from low-income and middle-income families who maintain a certain GPA so that they can afford to attend college in Tennessee?

- 1 Give scholarships to very best students regardless of need
- 2 Give scholarships to students from low-income and middle-income families who maintain a certain GPA
- 8 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
- 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

Q18b. Some over-the-counter cold medicines, such as Sudafed, contain an ingredient called pseudoephedrine that is used to make the illegal drug called "meth." The Tennessee state legislature recently considered making pseudoephedrine a prescription drug to help reduce meth abuse. Do you support or oppose requiring people in Tennessee to get a doctor's prescription for pseudoephedrine drugs?

- 1 Support
- 2 Oppose
- 8 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
- 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

Q19. Do you think Tennessee should get rid of permits for carrying handguns in public, or not?

- 1 Yes, should
- 2 No, should not
- 8 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
- 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

Q20a. Do you think there should or should not be health insurance and other employee benefits for gay and lesbian domestic partners or spouses?

- 1 Should be employee benefits
- 2 Should not be employee benefits
- 8 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
- 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

Q20b. Which comes closest to your view about relationships of same-sex couples? Same-sex couples should be allowed to legally marry... Same-sex couples should be allowed to form civil unions, but not legally marry... Or, there should be no legal recognition of same-sex relationships.

- 1 Legally marry
- 2 Civil unions, not marriage
- 3 No legal recognition
- 8 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
- 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

Q21. Where do you get most of your news about politics?

- 1 Local newspaper
- 2 Local Television news
- 3 Cable news
- 4 Network news
- 5 Radio
- 6 Internet
- 7 I rarely follow politics
- 8 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
- 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

Q22a. How would you rate the condition of the United States economy these days? Is it:

- 1 Very good
- 2 Fairly good
- 3 Fairly bad, OR
- 4 Very bad?
- 8 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
- 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

Q22b. How would you rate the condition of the Tennessee state economy these days? Is it:

- 1 Very good
- 2 Fairly good
- 3 Fairly bad, OR
- 4 Very bad?
- 8 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
- 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

Q23. Do you think of yourself as part of the Tea Party movement?

- 1 Yes
 - 2 No
 - 3 **(DO NOT READ)** Never heard of Tea Party
 - 8 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
 - 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused
- Q24. In general, do you support the Tea Party movement's ideas?
- 1 Yes
 - 2 No
 - 3 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know what the Tea Party movement's ideas are
 - 4 **(DO NOT READ)** Never heard of Tea Party
 - 8 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
 - 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

REGIST. These days, many people are so busy they can't find time to register to vote, or move around so often they don't get a chance to re-register. Are you NOW registered to vote in your precinct or election district or haven't you been able to register so far?

- 1 Yes, registered
- 2 No, not registered
- 8 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
- 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

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

- 1 Democrat
- 2 Republican
- 3 Independent, OR
- 4 Something else?
- 8 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
- 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

PTYSTRDEM. Would you call yourself a:

- 1 Strong Democrat, OR
- 2 Not a Strong Democrat?
- 8 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
- 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

PTYSTRREP. Would you call yourself a:

- 1 Strong Republican, OR
- 2 Not a Strong Republican?
- 8 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
- 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

Q25 Which of the following individuals represents you in the U.S. House of Representatives?

- 1 **[NAME GENERATED FROM ZIP CODE LIST]**
- 2 **[NAME GENERATED FROM ZIP CODE LIST]**
- 3 **[NAME GENERATED FROM ZIP CODE LIST]**
- 4 **[NAME GENERATED FROM ZIP CODE LIST]**
- 5 **[NAME GENERATED FROM ZIP CODE LIST]**
- 8 Or are you not sure?
- 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

Q26 Which of the following individuals represents you in the Tennessee State Senate?

- 1 **[NAME GENERATED FROM ZIP CODE LIST]**
- 2 **[NAME GENERATED FROM ZIP CODE LIST]**
- 3 **[NAME GENERATED FROM ZIP CODE LIST]**
- 4 **[NAME GENERATED FROM ZIP CODE LIST]**
- 5 **[NAME GENERATED FROM ZIP CODE LIST]**
- 8 Or are you not sure?
- 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

Q27 Which of the following individuals represents you in the Tennessee State House of Representatives?

- 1 **[NAME GENERATED FROM ZIP CODE LIST]**
- 2 **[NAME GENERATED FROM ZIP CODE LIST]**
- 3 **[NAME GENERATED FROM ZIP CODE LIST]**
- 4 **[NAME GENERATED FROM ZIP CODE LIST]**
- 5 **[NAME GENERATED FROM ZIP CODE LIST]**
- 8 Or are you not sure?
- 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

AGE. What is your age?

- ____ years
 97 97 or older
 98 Don't know
 99 Refused

HH1. How many adults currently live in your household, INCLUDING YOURSELF?

- ____ **[RECORD EXACT NUMBER 1-5]**
 6 6 or greater
 8 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

LIVE. About how many years have you lived in Tennessee?

- ____ **[RECORD EXACT NUMBER 1-96]**
 0 Less than 1 year
 97 97 years or more
 98 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
 99 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

HISP. Are you, yourself, of Hispanic or Latino origin or descent, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Latin American background?

- 1 Yes
 2 No
 8 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

RACE. What is your race? Are you white, black, Asian, or some other race?

Do you consider yourself a WHITE (Hispanic/Latino) or a BLACK (Hispanic/Latino)?

- 1 White
 2 Black or African-American
 3 Asian or Pacific Islander
 4 Mixed race
 5 Native American/American Indian
 6 Other **(SPECIFY)**
 8 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

IDEO. 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:

- 1 Conservative
- 2 Moderate (OR)
- 3 Liberal
- 8 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
- 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

EDUC2. What is the highest level of school you have completed or the highest degree you have received?

- 1 Less than high school (Grades 1-8 or no formal schooling)
- 2 High school incomplete (Grades 9-11 or Grade 12 with NO diploma)
- 3 High school graduate (Grade 12 with diploma or GED certificate)
- 4 Some college, no degree (includes some community college)
- 5 Two year associate degree from a college or university
- 6 Four year college or university degree/Bachelor's degree (e.g., BS, BA, AB)
- 7 Some postgraduate or professional schooling, no postgraduate degree
- 8 Postgraduate or professional degree, including master's, doctorate, medical or law degree (e.g., MA, MS, PhD, MD, JD)
- 98 Don't know
- 99 Refused

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

- 1 Never
- 2 Rarely
- 3 Less than once a week
- 4 Once a week (OR)
- 5 More than once a week
- 8 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
- 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

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

- 1 Yes, born-again Christian
- 2 No
- 8 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
- 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

INC1. Before taxes, was your total household income in 2012 under \$45,000 or \$45,000 or over?

- 1 Under \$45,000
- 2 \$45,000 or over
- 8 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
- 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

INC2. Before taxes, was it:

- 1 Under \$15,000
- 2 \$15,000 to under \$30,000 (OR)
- 3 \$30,000 to under \$45,000
- 8 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
- 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

INC3. Before taxes, was it:

- 1 \$45,000 to under \$75,000
- 2 \$75,000 to under \$100,000 (OR)
- 3 \$100,000 or more
- 8 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
- 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

QL1. Now thinking about your telephone use... Do you have a working cell phone?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 8 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
- 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

QL1a. Does anyone else in your household have a working cell phone?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 8 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
- 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

QC1. Now thinking about your telephone use... Is there at least one telephone INSIDE your home that is currently working and is not a cell phone?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 8 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
- 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

L2C2HH. Of all the telephone calls that you and other people in your household receive, are...?

- 1 All or almost all calls on a cell phone
- 2 Some on a cell phone and some on a regular home phone
- 3 All or almost all calls on a regular home phone
- 8 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
- 9 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

RECON1. We occasionally have opportunities to participate in research projects in the Nashville area. Would you be interested in being re-contacted within the next 6 months to participate in a future study?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

RECON2. Thank you for agreeing to participate in future studies. Please give us a phone number where we can best reach you within the next 6 months, beginning with the area code.

- 1 Contact on same number as this interview
- 2 Gave new number
- 8 Don't know the number
- 9 Refused

RECON3. Is that number for a cell phone, or not?

- 1 Yes, new number is a cell phone
- 2 No, not a cell phone number
- 9 Don't know/Refused

THANK YOU again for sharing your thoughts and opinions!

This survey is being conducted by the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions at Vanderbilt University. If you have any questions about the survey, please feel free to contact CSDI at (615) 322-6222. Newspapers will report the results soon.

Have a nice rest of the day.