Fall 2017 - Vanderbilt University Poll

November 16 – December 5

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

December 14, 2017

1,013 registered voters in Tennessee

MoE: +/- 3.7 percentage points
Views on Elected Officials/Fellow Tennesseans Political Ideology

We hear a lot of talk these days about liberals and conservatives. On most political issues, would you consider the following elected officials/groups very conservative, conservative, moderate, liberal or very liberal on most political issues?

Source: Vanderbilt University Polls
December 2017 Poll:
N=1,013; MoE: +/-3.7%
Misperceptions of Ideological Leanings

TN Ideological Composition: Perceived vs. Actual

Source: Vanderbilt University Polls
December 2017 Poll:
N=1,013; MoE: +/-3.7%
Attitudes Toward Partisan Compromise Over Time
Among TN Registered Voters

Source: Vanderbilt University Polls
December 2017 Poll: N=1,013

CSDI
Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions

Vanderbilt University
## Preferences for Partisan Compromise by Party ID

Among TN Registered Voters

Which of the following comes closest to your view, even if neither is exactly right? (1) 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... (2) 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Republicans</th>
<th>Democrats</th>
<th>Independents</th>
<th>Tea Party</th>
<th>Approve Trump</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Work with members of</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the other party even</td>
<td></td>
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<td>if it means</td>
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<td>compromising on values</td>
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<td>and priorities even if</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>it means they are</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>28%</td>
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<tr>
<td>unwilling to work with</td>
<td></td>
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<td>the other party</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Vanderbilt University Polls
December 2017 Poll: N=1,013; MoE: +/-3.7%
Approval of Leaders Over Time

Source: Vanderbilt University Polls
Trump Approval Over Time

Nov. 2016: 60%
May-17: 52%
Nov. 2017: 48%

Source: Vanderbilt University Polls
Opinion on how Trump is changing Washington

Do you think President Trump is changing the way things are done in Washington for the better, for the worse, or do you think the way things are done in Washington will pretty much stay the same?

Source: Vanderbilt University Polls
December 2017 Poll: N=1,013; MoE: +/-3.7%
How Much of the Time does President Trump Tell the Truth?

Source: Vanderbilt University Polls
December 2017 Poll:
N=1,013; MoE: +/- 3.7%
Views on Trump’s Truthfulness

Overall, how much of the time do you think President Trump tells the truth?

Source: Vanderbilt University Polls
December 2017 Poll: N=1,013; MoE: +/-3.7%
Approval of US Congress by Party ID – May-December

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>May-17</th>
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<th>Dec. 17</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republicans</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrats</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tea Party</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trump Approval</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Vanderbilt University Poll
December 2017 Poll
N=1,013; MoE: +/- 3.7%
Thinking about the U.S. tax system... do you think it is more important to reduce personal income taxes, more important to lower the corporate tax rate, both equally or leave it alone?

- More important to reduce personal income taxes: 61%
- More important to lower the corporate tax rate: 25%
- Both equally: 6%
- Neither, leave tax system as is: 2%

Source: Vanderbilt University Polls
December 2017 Poll: N=501; MoE:+/-3.7%
Views on Tax Policy Priorities by Party ID

Thinking about the U.S. tax system do you think it is more important to reduce personal income taxes or lower the corporate tax rate?

Source: Vanderbilt University Polls
December 2017 Poll:
N=502

- More Important to Lower the Corporate Tax Rate
  - Republicans: 37%
  - Democrats: 16%
  - Independents: 41%
  - Tea Party Members: 21%
  - Total: 25%

- More Important to Reduce Personal Income Taxes
  - Republicans: 53%
  - Democrats: 39%
  - Independents: 58%
  - Tea Party Members: 6%
  - Total: 61%

- Both Equally
  - Republicans: 5%
  - Democrats: 2%
  - Independents: 10%
  - Tea Party Members: 15%
  - Total: 6%

- Neither/Leave Tax System Alone
  - Republicans: 0%
  - Democrats: 4%
  - Independents: 2%
  - Tea Party Members: 0%
  - Total: 2%

Source: Vanderbilt University Polls
December 2017 Poll:
N=502
Future of the Health Care System Over Time
Among TN Registered Voters

Which of the following comes closest to your view of the future of the U.S. health care system?

- Affordable Care Act should be repealed and NOT replaced
- Affordable Care Act should be repealed and replaced with a Republican-sponsored alternative
- Lawmakers should build on existing health care law to improve affordability and access to care
- U.S. should establish guaranteed universal health coverage through a single government plan

Source: Vanderbilt University Poll
Dec 2017 Poll
N=485, 493, 512 & 1,013
Views on Opioid Addiction in Tennessee by Party ID

Do you think the opioid addiction in the state of Tennessee is a state of emergency, a major problem but not an emergency, a minor problem or not a problem at all?

Source: Vanderbilt University Polls
December 2017 Poll: N=519

- 40% Republicans
- 40% Democrats
- 39% Independents
- 36% Tea Party Members
- 39% Total

- 43% Republicans
- 44% Democrats
- 48% Independents
- 51% Tea Party Members
- 45% Total

- 48% Republicans
- 47% Democrats
- 51% Independents
- 50% Tea Party Members
- 48% Total

- 51% Republicans
- 48% Democrats
- 50% Independents
- 49% Tea Party Members
- 50% Total

- 45% Republicans
- 45% Democrats
- 46% Independents
- 45% Tea Party Members
- 45% Total

Source: Vanderbilt University Polls
December 2017 Poll:
N=519
Views on Rural Hospital Closings in Tennessee by Community Type

As you may know, Tennessee currently has one of the highest rates of rural hospital closings in the United States due to the lack of sufficient funding. How concerned, if at all, are you about the closure of hospitals in rural communities throughout Tennessee?

![Bar chart showing concern levels by community type.]

Very or somewhat concerned:
- Urban: 86%
- Rural: 88%
- Suburban: 84%

Not too or at all concerned:
- Urban: 14%
- Rural: 11%
- Suburban: 15%

Source: Vanderbilt University Polls
December 2017 Poll:
N=1013
Views on whether the State/Federal Government Should Contribute More Funding to Keep Rural Hospitals Open

Federal Government

- Should contribute more money: 56%
- Not the responsibility of the federal government: 38%

State Government

- Should contribute more money: 71%
- Not the responsibility of the state government: 23%
Views on Illegal/Undocumented Immigrants

Among TN Registered Voters

Which comes closest to your view about illegal/ undocumented immigrants who are currently working in the U.S.? (a) They should be allowed to stay in the country and to eventually apply for U.S. citizenship, (b) they should be allowed to stay in the country only as temporary guest workers, but not to apply for U.S. citizenship, or (c) They should be required to leave the country*

* Beginning in May 2017, wording was changed from “illegal” to “undocumented” immigrants.

Source: Vanderbilt University Polls
Views on Undocumented Immigrants by Party ID
Among TN Registered Voters

Which comes closest to your view about undocumented immigrants who are currently working in the U.S. (a) They should be allowed to stay in the country and to eventually apply for U.S. citizenship, (b) they should be allowed to stay in the country only as temporary guest workers, but not to apply for U.S citizenship, or (c) they should be required to leave the country

Source: Vanderbilt University Polls
December 2017 Poll: N=489
Views on Children of Undocumented Immigrants and In-State Tuition – May/December

- Yes, they should be eligible: 66% (May-17), 72% (Dec-17)
- No, they should not be eligible: 30% (May-17), 23% (Dec-17)

Source: Vanderbilt University Polls December 2017 Poll:
Views on Charter Schools

I support charter schools: 22%
I have mixed feelings about charter schools: 20%
I oppose charter schools: 10%
I don't know enough to have a clear opinion: 48%

Source: Vanderbilt University Polls
December 2017 Poll: 21
Perceptions of the Economy

% "VERY GOOD" OR "FAIRLY GOOD"

Source: Vanderbilt University Polls
Name Recognition of Potential Candidates for Governor
Spring - Fall

Source: Vanderbilt University Polls
December 2017 Poll:
N=1,013 – MoE: +/- 3.7%

% responding yes, have heard of
Name Recognition of Candidates for Governor by Region

Source: Vanderbilt University Polls
December 2017 Poll:
Name Recognition of Senate Candidates

- James Mackler: 10%
- Marsha Blackburn: 73%
- Phil Bredesen: 65%
- Steven Fincher: 22%

Source: Vanderbilt University Polls
December 2017 Poll
N=1,013  MoE: +/-3.7%
Name Recognition of Senate Candidates by Region of State

Source: Vanderbilt University Poll
December 2017 Poll
N=1,013 MoE: +/-3.7%
Top 3 Priorities 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
December, 2017 poll; N=1,013
Top Priorities For State Government by Region

Source: Vanderbilt University Polls
December 2017 Poll:
N=1,013