12th Vanderbilt University Poll

November 11-23, 2015
John G. Geer & Joshua D. Clinton, Co-Directors

December 4, 2015

1,013 registered voters in Tennessee

MoE: +/- 3.9 percentage points
Obama Approval Over Time
Among TN Registered Voters

% APPROVE Among TN Registered Voters

Source: Vanderbilt University Polls
Nov. 2015 Poll: N=1,013; MoE: +/- 3.9 %
Approval of Haslam & State Legislature Over Time
Among TN Registered Voters

Source: Vanderbilt University Polls
Nov. 2015 Poll: N=1,013; MoE: +/- 3.9 %
Approval of Tennessee Senators Over Time
Among TN Registered Voters

Source: Vanderbilt University Polls
Nov. 2015 Poll: N=1,013; MoE: +/- 3.9 %
Approval of State Leaders by Partisanship
Among TN Registered Voters

Haslam
- Democrats: 53%
- Republicans: 64%
- Independents: 67%
- Tea Party Members: 79%

Alexander
- Democrats: 42%
- Republicans: 65%
- Independents: 52%
- Tea Party Members: 51%

Corker
- Democrats: 37%
- Republicans: 48%
- Independents: 46%
- Tea Party Members: 46%

State Legislature
- Democrats: 38%
- Republicans: 74%
- Independents: 47%
- Tea Party Members: 74%

Source: Vanderbilt University Poll
November 2015
N=1,013; MoE: +/- 3.9%
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
Nov. 2015 Poll: N=1,013; MoE: +/- 3.9 %
Top Priority of TN State Government
Among TN Registered Voters

- Economy: 31%
- Education: 24%
- Health Care: 17%
- Immigration: 13%
- Gap between rich and poor: 5%
- Guns: 3%
- Other: 5%

Source: Vanderbilt University Poll
November 2015
N=1,013; MoE: +/- 3.9%
Top Priority of TN State Government by Partisanship
Among TN Registered Voters

- Democrats: Economy (27%), Health care (25%), Education (27%), Immigration (3%)
- Republicans: Economy (38%), Health care (15%), Education (18%), Immigration (20%)
- Independents: Economy (29%), Health care (17%), Education (25%), Immigration (12%)
- Tea Party Members: Economy (30%), Health care (15%), Education (20%), Immigration (26%)

Source: Vanderbilt University Poll
November 2015
N=1,013; MoE: +/- 3.9%
Immigration as Priority of TN Government Over Time
Among TN Registered Voters

Source: Vanderbilt University Polls
Nov. 2015 Poll: N=1,013; MoE: +/- 3.9 %
Perceptions of the Economy
Among TN Registered Voters

Source: Vanderbilt University Polls
Nov. 2015 Poll: N=1,013; MoE: +/- 3.9%

Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions
Perceptions of State Economy by Region
Among TN Registered Voters

Source: Vanderbilt University Poll
November 2015
N=1,013; MoE: +/- 3.9%
Feelings Toward Political System by Partisanship
Among TN Registered Voters

Some people say they are basically content with the way the political system is working in this country today, others say they are frustrated, and others say they are angry. Which of these best describes how you feel?

Source: Vanderbilt University Poll
November 2015
N=1,013; MoE: +/- 3.9%

- 9% Basically content
- 22% Frustrated
- 3% Angry

All respondents
Democrats
Republicans
Independents
Tea Party Members
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 strongly support, somewhat support, neither support nor oppose, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose expanding health care coverage for low-income people in the state?

**Support for Insure Tennessee Among TN Registered Voters**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly or somewhat support</th>
<th>Neither support nor oppose</th>
<th>Strongly or somewhat oppose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>64%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Vanderbilt University Polls
Nov. 2015 Poll: N=1,013; MoE: +/- 3.9%
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
November 2015
N=1,013; MoE: +/- 3.9%
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?

- Should be legal for personal use
- Should be legal only for medicinal use
- Should not be legal

Source: Vanderbilt University Polls
Nov. 2015 Poll: N=1,013; MoE: +/- 3.9%
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?

Source: Vanderbilt University Polls
Nov. 2015 Poll: N=1,013; MoE: +/- 3.9%
Views on Public Officials’ Obligation to Enforce Laws

Among TN Registered Voters

Do you think that government workers should or should not be required to enforce a law if it conflicts with their [personal/religious] beliefs?

- 56% should be required
- 37% should not be required

Source: Vanderbilt University Poll
November 2015
N=1,013; MoE: +/- 3.9%
Views on Public Officials’ Obligation to Enforce Laws by Partisanship

Among TN Registered Voters

Do you think that government workers should or should not be required to enforce a law if it conflicts with their [personal/religious] beliefs?

Source: Vanderbilt University Poll
November 2015
N=1,013; MoE: +/- 3.9%
Attitudes Toward Practice of Islam

Among TN Registered Voters

Which of the following comes closer to your own view, even if neither is exactly right? (1) Muslims in this country have the constitutional right to practice their religion peacefully anywhere, just as all other religions can, OR (2) There should be laws passed that restrict the ability of Muslims to practice their religion in this country.

75%

19%

Source: Vanderbilt University Poll
November 2015
N=481; MoE: +/- 5.7%
Attitudes Toward Practice of Islam by Partisanship

Among TN Registered Voters

Which of the following comes closer to your own view, even if neither is exactly right? (1) Muslims in this country have the constitutional right to practice their religion peacefully anywhere, just as all other religions can, OR (2) There should be laws passed that restrict the ability of Muslims to practice their religion in this country.

Democrats 83% 74% 78% 57% 41%
Non-Tea Party Republicans 12% 17% 19% 74% 12%
Independents
Tea Party Members

Source: Vanderbilt University Poll
November 2015
N=481; MoE: +/- 5.7%
Views on Punishment for Drug Offenders

Among TN Registered Voters

When it comes to drug policy, should the government focus more on (1) prosecuting people who use illegal drugs, or do you think it should focus more on (2) providing treatment for people who use drugs?

33% Prosecuting people who use illegal drugs
57% Providing treatment for people who use illegal drugs

Source: Vanderbilt University Poll
November 2015
N=532; MoE: +/- 5.4%
Support for Same-Sex Marriage
Among TN Registered Voters
How much do you support or oppose allowing same-sex couples to legally marry?

Source: Vanderbilt University Polls
Nov. 2015 Poll: N=1,013; MoE: +/- 3.9%
Views on Educational Testing
Among TN Registered Voters

How important is it for public school students in grades 3-12 to take tests each school year to know if they are meeting the state’s education standards in reading, writing, and math?

- Very important: 52%
- Somewhat important: 33%
- Not too important: 10%
- Not important at all: 4%

Do you believe that students in Tennessee’s public schools are given [too many standardized tests, about the right amount of standardized tests, or not enough standardized tests]...?

- Too many: 57%
- About the right amount: 24%
- Not enough: 11%

Source: Vanderbilt University Poll
November 2015
N=1,013; MoE: +/- 3.9%
Importance of “Drive to 55” to State’s Future
Among TN Registered Voters

As you may know, Governor Haslam has established an education initiative known as the Drive to 55, which aims to increase the number of college graduates in Tennessee to at least 55% by the year 2025. Thinking about the state's long-term economic future, how important would you say it is to meet this particular goal? Is Drive to 55...
Attitudes Toward Restricting Gun Sales

Among TN Registered Voters

In general, do you think laws in Tennessee should be changed to make it easier or harder to buy a gun, or should the laws for gun sales stay the same as they are now?

- 5% Easier
- 40% Harder
- 54% Stay the same

Source: Vanderbilt University Poll
November 2015
N=503; MoE: +/- 5.6%
In general, do you think laws in Tennessee should be changed to make it easier or harder to buy a gun, or should the laws for gun sales stay the same as they are now?

Among TN Registered Voters

- **Easier**
  - Democrats: 3%
  - Republicans: 4%
  - Independents: 7%
  - Tea Party Members: 14%
- **Harder**
  - Democrats: 66%
  - Republicans: 20%
  - Independents: 17%
  - Tea Party Members: 31%
- **Stay the same**
  - Democrats: 73%
  - Republicans: 55%
  - Independents: 31%
  - Tea Party Members: 70%

Source: Vanderbilt University Poll November 2015
N=503; MoE: +/- 5.6%
Favorability of Proposals on Gun Policy by Partisanship
Among TN Registered Voters

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

- Laws to prevent people with mental illness from purchasing guns
  - All respondents: 84%
  - Democrats: 88%
  - Republicans: 87%
  - Independents: 80%
  - Tea Party Members: 81%

- Making private gun sales and sales at gun shows subject to background checks
  - All respondents: 94%
  - Democrats: 86%
  - Republicans: 75%
  - Independents: 72%

- A ban on assault-style weapons
  - All respondents: 72%
  - Democrats: 51%
  - Republicans: 44%
  - Independents: 46%
  - Tea Party Members: 27%

- Creating a federal government database to track all gun sales
  - All respondents: 62%
  - Democrats: 53%
  - Republicans: 56%
  - Independents: 33%

Source: Vanderbilt University Poll
November 2015
N=1,013; MoE: +/- 3.9%
Views on Privatization of State Services

Among TN Registered Voters

Elected officials in Tennessee are currently exploring the possibility of hiring private companies to manage the day-to-day operations of state institutions like prisons, hospitals, parks, and universities. Supporters believe this would increase efficiency, save money, and improve services. Opponents argue that this would not save money and would decrease the quality of services offered by these state organizations. What about you? Do you think the state should continue to manage these organizations or turn over day-to-day operations to private companies?

63% State should continue to manage

28% State should turn over day-to-day operations to private companies

Source: Vanderbilt University Poll
November 2015
N=517; MoE: +/- 5.5%
Views on Privatization of State Services
Among TN Registered Voters

Elected officials in Tennessee are currently exploring the possibility of hiring private companies to manage the day-to-day operations of state institutions like prisons, hospitals, parks, and universities. Supporters believe this would increase efficiency, save money, and improve services. Opponents argue that this would not save money and would decrease the quality of services offered by these state organizations. What about you? Do you think the state should continue to manage these organizations or turn over day-to-day operations to private companies?

Source: Vanderbilt University Poll
November 2015
N=517; MoE: +/- 5.5%
Do you feel that the distribution of money and wealth in the state of Tennessee is fair, or do you feel that the money and wealth should be more evenly distributed among more people?

Source: Vanderbilt University Poll
November 2015
N=503; MoE: +/- 5.6%
Views on Income Inequality as a Problem by Income
Among TN Registered Voters

Do you think the gap between the rich and everyone else is a problem that needs to be addressed now, a problem that does not need to be addressed now, or not a problem?

Among TN Registered Voters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Addressed now</th>
<th>Not addressed now</th>
<th>Not a problem</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All respondents</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-15k</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15k-30k</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30k-45k</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45k-75k</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75k-100k</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100k+</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Vanderbilt University Poll
November 2015
N=510; MoE: +/- 5.6%
Gas Tax Threshold
Among TN Registered Voters

As you may know, Tennessee is a pay-as-you-go state when it comes to transportation projects like road maintenance. This method means the state does not take on debt for future transportation projects. Well-maintained roadways are important to economic growth and public safety but recently, state officials have said that current funding sources are not enough to maintain Tennessee’s roads and bridges.

Would you be willing or not willing to pay [2/8/15] cents more per gallon on gas if it meant that more could be spent on projects to improve roads and bridges to help ensure economic growth?

Source: Vanderbilt University Poll
November 2015
N=1,013; MoE: +/- 3.9%
The Tennessee State Legislature is currently debating a proposal which would allow record keepers in the state to charge people a fee if they want to look at public records about government activities. Supporters say that charging a fee would allow the state to raise additional money for other programs. Opponents believe charging for access to public records would make it harder for news organizations and citizens to gather information about what their government is doing. Overall, do you think that state record keepers should be allowed to charge a fee to view or inspect public records, or not?

![Bar chart showing 85% No and 13% Yes]

Source: Vanderbilt University Poll
November 2015
N=496; MoE: +/- 5.6%
Support for Funding Women’s Health Organizations
Among TN Registered Voters

Would you support or oppose the Tennessee state government [providing any funding to organization that offers/funding Planned Parenthood in order to help it provide] the following medical services free of charge?

- Preventative care screenings, such as breast exams, colon cancer screenings, or pap tests
- HIV testing, counseling or treatment referrals
- Testing or treatment of other sexually transmitted infections
- Limited primary care, like flu shots
- Pregnancy testing
- Pregnancy counseling
- Birth control or contraception

Source: Vanderbilt University Poll
November 2015
N=1,013; MoE: +/- 3.9%
If the Democratic presidential primary were to be held today in Tennessee, which of the following candidates would you vote for?

- Clinton: 48%
- Sanders: 28%
- O'Malley: 3%
- Someone else: 5%
- None/wouldn't vote: 4%
- Don't know: 10%
- Other: 5%

Source: Vanderbilt University Poll
November 2015
N=346; MoE: +/- 6.7%
If the Republican presidential primary were to be held today in Tennessee, which of the following candidates would you vote for?

- Trump: 29% All Republicans, 27% Non-Tea Party Republicans, 28% Tea Party Republicans, 29% Born-Again Christian Republicans
- Carson: 33% All Republicans, 25% Non-Tea Party Republicans, 21% Tea Party Republicans, 18% Born-Again Christian Republicans
- Cruz: 25% All Republicans, 14% Non-Tea Party Republicans, 13% Tea Party Republicans, 12% Born-Again Christian Republicans
- Rubio: 29% All Republicans, 29% Non-Tea Party Republicans, 12% Tea Party Republicans, 13% Born-Again Christian Republicans
- Bush: 6% All Republicans, 4% Non-Tea Party Republicans, 6% Tea Party Republicans, 4% Born-Again Christian Republicans
- Fiorina: 4% All Republicans, 4% Non-Tea Party Republicans, 2% Tea Party Republicans, 2% Born-Again Christian Republicans
- Someone else: 7% All Republicans, 1% Non-Tea Party Republicans, 2% Tea Party Republicans, 1% Born-Again Christian Republicans
- None/wouldn’t vote: 7% All Republicans, 7% Non-Tea Party Republicans, 9% Tea Party Republicans, 7% Born-Again Christian Republicans
- Don’t know: 9% All Republicans, 9% Non-Tea Party Republicans, 7% Tea Party Republicans, 7% Born-Again Christian Republicans

Source: Vanderbilt University Poll
November 2015
N=495; MoE: +/- 5.6%
Republican Presidential Vote Choice by Feelings Toward Political System

Among TN Registered Voters

If the Republican presidential primary were to be held today in Tennessee, which of the following candidates would you vote for?

Source: Vanderbilt University Poll
November 2015
N=495; MoE: +/- 5.6%

![Bar chart showing candidate preferences by feeling](chart.png)