

Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions 230 Appleton Place 301 Ingram Commons Center Nashville, TN 37203-5721

VANDERBILT POLL: November 2011

Q1

For statistical purposes only, could you please tell me your race or ethnic background?

White/Caucasian	69%
Hispanic/Latino	6%
African American/Black	20%
Asian American/Asian	1%
Native American	1%
Other	2%
Don't Know4	0%
Declined	2%
N=1423	100%

Q3 GENDER

Male		49%
	730	51%
N_	1423	

Q4

(I'd like your views on some government officials. As I read each name, please tell me if you approve or disapprove of how each is handling their job.) Barack Obama as President?

Approve	561	39%
Disapprove	764	54%
I need to wait and see	49	3%
Don't Know	38	3%
Declined	11	1%
N=	1423	100%

Q5

(I'd like your views on some government officials. As I read each name, please tell me if you approve or disapprove of how each is handling their job.) The US Congress?

Approve	20%
Disapprove	62%
I need to wait and see	
Don't Know	10%
Declined8	1%
N=1423	100%

(I'd like your views on some government officials. As I read each name, please tell me if you approve or disapprove of how each is handling their job.) The Tennessee State Legislature?

Approve	41%
Disapprove	29%
I need to wait and see	
Don't Know	18%
Declined8	1%
N=1423	100%

Q7

(I'd like your views on some government officials. As I read each name, please tell me if you approve or disapprove of how each is handling their job.) Bill Haslam as Governor?

Approve	761	53%
Disapprove		22%
I need to wait and see		13%
Don't Know	166	12%
Declined	5	0%
N=	423	100%

Q8

(I'd like your views on some government officials. As I read each name, please tell me if you approve or disapprove of how each is handling their job.) Lamar Alexander as US Senator?

Approve	719	51%
Disapprove	388	27%
I need to wait and see		
Don't Know	198	14%
Declined		
N=	1423	100%

09

(I'd like your views on some government officials. As I read each name, please tell me if you approve or disapprove of how each is handling their job.) Bob Corker as US Senator?

Approve	46%
Disapprove	
I need to wait and see	
Don't Know	17%
Declined	1%
N=1423	100%

Q10A

In March of next year, Tennessee will hold a Republican primary election. Do you intend to vote in that primary?

Yes	58%
No	35%
Don't Know	
Declined 2	
N=	

Q10B

If the Tennessee Republican Presidential Primary were held today, who would you vote for?

Mitt Romney	11%
Rick Perry	8%
Michele Bachman	6%
Newt Gingrich	6%
Herman Cain	19%
Ron Paul	6%
Rick Santorum	1%
Would rather have another choice	13%
Don't Know	28%
Declined	2%
N=950	100%

Q10B

If the Tennessee Republican Presidential Primary were held today, who would you vote for?*

Mitt Romney	99	12%
Rick Perry	72	9%
Michele Bachman	51	6%
Newt Gingrich	54	7%
Herman Cain	178	22%
Ron Paul		6%
Rick Santorum		.4%
Would rather have another choice	74	9%
Don't Know	228	28%
Declined	12	1%
N=	823	100%

^{*}These numbers include only those will say they will vote in TN GOP primary.

011

People can use the news in different ways. How about you? Do you, personally, follow the news because...you feel you have a social or civic obligation to stay informed, or is this not really a reason for you?

Yes, it is a reason	55%
No, it is not a reason	35%
Rarely Follow	
Don't Know	
Declined	
N=1423	

Q12A

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

Health Care	 	197	14%
Guns	 	18	1%
Immigration			6%
The economy, including jobs			59%
Education			17%
Don't Know			2%
Declined to answer		7	1%
N=			

Q12B

What do you think should be the second highest priority of the Tennessee state government?

Health Care	383	28%
Guns	44	3%
Immigration	155	11%
The economy, including jobs		23%
Education		34%
Don't Know	8	1%
Declined to answer	3	0%
N=	1390	100%
V ALIVER		

Q13

Do you have any children who are currently attending public school?

Yes	35%
No918	64%
Don't Know	0.0%
N=1423	100%

What grade would you give public schools in your local school district?

A289	20%
B433	
C345	24%
D	9%
F116	8%
Don't Know	8%
Declined to answer	0%
N=1423	100%

015

One issue facing the state of Tennessee is how to select judges. Since 1970, judges on the Tennessee Supreme Court have been chosen by the Governor from a list of qualified candidates put forward by a nominating convention. The State Legislature is currently debating whether Tennessee should have voters elect judges. Some support this change because citizens rather than the governor would choose judges. Others oppose this change because it judges would have to campaign for election and it may politicize the judicial process. Which do you think – who how should judges be chosen, or haven't you thought much about it?

Governor chooses		27%
Voters choose	680	48%
Don't Know	273	19%
Declined	82	6%
	1423	

O16

Thinking of your finances these days, would you say that you and your family in your home are better off financially, worse off financially or about the same as you were a year ago?

Better off	11%
Worse off	
About the Same	51%
Don't Know	1%
Declined2	0%
N=1423	100%

O17

Looking ahead to the next year, do you think that a year from now, you and your family in your home will be:

Better off	25%
Worse off	19%
About the Same	50%
Don't Know85	
Declined1	0%
N=1423	100%

Some policymakers support increasing government spending during a bad economy to stimulate economic growth. Other policymakers oppose more government spending during a bad economy because it increases the budget deficit. How about you? Do you support or oppose increasing government spending during a bad economy to try to stimulate economic growth?

Support	26%
Oppose	
Don't Know	
Declined	1%
N=	100%

O18a

Do you think public school teachers in the state of Tennessee are over or under paid?

Overpaid	113	8%
Underpaid		71%
Neither over or underpaid	126	9%
Don't Know		12%
Declined	7	0%
N=	1423	100%

Q19A

To strengthen our economy, some people think the government needs to regulate the excesses of big corporations. Other people disagree, arguing that we have less government regulation of big corporations. Which view comes closer to your opinion, or haven't you given this issue much thought?

More Regulation	283	40%
Less Regulation		
Haven't given it much thought		
Don't Know		
Declined	10	1%
N=	715	100%

O19B

To strengthen our economy, some people think the government needs to regulate the excesses of Wall Street. Other people disagree, arguing that we less government regulation of Wall Street. Which view comes closer to your opinion, or haven't you given this issue much thought?

More Regulation241	33%
Less Regulation	
Haven't given it much thought	
Don't Know	
Declined	0%
N=720	100%

Every 10 years, the state legislature uses information from the U.S. Census to draw new boundaries for districts in the state house, state senate, and in Congress. How important do you think it is that communities and cities are placed in the same district as much as possible when redistricting?

Very important531	37%
Somewhat important	35%
Not very important	8%
Unimportant	6%
Don't Know	12%
Declined	1%
N=1423	100%

Q21A

Some believe that the Mormon religion is a cult, do you:

Agree	175	24%
Disagree	376	53%
Don't Know	 133	19%
Declined	32	4%
N=	716	100%

Q21B

Some Christians believe that the Mormon religion is a cult, do you:

Agree		22%
Disagree	393	55%
Don't Know		
Declined	35	5%
N=	720	100%

Q22

How closely do you follow news about the Tennessee state legislature and governor? Do you follow it:

Very closely167	12%
Fairly closely	
Not too closely	
Don't Know	1%
N=1423	100%

As you may know, the Tennessee State Legislature recently passed a law limiting the ability of teachers' unions to negotiate employment contracts for school teachers. How much do you approve or disapprove of this recent law?

Strongly approve	18%
Somewhat approve	21%
Somewhat disapprove	19%
Strongly disapprove	30%
	11%
Declined to answer	1%
N=1423	100%

Q24A:

Now looking ahead to next year's (2012) federal budget, do you think it should or should not...include higher income taxes on millionaires?

Yes	328	69%
No	108	3 23%
Don't Know		2 7%
Declined	4	1%
N=	473	100%
	.,,	-0070

O25B

Now looking ahead to next year's (2012) federal budget, do you think it should or should not...include higher income taxes on the rich?

Yes	308	64%
No		
Don't Know		
Declined	4	1%
N=		

Q25C

Now looking ahead to next year's (2012) federal budget, do you think it should or should not...include higher income taxes people making more than \$250,000 a year?

Yes	63%
No	
Don't Know	5%
Declined	
N=	

Q26A

The Tennessee State Legislature will put an amendment to the state constitution on the ballot in 2014 concerning abortion. Do you think abortion should be:

Legal in all81	11%
Legal in most	27%
Illegal in most	31%
Illegal in all	26%
Don't Know	3%
Declined	2%
N=709	100%

Q 26B

The Tennessee State Legislature will put an amendment to the state constitution on the ballot in 2014 concerning abortion. On the issue of abortion, would you say you are:

Definitely pro-choice	131	18%
	95	13%
Somewhat pro-life	81	11%
Definitely pro-life		49%
Don't Know	42	6%
Declined	18	2%
N=	721	100%

Q27A1

Based on state standards, what percent of elementary and middle school students in Tennessee do you think performed at grade level or better on Tennessee's end-of-grade math tests?

Between 80 and 100%	6%
Between 60 and 79 %	22%
Between 40 and 59 %	26%
Between 20 and 39 %	19%
Between 0 and 19 %	9%
Don't know	
Decline to answer	1%
N=646	100%

Q27B1

Based on state standards, what percent of elementary and middle school students in Tennessee do you think performed at grade level or better on Tennessee's end-of-grade math tests?

Between 80 and 100%	5%
Between 60 and 79 %	22%
Between 40 and 59 %	26%
Between 20 and 39 %	20%
Between 0 and 19 %	8%
Don't know	18%
Decline to answer	2%
N=646	100%

Q27B2

Now thinking about the performance of white and black elementary and middle school students, historically white students have performed more strongly on state math tests than black students. What do you think was the difference between the percentage of white students and black students who performed at grade level or better on Tennessee's end-of-year math tests?

ID 4 4 1 01		
[Rotate 1-9]	110/	
No difference in performance 68	11%	
0-5% more white students than black students were	40/	
at grade level. 23	4%	
6 to 10% more white students than black students	60 /	
were at grade level	6%	
11 to 15% more white students than black students		
were at grade level	7%	
16 to 20% more white students than black students		
were at grade level49	8%	
21 to 25% more white students than black students		
were at grade level50	8%	
26 to 30% more white students than black students		
were at grade level	6%	
31 to 35% more white students than black students		
were at grade level	8%	
More than 35% more white students than black students		
were at grade level81	13%	
Don't know	27%	
Decline to Answer	25%	
N=629	100%	
92	10070	
Q28		
What grade would you give public schools in Tennessee?		
	0	
A	8%	
B	26%	
C565	40%	
D187	13%	
F	8%	
Don't Know	5%	
Declined to answer	0%	
N=1423	100%	

Q29

What grade would you give the Tennessee Department of Education?

A81	
B356	
C511	36%
D237	17%
F	10%
Don't Know91	6%
Declined to answer	0%
N=1423	100%

What grade would you give your local public school board?

A	11%
B423	
C	
D	15%
F	10%
Don't Know92	6%
Declined to answer	0%
N=1423	100%

Q31

Should teachers whose students do well on tests get paid more than teachers whose students do poorly on those tests?

Yes	446	31%
No	828	58%
Don't Know		9%
	24	
N=		100%
11	1123	10070

Q32

Congress may vote on whether or not to reauthorize the No Child Left Behind Act in the next few months. Do you think Congress should reauthorize No Child Left Behind in a form close to its current one?

Yes	39%
No712	50%
Don't Know	
Declined8	1%
N=1423	100%

Q33

Should the state of Tennessee spend more money to expand its voluntary pre-K program?

Yes	62%
No	30%
Don't Know	
Declined	0%
N=	

Should the state of Tennessee provide publicly-funded tuition vouchers for families to send their children to private schools?

Yes	31%
No907	64%
Don't Know	5%
Declined	
N=1423	100%

Q35

Should Tennessee have more charter schools, which are independently-run public schools that operate under fewer restrictions than traditional public schools?

Yes	 •	 66	8	47%
No	 	 57	6	40%
Don't Know	 	 17	2	12%
Declined				
N=	 	 142	3 1	00%

Q36

Should Tennessee pay higher salaries to teachers who work in schools with large low-income populations?

Yes	 561	39%
No	745	52%
Don't Know	105	7%
Declined		
N=		
		, , , ,

Q37A

If the 2012 presidential election were held today and the candidates were President Barack Obama, the Democrat, and Texas Governor Rick Perry, the Republican, who would you vote for?

Obama	39%
Perry	
Don't Know	
Declined	3%
N=713	100%

Q37B

If the 2012 presidential election were held today and the candidates were President Barack Obama, the Democrat, Texas Governor Rick Perry the Republican, or a qualified Independent candidate, who would you vote for?

Obama	
Perry	27%
Independent	23%
Don't Know	
Declined	2%
N=716	100%

Q38A

If the 2012 presidential election were held today and the candidates were President Barack Obama, the Democrat and Former CEO Herman Cain, the Republican, who would you vote for?

Cain	 291	41%
Don't Know	 129	18%
Declined	 29	4%
N=	 713	100%

Q38B

If the 2012 presidential election were held today and the candidates were President Barack Obama, the Democrat, Former CEO Herman Cain, the Republican, or a qualified Independent candidate, who would you vote for?

Obama					271	
Cain					216	30%
Independent						18%
Don't Know						
Declined					14	2%
N=					715	100%
	W/ 2	l Mi	DF	DB	: 1 1 7	Γ'

Q39A

If the 2012 presidential election were held today and the candidates were President Barack Obama, the Democrat and Former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, the Republican, who would you vote for?

Obama	38%
Romney	42%
Don't Know	16%
Declined	4%
N=713	100%

Q39B

If the 2012 presidential election were held today and the candidates were President Barack Obama, the Democrat, Former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, the Republican, or a qualified Independent candidate, who would you vote for?

Obama	
Romney	25%
Independent	23%
Don't Know	14%
Declined	2%
N=716	100%

Ouestion 40A

There has been some talk about an independent candidate running for president in 2012. We want to get your thoughts on this possibility. If the 2012 presidential election were held today and the candidates were President Barack Obama, the Democrat, Former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, the Republican, and New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who would you vote for?

Obama	157	33%
Romney		28%
Bloomberg	68	14%
Don't Know	98	21%
Declined	21	4%
N=	475	100%

Question 40B

There has been some talk about an independent candidate running for president in 2012. We want to get your thoughts on this possibility. If the 2012 presidential election were held today and the candidates were President Barack Obama, the Democrat, Former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, the Republican, and wealthy businessman Warren Buffett, who would you vote for?

Obama	34%
Romney	28%
Buffett88	18%
Romney 134 Buffett 88 Don't Know 75	16%
Declined16	3%
N=	100%

Ouestion 40C

There has been some talk about an independent candidate running for president in 2012. We want to get your thoughts on this possibility. If the 2012 presidential election were held today and the candidates were President Barack Obama, the Democrat, Former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, the Republican, and Hollywood Actor, Alec Baldwin, who would you vote for?

Obama	38%
Romney	35%
Baldwin41	
Don't Know61	
Declined 29	
N=	

What political party do you think has a majority of the seats in the Tennessee state house?

Republican964	68%
Democrat	16%
Don't Know	15%
Declined8	1%
N=	100%

Q42

How much of the time do you feel that you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right?

Just about always	2%
Most of the time	
Only some of the time	56%
Or, never	28%
Don't Know	2%
Declined to answer	0%
N=	100%

Q43

How much of the time do you feel that you can trust the Department of Defense to do what is right?

Just about always	180	13%
Most of the time	516	36%
Only some of the time	592	42%
Or, never		7%
Don't Know		2%
Declined to answer	5	0%
N=	1423	100%

Q44

How much of the time do you feel that you can trust the Department of Health and Human Services to do what is right?

Just about always	8%
Most of the time	30%
Only some of the time	48%
Or, never	12%
Don't Know	2%
N=1423	100%

How much of the time do you feel that you can trust the Environmental Protection Agency to do what is right?

Just about always	8%
Most of the time	30%
Only some of the time	44%
Or, never	15%
Don't Know	3%
Declined to answer	0%
N=1423	100%

O46

As you may know, a health reform bill was signed into law early last year. Given what you know about the health reform law, do you have a generally favorable or generally unfavorable opinion of it?

Generally favorable	24%
Generally unfavorable	48%
Don't Know	26%
Declined	1%
N=1423	100%

O47

There's a proposal system called 'cap and trade' that some say would lower the pollution levels that lead to global warming. With Cap and Trade, the government would issue permits limiting the amount of greenhouse gases companies can put out. Companies that did not use all their permits could sell them to other companies. The idea is that many companies would find ways to put out less greenhouse gases, because that would be cheaper than buying permits. Would you support or oppose this system?

Support	41%
Oppose	
Don't Know	
Declined10	1%
N=1423	100%

O48

Some people feel the U.S. should try to develop a ground and space based missile defense system to protect the U.S. from missile attack. Others oppose such an effort because they say it would be too costly and might interfere with existing arms treaties with the Russians. Which position comes closer to your view:

Try to build defense system708	50%
Oppose trying to build a defense system530	37%
Don't Know	12%
Declined	1%
N=1423	100%

A lot of people think this country is on the wrong track and many reasons have been given for the current problems facing our nation. Which of the following reasons do you think is most responsible:

The lack of a third party	3%
Too much money in politics	42%
The news media	11%
The lack of good Democrat and Republican candidates	12%
Some other reason	27%
Don't know	5%
Declined7	0%
N=1423	100%

Q50

Before taxes, was your total household income in 2010 under or over 45,000?

Under	 747	52%
Over		
Don't Know		
Declined		
N=	1423	100%

Q50A

(If 50 = Under) Was it: (Read Choices)(Before taxes)

Under 15,000	212	30%
Between 15,000 and 30,000	277	39%
Between 30,000 and 45,000	197	28%
Don't Know	8	1%
Declined	8	1%
N=	702	100%

Q50B

(If 50 = Over) Was it: (Read Choices) (Before taxes)

Between 45,000 and 75,000	51%
Between 75,000 and 100,000	24%
Over 100,000143	22%
Don't Know5	1%
Declined	2%
N=646	100%

Is this house, apartment, or mobile home: owned with mortgage, owned without mortgage, rented, occupied without rent?

Owned with mortgage	51%
Owned without mortgage	29%
Rented232	16%
Occupied without rent	2%
Don't know	1%
Decline to Answer	1%
N=1423	100%

Q54

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

Very good	
Fairly good	%
Fairly bad 442 31	%
Bad	
Don't know	%
Decline to Answer	
N=1423 100°	%

Q55

When you use a telephone at home, are you more likely to use a land line or a wireless phone?

Landline more	798	56%
Cell phone more	432	30%
About the same	182	13%
Don't know	8	1%
Decline to Answer	2	0%
N=	1423	100%

Q56

Would state records show that you are currently registered to vote?

Yes	88%
No	11%
Don't Know	1%
N=1423	100%

Q57

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

Democrat	34%
Republican	26%
Independent	23%
	12%
Don't know	4%
Decline to Answer	1%
N=1423	100%

Q58A (If Q57=1)	
Would you call yourself a: (Strong means "Whatever strong means to you.")	•
The state of the s	
Strong Democrat	60%
Not a Strong Democrat	39%
Don't Know	1%
Declined	0%
N=	100%
	100/0
Q58B (If Q57 = 2)	
Would you call yourself a: (Strong means "Whatever strong means to you.")	1
Strong Republican	57%
Not a strong Republican	40%
Don't Know9	2%
Declined1	0%
N=	100%
	10070
Q58C: (If Q57 = 3)	
Do you think of yourself as closer to the:	
Republican	41%
Democrat	33%
Don't Know71	21%
Declined	4%
N=335	100%
OFO	
Q59	
We hear a lot of talk these days about conservatives and liberals. How would	l you generally describe
your views on most political matters? Are you:	
Consequetive	460/
Conservative 649 Moderate 489	46% 34%
Liberal	12%
Don't know	7%
Declined 9	1%
N=1423	100%
Q60	
Do you think of yourself as part of the Tea Party movement?	
Yes	15%
No	77%
Don't know what it is	5%
Don't Know	3%
N=712	100%

O61

In general, do you support the Tea Party movement's ideas?

Yes	
No	47%
Don't know what it is	
Don't Know56	8%
Declined8	1%
N=712	100%

Q60A

Do you think of yourself as part of the Occupy Wall Street movement?

Yes	97	14%
No	544	76%
Don't know what it is	47	7%
Don't Know	21	3%
Declined		
N=	715	100%

Q61A

In general, do you support the Occupy Wall Street movement's ideas?

Yes	31%
No	47%
Don't know what it is	14%
Don't Know	8%
Declined8	
N=715	100%

Q62

Do you feel voting in elections is a very important obligation, a somewhat important obligation, or not an obligation that a citizen owes to the country?

TAKED DIT	_
Very important1166	82%
Somewhat important	13%
Not important at all	3%
Don't Know	2%
Declined4	0%
N=	100%

O64

How much school have you completed? (Select category closest to stated answer.)

Less than High School	10%
High School Diploma or GED	34%
Vocational or Technical School	7%
Some College	22%
College	18%
Graduate	9%
N=1423	100%

Q66

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

Never	 159	11%
Rarely	 232	16%
Less than once a week		12%
Once a week		33%
More than once a week	368	26%
Don't know		1%
Decline to Answer		1%
N=		100%

O67

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

Yes	975	69%
No	402	28%
Don't Know		
Declined	20	1%
N=		

Q68

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

Very good	3%
Fairly good	
Fairly bad	32%
Bad	33%
Don't know	2%
Decline to Answer	0%
N=1423	100%

CLOSE:

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. Newspapers will report the results soon. Have a nice rest of the day.