Spring 2019 - Vanderbilt University Poll

May 9 – May 23, 2019

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

June 6, 2019

1,000 registered voters in Tennessee

MoE: +/- 3.8 percentage points
Approval of State Leaders by Party ID

Gov. Lee
- Total: 61%
- Republicans: 77%
- Democrats: 40%
- Independents: 40%

Sen. Alexander
- Total: 73%
- Republicans: 46%
- Democrats: 47%
- Independents: 49%

Sen. Blackburn
- Total: 45%
- Republicans: 14%
- Democrats: 38%
- Independents: 14%

Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions
Vanderbilt University
Opinion on How Pres. Trump is Changing Washington Over Time

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For the better</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>For the worse</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stayed the same</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>24%</td>
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As you may have heard, Tennessee’s House Speaker Glen Casada admitted to sending sexually explicit text messages to a colleague in 2016. Do you think Casada should resign from office, or not?

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Republican</th>
<th>Democrat</th>
<th>Independent</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>12%</td>
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</table>
Top 3 Priorities of TN State Government Over Time

Which of the following do you think should be the top priority of the Tennessee state government?
Top Priorities For Tennessee State Government by Party ID

- **Education**: Total 31%, Republican 18%, Democrat 33%, Independent 31%
- **Economy**: Total 4%, Republican 14%, Democrat 13%, Independent 8%
- **Health Care**: Total 27%, Republican 25%, Democrat 15%, Independent 36%
- **Infrastructure**: Total 14%, Republican 17%, Democrat 12%, Independent 22%
- **Immigration**: Total 9%, Republican 10%, Democrat 19%, Independent 0%
Feelings About Tennessee State Government Over Time

Some people say they are basically content with the way state government works today, others say they are frustrated, and others say they are angry. Which of these best describes how you feel?
Feelings About National Government Over Time

Some people say they are basically content with the way the National government works today, others say they are frustrated, and others say they are angry. Which of these best describes how you feel?
Views on the Future of The U.S. Health Care System

May 2016: 35%
Nov. 2016: 21%
May 2017: 29%
Dec. 2017: 28%
Dec. 2018: 22%
May 2019: 22%

The ACA should be repealed and not replaced
The ACA should be repealed and replaced with a Republican sponsored alternative
Lawmakers should build on the ACA to improve affordability and access to care
The U.S. should establish guaranteed universal health coverage through a single government plan

Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions
Vanderbilt University
Views on Future of U.S. Health Care System by Party ID

- **ACA should be repealed and not replaced**
  - Total: 20%
  - Republican: 28%
  - Democrat: 7%
  - Independent: 17%

- **ACA should be repealed and replaced with a Republican sponsored alternative**
  - Total: 42%
  - Republican: 42%
  - Democrat: 3%
  - Independent: 17%

- **Lawmakers should build on the ACA to improve affordability and access to care**
  - Total: 52%
  - Republican: 17%
  - Democrat: 39%
  - Independent: 7%

- **U.S. should establish guaranteed universal health coverage through a single government plan**
  - Total: 22%
  - Republican: 7%
  - Democrat: 35%
  - Independent: 23%
Views on Local Problems
Views on Local Problems by Party ID
Lack of quality of k-12 education in the public schools

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<th>Total</th>
<th>Republican</th>
<th>Democrat</th>
<th>Independent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Big problem</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small problem</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not a problem at all</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>19%</td>
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Views on Local Problems by Party ID

Lack of access to good quality health care

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Big problem</th>
<th>Small problem</th>
<th>Not a problem at all</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Republican</strong></td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Democrat</strong></td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Independent</strong></td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>25%</td>
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Vanderbilt University
Views on Local Problems by Party ID

Lack of well paying jobs

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<th>Big problem</th>
<th>Small problem</th>
<th>Not a problem at all</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrat</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>20%</td>
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Vanderbilt University
Views on Local Problems by Party ID
Lack of quality roads and bridges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Big problem</th>
<th>Small problem</th>
<th>Not a problem at all</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Republican</strong></td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Democrat</strong></td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Independent</strong></td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>23%</td>
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CSDI Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions

Vanderbilt University
Views on Local Problems by Party ID
Issues caused by drug and alcohol addiction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Big problem</th>
<th>Small problem</th>
<th>Not a problem at all</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrat</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
Views on Severity of Local Problems by Party ID

How much of a problem, if at all, is each of the following in your local community?

- Lack of quality k-12 education in the public schools: 30% (Republican), 52% (Democrat)
- Lack of access to good quality health care: 31% (Republican), 61% (Democrat)
- Lack of well-paying jobs: 30% (Republican), 59% (Democrat)
- Lack of quality roads and bridges: 35% (Republican), 46% (Democrat)
- Issues caused by drug and alcohol addiction: 72% (Republican), 71% (Democrat)

Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions
Views on Severity of Local Problems by Income Level

How much of a problem, if at all, is each of the following in your local community?

- Lack of quality k-12 education in the public schools: 41% (under $45,000), 38% (over $45,000)
- Lack of access to good quality health care: 50% (under $45,000), 40% (over $45,000)
- Lack of well-paying jobs: 50% (under $45,000), 36% (over $45,000)
- Lack of quality roads and bridges: 45% (under $45,000), 35% (over $45,000)
- Issues caused by drug and alcohol addiction: 74% (under $45,000), 68% (over $45,000)

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Vanderbilt University
Tennessee is one of 14 states that has chosen not to expand Medicaid, which would allow more low-income uninsured adults to have health insurance. Overall, do you support or oppose Medicaid expansion in Tennessee?
Support for Different Methods Designed to Limit Illegal Immigration by Party ID

Which approach do you think the federal government should take to decrease the amount of Illegal Immigration?

- Increase efforts to find and deport illegal immigrants:
  - Total: 27%
  - Republican: 41%
  - Democrat: 18%
  - Independent: 19%

- Increase efforts to prosecute employers and companies who employ illegal immigrants:
  - Total: 62%
  - Republican: 54%
  - Democrat: 68%
  - Independent: 67%

- Don't know:
  - Total: 8%
  - Republican: 4%
  - Democrat: 11%
  - Independent: 9%

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Views on Illegal Immigrants Over Time

Which comes closest to your view about illegal immigrants who are currently working in the U.S. (They should be allowed to stay in the country and eventually apply for U.S. citizenship...) (They should be allowed to stay in the country only as temporary guest workers, but not apply for U.S. citizenship...) or, (They should be required to leave the country).
Views on Illegal Immigrants by Party ID

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Republican</th>
<th>Democrat</th>
<th>Independent</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stay and apply for citizenship</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stay as temporary guest workers</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Required to leave the U.S.</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>23%</td>
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</table>
Estimates on Number of Illegal Immigrants Living in Tennessee

As you may know Tennessee currently has a population of around 6.8 million people. How many illegal immigrants do you think live in Tennessee?

- Low estimate (100,000 or less): 15%
- Reasonable estimate (100,000 to 199,999): 12%
- Over estimate (200,000 to 399,999): 12%
- Significant over estimate (400,000 to over 2 million): 50%
- Don't know: 11%

Actual Illegal alien population – 120,000 (2010 FAIR est.)
Views on Abortion when a Fetal Heartbeat is Detected by Party ID

Do you favor, neither favor nor oppose, or oppose a state law that would prohibit abortions once a fetal heartbeat is detected by a doctor or other medical professional?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Favor</th>
<th>Neither</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
<th>Don't know</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrat</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>3%</td>
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Overall, do you think Roe versus Wade — the 1973 Supreme Court decision that established a constitutional right to an abortion — (was the right decision and should be upheld), or (was the wrong decision and should be overturned)?

- Right decision, should be upheld
  - Total: 51%
  - Republican: 28%
  - Democrat: 57%
  - Independent: 76%

- Wrong decision, should be overturned
  - Total: 63%
  - Republican: 42%
  - Democrat: 19%
  - Independent: 35%

- Don't know
  - Total: 8%
  - Republican: 6%
  - Democrat: 8%
  - Independent: 4%
Views on Climate Change by Party ID

How worried are you, if at all, about the effects of climate change?

- Very worried: 29% (Total), 27% (Republican), 34% (Democrat), 23% (Independent)
- Somewhat worried: 25% (Total), 16% (Republican), 23% (Democrat), 9% (Independent)
- Not too worried: 19% (Total), 23% (Republican), 9% (Democrat), 24% (Independent)
- Not at all worried: 27% (Total), 10% (Republican), 15% (Democrat), 27% (Independent)

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Views on the Use of Coal-fired Power Plants to Generate Electricity by Party ID

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<th>View</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Republican</th>
<th>Democrat</th>
<th>Independent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strong support</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat support</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither support nor oppose</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat oppose</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly oppose</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>25%</td>
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Views on Automatic Voter Registration by Party ID

As you may know, some states automatically verify and then register eligible citizens to vote when they get a driver’s license or interact with other government agencies, unless citizens opt out. Would you support or oppose a policy like this in Tennessee?

66% Support
52% Oppose
2% Don't know

Total
Republican
Democrat
Independent

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Views on Felon Voter Registration Legislation by Party ID

The Tennessee Legislature is considering whether to make it easier for Tennesseans with felony convictions to register to vote once they complete all terms of their sentence, including parole or probation. Those convicted of murder, rape, treason, or voter fraud would continue to be permanently banned from voting. Do you support or oppose this legislation?
Views on Tax Breaks and Financial Incentives to Attract Businesses to the state by Party ID

Would you favor or oppose the Tennessee state government providing tax breaks and other financial incentives to keep or attract businesses to the state?

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<th>Oppose</th>
<th>Don't know</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrat</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>3%</td>
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Views on Same-Sex Couples & Adoption by Party ID

Do you think same-sex couples should or should not have the legal right to adopt a child?

- **Should have the legal right:**
  - Total: 59%
  - Republican: 39%
  - Democrat: 70%
  - Independent: 67%

- **Should not have the legal right:**
  - Total: 36%
  - Republican: 27%
  - Democrat: 55%
  - Independent: 28%

- **Don't know:**
  - Total: 4%
  - Republican: 6%
  - Democrat: 2%
  - Independent: 4%
Views on Medicaid Coverage for Families With Children with Severe Disabilities by Party ID

As you may know, a law was recently passed that offers Medicaid coverage for families with children with severe disabilities regardless of their family's income level. Overall, do you think that Medicaid coverage in Tennessee should be expanded to cover more families with children with severe disabilities, or do you think these families should be subject to the same income limits as all the other state residents to qualify for Medicaid.

- Expanded to cover more families with children with severe disabilities
  - Total: 72%
  - Republican: 65%
  - Democrat: 70%
  - Independent: 87%
- These families should be subject to the same income limits
  - Total: 23%
  - Republican: 27%
  - Democrat: 9%
  - Independent: 27%
Views on Childhood Vaccinations by Party ID

Which comes closer to your views about childhood vaccinations, even if neither is exactly right?

- Parents should be able to decide not to vaccinate their children even if they create health risks for other children and adults:
  - Total: 11%
  - Republican: 10%
  - Democrat: 8%
  - Independent: 11%

- Healthy children should be required to be vaccinated in order to attend public schools because of the potential risk for others when children are not vaccinated:
  - Total: 87%
  - Republican: 88%
  - Democrat: 91%
  - Independent: 87%
Support for Making Betting on Sporting Events Legal in Tennessee by Party ID

Do you approve or disapprove of making betting on sporting events legal in Tennessee?

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<th>Independent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approve</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disapprove</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>43%</td>
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Opinions on Higher Education in Tennessee by Party ID

Do you think access to higher education in Tennessee is a big problem, a small problem, or not a problem at all?

- **Big problem**
  - Total: 30%
  - Republican: 21%
  - Democrat: 46%
  - Independent: 26%

- **Small problem**
  - Total: 38%
  - Republican: 37%
  - Democrat: 40%
  - Independent: 41%

- **Not a Problem**
  - Total: 30%
  - Republican: 40%
  - Democrat: 12%
  - Independent: 33%
Support for Voucher Program by Party ID

As you may know, Governor Lee signed into law a school voucher program that would allow parents in Davidson and Shelby Counties to unenroll their child from public school and use state funds to pay for private school or other education-related expenses. Overall, do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose Governor Lee’s school voucher program?