

**FINAL TOPLINE
(5/11/2012)**

Total N=1,002 Tennessee adults, age 18+

Landline – 602

Cell Phone – 400

Margins of Error:

± 4 percentage points for results based on Total [N=1,002]

± 5 percentage points for results based on Form 1 [N=518]

± 6 percentage points for results based on Form 2 [N=484]

Interviewing dates: May 2-9, 2012

Interview language: English only

Form Split 1/2: approx. 50%-50%

PSRA Job#: 32017

Notes: Because percentages are rounded, they may not total 100%.

An asterisk () indicates less than 0.5%.*



VANDERBILT

MAIN INTERVIEW

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 [INSERT ITEMS; RANDOMIZE]?¹

	APPROVE	DIS- APPROVE	(VOL.) I NEED TO WAIT AND SEE / TOO EARLY TO TELL	DK ²	REF ³
a. The job Barack Obama is doing as President					
Current Total	43	50	1	5	2
February 2012 RVs	41	53	1	4	2
b. The job the U.S. Congress is doing					
Current Total	28	61	1	9	1
c. The job the Tennessee State Legislature is doing					
Current Total	49	32	1	17	1
February 2012 RVs	49	33	2	15	2
d. The job Bill Haslam is doing as Governor					
Current Total	61	22	2	15	1
February 2012 RVs	61	21	3	13	1
e. The job Lamar Alexander is doing as U.S. Senator					
Current Total	52	24	2	20	1
f. The job Bob Corker is doing as U.S. Senator					
Current Total	48	28	1	22	1
g. Mitt Romney as the Republican Party's candidate for president					
Current Total	37	48	2	11	1

¹ February 2012 trends are from the Vanderbilt University "2012 Tennessee Presidential Primaries Survey", conducted February 16-22, 2012 among 1,508 **registered voters** in Tennessee, reached on either a landline or cell phone. Trend question wording was slightly different: "I'd like your views on some government 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 [INSERT ITEMS IN ORDER]?"

² The abbreviation DK stands for "Don't know"

³ The abbreviation REF stands for "Refused"

Q2 If the 2012 presidential election were held today between President Barack Obama, the Democrat, and former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, the Republican, who would you vote for?⁴

<u>CURRENT</u>		<u>FEB. 2012 RV</u>
41	Barack Obama	39
42	Mitt Romney	42
2	(VOL.) Other candidate	n/a
8	(VOL.) Neither/Would not vote	10
4	(VOL.) Don't know	7
2	(VOL.) Refused	2

Q2b How certain are you that you will vote for [INSERT RESPONSE FROM Q2: Barack Obama / Mitt Romney] in November? [READ 1-3]

BASED ON THOSE WHO WOULD CHOOSE BARACK OBAMA [N=383]

<u>CURRENT</u>	
73	Extremely certain
18	Somewhat certain (OR)
6	Not certain
1	(VOL.) Don't know
2	(VOL.) Refused

BASED ON THOSE WHO WOULD CHOOSE MITT ROMNEY [N=470]

<u>CURRENT</u>	
66	Extremely certain
21	Somewhat certain (OR)
11	Not certain
1	(VOL.) Don't know
1	(VOL.) Refused

Q3 If your 2012 Tennessee State House election were held today, would you vote for the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate in your district where you live?

<u>CURRENT</u>	
38	Democratic candidate
38	Republican candidate
1	(VOL.) Other candidate
5	(VOL.) Neither/Would not vote
16	(VOL.) Don't know
3	(VOL.) Refused

⁴ Trend question wording was different: "Suppose that Mitt Romney wins the Republican nomination, Barack Obama wins the Democratic nomination, and that the general election were being held today. For whom would you vote, or would you stay home and not vote?" Results for "(VOL.) Neither/Would not vote" reflect trend results for the explicitly stated category "I would stay home and not vote".

Q4 How closely do you follow news about the Tennessee state legislature and governor? Do you follow: [READ 1-4]

CURRENT

12	Very closely
36	Fairly closely
33	Not too closely (OR)
18	Not closely at all
*	(VOL.) Don't know
1	(VOL.) Refused

Q5 Which political party do you think has a majority of seats in the Tennessee state house – [RANDOMIZE: (the Republican Party) or (the Democratic Party)]?

BASED ON FORM 1 [N=518]

CURRENT

65	Republican
16	Democrat
19	(VOL.) Don't know
*	(VOL.) Refused

Q6 Which political party do you think has a majority of seats in the Tennessee state house – [RANDOMIZE: (the Republican Party), (the Democratic Party)], neither party or do you not know?

BASED ON FORM 2 [N=484]

CURRENT

41	Republican
10	Democrat
*	Neither
49	Don't know
0	(VOL.) Refused

Q7 Which of the following do you think should be the TOP priority of the Tennessee state government? [READ AND RANDOMIZE RESPONSE CATEGORIES 1-5; RESPONSE CATEGORY 'SOMETHING ELSE' ALWAYS LAST]

CURRENT

14 Health Care
 * Guns
 4 Immigration
 57 The economy, including jobs
 22 Education (OR)
 1 Something else (SPECIFY)
 1 (VOL.) Don't know
 1 (VOL.) Refused

Q7b Which of the following do you think should be the SECOND highest priority of the Tennessee state government? [READ AND RANDOMIZE RESPONSE CATEGORIES 1-5 IN SAME ORDER AS PREVIOUS QUESTION; EXCLUDE RESPONSE GIVEN IN PREVIOUS QUESTION IF CODES 1,2,3,4,5; RESPONSE CATEGORY 'SOMETHING ELSE' ALWAYS LAST]

BASED ON THOSE WHO SELECTED A TOP PRIORITY IN THE PREVIOUS QUESTION [N=985]

CURRENT

31 Health Care
 3 Guns
 10 Immigration
 25 The economy, including jobs
 29 Education (OR)
 1 Something else (SPECIFY)
 1 (VOL.) Don't know
 * (VOL.) Refused

Q8 In the past legislative session, do you think the state legislature: [READ 1-3]

BASED ON FORM 1 [N=518]

CURRENT

42 Spent too much time addressing social, cultural or religious issues (OR)
 15 Spent the appropriate amount of time addressing social, cultural or religious issues (OR)
 22 Spent too little time addressing social, cultural or religious issues
 19 (VOL.) Don't know
 2 (VOL.) Refused

Q9 In the past legislative session, do you think the state legislature: [READ 1-3]
 BASED ON FORM 2 [N=484]

CURRENT

5	Spent too much time addressing economic issues (OR)
20	Spent the appropriate amount of time addressing economic issues (OR)
56	Spent too little time addressing economic issues
18	(VOL.) Don't know
1	(VOL.) Refused

[READ TO ALL:] On a different subject...

Q10 How would you rate the condition of the Tennessee state economy these days? Is it:
 [READ AND RANDOMIZE HALF 1-4 / HALF 4-1]

CURRENT

3	Very Good
40	Fairly Good
35	Fairly Bad (OR)
20	Very Bad
1	(VOL.) Don't know
1	(VOL.) Refused

Q11 Who do you think is more responsible for the current condition of the state economy:
 [READ AND RANDOMIZE 1-4; RANDOMIZE 3-4 AS A PAIR IN RANDOM ORDER WITHIN THE PAIR]

CURRENT

29	President Obama
12	Governor Haslam
8	The Democrats in the State Legislature (OR)
26	The Republicans in the State Legislature
16	(VOL.) Don't know
7	(VOL.) Refused

Q12 How would you rate the condition of the United States economy these days? Is it: [READ AND RANDOMIZE HALF 1-4 / HALF 4-1; SAME ORDER AS Q10]

CURRENT

FEB. 2012 RV

2	Very Good	3
21	Fairly Good	21
40	Fairly Bad (OR)	36
36	Very Bad	38
1	(VOL.) Don't know	1
1	(VOL.) Refused	1

Q13 Thinking of your finances these days, would you say that you and your household are:
[READ 1-3]

CURRENT

18	Better off financially than a year ago
31	Worse off financially (OR)
50	About the same as a year ago
1	(VOL.) Don't know
*	(VOL.) Refused

Q14 Thinking of education, what grade would you give public schools in Tennessee? [READ 1-5]

CURRENT

7	A
26	B
38	C
15	D (OR)
8	F
5	(VOL.) Don't know
*	(VOL.) Refused

Q15 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. Do you strongly approve, somewhat approve, somewhat DISapprove or strongly disapprove of this recent law?

BASED ON FORM 1 [N=518]

CURRENT

17	Strongly Approve
21	Somewhat Approve
22	Somewhat Disapprove
30	Strongly Disapprove
1	(VOL.) Never heard of law/legislation
8	(VOL.) Don't know
2	(VOL.) Refused

Q16 Should teachers whose students do well on tests get paid more than teachers whose students do poorly on tests?

BASED ON FORM 2 [N=484]

CURRENT

34	Yes
56	No
8	(VOL.) Don't know
2	(VOL.) Refused

Q17 Still thinking about education... The Tennessee State Legislature also passed a law that makes it illegal for officials in public schools to stop teachers from critiquing or reviewing the scientific strengths and weaknesses of theories such as evolution and global warming. Overall, do you support this legislation, or not... or have you never heard of this law?

CURRENT

18	Yes, support
30	No, do not support
48	Never heard of law/legislation
2	(VOL.) Don't know
1	(VOL.) Refused

Q18 Which comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right? Teachers and counselors in Tennessee public elementary and middle schools should: [READ 1-2]

CURRENT

41	Be prohibited from providing any information that mentions sexual orientation other than heterosexuality (OR)
48	Should they be allowed to mention other sexual orientations
7	(VOL.) Don't know
3	(VOL.) Refused

Q19 The State Legislature passed a law requiring Tennesseans to provide state-issued photo identification such as a driver's license before being allowed to vote on Election Day. Overall, do you support this legislation, or not... or have you never heard of this law?

CURRENT

64	Yes, support
20	No, do not support
14	Never heard of law/legislation
1	(VOL.) Don't know
1	(VOL.) Refused

Q20 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 voters elect state judges. Some support this change because citizens rather than the governor would choose judges. Others oppose this change because judges would have to campaign for election and it might politicize the political process. Which do you think – should state judges be chosen by the governor or by voters, or haven't you thought much about it?

BASED ON FORM 1 [N=518]

CURRENT

25	Governor chooses
48	Voters choose
25	Have not thought much about it
1	(VOL.) Don't know
*	(VOL.) Refused

Q21 The Tennessee State Legislature has passed a bill that would make it easier for state employees to be hired and fired and allow for more targeted raises for workers. Supporters say the legislation allows Tennessee to better retain and reward dedicated and hard-working state employees. Opponents say it reduces objectivity in state hiring practices and could lead to political favoritism. Thinking of such a law, do you: [READ 1-5]

BASED ON FORM 2 [N=484]

CURRENT

11	Strongly favor
21	Somewhat favor
30	Neither favor nor oppose
18	Somewhat oppose (OR)
14	Strongly oppose this law
6	(VOL.) Don't know
*	(VOL.) Refused

Q22 The Tennessee Legislature has passed a law that limits the amount a person could be awarded for pain and suffering in a lawsuit because of injuries resulting from medical malpractice, auto accidents, or unsafe products. The limit would be \$750,000. Supporters say a limit keeps insurance costs down, which allows businesses to hire more workers. Opponents say a limit is unfair to seriously injured persons, and does not discourage careless or reckless behavior. Which is closer to your view?

CURRENT

38	A limit on pain and suffering damages is needed to save money and create jobs
53	A limit on pain and suffering damages is unfair to seriously injured persons
7	(VOL.) Don't know
1	(VOL.) Refused

Q23 The Tennessee legislature recently debated state taxes on inheritances. In your opinion, what is the smallest inheritance or estate that should be subject to a state tax: [READ 1-5]

BASED ON FORM 1 [N=518]

CURRENT

10	Five-hundred thousand dollars
8	One million dollars
2	Two million dollars
2	Five million dollars (OR)
72	Should inheritances not be taxed
0	(VOL.) All inheritances should be taxed regardless of amount
6	(VOL.) Don't know
1	(VOL.) Refused

Q24 Looking at this year's federal budget, do you think it should or should not include higher taxes for families with household incomes of \$250,000 and above?

BASED ON FORM 2 [N=484]

CURRENT

58	Yes, should
37	No, should not
5	(VOL.) Don't know
1	(VOL.) Refused

Q25 Some Tennessee communities are passing laws that ban discrimination by city contractors against gay, lesbian, and transgendered people. Thinking of such a law, do you: [READ 1-5]

CURRENT

21	Strongly favor
11	Somewhat favor
22	Neither favor nor oppose
13	Somewhat oppose (OR)
25	Strongly oppose such a law
6	(VOL.) Don't know
1	(VOL.) Refused

Q26 As you may know, the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments in March this year about the new federal health care law. If you had to choose, would you rather the Supreme Court: [READ 1-3]

BASED ON FORM 1 [N=518]

CURRENT

26	Leave the health care law as is
12	Overturn the requirement that everyone buy health insurance but keep other parts (OR)
50	Throw out the entire law
9	(VOL.) Don't know
3	(VOL.) Refused

Q27 As you may know, a health care reform bill was signed into federal law in 2010. Given what you know about the health care reform law, do you have a generally favorable or generally unfavorable opinion of it?

BASED ON FORM 2 [N=484]

CURRENT

27	Generally Favorable
55	Generally Unfavorable
16	(VOL.) Don't know
2	(VOL.) Refused

Q28 Do you approve or disapprove of a provision in the 2010 health care law that allows children to stay on their parents' health insurance until the age of 26?

BASED ON FORM 1 [N=518]

CURRENT

73	Approve
24	Disapprove
3	(VOL.) Don't know
1	(VOL.) Refused

Q29 Do you approve or disapprove of a provision in the 2010 health care law that prohibits health insurance companies from charging some customers higher premiums based on pre-existing conditions or medical history?

BASED ON FORM 2 [N=484]

CURRENT

35	Approve
59	Disapprove
6	(VOL.) Don't know
1	(VOL.) Refused

Q30 Which is more important to you: [READ 1-2]

BASED ON FORM 1 [N=518]

CURRENT

- | | |
|----|---|
| 22 | Protecting the rights of handgun owners to carry their weapons into any commercial establishment (OR) |
| 71 | Protecting the rights of business owners to set their own rules for their business operations |
| 6 | (VOL.) Don't know |
| 1 | (VOL.) Refused |

Q31 Do you think the state of Tennessee should get rid of permits for carrying handguns in public, or not?

BASED ON FORM 2 [N=484]

CURRENT

- | | |
|----|-------------------|
| 26 | Yes, should |
| 70 | No, should not |
| 4 | (VOL.) Don't know |
| 1 | (VOL.) Refused |

Q32 Next, please tell me which of the following two statements comes closer to your own views, even if neither is exactly right: [READ AND RANDOMIZE 1-2]

CURRENT

- | | |
|----|--|
| 34 | Today, immigrants strengthen our country because of their hard work and talents (OR) |
| 57 | Today, immigrants are a burden on our country because they take our jobs and use up our tax dollars (OR) |
| 5 | (VOL.) Don't know |
| 4 | (VOL.) Refused |

Q33 Do you think abortion should be...[READ 1-3]

BASED ON FORM 1 [N=518]

CURRENT

- | | |
|----|---|
| 34 | Legal in all cases |
| 44 | Legal only in cases of rape, incest, or when the life of the mother is in jeopardy (OR) |
| 16 | Illegal in all cases |
| 4 | (VOL.) Don't know |
| 2 | (VOL.) Refused |

Q34 On the issue of abortion, would you say you are: [READ AND RANDOMIZE HALF 1-4 / HALF 4-1]

BASED ON FORM 2 [N=484]

<u>CURRENT</u>	
23	Definitely pro-choice
14	Somewhat pro-choice
10	Somewhat pro-life (OR)
45	Definitely pro-life
4	(VOL.) Don't know
3	(VOL.) Refused

Q35 To what political party does your Congressman in the U.S. House of Representatives belong? [RANDOMIZE: (The Republican Party) or (The Democratic Party)] or Independent?

BASED ON FORM 1 [N=518]

<u>CURRENT</u>	
45	Republican
20	Democrat
13	Independent
21	(VOL.) Don't know
1	(VOL.) Refused

Q36 Can you tell me the name of your Congressman in the U.S. House of Representatives?

BASED ON FORM 2 [N=484]

<u>CURRENT</u>	
29	[OPEN-END; RECORD NAME]
66	(VOL.) Don't know
5	(VOL.) Refused

Q37 To what political party does your State Senator in the Tennessee State Senate belong? [RANDOMIZE IN SAME ORDER AS Q35: (The Republican Party) or (The Democratic Party)] or Independent?

BASED ON FORM 1 [N=518]

<u>CURRENT</u>	
52	Republican
16	Democrat
6	Independent
26	(VOL.) Don't know
1	(VOL.) Refused

Q38 Can you tell me the name of your Senator in the Tennessee State Senate?

BASED ON FORM 2 [N=484]

CURRENT

25	[OPEN-END; RECORD NAME]
72	(VOL.) Don't know
3	(VOL.) Refused

Q39 What political party is your Representative in the Tennessee House of Representatives affiliated with? [IF FORM 1, RANDOMIZE IN SAME ORDER AS Q35; IF FORM 2, RANDOMIZE: (The Republican Party) or (The Democratic Party)] or Independent?

CURRENT

45	Republican
22	Democrat
7	Independent
25	(VOL.) Don't know
1	(VOL.) Refused

Q40 Can you tell me the name of your Representative in the Tennessee House of Representatives?

CURRENT

21	[OPEN-END; RECORD NAME]
75	(VOL.) Don't know
3	(VOL.) Refused

Q41 Do you think of yourself as part of the Tea Party movement?

CURRENT

13	Yes
76	No
3	(VOL.) Never heard of Tea Party
7	(VOL.) Don't know
1	(VOL.) Refused



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