

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%
Female	730	51%
N=		100%

# **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		54%
I need to wait and see		3%
Don't Know	 38	3%
Declined	 11	1%
N=		
TO TO THE TOTAL		

### **O5**

(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	8%
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	
I need to wait and see	
Don't Know	
Declined8	
N=1423	

## **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		
N=1	123	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.) Lamar Alexander as US Senator?

Approve	719	51%
Disapprove	388	27%
I need to wait and see		
Don't Know	198	14%
Declined	7	1%
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	27%
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	0%
N=1423	100%

# Q10B

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

Mitt Romney	11%
Rick Perry	8%
Michele Bachman 54	6%
Newt Gingrich	6%
Herman Cain	19%
Ron Paul60	6%
Rick Santorum	1%
Would rather have another choice	13%
Don't Know	28%
Declined	2%
N=950	100%

## Q11

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	
Rarely Follow	8%
Don't Know	
Declined 6	0%
N=1423	100%

# Q12A

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

Health Care	14%
Guns	1%
Immigration90	6%
The economy, including jobs	59%
Education	17%
Don't Know	2%
Declined to answer	1%
N=1423	100%

## **O12B**

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

Health Care	28%
Guns	3%
Immigration	11%
The economy, including jobs	23%
Education	34%
Don't Know8	1%
Declined to answer	0%
N=	100%

# **Q20**

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 important	531	37%
	504	35%
Not very important	120	8%
Unimportant	83	6%
	170	12%
Declined	16	1%
N=	1423	100%

## **Q21B**

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

Agree	22%
Disagree	
Don't Know	19%
Declined	
N=720	

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

Very closely	12%
Fairly closely	40%
Not too closely	34%
Not too closely at all	
Don't Know	1%
N=	100%

## **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 most190	27%
Illegal in most	31%
Illegal in all	26%
Don't Know	3%
Declined	2%
N=709	100%

### O 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-choice13118%Somewhat pro-choice9513%Somewhat pro-life8111%Definitely pro-life35549%
1
Definitely pro life 355 40%
Definitely pro-life
Don't Know
Declined
N=721 100%

# **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	40%
Independent	17%
Don't Know	
N=713	

# 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	14%
Declined	2%
N=716	100%

## **O38A**

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?

Obama	37%
Cain	41%
Independent	18%
Don't Know	
N=713	

## 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	38%
Cain	216	30%
Independent	127	18%
Don't Know		12%
Declined	 14	2%
N=	715	100%

## 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	273	38%
Romney		
Independent		
Don't Know		
N=	713	100%

### **O39B**

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	
Romney	28%
Bloomberg	
Don't Know	21%
Declined21	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%
Buffett	88	18%
Don't Know	75	16%
Declined	16	3%
N=	474	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%
Baldwin	8%
Romney       167         Baldwin       41         Don't Know       61	13%
Declined	6%
N=481	100%

# Q41

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=1423	100%

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	13%
Only some of the time	56%
Or, never	28%
Don't Know	2%
Declined to answer1	0%
N=1423	

## 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	13%
Most of the time	36%
Only some of the time	2 42%
Or, never	7%
Don't Know30	
Declined to answer	5 0%
N=	3 100%

# 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	115 8%
Most of the time	
Only some of the time	677 48%
Or, never	172 12%
Don't Know	30 2%
N=	

# Q45

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 time631	44%
Or, never	15%
Don't Know	3%
Declined to answer	0%
N=1423	100%

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	
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	589	41%
	650	
Don't Know		12%
Declined	10	1%
	1423	

## **Q48**

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 system	50%
Oppose trying to build a defense system	
Don't Know	
Declined	1%
N=1423	100%

## 049

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 161	11%
The lack of good Democrat and Republican candidates	12%
Some other reason	27%
Don't know	5%
Declined	0%
N=1423	100%

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

Under       747         Over       597         Don't Know       33         Declined       46         N=       1423	52% 42% 2% 3% 100%	
Q50A		
(If 50 = Under) Was it: (Read Choices)(Before taxes)		
Under 15,000       212         Between 15,000 and 30,000       277         Between 30,000 and 45,000       197         Don't Know       8         Declined       8         N=       702	30% 39% 28% 1% 1% 100%	
Q50B		
(If 50 = Over) Was it: (Read Choices) (Before taxes)		
Between 45,000 and 75,000       331         Between 75,000 and 100,000       155         Over 100,000       143         Don't Know       5         Declined       13	51% 24% 22% 1% 2%	

## Q53

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

Owned with mortgage721	51%
Owned without mortgage	29%
Rented232	16%
Occupied without rent	2%
Don't know	1%
Decline to Answer	1%
N=1423	100%

N=......646

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

Landline more	56%
Cell phone more	30%
About the same 182	13%
Don't know8	1%
Decline to Answer	0%
N=	100%

100%

**Q56** Would state records show that you are currently registered to vote?

Yes       1256         No       156         Don't Know       11         N=       1423	88% 11% 1% 100%	
Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a:		
Democrat       487         Republican       367         Independent       330         Something else       173         Don't know       50         Decline to Answer       16         N=       1423	34% 26% 23% 12% 4% 1% 100%	
<b>Q58A</b> (If Q57=1) Would you call yourself a: (Strong means "Whatever strong means to you.")		
Strong Democrat.       282         Not a Strong Democrat       182         Don't Know       5         Declined       2         N=       471	60% 39% 1% 0% 100%	
<b>Q58B</b> (If Q57 = 2) Would you call yourself a: (Strong means "Whatever strong means to you.")		
Strong Republican       225         Not a strong Republican       158         Don't Know       9         Declined       1         N=       393	57% 40% 2% 0% 100%	
<b>Q58C:</b> (If Q57 = 3) Do you think of yourself as closer to the:		
Republican       138         Democrat       111         Don't Know       71         Declined       15         N=       335	41% 33% 21% 4% 100%	

We hear a lot of talk these days about conservatives and liberals. How would you generally describe your views on most political matters? Are you:

46%

Moderate	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%	
Q61 In general, do you support the Tea Party movement's ideas?		
Yes	35%	
No336	47%	
Don't know what it is	8%	
Don't Know 56	8%	
Declined 8	1%	
N=	100%	
19	100%	

# **Q60A**

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

Yes	14%
No544	76%
Don't know what it is	7%
Don't Know	3%
Declined 6	1%
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	1%
N=715	100%

## **O62**

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?

Very important	82%
Somewhat important	13%
Not important at all	3%
Don't Know	
Declined 4	0%
N=1423	100%

## Q64

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

Less than High School	136	10%
High School Diploma or GED		34%
Vocational or Technical School		7%
Some College	312	22%
College	255	18%
Graduate	133	9%
N=1	423	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	170	12%
Once a week	473	33%
More than once a week		26%
Don't know		1%
Decline to Answer	9	1%
N=		100%

## **Q67**

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

Yes	69%
No	
Don't Know	2%
Declined	1%
N=1423	100%