



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
Department of Political Science

## Earl Survey Research Lab™

### Political Science Class Survey, Spring 2014 - Post-Primary Election CODEBOOK

The following results are updated as of April 23, 2014 to conform with adjustments made to the statistical weighting of the data. This was a Telephone survey of adults 18 years old and older in the state of Texas. Fielded Thursday, March 6 – April 3, 2014. N=454 with a margin of error of  $\pm 4.6\%$ . Further details about the methodology appear at the end.

The percentages for the response options exclude those answering "Don't Know."

#### Introduction 1 (landline version)

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. I'm a student at Texas Tech University, and we are conducting a short research survey about issues facing Texas for a political science class. I would like to speak with an adult living in this household who has had the most recent birthday.

- 1 Adult living in this household who has had the most recent birthday is on the phone
- 2 Respondent not available now
  
- 6 Language barrier, too ill, hearing impaired, no adults live in household
- 9 Refused

#### Introduction 2 (cell phone version)

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. I'm a student at Texas Tech University, and we are conducting a short research survey about issues facing Texas for a political science class. I would like to speak with an adult living in this household.

- 1 Adult living in this household is on the phone
- 2 Respondent not available now
  
- 6 Language barrier, too ill, hearing impaired, no adults live in household
- 9 Refused

**Question [AGREE]**

Your number was selected at random and your answers will be completely confidential. Participation is voluntary. If I ask a question you do not want to answer, just let me know and I'll go on to the next one. This survey has been approved by the university's research review board, and it should only take less than 10 minutes. This study is being overseen by the Texas Tech Earl Survey Research Lab and the information we collect may be used for research at the University.

- 1 CONTINUE
- 2 REFUSE

**Q1** If the election for Texas Governor was held today, would you vote for Democrat Wendy Davis or Republican Greg Abbott, or some other party/candidate, or are you not sure?  
[ROTATED]

- 1 Democrat Wendy Davis – 157 (41%)
- 2 Republican Greg Abbott – 192 (51%)
- 3 Some other party/candidate – 31 (8%)

- 8 DK
- 9 REF

**Q2** Do you approve or disapprove of the way **Barack Obama** is handling his job as President of the United States?

[CALLER: 'If not sure/don't know,' probe with, "It doesn't have to be specific, just in general, would you say more approve or more disapprove?"]

- 1 Approve – 152 (36%)
- 2 Disapprove – 274 (64%)

- 8 DK
- 9 REF

**Q3** Do you approve or disapprove of the way **Ted Cruz** is handling his job as a United States Senator for Texas?

[CALLER: 'If not sure/don't know,' probe with, "It doesn't have to be specific, just in general, would you say more approve or more disapprove?"]

1 Approve – 213 (58 %)  
2 Disapprove – 154 (42%)

8 DK  
9 REF

**Q4** Do you approve or disapprove of the way **John Cornyn** is handling his job as a United States Senator for Texas?

[CALLER: 'If not sure/don't know,' probe with, "It doesn't have to be specific, just in general, would you say more approve or more disapprove?"]

1 Approve – 198 (64%)  
2 Disapprove – 114 (36%)

8 DK  
9 REF

**Q5** Do you approve or disapprove of the way **Rick Perry** is handling his job as Governor of Texas?

[CALLER: 'If not sure/don't know,' probe with, "It doesn't have to be specific, just in general, would you say more approve or more disapprove?"]

1 Approve – 251 (59%)  
2 Disapprove – 173 (41%)

8 DK  
9 REF

**Q6** Lately there has been a lot of discussion about states passing photo ID laws as a requirement for voting. **Texas** now requires voters to show a photo ID prior to voting. What best describes your opinion of this type of law?

--It is mainly used to prevent fraud when people vote at the polls

**OR**

--It is mainly used to make it harder for some groups to vote

1 Mainly used to prevent fraud – 326 (75%)

2 Mainly used to make it harder for some to vote – 110 (25%)

8 DK

9 REF

**Q7** Do you think marriages between gay and lesbian couples should or should not be recognized by the law as valid, with the same rights as traditional marriages?

1 Should be recognized as valid – 221 (53%)

2 Should NOT be recognized as valid – 197 (47%)

8 DK

9 REF

**Q8** Recently, a federal judge in San Antonio declared that the ban on gay marriage in Texas was unconstitutional. Were you aware of this court ruling on gay marriage in Texas?

1 Yes, I was aware – 272 (60%)

2 No, I was NOT aware – 182 (40%)

8 DK

9 REF

**Q9.** In thinking about the recent Texas primary elections held on **Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>**, which statement best describes you?

- 1 I voted in person on election day – 104 (23%)
- 2 I voted in person during the early voting period – 98 (22%)
- 3 I voted absentee ballot by mail – 17 (4%)
- 4 I tried to vote but was turned away at the polls – 6 (1%)
- 5 I did not vote in the primary elections – 226 (50%)

8 DK  
9 REF

*If 1, 2, or 4, skip to Q9a.  
If 3, 5, 8, or 9, skip to Q10.*

**Q9a** Did you encounter any problems being able to vote when providing a photo identification at the polls?

- 1 No, I had NO problems when presenting my photo ID – 206 (96%)
- 2 Yes, I had problems with my photo ID, and I had to cast a provisional ballot – 2 (0.7%)
- 3 Yes, I had problems with my photo ID, but I was able to resolve those problems and eventually vote normally – 5 (2%)
- 4 Yes, I had problems with my photo ID and was not allowed to vote – 3 (1%)

8 DK  
9 REF

**Q10** Do you generally approve or disapprove of the 2010 Affordable Care Act, signed into law by President Obama that restructured the U.S. health care system?

[CALLER: 'If not sure/don't know,' probe with, "It doesn't have to be specific, just in general, would you say more approve or more disapprove?"]

- 1 Approve – 137 (32%)
- 2 Disapprove – 287 (68%)

8 DK  
9 REF

**Q11** Which comes closest to your view about **illegal immigrants** who are currently living in the United States? They should be allowed to stay in the United States and to eventually apply for U.S. citizenship. **OR** They should be allowed to remain in the United States, but NOT be allowed to apply for U.S. citizenship. **OR** They should be required to leave the U.S. **OR** you don't know enough to say.

- 1 Stay, apply for citizenship – 271 (61%)
- 2 Remain, not apply for citizenship – 32 (7%)
- 3 Be required to leave – 86 (19%)
- 4 Don't know enough to say – 55 (12%)

9 REF

**Q12** As you may know, the federal government's National Security Agency collects all telephone records on who you have called and who has called you, as well as information on the date and location of your phone calls; but, the government does not listen to these phone calls. Do you believe this program is necessary to fight terrorism, or do you believe this program goes too far in violating peoples' privacy rights? **[ROTATED]**

- 1 Necessary to fight terrorism – 187 (44%)
- 2 Goes too far and violates peoples' privacy rights – 235 (56%)

8 DK

9 REF

**Q13** In general, would you say you approve or disapprove of the **Tea Party movement** or are you not familiar enough with the Tea Party movement to have an opinion?

- 1 Approve – 134 (30%)
- 2 Disapprove – 112 (25%)
- 3 Not familiar – 200 (45%)

9 REF

**Q14** How much confidence do you have in Texas courts?

- 1 No confidence at all – 31 (7%)
- 2 Only a little confidence – 71 (16%)
- 3 Some confidence – 236 (55%)
- 4 A great deal of confidence – 92 (21%)

8 DK

9 REF

**Q15** Thinking about the current path that our nation is taking, do you think our country is on the **right track** or headed in the **wrong direction**?

1 Right Track – 117 (28%)  
2 Wrong Direction – 300 (72%)

8 DK  
9 REF

### **DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS**

#### **Party Identification (with independent leaners folded into the appropriate party)**

##### **Unweighted**

Republican (with leaners) – 221 (49%)  
Democrat (with leaners) – 126 (28%)  
Independent (not including leaners) – 48 (11%)  
Something else – 46 (10%)

##### **Weighted**

Republican (with leaners) – 177 (40%)  
Democrat (with leaners) – 156 (35%)  
Independent (not including leaners) – 52 (12%)  
Something else – 55 (12%)

#### **Race (Unweighted)**

1 White/Caucasian – 319 (70%)  
2 African-American/Black – 33 (7%)  
3 Hispanic/Latino – 78 (17%)  
4 Asian/Pacific Islander; Native American/Native Alaskan; Other – 24 (5%)

#### **Race (Weighted)**

1 White/Caucasian – 227 (50%)  
2 African-American/Black – 53 (12%)  
3 Hispanic/Latino – 154 (34%)  
4 Asian/Pacific Islander; Native American/Native Alaskan; Other – 20 (4%)

#### **Gender (Unweighted)**

1 Male – 226 (50%)  
2 Female – 228 (50%)

**Gender (Weighted)**

- 1 Male – 222 (49%)
- 2 Female – 232 (51%)

**Q16 [PARTYGEN]**

Generally speaking, do you consider yourself to be a Republican, a Democrat, an independent, or something else?

- 1 Republican
- 2 Democrat
- 3 Independent
- 4 Something else

- 8 DK
- 9 REF

*If 2, skip to Q[PARTYDEM]*

*If 3, skip to Q[PARTYIND]*

*If 4, 8, or 9, skip to Q[IDEOSOC]*

**Q17a [PARTYREP]**

Do you consider yourself to be a strong or not so strong Republican?

- 1 Strong
- 2 Not so strong

- 8 DK
- 9 REF

**Q17b [PARTYDEM]**

Do you consider yourself to be a strong or not so strong Democrat?

- 1 Strong
- 2 Not so strong

- 8 DK
- 9 REF



**Q17c [PARTYIND]**

Do you lean more toward the Republican Party or the Democratic Party or Neither?  
[ROTATED]

- 1 Republican
- 2 Democrat
- 3 NEITHER

- 8 DK
- 9 REF

**Q18 [IDEOSOC]**

How would you describe your political views – very conservative, conservative, moderate, liberal, or very liberal [REVERSE RANDOMLY]

- 1 Very conservative
- 2 Conservative
- 3 Moderate
- 4 Liberal
- 5 Very liberal

- 8 DK
- 9 REF

**Q19[EDU]**

What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- 1 Less than high school – 23 (5%)
- 2 High school diploma/GED – 71 (16%)
- 3 Some college, no degree – 121 (27%)
- 4 Two-year degree (Associate's degree) – 55 (12%)
- 5 Four-year degree (Bachelor's degree) – 96 (21%)
- 6 Graduate or professional degree (Master's, Doctorate) – 86 (19%)

- 8 DK
- 9 REF

**Question 20 [MARITAL]**

What is your current marital status?

- 1 Single/never married – 115 (25%)
- 2 Not married but living with partner – 11 (2%)
- 3 Married – 255 (56%)
- 4 Separated – 10 (2%)
- 5 Widowed – 27 (6%)
- 6 Divorced – 36 (8%)

- 8 DK
- 9 REF

**Q21[BIRTHYR]**

In what year were you born?

ENTER YEAR 19\_\_

- 8 DK
- 9 REF

**Q22[RACE]**

What is your race or ethnicity?

- 1 White/Caucasian
- 2 African-American/Black
- 3 Hispanic/Latino
- 4 Asian/Pacific Islander
- 5 Native American/Native Alaskan
- 6 Other

- 8 DK
- 9 REF

**Q23a [CELL1] (landline version only)**

Do you happen to have a cell phone, or not?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

- 9 REF

*If 1, skip to Q[CELL2]*

**Q 23b[CELL2] (landline version only)**

Thinking about all the phone calls you receive, do you receive more calls on your cell phone, or more calls on your regular home phone, or is it about equal?

- 1 More on cell
- 2 More on regular home phone
- 3 About the same

9 REF

**Q23c [CELL3] (cell version only)**

Is a cell phone your only phone, or do you also have a regular phone where you currently live?

- 1 Regular phone also
- 2 Cell only phone

9 REF

*If 1, skip to Q[CELL4]*

**Q23d [CELL4] (cell version only)**

Thinking about all the phone calls you receive, do you receive more calls on your cell phone, or more calls on your regular home phone, or is it about equal?

- 1 More on cell
- 2 More on regular home phone
- 3 About the same

9 REF

**Q 24** What is your residential zip code?

- 8 DK
- 9 REF

**Q[COMP]** Those are all of the questions that I have. Thank you very much for participating. If you have any questions, you may call Dr. Sara Norman at the survey lab at \_\_\_\_\_. Texas Tech also has a Board that protects the rights of people who participate in research. You can call to ask them questions at \_\_\_\_\_.

***END SURVEY***

**Q47 [GENDER]**

RECORD RESPONDENT'S GENDER

1 MALE

2 FEMALE

## **Methodology**

Population: Adults 18 years old and older with land-line (32%) and mobile telephones (68%) in the State of Texas. Sampling methodology: List-assisted random digit dialing (RDD) sample. An RDD sample is generated and cleaned using existing telephone lists (to filter business and other inappropriate numbers) and then numbers are quick dialed to remove nonworking numbers. There are 454 completed surveys. The data have been weighted for race and gender. The margin of error is  $\pm 4.6\%$ . Dates in field: March 6 to April 3, 2014.

The interviews were conducted by undergraduate political science students as part of a class project for students enrolled in Due Process, taught by Dr. Mark McKenzie, Political Behavior, taught by Dr. Seth McKee, and (in part) Introduction to American Government, taught by Dr. Mark McKenzie. The students were trained by the survey lab prior to the start of the survey.

AAPOR Calculation 1 (the most conservative estimate):

Response rate: 13.6%

Cooperation rate: 4.1%