



The Texas Lyceum

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Contact: Margaret Justus
281-250-8253

Texas Lyceum Poll Shows
Governor's Race Not a Forgone Conclusion
White Trails Perry by 5 with Perry 48%, White 43%
Kathie Glass at 5% with 3% Undecided
Dewhurst leads with 17% and Abbott, with 27%

AUSTIN – Statewide poll numbers released today show that Democratic gubernatorial candidate and former Houston Mayor Bill White trails Republican Governor Rick Perry by five points. The fourth annual 2010 Texas Lyceum Poll, conducted September 22nd – September 30th, shows Rick Perry leading Bill White 48% – 43% among likely voters. The margin of error is +/-4.75 percentage points.

Among self-identified independent voters, White leads Perry 50% - 34%, with Libertarian Kathie Glass also earning 10% support. Moderate voters are also breaking to White, who leads Perry 67% - 22% amongst that group. Perry, however, commands a 76%-17% lead amongst conservatives and has locked down 81% of the Republican vote.

The survey sample, which consists of 416 likely voters, also indicates that most Texans have made up their minds in the race for Governor with only 3% undecided. Meanwhile, of the remaining candidates in the Governor's race Libertarian candidate Glass has 5-points and Green Party candidate Deb Shafto has 1-point.

“Bill White is hanging tough against Rick Perry, but with just 12 days before Texans head to the polls for early voting and with just 3% of voters undecided in this race, White's path to victory remains difficult to see,” said Daron Shaw, Ph.D. Professor at the University of Texas at Austin. Shaw, with Amy Jasperson, Ph.D, Associate Professor at the University of Texas at San Antonio, conducted the 2010 Texas Lyceum poll.

In two other closely watched down-ballot races the numbers are less competitive. The Republican incumbent candidates in both the Lieutenant Governor's race and the Attorney General's race lead the Democratic opponents by double digits. Texas Lieutenant Governor Republican David Dewhurst leads Democrat Linda Chavez-Thompson 47% – 30%. In the race for Attorney General, Republican Greg Abbott leads

Democrat Barbara Ann Radnofsky 56% -- 29%. However, a significant number of voters remain undecided in these races, at 12% in the Lieutenant Governor race and 11% in the Attorney General's race.

"Although Republicans enjoy significant leads in the races for Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General, a significant number of Texas voters have yet to turn their attention to these down ballot races," noted Jasperson.

Overall, Republicans lead on generic ballots for both the U.S. Congress and the Texas State House. On the generic congressional ballot, a Republican leads 41% - 29%. Democrats fare slightly better in the State House generic ballot, trailing by 7 points (Republican candidate 38%, Democratic candidate 31%).

While Republican candidates and Republicans on the generic ballots enjoy an edge over Democrats with female likely voters, this is consistent with Republicans' overall advantage amongst likely voters. Republicans' advantage amongst female likely voters trails their advantage with male likely voters.

With 25% of likely voters identifying themselves as part of the Tea Party movement, such a candidate could have a measurable impact in a congressional race. In a generic congressional ballot, a Democrat would earn 29% of the vote, while the Republican would lose 21% to a Tea Party candidate (Republican Candidate 20%, Tea Party Candidate 13%).

Yesterday, the Texas Lyceum released findings on state policy issues from its 2010 poll. Tomorrow, the Lyceum will release its final numbers on federal policy and the President's approval ratings. For details on today's findings, please visit www.texaslyceum.org.

Methodology

From September 22-30, 2010, The Texas Lyceum conducted a statewide telephone survey. The survey utilized a stratified probability sample design, with respondents being randomly selected at the level of the household. On average, respondents completed the interview in 17 minutes. Approximately 5,000 records were drawn to yield 725 completed interviews. The final data set is weighted by race/ethnicity, age and gender to achieve representativeness. The margin of error for the poll is +/- 3.75 percentage points.

The ballot numbers and analysis were produced with a screen for likely voters. Voters were deemed "likely" if they indicated that they were registered to vote, indicated that they were "somewhat" or "extremely" interested in politics, and indicated that they had voted in "almost every" or "every" election in the last 2-3 years. This screen produced 416 likely voters, 57% of the full sample and 73% of registered voters. The margin of error for the survey of likely voters is +/- 4.75 percentage points.

About the Lyceum

The Texas Lyceum, now celebrating its 30th anniversary, is a non-profit, non-partisan statewide leadership organization focused on identifying the next generation of Texas leaders. The Texas Lyceum consists of 96 men and women from throughout the state. Directors begin their service while under the age of 46 and have demonstrated leadership in their community and profession, together with a deep commitment to Texas.

Earlier this year, Lyceum members traveled to San Antonio, home of a growing cyber security industry, and hosted a conference entitled “Our Growing Lives Online: Safe or Not?” There, attendees examined our federal cyber security laws and other issues of cyber security. In April, Lyceum Directors gathered in Houston to tour the world’s largest medical center complex and hear experts and elected officials address members of the Lyceum in a conference entitled “Beyond Healthcare Reform: Re-Imagining Affordability, Wellness and Accessibility for all Texans.” Most recently, Lyceum Directors convened in Midland in August to tour an oil rig, a wind farm and examine the all-important energy industry in Texas for the conference entitled, “Texas Energy: Present and Future.”

All three 2010 conferences featured Great Debates, televised across the state in partnership with Texas Public Broadcasting Corporation.

The Lyceum has an impressive list of former members who are serving or have served in public office, including: Former President George W. Bush, Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, Governor Rick Perry, State Attorney General Greg Abbott, former Texas Comptroller John Sharp, Texas State Senators Rodney Ellis and Kirk Watson, Texas State Representatives Dawnna Dukes, Jose Menendez, David Farabee, Tommy Merritt, Pete Gallego, Garnet Coleman, and Allen Vaught, Houston Mayor Bill White, Galveston Mayor Joe Jaworski, Texas Supreme Court Justices Don Willett and Dale Wainwright, U.S. District Judge Vanessa Gilmore, former Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings, and Congressmen Pete Olson and Jim Turner. Current Directors include Texas Representatives Veronica Gonzales and Marc Veasey.

The Texas Lyceum acts as a catalyst to bring together diverse opinions and expertise to focus on national and state issues, and seeks to emphasize constructive private sector, public sector, and individual responses to the issues.

To accomplish these purposes, the Lyceum conducts periodic public forums, publishes the Lyceum *Journal*, commissions The Texas Lyceum Poll, and convenes programs for the Directors to explore and discuss key economic and social issues of the state and nation. For more information, please visit www.texaslyceum.org