



WILSON RESEARCH STRATEGIES, INC.
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FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:
 Questionnaire No.: _____
 Card No.: _____

TCCRI_SCHOOL FINANCE STUDY_MQ_0401262.DOC
 TCCRI
 VOTERS
 JANUARY, 04

SAMPLE:
 n=1000
 NO CODE/ASK ALL QUESTIONS

INTRODUCTION: Good evening. My name is _____ and I'm calling from Wilson Research Strategies, a national public opinion firm. This evening we're conducting a short scientific survey in Texas and we'd like to get your opinions. We're not selling anything and your responses will be completely confidential.

SCREENER

1. In general, when there are elections in Texas, do you always vote, almost always vote, vote most of the time, vote some of the time, hardly ever vote or never vote?

- 1. Always vote 65%
- 2. Almost always vote 23%
- 3. Most of time 12%
- 4. Some of time TERMINATE
- 5. Hardly ever TERMINATE
- 6. Never TERMINATE
- 7. DK/Refused TERMINATE

2. Of the following issues facing the state, which would you rank as the most important?

READ AND ROTATE

- 1. Improving school performance 19%
- 2. Lowering the cost of health insurance 19%
- 3. Cutting property taxes 14%
- 4. Attracting new jobs and companies to Texas 11%
- 5. Increased homeland security efforts to protect the state from terrorist attacks 6%
- 6. Increased prosecution of child pornographers 4%
- 7. Building and repairing state roads and highways 3%
- 8. Improved collection of court ordered child support payments 2%
- 9. Other SPECIFY _____ 3%
- 10. None of the above DNR 1%
- 11. Several of the above DNR 17%
- 12. DK/Refused DNR 1%





3. Do you think parents have a great deal of control, a fair amount of control, or very little control over how public schools operate in the state today?

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. | A great deal of control | 9% |
| 2. | A fair amount of control, or | 28% |
| 3. | Very little control | 58% |
| 4. | DK/Refused <input type="checkbox"/> DNR | 5% |

4. How familiar are you with a state school finance policy nicknamed “Robin Hood?”

READ AND ROTATE CHOICES

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. | Very Familiar | 31% |
| 2. | Somewhat Familiar | 41% |
| 3. | Not very Familiar | 14% |
| 4. | Not Familiar At All | 14% |
| 5. | Unsure/DK/Refused <input type="checkbox"/> DNR | 1% |

5. Robin Hood refers to a state education finance policy that redistributes local taxes from rich school districts to poor school districts to equalize education spending statewide. Generally speaking, would you say you support or oppose Robin Hood?

PROBE: Strongly/Somewhat

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. | Strongly Support | 22% |
| 2. | Somewhat Support | 24% |
| 3. | Somewhat Oppose | 17% |
| 4. | Strongly Oppose | 31% |
| 5. | Unsure/DK/Refused <input type="checkbox"/> DNR | 6% |

5b. Would you support or oppose a plan to reduce and cap the residential property tax rate, and cap the amount of property tax revenues that city, county, and school districts can collect each year?

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. | Strongly Support | 57% |
| 2. | Somewhat Support | 19% |
| 3. | Somewhat Oppose | 9% |
| 4. | Strongly Oppose | 10% |
| 5. | Unsure/DK/Refused <input type="checkbox"/> DNR | 6% |



6. According to state records, approximately 52 cents of every education dollar goes into classroom instruction to pay for things like teacher salaries and textbooks. The other half is spent in other ways. Generally speaking, from the following list, where do you think your school district can spend less money to achieve cost savings?

READ AND ROTATE CHOICES – ALLOW MULTIPLE RESPONSES

1.	Administration	43%
2.	Athletics, like football stadiums	29%
3.	Design and construction of new school buildings	15%
4.	Expensive technologies like computers for every student	12%
5.	Extracurricular activities, like band, and elective classes	9%
6.	General support services such as janitors and bus service	4%
7.	There is no money wasted in public education <u>DNR</u>	2%
8.	Other <u>SPECIFY</u> _____	1%
9.	Several of the above <u>DNR</u>	6%
10.	None of the above <u>DNR</u>	6%
11.	DK/Refused <u>DNR</u>	5%

7. If the Legislature decided to increase funding for education, would you prefer to ROTATE raise taxes or take money from another area of government?

1.	Take money from another area of government	69%
2.	Raise taxes	19%
3.	Both <u>DNR</u>	3%
4.	DK/Refused <u>DNR</u>	10%

8. Please tell me if you believe the following statement to be true or untrue: The professional education establishment, including teachers' unions, administrators and superintendents are always asking for more money but they don't want to be held accountable for whether or not they are achieving results with that money.

1.	True	57%
2.	Untrue	35%
3.	DK/Ref	9%

9. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Texans already pay enough in taxes. We should not pay more.

PROBE: Strongly/Somewhat

1.	Strongly Agree	56%
2.	Somewhat Agree	20%
3.	Somewhat Disagree	8%
4.	Strongly Disagree	8%
5.	Unsure/DK/Refused <u>DNR</u>	4%

10. Do you support increasing taxes for education, or do you think we spend enough on education?

1.	Spend enough on education	48%
2.	Increase taxes for education	35%
3.	Neither <u>DNR</u>	13%
4.	DK/Refused <u>DNR</u>	5%



11. What is your general impression of property taxes in the state of Texas? Are they

READ AND ROTATE CHOICES

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------|-----|
| 1. | Much Too High | 21% |
| 2. | Too High | 31% |
| 3. | About Right | 42% |
| 4. | Too Low | 2% |
| 5. | Much Too Low | 0% |
| 6. | Unsure/DK/Refused DNR | 4% |

CONTINUE IF MUCH TOO HIGH OR TOO HIGH

12. If the entire portion of your school property tax was to support your local public schools, do you still think your property taxes are too high?

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------|-----|
| 1. | Yes | 68% |
| 2. | No | 27% |
| 3. | Unsure/DK/Refused DNR | 5% |

CONTINUE TO ALL RESPONDENTS

13. Would you support or oppose an increase in your property tax if you knew the majority of the additional revenues from the tax increase would go to public education?

PROBE: STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------|-----|
| 1. | Strongly Support | 22% |
| 2. | Somewhat Support | 25% |
| 3. | Somewhat Oppose | 15% |
| 4. | Strongly Oppose | 33% |
| 5. | Unsure/DK/Refused DNR | 4% |

14. If you are going to pay roughly the same amount of taxes, would you prefer to continue paying your local property tax or pay a statewide property tax?

- | | | |
|----|------------------------|-----|
| 1. | Local property tax | 73% |
| 2. | Statewide property tax | 15% |
| 3. | Both DNR | 2% |
| 4. | DK/Refused DNR | 10% |

15. If you are going to pay roughly the same amount of taxes, would you prefer to continue paying your local property tax or a higher sales tax?

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------|-----|
| 1. | Local property tax | 53% |
| 2. | Higher sales tax | 38% |
| 3. | Both DNR | 1% |
| 4. | DK/Refused DNR | 8% |

16. The amount of your residential property tax bill is a reflection of the value of your home. The higher the value of your home, the more taxes you are likely to pay. Knowing that, would you want or accept a lower property tax bill, if it meant that your home was worth less?

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------|-----|
| 1. | Yes | 55% |
| 2. | No | 32% |
| 3. | DK/Refused DNR | 13% |



17. The Legislature is currently debating a new tax structure to fund public education. Of the following options, which new tax plan would you prefer if you had to pick one?
READ AND ROTATE CHOICES – ALLOW MULTIPLE RESPONSES
- | | | |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. | A state personal income tax | 9% |
| 2. | Payroll taxes | 5% |
| 3. | Additional Business taxes such as a gross receipts tax | 16% |
| 4. | Applying the sales tax to more segments of the economy | 25% |
| 5. | Increased sales tax rate | 29% |
| 6. | A statewide property tax on top of your current local property taxes | 5% |
| 7. | Other <u>SPECIFY</u> _____ | 1% |
| 8. | Several of the above <u>DNR</u> | 2% |
| 9. | None of the above <u>DNR</u> | 13% |
| 10. | DK/Refused <u>DNR</u> | 7% |
18. Do you ROTATE agree or disagree with the following statement: Even if I personally benefit from lower residential property taxes, the Legislature should not raise taxes on businesses if it leads to job loss and/or companies leaving Texas?
PROBE: STONGLY/SOMEWHAT
- | | | |
|----|-----------------------|-----|
| 1. | Strongly Agree | 46% |
| 2. | Somewhat Agree | 24% |
| 3. | Somewhat Disagree | 12% |
| 4. | Strongly Disagree | 14% |
| 5. | DK/Refused <u>DNR</u> | 5% |
19. When lawmakers impose taxes on businesses, do you believe that the businesses actually pay the tax without passing the burden on to you, or do businesses pass the costs on to you in the form of higher prices for goods and services?
- | | | |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. | Businesses actually pay the tax, with no burden passed to the consumer | 9% |
| 2. | Businesses pass the costs on to you | 85% |
| 3. | Both <u>DNR</u> | 2% |
| 4. | Neither <u>DNR</u> | 1% |
| 5. | DK/Refused <u>DNR</u> | 3% |
20. Would you support or oppose making all taxes transparent, meaning all taxes would be directly imposed on you so you know what you are paying, rather than hiding them in the form of a business tax that increases the cost of goods and services?
PROBE: Strongly/Somewhat
- | | | |
|----|------------------------------|-----|
| 1. | Strongly Support | 48% |
| 2. | Somewhat Support | 23% |
| 3. | Somewhat Oppose | 10% |
| 4. | Strongly Oppose | 9% |
| 5. | Unsure/DK/Refused <u>DNR</u> | 11% |



21. Should policies and procedures be changed to make it less costly and time consuming to discipline or dismiss teachers with a history of low performance?
- | | | |
|----|-----------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. | Yes | 76% |
| 2. | No | 15% |
| 3. | DK/Refused <input type="checkbox"/> DNR | 9% |
22. In your opinion, which of the following educational programs or initiatives should be a priority of the Legislature?
READ AND ROTATE - ALLOW MULTIPLE RESPONSE
- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. | Changing the way schools are funded | 18% |
| 2. | Yearly teacher training and testing | 20% |
| 3. | Smaller class size | 24% |
| 4. | Teacher pay and benefits | 24% |
| 5. | Higher academic standards | 24% |
| 6. | Crime/safety in schools | 19% |
| 7. | Annual performance testing of students | 14% |
| 8. | Computers in the classroom | 12% |
| 9. | School choice | 11% |
| 10. | Reducing administration | 27% |
| 11. | Building more schools | 7% |
| 12. | Other <input type="checkbox"/> SPECIFY _____ | 1% |
| 13. | Several of the above <input type="checkbox"/> DNR | 10% |
| 14. | None of the above <input type="checkbox"/> DNR | 2% |
| 15. | DK/Refused <input type="checkbox"/> DNR | 4% |
23. Who should be most responsible for public school funding and control?
- | | | |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. | Parents and local school boards | 39% |
| 2. | State officials in Austin | 8% |
| 3. | Evenly split between parents and local school boards and state officials in Austin | 48% |
| 4. | The federal government | 3% |
| 5. | Unsure/DK/ Refused <input type="checkbox"/> DNR | 3% |
24. Do you ROTATE support or oppose the state government increasing its share of the education funding if it meant that it would also increase its control over the educational system?
- | | | |
|----|------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. | Strongly Support | 19% |
| 2. | Somewhat Support | 20% |
| 3. | Somewhat Oppose | 24% |
| 4. | Strongly Oppose | 30% |
| 5. | Unsure/DK/Refused <input type="checkbox"/> DNR | 7% |



25. Do you ROTATE agree or disagree with the following statement: state education money should be sent to school districts as a block grant with no strings attached, allowing local school districts to spend money as they see fit?
PROBE: STONGLY/SOMEWHAT

1.	Strongly Agree	33%
2.	Somewhat Agree	21%
3.	Somewhat Disagree	17%
4.	Strongly Disagree	24%
5.	DK/Refused <u>DNR</u>	5%

26. Would you ROTATE support or oppose a policy that allows parents to receive a credit on their property taxes if their children never attend public school?
PROBLE STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT

1.	Strongly Support	30%
2.	Somewhat Support	14%
3.	Somewhat Oppose	14%
4.	Strongly Oppose	38%
5.	DK/Refused <u>DNR</u>	5%

27. Do you have any school-age children living in your home?

1.	Yes	22%
2.	No	77%
3.	DK/Refused <u>DNR</u>	1%

IF YES:

28. Do those children attend a public, private school, or are they home schooled?

1.	Public	80%
2.	Private	12%
3.	Home School	4%
4.	Some private/public/home	3%
5.	DK/Refused <u>DNR</u>	1%

29. Do you rent or own your own home?

1.	Rent	7%
2.	Own	93%
3.	DK/Refused <u>DNR</u>	1%

30. Are you a teacher, retired teacher, or related to a teacher?

1.	Yes	47%
2.	No	53%
3.	DK/Refused <u>DNR</u>	1%



31. With which political party are you affiliated?
- | | | |
|----|-----------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. | Republican | 43% |
| 2. | Democrat | 31% |
| 3. | Independent/other | 18% |
| 4. | DK/Refused <input type="checkbox"/> DNR | 9% |
32. If you were to label yourself, would you say you are a Liberal, a Moderate, or a Conservative in your political beliefs? PROBE: Very/Somewhat Liberal/Conservative
- | | | |
|----|-----------------------|-----|
| 1. | Very Liberal | 7% |
| 2. | Somewhat Liberal | 10% |
| 3. | Moderate | 30% |
| 4. | Somewhat Conservative | 26% |
| 5. | Very Conservative | 23% |
| 6. | DK/Refused | 5% |
33. What is your race?
- | | | |
|----|----------------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. | Hispanic/Mexican/Latino/Spanish | 12% |
| 2. | African-American | 6% |
| 3. | Asiatic | 1% |
| 4. | White | 75% |
| 5. | Other <input type="checkbox"/> SPECIFY _____ | 2% |
| 6. | Refused <input type="checkbox"/> DNR | 3% |
| 7. | Native American | 1% |
34. In what year were you born? NEEDS TO BE CODED.
 RECORD YEAR, CODE AGE RANGE
- _____
35. What is your annual family income - Is it under \$20,000, between \$20,001 & \$40,000, between \$40,001 & \$60,000, between \$60,001 & \$75,000, or over \$75,000?
- | | | |
|----|-----------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. | Under \$20,000 | 9% |
| 2. | Between \$20,001 & \$40,000 | 21% |
| 3. | Between \$40,001 & \$60,000 | 19% |
| 4. | Between \$60,001 & \$75,000 | 12% |
| 5. | Over \$75,000 | 22% |
| 6. | DK/Refused <input type="checkbox"/> DNR | 18% |
36. Sex: BY OBSERVATION:
- | | | |
|----|--------|-----|
| 1. | Male | 48% |
| 2. | Female | 52% |

37. CD: PRE-CODE

1.	CD1	3.2%
2.	CD2	2.6%
3.	CD3	3.8%
4.	CD4	4.2%
5.	CD5	3.2%
6.	CD6	2.8%
7.	CD7	2.9%
8.	CD8	4.2%
9.	CD9	3.9%
10.	CD10	4.1%
11.	CD11	3.3%
12.	CD12	3.2%
13.	CD13	3.4%
14.	CD14	2.3%
15.	CD15	1.5%
16.	CD16	2.1%
17.	CD17	3.8%
18.	CD18	2.6%
19.	CD19	2.7%
20.	CD20	2.5%
21.	CD21	5.1%
22.	CD22	3.1%
23.	CD23	2.2%
24.	CD24	3.5%
25.	CD25	2.4%
26.	CD26	3.4%
27.	CD27	1.5%
28.	CD28	1.2%
29.	CD29	1.1%
30.	CD30	1.0%
31.	CD31	8.1%
32.	CD32	5.1%

38. Geographic Zone: PRE-CODE

1.	Metroplex East	16.1%
2.	Metroplex West	12.6%
3.	East Texas	6.7%
4.	Houston Area	19.1%
5.	San Antonio Area	8.7%
6.	Gulf Coast	9.1%
7.	Austin Area	8.4%
8.	Central Texas	4.5%
9.	The Border	4.6%
10.	West Texas	4.7%
11.	The Panhandle	5.5%



39. **DO NOT READ** Please code and provide a report of total Response Rate, Cooperation Rate, and Refusal Rate from the following:

1. Refusal
2. Contact
3. Complete Interview
4. Partial Interview
5. Refusal and break-off
6. Non-contact
7. Other
8. Unknown if household occupied
9. Unknown, other

Interviewer's Name: _____

Date: _____ Time Start: _____ Time End: _____

Completed telephone number: _____