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Abbott expands lead over Davis in Texas

Raleigh, N.C. – PPP's newest poll of next year's race for Governor of Texas finds Republican Greg Abbott expanding his lead over Democrat Wendy Davis. Abbott now has a 15 point advantage at 50/35. That's up a good amount from our last poll, conducted the week of Davis' famous filibuster, when Abbott led just 48/40. But it's pretty comparable to what we found in January when he had a 46/34 lead.

As Davis has become better known to Texans, her negatives have risen. 36% of voters have a favorable opinion of her to 42% with an unfavorable one. In June it was a positive 39/29 spread, meaning she's dropped a net 16 points since then. Voters are kind of indifferent toward Abbott, with 35% rating him favorably, 32% unfavorably, and 33% not having an opinion either way.

Rick Perry's retirement probably hurt Davis' prospects for being elected Governor. Perry continues to be unpopular with 45% of voters approving of the job he's doing to 50% who disapprove. Those numbers are identical to where they were in June, indicating that Perry hasn't received any sort of post retirement announcement bounce as politicians sometimes do.

One thing that could improve Davis' prospects is if 2010 Republican Gubernatorial candidate Debra Medina goes through with an independent campaign for Governor next year. She pulls 9% and with her in the mix Abbott's lead gets reduced to 10 points with him at 47% and Davis at 37%.

There is some good news for Davis within the poll. Voters narrowly oppose the abortion law that put her in the spotlight, 40/41, including 37/48 opposition among independent voters. Concern that she may have difficulty in the election because she's seen as too liberal on that particular issue may not be warranted.

“Greg Abbott starts out as a clear favorite in the Texas Governor’s race,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “Wendy Davis needs to win independents and pull a decent amount of Republican support if she’s going to be successful, and at this early stage she’s not doing that.”

PPP surveyed 500 Texas voters from November 1st to 4th. The margin of error for the survey is +/- 4.4%. PPP's surveys are conducted through automated telephone interviews.





Texas Survey Results

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of Governor Rick Perry's job performance?

Approve45% Not sure 5%
Disapprove.....50%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Greg Abbott?

Favorable..... 35%
Unfavorable 32%
Not sure 33%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Wendy Davis?

Favorable..... 36%
Unfavorable 42%
Not sure 23%

Q4 If the candidates for Governor next year were Republican Greg Abbott and Democrat Wendy Davis, who would you vote for?

Greg Abbott 50%
Wendy Davis..... 35%
Not sure 15%

Q5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Debra Medina?

Favorable..... 10%
Unfavorable 16%
Not sure 74%

Q6 If the candidates for Governor next year were Republican Greg Abbott, Democrat Wendy Davis, and independent Debra Medina, who would you vote for?

Greg Abbott 47%
Wendy Davis..... 37%
Debra Medina 9%
Not sure 8%

Q7 If the candidates for Lieutenant Governor next year were Republican David Dewhurst and Democrat Leticia Van de Putte, who would you vote for?

David Dewhurst 46%
Leticia Van de Putte..... 37%
Not sure 17%

Q8 Do you support or oppose the abortion law that was passed in Texas this summer?

Support 40%
Oppose 41%
Not sure 18%

Q9 In the last presidential election, did you vote for Barack Obama or Mitt Romney?

Barack Obama..... 41%
Mitt Romney..... 53%
Someone else/Don't remember 6%

Q10 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal..... 8%
Somewhat liberal 14%
Moderate..... 26%
Somewhat conservative..... 26%
Very conservative 25%

Q11 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 50%
Man..... 50%

Q12 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

Democrat 35%
Republican..... 42%
Independent/Other..... 24%



Q13 If you are Hispanic, press 1. If white, press 2.
If African-American, press 3. If other, press 4.

<i>Hispanic</i>	19%
<i>White</i>	63%
<i>African-American</i>	11%
<i>Other</i>	7%

Q14 If you are 18 to 45 years old, press 1. If 46 to
65, press 2. If you are older than 65, press 3.

<i>18 to 45</i>	33%
<i>46 to 65</i>	41%
<i>Older than 65</i>	26%



Crosstabs

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
Perry Approval				
Approve	45%	16%	72%	8%
Disapprove	50%	81%	24%	75%
Not sure	5%	3%	5%	17%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
Abbott Favorability				
Favorable	35%	12%	54%	29%
Unfavorable	32%	56%	14%	33%
Not sure	33%	33%	32%	38%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
Davis Favorability				
Favorable	36%	66%	10%	60%
Unfavorable	42%	10%	70%	10%
Not sure	23%	24%	20%	31%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
Abbott/Davis				
Greg Abbott	50%	12%	83%	15%
Wendy Davis	35%	72%	5%	52%
Not sure	15%	16%	12%	33%





Crosstabs

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
Medina Favorability				
Favorable	10%	14%	6%	23%
Unfavorable	16%	12%	21%	4%
Not sure	74%	74%	74%	73%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
Abbott/Davis/Medina				
Greg Abbott	47%	10%	79%	8%
Wendy Davis	37%	78%	4%	51%
Debra Medina	9%	8%	8%	28%
Not sure	8%	5%	9%	13%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
Dewhurst/Van de Putte				
David Dewhurst	46%	8%	78%	21%
Leticia Van de Putte	37%	74%	9%	32%
Not sure	17%	18%	13%	46%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
Support/Oppose Abortion Law				
Support	40%	21%	60%	4%
Oppose	41%	61%	22%	67%
Not sure	18%	18%	17%	29%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Perry Approval						
Approve	45%	17%	7%	23%	60%	83%
Disapprove	50%	83%	92%	69%	37%	11%
Not sure	5%	-	1%	8%	4%	6%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Abbott Favorability						
Favorable	35%	20%	15%	18%	41%	64%
Unfavorable	32%	59%	51%	48%	19%	9%
Not sure	33%	21%	34%	34%	40%	27%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Davis Favorability						
Favorable	36%	66%	63%	59%	14%	8%
Unfavorable	42%	17%	12%	19%	60%	71%
Not sure	23%	17%	24%	21%	26%	21%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Abbott/Davis						
Greg Abbott	50%	31%	11%	19%	71%	87%
Wendy Davis	35%	52%	77%	60%	12%	5%
Not sure	15%	17%	11%	21%	17%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Medina Favorability						
Favorable	10%	19%	12%	15%	6%	5%
Unfavorable	16%	20%	12%	13%	18%	19%
Not sure	74%	61%	76%	72%	76%	76%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Abbott/Davis/Medina						
Greg Abbott	47%	27%	9%	16%	73%	78%
Wendy Davis	37%	56%	83%	62%	12%	5%
Debra Medina	9%	10%	7%	11%	7%	9%
Not sure	8%	7%	1%	11%	8%	8%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Dewhurst/Van de Putte						
David Dewhurst	46%	14%	7%	17%	70%	83%
Leticia Van de Putte	37%	72%	74%	57%	17%	6%
Not sure	17%	14%	19%	26%	13%	11%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Support/Oppose Abortion Law						
Support	40%	30%	30%	18%	46%	67%
Oppose	41%	54%	56%	60%	34%	16%
Not sure	18%	17%	14%	21%	20%	17%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Perry Approval			
Approve	45%	42%	48%
Disapprove	50%	53%	47%
Not sure	5%	5%	4%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Abbott Favorability			
Favorable	35%	32%	39%
Unfavorable	32%	31%	32%
Not sure	33%	37%	29%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Davis Favorability			
Favorable	36%	39%	33%
Unfavorable	42%	32%	52%
Not sure	23%	29%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Abbott/Davis			
Greg Abbott	50%	43%	57%
Wendy Davis	35%	37%	34%
Not sure	15%	20%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Medina Favorability			
Favorable	10%	11%	10%
Unfavorable	16%	11%	21%
Not sure	74%	78%	69%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Abbott/Davis/Medina			
Greg Abbott	47%	39%	54%
Wendy Davis	37%	38%	35%
Debra Medina	9%	12%	6%
Not sure	8%	12%	4%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Dewhurst/Van de Putte			
David Dewhurst	46%	41%	51%
Leticia Van de Putte	37%	38%	37%
Not sure	17%	22%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Support/Oppose Abortion Law			
Support	40%	32%	49%
Oppose	41%	49%	34%
Not sure	18%	19%	17%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Perry Approval				
Approve	45%	16%	76%	34%
Disapprove	50%	81%	19%	60%
Not sure	5%	3%	4%	7%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Abbott Favorability				
Favorable	35%	14%	54%	34%
Unfavorable	32%	58%	11%	31%
Not sure	33%	28%	35%	34%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Davis Favorability				
Favorable	36%	59%	10%	46%
Unfavorable	42%	18%	66%	36%
Not sure	23%	24%	24%	19%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Abbott/Davis				
Greg Abbott	50%	18%	81%	44%
Wendy Davis	35%	65%	6%	44%
Not sure	15%	17%	14%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Medina Favorability				
Favorable	10%	16%	6%	9%
Unfavorable	16%	19%	18%	9%
Not sure	74%	65%	76%	83%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Abbott/Davis/Medina				
Greg Abbott	47%	14%	79%	38%
Wendy Davis	37%	70%	6%	43%
Debra Medina	9%	11%	5%	12%
Not sure	8%	6%	10%	8%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Dewhurst/Van de Putte				
David Dewhurst	46%	11%	80%	38%
Leticia Van de Putte	37%	71%	7%	40%
Not sure	17%	18%	12%	23%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Support/Oppose Abortion Law				
Support	40%	25%	56%	37%
Oppose	41%	57%	23%	48%
Not sure	18%	18%	21%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Perry Approval					
Approve	45%	44%	53%	10%	33%
Disapprove	50%	54%	43%	84%	54%
Not sure	5%	2%	4%	6%	13%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Abbott Favorability					
Favorable	35%	32%	41%	9%	36%
Unfavorable	32%	37%	26%	54%	33%
Not sure	33%	31%	33%	37%	31%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Davis Favorability					
Favorable	36%	40%	29%	54%	52%
Unfavorable	42%	38%	49%	12%	34%
Not sure	23%	22%	22%	34%	13%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Abbott/Davis					
Greg Abbott	50%	43%	60%	12%	44%
Wendy Davis	35%	38%	28%	62%	48%
Not sure	15%	19%	12%	26%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Medina Favorability					
Favorable	10%	19%	7%	12%	10%
Unfavorable	16%	21%	16%	15%	8%
Not sure	74%	60%	77%	73%	82%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Abbott/Davis/Medina					
Greg Abbott	47%	40%	58%	7%	28%
Wendy Davis	37%	44%	28%	65%	52%
Debra Medina	9%	10%	6%	21%	11%
Not sure	8%	5%	9%	7%	8%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Dewhurst/Van de Putte					
David Dewhurst	46%	28%	60%	6%	31%
Leticia Van de Putte	37%	51%	27%	68%	41%
Not sure	17%	21%	13%	26%	28%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Support/Oppose Abortion Law					
Support	40%	40%	45%	21%	30%
Oppose	41%	43%	39%	55%	40%
Not sure	18%	17%	17%	24%	30%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Perry Approval				
Approve	45%	46%	42%	50%
Disapprove	50%	53%	53%	42%
Not sure	5%	2%	5%	8%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Abbott Favorability				
Favorable	35%	39%	32%	37%
Unfavorable	32%	32%	36%	27%
Not sure	33%	30%	33%	36%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Davis Favorability				
Favorable	36%	33%	40%	31%
Unfavorable	42%	44%	40%	43%
Not sure	23%	23%	20%	26%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Abbott/Davis				
Greg Abbott	50%	51%	45%	56%
Wendy Davis	35%	32%	41%	31%
Not sure	15%	18%	14%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Medina Favorability				
Favorable	10%	12%	9%	10%
Unfavorable	16%	18%	15%	16%
Not sure	74%	70%	76%	73%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Abbott/Davis/Medina				
Greg Abbott	47%	51%	40%	52%
Wendy Davis	37%	35%	40%	33%
Debra Medina	9%	7%	12%	6%
Not sure	8%	7%	8%	9%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Dewhurst/Van de Putte				
David Dewhurst	46%	44%	41%	56%
Leticia Van de Putte	37%	44%	37%	28%
Not sure	17%	12%	21%	16%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Support/Oppose Abortion Law				
Support	40%	45%	36%	40%
Oppose	41%	36%	45%	43%
Not sure	18%	18%	20%	17%

