

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Perry Holds Slim Lead Over White for TX Gov.**

**Raleigh, N.C.** – PPP’s June poll of the Texas gubernatorial race showing ten-year incumbent Rick Perry tied with Democratic challenger Bill White made waves. But in PPP’s first poll of likely voters in the race, Perry has moved into a 48-42 lead. There are danger signs for Perry, though, in this anti-incumbent environment: while Texas has no legal term limit, a near majority, 49%, of the state’s voters think a governor should be limited to two terms, with only 26% thinking that there should either be no term limit or that the limit should be more than two terms. Even 41% of Republicans and 61% of independents think there should be a two-term limit. Perry is running for his third full term, now already in his third partial after taking over for George W. Bush.

A bare majority, 50%, now disapprove of Perry’s job performance, with only 39% approving. White, meanwhile, is viewed positively by a 44-29 margin.

While White has increased his lead with independents to 53-34, and still pulls 82% of his party to Perry’s 77% of Republicans, he lags overall because 47% of those who plan to vote are GOP faithful, and only 30% Democrats and 23% independents.

Unlike in many other states, this year’s voters report supporting John McCain less than his actual margin of victory in 2008. With no Senate race nationalizing the state’s politics, and with the unpopular incumbent governor being a Republican, Democrats are, if anything, more motivated to turn out this year than two years ago. In most states with toss-up races, Republicans are taking advantage of a significant enthusiasm gap.

“Texans don’t love Rick Perry, and as the challenger, Bill White is the rare Democrat who is running much better among independents and holding more of his party base than his Republican opponent,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “But it will still be hard for White to overcome his huge party registration disadvantage in this deeply red state.”

PPP surveyed 538 likely Texas voters from September 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>. The margin of error for the survey is +/-4.2%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.

If you would like an interview regarding this release, please contact Dean Debnam at (888) 621-6988 or 919-880-4888.



## Texas Survey Results

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

*Approve* ..... 39%  
*Disapprove*..... 50%  
*Not sure* ..... 12%

**Q2** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Bill White?

*Favorable* ..... 44% *Not sure* ..... 27%  
*Unfavorable*..... 29%

**Q3** The candidates for Governor are Republican Rick Perry and Democrat Bill White. If the election was today, who would you vote for?

*Rick Perry* ..... 48% *Undecided*..... 10%  
*Bill White*..... 42%

**Q4** The candidates for Lieutenant Governor are Republican David Dewhurst and Democrat Linda Chavez-Thompson. If the election was today, who would you vote for?

*David Dewhurst* ..... 54% *Undecided*..... 11%  
*Linda Chavez-Thompson*..... 34%

**Q5** What is your position on term limits for Texas Governors?

*No term limit*..... 15% *More than two terms*..... 11%  
*One term*..... 17% *Not sure* ..... 7%  
*Two terms* ..... 49%

**Q6** Who did you vote for President in 2008?

*John McCain*..... 52%  
*Barack Obama*..... 41%  
*Someone else/Don't remember* ..... 7%

**Q7** If you are a liberal, press 1. If a moderate, press 2. If a conservative, press 3.

*Liberal*..... 15%  
*Moderate*..... 39%  
*Conservative*..... 47%

**Q8** If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

*Woman* ..... 54%  
*Man*..... 46%

**Q9** 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*..... 30%  
*Republican*..... 47%  
*Independent/Other*..... 23%

**Q10** If you are Hispanic, press 1. If white, press 2. If African-American, press 3. If other, press 4.

*Hispanic*..... 16%  
*White* ..... 70%  
*African-American* ..... 10%  
*Other*..... 4%

**Q11** If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1 now. If you are 30 to 45, press 2. If you are 46 to 65, press 3. If older, press 4.

*18 to 29*..... 6%  
*30 to 45*..... 30%  
*46 to 65*..... 39%  
*Older than 65*..... 25%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Perry Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	<b>39%</b>	64%	7%	37%
<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>50%</b>	21%	88%	36%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>12%</b>	15%	5%	27%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>White Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>44%</b>	18%	79%	32%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>29%</b>	48%	5%	34%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>27%</b>	35%	16%	34%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Perry/White</b>				
<b>Rick Perry</b>	<b>48%</b>	77%	9%	56%
<b>Bill White</b>	<b>42%</b>	11%	85%	29%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>10%</b>	12%	6%	15%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Dewhurst/Chavez-Thompson</b>				
<b>David Dewhurst</b>	<b>54%</b>	85%	13%	63%
<b>Linda Chavez-Thompson</b>	<b>34%</b>	7%	72%	19%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>11%</b>	8%	15%	17%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Term Limits</b>				
<b>No term limit</b>	15%	22%	7%	12%
<b>One term</b>	17%	11%	26%	17%
<b>Two terms</b>	49%	44%	57%	42%
<b>More than two terms</b>	11%	15%	5%	17%
<b>Not sure</b>	7%	7%	5%	12%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Perry Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	39%	10%	22%	61%
<b>Disapprove</b>	50%	87%	68%	23%
<b>Not sure</b>	12%	3%	10%	15%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>White Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	44%	84%	59%	18%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	29%	8%	12%	50%
<b>Not sure</b>	27%	8%	28%	32%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Perry/White</b>				
<b>Rick Perry</b>	48%	10%	26%	77%
<b>Bill White</b>	42%	85%	61%	14%
<b>Undecided</b>	10%	5%	13%	9%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Dewhurst/Chavez-Thompson</b>				
<b>David Dewhurst</b>	54%	13%	34%	84%
<b>Linda Chavez-Thompson</b>	34%	77%	49%	8%
<b>Undecided</b>	11%	9%	17%	8%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Term Limits</b>				
<b>No term limit</b>	15%	12%	6%	24%
<b>One term</b>	17%	23%	20%	13%
<b>Two terms</b>	49%	48%	58%	43%
<b>More than two terms</b>	11%	8%	9%	13%
<b>Not sure</b>	7%	9%	6%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Perry Approval</b>			
<b>Approve</b>	39%	38%	39%
<b>Disapprove</b>	50%	48%	52%
<b>Not sure</b>	12%	13%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>White Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	44%	45%	42%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	29%	22%	37%
<b>Not sure</b>	27%	33%	20%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Perry/White</b>			
<b>Rick Perry</b>	<b>48%</b>	46%	49%
<b>Bill White</b>	<b>42%</b>	42%	43%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>10%</b>	12%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Dewhurst/Chavez-Thompson</b>			
<b>David Dewhurst</b>	<b>54%</b>	50%	59%
<b>Linda Chavez-Thompson</b>	<b>34%</b>	35%	33%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>11%</b>	15%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Term Limits</b>			
<b>No term limit</b>	<b>15%</b>	12%	20%
<b>One term</b>	<b>17%</b>	18%	16%
<b>Two terms</b>	<b>49%</b>	51%	48%
<b>More than two terms</b>	<b>11%</b>	11%	11%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>7%</b>	8%	5%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Perry Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	<b>39%</b>	10%	63%	25%
<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>50%</b>	85%	21%	64%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>12%</b>	5%	16%	11%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>White Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	44%	79%	19%	47%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	29%	4%	48%	26%
<b>Not sure</b>	27%	17%	33%	28%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Perry/White</b>				
<b>Rick Perry</b>	48%	12%	77%	34%
<b>Bill White</b>	42%	82%	12%	53%
<b>Undecided</b>	10%	6%	11%	13%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Dewhurst/Chavez-Thompson</b>				
<b>David Dewhurst</b>	54%	10%	85%	48%
<b>Linda Chavez-Thompson</b>	34%	77%	5%	39%
<b>Undecided</b>	11%	13%	10%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Term Limits</b>				
<b>No term limit</b>	15%	6%	23%	12%
<b>One term</b>	17%	25%	14%	14%
<b>Two terms</b>	49%	54%	41%	61%
<b>More than two terms</b>	11%	6%	15%	8%
<b>Not sure</b>	7%	9%	7%	4%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
<b>Perry Approval</b>					
<b>Approve</b>	39%	27%	44%	17%	36%
<b>Disapprove</b>	50%	61%	44%	76%	54%
<b>Not sure</b>	12%	12%	12%	7%	11%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
<b>White Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	44%	53%	38%	69%	39%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	29%	16%	34%	14%	29%
<b>Not sure</b>	27%	31%	27%	17%	32%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
<b>Perry/White</b>					
<b>Rick Perry</b>	48%	31%	56%	17%	39%
<b>Bill White</b>	42%	57%	36%	62%	46%
<b>Undecided</b>	10%	12%	8%	21%	14%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
<b>Dewhurst/Chavez-Thompson</b>					
<b>David Dewhurst</b>	54%	29%	64%	24%	61%
<b>Linda Chavez-Thompson</b>	34%	56%	27%	52%	29%
<b>Undecided</b>	11%	15%	9%	24%	11%







**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
<b>Term Limits</b>					
<b>No term limit</b>	15%	10%	17%	17%	7%
<b>One term</b>	17%	29%	12%	31%	25%
<b>Two terms</b>	49%	43%	51%	45%	50%
<b>More than two terms</b>	11%	10%	12%	3%	18%
<b>Not sure</b>	7%	8%	7%	3%	-

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Perry Approval</b>					
<b>Approve</b>	39%	25%	36%	39%	44%
<b>Disapprove</b>	50%	55%	52%	52%	43%
<b>Not sure</b>	12%	20%	11%	9%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>White Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	44%	39%	44%	44%	44%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	29%	25%	28%	30%	31%
<b>Not sure</b>	27%	36%	29%	26%	25%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Perry/White</b>					
<b>Rick Perry</b>	48%	28%	49%	46%	53%
<b>Bill White</b>	42%	55%	43%	44%	37%
<b>Undecided</b>	10%	17%	9%	10%	10%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Dewhurst/Chavez-Thompson</b>					
<b>David Dewhurst</b>	54%	44%	54%	52%	59%
<b>Linda Chavez-Thompson</b>	34%	41%	39%	34%	28%
<b>Undecided</b>	11%	15%	7%	13%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Term Limits</b>					
<b>No term limit</b>	15%	6%	20%	15%	13%
<b>One term</b>	17%	28%	7%	22%	20%
<b>Two terms</b>	49%	47%	55%	48%	44%
<b>More than two terms</b>	11%	8%	11%	10%	13%
<b>Not sure</b>	7%	11%	6%	5%	10%

