

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**QUESTIONS ABOUT THE POLL: TOM JENSEN 919-744-6312**

## **Hutchison seat potentially competitive**

**Raleigh, N.C.** – A new Public Policy Polling survey looking at six potential match ups for the Senate seat that would come open if Kay Bailey Hutchison is elected Governor finds that the race could be competitive.

The strongest candidates in the poll, Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst and Attorney General Greg Abbott, have not yet announced intentions to seek the seat. Dewhurst leads likely Democratic candidates John Sharp 42-36 and Bill White 42-37. Abbott has marginally larger advantages over the pair, 44-36 over Sharp and 42-36 over White.

If one of the better known possible Republican candidates doesn't run, Democratic chances are even better. PPP tested state Senator Florence Shapiro as well and found that while she leads White 37-36, she trails Sharp 37-34.

“We still don't really know how the Senate field will shape up if Hutchison becomes Governor but these numbers indicate there is some potential for the race to be a close one,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “With two relatively strong Democrats making the race it should certainly be more competitive than most recent Senate elections in the state have been.”

A significant number of voters don't know enough about each of the candidates to have formed an opinion about them yet. 48% are ambivalent toward Shapiro, 43% toward White, 41% toward Sharp, 32% toward Abbott, and 27% toward Dewhurst.

A PPP survey released yesterday showed Kay Bailey Hutchison with a large lead over Rick Perry for the 2010 Republican nomination for Governor.

PPP polled 1,409 likely voters from February 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>. The survey's margin of error is +/-2.6%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.

Complete results are attached and can be found at [www.publicpolicypolling.com](http://www.publicpolicypolling.com).

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 have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of former Democratic Comptroller John Sharp? If favorable, press 1. If unfavorable, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

*Favorable*.....33% *Not Sure*.....41%  
*Unfavorable* .....25%

**Q2** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Democratic Houston Mayor Bill White? If favorable, press 1. If unfavorable, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

*Favorable*.....31%  
*Unfavorable* .....26%  
*Not Sure*.....43%

**Q3** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Republican Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst? If favorable, press 1. If unfavorable, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

*Favorable*.....43%  
*Unfavorable* .....30%  
*Not Sure*.....27%

**Q4** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Republican Attorney General Greg Abbott? If favorable, press 1. If unfavorable, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

*Favorable*.....43%  
*Unfavorable* .....25%  
*Not Sure*.....32%

**Q5** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Republican State Senator Florence Shapiro? If favorable, press 1. If unfavorable, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

*Favorable*.....26%  
*Unfavorable* .....26%  
*Not Sure*.....48%

**Q6** If there was a Senate election between Republican David Dewhurst and Democrat John Sharp, who would you vote for? If David Dewhurst, press 1. If John Sharp, press 2. If you're undecided, press 3.

*David Dewhurst* .....42%  
*John Sharp* .....36%  
*Undecided*.....22%

**Q7** If there was a Senate election between Republican Greg Abbott and Democrat John Sharp, who would you vote for? If Greg Abbott, press 1. If John Sharp, press 2. If you're undecided, press 3.

*Greg Abbott* .....44%  
*John Sharp* .....36%  
*Undecided*.....19%

**Q8** If there was a Senate election between Republican Florence Shapiro and Democrat John Sharp, who would you vote for? If Florence Shapiro, press 1. If John Sharp, press 2. If you're undecided, press 3.

*Florence Shapiro* .....34%  
*John Sharp* .....37%  
*Undecided*.....29%

**Q9** If there was a Senate election between Republican David Dewhurst and Democrat Bill White, who would you vote for? If David Dewhurst, press 1. If Bill White, press 2. If you're undecided, press 3.

*David Dewhurst* .....42%  
*Bill White*.....37%  
*Undecided*.....21%





**Q10** If there was a Senate election between Republican Greg Abbott and Democrat Bill White, who would you vote for? If Greg Abbott, press 1. If Bill White, press 2. If you're undecided, press 3.

*Greg Abbott* ..... 42%  
*Bill White*..... 36%  
*Undecided*..... 22%

**Q11** If there was a Senate election between Republican Florence Shapiro and Democrat Bill White, who would you vote for? If Florence Shapiro, press 1. If Bill White, press 2. If you're undecided, press 3.

*Florence Shapiro* ..... 37%  
*Bill White*..... 36%  
*Undecided*..... 27%

**Q12** If you are a woman, press 1, if a man, press 2.

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

**Q13** If you are a Democrat, press 1. If you are a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

*Democrat* ..... 38%  
*Republican*..... 44%  
*Independent/Other*..... 18%

**Q14** If you are white, press one now. If you are African-American, press two now. If you are Hispanic, press 3. If other, press 4.

*White* ..... 63%  
*African-American* ..... 12%  
*Hispanic*..... 22%  
*Other*..... 3%

**Q15** 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*..... 10%  
*30 to 45*..... 28%  
*46 to 65*..... 43%  
*Older than 65*..... 19%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Sharp Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	33%	30%	38%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	25%	22%	30%
<b>Not Sure</b>	41%	49%	32%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>White Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	31%	32%	30%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	26%	20%	33%
<b>Not Sure</b>	43%	48%	37%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Dewhurst Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	43%	37%	51%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	30%	29%	32%
<b>Not Sure</b>	27%	34%	18%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Abbott Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	43%	41%	45%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	25%	22%	29%
<b>Not Sure</b>	32%	37%	26%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Shapiro Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	26%	23%	30%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	26%	25%	28%
<b>Not Sure</b>	48%	52%	42%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Dewhurst/Sharp</b>			
<b>David Dewhurst</b>	42%	40%	44%
<b>John Sharp</b>	36%	33%	40%
<b>Undecided</b>	22%	28%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Abbott/Sharp</b>			
<b>Greg Abbott</b>	44%	43%	46%
<b>John Sharp</b>	36%	35%	38%
<b>Undecided</b>	19%	22%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Shapiro/Sharp</b>			
<b>Florence Shapiro</b>	34%	32%	36%
<b>John Sharp</b>	37%	33%	40%
<b>Undecided</b>	29%	34%	24%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Dewhurst/White</b>			
<b>David Dewhurst</b>	<b>42%</b>	39%	46%
<b>Bill White</b>	<b>37%</b>	36%	37%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>21%</b>	25%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Abbott/White</b>			
<b>Greg Abbott</b>	<b>42%</b>	38%	46%
<b>Bill White</b>	<b>36%</b>	36%	37%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>22%</b>	26%	17%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Shapiro/White</b>			
<b>Florence Shapiro</b>	<b>37%</b>	33%	41%
<b>Bill White</b>	<b>36%</b>	37%	35%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>27%</b>	29%	24%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Sharp Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>33%</b>	49%	18%	38%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>25%</b>	14%	37%	21%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>41%</b>	37%	45%	41%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>White Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	31%	47%	20%	25%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	26%	12%	39%	23%
<b>Not Sure</b>	43%	41%	41%	52%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Dewhurst Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	43%	15%	68%	40%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	30%	53%	8%	37%
<b>Not Sure</b>	27%	32%	24%	24%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Abbott Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	43%	19%	64%	37%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	25%	44%	6%	32%
<b>Not Sure</b>	32%	37%	29%	30%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Shapiro Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	26%	7%	46%	19%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	26%	49%	7%	27%
<b>Not Sure</b>	48%	44%	48%	54%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Dewhurst/Sharp</b>				
<b>David Dewhurst</b>	42%	7%	77%	29%
<b>John Sharp</b>	36%	71%	7%	33%
<b>Undecided</b>	22%	22%	15%	38%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Abbott/Sharp</b>				
<b>Greg Abbott</b>	44%	11%	77%	34%
<b>John Sharp</b>	36%	72%	6%	37%
<b>Undecided</b>	19%	17%	17%	29%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Shapiro/Sharp</b>				
<b>Florence Shapiro</b>	34%	10%	60%	22%
<b>John Sharp</b>	37%	68%	7%	40%
<b>Undecided</b>	29%	22%	32%	38%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Dewhurst/White</b>				
<b>David Dewhurst</b>	42%	10%	76%	30%
<b>Bill White</b>	37%	69%	8%	37%
<b>Undecided</b>	21%	21%	16%	33%







**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Abbott/White</b>				
<b>Greg Abbott</b>	42%	9%	74%	33%
<b>Bill White</b>	36%	70%	9%	33%
<b>Undecided</b>	22%	21%	17%	34%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Shapiro/White</b>				
<b>Florence Shapiro</b>	37%	8%	67%	26%
<b>Bill White</b>	36%	70%	10%	30%
<b>Undecided</b>	27%	22%	23%	44%

	Base	Race			
		White	African-American	Hispanic	Other
<b>Sharp Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	33%	27%	48%	45%	19%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	25%	27%	13%	27%	31%
<b>Not Sure</b>	41%	46%	40%	27%	50%

	Base	Race			
		White	African-American	Hispanic	Other
<b>White Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	31%	25%	50%	37%	25%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	26%	29%	17%	22%	40%
<b>Not Sure</b>	43%	46%	33%	41%	35%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race			
		White	African-American	Hispanic	Other
<b>Dewhurst Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>43%</b>	49%	21%	38%	42%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>30%</b>	23%	44%	44%	25%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>27%</b>	28%	35%	18%	33%

	Base	Race			
		White	African-American	Hispanic	Other
<b>Abbott Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>43%</b>	49%	17%	38%	44%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>25%</b>	20%	50%	28%	19%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>32%</b>	31%	33%	34%	38%

	Base	Race			
		White	African-American	Hispanic	Other
<b>Shapiro Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>26%</b>	32%	11%	18%	27%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>26%</b>	19%	45%	36%	21%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>48%</b>	49%	45%	46%	52%

	Base	Race			
		White	African-American	Hispanic	Other
<b>Dewhurst/Sharp</b>					
<b>David Dewhurst</b>	<b>42%</b>	52%	8%	29%	50%
<b>John Sharp</b>	<b>36%</b>	28%	67%	45%	23%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>22%</b>	20%	25%	25%	27%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race			
		White	African-American	Hispanic	Other
<b>Abbott/Sharp</b>					
<b>Greg Abbott</b>	44%	52%	13%	37%	52%
<b>John Sharp</b>	36%	27%	58%	51%	31%
<b>Undecided</b>	19%	20%	29%	12%	17%

	Base	Race			
		White	African-American	Hispanic	Other
<b>Shapiro/Sharp</b>					
<b>Florence Shapiro</b>	34%	39%	10%	31%	38%
<b>John Sharp</b>	37%	30%	60%	45%	27%
<b>Undecided</b>	29%	31%	29%	24%	35%

	Base	Race			
		White	African-American	Hispanic	Other
<b>Dewhurst/White</b>					
<b>David Dewhurst</b>	42%	51%	13%	31%	52%
<b>Bill White</b>	37%	26%	67%	51%	35%
<b>Undecided</b>	21%	23%	21%	18%	13%

	Base	Race			
		White	African-American	Hispanic	Other
<b>Abbott/White</b>					
<b>Greg Abbott</b>	42%	51%	13%	30%	52%
<b>Bill White</b>	36%	27%	73%	44%	35%
<b>Undecided</b>	22%	22%	15%	26%	13%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race			
		White	African-American	Hispanic	Other
<b>Shapiro/White</b>					
<b>Florence Shapiro</b>	37%	43%	17%	29%	42%
<b>Bill White</b>	36%	29%	63%	45%	33%
<b>Undecided</b>	27%	28%	21%	25%	25%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Sharp Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	33%	35%	26%	37%	35%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	25%	26%	28%	24%	24%
<b>Not Sure</b>	41%	38%	46%	39%	41%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>White Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	31%	39%	30%	33%	23%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	26%	30%	24%	27%	25%
<b>Not Sure</b>	43%	31%	46%	40%	52%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Dewhurst Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	43%	29%	40%	48%	45%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	30%	36%	30%	30%	28%
<b>Not Sure</b>	27%	36%	30%	22%	27%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Abbott Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	43%	38%	44%	42%	43%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	25%	35%	25%	26%	19%
<b>Not Sure</b>	32%	27%	32%	31%	38%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Shapiro Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	26%	24%	24%	27%	28%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	26%	34%	26%	27%	21%
<b>Not Sure</b>	48%	41%	50%	46%	51%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Dewhurst/Sharp</b>					
<b>David Dewhurst</b>	42%	30%	41%	44%	44%
<b>John Sharp</b>	36%	41%	33%	38%	34%
<b>Undecided</b>	22%	29%	26%	18%	22%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Abbott/Sharp</b>					
<b>Greg Abbott</b>	44%	34%	46%	47%	40%
<b>John Sharp</b>	36%	48%	31%	36%	39%
<b>Undecided</b>	19%	18%	23%	17%	21%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Shapiro/Sharp</b>					
<b>Florence Shapiro</b>	34%	34%	32%	35%	34%
<b>John Sharp</b>	37%	41%	31%	38%	40%
<b>Undecided</b>	29%	24%	37%	27%	25%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Dewhurst/White</b>					
<b>David Dewhurst</b>	42%	31%	38%	47%	45%
<b>Bill White</b>	37%	49%	37%	34%	35%
<b>Undecided</b>	21%	20%	24%	19%	20%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Abbott/White</b>					
<b>Greg Abbott</b>	42%	27%	43%	45%	41%
<b>Bill White</b>	36%	42%	37%	35%	35%
<b>Undecided</b>	22%	31%	20%	20%	24%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Shapiro/White</b>					
<b>Florence Shapiro</b>	37%	28%	34%	40%	39%
<b>Bill White</b>	36%	44%	38%	33%	37%
<b>Undecided</b>	27%	28%	28%	26%	24%

