

## **TN SCORE**

## **Democratic Gubernatorial Primary Survey**

Fielded December 14 – 17, 2017 Among 501 registered voters likely to vote in the 2018 Tennessee Gubernatorial Democratic Primary

# **Screener Questions**

Are you over 18 and registered to vote in Tennessee?

Yes	100
No	0

Do you or does anyone in your household work for a newspaper, a television station, a radio station, or a market research company?

Yes/Don't Know/Refused	0
No	100

In politics today, do you consider yourself to be...

Republican	4
Democrat	72
Independent	21
Other	0
Don't know/Refused	3

As you may be aware, very few people actually vote in primary elections. How likely is it that you will vote in NEXT year's Democratic primary for Governor which will be held in August 2018? Would you say that you will definitely vote in the primary, probably vote in the primary, are about a 50-50 chance to vote, probably not vote in the primary, or definitely not vote in the primary?

Definitely vote in the Democratic primary for Governor	85
Probably vote in the Democratic primary for Governor	15
50-50 chance to vote in the primary	0
Probably NOT vote in primary	0
Definitely NOT vote in primary	0
Don't know/Refused	0

# Lay of the Land

Generally speaking, would you say that things in Tennessee are going in the right direction, or have they pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track?

	July	Dec
Right direction	36	40
Wrong track	54	49
Don't know/Refused	10	11

Now, I would like to read you a list of names of different organizations and efforts. For each one, please tell me first whether you've heard of that effort, or organization; then, if so, please tell me whether you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of that effort or organization. If I mention someone or something you don't know too much about, just tell me and we'll go on to the next one.

							Never				
		Very	Smwt	Smwt	Very	No	heard	Don't	TOTAL	TOTAL	NO
		Fav	Fav	Unfav	Unfav	Opin	of	know/Ref	FAV	UNFAV	OPIN/DK
Tennessee Promise	July	35	15	3	2	9	31	4	51	5	44
	Dec	34	18	4	2	10	29	3	52	7	42

Thinking for a moment about all the issues that face Tennessee, which SINGLE issue is personally most important to you in deciding your vote for Governor? (Open-end)

(Open-end)	
Education	22
Health care	16
Economy/jobs	9
For the people/not corporations/not special interests	4
Infrastructure/roads and bridges	4
Taxes	4
Guns/gun control	3
LGBT rights/equality	2
Budget/budget cuts	2
Democrats/don't like Republicans	2
Good candidate/good person	2
Crime	1
Net neutrality	1
Drugs/opioids	1
Support for Trump	1
Social Security	1
Race/racial justice	1
Immigration	1
Poverty/homelessness	1
Seniors/retirement	1
Welfare/entitlements	1

Hyper-partisanship	1
Social justice	1
Respect for diversity	1
Marijuana legalization	1
Environment/climate change	1
Views on the issues	1
No single issue most important	1
Wages/income inequality	1
Voting rights	1
Other	6
Don't know/refused	9

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Governor Bill Haslam is doing?

	July	Dec
Strongly approve	14	17
Somewhat approve	49	49
Somewhat disapprove	16	16
Strongly disapprove	15	10
Don't know/Refused	6	8
APPROVE	63	66
DISAPPROVE	31	26

Which ONE of the following issues do you believe should be the top priority for the Governor?

	July	Dec
Making healthcare more accessible and affordable	39	31
Improving the quality of public education	21	22
Improving the economy and creating jobs	11	13
Keeping our streets and communities safe from crime	9	8
Investing in infrastructure like roads and bridges	10	7
Addressing the opioid crisis	n/a	6
Lowering taxes	2	3
None of the above	1	1
Reducing government regulation	0	0
All of the above	7	8
Don't know	0	1
Refused	0	0

If you knew the following were true about a candidate for Governor, would it make you MORE LIKELY or LESS LIKELY to support that candidate. If it would have no impact on your vote, just say so.

	Much more likely to support	Somewhat s more likely	Somewhat less likely	to	No Impact	Don't know/Ref	TOTAL MORE LIKELY TO SUPPORT	TOTAL LESS LIKELY TO SUPPORT
Supports increasing teacher pay	66	26	2	1	5	1	91	3
Supports expanding efforts to ensure more Tennesseans have some kind of post-high school education	57	33	1	0	7	2	90	1
Supports expanding quality early learning opportunities, specifically prior to kindergarten	53	29	3	3	9	3	82	6
Favors making early grade literacy the state's top priority	50	33	2	1	9	4	83	3
Favors improving training for school principals	48	39	1	0	9	2	88	1
Favors fewer, better tests for Kindergarten through 12th grade students	39	34	6	5	12	5	72	11
Favors workforce certificates for high school students	33	36	4	2	12	13	69	6
Supports giving parents a choice in where they send their child to school	30	28	14	9	16	4	58	23

In your opinion, are Tennessee's high school graduates properly prepared for college or a job?

	July	Dec
Definitely Yes	9	5
Probably Yes	42	30
Probably No	29	28
Definitely No	17	29
Don't know	3	8
Refused	0	1
YES	51	35
NO	46	56

Thinking for a moment about testing students in our state's public schools...How important is it to test students from grades three through eleven each year to know if they are meeting the state's education standards in reading, writing and math? Is it...

	July	Dec
Very important	61	52
Somewhat important	27	34
Not too important	7	8
Not at all important	4	3
Don't know	1	2
Refused	0	1
IMPORANT	88	86
NOT IMPORTANT	11	11

And, in general, do you believe that students in Tennessee's public schools are given...

	July	Dec
Too many tests	37	41
About the right amount of tests	36	33
Not enough tests	10	9
Don't know	16	17
Refused	0	1

As you may know, Tennessee is using an end of year test to better assess what a child learns in a school year. This test is called TN Ready and was designed to better match what is actually being taught in Tennessee classrooms. The TN Ready test is designed to measure problem solving, critical thinking, and other skills needed for 21st century careers. It is the only test required by the state for all students in grades 3 through 12. Knowing this, do you favor or oppose implementing this test?

Note: In July, respondents did not hear "It is the only test required by the state for all students in grades 3 through 12."

	July	Dec
Strongly favor	31	30
Somewhat favor	38	37
Somewhat oppose	12	14
Strongly oppose	10	12
Don't know/Not sure	8	7
Refused	0	1
FAVOR	70	66
OPPOSE	22	26

#### If Favor TN Ready

Now, thinking some more about this TN Ready test, it is likely that there will be some early challenges in implementing this test across the state. While frustrating, these challenges are temporary and are expected to be fixed. Knowing this, would you still favor or oppose implementing the test known as TN Ready?

Note: In July, respondents were asked: Now, thinking some more about this new TN Ready test, it is likely when they are implemented that student test scores will drop significantly as students and teachers get used to the new tests. Knowing this, would you still favor or oppose implementing the new tests known as TN Ready?

	July	Dec
Strongly favor	27	33
Somewhat favor	47	54
Somewhat oppose	13	6
Strongly oppose	6	3
Don't know/Not sure	7	4
Refused	0	0
FAVOR	74	87
OPPOSE	19	9