

# Tennessee Statewide

Interview Schedule



**PUBLIC OPINION  
STRATEGIES**

September 23-25, 2019  
Project: 19361  
N=500 Registered Voters  
Margin of Error:  $\pm 4.38\%$

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1. Now, generally speaking, do you think things in Tennessee are headed in the right direction or have they pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track?

58% RIGHT DIRECTION  
32% WRONG TRACK

8% DON'T KNOW  
1% REFUSED

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2. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Bill Lee is doing as Governor?

24% STRONGLY APPROVE  
37% SOMEWHAT APPROVE  
11% SOMEWHAT DISAPPROVE  
10% STRONGLY DISAPPROVE

15% DON'T KNOW  
2% REFUSED

**61% TOTAL APPROVE**  
**22% TOTAL DISAPPROVE**

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3. And, do you approve or disapprove of the job the State Legislature is doing in Nashville?

11% STRONGLY APPROVE  
43% SOMEWHAT APPROVE  
13% SOMEWHAT DISAPPROVE  
18% STRONGLY DISAPPROVE

14% DON'T KNOW  
2% REFUSED

**53% TOTAL APPROVE**  
**31% TOTAL DISAPPROVE**

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Now, turning to issues.

4. Which ONE of the following issues do you believe should be the top priority for the Governor and State Legislature?

- 18% HEALTH CARE
  - 15% EDUCATION
  - 12% JOBS AND THE ECONOMY
  - 9% GUN RIGHTS AND THE SECOND AMENDMENT
  - 8% IMMIGRATION
  - 7% OPIOID CRISIS
  - 7% ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE
  - 6% CRIME AND DRUGS
  - 6% SOCIAL ISSUES LIKE FAMILY VALUES AND ABORTION
  - 5% THE ENVIRONMENT
  - 3% GOVERNMENT SPENDING
  - 2% TAXES
  - 2% DON'T KNOW/REFUSED
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Now, I would like to read you a list of different ideas and organizations. For each one, please tell me, first whether you've heard of it; then, if so, please tell me whether you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of it. If I mention something you don't know too much about, just tell me and we'll go on to the next one.

	<b>TOTAL FAV</b>	<b>TOTAL UNFAV</b>	<b>VERY FAV</b>	<b>SMWT FAV</b>	<b>SMWT UNFAV</b>	<b>VERY UNFAV</b>	<b>HRD OF/NO OPIN</b>	<b>NVR HRD OF</b>	<b>REF</b>
5. Vocational Training	<b>89%</b>	<b>3%</b>	71%	18%	2%	2%	5%	–	*
6. Community college	<b>91%</b>	<b>3%</b>	69%	22%	2%	1%	4%	2%	*
7. Career and Technical Education	<b>82%</b>	<b>4%</b>	60%	21%	3%	1%	7%	7%	–
8. Tennessee Promise	<b>46%</b>	<b>6%</b>	35%	12%	3%	3%	15%	32%	1%
9. Public Charter Schools	<b>44%</b>	<b>24%</b>	18%	26%	11%	13%	22%	9%	1%
10. T-N Ready	<b>23%</b>	<b>13%</b>	10%	12%	6%	8%	17%	47%	*

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Now, as you may know, the Tennessee State Legislature recently voted to approve several initiatives that will impact public education. I would like to read you some of the actions taken by legislators and please tell me whether that action would make you MORE LIKELY or LESS LIKELY to support your state legislator...

<b>TOTAL MORE</b>	<b>TOTAL LESS</b>	<b>MUCH MORE</b>	<b>SMWT MORE</b>	<b>SMWT LESS</b>	<b>MUCH LESS</b>	<b>NO IMP</b>	<b>DK/ REF</b>
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**Ranked by % Much More Likely**

- |     |   |            |            |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----|---|------------|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 12. | Voted to make college more affordable for Tennessee students.                           | <b>87%</b> | <b>7%</b>  | 67% | 20% | 5%  | 2%  | 5%  | 1%  |
| 11. | Voted to make college more accessible and affordable for all students.                  | <b>82%</b> | <b>7%</b>  | 63% | 19% | 3%  | 4%  | 9%  | 2%  |
| 14. | Voted in support of measuring the academic progress of students through annual testing. | <b>49%</b> | <b>30%</b> | 26% | 23% | 13% | 17% | 18% | 3%  |
| 15. | Voted in support of Tennessee’s current teacher evaluation system.                      | <b>38%</b> | <b>27%</b> | 20% | 17% | 14% | 13% | 23% | 13% |
| 13. | Voted to reduce accountability in schools.  | <b>22%</b> | <b>53%</b> | 13% | 9%  | 17% | 36% | 14% | 11% |

16. And, as you may know, public school choice refers to allowing parents to have a choice in which type of public school they send their children to, such as charter schools or magnet schools. Do you favor or oppose public school choice that gives parents more choices in where their child can attend school?

54%	STRONGLY FAVOR
21%	SOMEWHAT FAVOR
7%	SOMEWHAT OPPOSE
13%	STRONGLY OPPOSE

4%	DON'T KNOW
1%	REFUSED

<b>75%</b>	<b>TOTAL FAVOR</b>
<b>20%</b>	<b>TOTAL OPPOSE</b>

Now, changing topics...

17. 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?

60% VERY IMPORTANT  
25% SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT  
9% NOT TOO IMPORTANT  
...or...  
5% NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT  
  
1% DON'T KNOW  
– REFUSED

**85% TOTAL IMPORTANT**  
**15% TOTAL NOT IMPORTANT**

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And, on another topic...

18. As you may know, Tennessee has a policy that uses the year-to-year academic growth of students in part to measure a teacher's achievement and use it as part of the teacher's annual review. Do you favor or oppose this policy?

24% STRONGLY FAVOR  
30% SOMEWHAT FAVOR  
16% SOMEWHAT OPPOSE  
26% STRONGLY OPPOSE  
  
3% DON'T KNOW  
1% REFUSED

**54% TOTAL FAVOR**  
**43% TOTAL OPPOSE**

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19. As you may know, Tennessee uses year-to-year student academic growth for school accountability so that parents and communities know how well schools are performing. Do you favor or oppose this policy?

39% STRONGLY FAVOR  
38% SOMEWHAT FAVOR  
10% SOMEWHAT OPPOSE  
10% STRONGLY OPPOSE

3% DON'T KNOW  
\* REFUSED

**77% TOTAL FAVOR**  
**19% TOTAL OPPOSE**

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And, thinking more about this...

20. Accountability in schools can refer to many different policies, including assigning letter grades to schools, state intervention, teacher evaluation, and transparency. Knowing this, do you favor or oppose more accountability in schools?

47% STRONGLY FAVOR  
32% SOMEWHAT FAVOR  
8% SOMEWHAT OPPOSE  
9% STRONGLY OPPOSE

2% DON'T KNOW  
1% REFUSED

**79% TOTAL FAVOR**  
**17% TOTAL OPPOSE**

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Now, thinking some more about T-N Ready...

21. T-N Ready is a end of year test to better assess what a child learns in a school year. It was designed to better match what is actually being taught in Tennessee classrooms. The T-N Ready test is designed to measure problem solving, critical thinking, and other skills needed for twenty-first 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 using T-N Ready in Tennessee schools?

36% STRONGLY FAVOR  
 33% SOMEWHAT FAVOR  
 11% SOMEWHAT OPPOSE  
 15% STRONGLY OPPOSE

4% DON'T KNOW  
 \* REFUSED

**69% TOTAL FAVOR**  
**27% TOTAL OPPOSE**

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22. There are many important priorities in education that need to be funded, but in your view, which ONE of the following priorities is most important for the Governor and State Legislature to fund this year?

37% A pay increase for teachers  
 31% Improve workforce readiness for high school students  
 23% Improve Tennessee's literacy rate  
 8% Provide parents more choices in where they can send their children to school

1% DON'T KNOW  
 \* REFUSED

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On a new topic...

23. Do you think that colleges and universities in Tennessee properly prepare students for success in the workforce?

21% DEFINITELY YES

37% PROBABLY YES

18% PROBABLY NO

16% DEFINITELY NO

7% DON'T KNOW

1% REFUSED

**58% TOTAL YES**

**34% TOTAL NO**

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24. When you hear the word "college," what comes closest to your definition?

75% Four year university

11% Community college

5% Technical college

9% ALL OF THE ABOVE

1% DON'T KNOW

– REFUSED

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25. Do you think a degree from a community college is valuable?

68% DEFINITELY YES  
25% PROBABLY YES  
4% PROBABLY NO  
2% DEFINITELY NO

1% DON'T KNOW  
– REFUSED

**93% TOTAL YES**  
**6% TOTAL NO**

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26. Which of following comes closest to your view of the purpose of college or postsecondary education? Is it to...

52% Prepare students for a career  
21% Enable students to expand their horizons and learn new things  
...or is it to...  
18% Prepare students to be civically engaged and productive citizens?

7% ALL OF THE ABOVE

1% DON'T KNOW  
1% REFUSED

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27. When should schools start having discussions with students about college and career aspirations?

17% ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
47% MIDDLE SCHOOL  
34% HIGH SCHOOL  
2% COLLEGE

1% DON'T KNOW  
– REFUSED

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28. And, what do you believe is the highest level of education needed to be successful in today's economy?

29% A FOUR-YEAR DEGREE  
27% A TECHNICAL CERTIFICATE  
22% HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA  
16% A TWO-YEAR DEGREE

5% DON'T KNOW  
2% REFUSED

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29. Do you have children who are either living at home with you and who are not yet in college, or do you have children who graduated high school within the last two years?

- 31% YES, children living at home/not yet in college
- 11% YES, children graduated high school in last two years
  
- 63% NO
- DON'T KNOW
- \* REFUSED

**(ASKED IF A CHILD STILL LIVING AT HOME/NOT YET IN COLLEGE, N=153)**

30. And could you please tell me which of the following best describes your children. My children are...

- 25% Not yet in kindergarten
- 33% Kindergarten through Second Grade
- 28% Third through Sixth Grades
- 13% Seventh through Eighth Grades
- 35% Ninth through Twelfth Grades
- 6% Something else
- 4% None of these
- Not sure/refused

**(ASKED IF A CHILD STILL LIVING AT HOME/NOT YET IN COLLEGE, N=153)**

31. What kind of school or schools do your children attend?

- 78% Public
- 8% Private
- 1% Charter
- 3% Religious
- 10% Home schooled
- 5% Other
  
- 1% DON'T KNOW
- 2% REFUSED

D1. In what year were you born?

13%	18 - 34
27%	35 - 44
17%	45 - 54
17%	55 - 64
26%	65 AND ABOVE
*	REFUSED

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D2. What is the last grade you completed in school?

2%	SOME GRADE SCHOOL
4%	SOME HIGH SCHOOL
20%	GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL
6%	TECHNICAL/VOCATIONAL
25%	SOME COLLEGE
28%	GRADUATED COLLEGE
15%	GRADUATE/PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL
–	REFUSED
<b>57%</b>	<b>LESS THAN COLLEGE</b>
<b>43%</b>	<b>COLLEGE+</b>

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D3. And, in politics today, do you consider yourself...

a Republican,  
a Democrat,  
or something else?

**36% TOTAL REPUBLICAN**  
**27% TOTAL DEMOCRAT**  
**35% TOTAL LEAN/IND**

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D4. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself to be conservative, moderate ...or... liberal ...on most issues?

**46% TOTAL CONSERVATIVE**  
**30% TOTAL MODERATE**  
**20% TOTAL LIBERAL**

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D5. What is your main racial or ethnic heritage?

77% CAUCASIAN OR WHITE  
16% AFRICAN-AMERICAN OR BLACK  
1% HISPANIC  
1% ASIAN  
2% OTHER  
3% REFUSED

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D6. Gender.

47% MALE  
53% FEMALE

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