



# Summary of the Tennessee **LEGISLATIVE SURVEY 2025**

Providing insight into a cross-section of conservative, working-class Tennessee families

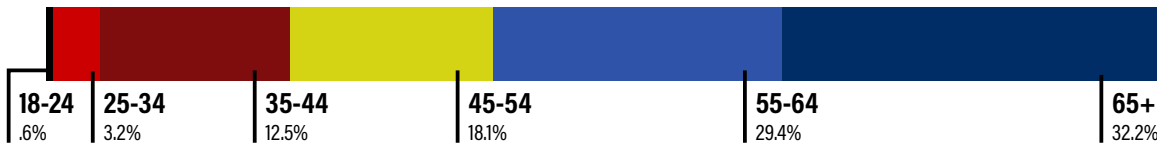


# SURVEY SUMMARY 2025

## 3,835

**Survey Responses**  
from individuals who are  
registered Tennessee voters.

### Responses by age group:



### Responses by Men/Women:



### Respondents From All 95 Counties

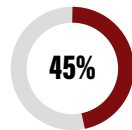


#### Top 10 Counties

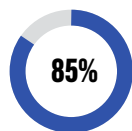
Williamson, Knox, Davidson, Rutherford, Washington, Shelby, Hamilton, Blount, Maury, Sumner



**College Degree**  
70% of respondents have  
obtained some level of a  
college degree



**Income over \$100K**  
45% of respondents have an  
annual household income of  
over \$100,000



**Conservative**  
Over 85% of all survey  
respondents report to be  
somewhat or very conservative  
in their political views



**77% Republican**  
77% of respondents identify  
their political affiliation as  
Republican

**14% Independent**  
14% of respondents identify  
their political affiliation as  
Independent

**9% Other**  
9% identify as Libertarians,  
Democrats, or other



**48% Employed**  
48% of respondents are  
employed or self employed

**40% Retired**  
40% of respondents are  
retirees

**12% Other**  
12% of respondents are  
home makers or unemployed

The Tennessee Legislative Survey was conducted by Tennessee Stands, a nonprofit social advocacy organization in Tennessee, over a 30-day period in the fall of 2024. While this is not a scientific study, there are a few things to note. Most political surveys are compiled with less than 1,000 responses. With over 3,800 responses, we have a high degree of confidence as to the accuracy of these results. Individual responses were verified by IP address, and respondents attest their answers to be true and accurate.

The results of this survey should be read as a cross-section of **conservative, working-class Tennessee families.**

# TOP 5 ISSUES

Ranked highest to lowest



## Election Integrity



## Illegal Immigration



## Economy/Inflation



## 2nd Amendment



## Federal Overreach

# ECONOMY



**68%**

**DO NOT SUPPORT  
BUILDING CHOICE LANES**



**CREATING A STATE BULLION DEPOSITORY**

**66%**  
**SUPPORT**

**23%**   
**I DON'T KNOW**



**91%**

**DO NOT SUPPORT  
STATE INCENTIVES TO  
GROW THE EV INDUSTRY**

## On the Economy

In 2023, the General Assembly passed the Transportation Modernization Act authorizing the construction of new toll lanes (choice lanes) in an effort to relieve traffic congestion in busy areas. 68% of respondents oppose the construction of these choice lanes or user fee lanes. When adjusted for residents of Davidson, Hamilton, Knox, Shelby, and Williamson (counties most likely to see toll lanes), 65% still oppose the construction of toll lanes.

66% of respondents support the creation of a bullion depository in the state of Tennessee in efforts to use gold and silver as a hedge against inflation, deficit spending, and the Federal Reserve. 23% responded with "I don't know," which signals that a lot of education on this particular issue is needed.

91% of Tennesseans believe that the state should cease all efforts to continue incentivizing the growth of the electric vehicle (EV) industry. Taxpayers see the \$1 BILLION sent to Ford for the Blue Oval City as wasteful spending considering that Ford is reportedly losing billions on the electric venture and have now delayed production of the new F-150 (to be manufactured in Tennessee) to 2027.

# ECONOMY



**63%**

**DO NOT SUPPORT  
CORPORATE WELFARE**



**77%**

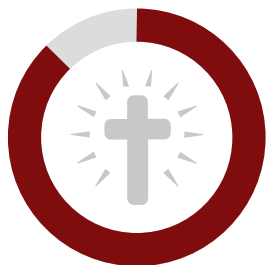
**DO NOT SUPPORT  
FARMLAND EASEMENT  
TAX PROGRAM**

## On the Economy Continued

When asked, "Do you believe that the state of Tennessee should continue using taxpayer funds to subsidize the growth of certain businesses with an aim to create jobs and attract new companies to Tennessee," 63% of respondents said NO. When responses are filtered for Republicans, 68% oppose corporate welfare.

Governor Bill Lee is pushing a plan for agricultural easements in Tennessee for the purpose of preserving farmland. It is said to benefit generational farmers by ensuring that their land is continued to be used for agricultural purposes only. In such a conservation program, the government now has an easement on the property whereby it is able to control the land use, and the property owner thereby loses full control of their land in exchange for a tax benefit from the state of Tennessee. 77% of respondents oppose the creation of this easement program.

# MEDICAL FREEDOM



**86% SUPPORT**  
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS FOR ALL  
VACCINATIONS AT ALL TIMES  
REGARDLESS OF AN EPIDEMIC



**87% SUPPORT**  
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT  
SECURING MEDICAL FREEDOM



**60% BELIEVE**  
LACK ACCESS TO THE BEST  
HEALTHCARE OPTIONS  
WHERE THEY LIVE

## Support of Medical Freedom

86% of Tennesseans are in support of legislation to secure a religious exemption for any and all vaccinations at all times, regardless of an epidemic or state of emergency.

87% of Republicans support a constitutional amendment securing medical freedom by restricting the state from requiring any vaccination or other medical treatments. This would effectively delete the CDC's childhood vaccination schedule requirements from public schools in Tennessee.

The state of Tennessee does NOT have a free-market healthcare system. Our state operates under a system called Certificate of Need, meaning that healthcare providers need "permission" from the General Assembly before they are allowed to open new facilities like hospitals, emergency rooms, urgent care facilities, and other specialty medical clinics. 60% of survey respondents feel they do not have access to the best healthcare options where they live.

# MEDICAL FREEDOM



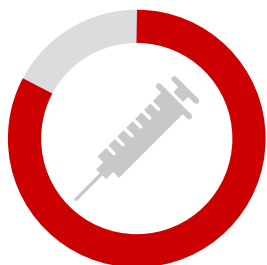
**91% AGREE**

**REPEAL STATE CERTIFICATE OF NEED LAWS**



**88% SUPPORT**

**LEGALIZE NATUROPATHY AS HEALTHCARE OPTION**



**79% AGREE**

**PUBLIC SCHOOLS DROP ALL CDC VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS**

## **Support of Medical Freedom** Continued

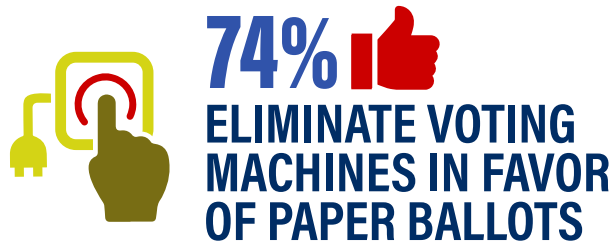
91% of Tennesseans support repealing the state's certificate of need laws and agree that "Members of the General Assembly are not best suited to determine what medical options are available for me and my family."

Naturopathy is a form of healthcare that combines modern treatment with traditional methods. It includes alternative, natural therapies to modern medicine and focuses on disease prevention and the body's ability to heal itself.

Currently, the practice of naturopathy is strictly prohibited in three (3) states: Florida, South Carolina, and Tennessee. 88% of voters believe that naturopathy should be legalized in Tennessee giving consumers more access to alternative forms of healthcare.

79% of survey respondents agree that state government and public schools should drop all requirements for children to be vaccinated per the CDC schedule.

# ELECTION INTEGRITY



**39%** **LIMIT EARLY VOTING TIME WINDOW**



**31%** **KEEP EARLY VOTING LAWS AS IS**



**30%** **VOTING ONLY ON ELECTION DAY**



**69%** **NEED REFORM FOR EARLY VOTING TO PREVENT FRAUD**

## On Election Integrity

On a scale 1 -100, the average level of confidence that Tennesseans report in the security of our elections, meaning they are confident that the vote they cast is the vote that is counted, ranks at 43.

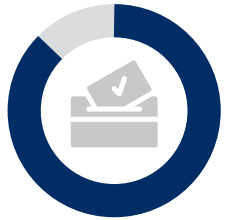
Overall, 74% of respondents would be in favor of voting via a secured hand-marked paper ballot exclusively and eliminating the use of electronic voting machines entirely with 11% reporting that they are unsure.

Voters are very split on their feelings for early voting. Here are the results.

- 39% say "I support early voting, but believe that two weeks is too long. We should limit early voting opportunities to help prevent voter fraud."
- 31% say "Current laws concerning early voting are fine just the way they are."
- 30% say "There should be no early voting option. Voting should take place only on Election Day."

Overall, 69% of Tennesseans believe that we should make some sort of reforms to our early voting process by further limiting early access to prevent fraud.

# ELECTION INTEGRITY



**85% SUPPORT**  
VOTING IN REGISTERED  
PRECINCT ONLY

concerned about out-of-state  
spending in local elections

**96%**

support prohibiting out-of-state  
and PAC spending during primaries

**81%**



**81%** |

**ESTABLISH AN ELECTED  
SECRETARY OF STATE**



**68%** |

**CLOSED PRIMARIES**

## On Election Integrity Continued

For better voting access, several Tennessee counties have implemented "convenience centers" - allowing voters to cast ballots outside their home precinct, and requiring electronic poll books. 85% of voters somewhat or strongly agree voters should vote in their registered precinct. Precinct voting enhances voter roll maintenance, security, and Election Day voting access.

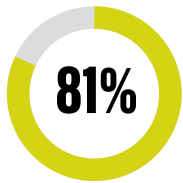
96% of voters are concerned about PAC and out-of-state special interest spending in state/local elections. While constitutional concerns exist for general elections, 81% of voters support prohibiting their participation, which we believe would be constitutional for state primaries.

Tennesseans deserve to hear directly from candidates, not deceptive campaign ads and mailers.

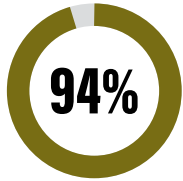
Currently, no one overseeing Tennessee's election administration is elected. While 35 of 47 states elect their Secretary of State, Tennessee does not. 81% of voters support changing this through a constitutional amendment establishing a 4-year elected Secretary of State position.

68% of Republican survey respondents support requiring party registration to close Tennessee primaries.

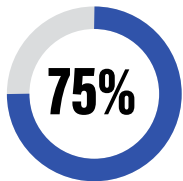
# EDUCATION



**FAVOR ELECTING LOCAL SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS BY GENERAL ELECTION**



**WANT CURRICULUM AVAILABLE FOR PARENT'S INSPECTION UPON REQUEST WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS**



**FAVOR REPLACING APPOINTED EDUCATION COMMISSIONER WITH AN ELECTED SUPERINTENDENT**



**67%** WANT LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL FOR DISTRICTS' FEDERAL FUNDS

**80%** FAVOR ENDING ALL FEDERAL FUNDS TO STATE SCHOOLS

## Administration

81% report being in favor of returning to the pre-1992 process of electing local school superintendents by general election.

94% of survey respondents believe that school curriculum should be made available to parents for inspection upon their request without restrictions and be made available online.

75% of respondents would support eliminating the position of Commissioner of Education in favor of a constitutional amendment that would create a Superintendent of Public Education elected by voters.

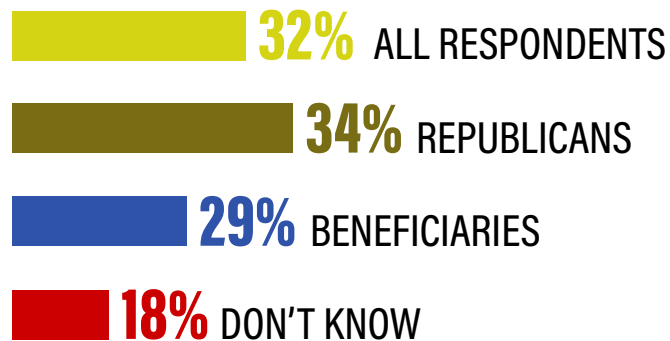
## Funding

67% believe local districts should need legislative approval for federal funds.

80% support eliminating federal funding from state public schools entirely.

# EDUCATION

## SUPPORT FOR GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL CHOICE PLAN



## School Choice and Vouchers

We asked... Do you support the Governor's plan for universal school choice in Tennessee? The proposal would use taxpayer funds to provide qualifying students with private school vouchers. Proponents say it empowers parents and will pressure underperforming public schools to improve through competition. Critics worry it will drain public school funding and warn that government oversight could follow these tax dollars into private education.

Only 32% of respondents- and 34% of Republicans - support the Governor's voucher plan. Support drops to 29% among likely beneficiaries (parents aged 25-44 making under \$100k).

18% say they don't know enough about the plan to form an opinion.

# EDUCATION



## ADDRESSING MENTAL HEALTH IN SCHOOLS

**19%**  **STRONGLY AGREE**

**21%**  **SOMEWHAT AGREE**

**15%** **UNSURE**

**20%**  **SOMEWHAT DISAGREE**

**25%**  **STRONGLY DISAGREE**

## Mental Health

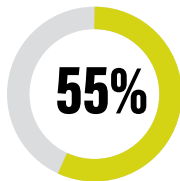
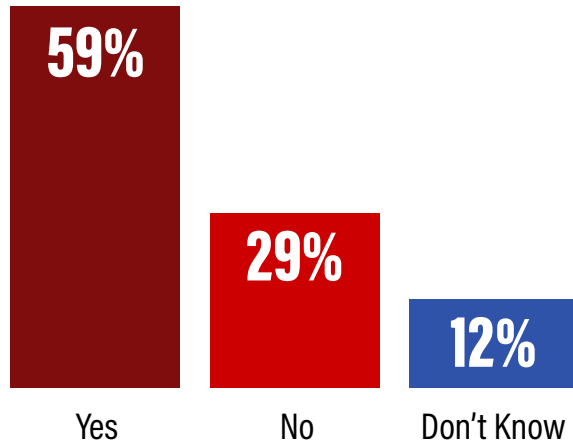
We asked whether or not respondents agree with the following statement: Mental health is a crisis amongst young people and we must address these issues in the public school system and continue to expand behavioral health programs to care for students.

19% Strongly Agree, 21% Somewhat Agree, 15% are Unsure, 20% Somewhat Disagree, 25% Strongly Disagree

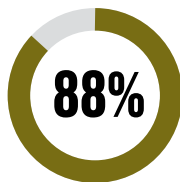
Clearly, addressing mental and behavior health in the public school system is a bit of a contentious topic. There is no denying that we have a mental health crisis amongst the student population. However, the question of whether or not government should be directly involved in treatment or intervention finds clear disagreement amongst respondents.

# 2ND AMENDMENT

## SUPPORT CONSTITUTIONAL CARRY



**SUPPORT LIABILITY FOR  
GUN-FREE BUSINESS INJURIES**



**WANT EXPANDED SELF-DEFENSE  
RIGHTS TO INCLUDE PROPERTY**

## Support of the 2nd Amendment

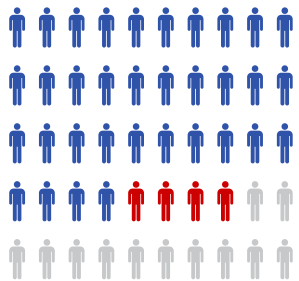
When asked... Would you support Constitutional Carry in Tennessee, meaning, that all persons ages 18 and over can legally carry a gun (concealed or openly) on any public property without the need for a license or permit?

59% say YES. 29% say NO. And 12% are Unsure.

55% of respondents support laws that would hold a business owner liable for damages in the case of an injury due to a restriction on individuals to legally carry a firearm for their own protection. Private property owners retain a right to restrict the carrying of firearms on their premises. But they may also carry a liability for restricting the rights of others.

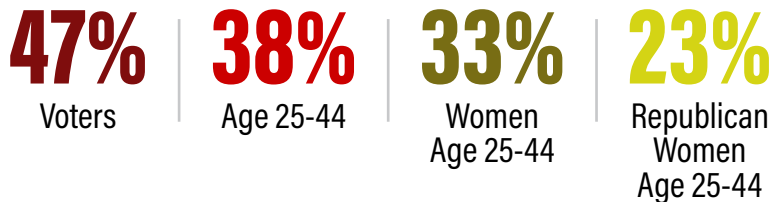
88% of Tennesseans support expanding a gun owner's right to use their firearm to protect both life and property in the case of self-defense. Currently, Tennesseans only have an affirmative defense in the case they use their firearm to protect themselves from imminent danger or loss of life.

# RIGHT TO LIFE

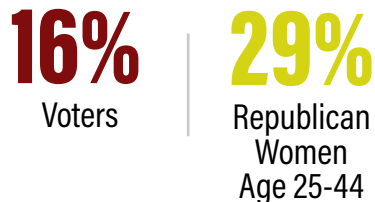


**68%** **75% OF**  
**REPUBLICANS**  
**BELIEVE LIFE BEGINS AT**  
**CONCEPTION AND DESERVES**  
**CONSTITUTIONAL PROTECTIONS**

## SUPPORT ABORTION EXCEPTIONS FOR RAPE OR INCEST



## SUPPORT CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR THE MOTHER



**REPUBLICAN WOMEN**  
are the most **PRO-LIFE**



## Views on the Right to Life

68% of Tennesseans believe that life begins at conception and deserves constitutional protections of life, liberty, and property (75% for Republicans).

47% of Tennessee voters support allowing abortions for rape or incest victims.

The data shows a continuing trend from our 2023 survey: younger generations are more pro-life than older ones.

Among ages 25-44 (primary child-bearing years/young families), support for rape/incest exceptions drops to 38%. When looking at women only, support falls to 33%. For Republican women in this age group, only 23% support these exceptions.

16% identify as abolitionists on right to life issues, supporting a complete ban and criminal penalties for mothers who willingly abort their child. This position is stronger among Republican women 25-44, where 29% identify as abolitionists supporting such penalties.

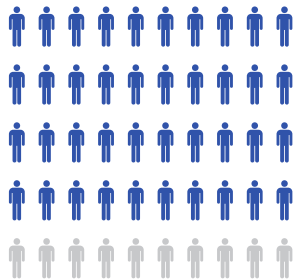
The data consistently shows younger Republican women are the most pro-life demographic.

# ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

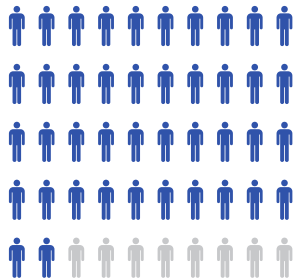
## Tougher State Immigration Laws

79% of Tennesseans believe that the General Assembly has not done all that it can do to curb illegal immigration in our state.

83% of Tennesseans support a law that would make it a felony offense for an illegal alien to attempt to take up residency in the state of Tennessee.




**79% AGREE**  
THE STATE HASN'T DONE  
ENOUGH ON ILLEGAL  
IMMIGRATION



**83% SUPPORT**  
A FELONY OFFENSE FOR  
ILLEGAL RESIDENCY

# OTHER ISSUES



**82%**   
**STATE RIGHT TO DEFY  
UNCONSTITUTIONAL  
FEDERAL ACTS**



**7%**   
**BELIEVE THAT ONLY  
COURTS CAN CHALLENGE  
THE CONSTITUTIONALITY  
OF FEDERAL ACTS**

## 10th Amendment Nullification

The 10th Amendment asserts that powers not enumerated to the federal government belong to the states or the people. Nullification is a process whereby states reject unconstitutional federal actions - whether executive orders, acts of Congress, or court rulings. Some General Assembly members are working on a Bill of Nullification which would create a process for representatives and citizens to direct the state to reject unconstitutional federal actions. Such actions could include federal vaccination mandates, restrictions on religious liberty, or federal homeschooling bans.

82% of survey respondents support nullification and believe states have a 10th Amendment right to defy unconstitutional federal acts.

Recently, AG Skrmetti's opinion concluded that states lack the authority to determine the constitutionality of federal actions, stating only courts possess this authority. Only 7% of Tennessee voters agree with his assessment.

# OTHER ISSUES

SENSE OF URGENCY:  
BAN GEOENGINEERING



SENSE OF URGENCY:  
LIMIT GOVERNOR'S  
EMERGENCY AUTHORITY



## Geoengineering and Emergency Power

In 2024, Tennessee became the first state to ban the process of geoengineering otherwise known as weather modification. However, there is currently no real enforcement mechanism in the law. Lawmakers are working on next steps to ensure that this ban on weather modification can be enforced.

When asked to rate the sense of urgency to get this done in Tennessee on a scale of 1 to 100, respondents rate the importance at 75.

Since 2020, the General Assembly has repeatedly failed to pass laws that would limit the Governor's authority during an emergency declaration. Still today, current laws would suggest that the Governor could continue to wield the same illegitimate authority in a new emergency like stay-at-home orders and closing your private businesses.

When asked to rate the sense of urgency to pass legislation to limit the Governor's authority in an emergency on a scale of 1 to 100, respondents say 82.

**We hope that this survey is useful to legislators here in Tennessee as they navigate the variety of bills that will come their way during the 114th General Assembly.**

Additionally, we hope to communicate that this survey will be used as a benchmark to compare the actions of legislators against the preferences of conservative voters here in Tennessee.

At Tennessee Stands, we talk a lot about accountability. Unfortunately, that desire for accountability does not often travel up the chain of political power and influence. Usually, we find that legislators are accountable to lobbyists, special interests, and large campaign financiers. We hope that this survey and more efforts like this lead to a more appropriate bent towards an accountability to the people.

In short, this survey shows a strong desire by conservatives to stand for individual liberties secured by our constitution over special interests, a defense of biblical values and life, and a desire to secure our elections here in Tennessee.

