

The Tennessee Poll Spring 2024 Questionnaire

Version date : 20240625 Final

Hi, my name is ____ and I am calling on behalf of East Tennessee State University. Just so you know, I am not trying to sell or market anything. We are conducting the Tennessee Poll which is a statewide survey with Tennessee residents to gather your thoughts and opinions on things that impact your health, education, and quality of life in Tennessee. Again, we are not polling for a political candidate nor will we ask for any donations or money. This is simply to ask Tennesseans their opinions on a variety of issues.

[For landline numbers] May I speak to the YOUNGEST ADULT MALE in the household?

- If no male, Okay, may I speak to the YOUNGEST ADULT FEMALE in the household?
- IF only male or only female (regardless of age): okay, well, if you are the only male/female in the house then you are the one we would like to speak to.
 - o Once correct person on line: The survey should take about 10 minutes depending on your answers and you answer only the questions you want to. May I ask you a few questions?
 - o [If no] okay, is there a better time that I can call back to reach him/her?
 - [If yes] Schedule call back time
 - [If no] Disposition call

[For Cell Phone Numbers] The survey should take about 15 minutes depending on your answers and you answer only the questions you want to. Our records indicate that we are likely calling you on a cell phone. Are you in a safe place that I may I ask you a few questions?

- [If yes] continue

[If no] Okay, is there a better time that I can call you back?

- [If yes] Schedule call back time
- [If no] Disposition call

[INTRO SCRIPT]

Great, thank you for agreeing to take our survey. As I mentioned, this is the Tennessee Poll and it is being conducted by Dr. Kelly Foster at East Tennessee State University. I will provide you with Dr. Foster's contact information at the end of this call if you would like it. Also, please know that your responses are confidential and will only be reported in group form – they will never be linked to your phone number or identify you in any way.

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Q_demo_yob In what year were you born? (4 digit year)

[RECORD VERBATIM]

[IF 2006 later, END SURVEY]

[IF YOB = 2006] Have you had a birthday this year?

Yes (1)

No (2) – END SURVEY

Q_demo_zip. What is the zipcode of your primary residence? [SCREEN OUT ANY NON-TN ZIPCODES]

Okay, first I would like to ask you about issues facing our country and the state of Tennessee.

Q_USAProb. What do you consider the most important problem or issue facing this country (USA) today? (Record verbatim)

Q_TNProb. What is the most important problem or issue facing people in Tennessee today? (Record verbatim)

Q_Track. Generally speaking, would you say things in Tennessee are heading in the right direction, or are they off on the wrong track?

Right Direction (1)

Wrong Track (2)

DK/UNSURE (88)

REFUSED (99)

Thank you. Now I'd like to switch topics and ask questions about the educational system in Tennessee and factors that may or may not impact learning in the classroom.

Q_educator_employment. Are you employed as an educator in Tennessee?

Yes (1)

No (2)

DK/Unsure (88)

Refused (99)

Q_Educator_School_Div . [If educator = yes] Are you currently primarily employed in a public school, private school, or higher education system?

Public School (1)

Private School (2)

Higher education (3)

Something else (please specify) (4)

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DK/Unsure (88)

Refused (99)

Next we have a few questions about the Age-Appropriate Materials Act of 2022.

To summarize, the Tennessee Age Appropriate Materials Act of 2022 requires school libraries and classrooms to maintain a list of materials in the library collection, to have a policy to screen reading materials for “age appropriateness,” and to remove materials that do not meet the criteria established.

Q.AAM_Oppose_Support From what you know, do you oppose or support the Tennessee Age-Appropriate Materials Act of 2022 (which focused primarily on library collections) ? [probe: would you say you strongly support/oppose]

Reminder: The Tennessee Age Appropriate Materials Act of 2022 requires school libraries and classrooms to maintain a list of materials in the library collection, to have a policy to screen reading materials for “age appropriateness,” and to remove materials that do not meet the criteria established.

- a. Strongly support (1)
- b. Support (2)
- c. Neither support nor oppose (3) (VOL)
- d. Oppose (4)
- e. Strongly Oppose (5)
- f. DK/Unsure (88) (VOL)
- g. Refused (99) (VOL)

After the initial bill was passed, there was an amendment to the bill. This amendment extends the act to cover classroom materials in addition to library materials. It also allows parents to appeal decisions about specific books.

Q_AAM_Age_Approp From what you know, do you oppose or support the Tennessee Age-Appropriate Materials Act amendment that was passed in 2023 (which extended the law to classroom materials) ? [probe: would you say you strongly support/oppose]

Reminder: The amendment to the bill above, passed in 2023, extends this act to cover classroom materials. It also allows parents to appeal decisions about specific books.

- a) Strongly support (1)
- b) Support (2)
- c) Neither support nor oppose (3) (VOL)
- d) Oppose (4)
- e) Strongly Oppose (5)
- f) DK/Unsure (88) (VOL)
- g) Refused (99) (VOL)

Q_Book_Opionion Which of the following comes closest to your opinion?

- a. Policies like these that challenge/remove books and other materials disadvantage all students in Tennessee by limiting access to learning. (1)

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- b. Policies like these that challenge/ remove books and other materials serve to protect all students in Tennessee by providing learning materials that are appropriate for their age. (2)
- c. DK/Unsure (88) (VOL)
- d. Refused (99) (VOL)

Q_Book_Decisions Who do you believe should be primarily responsible for making decisions about which materials and books should be available for students to checkout in the school library?

- a. School librarians (1)
- b. Parents (2)
- c. Teachers (3)
- d. Library boards (4)
- e. Local elected officials (5)
- f. State legislature (6)
- g. Students (7)
- h. Other (please specify) (8)
- i. DK/Unsure (88) (VOL)
- j. Refused (99) (VOL)

Q_Book_Classroom Who do you believe should be primarily responsible for making decisions about which materials and books should be available for students to checkout or use in the classroom?

- a. School librarians (1)
- b. Parents (2)
- c. Teachers (3)
- d. Library boards (4)
- e. Local elected officials (5)
- f. State legislature (6)
- g. Students (7)
- h. Other (please specify) (8)
- i. DK/Unsure (88) (VOL)
- j. Refused (99) (VOL)

[ROLE OF HIGHER ED- Repeats from our 2015 study]

Q. Youth_Success 33. Please tell me how important you think each of the following is in helping a young person succeed in the world today. (First/Next)
[READ AND RANDOMIZE] [READ FOR FIRST ITEM, THEN REPEAT ONLY IF NECESSARY: Would you say this is extremely important, very important, somewhat important, or not too important in helping a young person succeed in the world today?

- a. A college education (1)
- b. Knowing how to get along with people (2)
- c. A good work ethic (3)
- d. Work skills learned on the job (4)
- e. DK/Unsure (88) (VOL)

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f. Refused (99) (VOL)

Q.College_Role 34. Thinking about the role that colleges and universities play in the lives of their students... How important, if at all, is it that colleges and universities do each of the following? RANDOMIZE LIST. Would you say this is extremely important, very important, somewhat important, or not too important

- a. Provide a broad-based education that promotes intellectual growth (1)
- b. Provide skills and knowledge that will be of general value in the working world (2)
- c. Provide training for a specific career or profession (3)
- d. Help students improve their future earning potential (4)
- e. Promote personal growth and maturity (5)
- f. Provide continuing education for adults of all ages (6)
- g. Ensure that all qualified students have equal access to a college education (7)
- h. DK/Unsure (88) (VOL)
- i. Refused (99) (VOL)

[REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH MODULE]

Now I would like to ask you a few questions about your thoughts on reproductive health care. As a reminder, your responses are confidential.

Q_Abortion_IVF.

Do you think IVF, or in-vitro fertilization for women trying to get pregnant, should be legal or not legal [rotate order]?

- a. Legal (1)
- b. Not Legal (2)
- c. It depends on the situation (vol) (6)
- d. Don't know (vol) (88)
- e. Prefer not to answer (vol) (99)

Q_Abortion_AccessTo what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "A range of safe, effective, and affordable methods of abortion care should be available to women in their community."

- a. Strongly agree (1)
- b. Agree (2)
- c. Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- d. Disagree (4)
- e. Strongly disagree (5)

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- f. Don't know (vol) (88)
- g. Prefer not to answer (vol) (99)

Q_Abortion_Opinion. Which comes closest to your own view on abortion?

- a. Having an abortion is acceptable (1)
- b. Having an abortion may be acceptable depending on the circumstances (2)
- c. Having an abortion is never acceptable (3)
- d. Don't know (vol) (88)
- e. Prefer not to answer (vol) (99)

Q_Abortion_Vote: Thinking about how the abortion issue might affect your vote for major offices, would you:

- a. Only vote for a candidate who shares my views on abortion (1)
- b. Consider a candidate's position on abortion as just one of many important factors (2)
- c. Abortion is not a major issue when I vote for a candidate (3)
- d. Don't know (vol) (88)
- e. Prefer not to answer (vol) (99)

[randomly rotate order of Q_Abortion_Arrest and Q_Abortion_Arrest_Partner]

Q_Abortion_Arrest To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements: A woman should be arrested or go to jail for having an abortion.

[probe for strongly agree/disagree]

- a. Strongly agree (1)
- b. Agree (2)
- c. Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- d. Disagree (4)
- e. Strongly disagree (5)
- f. It depends on the circumstance (vol) (77)
- g. Don't know (vol) (88)
- h. Prefer not to answer (vol) (99)

Q_Abortion_Arrest_Partner. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements: A man should be arrested or go to jail if he helps his pregnant partner to have an abortion. [probe for strongly agree/disagree]

- a. Strongly agree (1)
- b. Agree (2)
- c. Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- d. Disagree (4)
- e. Strongly disagree (5)
- f. It depends on the circumstance (vol) (77)
- g. Don't know (vol) (88)

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h. Prefer not to answer (vol) (99)

[FIREARM MODULE]

Now I have a few questions about firearms and your opinions on what laws, if any, should be considered for Tennesseans.

Q. Reduce_Gun_Violence How much do you support or oppose each of the following to reduce gun-related violence?(strongly support, somewhat support, neither support nor oppose, somewhat oppose, strongly oppose) [options read in order for half, reverse order for half]

- a. Passing laws that temporarily restrict access to guns for individuals who are at high risk of harming themselves or others.
- b. Passing laws that would require that gun owners make sure any firearms in their home are securely stored to protect against unauthorized access.
- c. Passing laws that allow K-12 public school teachers to carry guns on school property and in the classroom.
- d. Passing laws that would PROHIBIT local governments and police from temporarily restricting access to guns for individuals at high risk of harming themselves or others – known as extreme protective risk orders.

[Food Security]

These next questions are about the food eaten in your household in the last 12 months, since (current month) of last year and whether you were able to afford the food you need.

HH3. I'm going to read you several statements that people have made about their food situation. For these statements, please tell me whether the statement was often true, sometimes true, or never true for (you/your household) in the last 12 months—that is, since last (name of current month).

The first statement is, “The food that (I/we) bought just didn’t last, and (I/we) didn’t have money to get more.” Was that often, sometimes, or never true for (you/your household) in the last 12 months?

- a) Often true (1)
- b) Sometimes true (2)
- c) Never true (3)

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- d) Don't know (vol) (88)
- e) Prefer not to answer (vol) (99)

HH4. “(I/we) couldn’t afford to eat balanced meals.” Was that often, sometimes, or never true for (you/your household) in the last 12 months?

- a) Often true (1)
- b) Sometimes true (2)
- c) Never true (3)
- d) Don't know (vol) (88)
- e) Prefer not to answer (vol) (99)

AD1. In the last 12 months, since last (name of current month), did (you/you or other adults in your household) ever cut the size of your meals or skip meals because there wasn't enough money for food?

- a. Yes (1)
- b. No (Skip AD1a) (2)
- c. DK (Skip AD1a) (88) (VOL)
- d. Prefer not to answer (skip to AD1a) (99) (VOL)

AD1a. [IF YES ABOVE, ASK] How often did this happen—almost every month, some months but not every month, or in only 1 or 2 months?

- a. Almost every month (1)
- b. Some months but not every month (2)
- c. Only 1 or 2 months (3)
- d. Don't know (VOL) (88)
- e. Prefer not to answer (VOL) (99)

AD2. In the last 12 months, did you ever eat less than you felt you should because there wasn't enough money for food?

- a. Yes (1)
- b. No (2)
- c. Don't know (VOL) (88)
- d. Prefer not to answer (VOL) (99)

AD3. In the last 12 months, were you ever hungry but didn't eat because there wasn't enough money for food?

- a. Yes (1)
- b. No (2)
- c. Don't know (VOL) (88)
- d. Prefer not to answer (VOL) (99)

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[Election Integrity]

Now I'd like to switch topics and ask a few questions about the upcoming presidential election in November and your opinions on election security.

Q_Voter Confidence Thinking ahead to the presidential election in November, how confident are you that, across the country, the votes will be accurately cast and counted in this year's election -- very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident or not at all confident?

- a. Very confident (1)
- b. Somewhat confident (2)
- c. Not too confident (3)
- d. Not at all confident (4)
- e. Don't know (88) (VOL)
- f. Refuse to answer (99) (VOL)

Q_Accurate-Voting How confident are you that Tennessee votes will be accurately cast and counted in this year's election -- very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident or not at all confident?

- a. Very confident (1)
- b. Somewhat confident (2)
- c. Not too confident (3)
- d. Not at all confident (4)
- e. Don't know (88)
- f. Refuse to answer (99)

Q_Voter_Probability If the presidential election were held today, who would you be most likely to vote for? [ROTATE ORDER RANDOLY SPLIT] Donald Trump, the Republican party nominee, Joe Biden, the Democratic party nominee, or another candidate?

- a. Donald Trump (1)
- b. Joe Biden (2)
- c. Someone Else (3)
- d. Don't know (88)(vol)
- e. Refuse to answer (99) (vol)

Thank you for answering all our questions. These last few questions are to make sure that our sample accurately reflects the population in Tennessee. Your responses are confidential and will only be reported in group form and never linked to your phone number.

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Q_migration_TN. Were you born in the state of Tennessee or did you move here from another state or another country?

- a. Born in Tennessee (1)
- b. Moved here from another state (2)
- c. Moved here from another country (3)
- d. Don't know (88) (vol)
- e. Refused to answer (99) (vol)

[asked of those who moved to TN]

Q_original_home. Where did you move to TN from?

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Alabama(1)

Alaska(2)

Arizona(3)

Arkansas(4)

California(5)

Colorado(6)

Connecticut(7)

Delaware(8)

Florida(9)

Georgia(10)

Hawaii(11)

Idaho(12)

Illinois(13)

Indiana(14)

Iowa(15)

Kansas(16)

Kentucky(17)

Louisiana(18)

Maine(19)

Maryland(20)

Massachusetts(21)

Michigan(22)

Minnesota(23)

Mississippi(24)

Missouri(25)

Montana(26)

Nebraska(27)

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Nevada(28)

New Hampshire(29)

New Jersey(30)

New Mexico(31)

New York(32)

North Carolina(33)

North Dakota(34)

Ohio(35)

Oklahoma(36)

Oregon(37)

Pennsylvania(38)

Rhode Island(39)

South Carolina(40)

South Dakota(41)

Tennessee(42)

Texas(43)

Utah(44)

Vermont(45)

Virginia(46)

Washington State(47)

Washington DC(48)

West Virginia(49)

Wisconsin(50)

Wyoming(51)

Other country (please specify) _____ (52)

Q_years_TN. How many years have you lived in Tennessee? [ask open ended, record verbatim]

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Q_demo_numkids. How many children under the age of 18 currently live in your home?

[IF RESPONSE IS GREATER THAN 0] **Q_demo_kids_school_howmany.** How many of those children are school-aged (elementary through high school) ?

Q_demo_insurance. Are you covered by any kind of health insurance or some other kind of healthcare plan? (Interviewer note: If asked, include health insurance obtained through employment or purchased directly as well as government programs like Medicare and Medicaid that provide medical care to help pay bills.)

- a. Yes (1)
- b. No (2)
- c. DK/Unsure (VOL) (88)
- d. Refused (VOL) (99)

Q_demo_veteran. Do you currently or have you ever served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces?

- a. Yes, currently serving (1)
- b. Yes, have served in the past (2)
- c. No, have never served (3)
- d. DK/Unsure (VOL) (88)
- e. Refused (VOL) (99)

Q_demo_partyid. In politics today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent? (If Independent, ask: As of today, do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party? If they still say independent, select independent)

- a. Republican (1)
- b. Lean towards Republican (2)
- c. Independent (3)
- d. Lean towards Democrat (4)
- e. Democrat (5)
- f. DK/Unsure (VOL) (88)
- g. Refused (VOL) (99)

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Q_demo_libconserve. In general, would you describe your political views as very conservative, conservative, moderate, liberal, or very liberal?

- a. Very conservative (1)
- b. Conservative (2)
- c. Moderate (3)
- d. Liberal (4)
- e. Very liberal (5)
- f. DK/Unsure (VOL) (88)
- g. Refused (VOL) (99)

Q_demo_regvote. Are you registered to vote in the state of Tennessee?

- a. Yes (1)
- b. No (2)
- c. DK/Unsure (VOL) (88)
- d. Refused (VOL) (99)

Q_demo_vote2020. [IF REGISTERED TO VOTE = YES] Did you vote in the 2020 Presidential election?

- a. Yes (1)
- b. No (2)
- c. DK/Unsure (VOL) (88)
- d. Refused (VOL) (99)

Q_demo_marital. What is your current marital status?

- a. Married (1)
- b. Divorced (2)
- c. Separated (3)
- d. Widowed (4)
- e. Single (never been married) (5)
- f. Living with a partner (6)
- g. DK/Unsure (VOL) (88)
- h. Refused (VOL) (99)

Q_demo_gender. Gender: What is your gender?

- a. Male (1)
- b. Female (2)
- c. Refused/unable to ascertain gender (3)
- d. Non-Binary (4)
- e. Transgender (5)
- f. Other (specify): _____
- g. DK/Unsure (VOL) (88)

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- h. Refused (VOL) (99)

Q_demo_queer

What best describes your sexual orientation? Straight or heterosexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual, or something else?

- a. Straight or heterosexual (1)
- b. Lesbian (2)
- c. Gay (3)
- d. Bisexual (4)
- e. Pansexual (5) (VOL)
- f. Asexual (6) (VOL)
- g. Queer (7) (VOL)
- h. Something else (vol) (specify):_____ (8)
- i. DK/Unsure (VOL) (88)
- j. Refused (VOL) (99)

Q_demo_landline. Is there at least one phone inside your home that is currently working and NOT a cell phone? (i.e. a landline phone)

- a. Yes (1)
- b. No (2)
- c. DK/Unsure (VOL) (88)
- d. Refused (VOL) (99)

Q_demo_cell. [FOR THOSE WITH A LANDLINE IN THE HOME] Do you personally have a working cell phone?

- a. Yes (1)
- b. No (2)
- c. DK/Unsure (VOL) (88)
- d. Refused (VOL) (99)

Q_employment. What is your current employment status?

- a. Employed full-time for pay (1)
- b. Employed part-time for pay (2)
- c. Student (3)
- d. Self-employed (4)
- e. Working at home without pay/stay at home parent (5)
- f. Retired (6)
- g. Looking for work (7)
- h. Something else (please specify) (8)
- i. Disabled, not able to work (9)

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- j. Something else (please specify): _____ (10)
- K. DK/NOT SURE (VOL) (88)
- L. REFUSED (VOL) (99)

Q_demo_income. What was your total household income before taxes based on last year's tax return?

- a. Less than 15,000 (1)
- b. Between \$15,001 - \$25,000 (2)
- c. Between \$25,001 - \$50,000 (3)
- d. Between \$50,001 - \$75,000 (4)
- e. Between \$75,001 - \$ 100,000 (5)
- f. Greater than \$100,001 (6)
- g. DK/Unsure (VOL) (88)
- h. Refused (VOL) (99)

Q_demo_race. Would you describe your race/ethnicity as:

- a. White (1)
- b. Hispanic/Latino (2)
- c. African American (3)
- d. Asian (4)
- e. Mixed race heritage (5)
- f. Other (Please specify): (6) _____
- g. DK/Unsure (VOL) (88)
- h. Refused (VOL) (99)

Q_demo_education. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

[ask open ended record in category]

- a. Did not complete high school, no GED (1)
- b. Did not complete high school, has GED (2)
- c. High school diploma, no additional education (3)
- d. High school diploma, went to college but no degree (4)
- e. Beyond high school, completed a vocational or technical program (5)
- f. Associate's degree from a community college (6)
- g. Bachelor's degree (7)
- h. Master's degree (8)
- i. Professional degree (JD, MD, PharmD, DDS, etc.) (9)
- j. Doctoral degree (PhD, EdD, DSW) (10)
- k. DK/Unsure (VOL) (88)
- l. Refused (VOL) (99)

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Q_demo_religion. What is your religion, if any? [ask open ended and code appropriately.]

- a. Baptist (Bible) (1)
- b. Methodist (Bible)(2)
- c. Non-denominational Family (Bible)(3)
- d. Lutheran Family (Bible)(4)
- e. Presbyterian Family (Bible)Pentacostal Family (Bible)(5)
- f. Episcopalian/Anglican Family (Bible)(6)
- g. Restorationist Family (Bible)(7)
- h. Congregationalist Family (Bible)(8)
- i. Holiness Family (Bible)(9)
- j. Reformed Family (Bible)(10)
- k. Adventist Family (Bible)(11)
- l. Anabaptist Family (Bible)(12)
- m. Pietist Family (Bible)(13)
- n. Other evangelical/fundamentalist family (Bible)(14)
- o. Nonspecific Protestant Family (Bible)(15)
- p. Friends Family (Bible)(16)
- q. Historically Black Baptist Family (HBPT) (Bible)(17)
- r. Historically Black Methodist Family (Bible)(18)
- s. Historically Black Pentecostal Family (Bible)(19)
- t. Historically Black Holiness Family (Bible)(20)
- u. Historically Black Nondenominational Family (Bible)(21)
- v. Historically Black Nonspecific Protestant Family (Bible)(22)
- w. Catholic (Bible)(23)
- x. Mormon (Other)(24)
- y. Orthodox Christian (Bible)(25)
- z. Jehovah's Witness (Other)(26)
- aa. Other Christian (Bible)(27)
- bb. Jewish (Other)(28)
- cc. Muslim (Other)(29)
- dd. Buddhist (Other)(30)
- ee. Hindu (Other)(31)
- ff. Atheist (Bible)(32)
- gg. Agnostic (Bible)(33)
- hh. Spiritual (Bible)(34)
- ii. Nothing in particular/Don't know (Bible)(35)
- jj. Other (please specify): (Other) _____ (36)
- kk. DK/Unsure (VOL) (88)
- ll. Refused (VOL) (99)

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Display This Question:

If ReligiousText Is Equal to Bible (located in () on the religion question)

Q_demo_bible. Which of these statements comes closest to describing your feelings about the Bible?

- a. The Bible is the actual word of God and is to be taken literally, word for word on all subjects (1)
- b. The Bible is the inspired word of God, but not everything should be taken literally, word for word (2)
- c. The Bible is an ancient book of fables, legends, history, and moral precepts recorded by man (3)
- d. DK/Unsure (VOL) (88)
- e. Refused (VOL) (99)

Display This Question:

If ReligiousText Is Equal to Other (located in () on the religion question)

Q_demo_sacredtext. Which of these statements comes closest to describing your feelings about the sacred texts of your tradition?

- a. The sacred text is the actual word of God and is to be taken literally, word for word on all subjects (1)
- b. The sacred text is the inspired word of God but not everything should be taken literally, word for word (2)
- c. The sacred text is an ancient book of fables, legends, history and moral precepts recorded by man (3)
- d. DK/Unsure (VOL) (88)
- e. Refused (VOL) (99)

Thank you for answering our questions. Would you like contact information for Dr. Foster before we hang up? She is happy to answer any questions you may have or you can also find our more information at www.etsu.edu/asrl. [If yes, provide email (fosterkn@etsu.edu) or office line (423-439-4374).]