



# THE TENNESSEE POLL

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### **THE TENNESSEE POLL BY EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY TO RELEASE DATA ON TENNESSEANS OPINIONS ON COVID-19, POLITICS, AND HEALTH**

JOHNSON CITY (May 11, 2020) – Tennesseans' thoughts related to the COVID-19 pandemic are the primary focus of the latest statewide Tennessee Poll conducted by the Applied Social Research Lab (ASRL) at East Tennessee State University. ASRL will release a series of poll results from the Tennessee Poll 2020 poll beginning later this week.

The poll surveyed 618 Tennesseans from April 22-May 1, 2020, via telephone and has a margin of error of +/- 3.9%. Results will be provided for topic areas by likely voter status as well as other key demographic characteristics.

In addition to questions pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Tennessee Poll asked a series of questions related to the current state of Tennessee and the nation, as well as citizens' voting preferences for the Fall 2020 elections. The results of the poll will be released by topic area in the following manner:

- COVID-19, trust, and state and federal government response
  - COVID-19, individual choices, and economic considerations
  - COVID-19, mental and physical health
  - Politics, absentee voting, and fall 2020 elections
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## **About The Tennessee Poll**

The Tennessee Poll is conducted by the Applied Social Research Lab (ASRL) in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at East Tennessee State University. ASRL is directed by Dr. Kelly N. Foster, associate professor of sociology.

The Tennessee Poll is an annual public opinion poll funded by East Tennessee State University. The mission of The Tennessee Poll is to provide the citizens and governance of Tennessee with neutral, unbiased information on Tennesseans' perceptions of issues that impact their health, education, and quality of life.

Though the project has been internally funded to date, there exists the possibility of outside researchers or organizations being given the option to purchase space for questions on future polls. Should this occur, any and all funding sources will be noted in the methodology report for that particular poll.

The Applied Social Research Lab is a member of the Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations (AASRO) and adheres to the reporting requirements of the American Association for Public Opinion Research Transparency Initiative standards in research reporting.

For detailed information on The Tennessee Poll, including methodology and additional analysis, please visit [www.etsu.edu/asrl/tnpoll](http://www.etsu.edu/asrl/tnpoll).

## **Survey Methodology**

The Tennessee Poll uses random digit dialing (RDD) to ensure that all Tennesseans are represented. Phone numbers were drawn from a dual frame RDD sample of cell phone and landline numbers. Braun Research Inc. acquired the cell phone sample and completed the telephone interviews. It is important to note that this particular Tennessee Poll (poll #5) was fielded during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic. Though ASRL maintains an active computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) lab for research purposes that utilizes ETSU student callers, the phone lab was closed due to state regulations during this time. Braun Research Inc. had capabilities and utilized secure remote calling with their phone interviewers during this time so in addition to acquiring the sample, they also completed the interviews.

The final sample includes a total of 618 completed interviews, with 188 completed by landline (30.4%) and 430 completed by cell phone (69.6%). The final data are weighted by age, education, gender, and race to adjust for differential response rates in order to assure that the data are as representative of the state's actual adult population as closely as possible. The margin of error for a sample of 618 is +/- 3.9 percentage points at the 95% confidence level for the entire sample. Any subpopulation analysis entails a greater margin of error. For detailed methodology on The Tennessee Poll as well as margin of error reports and additional analysis, please go to [www.etsu.edu/asrl/tnpoll](http://www.etsu.edu/asrl/tnpoll).