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## 1. July 2008 UT-Austin Poll

The initial survey in a series of statewide polls to be produced by members of the UT-Austin Government Department and the Texas Politics Project found Texans reflecting many of the concerns registering in national public opinion surveys. The survey, which sampled 800 Texans statewide, found them focused on economic concerns and expressing negative views about the country's direction.

When asked whether the country was moving in the **right direction or wrong direction**, 67% answered that the country was moving in the wrong direction, with only 20% seeing the country moving in the right direction. Forty-eight percent of the respondents said they were worse off economically than they were one year ago, versus 17% who said they were better off and about 34% who said their economic situation was about the same.

Just how much such concerns are affecting Texans' political preferences, however, is unclear, as there was not evidence of large scale partisan shifts in the state. With the general election still three and a half months distant at the time the survey was administered, Republicans enjoyed an advantage in the most prominent races at the top of the ballot. In the **presidential race**, among registered voters, John McCain led Barack Obama 42 to 33%, with Libertarian Bob Barr at just under 5% and independent Ralph Nader at 2%. In the race for the **US Senate seat**, incumbent Republican John Cornyn led challenger State Representative Rick Noriega 44 to 31 percent. A large number of voters, just under 25%, expressed no preference in the Senate race, with 17% undecided in the presidential match up. The links in the feature box on the right side of this page open to graphic illustrations of these results.

Texans were also surveyed on a set of topics including: their outlook on the future, which issues facing Texas and the United States were most important, and their positions on a range of issues including immigration, education, and the war in Iraq. The navigation bar on the left side of this page links to results, discussion, and graphics related to key results. The sections that follow focus on particular areas of the survey. A pdf of a summary of the poll's results can be downloaded from the "More Info" box on the lower right side of this page. Complete information and results can be downloaded by following the link to the data and files section (1.5).

