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Summary of Texas Statewide Voter Survey

The following results are from a telephone survey of N=602 randomly selected registered voters in the state of Texas. This survey was conducted March 1-4, 2009. The margin of error to the results of this survey is +/- 4.1% at the .95 test level. Results from this survey reveal a large majority of voters favor requiring the legislature to guarantee funding for textbooks and instructional materials in the education budget.

- Respondents were informed that the purchase of new textbooks and instructional materials is not currently included in the Texas Legislature's \$47 billion education budget to fund public schools for the next two years, and that these textbooks and instructional materials are included only as a \$900 million contingency in the budget, meaning they will only be purchased if the state's Permanent Education Fund receives \$1.4 billion in market earnings. Upon learning this, **73% of respondents favor (52% strongly favor) requiring the state legislature to guarantee funding for textbooks and instructional materials in the education budget.**
- The State Board of Education and the Texas Education Agency have adopted reading materials that are scheduled to arrive in classrooms beginning with the 2010-11 school year. If they are not fully funded now, their distribution will be delayed and students will continue to use decade-old materials that do not include the new curriculum and college readiness standards. Knowing this, **75% favor requiring the legislature to guarantee funding for textbooks and instructional materials in the education budget.**
- Texas Education Agency officials say that Texas is facing its most important textbook purchase in more than a decade: new reading materials that give teachers tools to educate our children, provide electronic tutoring for struggling students, and also focus on teaching English to the state's rapidly growing student population of English learners. Knowing this, **73% favor requiring the legislature to guarantee funding for textbooks and instructional materials in the education budget.**

Other findings include:

- 86% of respondents favor (66% strongly) the current state constitutional requirement that textbooks be funded by the state and provided directly to every public school student.
- Two-thirds of respondents (66%) were less likely to vote for their state legislator if he or she voted in favor of a budget that did not fully fund instructional materials.
- Seven in ten respondents (70%) believe it is appropriate to use the five billion dollars in the federal stimulus package for public education expenditures in Texas to guarantee the purchase of new reading textbooks and other instructional materials.