

POLL RESULTS

The survey of 625 registered Tennessee voters and 625 registered Kentucky voters interviewed statewide was conducted by Mason-Dixon Polling & Research, Inc., from Dec. 3 through Dec. 5, 2012. The margin of error is plus or minus 4 percent. The full survey results from both states are below.

TENNESSEE RESULTS

QUESTION: Tennessee Walking Horses are known for their high-stepping gait, called the “Big Lick.” To make the horses lift their legs high in the air, trainers often use a practice called “soring” which means burning a horse’s forelegs with caustic chemicals, cutting the horse’s hoof painfully short, or using bolts, blocks or other devices to inflict pain to the sole of the horse’s foot.

Were you aware or not aware of the details of this practice known as “soring”?

	STATE	MEN	WOMEN	DEMS	REPS	INDS
YES	59%	61%	56%	56%	56%	63%
NO	41%	39%	44%	44%	44%	37%

QUESTION: Chains and chemicals are often used in soring horses’ legs. Instead of wearing regular horseshoes, the feet of "Big Lick" horses are fitted with tall, heavy stacks of pads to accentuate their gait. These "stacks" force the horses to stand at an unnatural angle, much like wearing high heel platform shoes all day, every day – even when not performing.

If you were aware that horses were wearing this equipment to perform at an event, would you avoid attending it, or not?

	STATE	MEN	WOMEN	DEMS	REPS	INDS
YES	62%	59%	64%	57%	59%	68%
NO	24%	24%	24%	32%	26%	15%
NOT SURE	14%	17%	12%	11%	15%	17%

QUESTION: A bill recently introduced in Congress, H.R. 6388, the Horse Protection Act Amendments of 2012, would strengthen the law against horse soring. It would end the system of industry self-policing, ban the use of chains and stacks which have been implicated in soring, increase penalties, and hold accountable all those involved in this practice.

Would you support or oppose this federal legislation?

	STATE	MEN	WOMEN	DEMS	REPS	INDS
SUPPORT	75%	70%	80%	74%	74%	77%
OPPOSE	14%	14%	14%	17%	18%	8%
UNDECIDED	11%	16%	6%	9%	8%	15%

QUESTION: Would you support or oppose state legislation that would make the act of soring a felony?

	STATE	MEN	WOMEN	DEMS	REPS	INDS
SUPPORT	62%	56%	67%	70%	53%	64%
OPPOSE	26%	31%	21%	19%	36%	19%
UNDECIDED	12%	13%	12%	11%	11%	17%

QUESTION: Horse shows that promote “Big Lick” events rely on corporate sponsorship to make a profit. Some major corporations, including Pepsi and Ford, have already withdrawn their sponsorship from major Tennessee Walking Horse events due to evidence that cruel methods are used to produce the exaggerated “Big Lick” gait.

Would you buy from companies or avoid buying from companies that provide financial sponsorship to horse shows that promote “Big Lick” horses?

	STATE	MEN	WOMEN	DEMS	REPS	INDS
BUY FROM	18%	28%	7%	10%	23%	18%
AVOID	62%	49%	76%	75%	57%	58%
NOT SURE	20%	23%	17%	15%	20%	24%

KENTUCKY RESULTS

QUESTION: Tennessee Walking Horses are known for their high-stepping gait, called the “Big Lick.” To make the horses lift their legs high in the air, trainers often use a practice called “soring” which means burning a horse’s forelegs with caustic chemicals, cutting the horse’s hoof painfully short, or using bolts, blocks or other devices to inflict pain to the sole of the horse’s foot.

Were you aware or not aware of the details of this practice known as “soring”?

	STATE	MEN	WOMEN	DEMS	REPS	INDS
YES	29%	39%	18%	28%	30%	20%
NO	71%	61%	82%	72%	70%	80%

QUESTION: Chains and chemicals are often used in soring horses’ legs. Instead of wearing regular horseshoes, the feet of "Big Lick" horses are fitted with tall, heavy stacks of pads to accentuate their gait. These "stacks" force the horses to stand at an unnatural angle, much like wearing high heel platform shoes all day, every day – even when not performing.

If you were aware that horses were wearing this equipment to perform at an event, would you avoid attending it, or not?

	STATE	MEN	WOMEN	DEMS	REPS	INDS
YES	58%	49%	68%	56%	58%	78%
NO	26%	36%	15%	27%	25%	20%
NOT SURE	16%	15%	17%	16%	17%	2%

QUESTION: A bill recently introduced in Congress, H.R. 6388, the Horse Protection Act Amendments of 2012, would strengthen the law against horse soring. It would end the system of industry self-policing, ban the use of chains and stacks which have been implicated in soring, increase penalties, and hold accountable all those involved in this practice.

	STATE	MEN	WOMEN	DEMS	REPS	INDS
SUPPORT	69%	55%	83%	73%	61%	80%
OPPOSE	19%	35%	4%	18%	21%	20%
UNDECIDED	12%	10%	14%	9%	18%	-

QUESTION: Would you support or oppose state legislation that would make the act of soring a felony?

	STATE	MEN	WOMEN	DEMS	REPS	INDS
SUPPORT	45%	38%	52%	46%	44%	47%
OPPOSE	36%	50%	22%	35%	37%	33%
UNDECIDED	19%	12%	26%	19%	19%	20%

QUESTION: Horse shows that promote “Big Lick” events rely on corporate sponsorship to make a profit. Some major corporations, including Pepsi and Ford, have already withdrawn their sponsorship from major Tennessee Walking Horse events due to evidence that cruel methods are used to produce the exaggerated “Big Lick” gait.

Would you buy from companies or avoid buying from companies that provide financial sponsorship to horse shows that promote “Big Lick” horses?

	STATE	MEN	WOMEN	DEMS	REPS	INDS
BUY FROM	23%	38%	9%	22%	24%	29%
AVOID	63%	54%	71%	65%	59%	69%
NOT SURE	14%	8%	20%	13%	17%	2%