

2021 Texas Voter Poll Report

January 2021



TEXAS²⁰₃₆

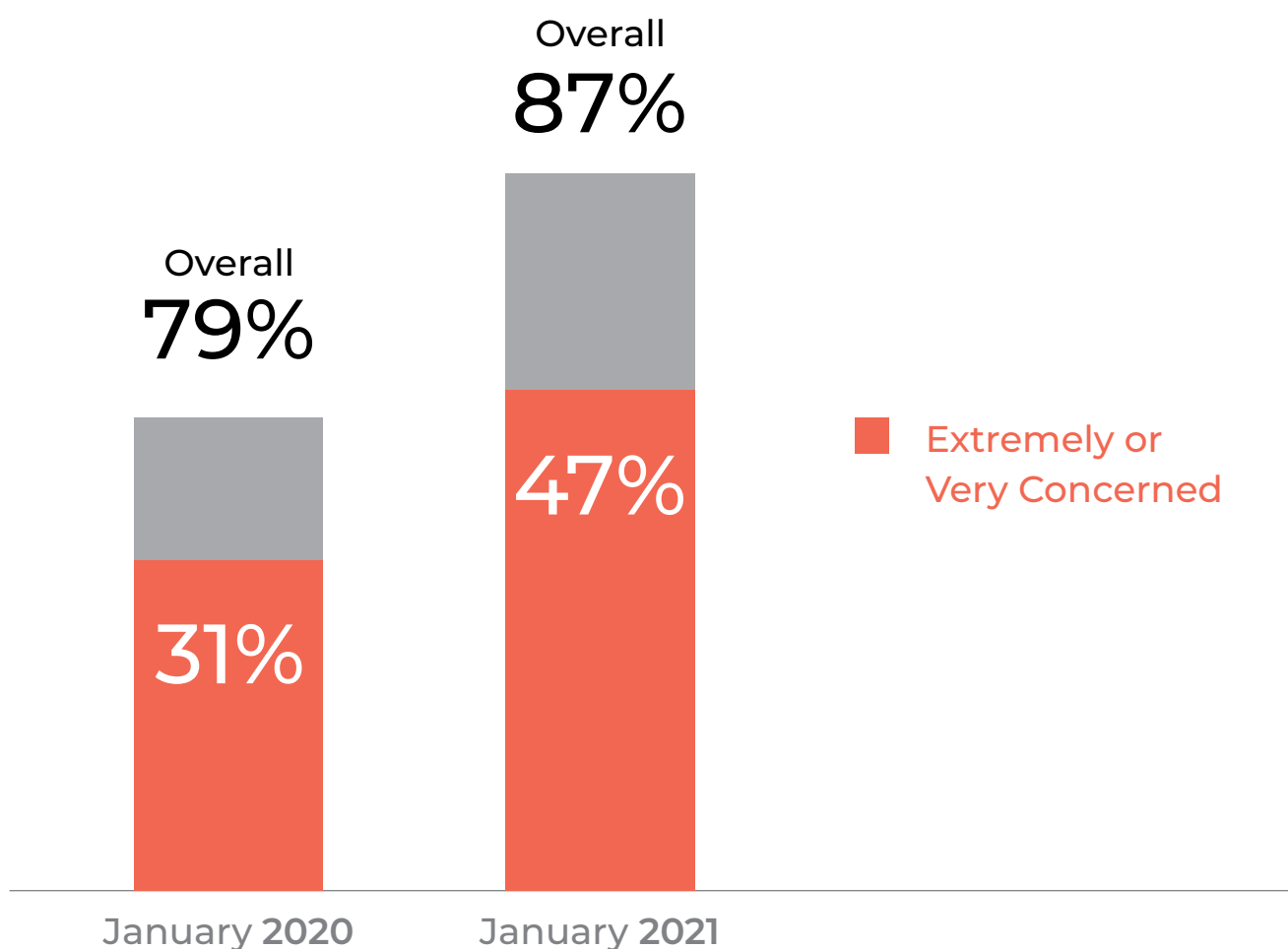
Texas voters are more **concerned** about the future...

And want the Texas legislature to act today!

81%

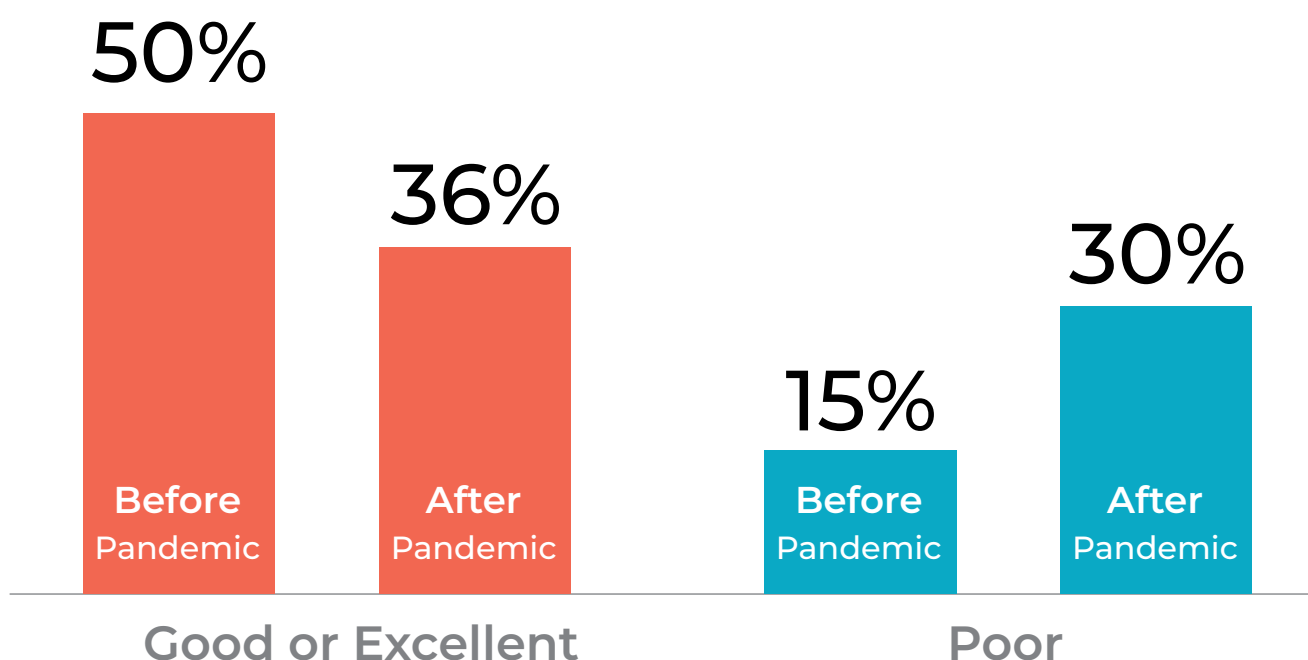
say the legislature needs to take action this year to address the challenges Texas now faces. Nearly a year of the COVID-19 pandemic, far fewer Texans rate the state's ability to solve problems as “good” or “excellent”.

Voters' concern about the future of Texas



The % of voters who are extremely or very concerned about the future of Texas increased from 31% in January 2020 to 47% in January 2021. Overall, 87% are concerned about the future of Texas.

Texas state government's ability to solve problems and serve the needs of its residents

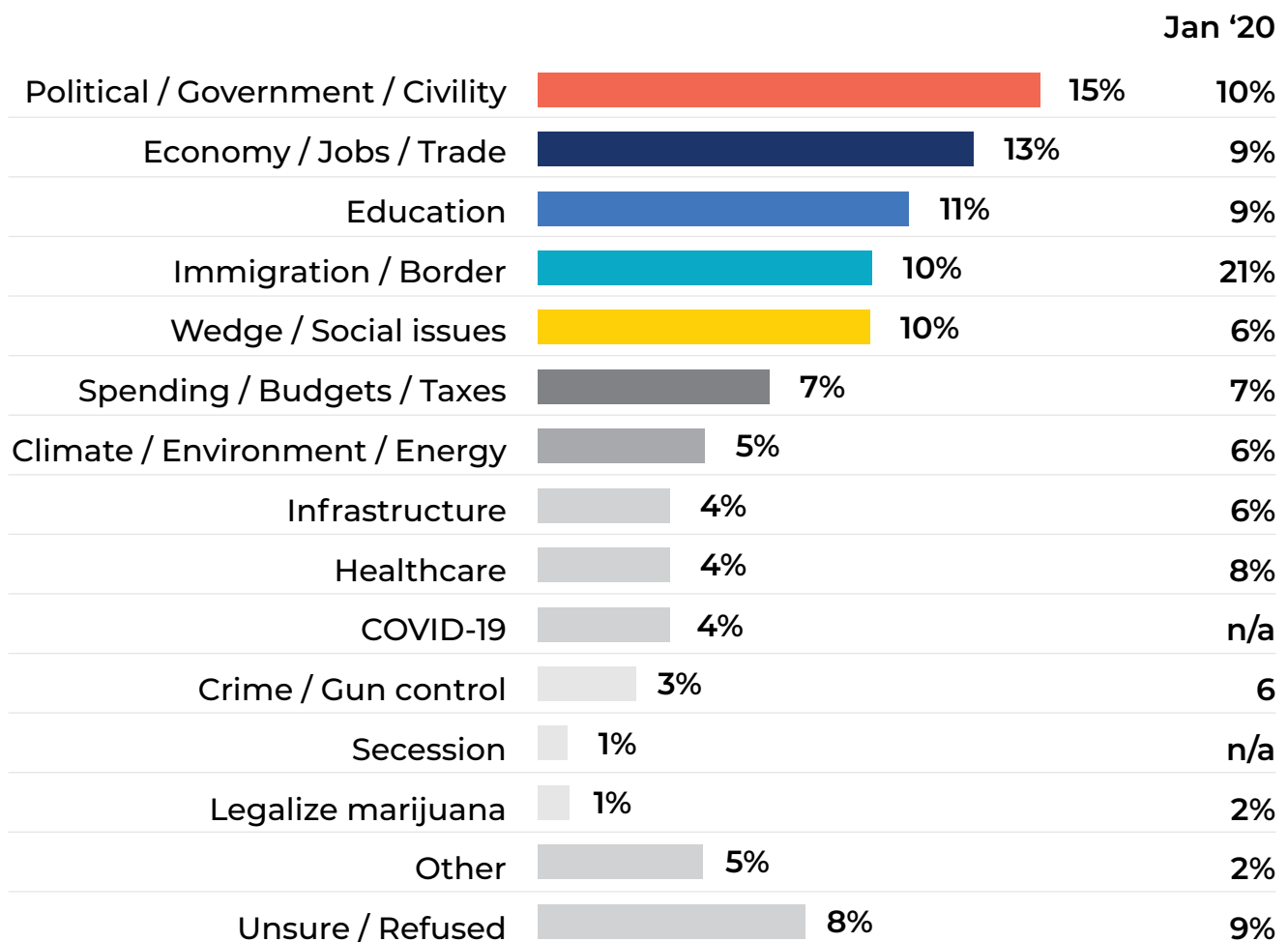


Prior to the pandemic, 50% of Texas voters rated the Texas state government's ability to solve problems and serve the needs of its residents as “good” or “excellent”, compared to 36% after the pandemic.

economy

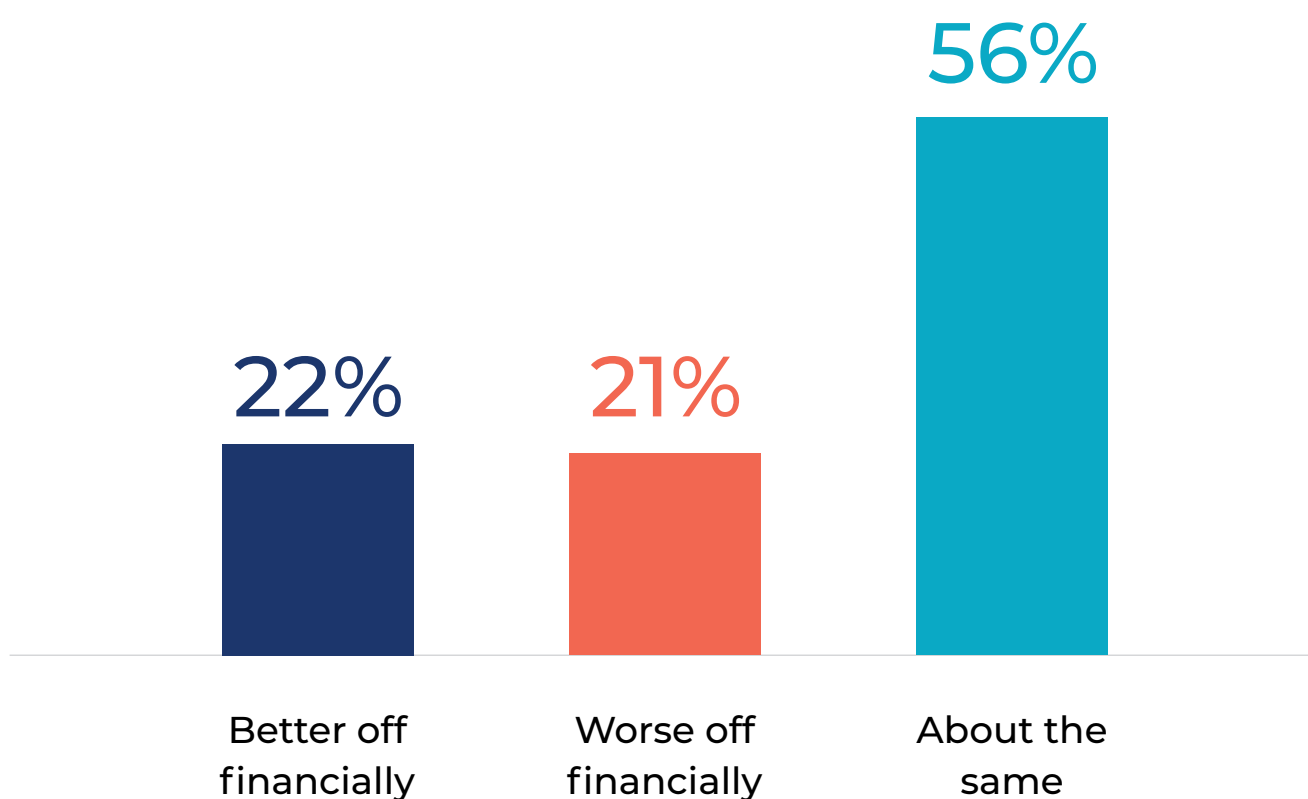
The economy was cited by 22% of the Texas voters who rated state government as “good” or “excellent” after the pandemic as the reason for the positive rating.

In their own words, Texas voters point to a range of issues Texas must address to be successful 15 years from now



“Politics, government and civility” was cited as the number one issue Texas needs to address to be successful 15 years from now, followed by “economy, jobs and trade” and “education”. “Immigration and the border”, which topped the list a year ago, is now tied for fourth place with various wedge and social issues.

A majority of Texas voters report being about the same financially as last year



In 2020, 34% of Texans felt they were better off than they had been the year before, compared to 14% who felt they were worse off. In 2021, those levels are nearly even, with 22% believing they are better off and 21% believing they are worse off.

Texas voters are particularly concerned about...



79%

Texans said they were “extremely concerned” or “very concerned” about testing results showing that even before the pandemic, **only 3-in-10** Texas fourth graders **could read** at grade level.

34%

including 57% of women with children - said they or someone in their household had postponed or **skipped medical treatment or surgery** due to a lack of transparency about final medical costs. 90% of Texans believe patients should be informed about medical costs before treatment.

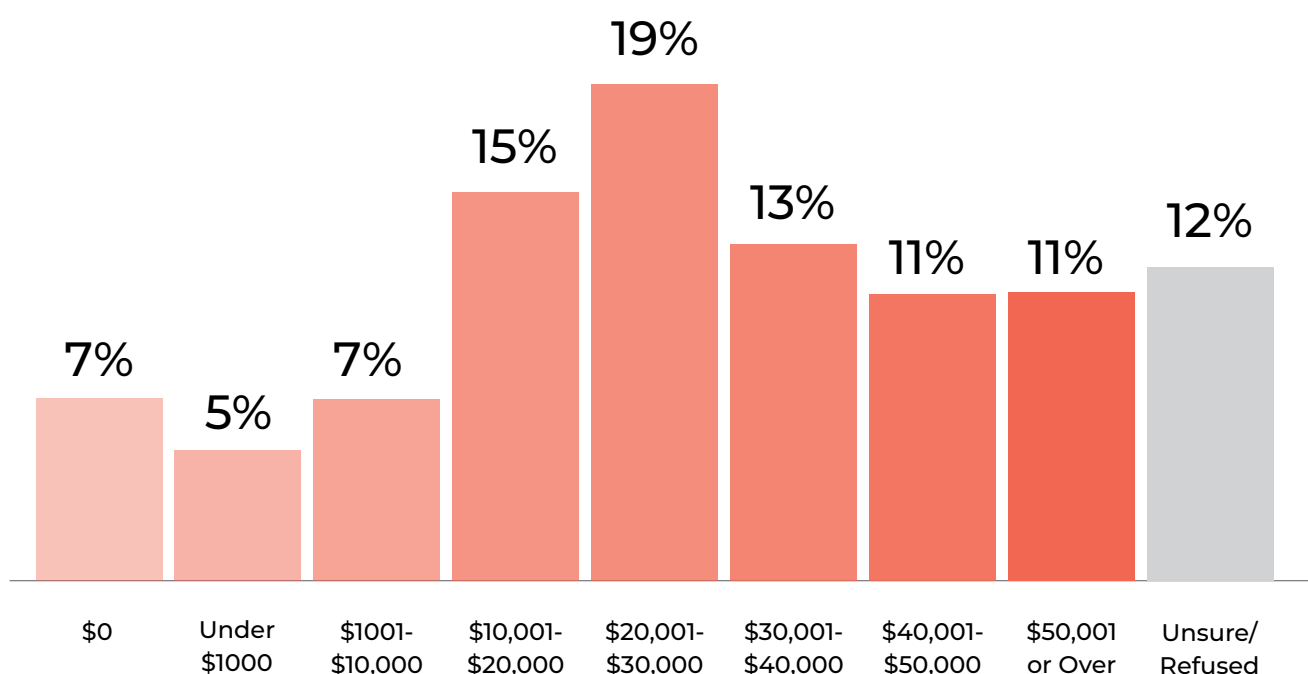


73%

support **cost-effective Medicaid policy changes** through which the state could draw down \$4 billion in federal tax dollars and cover another 1 million people through an investment of just \$1 per person per year.



Texas voters would raise the annual income for Texans to qualify for Medicaid



The key takeaways from these responses are:

64% of Texas voters think the income eligibility standard for Medicaid should be at 138% or higher of the Federal Poverty Level, which is the eligibility threshold for Texas to receive billions of dollars in enhanced federal funding.

75% of Texas voters also think eligibility thresholds for Medicaid should be higher than they are today

Texas is unprepared to meet the demands of tomorrow's jobs

Texas needs to better orient its educational programs toward jobs of the future

84%



Total Agree

The state is failing to deliver value to taxpayers as it does not connect good jobs with education well

75%



Total Agree

Given these challenges, 91% of Texas voters support Texas students having access to the most up-to-date information on jobs and wages. 76% support the state legislature prioritizing our limited resource on workforce programs.

86%

say state and local governments should use better technology to avoid wasting taxpayer dollars and better serve Texans.

68%

believe the state should use all available tools, including standardized tests, to address learning loss caused by the pandemic.

79%

support better teacher training to improve fourth grade reading levels, and 84% support high-quality tutoring to close COVID learning gaps.

91%

support the need of Texas students to have up-to-date information on jobs and wages so they can make informed decisions that lead to good jobs.

84%

agree that the state needs to better orient education programs, degree plans and certifications toward jobs of the future.

91%

support modernizing and increasing health care options in rural areas where there is a shortage of doctors, hospitals and clinics.

83%

support market reforms and financial incentives to bring broadband to low-income and rural areas.

86%

support changes that ensure more of the Medicaid tax dollars that Texas sends to the federal government are actually spent in Texas.

By adopting these goals and policy prescriptions, the legislature can prioritize precious current and future state dollars to ensure that Texas receives the greatest return — and Texans experience the greatest benefit — from taxpayers' investment.



“Texas is the greatest state in the country. These results show widespread support for state actions that can make Texas even greater.”

“This isn't the time to rest on our laurels or to be complacent. We've got to act to protect the things we value and ensure future generations can prosper and enjoy the benefits we have received.”

Tom Luce

Founder and chairman of Texas 2036

The poll was conducted on Jan. 12-18, 2021 by
Baselice & Associates, Inc.
a prestigious Texas polling firm.

1,021

Texas voters surveyed via cell phones,
land lines and the Internet.

+/- 3.1 %

The margin of error for the results at

.95

confidence level.

TEXAS20
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Texas 2036 is a nonprofit organization building long-term, data-driven strategies to secure Texas' prosperity through our state's bicentennial and beyond. We offer non-partisan ideas and modern solutions that are grounded in research and data on issues that matter most to all Texans.

www.texas2036.org/poll