

# 4<sup>th</sup> Texas Voter Poll

## Extreme Weather & Energy Findings

February 16, 2022



A year after Winter Storm Uri knocked out electricity and water across Texas, a new poll shows most voters share deep concerns about extreme weather, and they support an expanded approach to the state's energy future and infrastructure challenges. The fourth Texas Voter Poll, conducted by Texas 2036 shortly before the recent winter storm in which the state largely avoided blackouts and water outages, reflected significant concerns about the state's energy infrastructure and Texas' ability to adapt to changing future conditions.



are "extremely concerned" or "very concerned" about **the extreme weather trends Texas will experience**, including more 100-degree days, more extreme rainfall, more urban flooding, greater hurricane intensity, and increased drought severity by 2036.



of the remaining respondents are "somewhat concerned" about **extreme weather trends Texas faces**. Texas' state climatologist, based at Texas A&M University, has projected that Texas will experience more 100-degree days, more extreme rainfall, more urban flooding, greater hurricane intensity, and increased drought severity by 2036.



are "extremely concerned" or "very concerned" that, given current trends, **Texas will not be able to meet a significant amount of its future water needs**, meaning some communities may lose access to water in an extreme drought.



of the remaining respondents are "somewhat concerned" that, given current trends, **Texas will not be able to meet a significant amount of its future water needs**, meaning some communities may lose access to water in an extreme drought.



Only **10% of Texas voters described themselves as "very confident" in Texas' electric grid**, while **24%** said they were "not that confident" and **25%** said they were "not at all confident."



of all respondents — including 51% of Republicans and 63% of Democrats — said they are **willing to spend more to fortify the electric grid against extreme weather events**.



of Texas voters expressed concern about the state of **Texas not applying for federal infrastructure funds**. **Failing to do so would likely result in Texas falling behind other states in advanced energy technologies such as hydrogen, energy storage, and carbon capture.**

The survey polled 1,001 registered voters between Jan. 19 and 26 about their attitudes towards the present and future of Texas and their concerns about issues facing the state. It has a margin of error of  $\pm 3.1\%$ . The interviews were conducted via cell phone (44%), landline (21%), and online (34%).

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No one who endured last year's storm will ever forget it. It was much more than a major disruption, as lives were lost and others were put in jeopardy. It's a hard, painful reminder to Texans that extreme weather increasingly threatens us all.

Texans want their leaders to prepare for the future – whatever it's likely to bring. Those preparations should be based on data, sound science, and strategies that keep all the options on the table. State leaders must use all available funding, including federal dollars, to make them happen.

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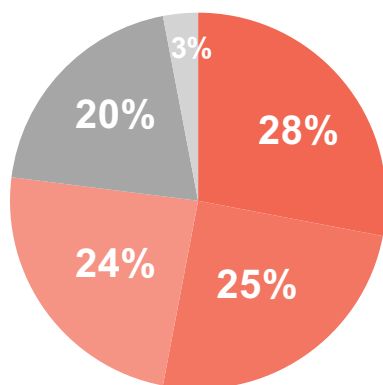


**A.J. Rodriguez**

Executive Vice President

TEXAS<sub>36</sub>

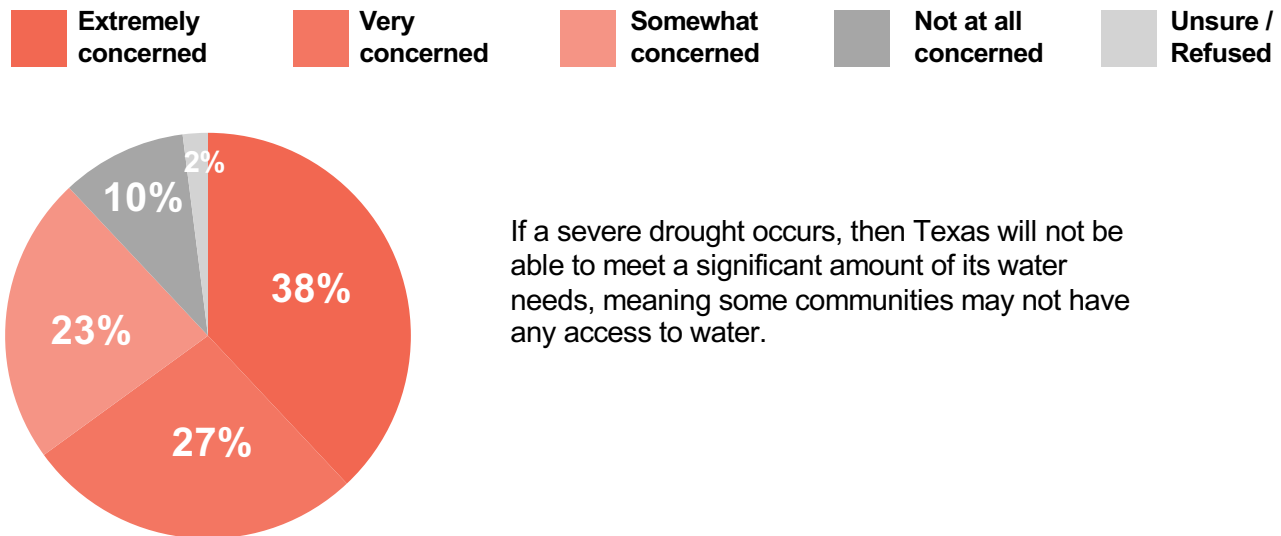
The shared experience from extreme weather events, and research showing these trends will continue in Texas, have clearly raised voters' concerns about the future and increased their interest in the reliability and preparedness of our state's energy and water infrastructure.



The state's climatologist at Texas A&M estimates that if extreme weather trends continue, Texas will experience more than double the number of 100-degree days, more extreme rainfall, more urban flooding, greater hurricane intensity, and increased drought severity by 2036.

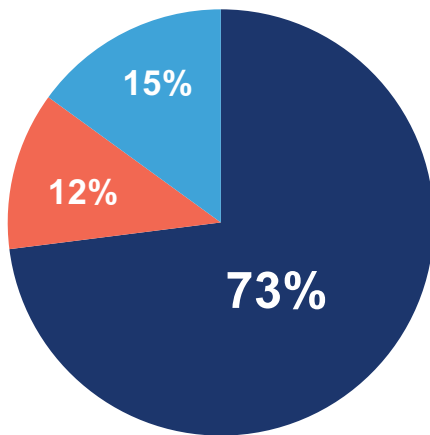
	Base	Extremely Concerned	Very Concerned	Somewhat Concerned	TOTAL Concerned	Not Concerned	Unsure
<b>Total</b>	<b>1001</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>TX Media Markets</b>							
Dallas-Ft. Worth	300	25%	25%	27%	77%	20%	3%
Houston	248	30%	22%	23%	74%	23%	3%
Austin/Waco/Bryan	135	32%	32%	17%	82%	15%	3%
San Ant/South/El Paso	192	33%	27%	22%	82%	16%	2%
West Texas markets	68	18%	27%	25%	70%	24%	7%
East Texas markets	58	25%	17%	30%	73%	24%	3%
<b>Urban/Suburban vs Rural Counties</b>							
Urban/suburban	594	31%	26%	22%	79%	19%	2%
Rural	407	24%	24%	26%	75%	21%	5%
<b>Gender/Urban/Suburban vs Rural</b>							
Male / urban-suburb	277	26%	24%	25%	75%	24%	2%
Male / rural	180	19%	20%	26%	65%	29%	5%
Female / urban-suburb	317	35%	28%	19%	82%	15%	2%
Female / rural	227	29%	27%	26%	82%	14%	4%
<b>Age/Urban/Sub</b>							
Under 55 / urban-suburb	332	33%	25%	20%	78%	19%	3%
Under 55 / rural	214	28%	25%	25%	78%	20%	2%
55+ / urban-suburb	258	28%	28%	24%	79%	19%	2%
55+ / rural	190	21%	24%	28%	72%	21%	6%
Age unknown	7	15%	28%	14%	57%	14%	29%
<b>Partisan Vote</b>							
Republican	423	12%	19%	33%	65%	32%	3%
Independent	212	24%	26%	22%	73%	22%	5%
Democratic	366	49%	32%	14%	94%	4%	2%

## While Winter Storm Uri focused voter attention on the state's electric grid, extreme weather trends affecting Texans' access to water also raise Texas voters' concerns.



	Base	Extremely Concerned	Very Concerned	Somewhat Concerned	TOTAL Concerned	Not Concerned	Unsure
<b>Total</b>	<b>1001</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>TX Media Markets</b>							
Dallas-Ft. Worth	300	39%	30%	19%	88%	10%	2%
Houston	248	33%	25%	23%	81%	15%	3%
Austin/Waco/Bryan	135	41%	25%	29%	94%	5%	1%
San Ant/South/EI Paso	192	44%	27%	21%	92%	5%	3%
West Texas markets	68	27%	26%	35%	88%	11%	1%
East Texas markets	58	33%	23%	25%	81%	14%	6%
<b>Urban/Suburban vs Rural Counties</b>							
Urban/suburban	594	39%	27%	22%	88%	10%	2%
Rural	407	36%	27%	24%	88%	10%	3%
<b>Gender/Urban Sub vs Rural</b>							
Male / urban-suburb	277	32%	29%	24%	84%	14%	1%
Male / rural	180	33%	26%	25%	84%	13%	3%
Female / urban-suburb	317	44%	28%	21%	90%	7%	3%
Female / rural	227	39%	39%	24%	91%	6%	3%
<b>Age/Urban/Sub</b>							
Under 55 / urban-suburb	332	43%	25%	20%	88%	10%	2%
Under 55 / rural	214	40%	26%	23%	90%	8%	2%
55+ / urban-suburb	258	33%	30%	24%	87%	11%	2%
55+ / rural	190	32%	28%	26%	86%	11%	3%
Age unknown	7	30%	28%	14%	73%	27%	0%
<b>Partisan Vote</b>							
Republican	423	27%	27%	28%	82%	16%	2%
Independent	212	35%	25%	27%	87%	9%	4%
Democratic	366	52%	28%	15%	95%	4%	2%

## Texas voters are open to thinking differently about water policy as a way to ensure there will be enough water for our growing state's needs.



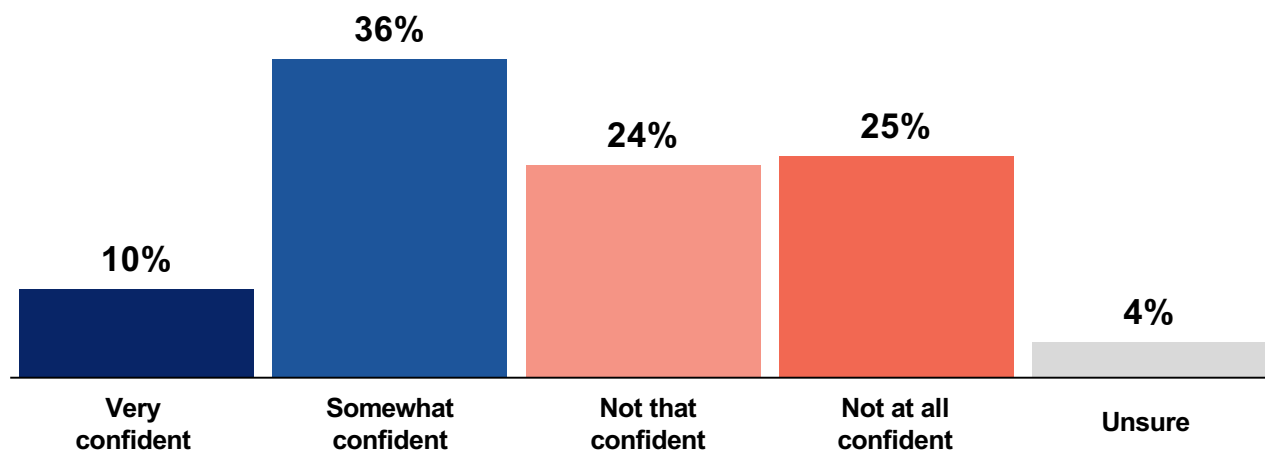
■ Agree
 ■ Disagree
 ■ Depends/Unsure

Texas cannot build enough water reservoirs to meet its growing water needs, so we must rethink how water markets work and how water is priced before 10 million more people are living here over the next 14 years.

Base		Agree	Disagree	Depends/ Unsure	Net Agree
1001	Total	73%	12%	15%	60%
<b>TX Media Markets</b>					
300	Dallas-Ft. Worth	72%	12%	16%	60%
248	Houston	68%	16%	16%	52%
135	Austin/Waco/Bryan	78%	7%	15%	71%
192	San Ant/South/El Paso	79%	10%	11%	70%
68	West Texas markets	68%	15%	17%	53%
68	East Texas markets	64%	15%	21%	49%
<b>Urban/Suburban vs Rural Counties</b>					
594	Urban/suburban	74%	12%	14%	63%
407	Rural	70%	13%	17%	56%
<b>Partisan Vote</b>					
423	Republican	67%	17%	17%	50%
212	Independent	71%	12%	17%	59%
366	Democratic	80%	8%	12%	73%

## Prior to the winter storms this February, only a fraction of Texas voters were very confident about the state's electric grid.

Based on your experience, which best describes how confident you are in the reliability of the state's electric grid?

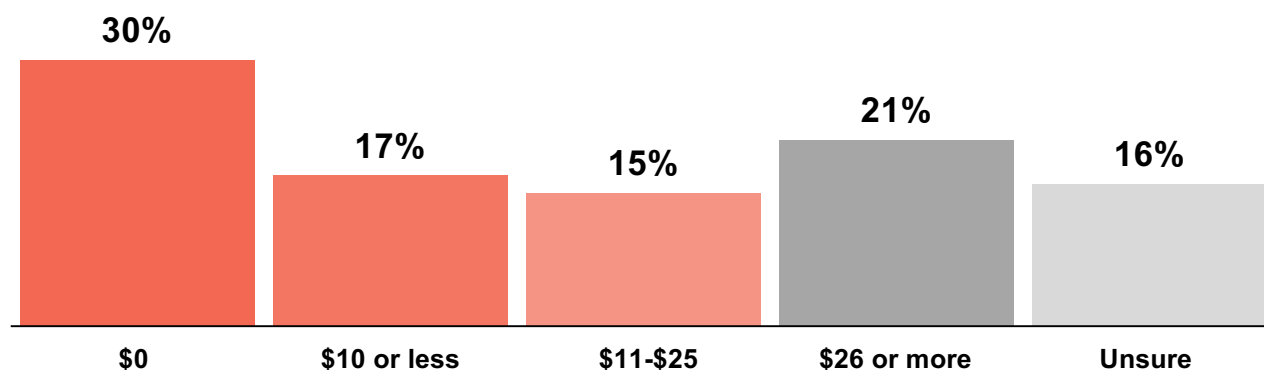


Total Confident	Very Confident	Somewhat Confident		Not That Confident	Not at All Confident	Total Not Confident
46%	10%	36%	Total	24%	25%	49%
53%	12%	41%	Are you... Currently employed outside the home	22%	21%	44%
35%	7%	28%	Employed but working from home	28%	34%	62%
TX Media Markets						
40%	8%	32%	Dallas-Ft. Worth	26%	31%	57%
47%	10%	37%	Houston	20%	28%	47%
37%	4%	33%	Austin/Waco/Bryan	31%	28%	59%
51%	14%	37%	San Ant/South/El Paso	23%	20%	43%
55%	15%	40%	West Texas markets	27%	14%	40%
68%	15%	53%	East Texas markets	17%	12%	28%
Urban/Suburban vs Rural Counties						
42%	9%	32%	Urban/suburban	25%	30%	55%
53%	11%	41%	Rural	23%	19%	42%

**More than half (53%) of voters — including 50% of Republicans and 63% of Democrats — said they are willing to spend more to fortify the electric grid against extreme weather events.**

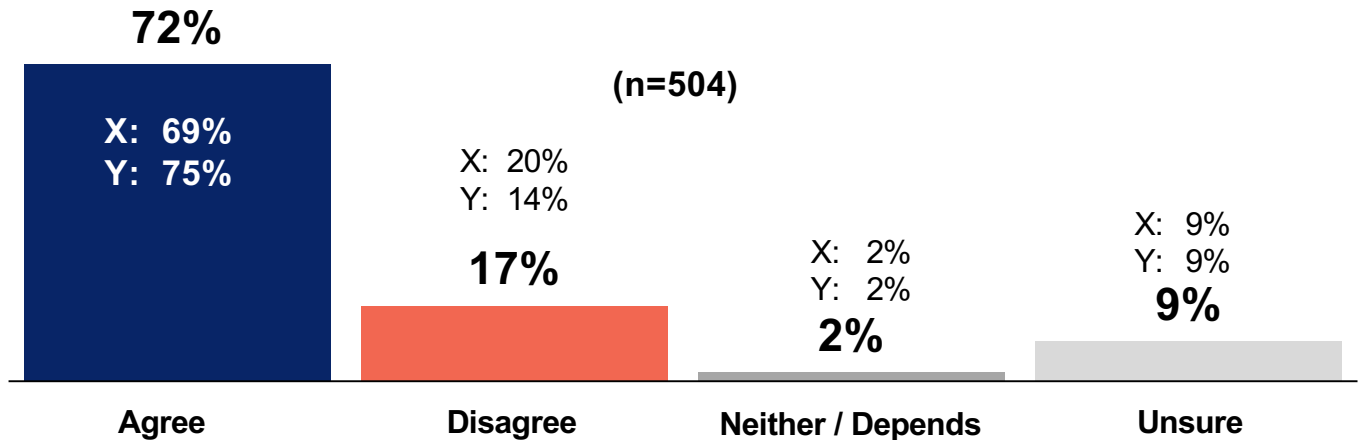
Texas has lower electric rates than many other states, but higher average residential electric bills due to greater use. How much additional money each month would you be willing to spend to make the electric grid more reliable to address more extreme cold and hot weather events?

Median		\$0	\$10 or less	\$11-\$25	\$26 or more	Unsure/Refused
<b>\$10.00</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>16%</b>
\$10.00	Male / Urban suburb	29%	22%	14%	21%	15%
\$10.00	Male / rural	36%	13%	10%	20%	20%
\$10.00	Female / Urban suburb	29%	20%	19%	19%	13%
\$10.00	Female / rural	29%	12%	14%	26%	20%
\$10.00	Republican	35%	17%	15%	18%	14%
\$5.00	Independent	32%	15%	8%	17%	27%
\$15.00	Democratic	24%	18%	18%	27%	12%
\$10.00	Own	33%	16%	14%	19%	18%
\$15.00	Rent	24%	21%	17%	29%	9%
\$10.00	Under \$35,000	32%	18%	16%	21%	13%
\$12.00	\$35,000-\$74,999	24%	19%	19%	24%	14%
\$10.00	\$75,000-\$119,000	29%	15%	17%	19%	20%
\$10.00	\$120,000 and over	34%	17%	12%	24%	14%



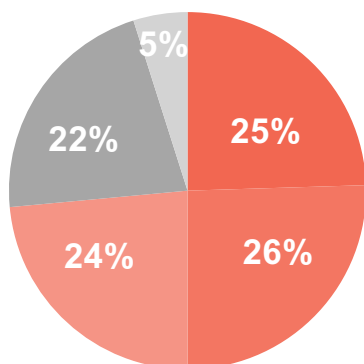
## Texas voters want our state to remain an energy leader, and to prepare for the future by expanding energy options to include low-carbon sources and innovative technologies.

For a century, Texas has been the nation's energy leader. New technologies allow for cleaner forms of energy that can grow the Texas economy, create jobs, and improve air quality. Do you agree or disagree that Texas should lead the nation in this (Ver X: energy transition / Ver Y: energy expansion)?



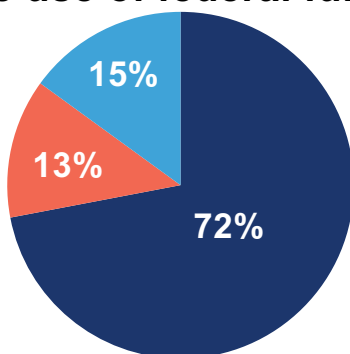
If Texas fails to apply for federal infrastructure funds, a majority of Texas voters would be concerned that Texas will lose our competitive edge in energy to other states.

Extremely concerned Very concerned Somewhat concerned Not at all concerned Unsure / Refused



The State of Texas may not apply for billions in federal infrastructure funds, which would result in Texas falling behind other states in advanced energy technologies such as hydrogen, energy storage, and the capturing of carbon dioxide emissions.

Texas voters also agreed that the state should accept and maximize the use of federal funds.



Texas must accept and maximize the impact of federal infrastructure and COVID relief funding while ensuring the funds are spent wisely so as to not create a shortfall when funds run out.





**Rob Orr**

Senior Policy Advisor

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Our state experienced a dozen extreme weather events last year. They cost Texas about \$26.3 billion and wreaked havoc on the lives of millions of Texans. These are shared experiences, and they clearly left Texans more concerned about the future. Texans want energy and water infrastructure that is more reliable and better prepared for extreme weather.

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Texans want to be the world leader on energy — that hasn't changed, and it never will. But Texans know that the definition of leadership has expanded in the 21st century. It now means continuing to lead on oil and gas and nuclear power, certainly, but also on newer strategies such as renewable and clean energy, hydrogen and geothermal power, carbon capture, and technologies that are still in the lab.

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**Jeremy Mazur**

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