

August 2023

7TH

TEXAS

VOTER  
POLL

Fewer Texas voters believe children will have better opportunities to succeed than past generations.

To help students, strong majorities rally behind more rigorous school accountability.

TEXAS **20**  
**36** 

# POLL METHODOLOGY

**Baselice and Associates** conducted the survey, polling 1,000 registered Texas voters on August 22-29, 2023. It has a *margin of error of  $\pm 3.1\%$* . *This is Texas 2036's 7<sup>th</sup> Texas Voter Poll since January 2020.*

The interviews were conducted via:



Phone  
52%

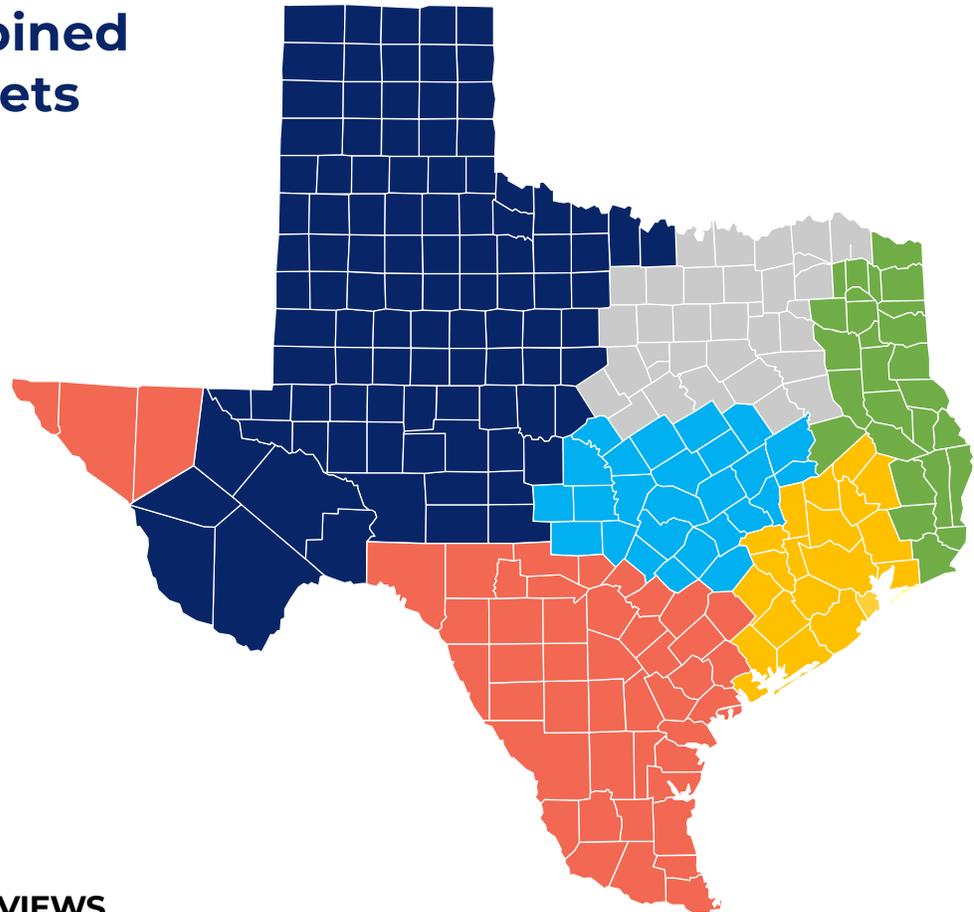


SMS  
13%

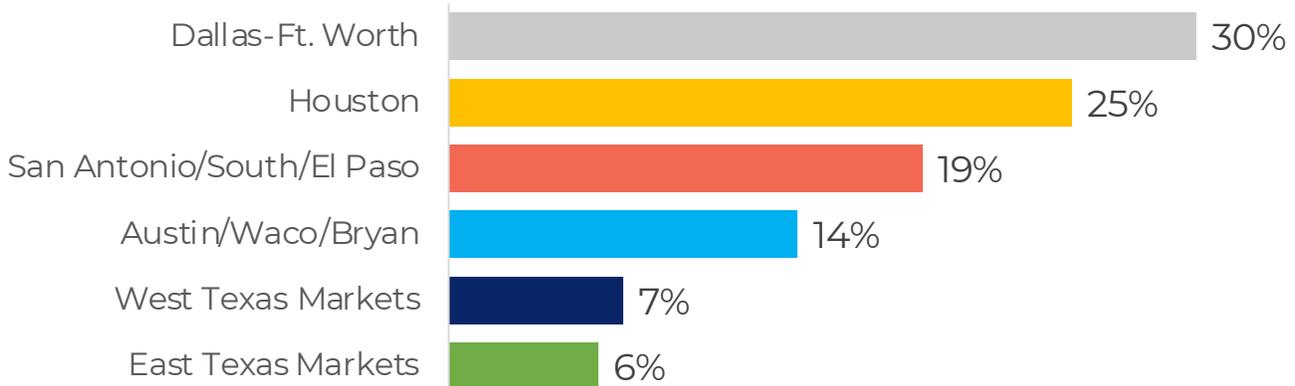


Web  
35%

## Texas Combined Media Markets



### PERCENT OF INTERVIEWS



First Release

# FUTURE OF TEXAS AND EDUCATION

## Texas Voter Poll Reveals Strong Support for Public Schools and Rigorous Accountability Standards at a Time of Deep Concern for the Future of Texas

Nearly half of Texas voters are concerned about the prospects for future generations while strong majorities support elevated academic standards to prepare more students for career or college.

**AUSTIN, TX** — As Texas lawmakers gear up for an education-oriented special session this fall, Texas 2036 releases its initial findings from the seventh edition of the Texas Voter Poll. The results reveal Texas voters are deeply concerned about the state's future yet are overwhelmingly supportive of elevating public education standards to ensure more high school graduates are ready for college or a career.

### KEY FINDINGS

**46%** of Texas voters believe children today will have worse opportunities to succeed than previous generations. That's **17 points higher** than what we measured in January 2022.

**30%** of Texas voters believe children today will have opportunities to do better than previous generations. That's **11 points lower** than what we measured in January 2022.

**96%** of Texas voters agree that the strength of a community's public education system is important, with **89%** rating it as extremely or very important.

**80%** of Texas voters expressed support for the Texas Education Agency's proposed initiative to elevate the standards for school ratings. Under this new framework, the benchmark to attain an "A" rating would rise substantially, requiring **88%** of students to graduate prepared for either college or a career.

**70%** of Texas voters selected teaching students to read at grade level as the first or second most important element of a good school. The next most important element was college and career readiness, supported by **59%**, and then teaching students to do math at grade level, supported by **47%**.

Conversely, extracurricular activities were deemed as important to a successful school by **9%** of voters. A strong sports team was considered important to a successful school by **5%** of voters.



As we prepare for a fall special session on education issues, it's clear that Texas voters value a high-quality public education system and want state leaders to pursue strategies that will lead to improved student outcomes, especially in key areas like reading, math, and college and career readiness.

Texas voters overwhelmingly support the Texas Education Agency's recent changes to increase the rigor of our college and career readiness indicators.



**Mary Lynn Pruneda**  
Senior Policy Advisor  
Texas 2036

Texans love their public schools. They want those schools to have stronger and more rigorous accountability standards because they want to give their children a better future.

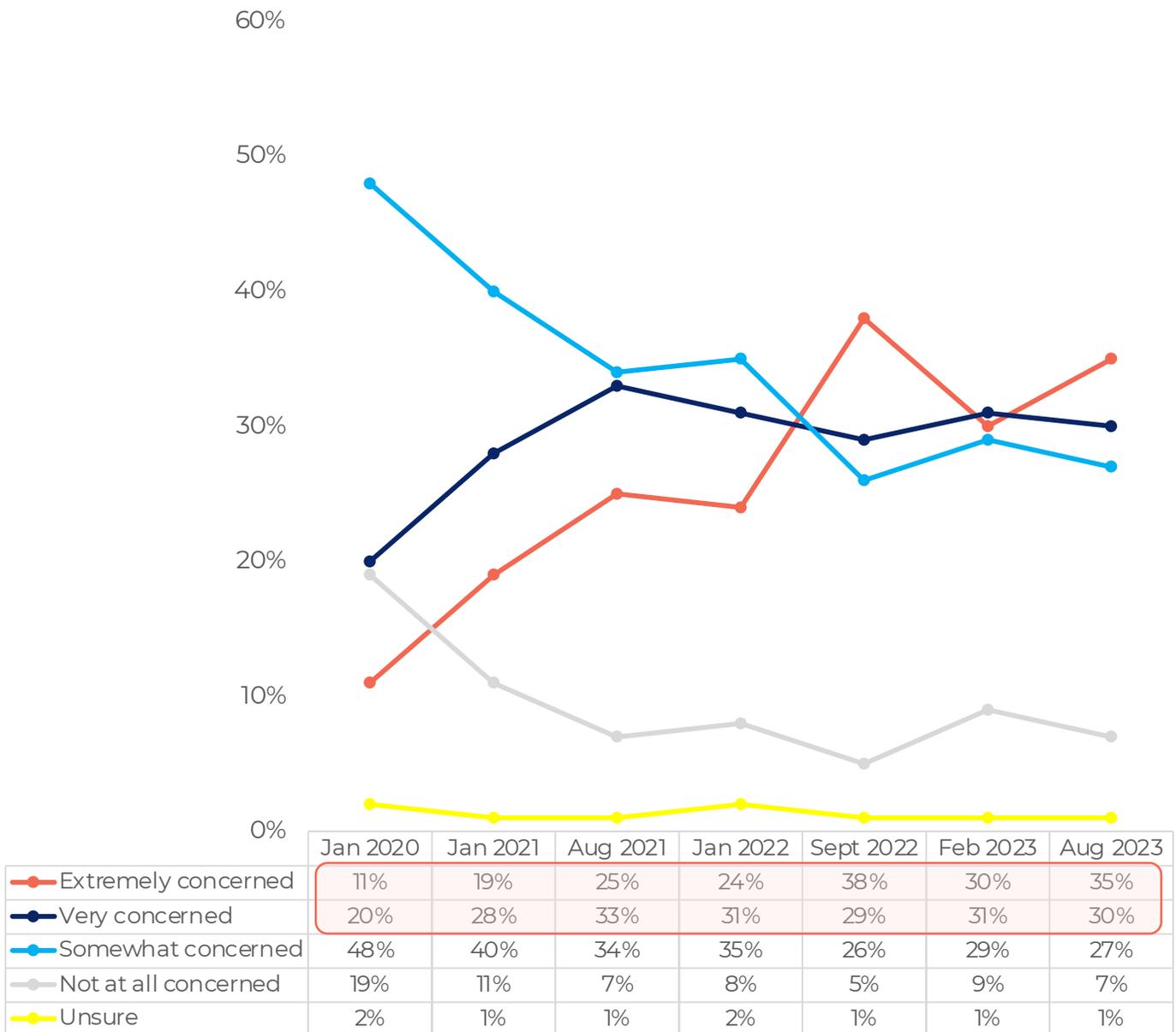


**Holly Heard**  
Vice President  
Data and Analytics  
Texas 2036



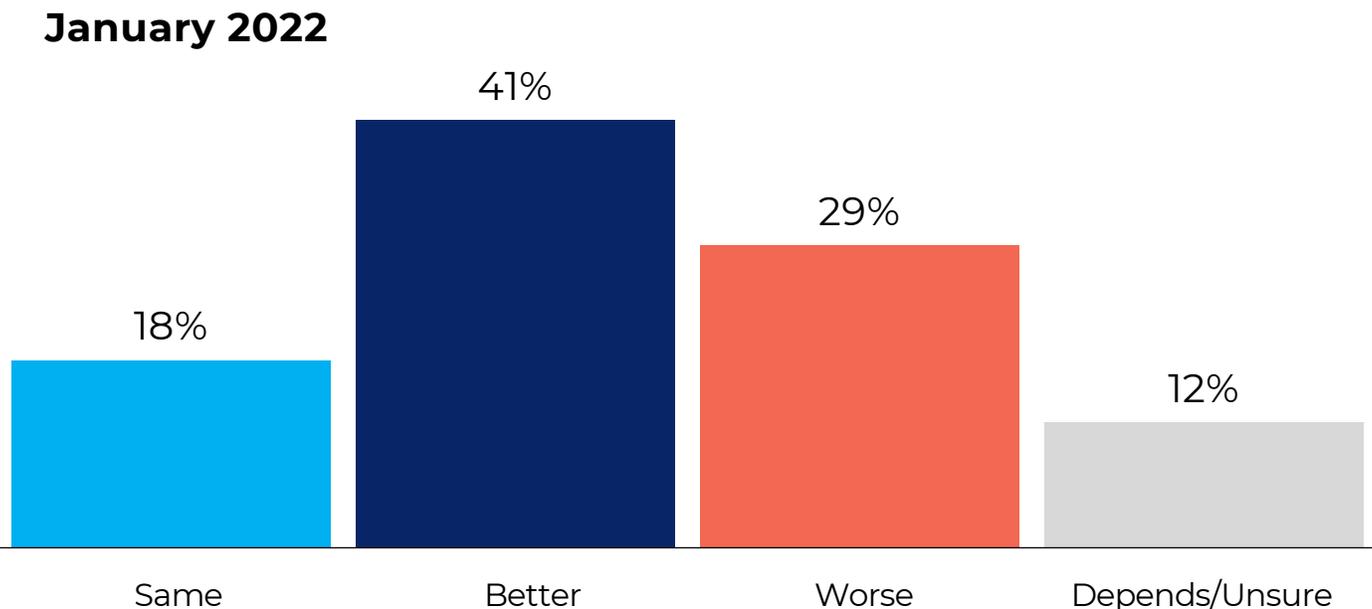
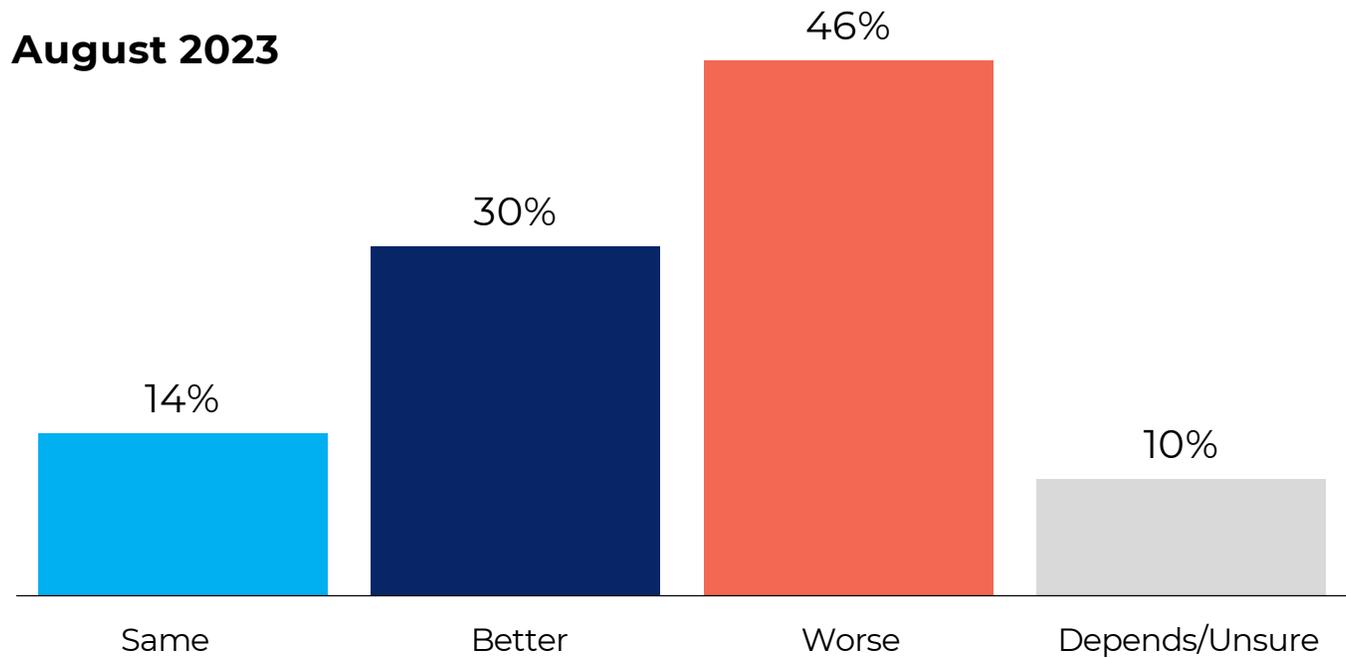
# FUTURE OF TEXAS

## Which best describes your level of concern regarding the future of Texas?



# Do you believe that Texas children today will have the same opportunities, better opportunities or worse opportunities to succeed than previous generations have had?

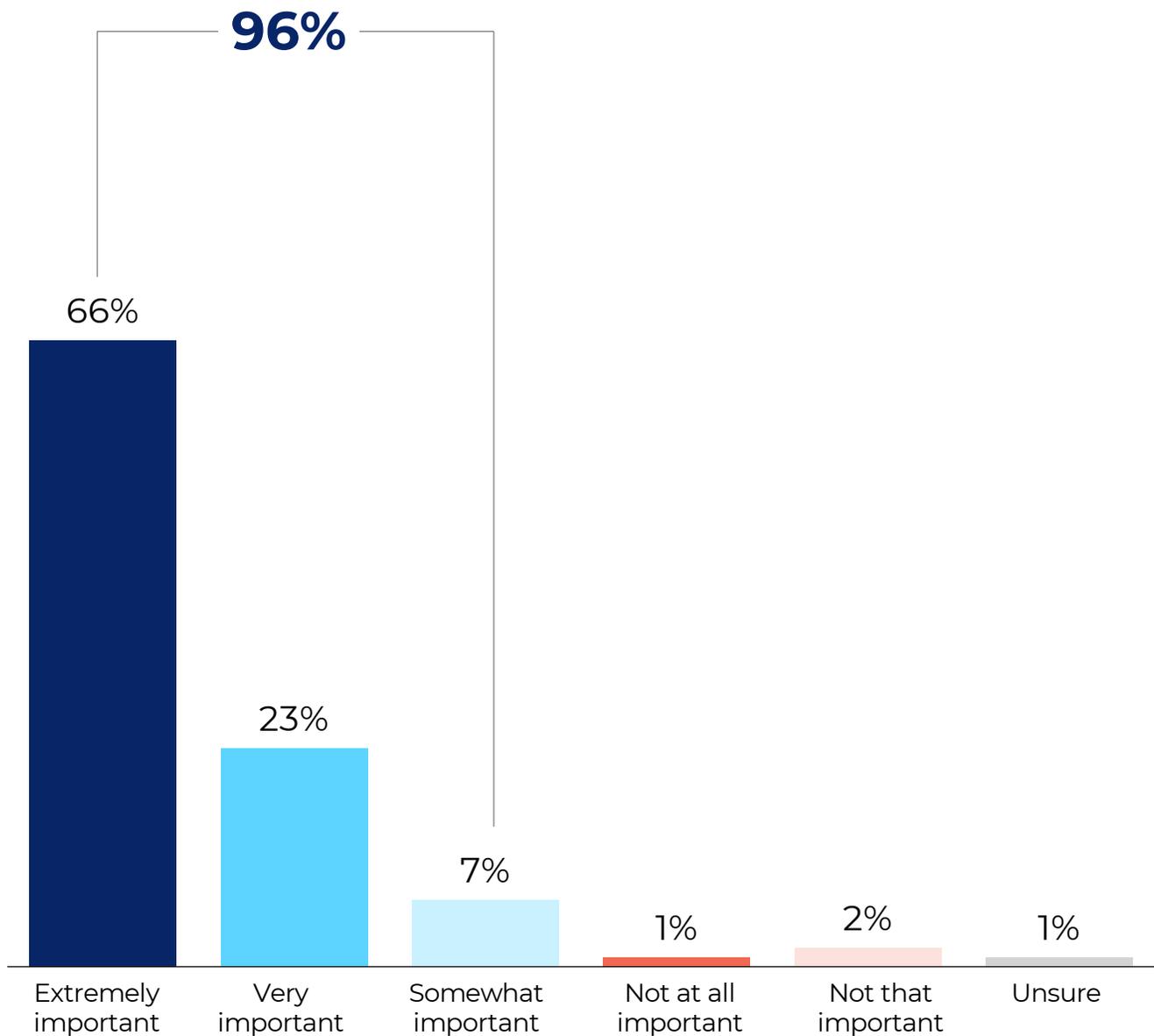
Texas voters' outlook on children's opportunities worsens by 17 points since Jan. 2022, with only one out of three Texas voters currently forecasting better opportunities for future generations of Texans.



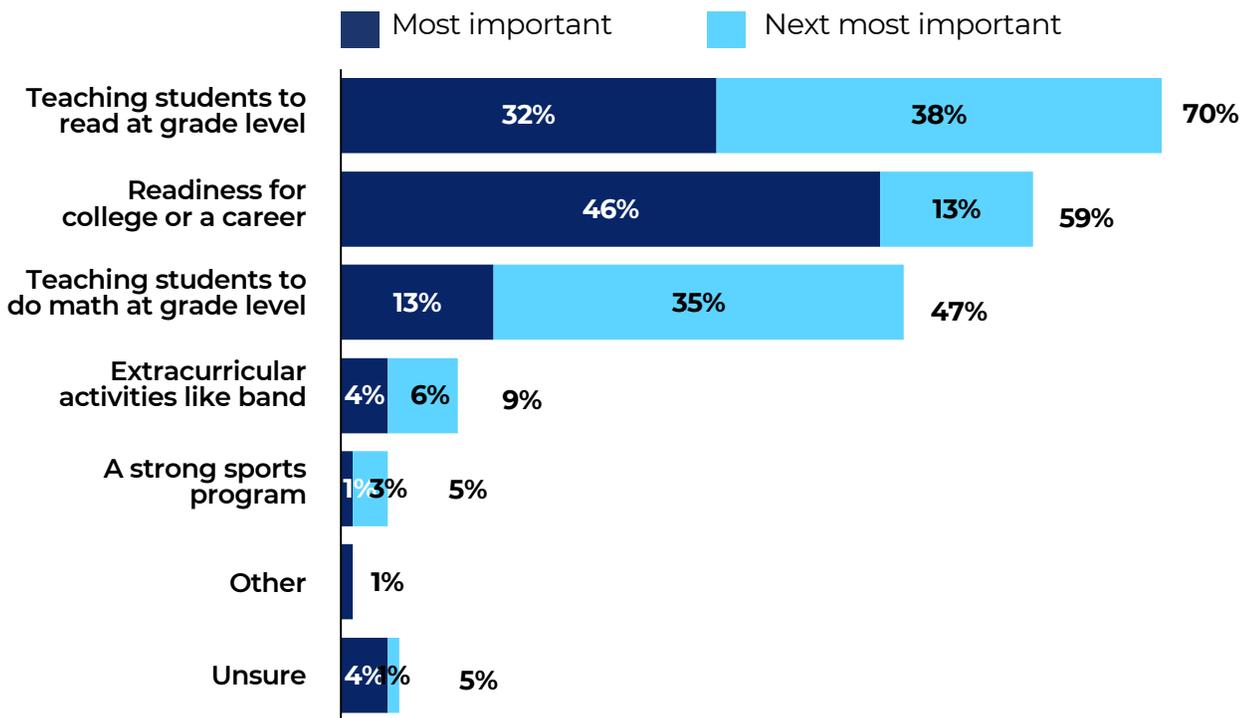


# PUBLIC EDUCATION

Which best describes how important it is for your community to have a good public school system?



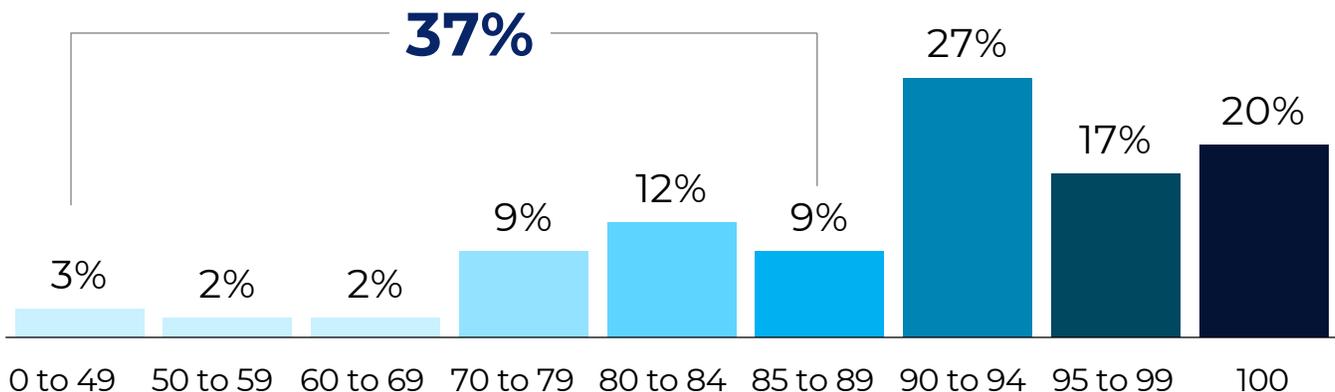
# Which of the following is the most (and next most) important element of a good school?



## The State of Texas rates public schools on an A to F scale based on its success at achieving student learning outcomes. What percentage of students do you believe should need to graduate high school ready for college or a career for that high school to be rated an “A”?

Today, Texas schools' statewide average is 65% and schools can earn an “A” if 60% of students graduate career or college ready.

Mean: 87.0  
Median: 90.0



\* Due to rounding, percentages may not add up to 100.

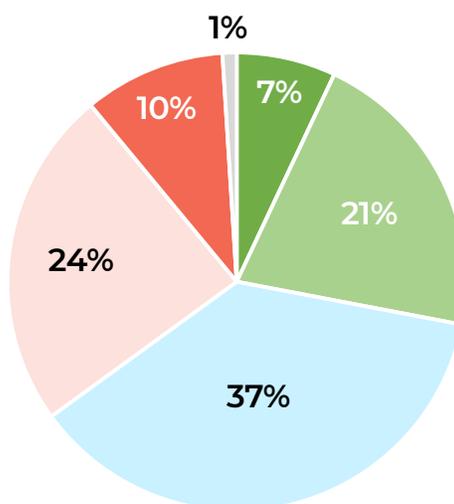
## When presented with current performance rates, Texans hold schools to high expectations.

For the 2021-2022 school year, 87% of Texas school districts earned an 'A' or 'B' rating. Using Texas' current student outcomes in college and career readiness, reading and math, Texas 2036 asked voters to rate a school based on those outcomes.

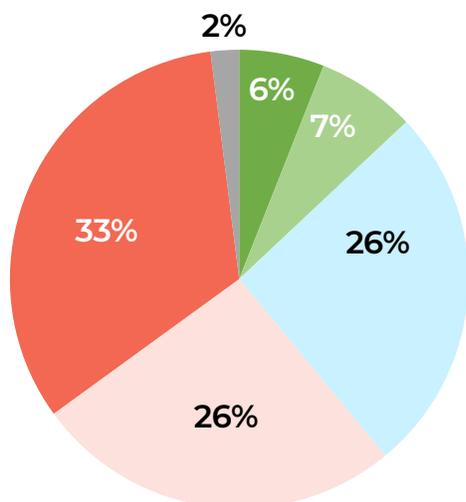
Here is what we found:



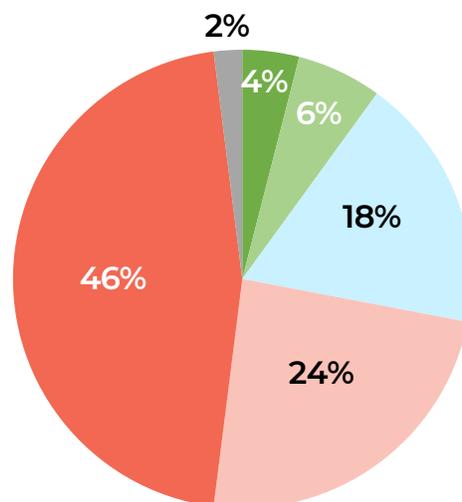
When asked “on an A to F scale, how would you rate a high school in which 65% of its graduating students are ready for college or a career,” **nearly 3 out of 4 Texas voters (71%) would assign a C or lower.**



When asked “on an A to F scale, how would you rate a school in which 52% are reading at grade level,” **85% of voters rated the school with a C or lower.**



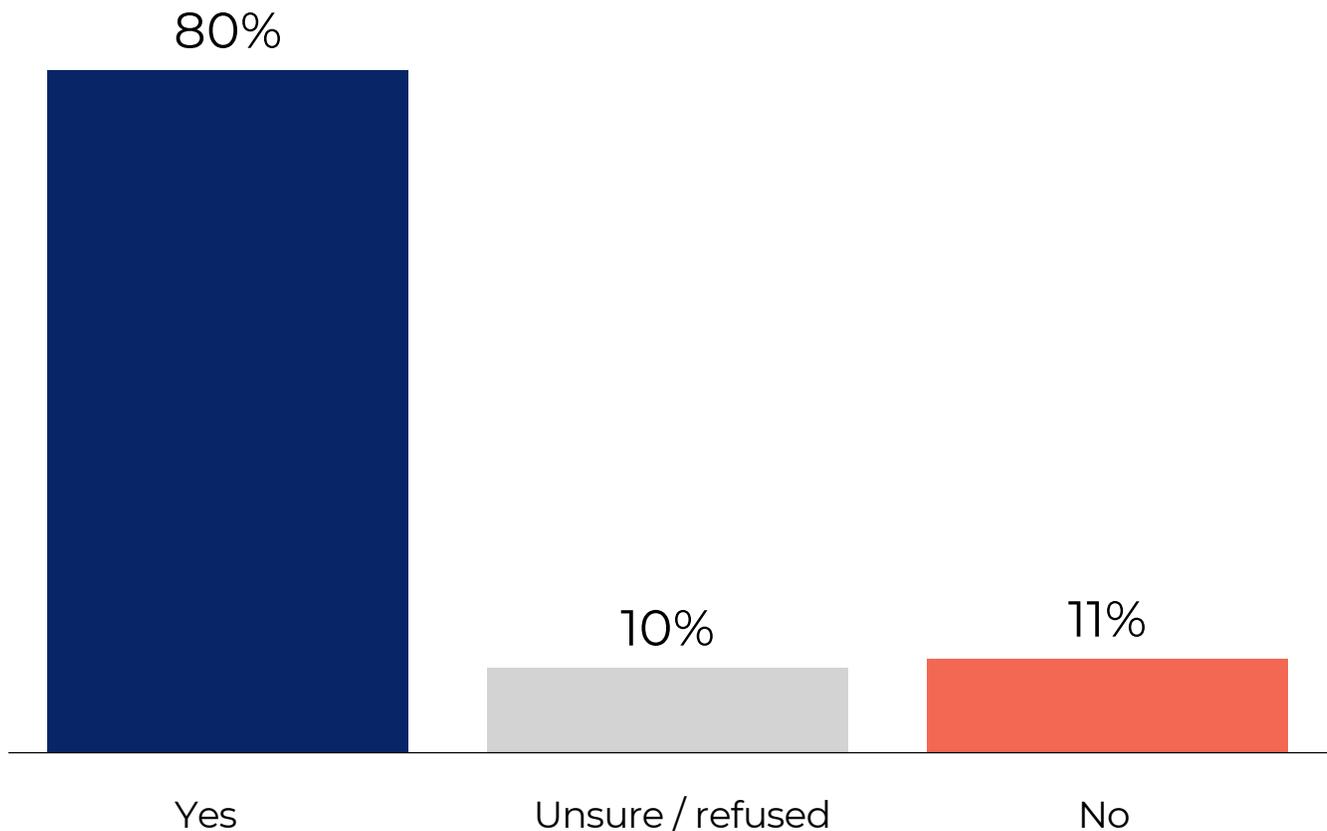
When asked “on an A to F scale, how would you rate a school in which 43% are doing math at grade level,” **88% of voters rated the school with a C or lower.**



**For the first time since the state began rating high schools on an A to F scale, the Texas Education Agency has proposed increasing the standards that determine a school's rating.**

**Under this new scoring system, the threshold to receive an “A” rating would increase from 60% of students graduating ready for college or a career to 88%.**

**Do you support this update?**



*\* Due to rounding, percentages may not add up to 100.*



For additional information,  
please contact :

✉ | [media@texas2036.org](mailto:media@texas2036.org)

☎ | (713) 213-7297

📍 | 210 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1100, Austin, Texas 78701

TEXAS 20  
36

# 7TH TEXAS VOTER POLL

**WATER.  
STATE PARKS.  
BROADBAND  
AND MORE.**



August 2023

TEXAS 20  
36



# POLL METHODOLOGY

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Phone  
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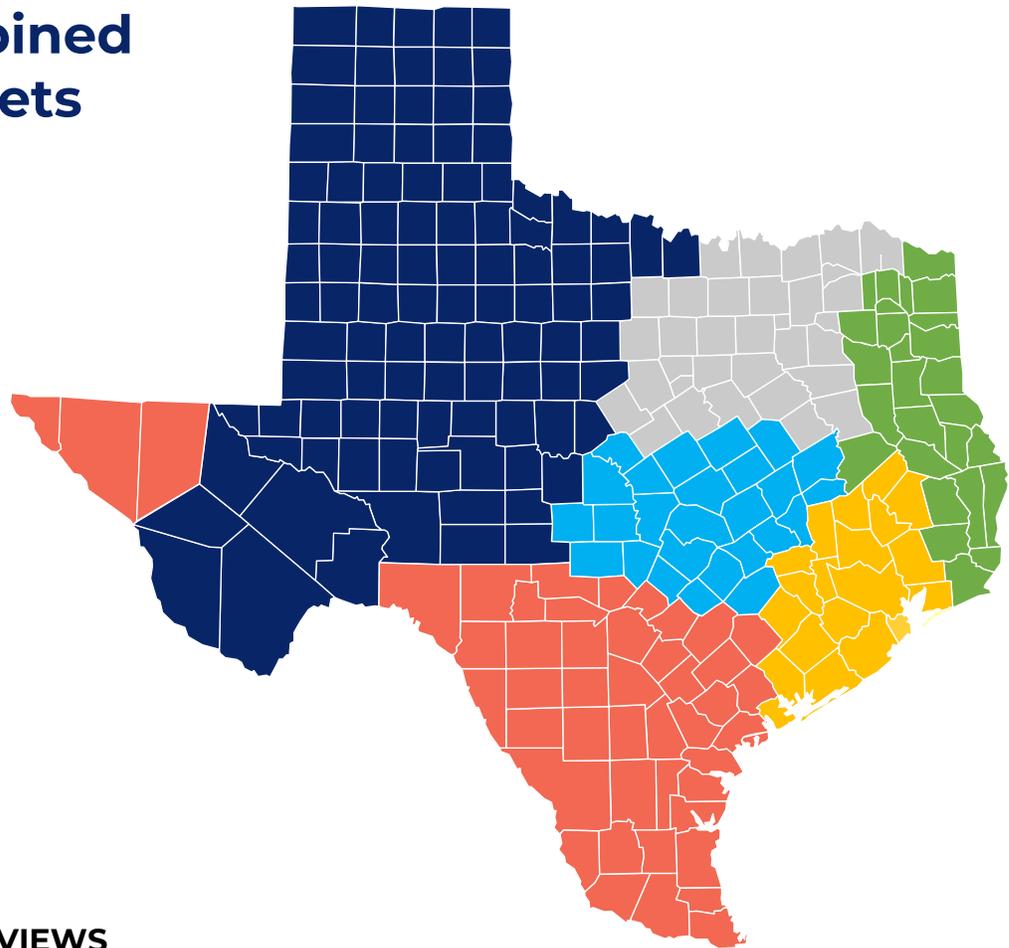


SMS  
**13%**

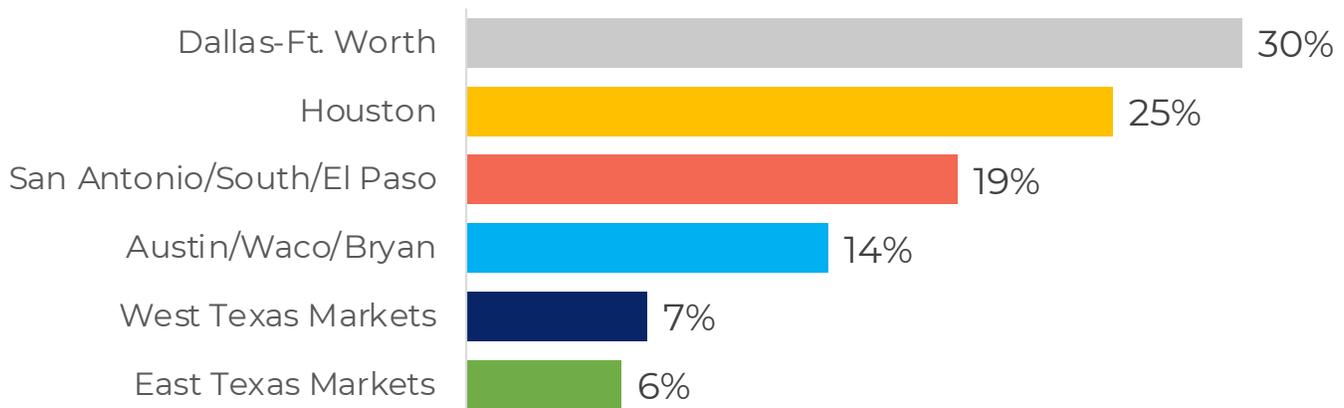


Web  
**35%**

## Texas Combined Media Markets



### PERCENT OF INTERVIEWS



# CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS, EXTREME WEATHER & ENERGY

## Majorities of Texas Voters Stand Ready to Sign Off On Billions for Critical Infrastructure

Voters across the state express urgency for investments in water, state parks and broadband.

**AUSTIN, TX** — As the clock ticks down to November’s critical vote on 14 constitutional amendments, the newly released results of the 7<sup>th</sup> Texas Voter Poll, conducted at the end of August by Baseline and Associates for Texas 2036, presents compelling support for legislators’ actions during the regular session to set aside billions of revenue surplus dollars for Texans to vote on to shore up the state’s critical infrastructure.



We found that three-quarters of the surveyed voters, an overwhelming majority, supported these important investments in water and parks funding. Broadband expansion also had majority support from those we polled. However, the numbers also demonstrate the need for us to educate voters on the merits of closing the digital divide. The good news is that Texas voters are telling us the time is now to establish these funds.



**A.J. Rodriguez**  
Executive Vice  
President  
*Texas 2036*

Voters are sharply supportive of Texas’ leading role in the national energy discussion and want our state to remain on the leading edge of energy innovation that will deliver both more energy, and more cleaner energy. The voter responses we measured point to another challenge for policymakers — explaining the impacts of new energy technologies on future costs as well as impacts to the economy and to jobs.



**Jeremy Mazur**  
Senior Policy  
Advisor  
*Texas 2036*

These poll data underscore voters’ understanding of the long-term value of critical infrastructure investments — in water, broadband and parks — and recognize the importance of smart, strategic investments for the betterment of future generations.



**Rahul Sreenivasan**  
Policy Advisor  
*Texas 2036*

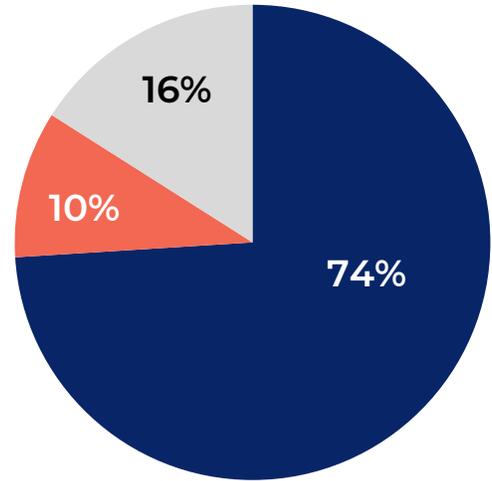


# CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

■ For ■ Against ■ Unsure

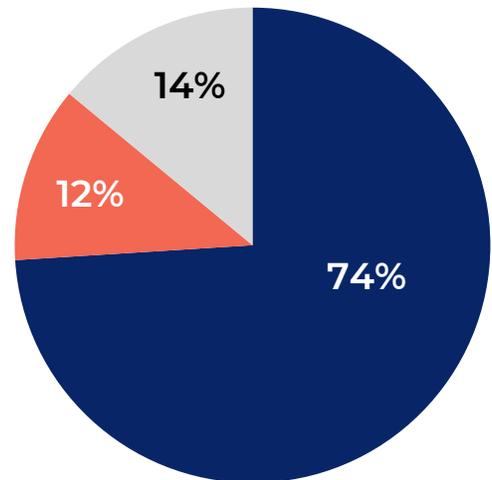
**Would you vote for or against the constitutional amendment creating the Texas water fund to assist in financing water projects in this state?**

Net For = +64%



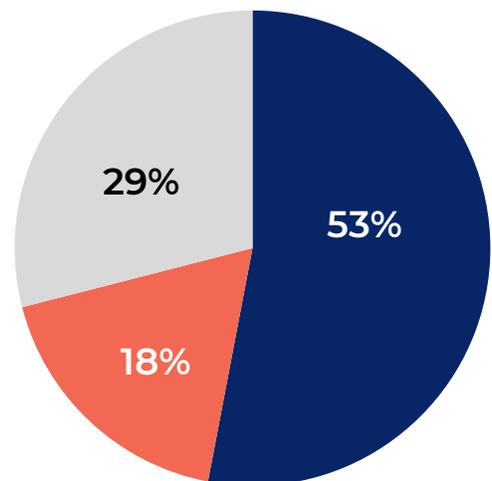
**Would you vote for or against the constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the centennial parks conservation fund to be used for the creation and improvement of state parks?**

Net For = +62%

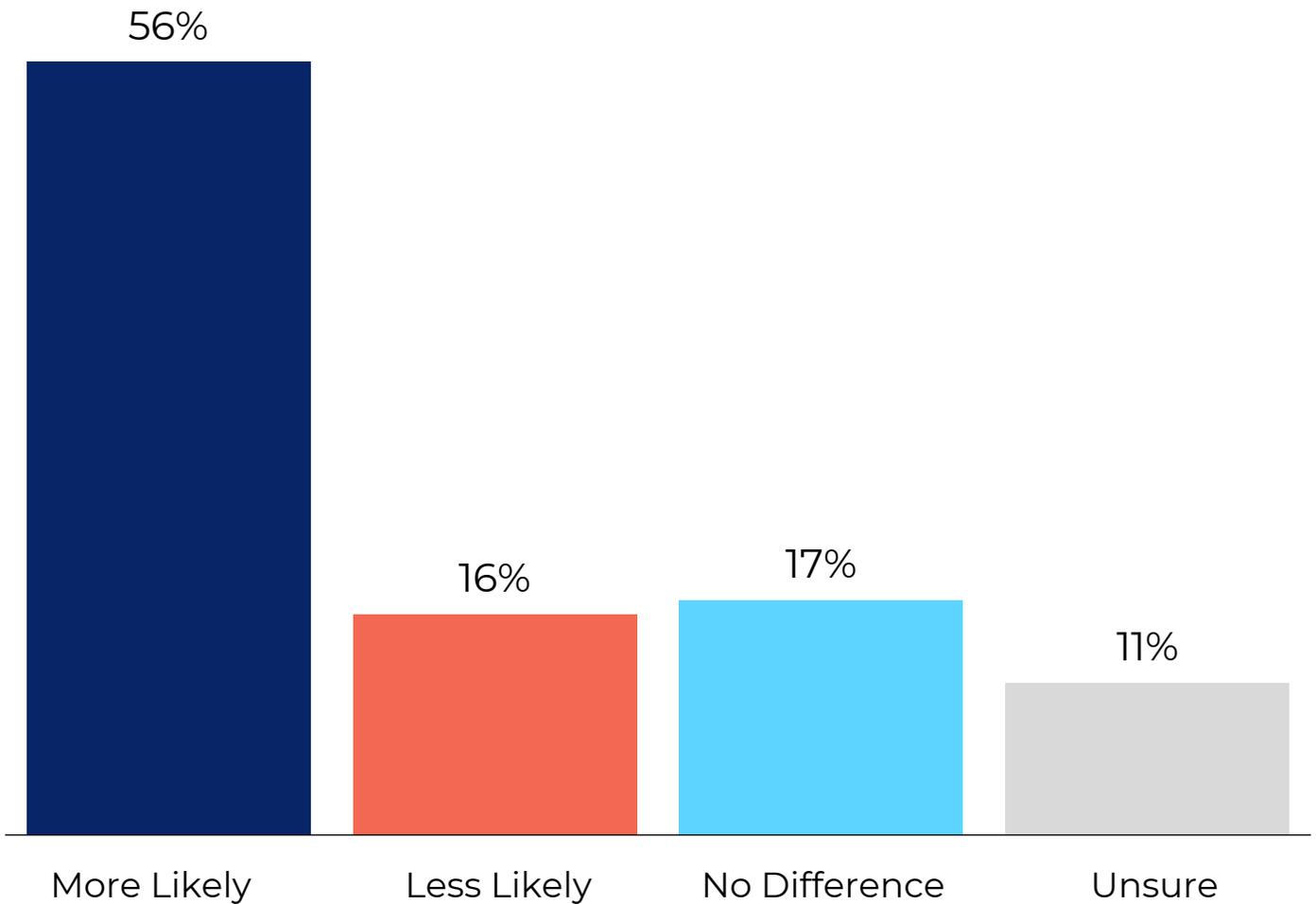


**Would you vote for or against the constitutional amendment creating the broadband infrastructure fund to expand high-speed broadband access and assist in the financing of connectivity projects?**

Net For = +35%



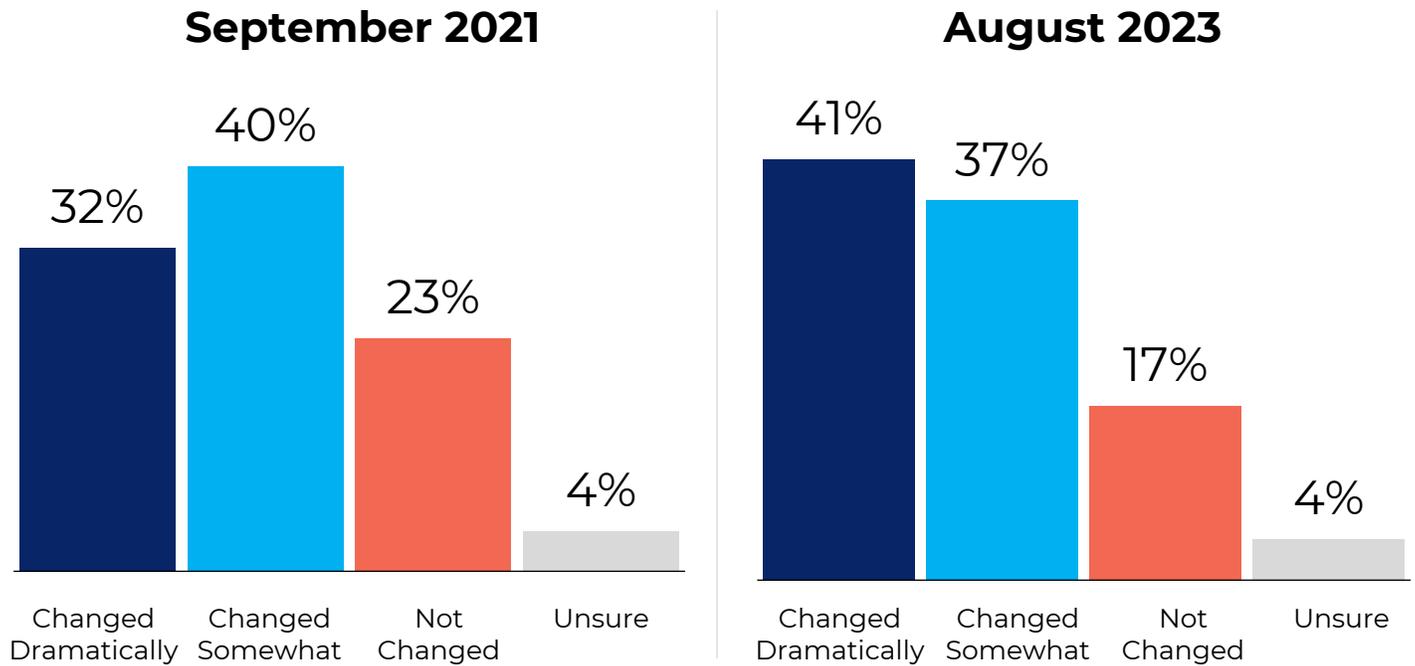
**If voters approve all seven spending amendments this November totaling \$28 billion, the state is projected to still have more than a \$10 billion budget surplus and approximately \$26 billion in the Rainy Day Fund. Knowing this, would you be more or less likely to support these constitutional amendments?**



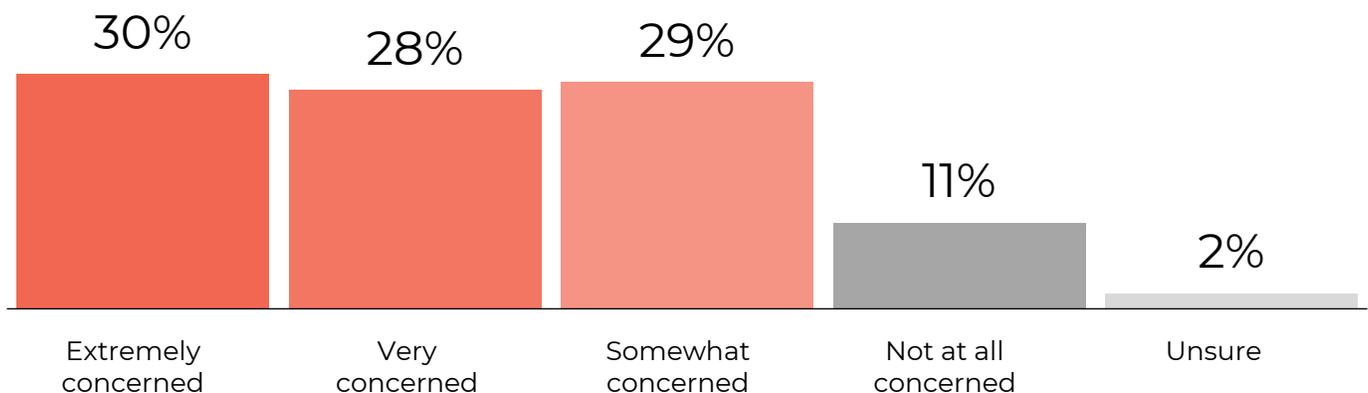


# EXTREME WEATHER TRENDS

Shifting to weather events, do you think the climate in Texas compared to ten years ago has...



Which best describes how concerned you are that weather-related events in Texas such as wildfires, floods, drought, and hurricanes may increase what you pay for property insurance?

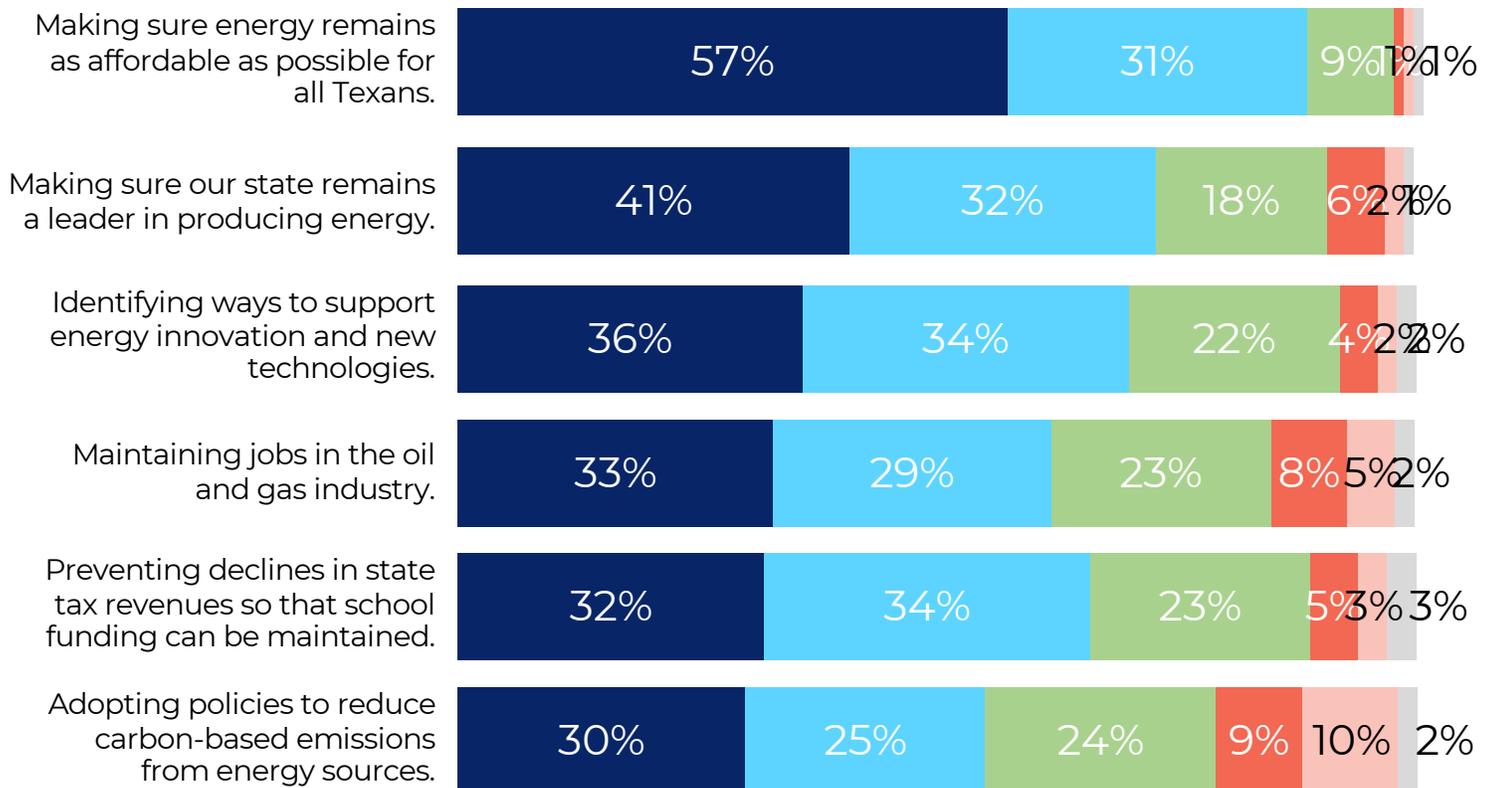




# ENERGY

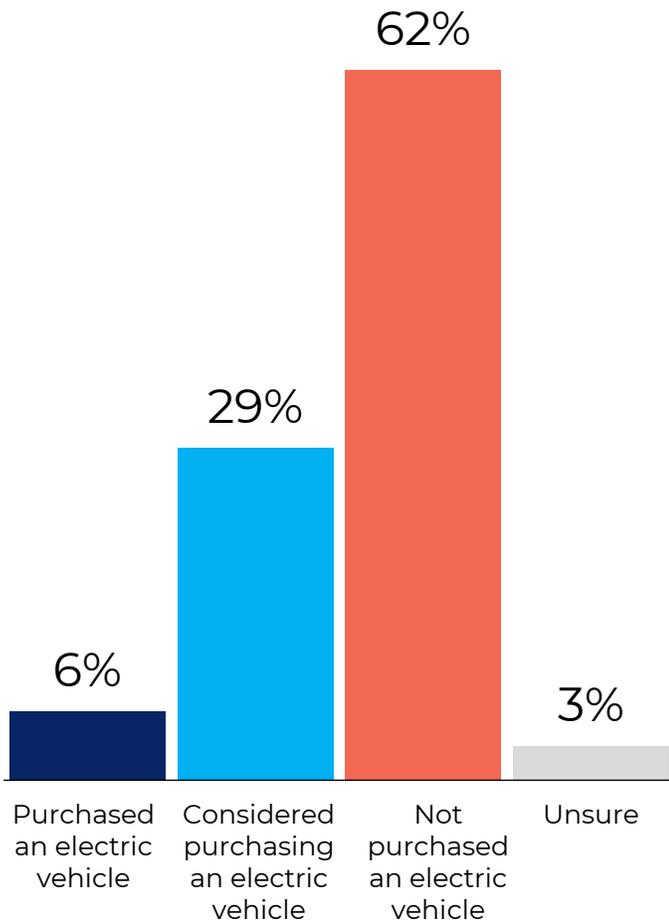
**New technologies, including energy storage or batteries, carbon capture, hydrogen, electric vehicles and renewable energy may impact future energy markets, products and prices. Please indicate if each of the following is extremely important, very important, somewhat important, not that important or not at all important for Texas.**

Extremely Important
  Very Important
  Somewhat Important
  Not that Important
  Not at all Important
  Unsure

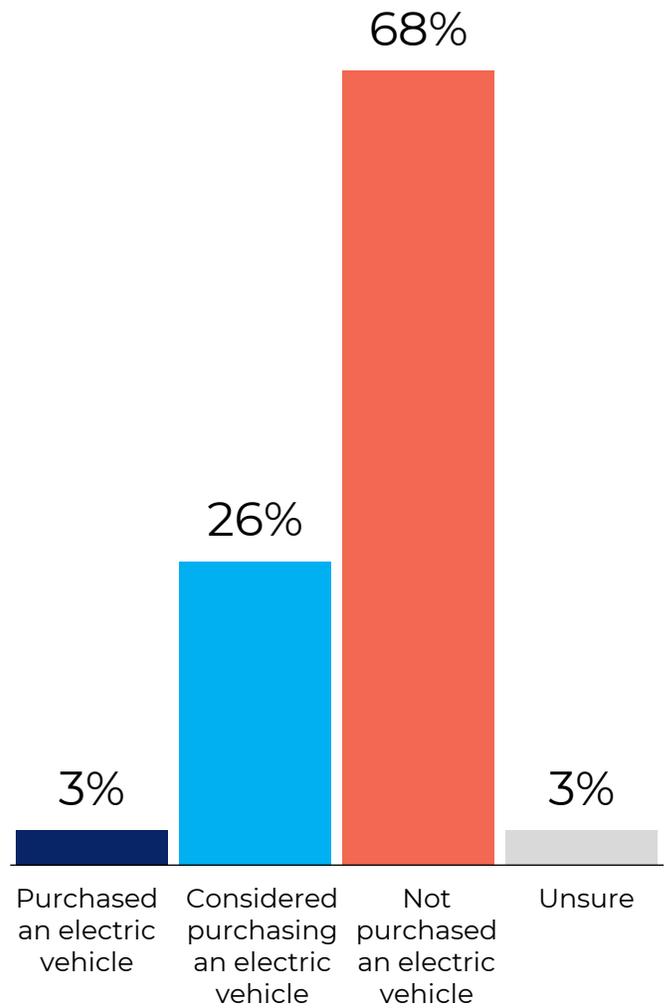


# Thinking about electric vehicles, have you...

## March 2022



## August 2023





For additional information,  
please contact :

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TEXAS 20  
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TEXAS <sup>20</sup>~~23~~<sub>36</sub>

August 2023



7TH  
TEXAS

VOTER POLL

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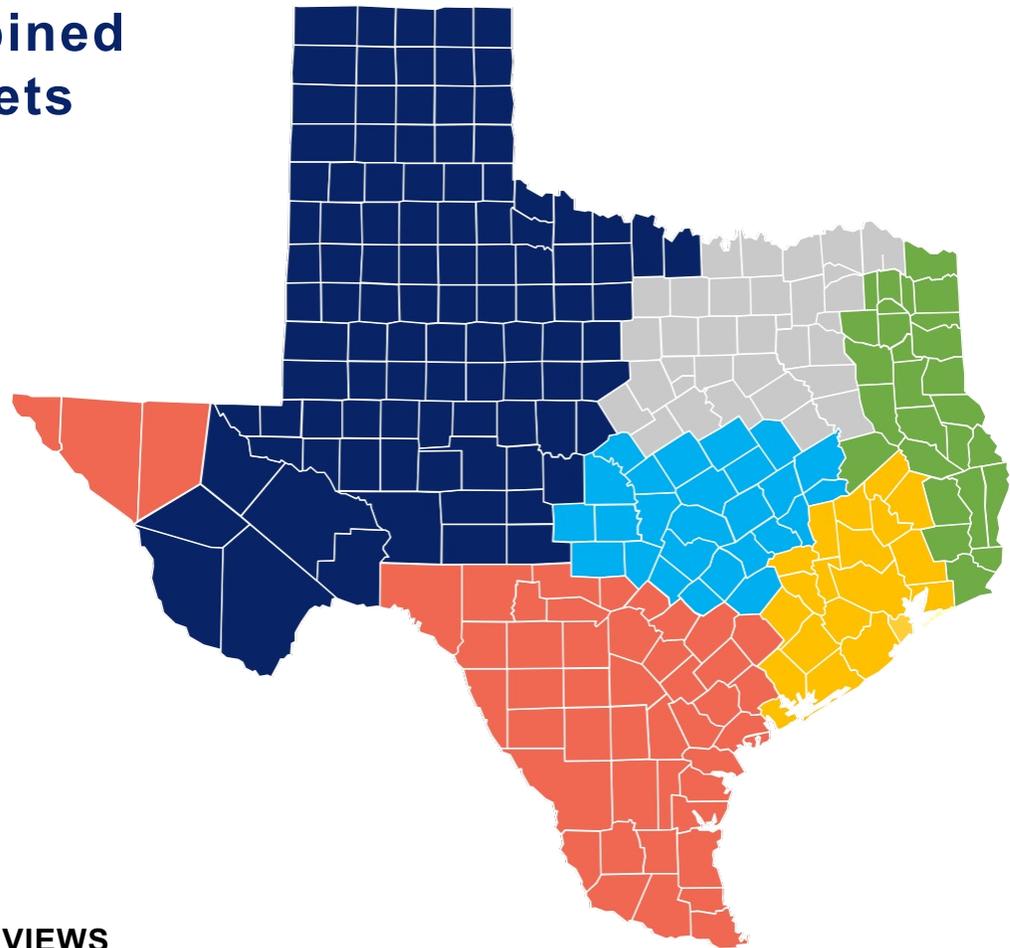


SMS  
13%

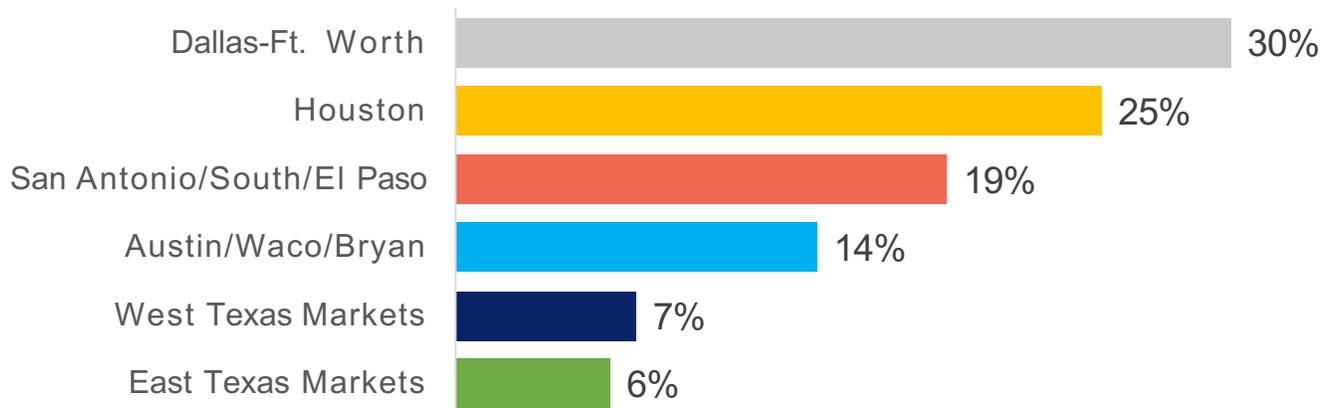


Web  
35%

## Texas Combined Media Markets



### PERCENT OF INTERVIEWS



# POPULATION TRENDS

## From Lone Star State to Lodestone State: Texas Remains Attractive to Natives and Newcomers

Texas affirms its status as a leading target for relocation while concerns about the state's future has some residents thinking about leaving.

**AUSTIN, TX** — Texas remains far and away the best state in the nation for keeping native residents from leaving the state and for drawing residents from other states, findings confirmed by recent Texas 2036 polling and data analysis.

More than three of every four Texans, or 77%, told us they don't plan to leave Texas anytime in the next few years while just 10% told us that they plan to leave the state. That latter figure was driven particularly by women and young voters who say political or social reasons are largely responsible for them contemplating a move.

Texas also leads the nation in holding on to its native residents and remains a leading target for relocation by residents of other states, notably, California and Florida.



Texas' appeal isn't just rooted in our vibrant culture or our Tex-Mex and barbecue. Our strong job growth and affordability are major draws. But as we navigate post-pandemic changes and face rising urban housing costs, it's crucial for policymakers to prioritize accessible housing near our job centers — especially in areas witnessing high migration.



**Rahul Sreenivasan**  
Policy Advisor  
Texas 2036

New residents are attracted to Texas due to its comparative affordability, especially when originating from higher-cost coastal states.



**Lauren Leining**  
Data Analyst  
Texas 2036

The Texas triangle's metro areas have attracted a diverse and affluent crowd. Those relocating to Austin, for instance, reported considerable wealth, signaling the city's magnetism.



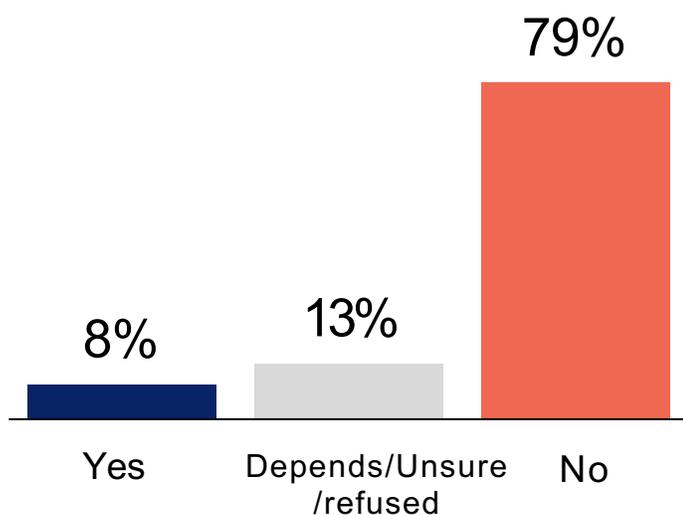
**Carlos Navarro**  
Data Analyst  
Texas 2036



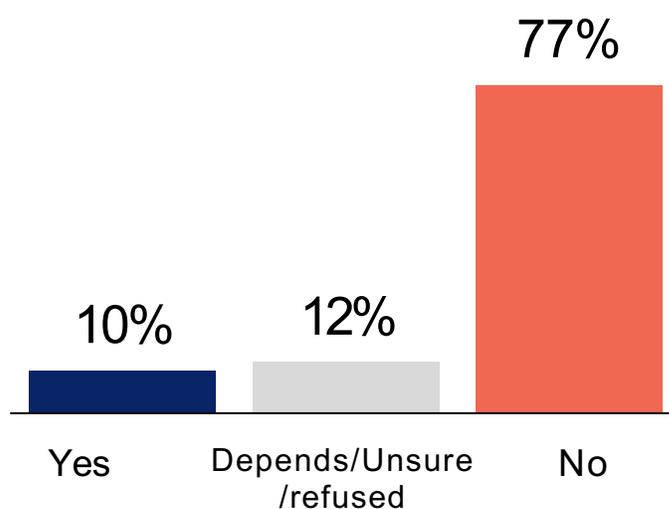
# POPULATION TRENDS

## Do you plan on moving out of Texas in the next few years?

September 2022

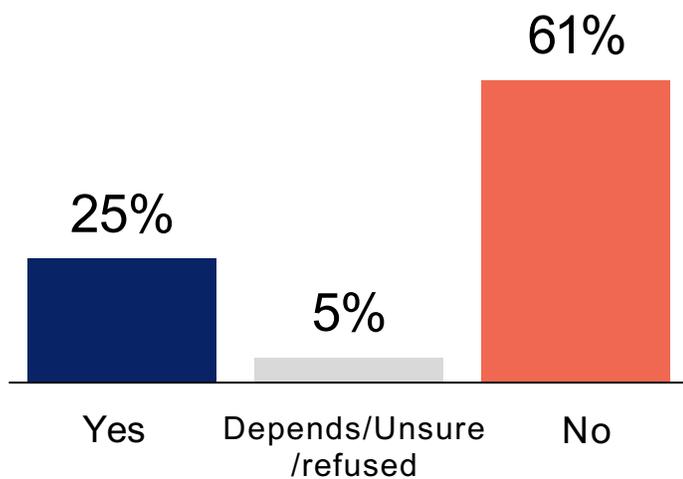


August 2023

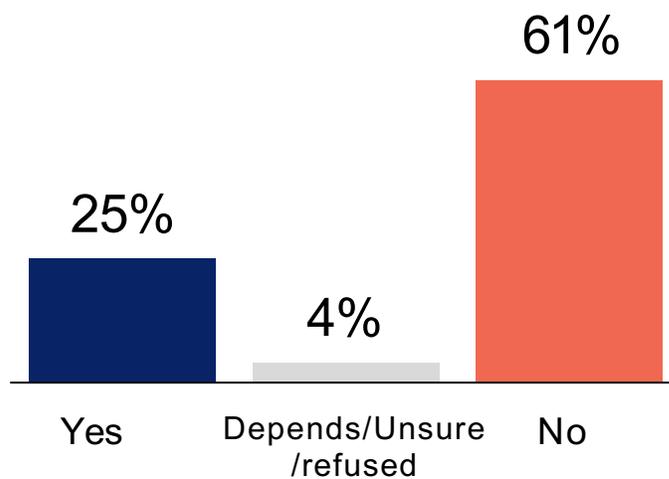


## IF NO/UNSURE, Have you considered moving out of Texas?

September 2022  
(8% Not asked)



August 2023  
(10% Not asked)

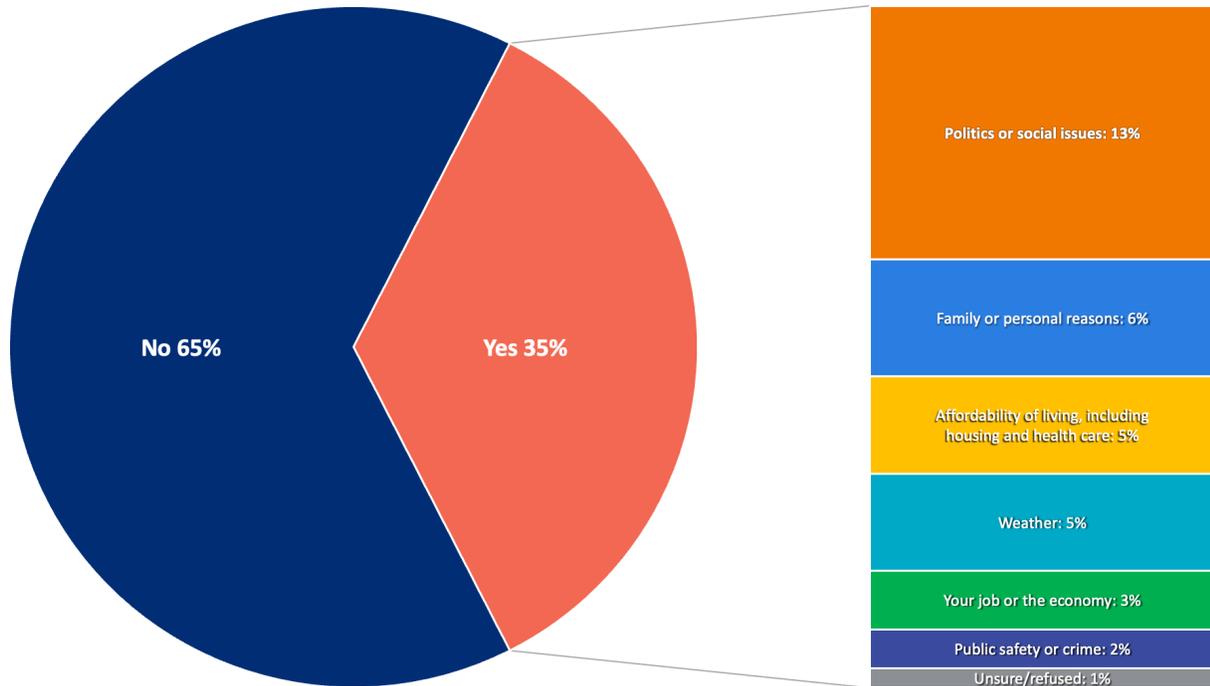


	Do you plan on moving out of Texas in the next few years?	Have you considered moving out of Texas?	Plan to or Considered	Plan to or Considered
	Aug '23	Aug '23	Aug '23	Sept '22
<b>Total</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>33%</b>
<b>Gender/Employment</b>				
Male / Employed	10%	29%	39%	34%
Male/Not employed	5%	19%	24%	31%
Female / Employed	16%	29%	45%	45%
Female / Not employed	8%	19%	27%	21%
<b>Age</b>				
18-34	26%	29%	55%	55%
35-44	7%	35%	42%	38%
45-54	11%	30%	41%	36%
55-64	6%	22%	28%	28%
65 or older	3%	13%	16%	15%
<b>Age &amp; Gender</b>				
Male / 18-54	12%	31%	43%	39%
Male 55+	4%	18%	22%	24%
Female / 18-54	19%	32%	51%	48%
Female / 55+	5%	16%	21%	18%
<b>Urban/Suburban vs Rural Counties</b>				
Urban / Suburban	12%	28%	40%	37%
Rural	8%	19%	27%	28%
<b>Gender/Suburban vs Rural</b>				
Male / urban-suburb	9%	31%	40%	34%
Male / rural	8%	16%	24%	31%
Female / urban-suburb	14%	26%	40%	40%
Female / rural	9%	22%	31%	25%
<b>Age/Urban-Sub vs Rural</b>				
Under 55 / urban-suburb	18%	33%	51%	47%
Under 55 rural	12%	28%	40%	38%
55+ / urban-suburb	4%	21%	25%	24%
55+ / rural	5%	11%	16%	16%

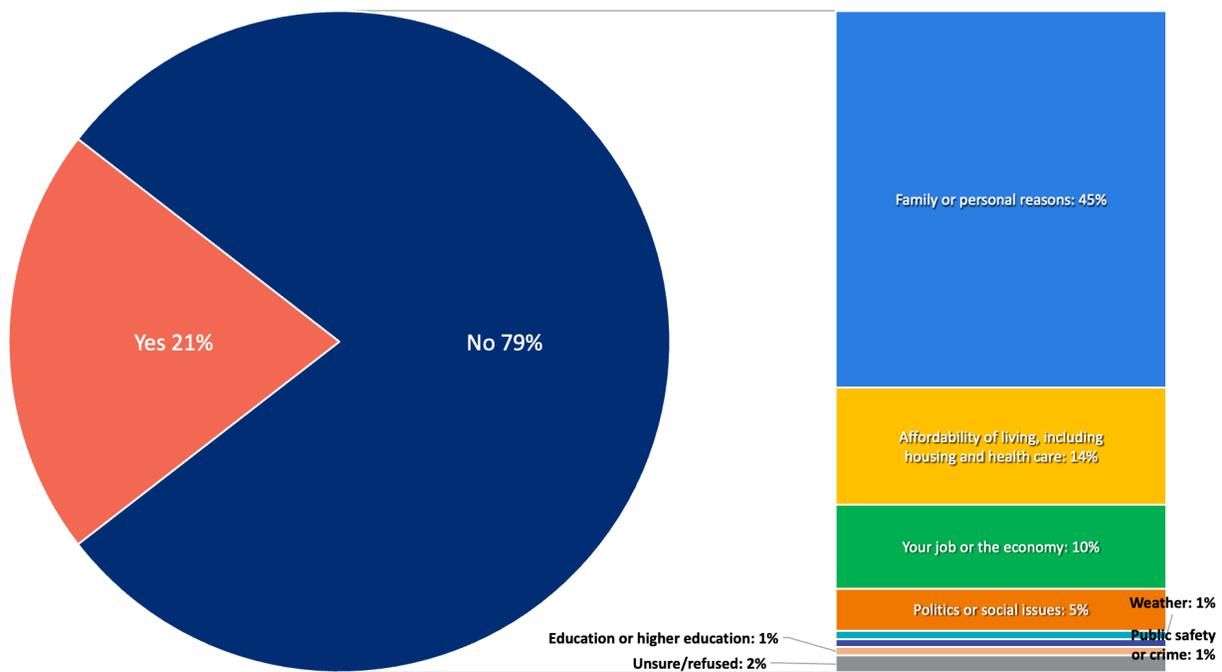
	Do you plan on moving out of Texas in the next few years?	Have you considered moving out of Texas?	Plan to or Considered	Plan to or Considered
	Aug '23	Aug '23	Aug '23	Sept'22
<b>Total</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>33%</b>
<b>Partisan Vote</b>				
Republican	4%	17%	21%	23%
Independent	15%	26%	41%	37%
Democratic	15%	33%	48%	43%
<b>Gender &amp; Partisan</b>				
Male GOP	4%	20%	24%	22%
Female GOP	5%	14%	19%	21%
Male IND	12%	32%	44%	33%
Female IND	18%	22%	40%	38%
Male DEM	12%	27%	39%	49%
Female DEM	17%	37%	54%	40%
<b>Age &amp; Partisan</b>				
Under 55 GOP	7%	23%	30%	28%
55 & over GOP	2%	12%	14%	14%
Under 55 IND	20%	33%	53%	46%
55 & over IND	7%	16%	23%	19%
Under 55 DEM	20%	38%	58%	53%
55 & over DEM	7%	24%	31%	30%
<b>Partisan / Urban-</b>				
Urb-Sub/ GOP	5%	20%	25%	24%
Urb-Sub / IND	17%	30%	47%	38%
Urb-Sub/ DEM	16%	35%	51%	46%
Rural / GOP	4%	14%	18%	18%
Rural / IND	13%	21%	34%	31%
Rural DEM	13%	28%	41%	35%
<b>Education</b>				
No college	9%	16%	25%	29%
Some college	8%	23%	31%	32%
College graduate	13%	25%	38%	31%
Post graduate	11%	34%	45%	42%

	Do you plan on moving out of Texas in the next few years?	Have you considered moving out of Texas?	Plan to or Considered	Plan to or Considered
	Aug '23	Aug '23	Aug '23	Sept'22
<b>Total</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>33%</b>
<b>Your Level of Concern</b>				
Extremely concerned	13%	30%	43%	43%
Very concerned	12%	26%	38%	31%
Somewhat concerned	6%	20%	26%	24%
Not at all concerned	7%	7%	14%	22%

# IF PLANNING/CONSIDERING MOVING: Which of the following is the top reason you have considered moving out of Texas in the next few years?



# IF NOT PLANNING OR CONSIDERING MOVING: Which of the following is the top reason for you to continue living in Texas?





For additional information,  
please contact:

✉ [info@texas2036.org](mailto:info@texas2036.org)

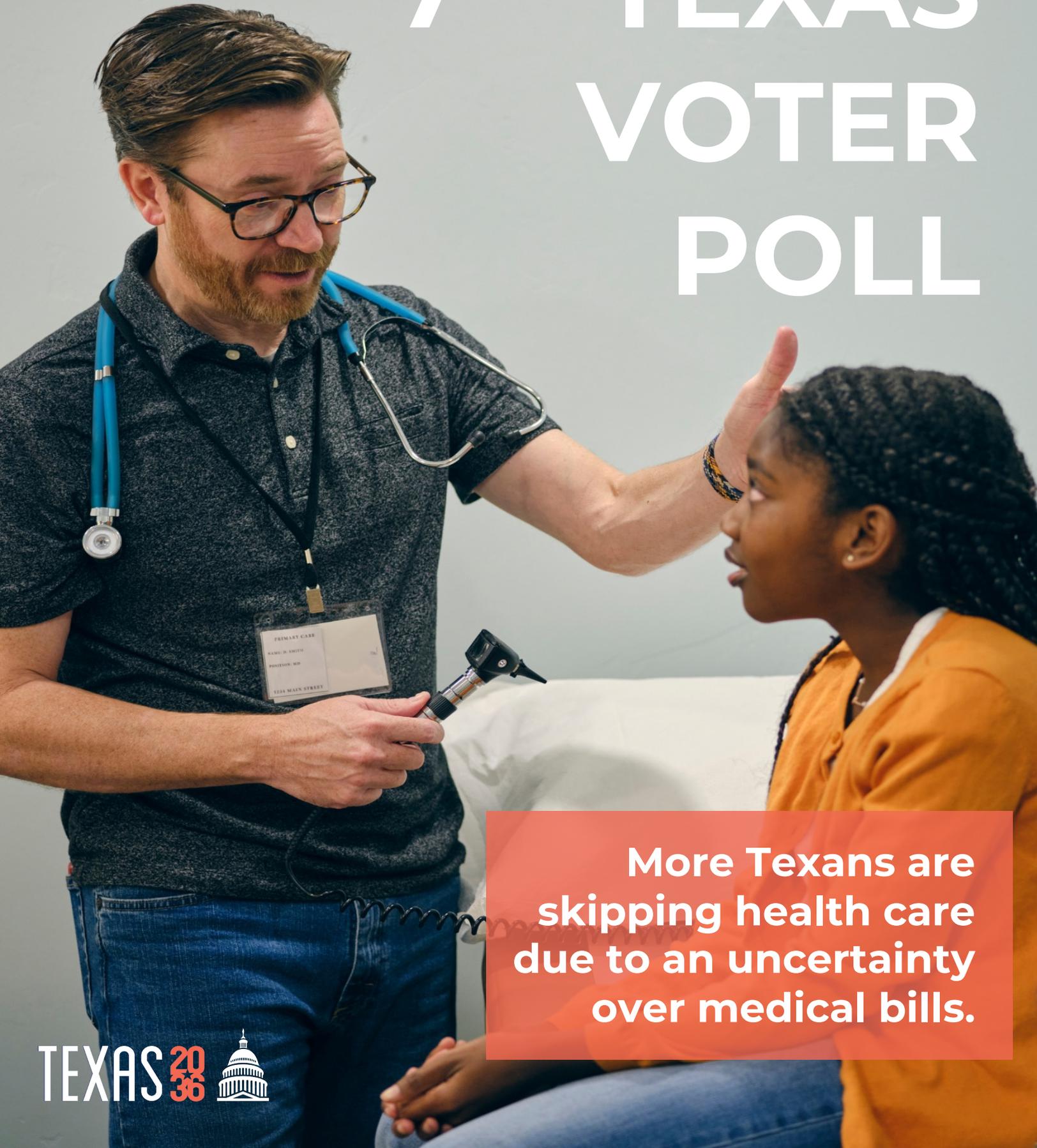
☎ (469) 384-2036

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TEXAS 20  
36

August 2023

# 7TH TEXAS VOTER POLL



PRIMARY CARE  
NAME: D. SMITH  
POSITION: MD  
1234 MAIN STREET

More Texans are skipping health care due to an uncertainty over medical bills.

# POLL METHODOLOGY

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Phone  
**52%**

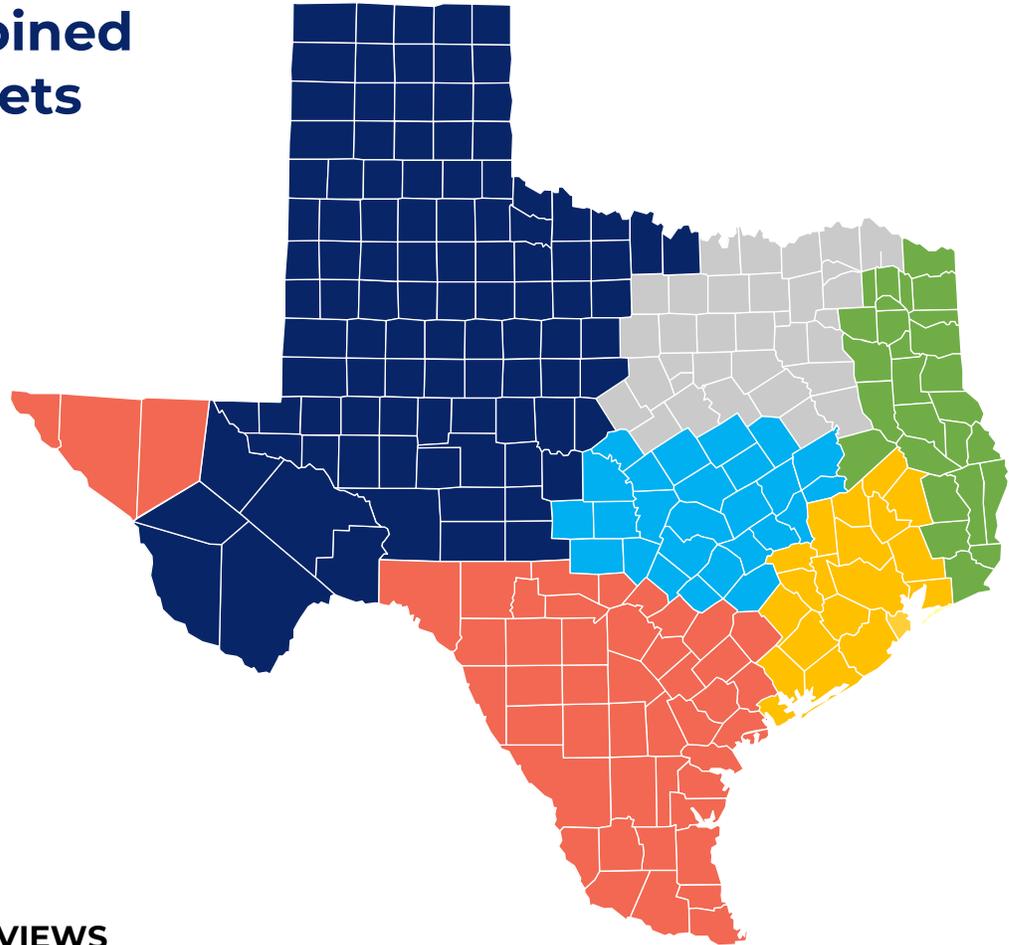


SMS  
**13%**

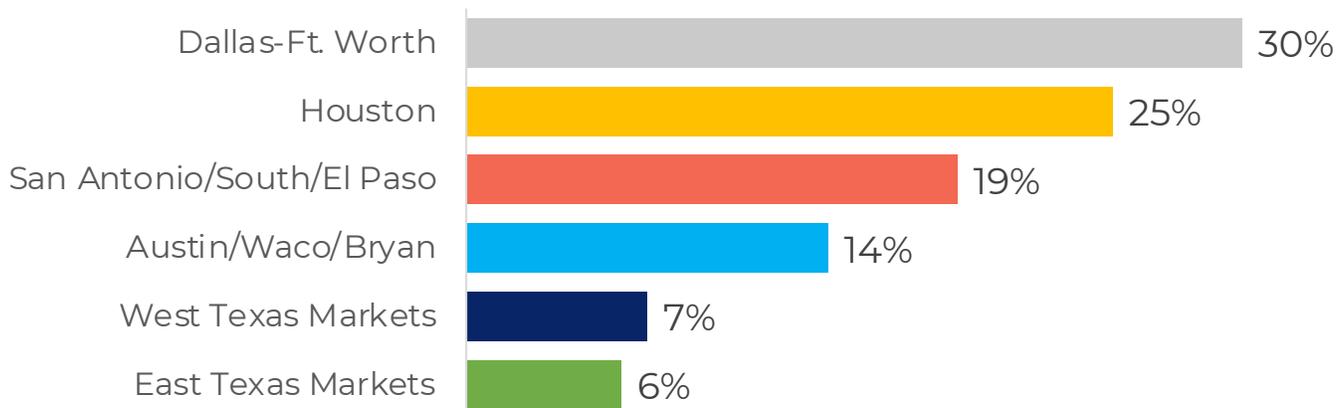


Web  
**35%**

## Texas Combined Media Markets



### PERCENT OF INTERVIEWS



# HEALTH CARE

## More Texans Skipping Care Due to Uncertainty Over Medical Bills

41% Texas voters said they or a household member postponed medical treatment due to worries over the final size of medical bills; the Texas Voter Poll also finds high levels of voter concern over higher prices caused by health care consolidation and majority support for government action to curb consolidation.

**AUSTIN, TX** — More than four in 10 Texas voters, or 41%, say they or a household member postponed or skipped treatment or surgery because of uncertainty over what the final price of care might run, in the latest release of polling data from the Texas Voter Poll, a survey of 1,000 registered Texas voters conducted at the end of August by Baselice and Associates for Texas 2036.

Concerns over the final size of medical bills were especially pronounced among mothers and Hispanics, our poll found. A total of 52% of surveyed mothers and 50% of surveyed Hispanics said they or a household member postponed or skipped care over anticipated medical bills.

The number of Texans with fears about the size of their medical bills is up 10 points from September 2022 when last we asked this question as part of the Texas Voter Poll. It is also up seven points from when we measured this in January 2021.



Policymakers interested in addressing high prices for Texas health care could consider policies to limit opportunities for further market concentration, reduce existing concentration of markets and mitigate the harmful impacts that existing concentration has on prices. By addressing any of these underlying causes of high health care prices, Texas could make major improvements in the availability of affordable care.

Texans are clear that doing nothing isn't an option, and they have expressed a preference for market-based solutions, rather than a wholesale government takeover. But if lawmakers don't engage to empower healthy markets, single-payer alternatives loom on the horizon as more popular than the status quo.



**Charles Miller**

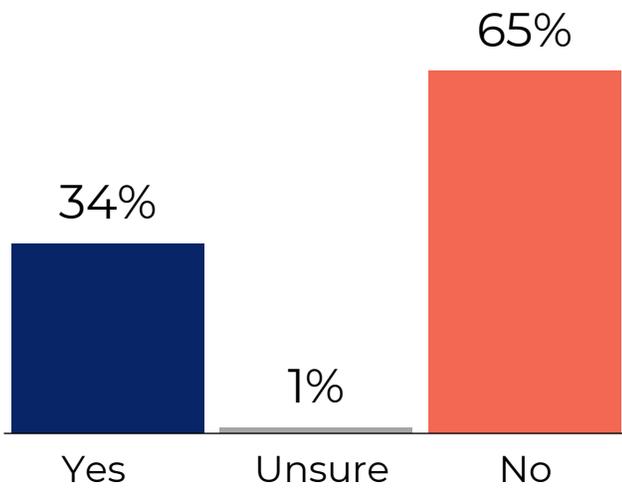
Senior Policy Advisor  
Texas 2036



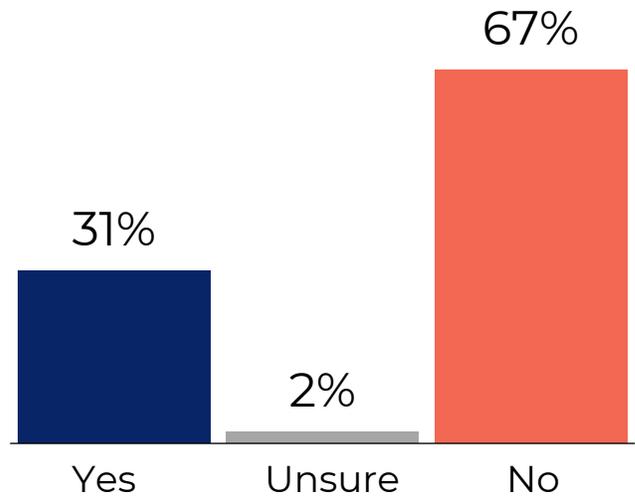
# HEALTH CARE

## Have you or someone in your household postponed or skipped any medical treatment or surgery in recent years because you didn't know what the final medical costs might be?

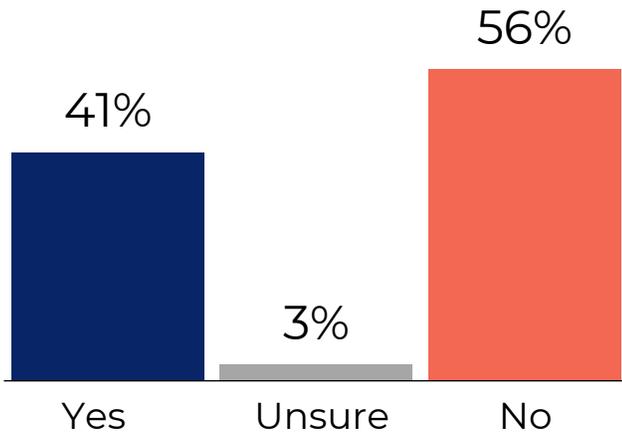
### January 2021



### September 2022

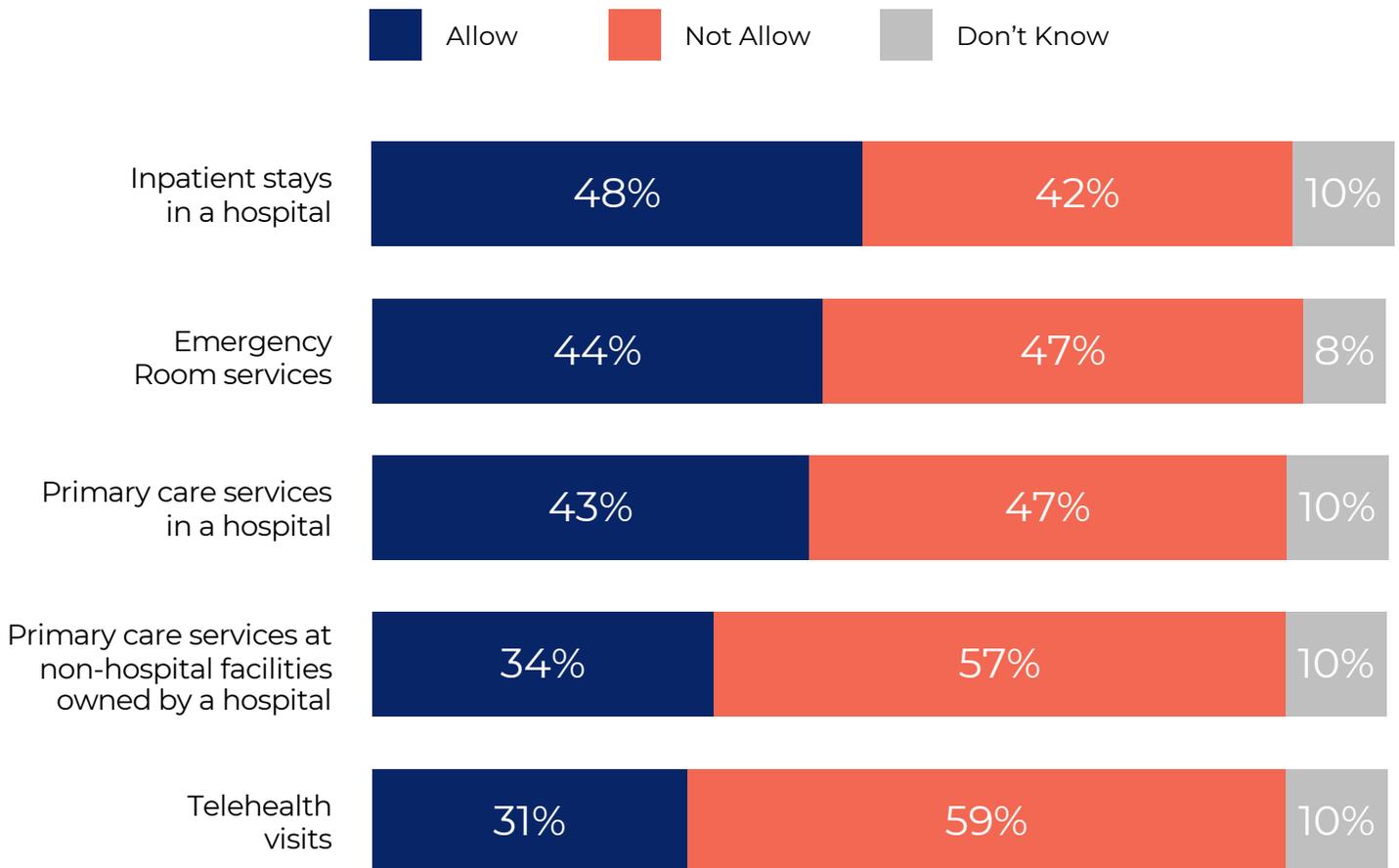


### August 2023

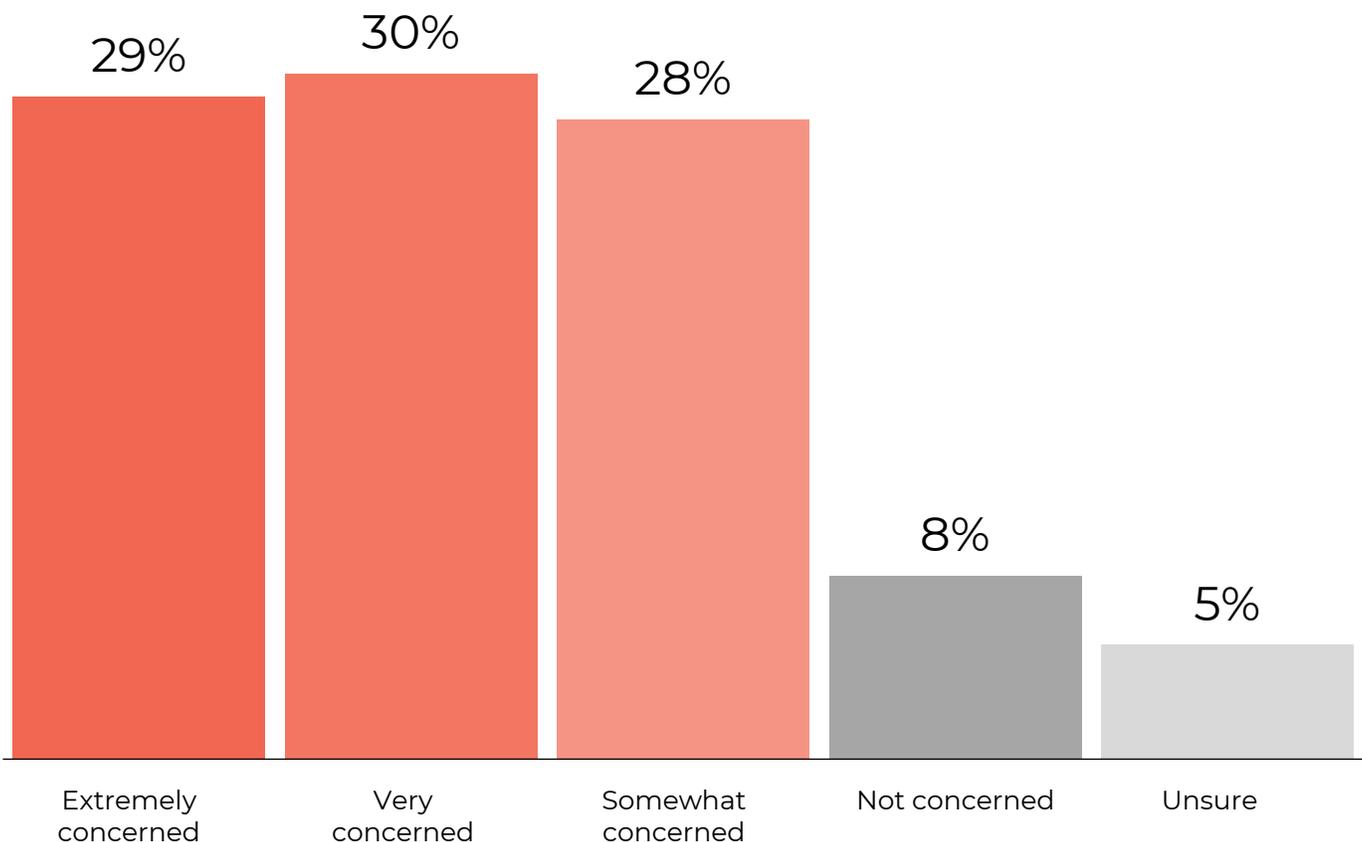


	Yes
<b>RRACE - Race &amp; Ethnicity</b>	
Anglo	38%
African-American	37%
Hispanic	50%
Other	40%
<b>RINCOME - Annual HH Inc.</b>	
Under \$50,000	46%
\$50,000 - \$79,999	39%
\$80,000 - \$124,999	41%
\$125,000 and over	40%
<b>RRFAMILY - Gender</b>	
Male with kids	44%
Male w/o kids	35%
Female with kids	52%
Female w/o kids	40%

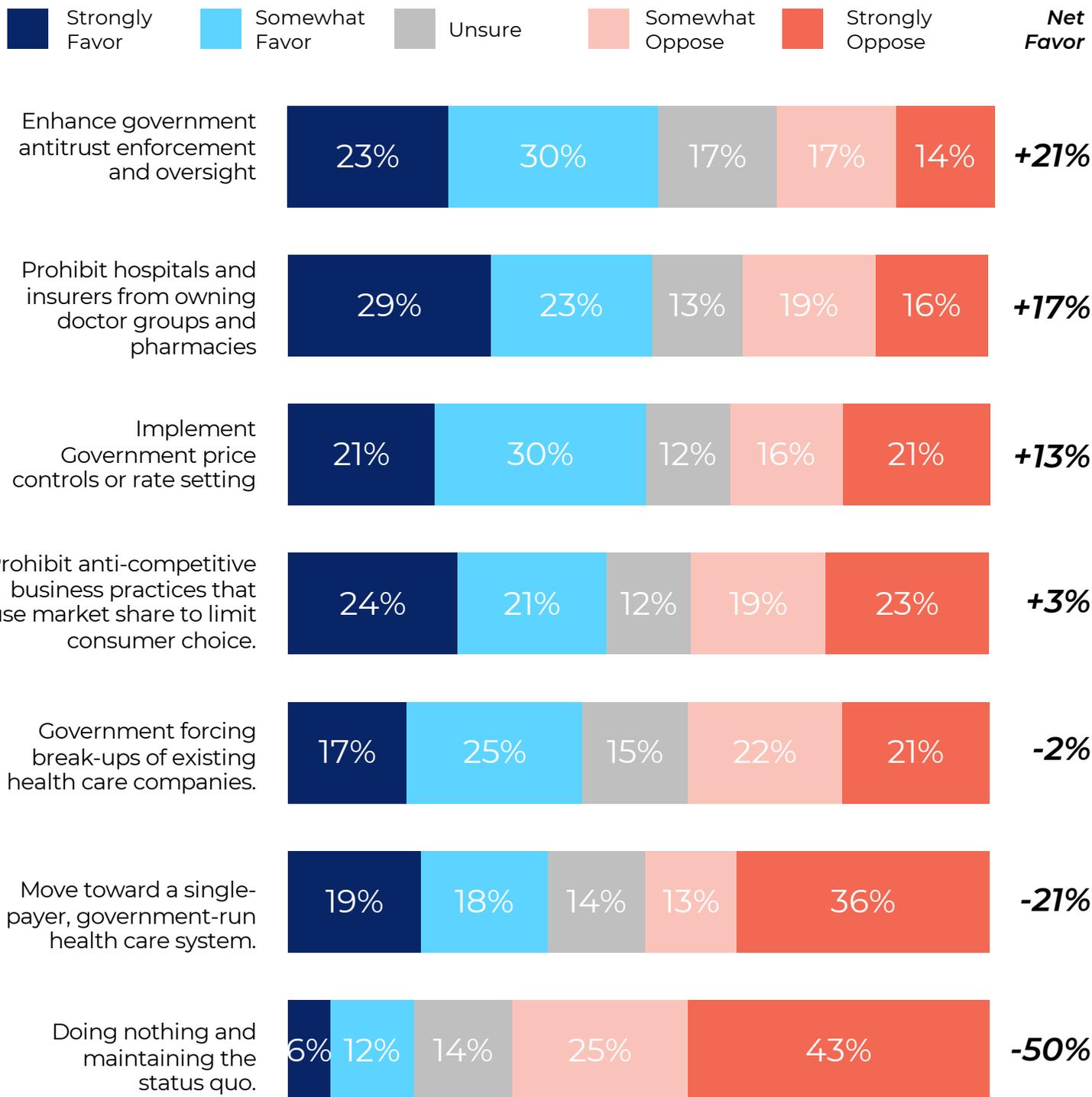
**In addition to billing for services performed, hospitals charge facility fees to cover overhead and expenses, especially as they must remain open 24 hours a day. Some hospital systems have recently begun charging facility fees to their patients at non-hospital facilities they own as well. Should the legislature allow or not allow hospitals to charge facility fees for:**



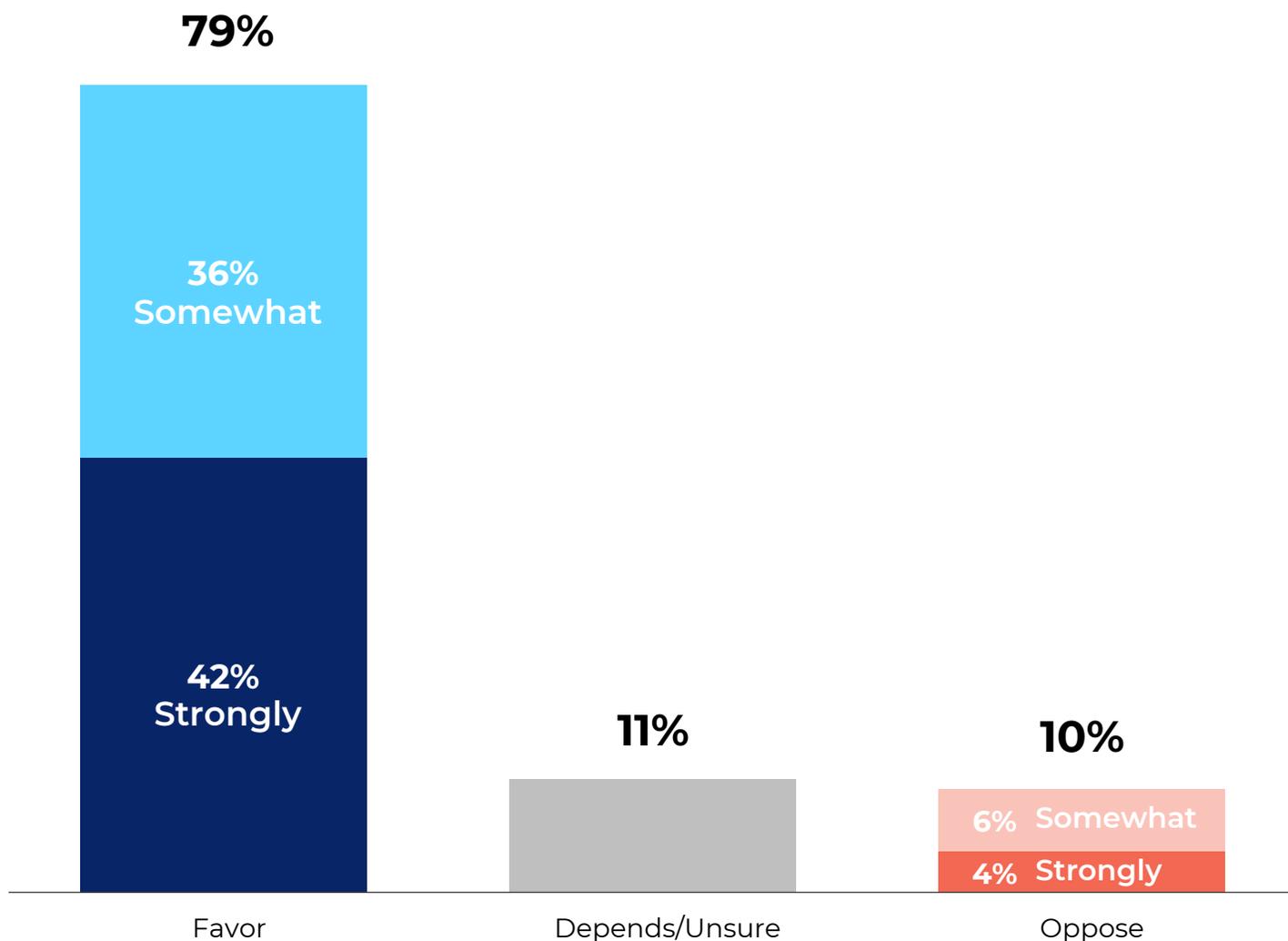
Over the past decade, the health care industry has experienced significant consolidation, meaning that a smaller number of businesses own a larger proportion of health care providers. Today, 61% of Texans live in markets that are considered highly or very highly concentrated - compared to just 3% of Californians. Independent research from health economists has found that consolidation leads to higher prices for health care. Which best describes how concerned you are about consolidation in the health care industry?



# To address health care consolidation, please indicate if you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose each of the following potential policy ideas.



Earlier this year, the Texas Legislature passed a new law that prohibits large health care providers from using anti-competitive contracting practices, meaning that they can no longer increase prices for consumers by forcing customers to accept contract terms that reduce market competition. As a result of this legislation, employers are now better able to help their employees access lower-cost care at smaller, independent providers. Knowing this, do you favor or oppose this legislation?





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