

December 11, 2024

8th Texas Voter Poll

Voters show **strong**
appetite for Texas
tackling big challenges

Survey reveals Texans' pragmatism, optimism and support for bold action on state challenges

POLL METHODOLOGY

The interviews were conducted via:

 **51%**

Live Phone Interviewing

 **14%**

Text-to-cell

 **35%**

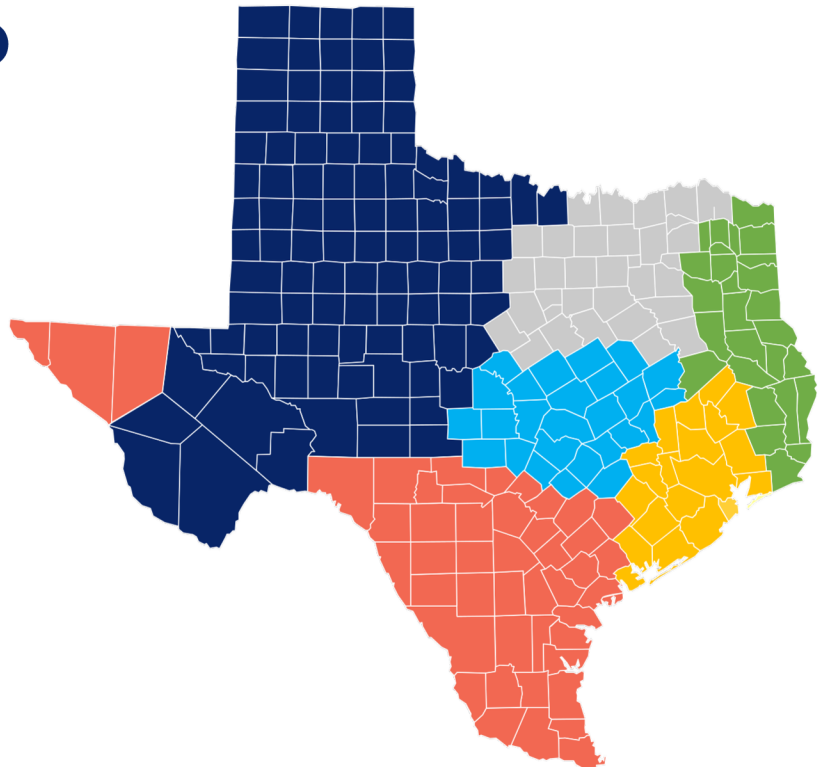
Web Panelists

TEXAS COMBINED MEDIA MARKETS

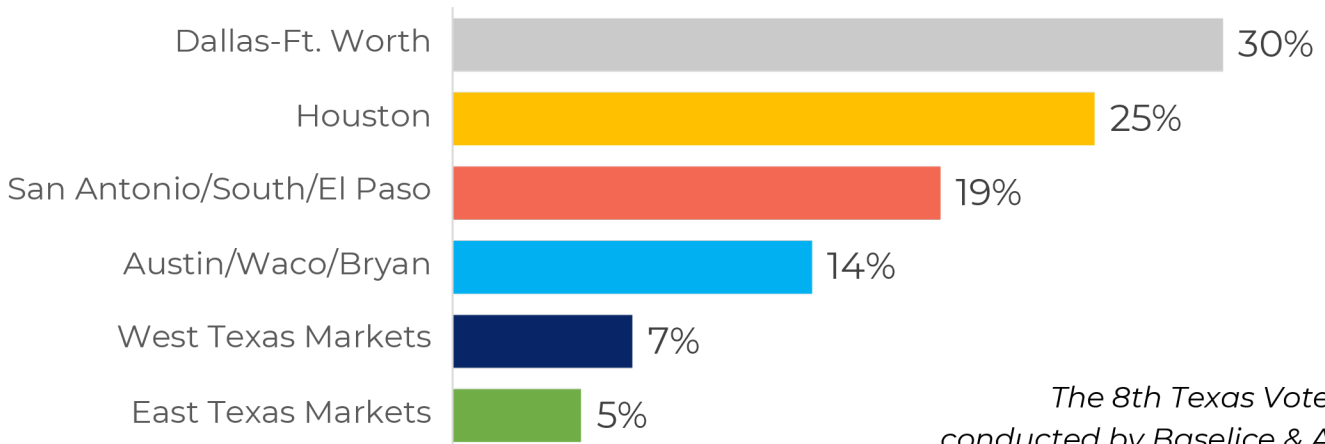
Polling 1,001 registered Texas voters on November 16-20, 2024.

It has a margin of error of $\pm 3.1\%$

Due to rounding up, percentage numbers may not add up to 100%.



PERCENT OF INTERVIEWS



The 8th Texas Voter Poll was conducted by Baselite & Associates.

Why Texas Voters are Focused on the Future

In this survey, we found that concern for the future of Texas has dropped more than seven points since last year, but concern about future generations' opportunities persists, with **45% of Texas voters now indicating that future generations will have worse opportunities to succeed than previous generations.**

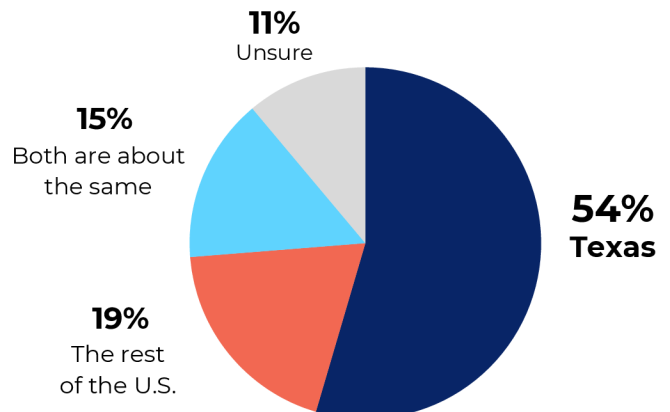
The survey also highlights Texans' faith in the state's economy and quality of life:

55% Texans are here to stay

More than half say Texas is their preferred state to live in for life, reflecting deep-rooted optimism about the opportunities the state provides.

Texans have economic confidence

A majority of Texas voters believe Texas will have a stronger economy than the rest of the U.S. over the next four years.



Texans are practical and forward-thinking. This poll clearly demonstrates that **we remain hopeful and united in our commitment to finding solutions by and for Texans.** Ahead of the next legislative session, Texans are sending a powerful message that they will support pragmatic approaches to create greater opportunity for all.



David Leebron

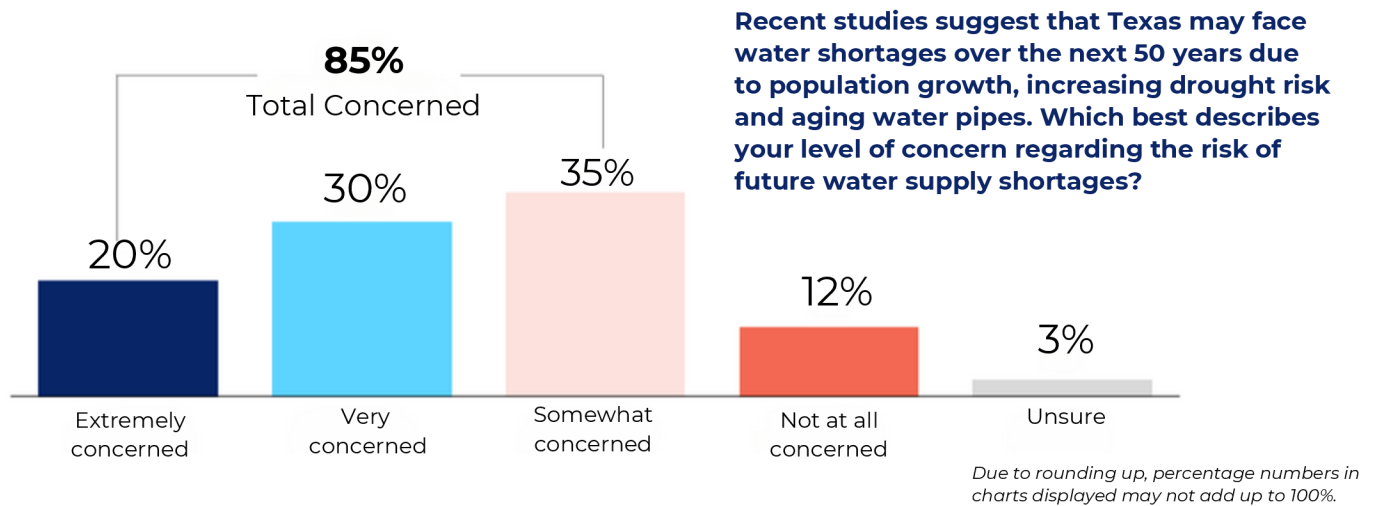
President and CEO of Texas 2036
and former president of Rice University

CONCERNS DRIVE APPETITE FOR SOLUTIONS

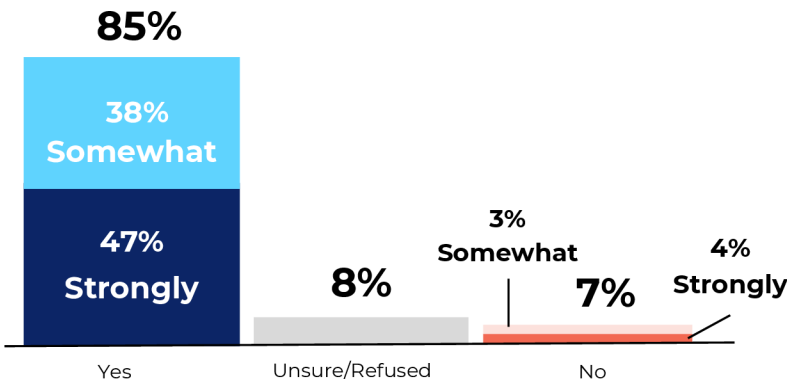
The survey highlights six critical challenges that Texas voters see as pivotal to the state's future, along with the actionable solutions they support:

1. Water Supply

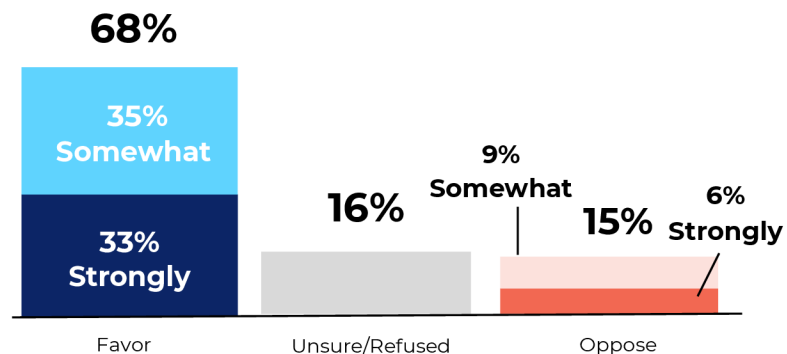
Water is essential to Texas' economy and communities, but 85% of voters are concerned the state could face future shortages. The growth of the economy and population, persistent drought and aging infrastructure have stretched resources to their limits, making water security a top concern for Texas voters today.



To help ensure the Texas economy continues to grow, should the state of Texas invest in a long-term water funding strategy designed to increase water supplies and improve infrastructure?



Last year, voters approved the creation of the Texas Water Fund to develop new water supplies and address aging infrastructure such as water pipes, with \$1 billion invested in that fund. Do you favor or oppose the Texas Legislature dedicating an additional \$1 billion per year to this fund over upcoming decades to meet our growing water needs?



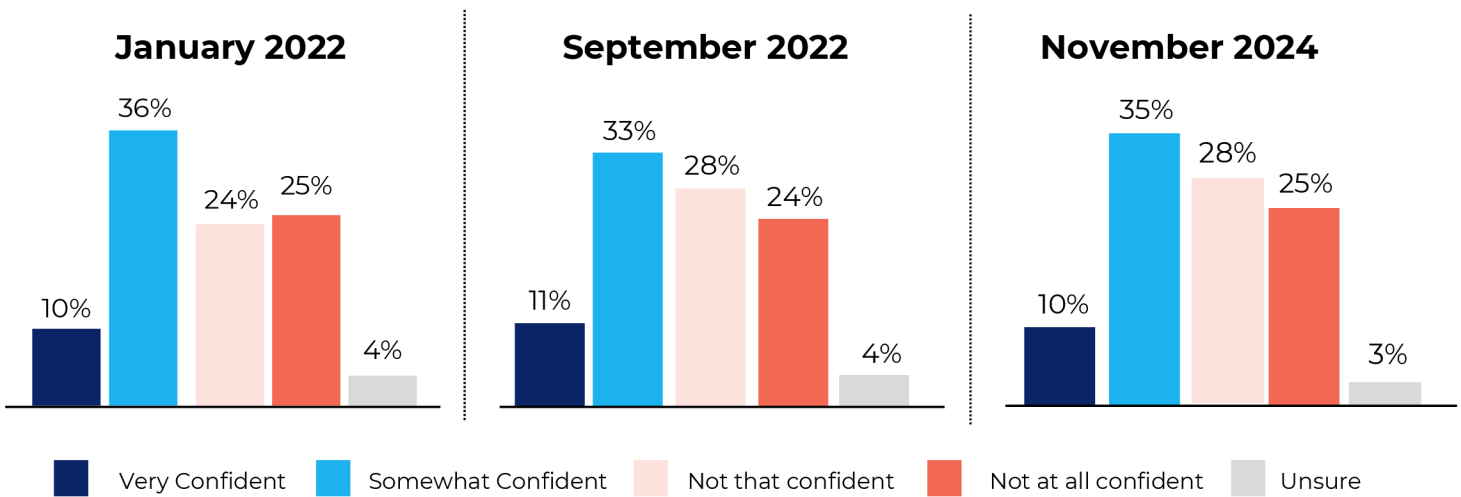
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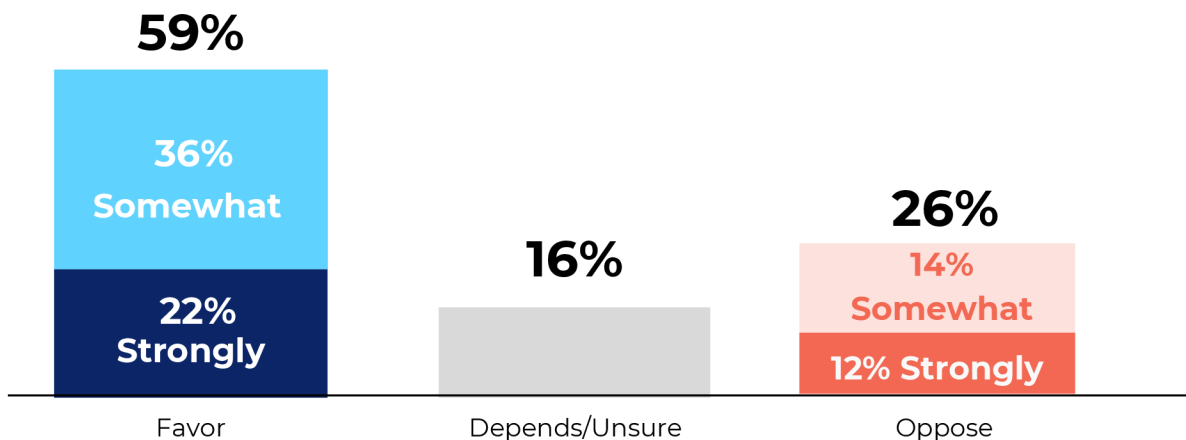
2. Electric Grid Reliability

Texas' susceptibility to extreme weather events, combined with accelerating demands for electricity, presents unique challenges to the reliability of the state's electric grid. After statewide outages in 2021, millions in the Houston area were left without power this summer in the wake of Hurricane Beryl.

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



Texas lawmakers are considering a proposal to spend \$5 billion of state funds to double the size of the Texas Energy Fund, which provides financial support to companies to build new natural gas power plants and is intended to help meet the increased demand for electricity. Knowing this, do you favor or oppose this proposal?



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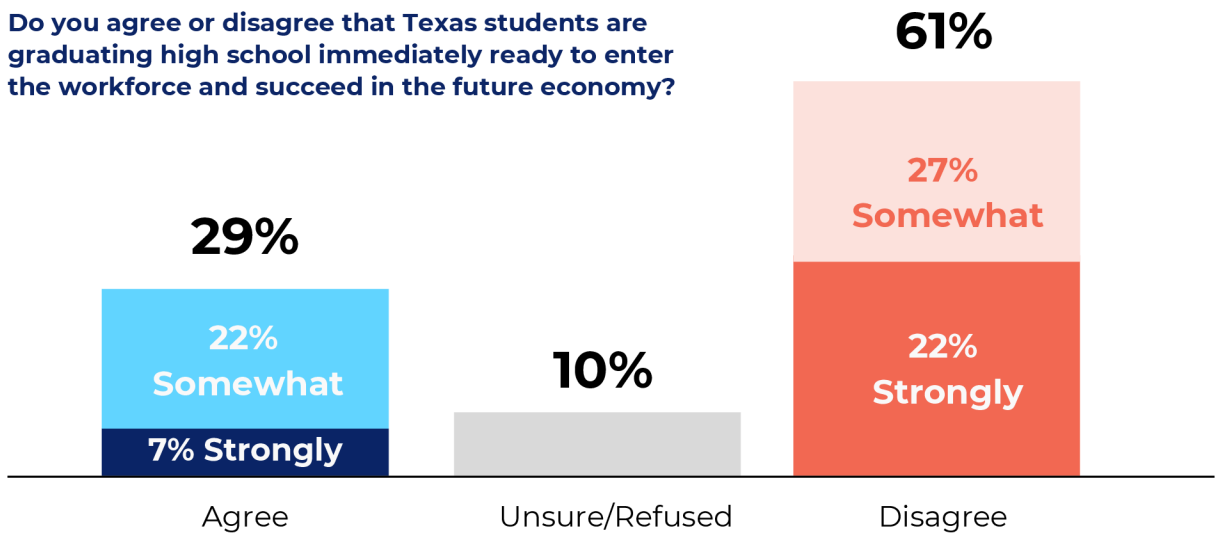
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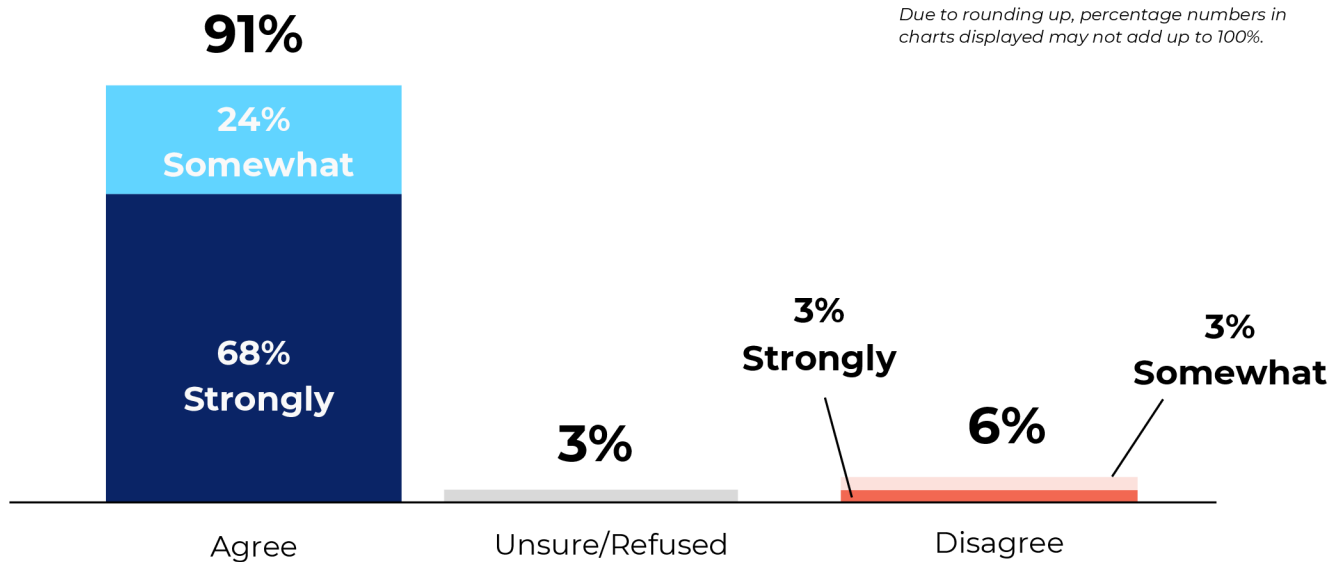
3. High School & Workforce Readiness

By a more than two-to-one margin, Texas voters believe that Texas high school students are not graduating prepared for the workforce or future economy, highlighting the need to improve high school expectations and student career readiness.

Do you agree or disagree that Texas students are graduating high school immediately ready to enter the workforce and succeed in the future economy?



Do you agree or disagree that all Texas high school students should have access to workforce training or credential programs that provide a certification which allows them to graduate ready to compete for good-paying jobs?



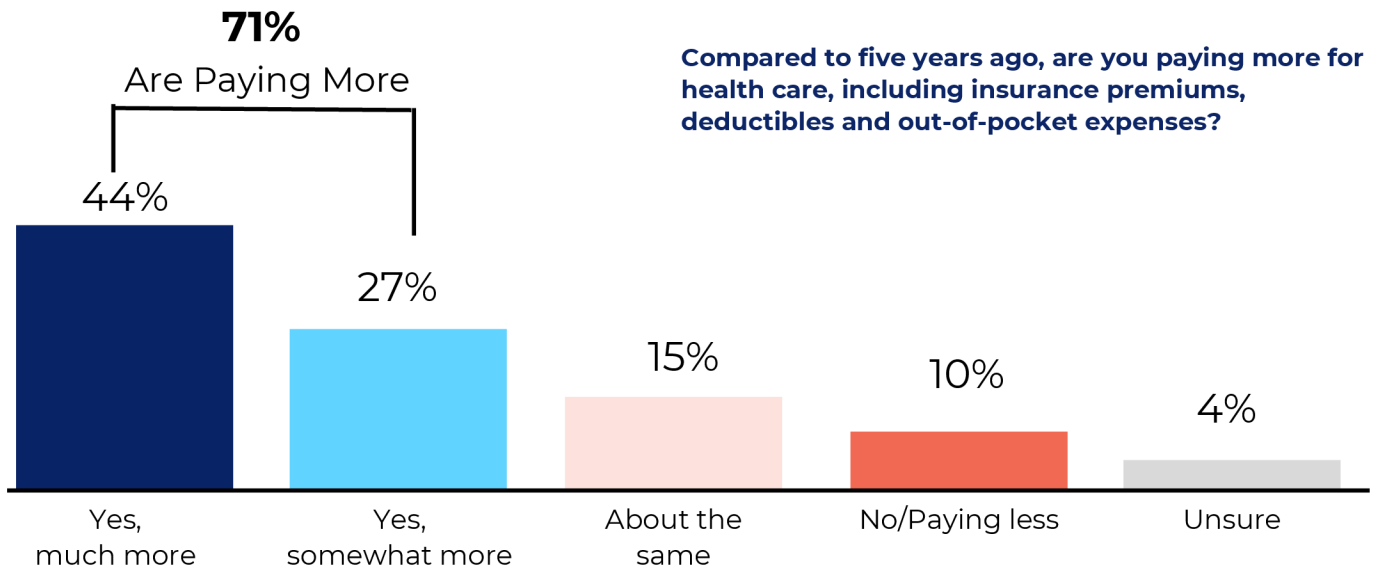
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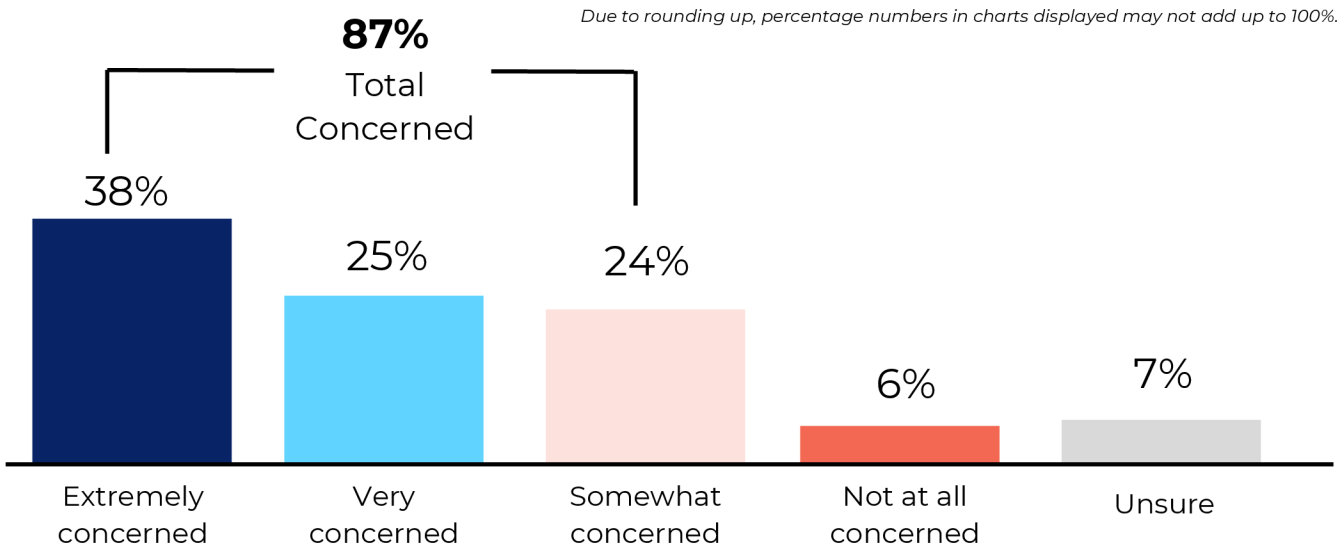
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4. Health Care Costs & Transparency

Pocketbook issues have been front-and-center this year, making health care affordability a key issue.



In recent years, large investment companies called private equity firms have purchased ownership stakes in doctor's offices and hospitals. Which best describes your level of concern regarding investment groups and financial entities influencing medical decision-making in the doctor's offices and hospitals in which they have an ownership stake?

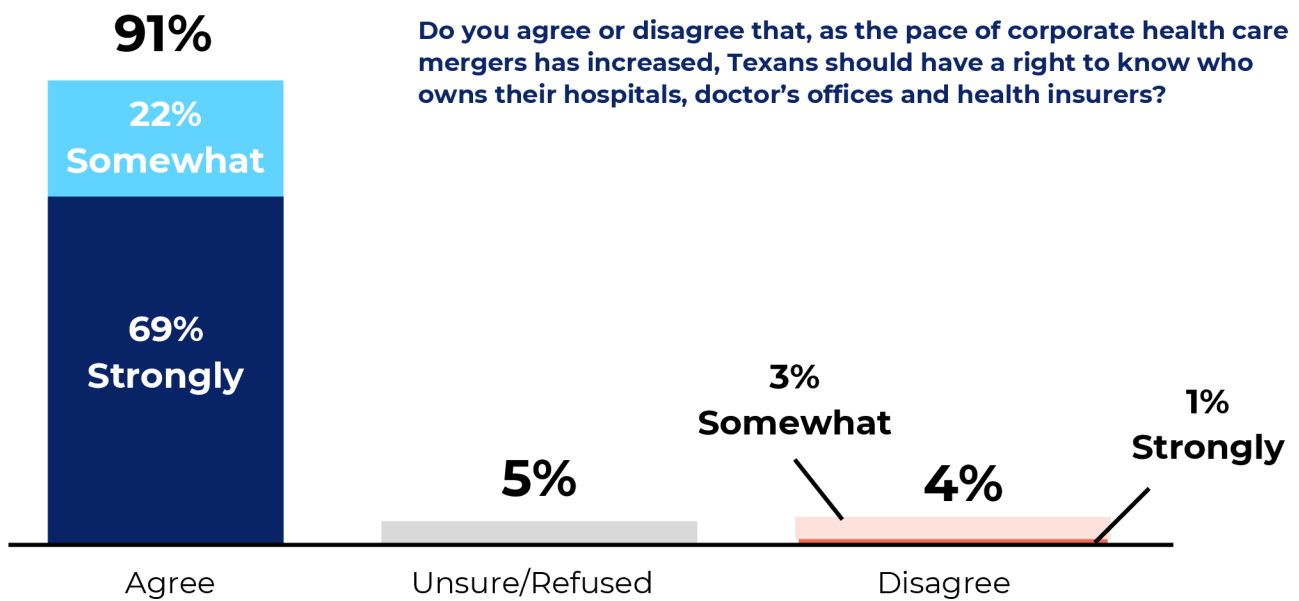


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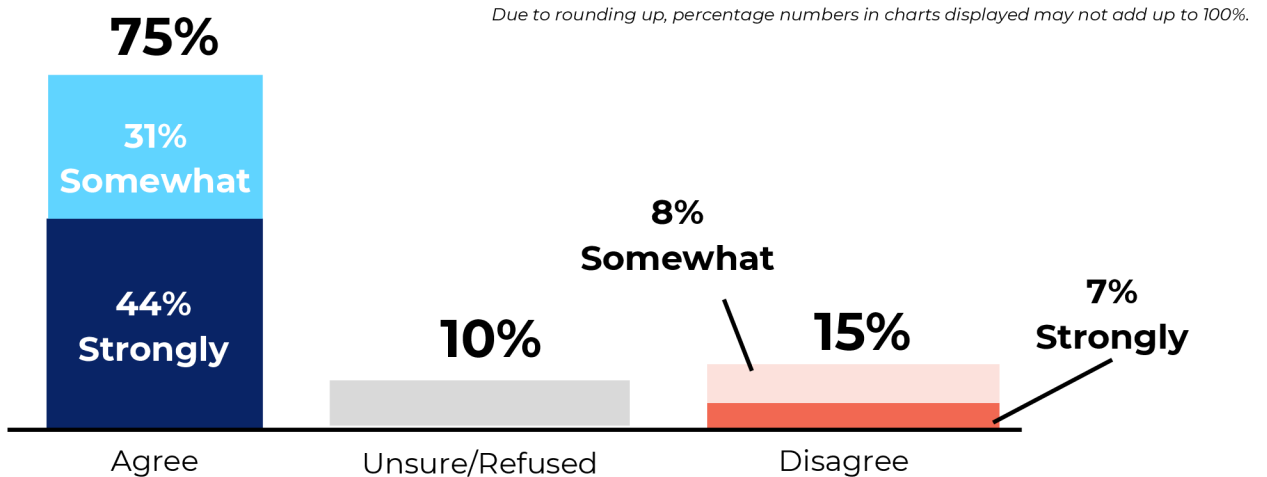
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4. Health Care Costs & Transparency

Texas voters are not just worried about costs — Texans want clarity. 91% believe they have the right to know who owns their hospitals, doctor's offices and health insurers. Also, a large majority of voters agree that the state should more actively regulate health care mergers.



There is evidence that consolidation of health care companies, such as hospitals and medical practices, leads to higher prices and fewer choices. Do you agree or disagree that the Texas state government should more actively regulate health care mergers to ensure the market remains sufficiently competitive?



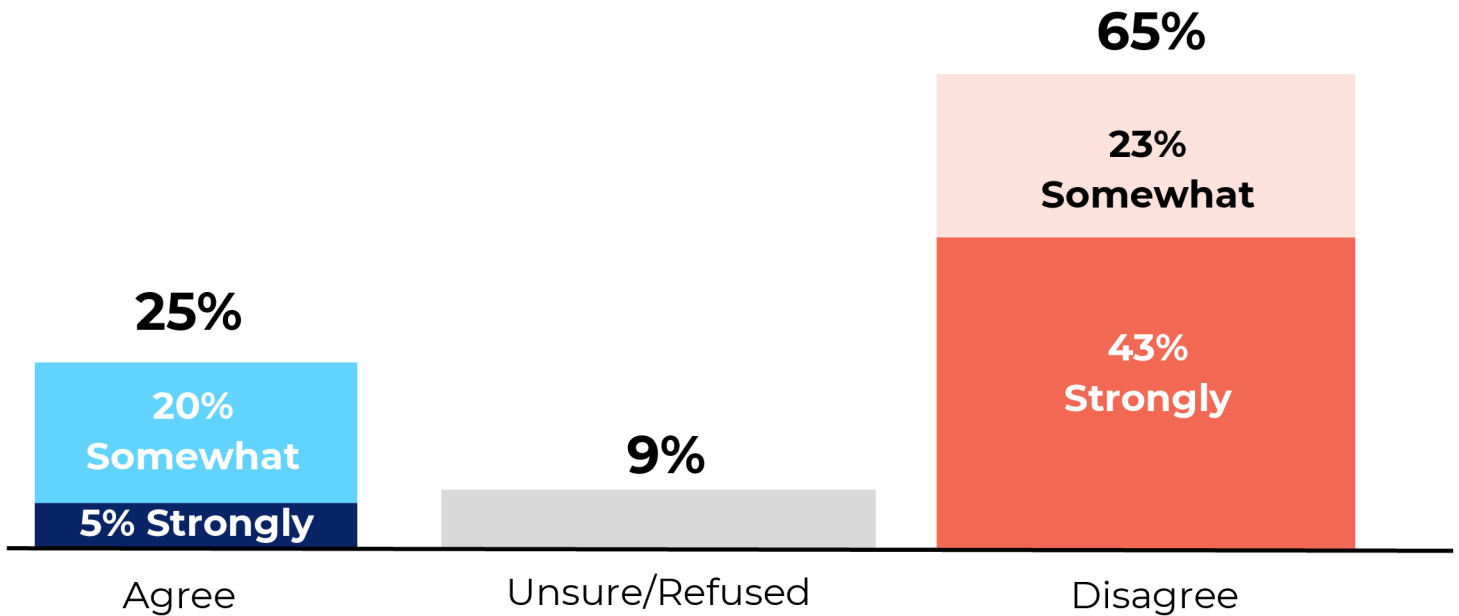
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Finally, a solid majority (65%) do not agree that hospital-owned medical clinics should be allowed to charge patients facility fees for telehealth visits.

Some hospital-owned medical clinics charge facility fees for virtual telehealth visits, in addition to the doctor's bill. Historically, facility fees have been charged by hospitals at their main facility to cover the operating costs of keeping the building open. Do you agree or disagree that the facilities should be allowed to charge patients these facility fees for telehealth visits?



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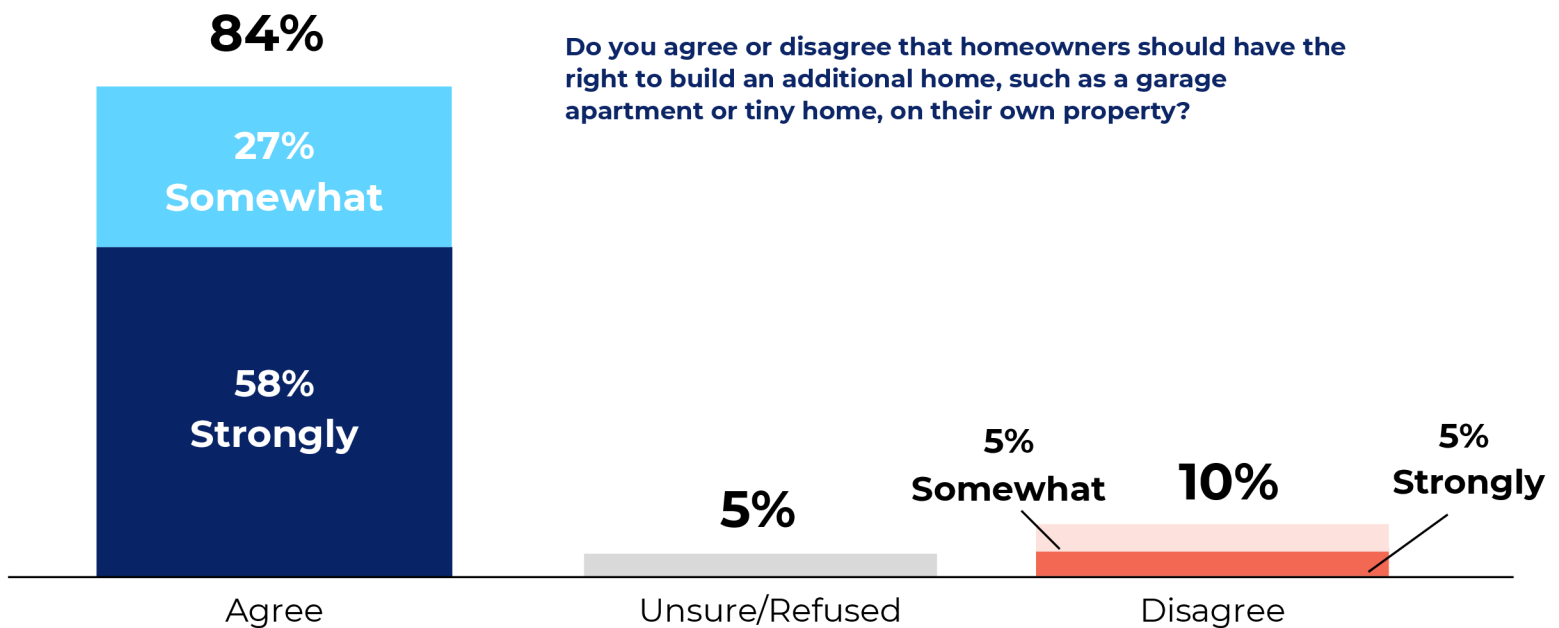
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5. Housing Affordability

Earlier this year, [a statewide poll](#) indicated that an overwhelming majority of Texans are feeling the crunch as housing prices have risen. So, in our poll, we tested solutions.

A strong majority (84%) support allowing homeowners to build additional housing, such as garage apartments or tiny homes, on their existing lots.



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This unique mix of optimism and realism at this time gives Texas a clear mandate for action. **Texas voters are looking to state leaders to focus on solutions** that tackle these challenges head-on, ensuring our state remains a land of opportunity for generations to come.



A.J. Rodriguez

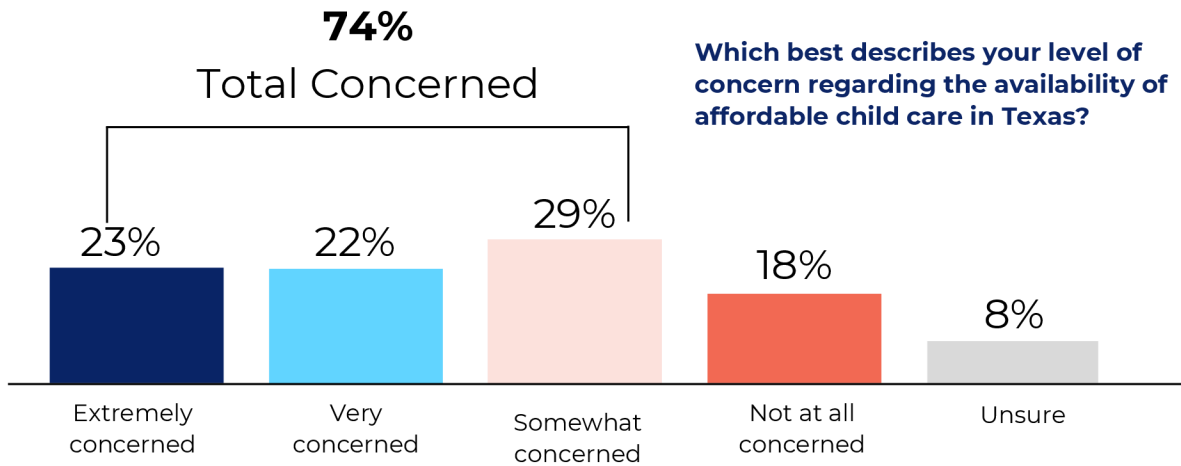
Executive Vice President of Texas 2036

CONCERNS DRIVE APPETITE FOR SOLUTIONS

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6. Child Care

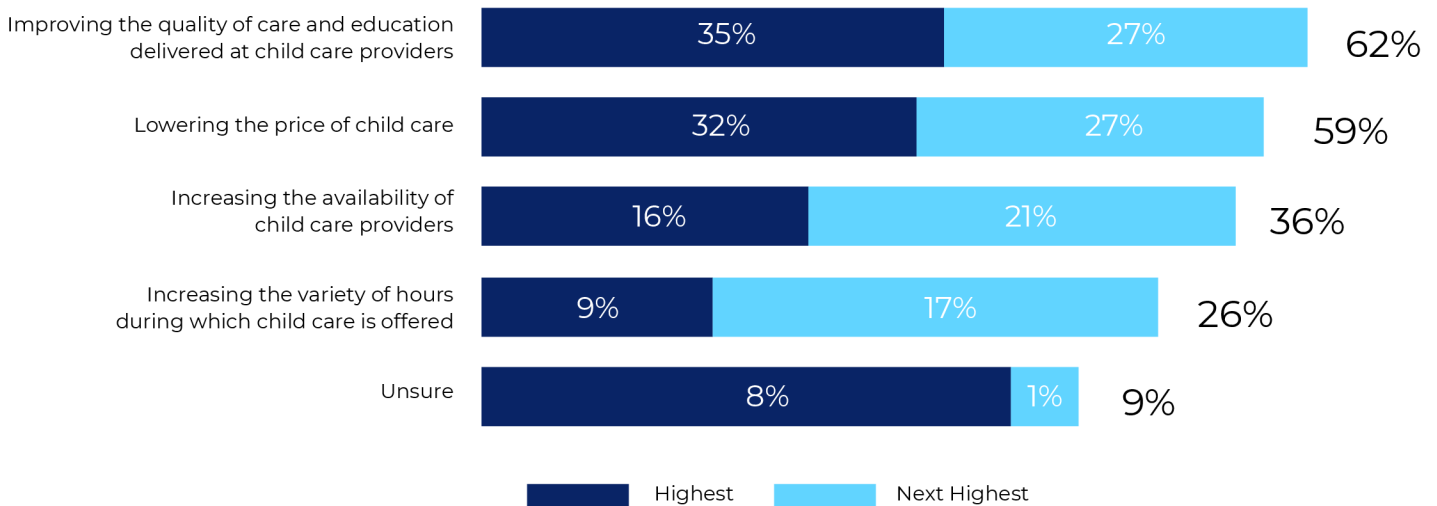
Child care continues to be a challenge for many Texas families, with 74% expressing concern about the availability of affordable options and 45% of these voters indicating that they were extremely or very concerned.



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When asked how Texas voters would prioritize a list of four potential investments the state government could make in child care, Texas voters expressed strong preferences for certain solutions.

If the Texas state government were to invest resources and taxpayer dollars in child care, which of the following should be the highest priority?



TEXAS VOTERS TAKE A PRAGMATIC APPROACH TO WEIGHING COSTS AND PRIORITIES

The 8th Texas Voter Poll also asked about voters' concerns on a wide array of topics, from the reliability of the electric grid to maintaining similar academic accountability across all types of schools. Their responses reveal both a willingness to invest in certain solutions and a clear demand for transparency and accountability.

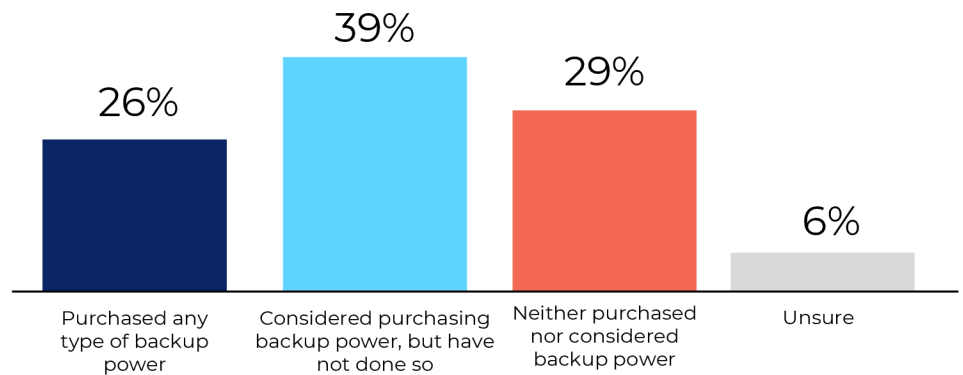
1. Electric Grid Reliability

Many Texas voters are taking matters into their own hands as they navigate concerns about the state's electric grid.

This highlights both the lack of confidence in grid reliability and the proactive steps many Texans are exploring to ensure their personal energy security.

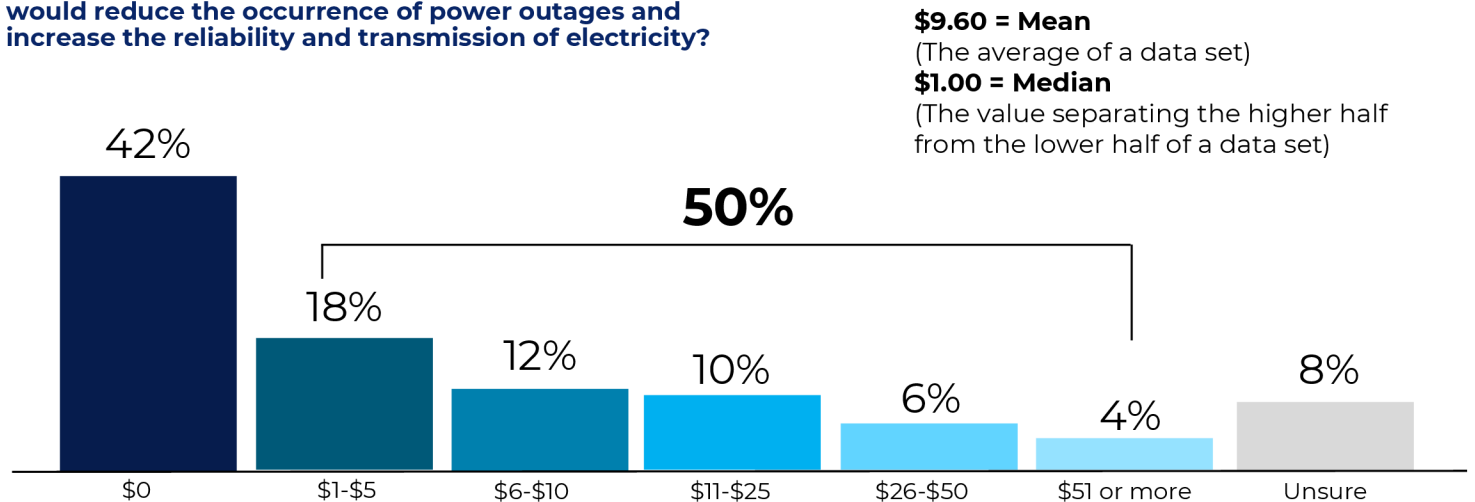
At the same time, 50% of voters are open to paying more on their monthly bill for grid improvements, with the average willingness to pay an additional \$9.60 per month for a more reliable and resilient electric grid.

Thinking about preparing for power outages, have you:



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How much more would you be willing to pay per month for improvements to the state electricity system that would reduce the occurrence of power outages and increase the reliability and transmission of electricity?

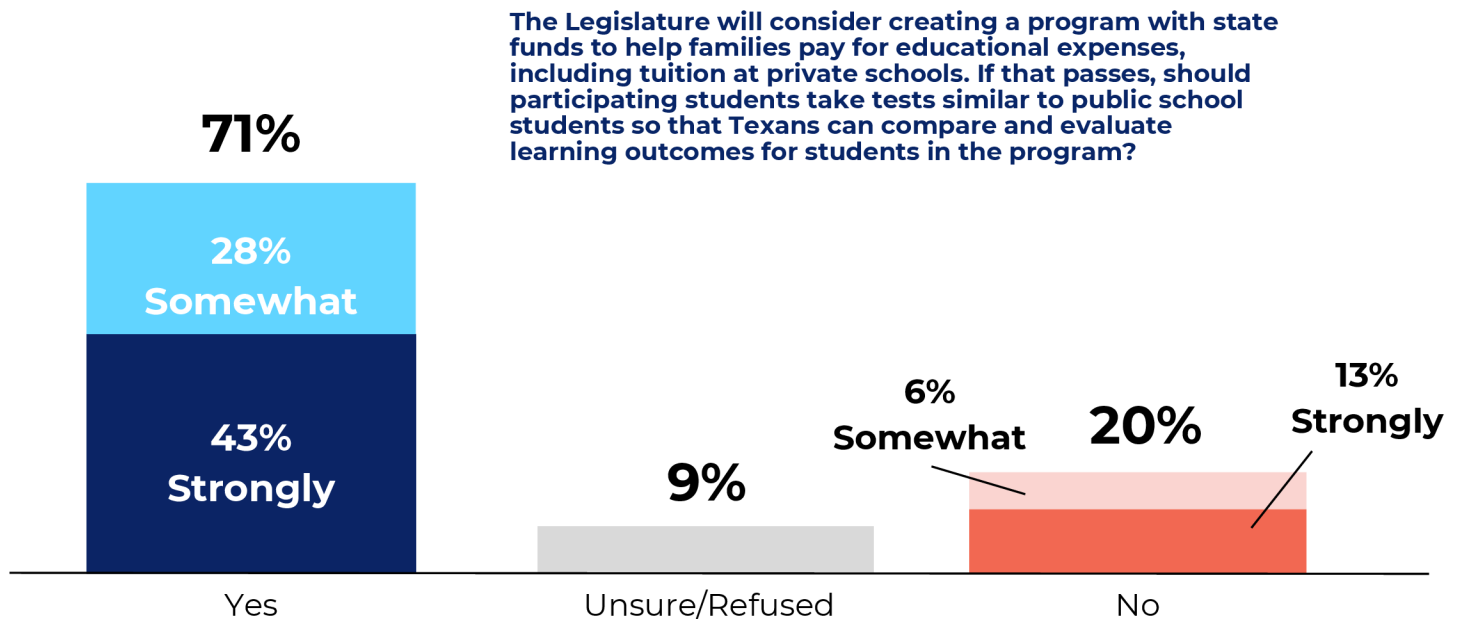


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2. Publicly-Funded Education Testing & Transparency

More than seven of 10 Texas voters believe students using state funds for educational expenses, including tuition at private schools, should take tests similar to those in public schools to ensure learning outcomes can be compared and evaluated.



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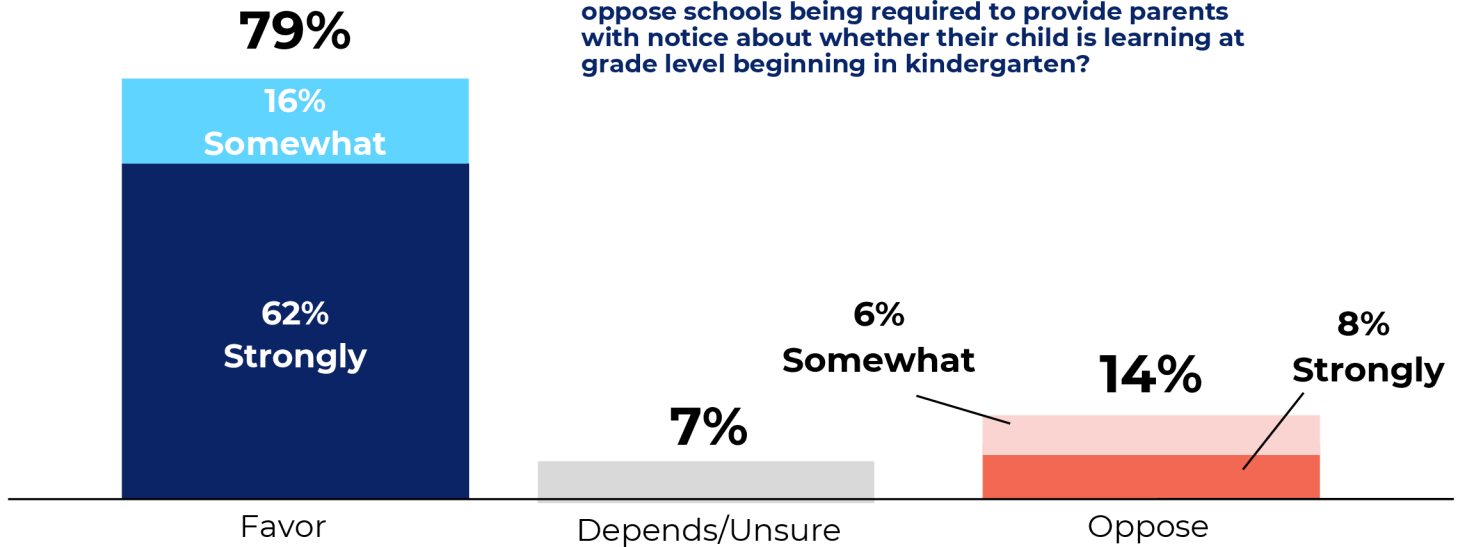
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3. Early Education & Parental Notice

This spring, just 40% of Texas public school third graders met grade level expectations in math. Under current law, parents are not required to be notified that their child is behind grade level in math until the end of the third grade, limiting the parents' and school's ability to intervene and help the student reach their full potential.

Texans don't want to wait so long before providing help:

Under current law, Texas does not require that parents be notified that their child is behind in math until the end of third grade. Do you favor or oppose schools being required to provide parents with notice about whether their child is learning at grade level beginning in kindergarten?



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4. Air Conditioning in Prisons

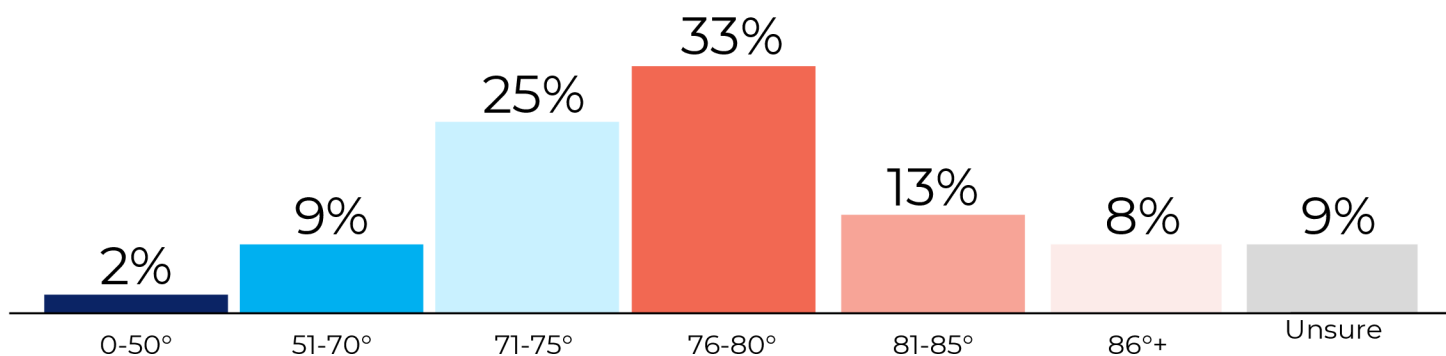
With summer temperatures regularly exceeding 100°F, the lack of air conditioning in Texas prisons is raising alarms. In 2023, the average Texas in-prison temperature exceeded 90 degrees on 69 days, to the detriment of the safety of inmates and staff alike.

So, we asked Texas voters to tell us the maximum indoor temperature in Texas prisons. Here's what they had to say:

Many Texas prisons do not have air conditioning and can reach high temperatures during the summer, impacting both prison guards and incarcerated Texans. What do you believe the maximum indoor temperature should be in Texas prisons?

Mean: 77.5°
Median: 78.0°

Note: 493 out of the 1,001 registered Texas voters who participated in this poll on Nov. 16-20, 2024 were asked this question.



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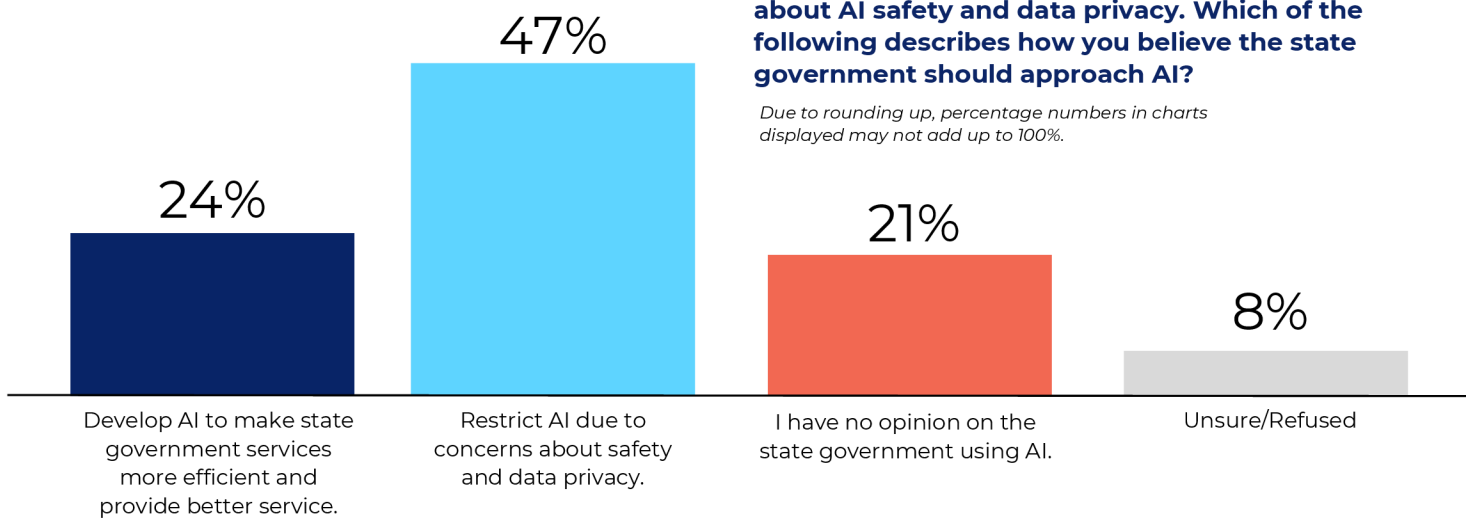
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5. Artificial Intelligence

Texas voters are split on how AI should shape state government. While 47% prioritize restricting its use due to safety and privacy concerns, others see potential. Nearly a quarter (24%) of voters believe AI could make government services more efficient, reducing waste and cutting through bureaucracy.

Some believe that Artificial Intelligence, or AI, can improve the state government's efficiency and service to Texans, while others have concerns about AI safety and data privacy. Which of the following describes how you believe the state government should approach AI?

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We're the state that built the Texas Miracle — a global model for growth, innovation and opportunity. It's exciting to see that a majority of **Texas voters are ready to act** to ensure that our state's economic success continues for years to come, setting the stage for a Texas Century of growth and prosperity.



John Hryhorchuk
Senior Vice President of
Policy and Advocacy

To view the poll results, visit

www.texas2036.org/poll

TEXAS 2036

Texas 2036 is a nonprofit public policy organization committed to building long-term, data-driven strategies to ensure Texas' prosperity up to its bicentennial and beyond. Our solutions are nonpartisan, grounded in thorough research and focus on critical issues that seek to improve lives and opportunities for all Texans.

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