

Texas Lyceum Executive Summary

Amidst Continued Economic Distress, Lyceum Poll Finds Texans Concerned about Housing, Democracy, Water, and Space — Open to Marijuana and Gambling

The 2024 Texas Lyceum Poll, a mixed-mode survey of Texas adults, finds a near-majority of Texans, 48%, saying that their family's economic situation has worsened compared to last year — an all-time high in Texas Lyceum polling going back to 2009, with the previous record set only last year in 2023. Thirty-seven percent of Texans expect their children to be worse off economically compared to themselves, the highest share expressing a negative view of their children's future since 2010 (41%).

With the cost of housing near constant in recent news coverage, nearly two-thirds of Texans, 63%, say that they're spending too much of their income on housing, an increase over the share who said the same in 2023 (55%), 2022 (50%), and 2020 (44%). A majority of homeowners, 57%, and 73% of renters, agreed that they spend too much of their income on housing.

With 2024 being an election year, the Lyceum poll asked about top-of-the-ticket races in Texas, including for President (Trump 41%; Biden 31%) and U.S. Senate (Cruz 41%; Allred 31%), while also uncovering the continued deterioration in democratic beliefs. Overall, only 37% of Texans "strongly agreed" that "Democracy is the best form of government," with the share strongly agreeing declining slightly from 2023 (40%) and significantly since 2019 (53%).

Each year, The Texas Lyceum maintains an active calendar of conferences delving into the major issues facing Texas, with this year's series of events including deep dives into water policy (February), Texas' leadership in space (April), the state of mental health in Texas (September), and the future of marijuana and gambling in the Lone Star State (November) — among others. The Lyceum Poll is designed to provide context for 2024 Texas Lyceum meetings and conferences by bringing in the perspectives of everyday Texans, while also providing policy makers, the press, and the public with scientifically collected information to inform future policy discussions.

For example, with the number of boil water notices in the state seemingly increasing, a majority of Texans say that they are either very (21%) or somewhat (37%) concerned about the reliability of the water supply in their community; with majorities also either very (25%) or somewhat (33%) concerned about the safety of the water supply in their community.

While more than one in four Texans, 27%, describe their own mental health and emotional well-being as only “fair” (18%) or even “poor” (9%), a majority of Texans, 73%, say that stigmas still exist about mental health today. A majority of Texans, 51%, say that they are either “very worried” (20%) or “somewhat worried” (31%) that someone in their family will experience a serious mental health crisis, but only 17% said it would be “very easy” to find a mental health provider in their community. An overwhelming majority, 81%, say that mental health issues in children and teenagers are either a crisis (39%) or a problem (42%) in their own communities.

Texans overwhelmingly endorse government research and continued activity in space exploration in the face of mounting private interests, but a majority, 51%, said that they would probably not be interested (21%) or definitely not be interested (31%) in orbiting the earth in a private spacecraft. Asked the likelihood of people routinely traveling into space as tourists in the next 50 years, 14% of Texans said this will definitely happen, with another 36% saying it will probably happen (39% said it would probably or definitely not happen).

Overall, 60% of Texas adults say that they support legalizing the use of marijuana in Texas, a 14 point increase since the question was last asked in 2015, when a majority of voters (50%) expressed opposition. Asked about expanding legal casino gambling in Texas, 57% of Texans said they would be supportive of expanded casino gambling, while 28% said they would be opposed.

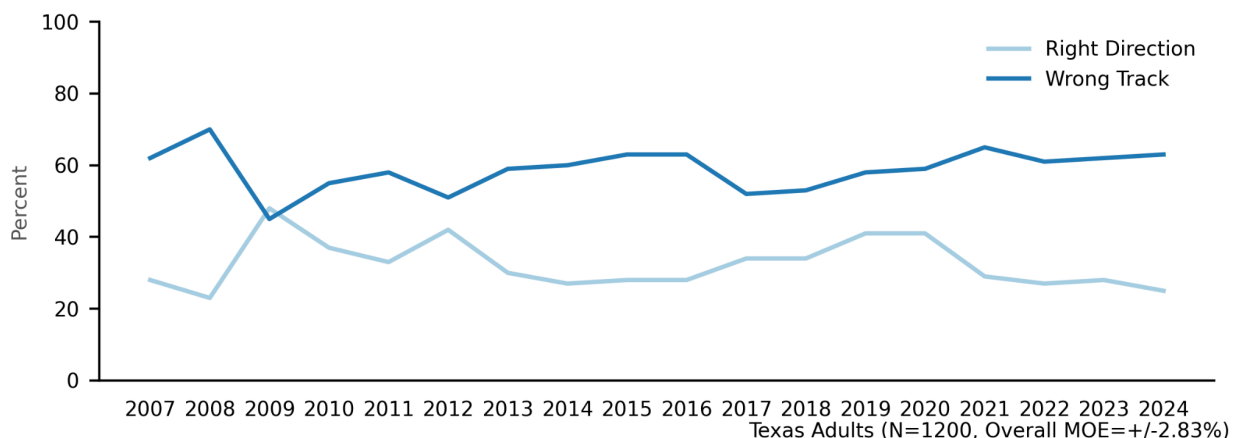
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The Mood of Texas

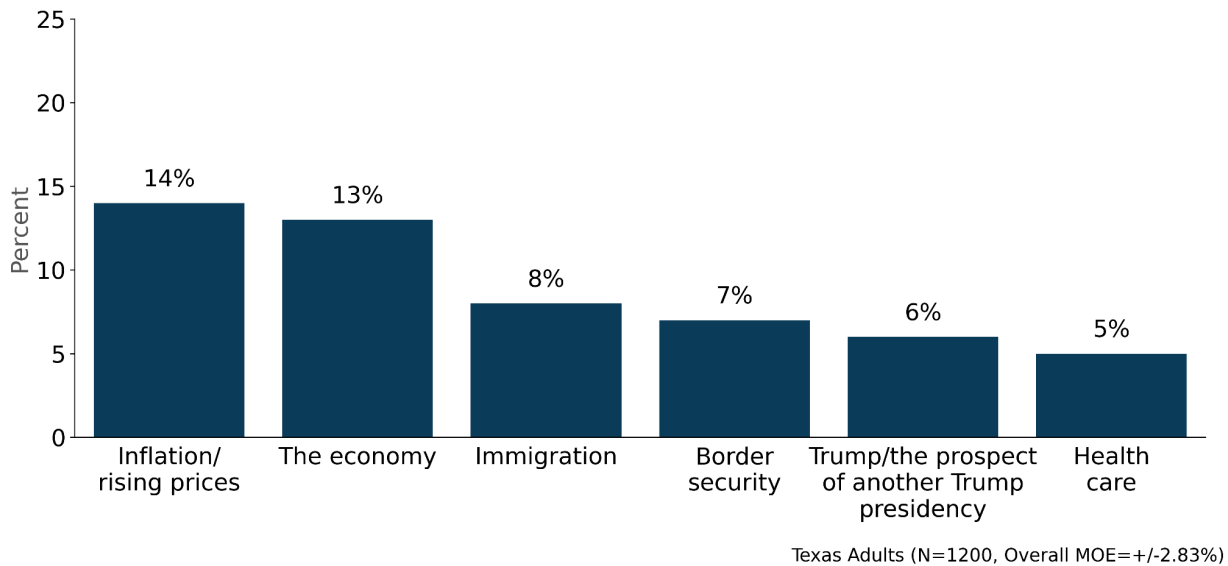
The most recent survey in the Texas Lyceum time series (beginning in 2007) finds Texans remaining in a state of perpetual pessimism about the direction of the country, with 63% of Texas adults saying that the country is on the wrong track, largely unchanged from polling conducted since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic. The share saying the country is headed in the right direction remains below 30% for the fourth consecutive year, at 25%. While most Texans hold similar views about the direction of the country, the differences between partisans remain notable: 39% of Texas Democrats say that the country is headed in the right direction compared to 48% who say the country is on the wrong track — a notable decline among Democrats compared to last year when 46% said the country was headed in the right direction and 41% said the country was on the wrong track. Among Texas Republicans, 79% say that the country is on the wrong track.

2024 Texas Lyceum Poll: Thinking about the country, do you think things are moving in the right direction or are we off on the wrong track?



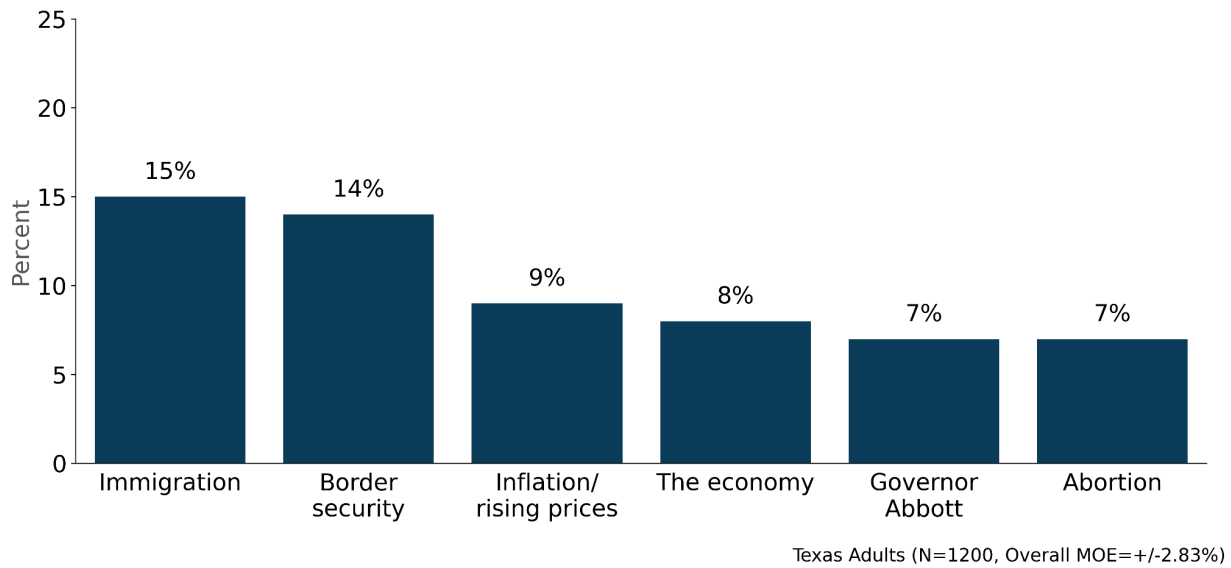
Asked to name the most important problem facing the country in an open-ended question, inflation (14%) and the economy (13%) topped the list for the plurality of Texans, followed by immigration (8%), border security (7%), the prospect of another Trump presidency (6%), health care (5%), and political corruption and leadership (5%) rounding out the top seven responses.

2024 Texas Lyceum Poll: Most Important Problem Facing the Country (Top-6 Mentions)



Concerns about the economy (8%) and inflation (9%) were also prominent in Texans' top concerns about issues facing the state, but as in previous Lyceum polling, border security (14%) and immigration (15%) combine to top the list of issues that Texans say are the most important facing the state, with the economy and rising prices a close second. Here, the poll finds border concerns driven largely by the views of Texans who identify as Republicans, among whom 47% said that either immigration (23%) or border security (24%) is the state's top issue — by contrast, only 12% of Democrats register similar concerns. The other issues most commonly cited as the most important problems facing Texas include concerns with Governor Abbott's leadership (7%), abortion (7%), and gun violence/gun control (5%).

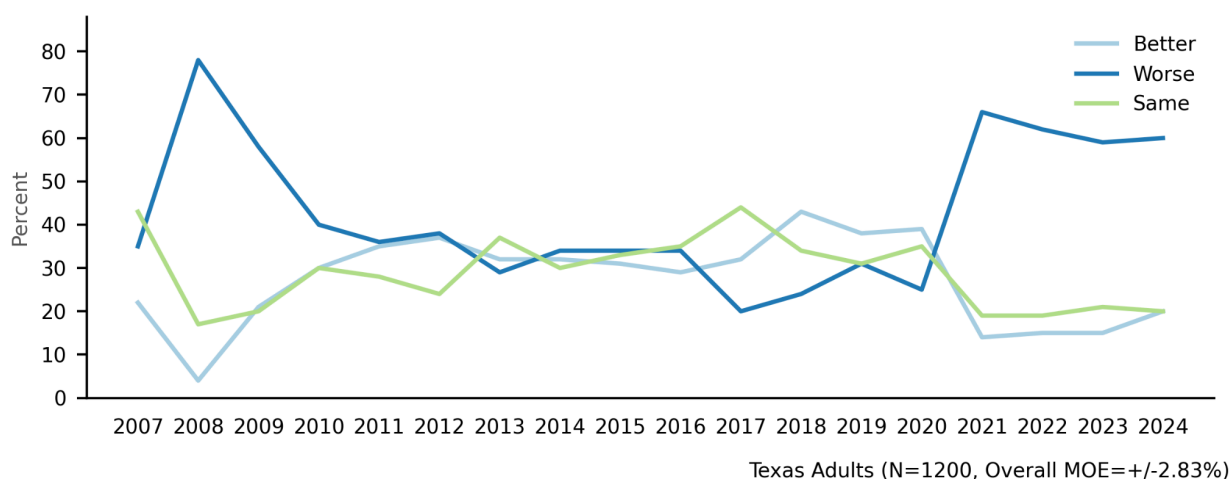
2024 Texas Lyceum Poll: Most Important Problem Facing Texas (Top-6 Mentions)



Economic Evaluations

Texans' historically negative evaluations of the national economy continued for a fourth consecutive year. Overall, only one in five Texans (20%) said that the national economy is better this year compared to last, while 60% say the national economy is worse compared to last year, indistinguishable from the 59% who said the same in 2023.

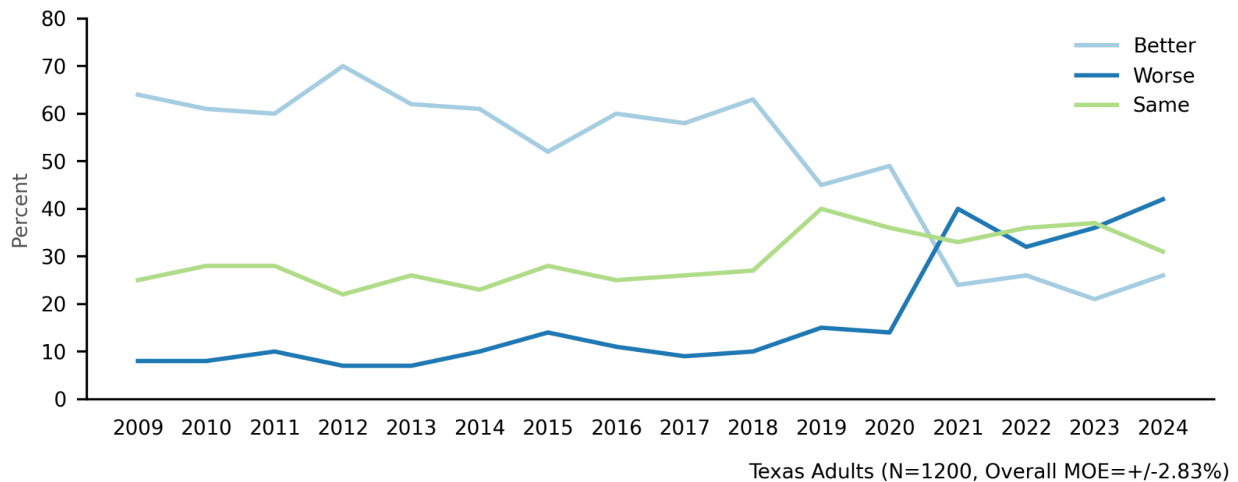
2024 Texas Lyceum Poll: National Economic Conditions Compared to One Year Ago



Partisanship largely, though not entirely, shapes these national economic views, with 75% of Republicans rating the national economy negatively, compared to 40% of Democrats.

Compared to the national economy, views of Texas' economy are mixed. While the share of Texans saying that the Texas economy is better off than the rest of the country improved slightly since last year's Lyceum poll, increasing from 21% to 26%, the survey also registered the greatest share of Texans saying the Texas economy is worse than the rest of the country's since the question was first asked in 2009 (42%).

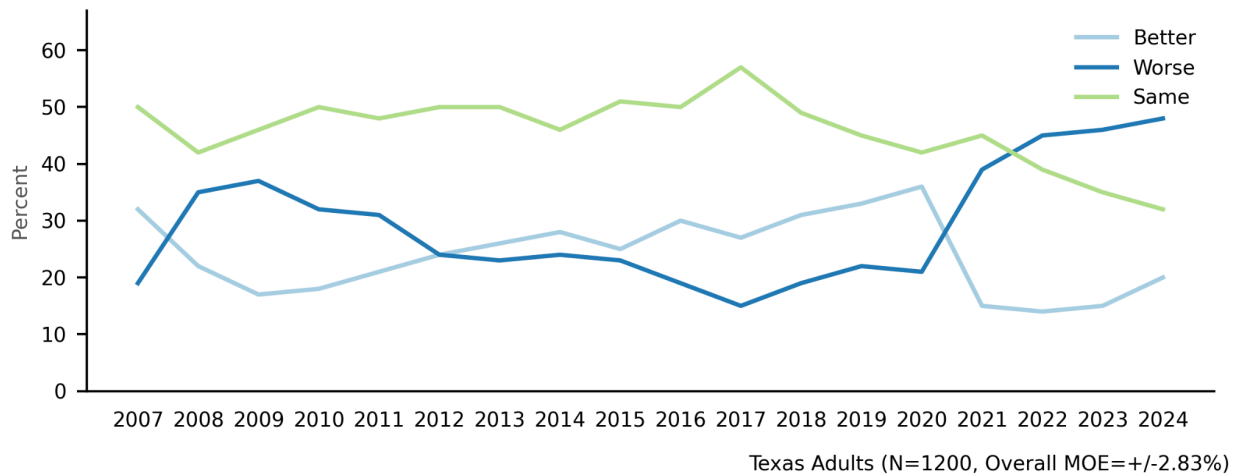
2024 Texas Lyceum Poll: Texas' Economy Compared to the Rest of the Country



While partisanship has tended to encourage more negative views of the national economy than the state economy among Republicans with a Democrat in the White House a GOP control of Texas government, it is worth noting that views of Texas' economy are also more negative among members of the state's majority party. Here the poll finds slightly more Republicans (43%) than Democrats (39%) saying that Texas' economy is worse than the rest of the country's (47% of independents agree).

Reflecting these broader economic evaluations, most Texans say that their family's economic situation is worse compared to last year (48%), 32% say that their situation remains unchanged, and only 20% say that they are doing better financially compared to 2023. This result continues a trend of increasingly negative evaluations in response to this item since 2021. In a sign of continued economic distress, the previous high-point in negative evaluations of Texans' personal economic conditions came in 2023, at 46%, and before that, in 2022, at 45%.

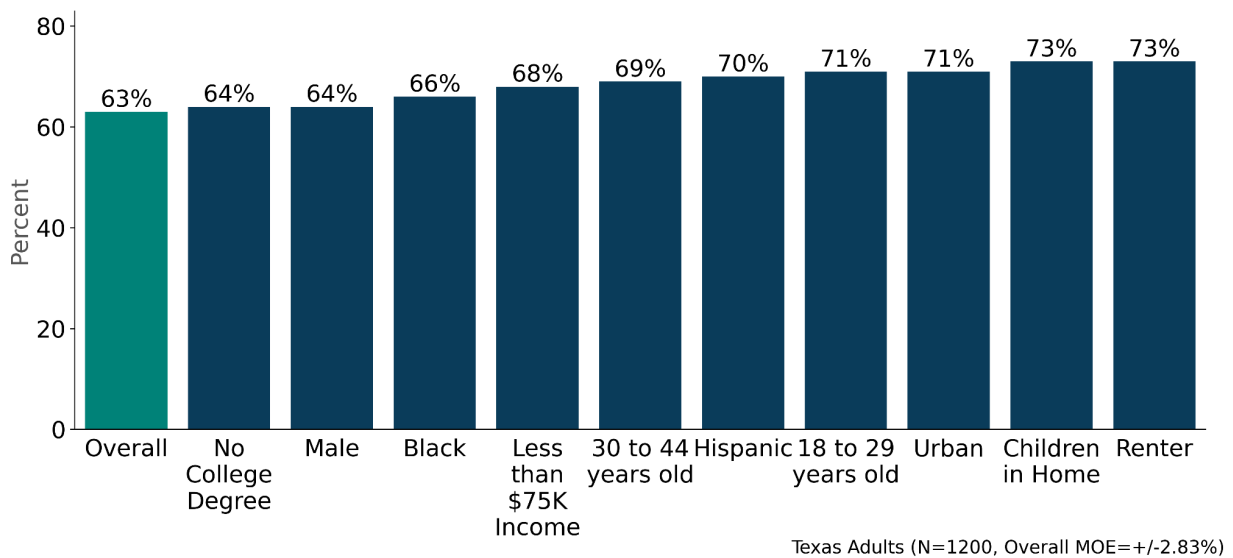
2024 Texas Lyceum Poll: Personal Economic Conditions Compared to One Year Ago



In the 2023 survey, Texans over 65 were the most likely to say that their economic situation had deteriorated compared to last year (57%). The 2024 poll finds this group in a state of recovery, representing the age group *least likely* to say that their economic situation has deteriorated (39%). At the same time, the share of 18 to 29 year olds who said that their economic situation had worsened increased from 40% in 2023 to 46% in 2024.

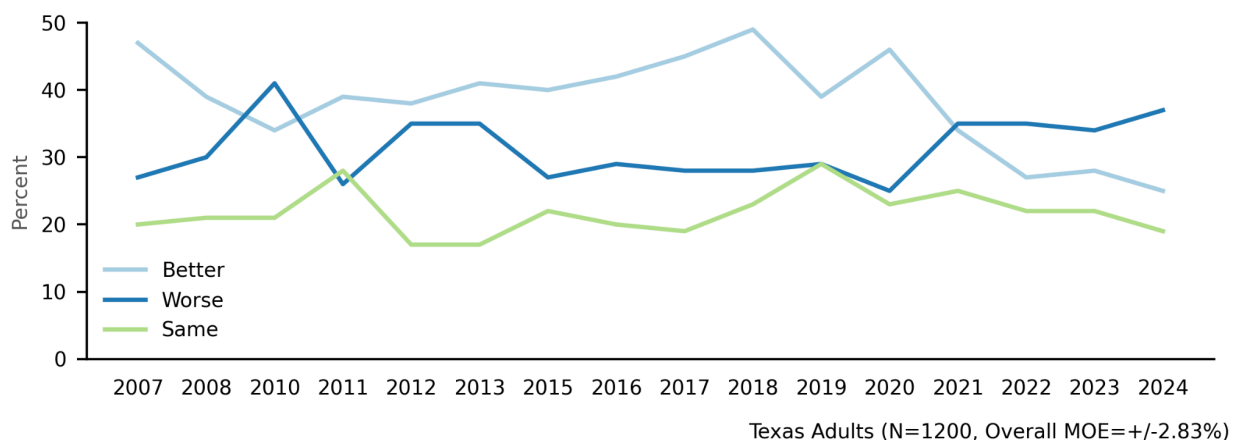
One possible culprit influencing negative economic views related to inflation is the cost of housing. According to the 2024 Texas Lyceum survey, 63% of Texans, including 57% of homeowners and 73% of renters, agreed that they spend too much of their income on housing. This result represents a continuation of a trend uncovered in Texas Lyceum polling, with 44% of Texans saying they spend too much on housing in 2020, 50% in 2022, 55% in 2023, and now 63% in 2024. Nearly three-quarters of Texans under-30 (71%) say that they spend too much on housing, as do 60% of Texans who make over \$70,000 per year in income. A majority of Texans living in rural (53%), suburban (61%), and urban environments (71%) all say that they spend too much of their income on housing.

2024 Texas Lyceum Poll: "I spend too much of my income on housing."



Asked to consider the future, a plurality of Texas voters (37%) believe their children will be worse off than they are economically, compared to only 25% who think that their children will be better off, and 19% who think their children will fare about the same economically. These results represent a slight decline in evaluations from 2023, but are also significantly more negative than most of the results in the Texas Lyceum time series going back to 2007 — the second most negative result compared only to 2010 when 41% said that their children would be worse off.

2024 Texas Lyceum Poll: Do you think your children will be better off than you are, worse off, or about the same economically?

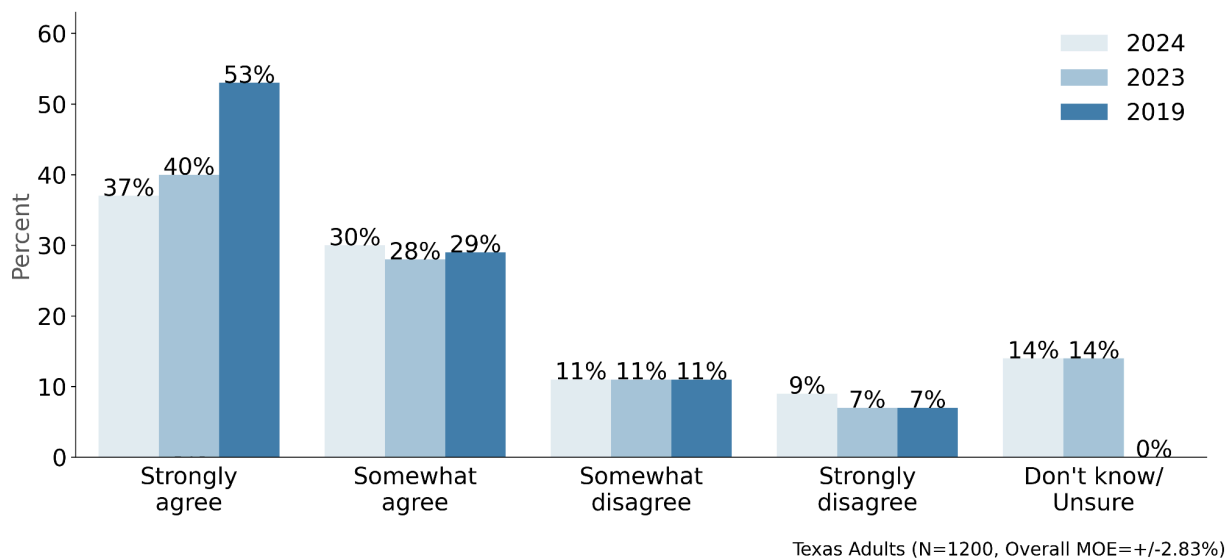


Older, white, and Texas adults who identify as Republicans all expressed more negative views about their children's futures compared to other groups. For example, among Texans over 65, 45% think their children will be worse off, compared to 32% of Texans under-30; among white Texans, 45% think their children will be worse off, compared to 35% of Hispanic, and only 21% of Black Texans (among whom 44% say their children will be better off economically).

The 2024 Texas Elections

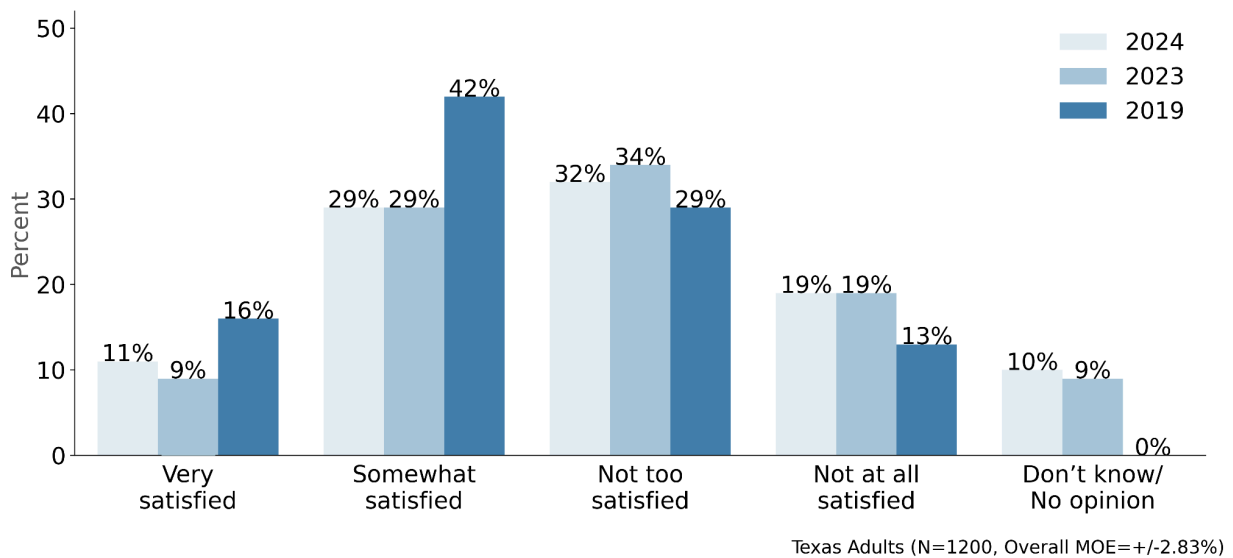
As another presidential election year unfolds in Texas, Texans continue to express tepid evaluations about the state of democracy. Overall, 37% of Texans “strongly agreed” that “Democracy is the best form of government.” The share strongly agreeing declined slightly from 2023 (40%) and significantly since 2019 (53%). A majority of Democrats (51%) strongly endorsed the primacy of democracy, compared to 33% of Republicans and only 17% of independents.

2024 Texas Lyceum Poll: Democracy is the best form of government.



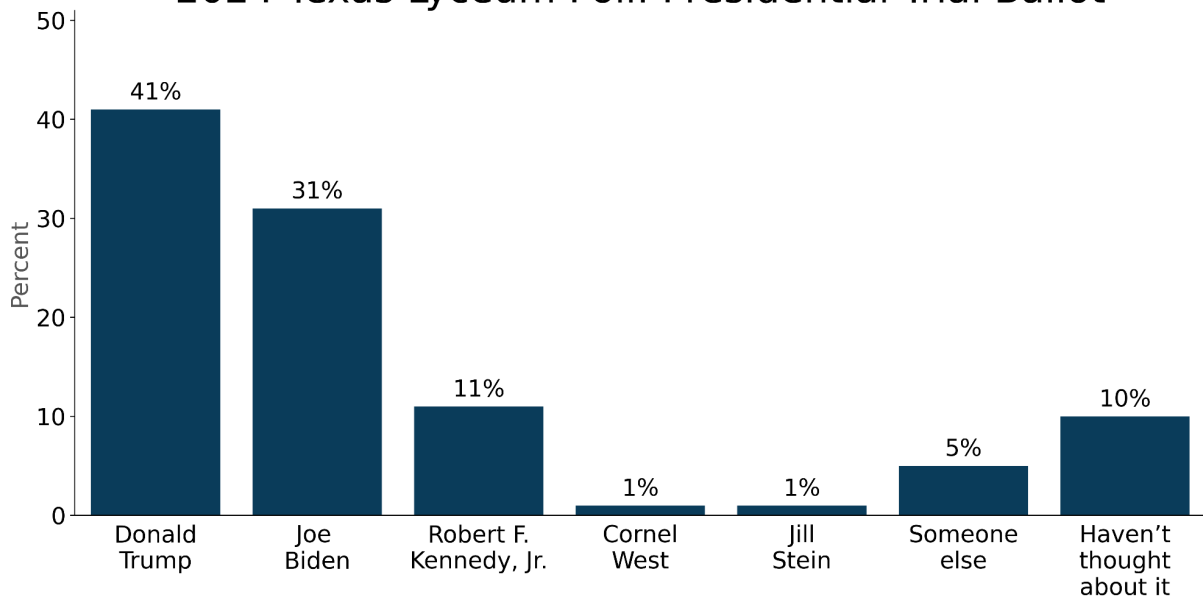
Asked to rate their satisfaction with how democracy is working in the U.S., 11% of Texans said they were “very satisfied” with another 29% “somewhat satisfied.” These results remain largely unchanged from last year (9% very satisfied; 29% somewhat satisfied), while significantly lower than when the question was first asked in 2019 (16% very satisfied; 42% somewhat satisfied). A majority of the state’s Republican voters said that they were either “not too satisfied” (33%) or “not at all satisfied” (26%); while a majority of Democrats said they were either “very satisfied” (19%) or “somewhat satisfied” (37%).

2024 Texas Lyceum Poll: How satisfied are you with the way democracy is working in our country?



Looking ahead to the 2024 presidential election, 41% of registered voters (n=926, MOE +/- 3.22%) said that they would be voting for Donald Trump if the presidential election were held today, with 31% saying they will support Joe Biden. Eleven percent said they would be supporting Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., with 1% each supporting Jill Stein and Cornel West, and the remaining voters saying that they would either be supporting someone else (5%) or remain undecided at this time (10%). The poll finds president Biden trailing among every notable electoral group except for Democrats and self-identified liberals.

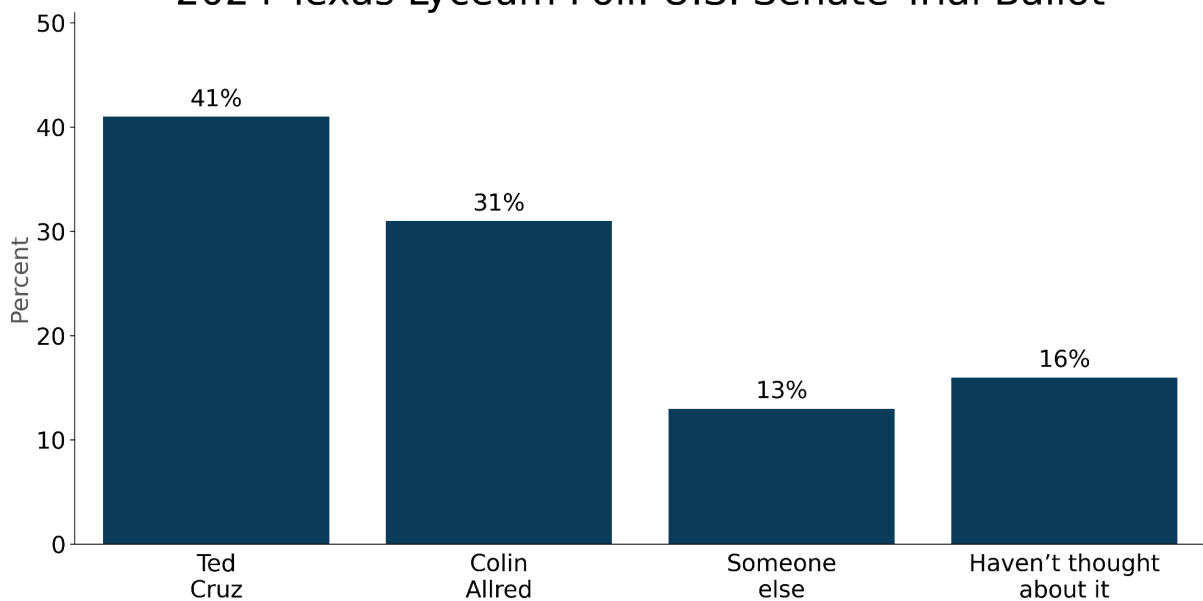
2024 Texas Lyceum Poll: Presidential Trial Ballot



Registered Voters in Texas (N=926, Overall MOE= +/-3.22%)

Asked to give their preference in the U.S. Senate race, 41% indicated that they would be voting for Ted Cruz, while 31% said they would be supporting his Democratic challenger, Representative Colin Allred — 13% said they would be supporting someone else, while 16% remain undecided.

2024 Texas Lyceum Poll: U.S. Senate Trial Ballot



Registered Voters in Texas (N=926, Overall MOE= +/-3.22%)

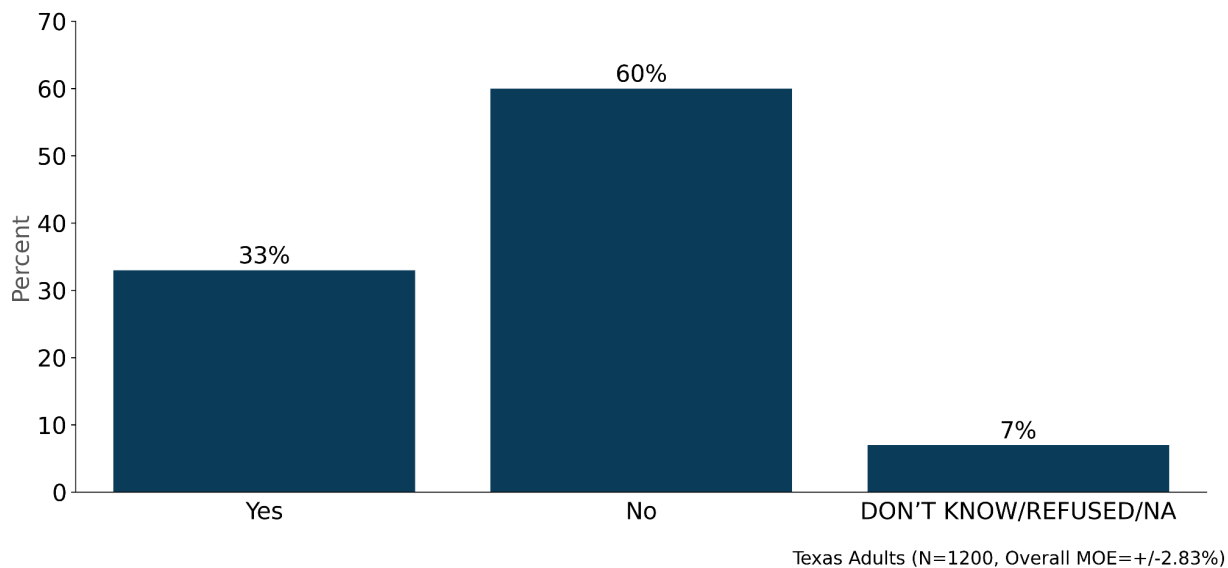
Asked whether they hold favorable or unfavorable views of the four top of the ticket candidates on the ballot this year in Texas, only Donald Trump and Colin Allred managed to garner net-positive favorability ratings (more Texans holding favorable than unfavorable opinions of each). Among Texas adults, 49% say they hold a favorable view of Trump compared to 46% who say they hold unfavorable views. Thirty-two percent hold a favorable view of Allred, with 29% holding an unfavorable view and the remainder unable to offer an opinion at this time. President Biden is viewed unfavorably by 58% of Texas adults, with only 37% saying they have a favorable view of the incumbent president. Senator Cruz faces a state split down the middle in its view of its junior Senator, with 44% holding a favorable view and 45% holding an unfavorable view.

While both Republicans at the top of the ticket appear to be sporting comfortable leads at this early stage of the 2024 election, the generic Democrat in hypothetical match-ups for U.S. Congress and the Texas House of Representatives appears to over-perform their more known, top-of-the ticket counterparts. Overall, 41% of voters say they will be voting for the Republican candidate in their congressional elections compared to 39% who say that they'll be supporting the Democratic candidate, with the same shares endorsing the Republican and Democratic candidates, respectively, in their local statehouse contest.

The State’s Water Needs

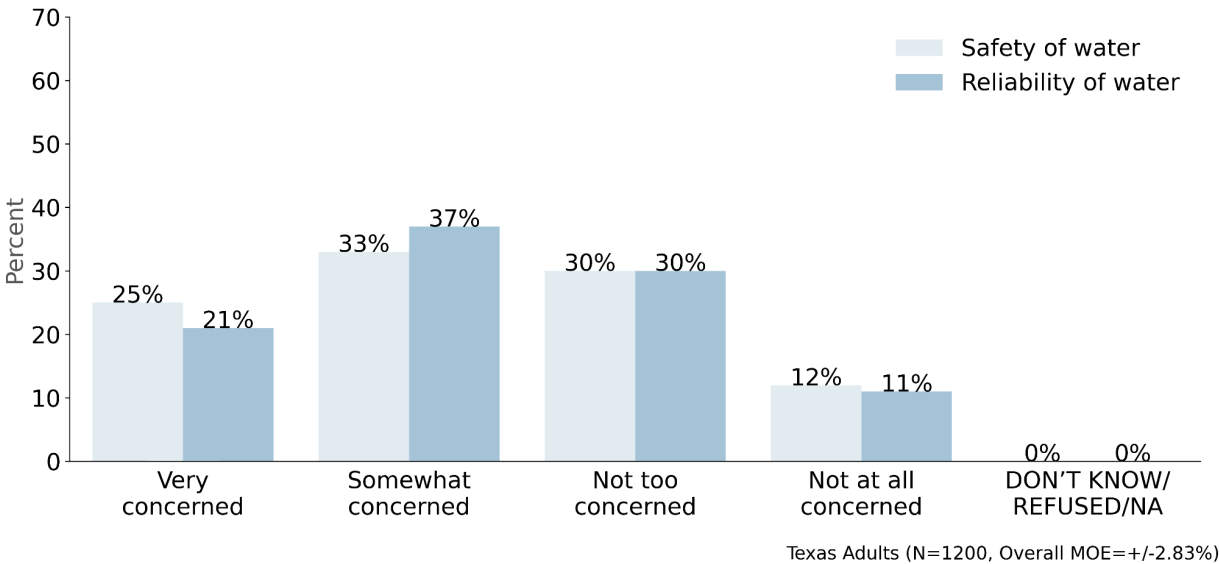
In February of this year, the Texas Lyceum held a conference entitled [“Water: A Deep Dive on Texas’ Most Precious Natural Resource”](#) in Texarkana, Texas. In support of a continued conversation about the importance of water in Texas, the Lyceum poll sought to assess Texans’ attitudes toward this key resource. Overall, 17% of Texans said that the supply of water is a “big problem” in their part of the state, with another 35% saying it is “somewhat of a problem.” At the same time, one in three Texans (33%) said that they had experienced a boil water notice or notification about the safety of their tap water during the prior year.

2024 Texas Lyceum Poll: Have you experienced a boil water notice or notification of unsafe tap water in the last year?



While water issues may not have risen to the level of a pressing policy priority for the majority of Texans at this stage, a majority of Texans do say that they are either very (21%) or somewhat (37%) concerned about the **reliability** of the water supply in their community; with majorities also either very (25%) or somewhat (33%) concerned about the **safety** of the water supply in their community.

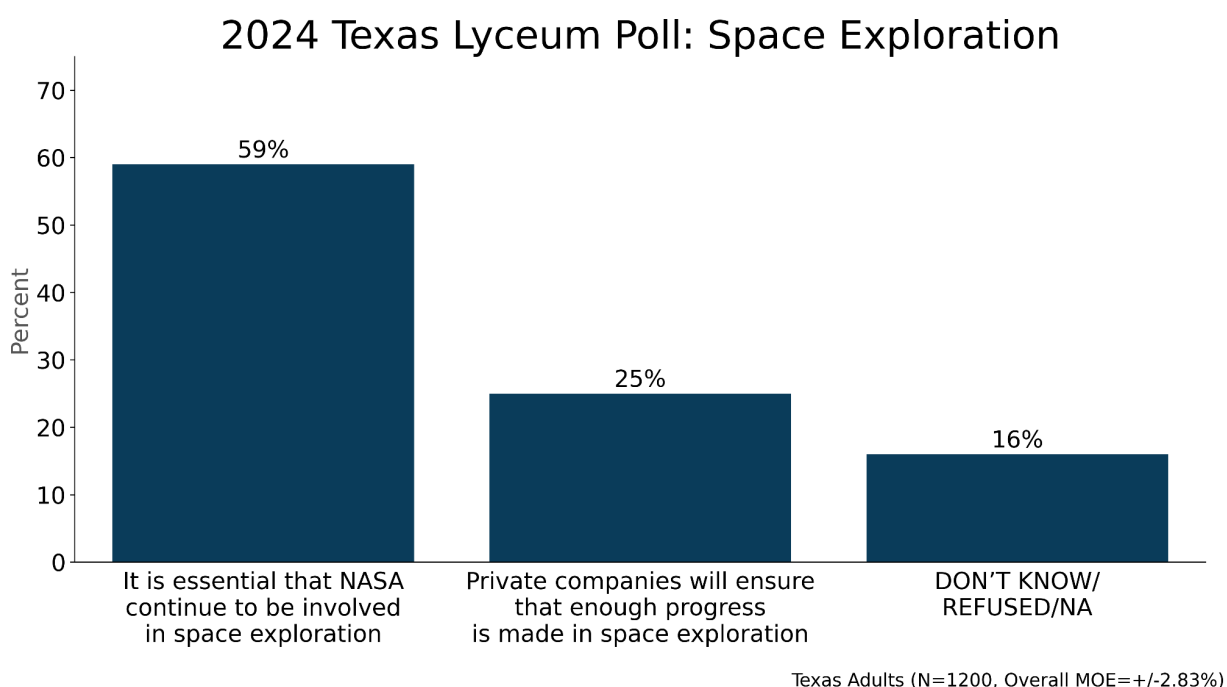
2024 Texas Lyceum Poll: Concern about water local water supply



At the same time, fewer Texans say they would be willing to pay more in water tap fees to ensure the state’s water needs are met (44%) than said so in 2012 (64%). A majority of Texans continue to believe that water rights should be owned by the public (50%), with minorities saying that they should be owned privately by individuals (24%).

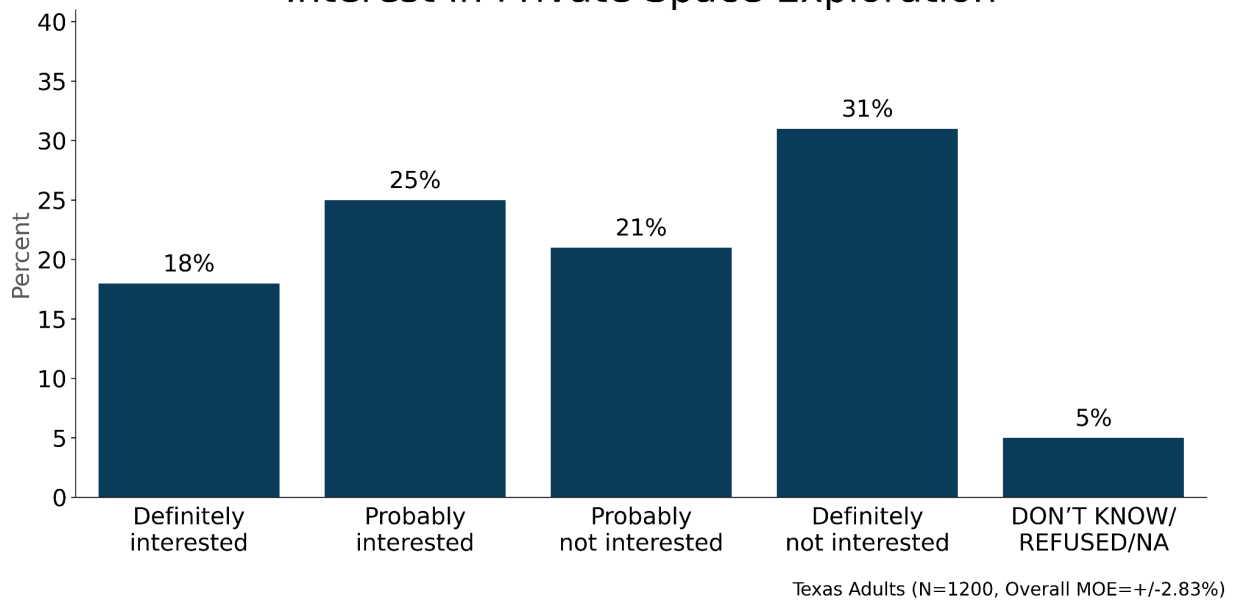
Space, Texas, and the Next 50 years

In April of this year, the Texas Lyceum held a conference in Houston, Texas entitled: “Mission Control: Texas’ Leadership in Space, Technology, and Innovation.” At a time when private companies are increasingly committing resources to private space enterprises, a majority of Texans continue to view the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) as a key leader in space exploration. Overall, 56% of Texans said that it is essential that the United States continues to be a world leader in space exploration, with far fewer Texans (29%) saying that this is not essential. More specifically, 59% said that it is essential that NASA continue to be involved in space exploration, compared to only 25% who said that private companies would do enough to ensure that progress is made in space exploration (16% had no opinion).



Asked the likelihood of people routinely traveling into space as tourists in the next 50 years, 14% of Texans said this will definitely happen, with another 36% saying it will probably happen (39% said it would probably or definitely not happen). At the same time, only 18% of Texans said they would “definitely” be interested in orbiting the earth in a private spacecraft, with another 25% somewhat interested. A majority, 51%, said that they were probably not interested (21%) or definitely not interested (31%).

2024 Texas Lyceum Poll: Interest in Private Space Exploration

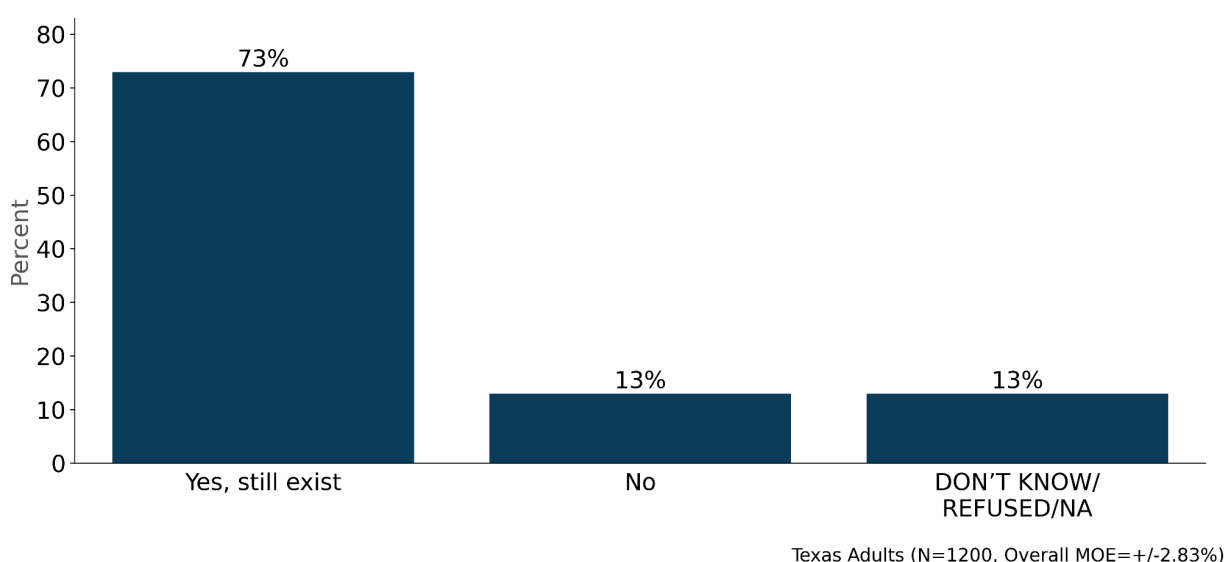


Most Texans expect debris in space to be a major problem in the next 50 years (64%), while fewer expect that intelligent life will be found (47%), that people will build colonies that can be lived in for long periods of time on other planets (39%), or that the U.S. military will fight against other nations in space (38%).

Mental Health in Texas

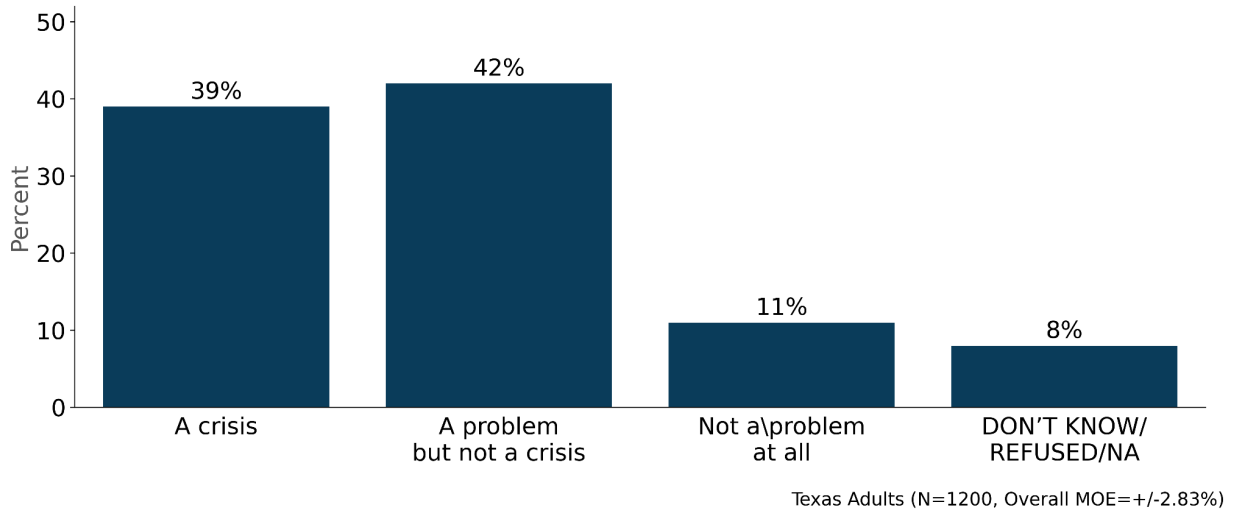
A majority of Texans, 73%, say that stigmas still exist about mental health, with only 13% saying that they don't exist, and 13% holding no opinion. Texans under-30 were approximately 10-points less likely than older Texans to say that stigmas still exist around mental health (65%), but majorities of all groups recognize the presence of these stigmas, which raises important issues about the state of mental health in Texas, the title of a conference being convened by the Texas Lyceum from September 26 to 28 in Abilene, Texas.

2024 Texas Lyceum Poll: Do you think stigmas about mental health still exist, or not?



Overall, 28% of Texans say that mental health issues in adults are a crisis in their community (with another 51% saying they are a problem, but not a crisis). Slightly more Texans, 39%, say that mental health issues in children and teenagers are a crisis where they live (42% say they are a problem). Near majorities of Texans under 30 (48%) and those Texans with children in their homes (47%) say that mental health issues in children and teenagers represent a crisis in their communities. A majority of Texans, 51%, also say that they are either “very worried” (20%) or “somewhat worried” (31%) that someone in their family will experience a serious mental health crisis.

2024 Texas Lyceum Poll:
In your community, do you think that mental health issues
in children and teenagers is...

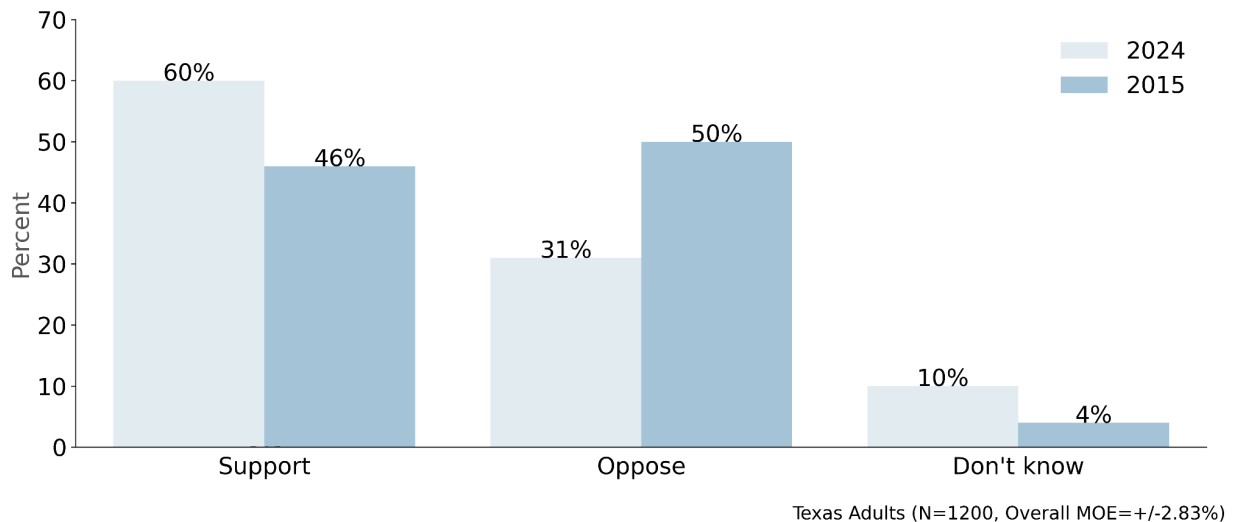


At the same time, only 17% of Texans say it would be “very easy” to find a mental health provider in their community, with 34% saying it would be “somewhat easy”, and more than a third (34%) saying it would be “somewhat” (24%) or “very hard” (10%). More than a quarter of Texans, 27%, described their own mental health and emotional well-being as only “fair” (18%) or “poor” (9%).

The Future of Marijuana and Gambling in the Lone Star State

In November of this year, the Texas Lyceum will hold a conference on South Padre Island entitled, “Win, Lose or Draw: The Future of Marijuana and Gambling in the Lone Star State.” Overall, 60% of Texas adults say that they support legalizing the use of marijuana in Texas, a 14-point increase since the question was last asked in 2015, when a majority of voters (50%) expressed opposition to legalizing marijuana. Among the 31% who said that they oppose marijuana legalization in 2024, 42% said that they would support decriminalizing possession of small amounts of marijuana to a citation and a fine, with 47% remaining opposed. Taken together, 73% of Texans support either full legalization or decriminalization of marijuana in Texas according to 2024 polling.

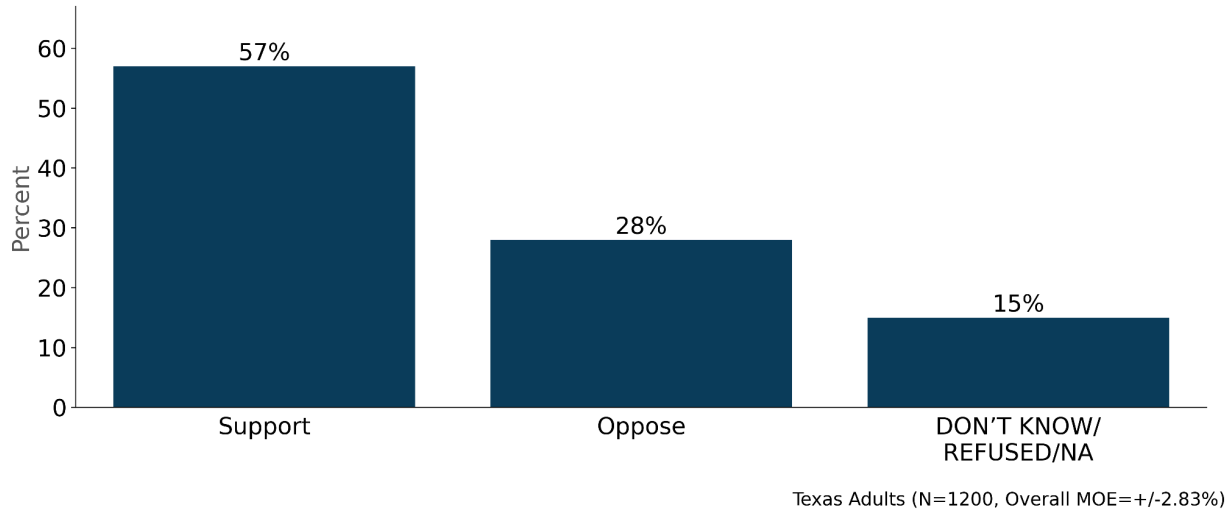
2024 Texas Lyceum Poll: Would you support or oppose legalizing the use of marijuana in Texas?



Opposition to legalization is greatest among adults over 65 (49% support; 45% oppose), Republicans (49% support; 43% oppose), and self-identified conservatives (46% support; 46% oppose).

Asked about expanding legal casino gambling in Texas, 57% of Texans said they would be supportive of expanded casino gaming, while 28% said that they are opposed. Support is comparable among both Democrats (61%) and Republicans (57%), with Texans earning higher incomes expressing more support (64%) than those with lower incomes (55%). Notably, Texans under 30 were among the most divided, with 46% supportive of expanded casino gambling, and 36% opposed.

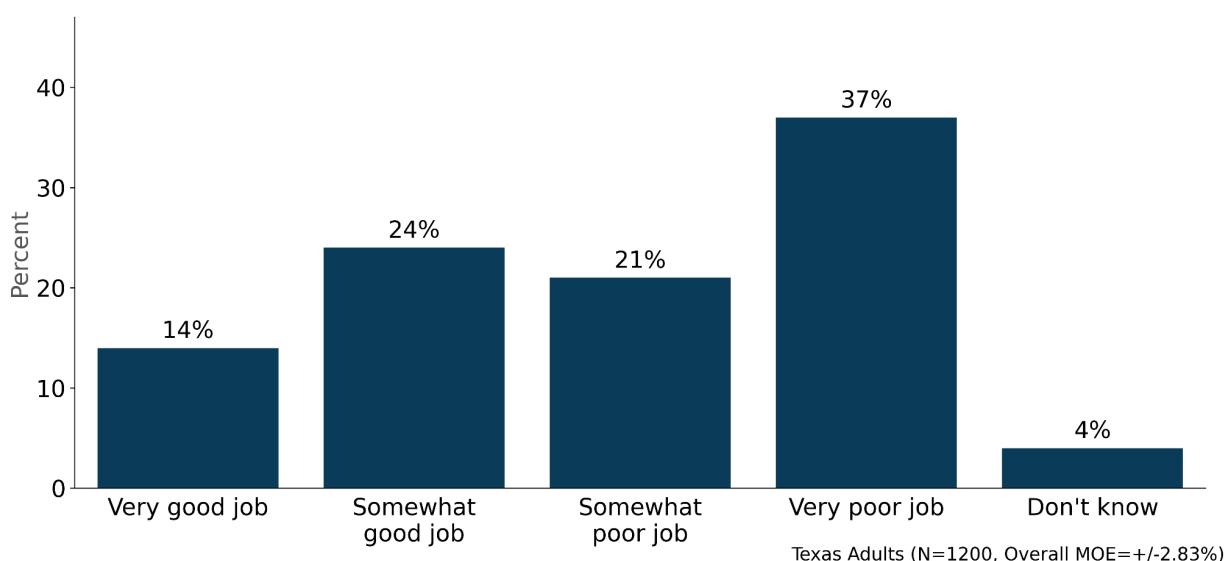
2024 Texas Lyceum Poll:
Do you support or oppose expanding
legal casino gambling in Texas?



Political Evaluations of Texas Statewide Leaders

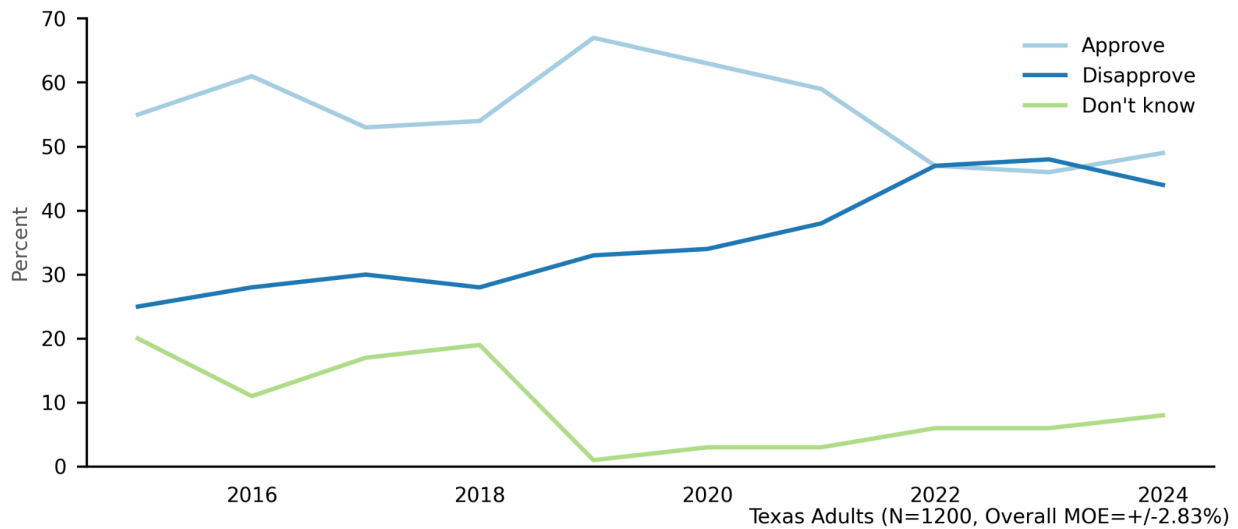
Overall, a majority of Texas adults, 58%, disapprove of the job Joe Biden is doing as president, including 37% who say that he is doing a “very poor job.” Eighty-four percent of Republicans say that Biden is performing poorly, including 65% who say that he is performing “very” poorly. Among Democrats, 68% expressed approval of Biden’s job performance (a drop of 8 points from the 2023 Texas Lyceum poll), with only 29% willing to say that the president is doing a “very good job.”

2024 Texas Lyceum Poll: How do you think Joe Biden is handling his job as president?



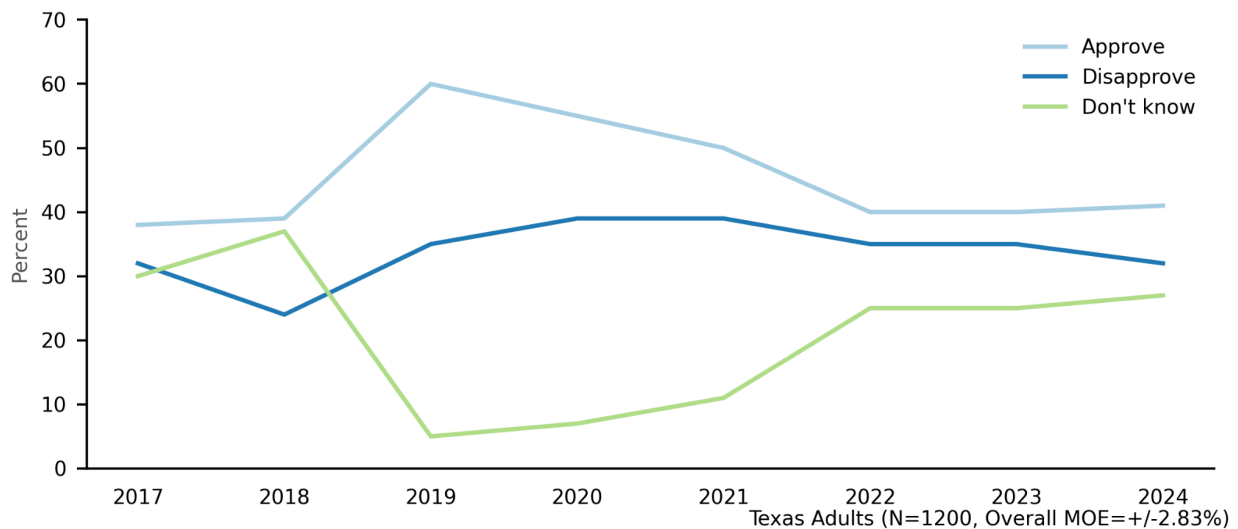
Asked to evaluate the job Greg Abbott is doing as Texas governor, 49% of Texans approved while 44% disapproved — a slight improvement over his 2023 and 2022 evaluations. Strong disapproval and strong approval were on par with each other, 28% to 25%. Seventy percent of Democrats expressed disapproval, with 53% expressing strong disapproval (down from 63% last year), while 80% of Republicans approve of Abbott’s job performance (a 6 point increase from last year), with 46% approving strongly (a 10-point increase over 2023). Independent adults, who identify with neither the Democratic nor Republican parties, expressed more disapproval than approval, 49% to 25%.

Texas Lyceum Polling: Greg Abbott Job Approval



Asked to rate the job Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick is doing, 41% of Texas adults expressed approval while 32% registered disapproval, with the remainder unable to offer an opinion — largely unchanged from evaluations recorded in 2023.

Texas Lyceum Polling: Dan Patrick Job Approval



Attorney General Ken Paxton received 39% approval and 37% disapproval of the job he's doing as Attorney General among Texas adults. Among Democrats, 55% disapproved, while among Republicans, 59% approved.

Up for reelection this year, 44% of Texas adults said that they approve and disapprove of the job Senator Cruz is doing with 71% of Democrats disapproving, including 53% who disapproved strongly, and 75% of Republicans approving, including 41% who strongly approve.

Methodology

From April 12-21, 2024, The Texas Lyceum conducted a 1000-person telephone survey of adult citizens from the state of Texas. The survey utilized a stratified probability sample design, with respondents being randomly selected at the level of the household and questioned by live interviewers. The survey also employed a randomized cell phone supplement, with 60 percent of completed telephone interviews being conducted among cell phone only or cell phone dominant households. A Spanish-language instrument was developed, and bilingual interviewers offered respondents a chance to participate in English or Spanish. On average, respondents completed the interview in 12 minutes. To ensure an appropriate sub-sample of unregistered citizens, a supplement of 200 interviews among Texas adults confirmed as unregistered was completed online. This yields a total statewide sample of 1,200 adults, 926 of whom are registered voters according to self-reports. The final data set is weighted to the joint distribution of race/ethnicity, age and gender to achieve representativeness as defined by the Texas State Demographic Center 2022 population estimates. The overall margin of error for the poll is +/- 2.83 percentage points, with a larger margin of error for sub-samples.

About The Texas Lyceum

The Texas Lyceum has committed to annual probability samples of the state of Texas to bolster its understanding of public opinion on crucial policy issues. The professional rationale for the Texas Lyceum Poll is straightforward: a non-partisan, high quality, scientific survey designed to provide (1) specific data points on issues of interest, and (2) a time series of key demographics, attitudes, and opinions. Towards this end, the trademark of the Texas Lyceum Poll is transparency. Top-line and detailed cross-tabular results of each poll will be made available on the Texas Lyceum website at www.texaslyceum.org.

The Texas Lyceum, now 40 years strong, is a non-profit, non-partisan statewide leadership organization focused on identifying the next generation of Texas leaders. The Texas Lyceum consists of 96 men and women from throughout the state. Directors begin their service while under the age of 46 and have demonstrated leadership in their community and profession, together with a deep commitment to Texas.

The Texas Lyceum acts as a catalyst to bring together diverse opinions and expertise to focus on national and state issues, and seeks to emphasize constructive private sector, public sector, and individual responses to the issues. To accomplish these purposes, the Lyceum conducts periodic public forums, commissions The Texas Lyceum Poll, and convenes programs for the Directors to explore and discuss key economic and social issues of the state and nation.

2024 Texas Lyceum Poll Instrument and Topline Results

TEXAS LYCEUM POLL 2024 Texas Statewide Survey

N=1,200 ADULTS

MOE=+/-2.83 PERCENTAGE POINTS (UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

CELL PHONE SUPPLEMENT (600 respondents)

ONLINE SUPPLEMENT (200 respondents)

BILINGUAL INSTRUMENT/INTERVIEWERS

April 12-21, 2024

Hello. We're conducting a survey on behalf of the Texas Lyceum, a nonprofit, non-partisan organization focused on public policy issues affecting Texas and the United States.

May I please speak with the person in your home who is 18 or older and who will be having the next birthday?

IF ASK WHY BIRTHDAY SELECTION: This helps us make sure we represent adults living within a household correctly.

IF NECESSARY: We're interested in your views on several current issues. We would like to include your responses to this survey, which will be kept absolutely confidential, with the responses of several hundred other Texans like you. The survey should take about 12 minutes to complete, depending on your answers.

SECTION I: GENERAL MOOD

Q1. Are you registered to vote in the state of Texas?

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| 1. Yes, registered | 77% |
| 2. No, not registered | 23 |

Q2. Generally speaking, would you say that you are extremely interested in politics and public affairs, somewhat interested, not very interested, or not at all interested?

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| 1. Extremely interested | 31% |
| 2. Somewhat interested | 44 |
| 3. Not very interested | 13 |
| 4. Not at all interested | 10 |
| 5. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA | 2 |

Q3. Thinking about the country, do you think things are moving in the right direction or are we off on the wrong track?

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| 1. Right direction | 25% |
| 2. Off on the wrong track | 63 |
| 3. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA | 12 |

	<i>Right Direction</i>	<i>Wrong Track</i>	<i>Don't know/Refuse</i>
2023	28	62	11
2022	27	61	13
2021	29	65	6
2020	41	59	0
2019	41	58	2
2018	34	53	14
2017	34	52	14
2016	28	63	9
2015	28	63	9
2014	27	60	13
2013	30	59	11
2012	42	51	7
2011	33	58	8
2010	37	55	8
2009	48	45	7
2008	23	70	7
2007	28	62	10

Q4. What do you think is the most important issue facing the country today? **[OPEN-ENDED, please use pre-codes as applicable]**

1. Inflation/rising prices	14%
2. The economy	13
3. Immigration	8
4. Border security	7
5. Trump/the prospect of another Trump presidency	6
6. Health care	5
7. Political corruption/leadership	5
8. Abortion	4
9. Biden/the President	4
10. Gun violence/Gun control	4
11. Unemployment/jobs	3
12. Moral decline	3
13. Crime/violent crime	3
14. Environment/Climate change	2
15. Education/schooling/public schools	2
16. National debt	2
17. Civil Rights/freedom/government control	2
18. Drug addiction/Opioids	2
19. Russia/Russia-Ukraine war/threat from Russia	2
20. Social welfare programs	1
21. Unity/Division of country	1
22. China	1
23. The news media	1
24. Race relations/racial issues/ethnicity	1
25. Energy/Gas prices	1
26. Polarization/Gridlock/Partisanship	1
27. National security/terrorism	1
28. Israel-Hamas conflict	1
29. Voting rights/threat to democracy/Jan. 6	1
30. OTHER [Please Specify]	1

Q5. What do you think is the most important issue facing the state of Texas today? **[OPEN-ENDED, please use pre-codes as applicable]**

1. Immigration	15%
2. Border security	14
3. Inflation/rising prices	9
4. The economy	8
5. Governor Abbott	7
6. Abortion	7
7. Gun violence/gun control	5
8. Health care	4
9. Housing/housing costs	4
10. Taxes	3
11. Unemployment/jobs	3
12. Crime/Violent crime	3
13. Liberals moving in from out of state	3
14. Political corruption/leadership	3
15. Drug addiction/Opioids	2
16. Energy/Gas Prices	2
17. Don't know / No response	2
18. Education/Public schools	2
19. Civil / Racial rights	2
20. Traffic	1
21. The environment/Climate change	1
22. Voter Rights/Election Issues	1
23. Social welfare programs	1
24. Population growth	1
25. Civil unrest	1
26. Election fraud	1
27. The news media	0
28. OTHER [Please Specify]	0

Q6. How do you think Joe Biden is handling his job as president? Is he doing a very good job, somewhat good job, somewhat poor job, or very poor job?

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| 1. Very good job | 14% |
| 2. Somewhat good job | 24 |
| 3. Somewhat poor job | 21 |
| 4. Very poor job | 37 |
| 5. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA | 4 |

	<i>V. Good Job</i>	<i>S. Good Job</i>	<i>S. Poor Job</i>	<i>V. Poor Job</i>	<i>DK</i>
2023	15	25	19	36	5
2022	14	29	16	38	3
Donald Trump:					
2021	19	22	14	42	2
2020	27	20	16	36	1
2019	24	24	17	34	0
2018	21	23	18	34	4
2017	19	24	18	36	4

Q7. Would you say that you approve or disapprove of the job that Greg Abbott is doing as Texas governor? Would that be somewhat or strongly *[approve/disapprove]*?

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| 1. Strongly approve | 25% |
| 2. Somewhat approve | 24 |
| 3. Somewhat disapprove | 16 |
| 4. Strongly disapprove | 28 |
| 5. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA | 8 |

	<i>Strong App</i>	<i>Somewhat App</i>	<i>Somewhat Dis</i>	<i>Strong Dis</i>	<i>DK</i>
2023	19	27	14	34	6
2022	18	29	18	29	6
2021	18	41	21	17	3
2020	26	37	19	15	3
2019	28	39	19	14	1
2018	23	31	13	15	19
2017	27	26	12	18	17
2016	23	38	11	17	11
2015	20	35	12	13	20

Q8A. Would you say that you approve or disapprove of the job that Dan Patrick is doing as Texas's Lieutenant Governor? *Would that be somewhat or strongly [approve/disapprove]?*

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| 1. Strongly approve | 15% |
| 2. Somewhat approve | 26 |
| 3. Somewhat disapprove | 12 |
| 4. Strongly disapprove | 20 |
| 5. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA | 27 |

	<i>Strong App</i>	<i>Somewhat App</i>	<i>Somewhat Dis</i>	<i>Strong Dis</i>	<i>DK</i>
2023	13	27	14	21	25
2022	13	27	15	20	25
2021	10	40	20	19	11
2020	18	37	23	16	7
2019	18	42	20	15	5
2018	13	26	9	15	37
2017	11	27	13	19	30

Q8B. Would you say that you approve or disapprove of the job that Ken Paxton is doing as Texas's Attorney General? *Would that be somewhat or strongly [approve/disapprove]?*

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| 1. Strongly approve | 15% |
| 2. Somewhat approve | 24 |
| 3. Somewhat disapprove | 15 |
| 4. Strongly disapprove | 22 |
| 5. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA | 24 |

	<i>Strong App</i>	<i>Somewhat App</i>	<i>Somewhat Dis</i>	<i>Strong Dis</i>	<i>DK</i>
2023	12	28	13	21	25
2022	13	27	14	21	25
2021	11	38	20	19	13

Q8C. Would you say that you approve or disapprove of the job that Ted Cruz is doing as Texas's U.S. Senator? *Would that be somewhat or strongly [approve/disapprove]?*

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| 1. Strongly approve | 21% |
| 2. Somewhat approve | 23 |
| 3. Somewhat disapprove | 15 |
| 4. Strongly disapprove | 29 |
| 5. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA | 12 |

SECTION II: 2024 ELECTIONS

[Items Q9-Q13 were only asked of those respondents who indicated that they are registered voters in Q1. For items Q9-Q13, n=926, margin of error is +/- 3.22%]

Q9. How interested are you in the 2024 presidential election? Are you:

	2024	2020
1. Extremely interested	51%	57%
2. Very interested	26	28
3. Somewhat interested	18	11
4. Not at all interested	5	4
5. Don't know [DON'T READ]	0	0

Q10. If the 2024 election for president were held today, would you vote for **[RANDOMIZE ORDER “Joe Biden”, “Donald Trump”, “Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.”, “Jill Stein”, “Cornel West”]** Joe Biden, Donald Trump, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., Jill Stein, Cornel West, someone else, or haven't you thought enough about it?

1. Donald Trump	41%
2. Joe Biden	31
3. Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.	11
4. Jill Stein	1
5. Cornel West	1
6. Someone else	5
7. Haven't thought about it	10

Q11. If the 2024 election for Senate were held today, would you vote for **[RANDOMIZE “Ted Cruz”, “Colin Allred”]** Ted Cruz, Colin Allred, someone else, or haven't you thought enough about it?

1. Ted Cruz	41%
2. Colin Allred	31
3. Someone else	13
4. Haven't thought about it	16

Q12. If the election for representative to the U.S. Congress were held today, would you vote for **[RANDOMIZE “the Democratic candidate”, “the Republican candidate”]** the Democratic candidate, the Republican candidate, someone else, or haven't you thought enough about it?

1. The Republican candidate	41%
2. The Democratic candidate	39
3. Someone else	8
4. Haven't thought about it enough	11

Q13. And if the election for representative to the Texas State House were held today, would you vote for **[RANDOMIZE “the Democratic candidate”, “the Republican candidate”]** the Democratic candidate, the Republican candidate, someone else, or haven't you thought enough about it?

1. The Republican candidate	43%
2. The Democratic candidate	40
3. Someone else	7
4. Haven't thought about it enough	9

Q14. Would you say that your feelings towards the following people are generally favorable or unfavorable? *Would that be very or just somewhat favorable/unfavorable?* **[RANDOMIZE A-E]**

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know / No opinion	TOTAL FAVORABLE	TOTAL UNFAVORABLE
Donald Trump	31	18	9	37	4	49	46
Joe Biden	16	21	19	39	4	37	58
Ted Cruz	19	25	14	31	11	44	45
Colin Allred	11	21	15	14	39	32	29

SECTION III: PERSONAL ECONOMIC PERCEPTIONS AND EVALUATIONS

Q15. Thinking about the national economy, do you think the country is better off, worse off, or about the same compared to a year ago?

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| 1. Better off | 20% |
| 2. Worse off | 60 |
| 3. About the same | 20 |
| 4. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA | 0 |

	<i>Better off</i>	<i>Worse off</i>	<i>About the same</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
2023	15	59	19	3
2022	15	62	19	3
2021	14	66	19	1
2020	39	25	35	1
2019	38	31	31	0
2018	43	24	34	0
2017	32	20	44	4
2016	29	34	35	2
2015	31	34	33	2
2014	32	34	30	3
2013	32	29	37	2
2012	37	38	24	1
2011	35	36	28	1
2010	30	40	30	1
2009	21	58	20	1

Q16. Do you think Texas's economy is better off, worse off, or about the same as the rest of the country?

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| 1. Better off | 26% |
| 2. Worse off | 42 |
| 3. About the same | 31 |
| 4. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA | 1 |

	<i>Better off</i>	<i>Worse off</i>	<i>About the same</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
2023	21	36	37	6
2022	26	32	36	6
2021	24	40	33	2
2020	49	14	36	2
2019	45	15	40	1
2018	63	10	27	0
2017	58	9	26	7
2016	60	11	25	4
2015	52	14	28	6
2014	61	10	23	6
2013	62	7	26	4
2012	70	7	22	1
2011	60	10	28	2
2010	61	8	28	4
2009	64	8	25	3

Q17. Now thinking about you and your family's economic situation, would you say that you are better off, worse off, or about the same economically compared to a year ago?

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| 1. Better off | 20% |
| 2. Worse off | 48 |
| 3. About the same | 32 |
| 4. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA | 0 |

	<i>Better off</i>	<i>Worse off</i>	<i>About the same</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
2023	15	46	35	4
2022	14	45	38	3
2021	15	39	45	1
2020	36	21	42	1
2019	33	22	45	0
2018	31	19	49	0
2017	27	15	57	1
2016	30	19	50	1
2015	25	23	51	0
2014	28	24	46	2
2013	26	23	50	1
2012	24	24	50	2
2011	21	31	48	0
2010	18	32	50	1
2009	17	37	46	0

Q18. Looking ahead to the future, do you think your children will be better off than you are, worse off, or about the same economically?

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| 1. Better off | 25% |
| 2. Worse off | 37 |
| 3. About the same | 19 |
| 4. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA | 19 |

	<i>Better off</i>	<i>Worse off</i>	<i>About the same</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
2023	28	34	22	16
2022	27	35	22	17
2021	34	35	25	5
2020	46	25	23	5
2019	39	29	29	3
2018	49	28	23	0
2017	45	28	19	9
2016	42	29	20	9
2015	40	27	22	10
2014	NA	NA	NA	NA
2013	41	35	17	7
2012	38	35	17	11
2011	39	26	28	8
2010	34	41	21	5
2009	40	32	18	10
2008	39	30	21	10
2007	47	27	20	6

SECTION IV: ISSUES & POLICY

Now, turning to the issue of democracy in America...

Q19. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: *Democracy is the best form of government. Would that be strongly [agree/disagree], or somewhat [agree/disagree]?*

	2024	2023	2019
1. Strongly agree	37%	40%	53%
2. Somewhat agree	30	28	29
3. Somewhat disagree	11	11	11
4. Strongly disagree	9	7	7
5. Don't know/No opinion	14	14	0

Q20. How satisfied are you with the way democracy is working in our country...

	2024	2023	2019
1. Very satisfied	11%	9%	16%
2. Somewhat satisfied	29	29	42
3. Not too satisfied, or	32	34	29
4. Not at all satisfied	19	19	13
5. Don't know/No opinion	10	9	0

Now, we're interested in learning more about your experience living in Texas...

Q21. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: *I spend too much of my income on housing.*

	2024	2023	2022	2020
1. Agree	63%	55%	50%	44%
2. Disagree	27	31	39	55
3. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA	10	14	10	2

Q22. Would you say that the supply of water is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem in your part of Texas?

1. A big problem	17%
2. Somewhat of a problem	35
3. Not much of a problem	40
4. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA	8

Q23. In the last year, have you experienced a boil water notice or notification that your tap water was unsafe to drink?

1. Yes	33%
2. No	60
3. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA	7

[RANDOMIZE Q24A-Q24B]

Q24A. How concerned are you about **the safety** of the water supply in your community? Are you...

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| 1. Very concerned | 25% |
| 2. Somewhat concerned | 33 |
| 3. Not too concerned, or | 30 |
| 4. Not at all concerned | 12 |
| 5. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA | 0 |

Q24B. How concerned are you about **the reliability** of the water supply in your community? Are you...

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| 1. Very concerned | 21% |
| 2. Somewhat concerned | 37 |
| 3. Not too concerned, or | 30 |
| 4. Not at all concerned | 11 |
| 5. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA | 0 |

Q25. Do you think that water rights should be owned by individuals or should they be public?

- | | 2024 | 2012 |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. Individuals | 24% | 29% |
| 2. Public | 50 | 54% |
| 3. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA | 26 | 17% |

Q26. Would you be willing to pay more in water tap fees to ensure that the state's water needs are met?

- | | 2024 | 2012 |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. Yes | 44% | 64% |
| 2. No | 35 | 30% |
| 3. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA | 20 | 7% |

Q27A. Would you support or oppose legalizing the use of marijuana in the state of Texas?

- | | 2024 | 2015 |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. Support | 60% | 46% |
| 2. Oppose | 31 | 50 |
| 3. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA | 10 | 4 |

Q27B. **[ASK IF Q27A == '2. Oppose']** You said that you opposed legalizing the use of marijuana in Texas, would you support or oppose reducing the maximum punishment for possessing small amounts of marijuana to a citation and a fine?

(n=365 who oppose marijuana legalization in Q27A, moe +/- 5.13%)

- | | 2024 | 2015 |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. Support | 42% | 57% |
| 2. Oppose | 47 | 39 |
| 3. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA | 11 | 4 |

Q28. Do you support or oppose expanding legal casino gambling in Texas?

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| 1. Support | 57% |
| 2. Oppose | 28 |
| 3. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA | 15 |

Q29. Do you personally know anyone who has ever been addicted to prescription painkillers, or not?

- | | 2024 | 2018 |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. Yes | 36% | 36% |
| 2. No | 59 | 62 |
| 3. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA | 5 | 2 |

Q30. Over the past few weeks, would you say that you are feeling...

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| 1. Extremely stressed | 26% |
| 2. Somewhat stressed | 43 |
| 3. Not very stressed | 20 |
| 4. Not at all stressed | 11 |
| 5. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA | 0 |

Q31. How would you describe your own mental health and emotional well-being at this time? Would you say it is...

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| 1. Excellent | 15% |
| 2. Very good | 28 |
| 3. Good | 29 |
| 4. Fair | 18 |
| 5. Poor | 9 |
| 6. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA | 0 |

Q32. How worried are you, if at all, that someone in your family will experience a serious mental health crisis? Are you...

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| 1. Very worried | 20% |
| 2. Somewhat worried | 31 |
| 3. Not too worried, or | 28 |
| 4. Not at all worried | 19 |
| 5. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA | 4 |

Q33A. In your community, do you think that mental health issues **in adults** are...

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| 1. A crisis | 28% |
| 2. A problem but not a crisis, or | 51 |
| 3. Not a problem at all | 14 |
| 4. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA | 7 |

Q33B. In your community, do you think that mental health issues **in children and teenagers** is...

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| 1. A crisis | 39% |
| 2. A problem but not a crisis, or | 42 |
| 3. Not a problem at all | 11 |
| 4. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA | 8 |

Q34. How easy or hard is it to find a mental health provider — such as a therapist or psychiatrist — in your community? Is it...

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| 1. Very easy | 17% |
| 2. Somewhat easy | 34 |
| 3. Somewhat hard, or | 24 |
| 4. Very hard | 10 |
| 5. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA | 15 |

Q35. Do you think stigmas about mental health still exist, or not?

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| 1. Yes, still exist | 73% |
| 2. No | 13 |
| 3. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA | 13 |

Q36. In your view, do you think it is essential that the United States...

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1. Continues to be a world leader in leader in space exploration, or | 56% |
| 2. Is it not essential that the United States continue to be a world leader in leader in space exploration | 29 |
| 3. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA | 14 |

Q37. Which statement comes closer to your views, even if neither is exactly right?

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. It is essential that NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) continue to be involved in space exploration, or | 59% |
| 2. Private companies will ensure that enough progress is made in space exploration, even without NASA's involvement | 25 |
| 3. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA | 16 |

Q38. Do you think each of the following things will or will not happen in the next 50 years, that is, before the year 2074? *And do you think that will definitely [happen/not happen] or probably [happen/not happen]?*
[RANDOMIZE A-E]

	Will definitely happen	Will probably happen	Probably not happen	Definitely not happen	Don't know
People will routinely travel in space as tourists	14	36	27	12	11
People will build colonies that can be lived in for long periods of time on other planets	13	26	27	21	13
Debris in space from rockets, satellites and other human-made objects will be a major problem	25	39	18	7	11
The United States military will fight against other nations in space	13	25	28	19	15
Intelligent life will be discovered on another planet	18	29	24	17	13

Q39. In the future, private companies expect to allow people to orbit the Earth in a spacecraft. How much, if at all, would you, personally, be interested in doing this?

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Definitely interested | 18% |
| 2. Probably interested | 25 |
| 3. Probably not interested | 21 |
| 4. Definitely not interested | 31 |
| 5. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA | 5 |

SECTION IV: DEMOGRAPHICS

We're almost done. The final questions are for statistical purposes...

AGEG.

1.	18-29	23%
2.	30-44	28
3.	45-64	31
4.	65+	18

LOCATE. Would you say that you live in an urban, suburban, or rural community?

1.	Urban	36%
2.	Suburban	46
3.	Rural	18

MARRIED. What is your current marital status?

1.	Never married	35%
2.	Married	43
3.	Divorced	12
4.	Widowed	5
5.	Separated	2
6.	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA.	2

CHILD. Do you have children under the age of 18 living in your household?

1.	Yes	34%
2.	No	65
3.	DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA	1

INCOME. What was your total household income for 2023? **[READ CATEGORIES]**

1.	Less than \$15,000	10%
2.	\$15,000-\$25,000	13
3.	\$25,000-\$40,000	16
4.	\$40,000-\$75,000	22
5.	\$75,000-\$150,000	23
6.	More than \$150,000	9
7.	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA.	7

HOME. Do you currently own or rent your home?

1.	Own	57%
2.	Rent	39
3.	DON'T KNOW / REFUSED / NA	4

EDOFR. What is the highest level of education you completed? **[READ CATEGORIES AS NECESSARY]**

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. Less than high school | 3% |
| 2. High school | 25 |
| 3. Some college | 29 |
| 4. College degree | 29 |
| 5. Post-graduate degree (MA, LLD, PhD) | 13 |
| 6. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA. | 0 |

VETERAN. Does each of the following accurately describe your current situation? **[READ CATEGORIES]**
[CHECK ALL THAT APPLY]

- | | |
|--|----|
| A. Active-duty military | 2% |
| B. Military veteran | 8 |
| C. Active-duty military in your immediate family | 4 |
| D. Military veteran in your immediate family | 11 |

RELIGION. What is your religious denomination **[PRON: DEE-NOM-I-NATION]**?

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Protestant | 17% |
| 2. Catholic | 26 |
| 3. Other Christian | 28 |
| 4. Jewish | 2 |
| 5. Muslim, Buddhist, or other non-Christian | 6 |
| 6. Agnostic/Atheist | 10 |
| 7. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED | 12 |

FUND. **[IF RELIGION EQ 1]** Would you say that you are evangelical, fundamentalist, or born-again?

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 1. Yes | 59% |
| 2. No | 38 |

RACE. Would you say that you are...

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| 1. White or Anglo | 44% |
| 2. Black or African American | 12 |
| 3. Hispanic | 36 |
| 4. Other | 6 |

LIBCON. Generally speaking, would you say that you are...

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| 1. Liberal | 22% |
| 2. Moderate, or | 36 |
| 3. Conservative. | 33 |
| 4. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED | 9 |

PID3.

1. Democrat	37%
2. Independent	21
3. Republican	42

PID7.

1. Strong Democrat	17%
2. Weak Democrat	14
3. Lean Democrat	6
4. Independent	21
5. Lean Republican	8
6. Weak Republican	12
7. Strong Republican	22

GENDER. Do you identify as...

1. Male	48%
2. Female	50
3. Non-binary	1
4. Refused	1

Thank you very much for your time today/this evening! Have a good day/evening.