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The Texas Lyceum Poll Finds Texans Are Deeply Concerned About Cost of Living

Texans Say They Spend Too Much on Housing, Doubt Their Children Will Be Better Off Economically

[Comprehensive Poll Results](#)

Dallas, Texas - The Texas Lyceum's annual poll, published today, finds a majority of Texans saying that they spend too much on housing and that the cost of living for necessities in the area where they live is either "poor" or "terrible." Concerns about costs come as the state grapples with ongoing economic troubles stemming from the continued fallout from the coronavirus pandemic, ongoing inflationary concerns, and rising energy prices exacerbated by Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

The 2022 Texas Lyceum Poll seeks to uncover the most pressing issues facing Texans in their communities to inform the discussion of future policy priorities in the state.

"We've been hearing anecdotal evidence for months about the impacts of inflation on ordinary Texans and for years about the impact of housing costs," said Joshua Blank, PhD, Texas Lyceum Research Director. "But the 2022 Texas Lyceum poll shows just how widespread these problems really are. And maybe most surprisingly, these problems are not concentrated in any one part of the state, or among any single group."

The 2022 Texas Lyceum Poll seeks to comprehensively understand the issues facing ordinary Texans, especially as it relates the quality and reliability of the resources and infrastructure in their own communities. In addition to concerns about housing costs and the increase in costs for necessary living expenses, 41% negatively rated the quality of the roads where they live, 40% said that people's opportunities for home ownership are either "poor" or "terrible," while 45% say that their economic situation is worse than last year. Notably, this is the greatest share of Texans to acknowledge their negative economic trajectory since the Texas Lyceum's poll in 2009.

The Texas Lyceum conducted a 1,000-person telephone survey of Texas adults (600 cell/400 landline) with a 200-person online supplement between March 11-20, 2022, producing an overall margin for the full sample of +/- 2.83%.

“In this era of greater connectivity, The Texas Lyceum remains solutions-oriented through dynamic discussions with various voices and the release of our annual poll results,” said Sarah Jackson, President of The Texas Lyceum. “We will continue to support and guide Texans with factual information that can help us all better understand, and serve, the ever-changing landscape of diverse constituents in Texas.”

Overall, Texans’ top concerns:

- 41% of Texans cited an economic concern as the most important problem facing the country (the economy: 17%; inflation/rising prices: 17%; and energy/gas prices: 7%)
- 26% said the same about the most important problem facing the state of Texas (inflation/rising prices: 9%; energy/gas prices: 9%; the economy: 8%)
- Only 27% of Texans believe that their children will be better off economically than they are now, down 7 points from 2021, and the lowest-recorded measure in Texas Lyceum polling going back to 2007. The plurality, 35%, believe that their children will be worse off, unchanged from last year.

Many Texans are Facing Increasing Housing Costs

- 50% of Texas adults agreed with the statement: “I spend too much of my income on housing,” an increase of 6 points from the 44% who responded similarly when asked the same item in the 2020 Texas Lyceum Poll.
- 43% of homeowners said that they are currently spending too much of their income on housing; the same was true of 66% of renters.
- 57% of those who live in an urban environment say that they spend too much of their income on housing, but so too do 49% of suburbanites and 40% of those living in a rural area.

Texans’ Evaluations of Healthcare Availability

- Overall, 74% of Texans rate their local access to healthcare as either “excellent” (23%) or “good” (51%), compared to only 22% who offered a negative rating.
- Ratings of healthcare access by race and ethnicity differ somewhat dramatically between White and Black Texans on the one hand, and Hispanic Texans on the other, with 30% of White, 24% of Black, but only 14% of Hispanic Texans rating their local healthcare access as “excellent.”
- Ratings of access to medical specialists was similarly high, with 72% rating access as either “excellent” (23%) or “good” (49%), compared to only 21% giving a negative evaluation.

Concern About the Situation Between Russia and Ukraine

- Texans expressed near universal concern about the situation between Russia and Ukraine, with 85% saying that they were either “extremely” (41%) or “very concerned” (44%).

2022 Gubernatorial Election Trial Ballot

- The Texas Lyceum Poll asked the 926 adults who self-identified as registered voters whom they would support if the 2022 gubernatorial election were held today. Forty-two

percent said that they would be supporting Greg Abbott while 40% said that they would be supporting Beto O'Rourke, with another 18% saying that they would be supporting someone else, hadn't thought enough about it, or didn't know.

- Given that this result originated from a sample of Texas adults, it should be unsurprising to find the pool of registered voters producing this result more diverse than the likely electorate. Self-identified registered voters from among the adult sample produced a potential electorate made up of 47% of White respondents when exit polling data in 2020, 2018, and 2016 found the electorate to be at least 56% White. Despite this, the result continues to find Abbott leading his Democratic challenger, at this, admittedly, very early stage in the contest.

Methodology

The Texas Lyceum conducted a 1,000-person telephone survey of adult citizens from the state of Texas between March 11-20, 2022. The annual poll enlists the latest in techniques, using live interviewers and contacting respondents primarily by telephone (landline and cell phones) with the use of English and Spanish instrumentation and interviewing. A supplement of 200 interviews of Texas adults confirmed as unregistered was completed online to ensure an appropriate sub-sample of unregistered citizens. 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 Department State Health Services 2022 population projections. The poll was overseen by Daron Shaw, Ph.D., Professor at The University of Texas at Austin and Joshua Blank, Ph.D., Texas Lyceum Research Director.

About The Texas Lyceum

The Texas Lyceum is the only nonprofit, nonpartisan, stateside leadership organization focused on identifying the state's next generation of leaders and providing a forum for civil discourse. The Texas Lyceum hosts meetings and conferences, publishes a nationally acclaimed annual poll, and offers scholarship and fellowship programs all focused on bringing together diverse opinions and expertise to emphasize constructive private-sector, public-sector and individual responses to the issues facing the state and the nation.

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