



TEXAS VOTER SURVEY

January 12 - 18, 2021

N = 1,021 respondents

margin of error: \pm 3.1%

43% cell phone / 25% landline / 32% web

OBJECTIVES



1

To assess general attitudes about the present and the future of the State of Texas.



2

To assess levels of concern about specific issues as well as overall concern about the future of Texas.



3

To measure the correlation of issues, concerns and attitudinal statements with the opinion that the Texas State Legislature should act during the current legislative session to address any challenges or issues highlighted by the coronavirus pandemic.

KEY FINDINGS



1

The percentage of voters who are extremely or very concerned about the future of Texas increased from 31% in January of 2020 to 47% in January 2021. Overall, 87% are concerned about the future of Texas.



2

Prior to the pandemic, 50% of Texas voters rated the Texas state government's ability to solve problems and serve the needs of its residents as “good” or “excellent,” compared to 36% after the pandemic. The economy was cited as the reason voters rated state government positively.



3

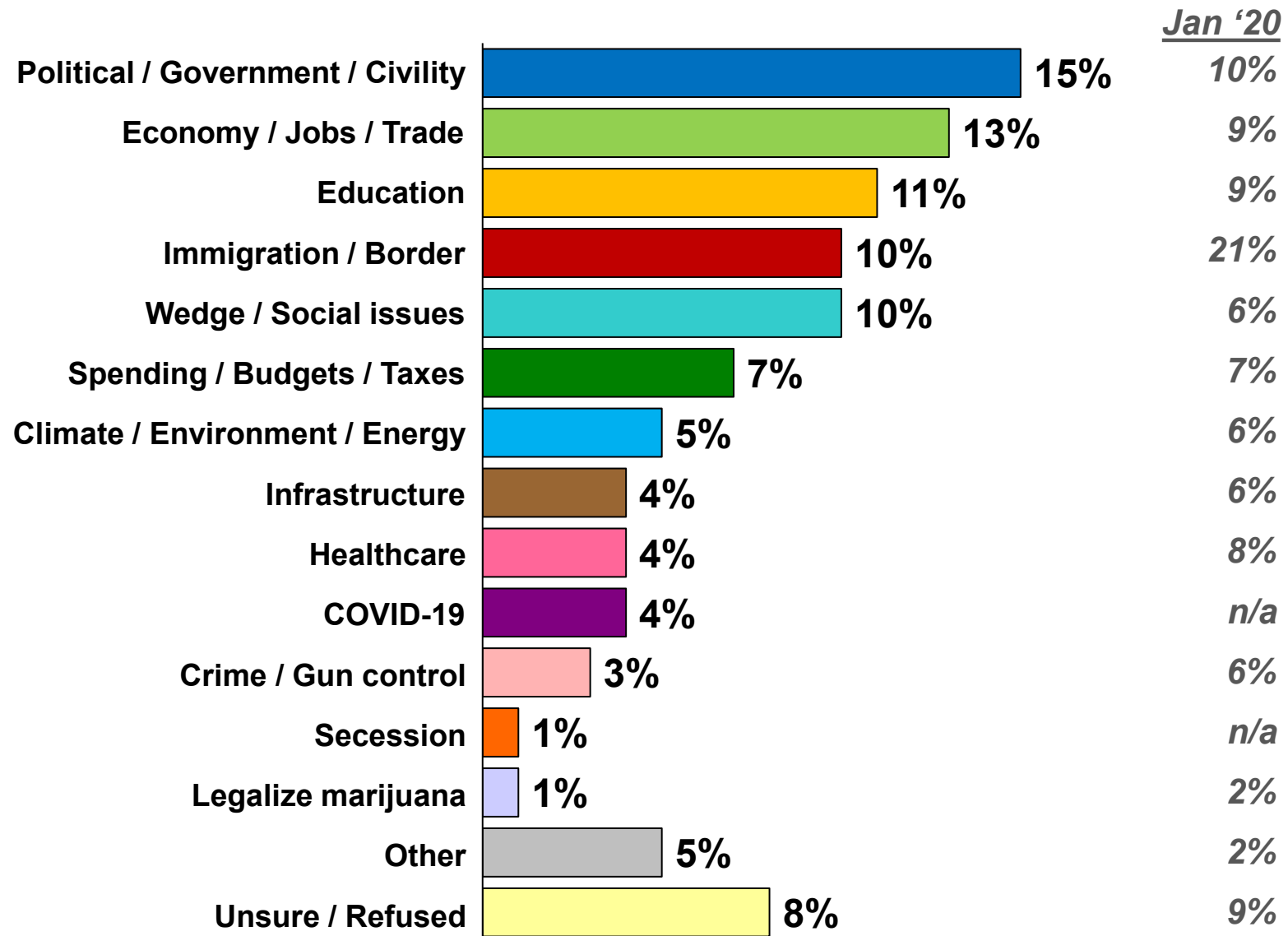
81% of Texas voters think the Texas State Legislature should act during the current legislative session to address any challenges or issues highlighted by the coronavirus pandemic.



4

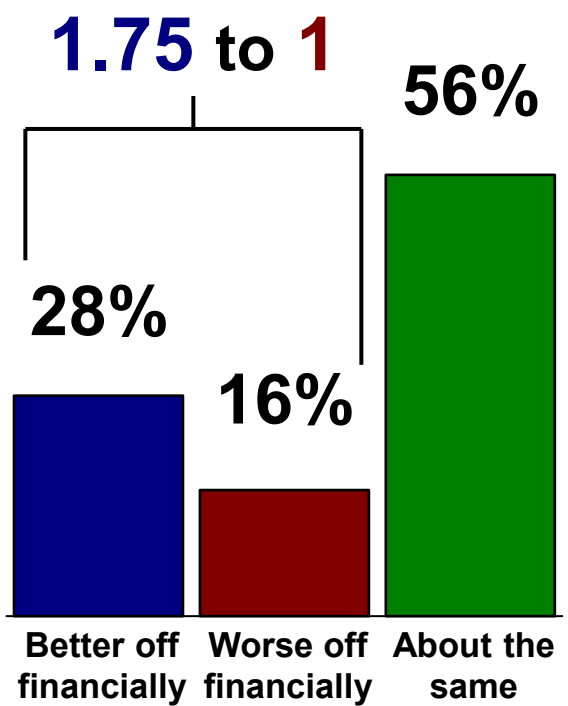
With 70-80% voter support, the survey showed widespread voter concern and support for state action to address Texas’ education, workforce and health challenges.

Q1. In your own words, please (tell me / indicate) the one issue Texas needs to address to be successful 15 years from now?

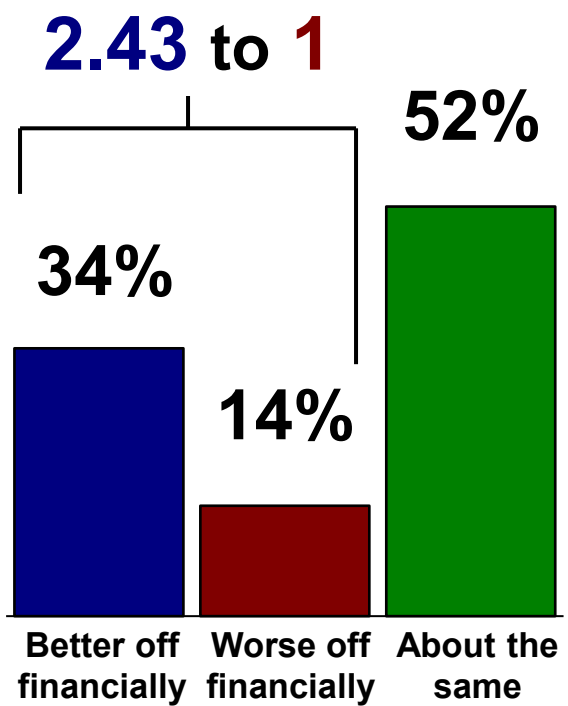


Q2. Compared to this time last year, would you say that you are:

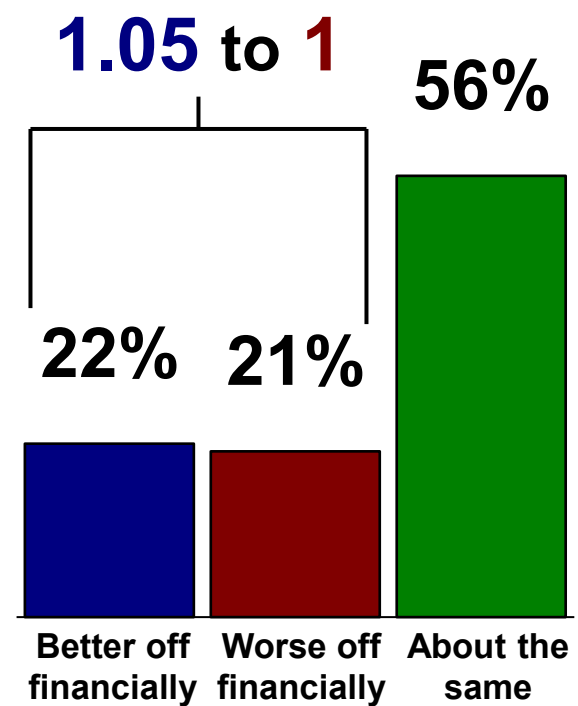
2015



2020



2021



Q3. Which best describes your level of concern regarding the future of Texas?

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

2020

79%

31%

48%

20%

19%

2%

11%



2021

87%

47%

40%

28%

11%

1%

19%



INITIAL POSITION

Q6. Do you think the Texas State Legislature should act during the current legislative session to address any challenges or issues highlighted by the coronavirus pandemic?

81%

23% Somewhat

58% Strongly

Yes

6%

Depends / Unsure

13%

7% Somewhat
6% Strongly

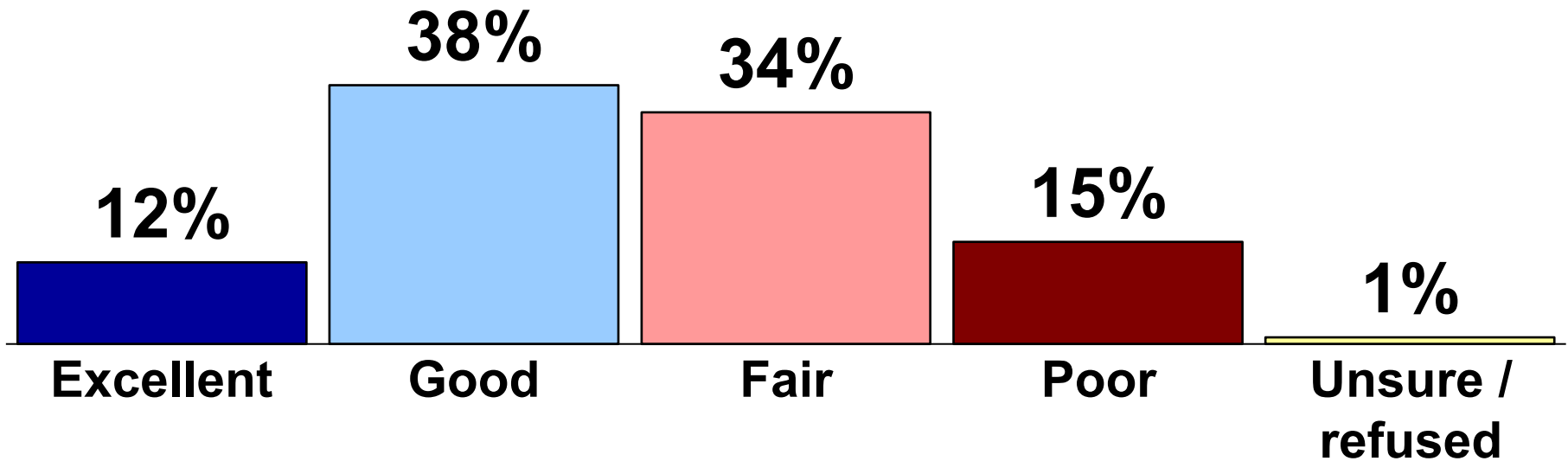
No

	Yes / Strongly
Total	58%
QBRRRRDMA - TEXAS MEDIA MARKETS	
Dallas-Ft. Worth	55%
Houston	58%
Austin/Waco/Bryan	66%
San Ant/South/EI Pas	60%
West Texas markets	41%
East Texas markets	60%
TXURBAN - TX URBAN/SUB vs RURAL COS	
Urban/suburban	60%
Rural	53%
URBANSEX - GENDER / URBAN-SUB vs RURAL	
Male / urban-suburb	57%
Male / rural	53%
Female / urban-suburb	63%
Female / rural	54%

	Yes / Strongly
Total	58%
RPARTYTS - PARTISAN VOTE	
Republican	44%
Independent	56%
Democratic	74%
URBANPRT - URBAN-SUB vs RURAL / PARTISAN VOTE	
Urb-Sub / GOP	44%
Urb-Sub / IND	54%
Urb-Sub / DEM	77%
Rural / GOP	43%
Rural / IND	59%
Rural / DEM	68%
RRACE - Race & Ethnicity	
Anglo	53%
African-American	76%
Hispanic	62%
Other	51%

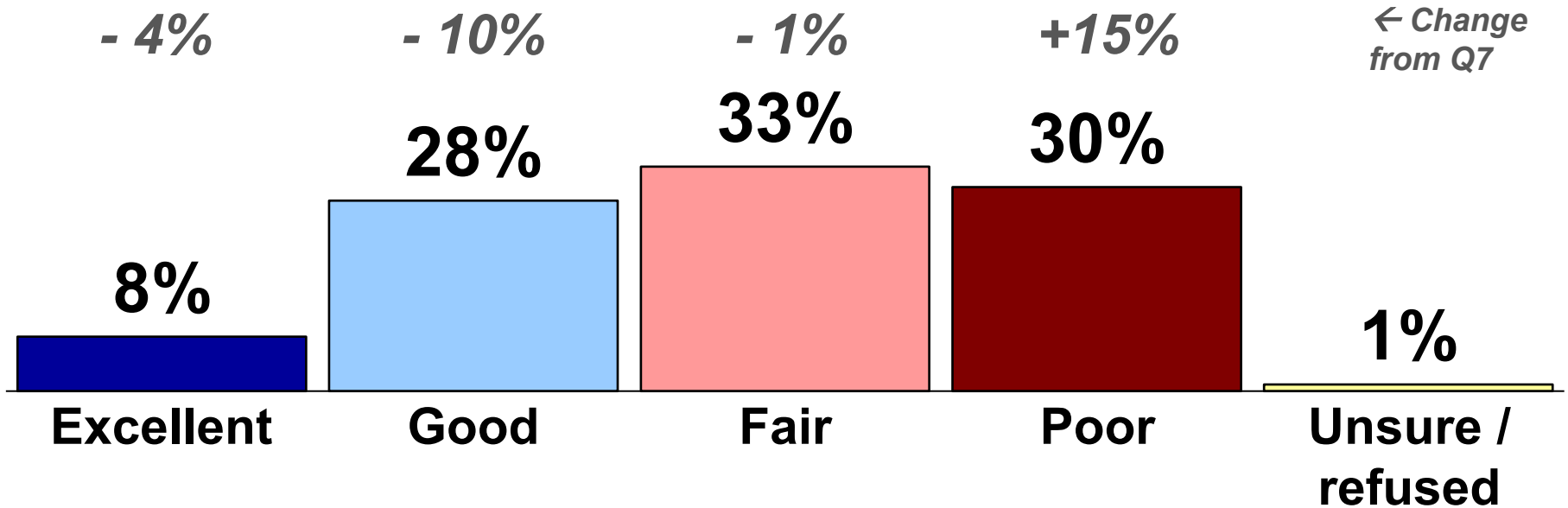
Q7. Before the coronavirus pandemic, would you have rated the Texas state government's ability to solve problems and serve the needs of its residents as...

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure / refused	EXCEL- LENT - POOR
Total	12%	38%	34%	15%	1%	-3%
RPARTYTS - PARTISAN VOTE						
Republican	19%	51%	24%	5%	0%	13%
Independent	11%	34%	35%	18%	1%	-7%
Democratic	4%	24%	46%	25%	1%	-21%
URBANPRT - URBAN-SUB vs RURAL / PARTISAN VOTE						
Urb-Sub / GOP	21%	50%	25%	4%	0%	18%
Urb-Sub / IND	7%	35%	38%	18%	2%	-11%
Urb-Sub / DEM	4%	22%	47%	26%	1%	-21%
Rural / GOP	16%	53%	23%	7%	0%	8%
Rural / IND	18%	33%	31%	18%	0%	-1%
Rural / DEM	4%	29%	42%	23%	1%	-20%



Q8. Since the coronavirus pandemic began, would you rate the Texas state government's ability to solve problems and serve the needs of its residents as...

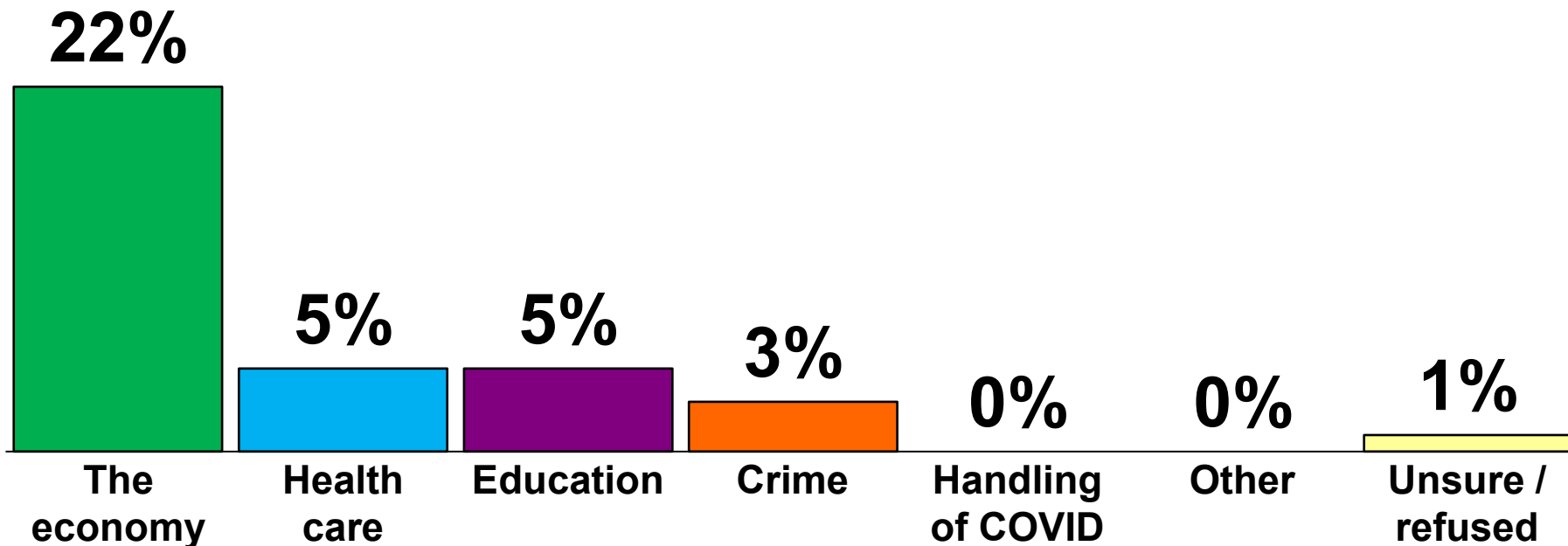
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure / refused	EXCEL- LENT - POOR
Total	8%	28%	33%	30%	1%	-22%
RPARTYTS - PARTISAN VOTE						
Republican	11%	41%	35%	12%	0%	0%
Independent	6%	27%	31%	34%	2%	-27%
Democratic	5%	14%	32%	48%	0%	-43%
URBANPRT - URBAN-SUB vs RURAL / PARTISAN VOTE						
Urb-Sub / GOP	14%	42%	32%	11%	0%	3%
Urb-Sub / IND	4%	25%	31%	36%	3%	-33%
Urb-Sub / DEM	5%	12%	33%	51%	0%	-46%
Rural / GOP	8%	41%	39%	12%	0%	-5%
Rural / IND	10%	29%	31%	30%	1%	-20%
Rural / DEM	7%	19%	31%	43%	0%	-37%



Q9. If good/excellent in question 8, ask: Which of the following issues leads you most to rate the Texas state government's ability to solve problems and serve the needs of its residents as (good/excellent)?

(64% Not asked)

	The economy	Health care	Education	Crime	Handling of COVID
Republican	34%	6%	6%	5%	0%
Independent	21%	2%	6%	2%	0%
Democratic	8%	5%	3%	2%	0%



K-12

Please tell me if each of the following makes you extremely concerned, very concerned, somewhat concerned or not concerned about the future of Texas.



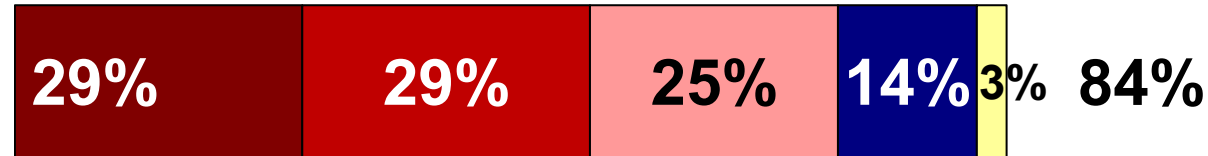
Q12. Even before the pandemic disrupted education, only three out of every ten Texas 4th graders could read at grade level.



Q14. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused massive learning loss, especially among low-income students.



Q13. Wide educational achievement gaps exist among Texas students by race, ethnicity, and income.



EDUCATION STATEMENTS & PROPOSALS

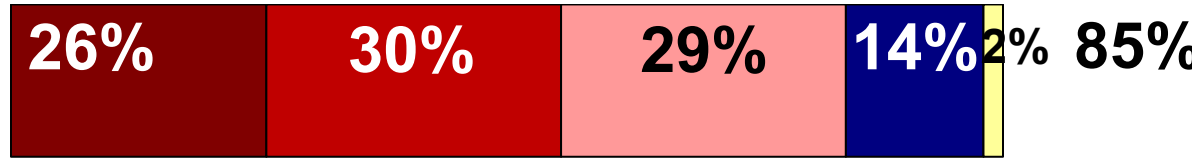
		Strongly Agree	Strongly Disagree	Total Agree	Total Disagree	Depends / Unsure	Net Agree
Q21	Many Texas students have had their education disrupted over the past year. So even during this pandemic, Texas must use all available tools, including standardized tests, to measure student performance and help address any possible learning loss.	35%	16%	68%	29%	3%	+39%
Q22	Because only 30% of Texas 4th grade students can read at grade level, kindergarten through 3rd grade teachers should attend reading academies, where they learn the latest and best teaching strategies.	45%	7%	79%	15%	6%	+65%
Q23	Other states have shown that high-quality tutoring can close COVID learning gaps. Texas should expand access to high-quality tutoring for students that need help.	56%	6%	84%	11%	4%	+73%
Q24	Because Texas 8th graders in rural districts only have half the access to Algebra I instruction that urban/suburban 8th graders have, Texas must make sure all middle school students have the opportunity to take the math courses needed to prepare for future jobs that require a stronger math background.	63%	3%	90%	7%	3%	+83%

Workforce

Please tell me if each of the following makes you extremely concerned, very concerned, somewhat concerned or not concerned about the future of Texas.



Q10. Texas is unprepared to meet the demands of tomorrow's jobs, as two out of every three Texans do not earn more than a high school degree.



WORKFORCE STATEMENTS & PROPOSALS

		Strongly Agree	Strongly Disagree	Total Agree	Total Disagree	Depends / Unsure	Net Agree
Q25	Texas students and colleges need access to the most up-to-date information on jobs and wages so students can make informed choices and colleges can help students get good jobs.	60%	3%	91%	6%	3%	+85%
Q27	Because a high school degree isn't enough to make a decent living, Texas needs to better orient its educational programs, degree plans and certifications toward jobs of the future.	54%	7%	84%	12%	4%	+73%
Q35	The state legislature should prioritize our limited resources on those college and workforce programs that are linked to good-paying jobs.	40%	8%	75%	17%	8%	+58%
Q36	If the state doesn't measure which education and workforce programs connect Texans with good jobs, then the state is failing to deliver value to taxpayers.	40%	6%	76%	18%	5%	+58%

Health

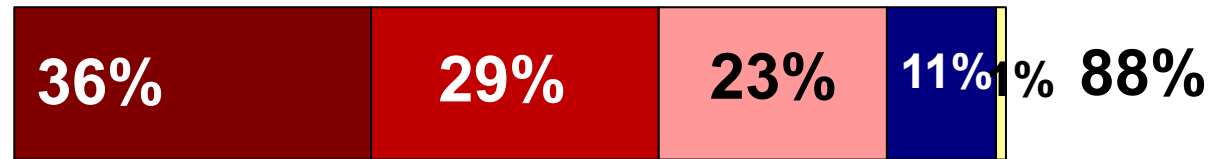
Please tell me if each of the following makes you extremely concerned, very concerned, somewhat concerned or not concerned about the future of Texas.



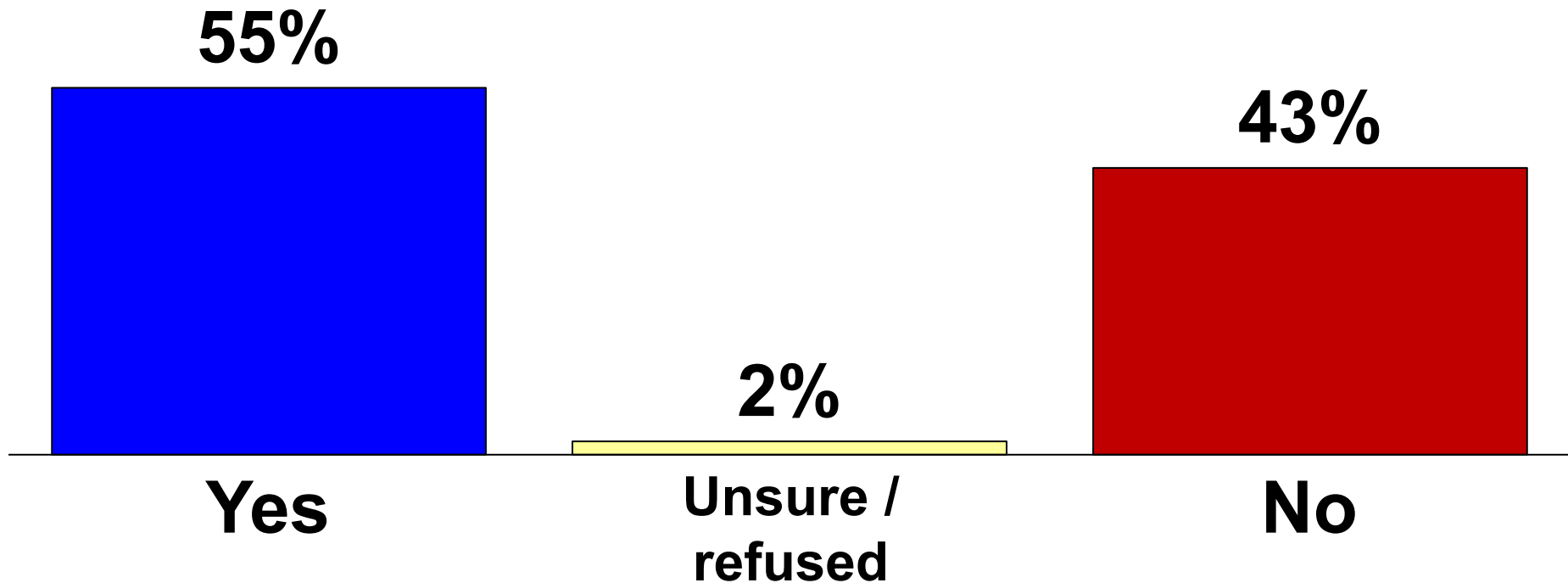
Q11. Health care costs are rising for individuals and families in Texas, while health outcomes are among the worst in the nation.



Q15. Nearly five million Texans have no health insurance.

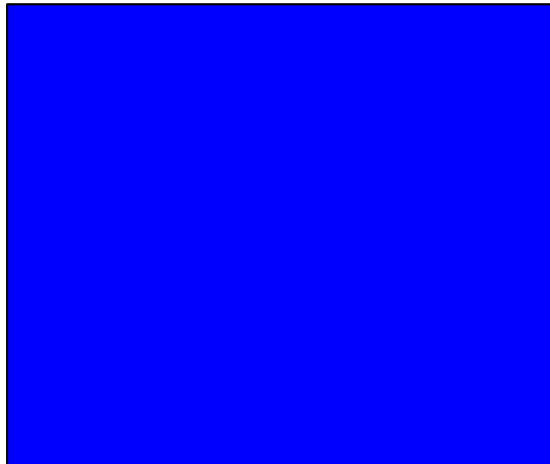


Q16. Have you ever received non-emergency medical care without knowing in advance how much it would cost you or have you ever been surprised by the cost of a medical bill?



Q16. (**Ver P:** Have you ever / **Ver Q:** In the last several years, have you) received non-emergency medical care without knowing in advance how much it would cost you or have you ever been surprised by the cost of a medical bill?

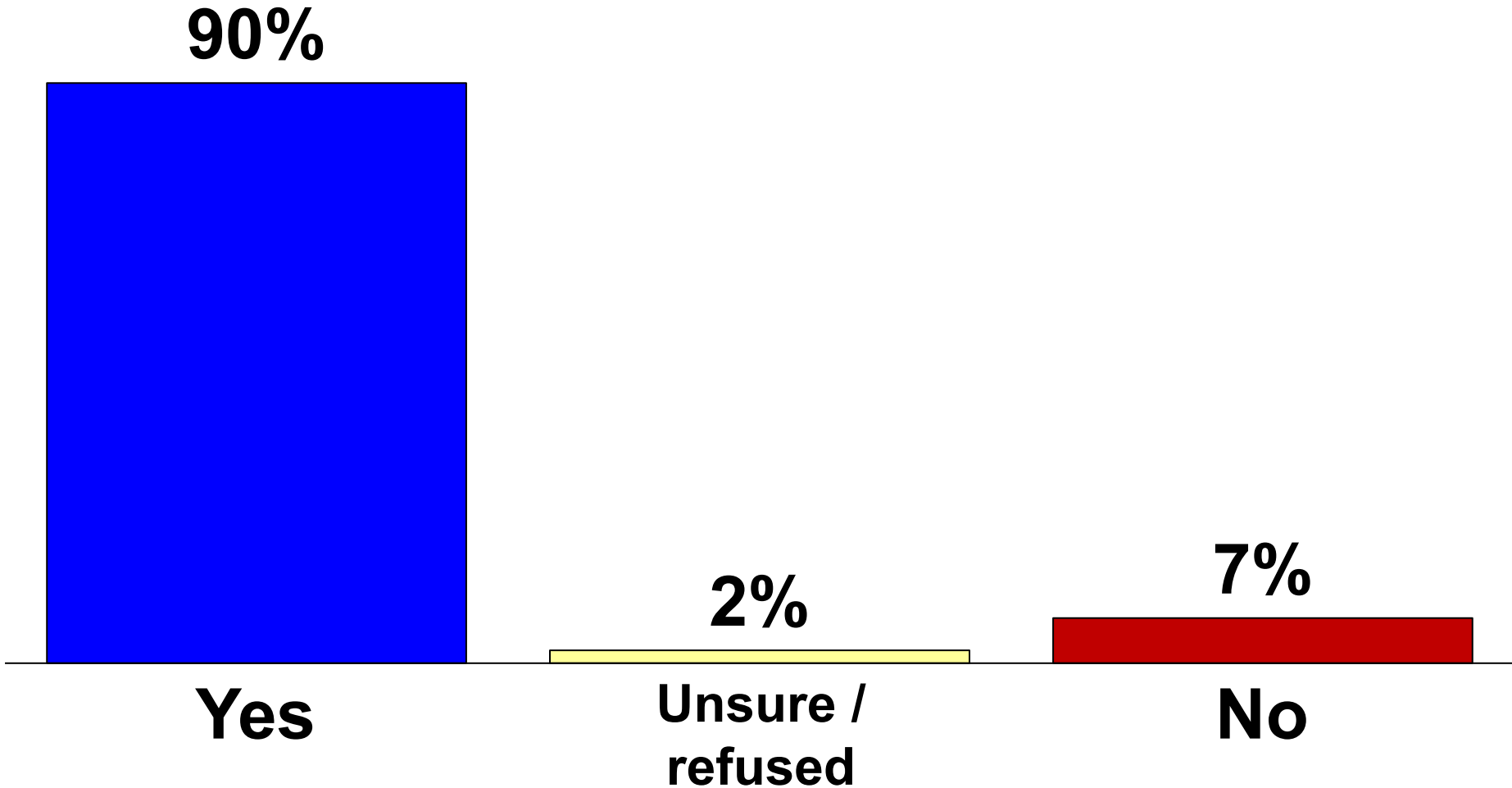
55%



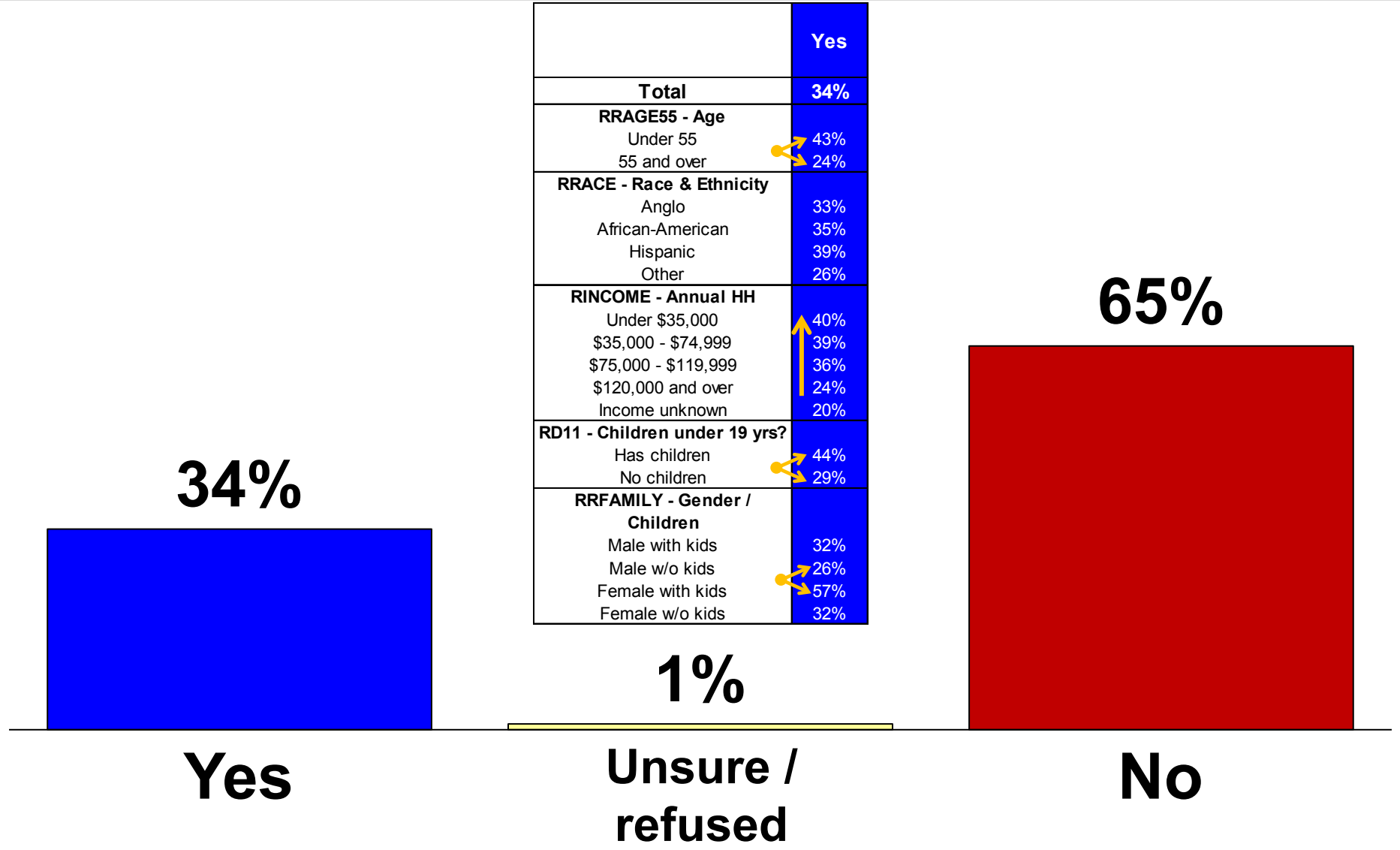
Yes

	Yes
Total	55%
RRAGE55 - Age	
Under 55	62%
55 and over	48%
RRACE - Race & Ethnicity	
Anglo	59%
African-American	52%
Hispanic	49%
Other	48%
RINCOME - Annual HH	
Under \$35,000	56%
\$35,000 - \$74,999	57%
\$75,000 - \$119,999	57%
\$120,000 and over	52%
Income unknown	48%
RD11 - Children under 19?	
Has children	67%
No children	50%
RRFAMILY - Gender / Children	
Male with kids	63%
Male w/o kids	48%
Female with kids	71%
Female w/o kids	51%

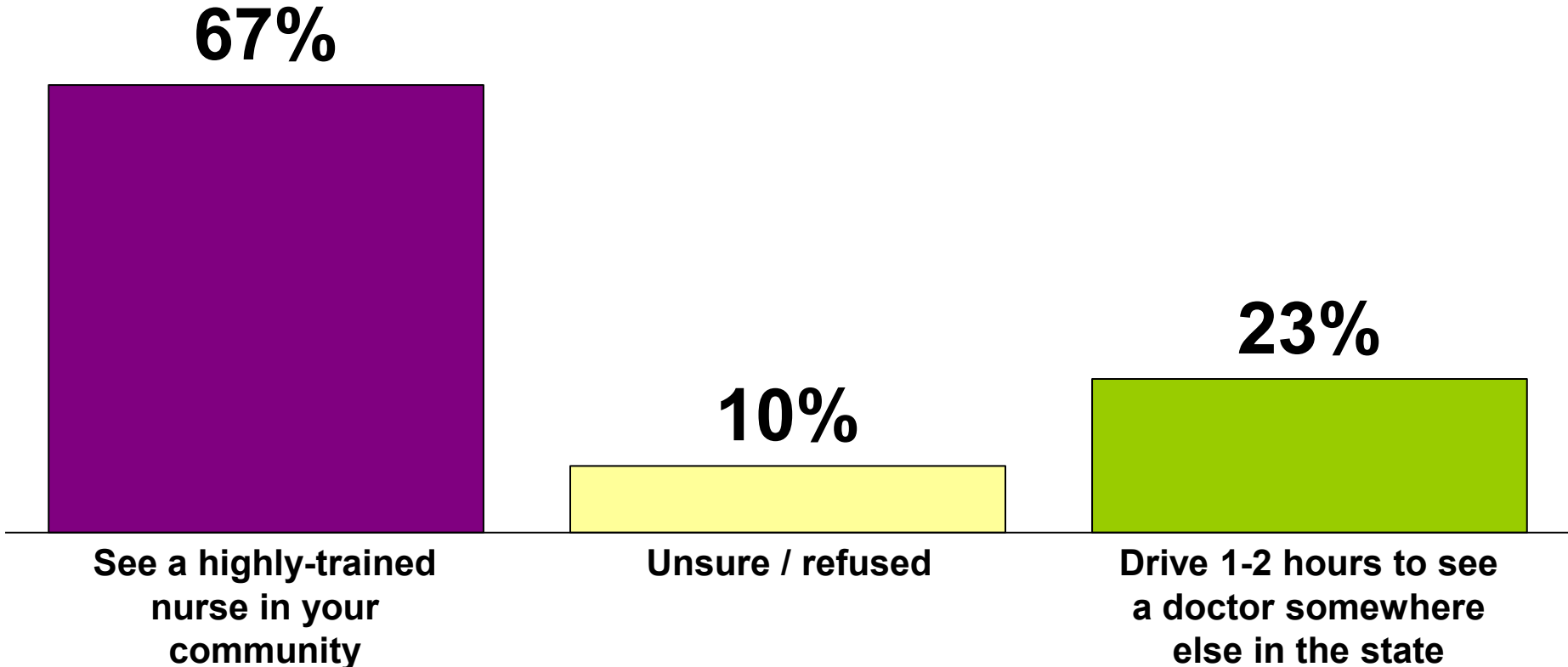
Q17. Before you receive health care services or medical treatment, do you think you should be informed about how much the medical service will cost?



Q18. 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?



Q19. If you needed routine medical assistance and no doctor was available in your community, would you prefer to...



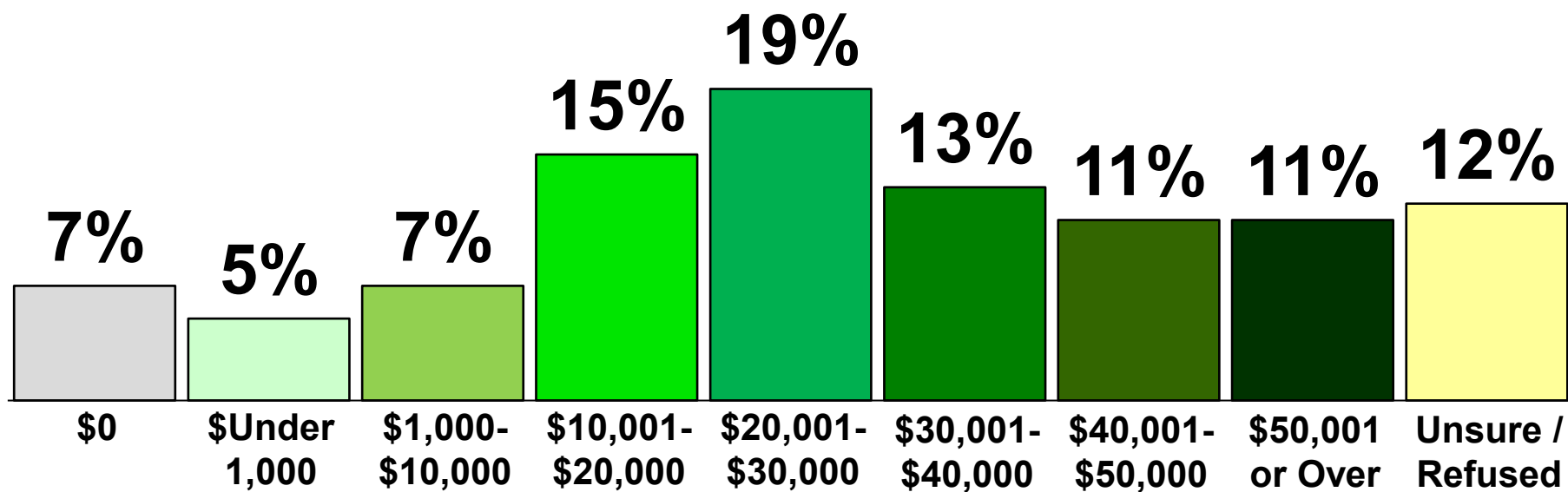
STATEMENTS & PROPOSALS

		Strongly Agree	Strongly Disagree	Total Agree	Total Disagree	Depends / Unsure	Net Agree
Q29	There is a shortage of health care providers in rural counties, so Texas needs to both modernize and increase primary and emergency care options in rural areas.	56%	2%	91%	6%	3%	+85%
Q30	If Texas, under an opt-in national program such as Medicaid, could provide health insurance coverage to a million more low-income Texans for just \$1 per person per year because the state will receive \$4 billion more per year from the federal government, then the state should participate in such a program.	48%	10%	73%	19%	8%	+54%
Q31	Currently, Texas tax dollars are being sent to DC and then used to help fund Medicaid in other states. Texas needs to make sure more of its tax dollars are used to fund health care insurance for low-income Texans.	63%	4%	86%	10%	4%	+75%

Q30TOT - If Texas, under an opt-in national program such as Medicaid, could provide health insurance coverage to a million more low-income Texans for just \$1 per person per year because the state will receive \$4 billion more per from the federal government, then the state should participate in such a program.

Base		TOTAL AGREE	TOTAL DISAGREE	DEPENDS / UNSURE	NET AGREE
1021	Total	73%	19%	8%	54%
	RPARTYTS - PARTISAN VOTE				
431	Republican	58%	31%	11%	27%
215	Independent	71%	19%	10%	52%
375	Democratic	92%	4%	3%	88%
	RRACEPRT - RACE /				
315	Anglo Republican	58%	30%	12%	27%
121	Anglo Independent	71%	22%	7%	49%
142	Anglo Democrat	93%	4%	4%	89%
210	Non-Anglo Repub-IND	64%	25%	11%	38%
233	Non-Anglo Democrat	92%	5%	3%	87%

Q20. Medicaid provides government health insurance to Americans with limited financial resources, but states differ on income eligibility requirements. What is the most income a single adult with no children should be able earn per year, and be eligible for Medicaid or free government health insurance?



Q20. Medicaid provides government health insurance to Americans with limited financial resources, but states differ on income eligibility requirements. What is the most income a single adult with no children should be able earn per year, and be eligible for Medicaid or free government health insurance?

Base	This table uses different dollars breaks and shows Federal Poverty Level %s	14% / Up to \$1,786	100% / \$1,787 - \$12,760	138% / \$12,761 - \$17,609	200% / \$17,610 - \$25,520	250% / \$25,521 - \$31,900	300% / \$31,901 - \$38,280	400% / \$38,281 - \$51,041	More than \$51,041	Unsure / Refused
1021	Total	13%	8%	4%	18%	11%	4%	20%	11%	12%
	RAGE35 - Age									
191	18-34	16%	7%	2%	14%	10%	4%	26%	13%	7%
162	35-44	14%	9%	3%	18%	12%	2%	23%	10%	9%
186	45-54	10%	7%	6%	14%	13%	5%	19%	15%	11%
214	55-64	12%	7%	4%	21%	13%	3%	22%	8%	10%
266	65 or older	14%	9%	4%	20%	7%	4%	12%	9%	20%
	QBRRRRDMA - TEXAS MEDIA MARKETS									
306	Dallas-Ft. Worth	12%	9%	3%	17%	10%	4%	23%	10%	11%
253	Houston	14%	7%	5%	15%	10%	2%	23%	10%	13%
139	Austin/Waco/Bryan	12%	7%	5%	16%	10%	4%	24%	12%	10%
196	San Ant/South/EI Pas	12%	8%	4%	21%	10%	4%	14%	11%	16%
69	West Texas markets	18%	3%	3%	19%	11%	5%	14%	12%	14%
58	East Texas markets	13%	16%	1%	25%	11%	5%	9%	12%	8%
	TXURBAN - TX URBAN/SUB vs RURAL COS									
627	Urban/suburban	13%	7%	4%	17%	11%	3%	23%	10%	11%
394	Rural	14%	9%	4%	20%	9%	4%	15%	11%	14%
	RPARTYTS - PARTISAN VOTE									
431	Republican	11%	7%	5%	21%	11%	4%	18%	7%	14%
215	Independent	12%	11%	7%	17%	8%	3%	18%	11%	13%
375	Democratic	16%	7%	1%	14%	11%	4%	23%	15%	10%
	RRACE - Race & Ethnicity									
578	Anglo	10%	7%	5%	20%	12%	5%	19%	9%	13%
126	African-American	20%	11%	1%	13%	11%	2%	18%	15%	8%
226	Hispanic	14%	7%	4%	17%	9%	3%	24%	11%	11%
91	Other	19%	11%	3%	11%	3%	2%	21%	16%	14%
	RINCOME - Annual HH Income									
202	Under \$35,000	13%	14%	6%	21%	8%	4%	14%	8%	12%
290	\$35,000 - \$74,999	11%	8%	2%	20%	13%	4%	22%	8%	12%
198	\$75,000 - \$119,999	13%	5%	3%	15%	15%	5%	18%	14%	11%
265	\$120,000 and over	15%	5%	6%	14%	8%	3%	25%	15%	9%
66	Income unknown	16%	5%	5%	17%	2%	2%	15%	6%	32%

Governance

STATEMENTS & PROPOSALS

		Strongly Agree	Strongly Disagree	Total Agree	Total Disagree	Depends / Unsure	Net Agree
Q32	Texas should create market reforms and financial incentives to bring broadband to low-income and rural areas.	48%	5%	83%	11%	6%	+72%
Q33	State and local governments need better technology to avoid wasting taxpayer resources and better serve our growing population.	51%	3%	86%	8%	5%	+78%
Q34	Texas must address the state's growing pension liability so that state employees receive the retirement funds they were promised, but younger workers have more options, including a 401(k).	44%	5%	81%	12%	7%	+69%
Q37	Some of Texas' funding for public schools is at risk in the future because of ups and downs in the oil and gas industry. To protect education funding, Texas should reform its education investment funds by streamlining management to reduce costs and investment risk.	42%	5%	78%	12%	10%	+66%

KEY FINDINGS



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The percentage of voters who are extremely or very concerned about the future of Texas increased from 31% in January of 2020 to 47% in January 2021. Overall, 87% are concerned about the future of Texas.



2

Prior to the pandemic, 50% of Texas voters rated the Texas state government's ability to solve problems and serve the needs of its residents as “good” or “excellent,” compared to 36% after the pandemic. The economy was cited as the reason voters rated state government positively.



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81% of Texas voters think the Texas State Legislature should act during the current legislative session to address any challenges or issues highlighted by the coronavirus pandemic.



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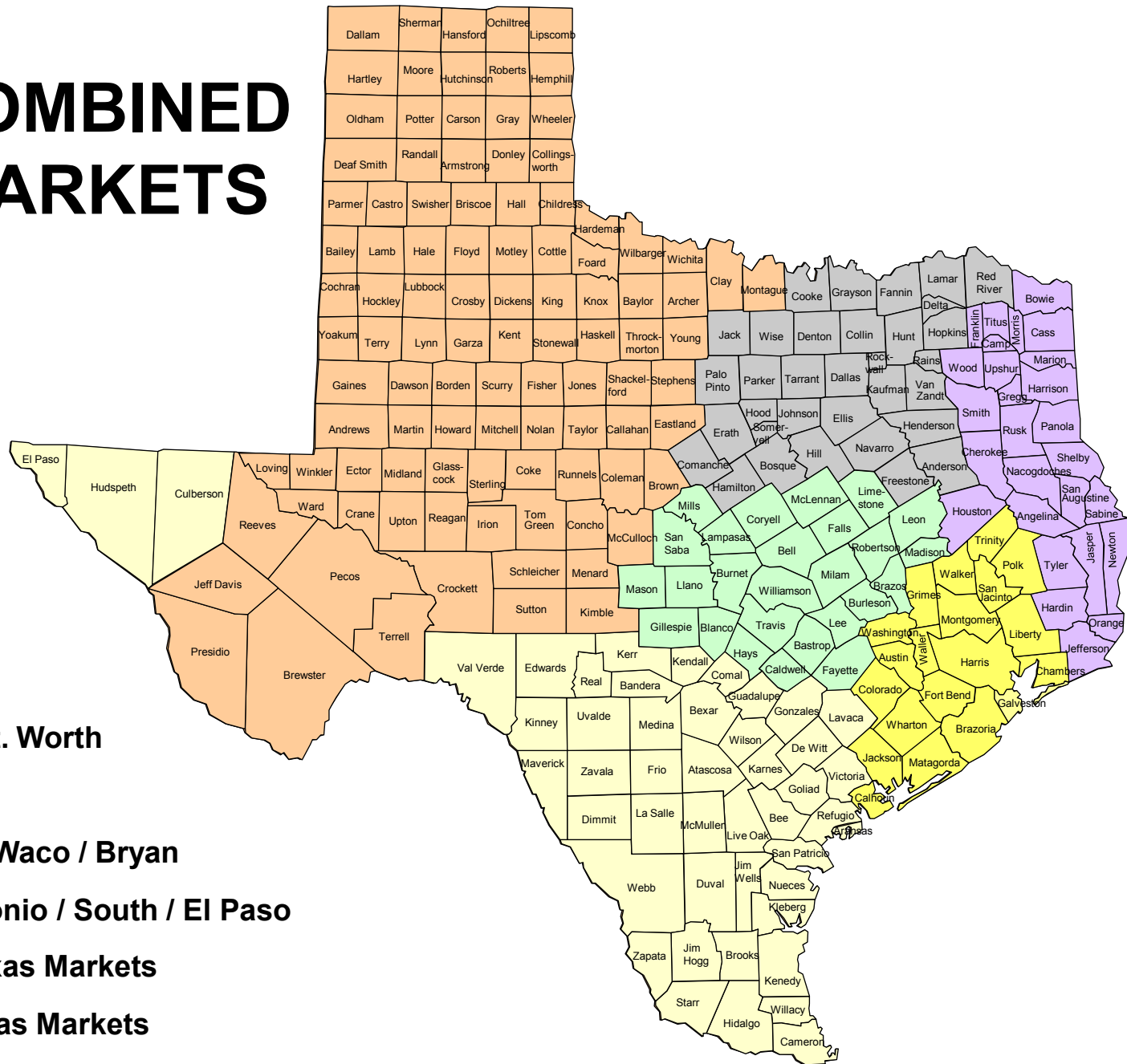
With 70-80% voter support, the survey showed widespread voter concern and support for state action to address Texas’ education, workforce and health challenges.

Appendix

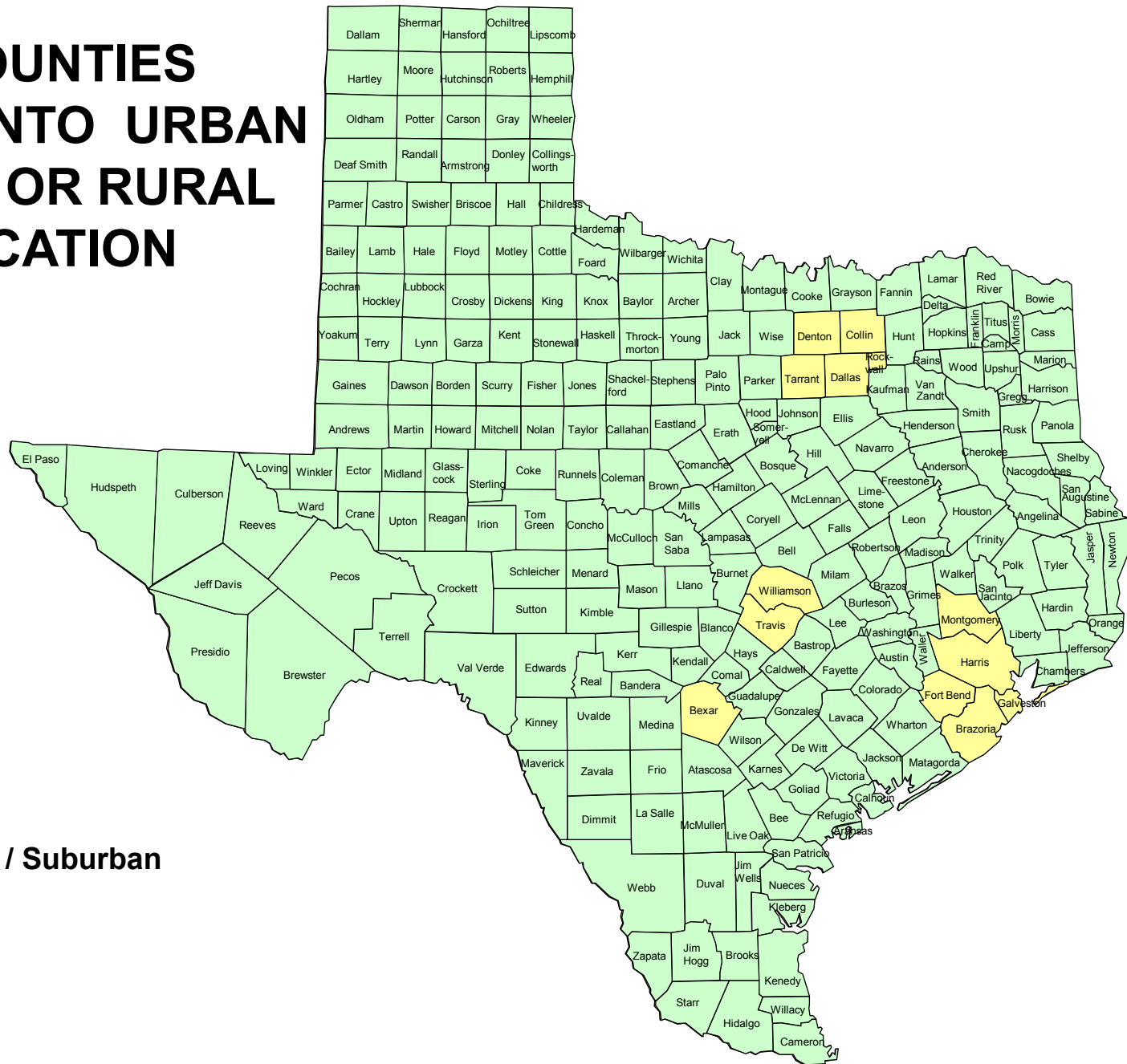
TEXAS COMBINED MEDIA MARKETS

Percent of Interviews

- 30% Dallas-Ft. Worth
- 25% Houston
- 14% Austin / Waco / Bryan
- 19% San Antonio / South / El Paso
- 7% West Texas Markets
- 6% East Texas Markets



TEXAS COUNTIES SEGMENTED INTO URBAN / SUBURBAN OR RURAL CLASSIFICATION



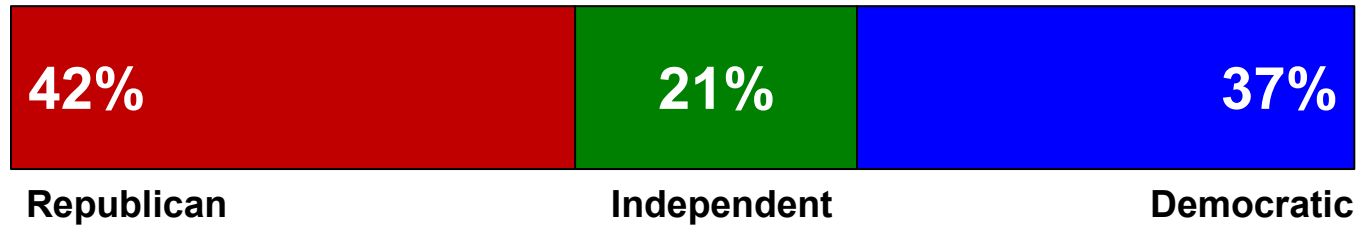
Percent of Interviews

39% Rural

61% Urban / Suburban

DEMOGRAPHICS

Partisan Vote Behavior (RPARTYTS)



Race



Age

