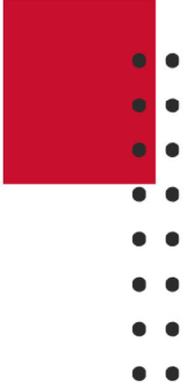


City of Houston 2025: Issues, Performance & Quality of Life





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Issues, Performance & Quality of Life**
April 2025

The Hobby School of Public Affairs at the University of Houston conducted a survey of City of Houston registered voters to assess their preferences and opinions about a wide range of salient local issues. The survey was fielded between March 29 and April 4, 2025 by contacting City of Houston registered voters via SMS text messages through which they were directed to an online survey platform with the option to answer the survey in English or Spanish. Representative of the City of Houston population of registered voters, the analysis population of 1,400 has a margin of error of +/- 2.62%.

The overall study includes three reports. This first report examines the opinions of registered voters in Houston (also referred to as Houstonians throughout the report) on where the city is headed, the job performance of the mayor and the quality of life in the city, as well as Houstonians' satisfaction with city services, what they believe the most important problems facing Houston are, and the impact of a variety of factors on the quality of life in their neighborhood. A second brief report will provide evaluations of six actual and potential Texas Congressional District 18 special election candidates by Houstonians residing in the district. A third report will gauge the extent to which Houstonians visit area parks, museums, attractions and sporting events as well as explore their opinions about the potential of a major theme park being built in Houston and of Houston getting a Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) team and a National Hockey League (NHL) team.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

41% of Houstonians think things in the City of Houston are headed in the right direction, while 59% think they are headed in the wrong direction.

26% of Houstonians think things in the United States are headed in the right direction, while 74% think they are headed in the wrong direction.

59% of Houstonians approve of the job that John Whitmire is doing as Mayor of the City of Houston, while 41% disapprove.

55% of Houstonians approve of the job that Lina Hidalgo is doing as Harris County Judge, while 45% disapprove.

58% of Houstonians rate the quality of life in Houston as excellent (2%), very good (14%) or good (42%).

42% of Houstonians rate the quality of life in Houston as very poor (3%), poor (10%), or fair (29%).

41% of Houstonians believe the quality of life in the City of Houston has gotten worse over the past year, while 12% believe it has gotten better and 47% believe it has stayed the same.

47% of Houstonians are satisfied with the overall job the City of Houston is doing in providing public services, while 53% are dissatisfied.

81% of Houstonians are satisfied with the job the City of Houston is doing in providing fire and EMS service, while 19% are dissatisfied.

49% of Houstonians are satisfied with the job the City of Houston is doing in providing police protection, while 51% are dissatisfied.

49% of Houstonians are satisfied with the job the City of Houston is doing in providing trash and recycling collection, while 51% are dissatisfied.

28% of Houstonians are satisfied with the job the City of Houston is doing in providing public works related services (streets, water, drainage), while 72% are dissatisfied.

49% of Houstonians believe that roads and streets in bad condition is one of the top three problems facing the City of Houston today.

41% of Houstonians believe that crime is one of the top three problems facing the City of Houston today.

37% of Houstonians believe that traffic congestion is one of the top three problems facing the City of Houston today.

31% of Houstonians believe that the high cost of housing is one of the top three problems facing the City of Houston today.

52% of Houstonians say that streets in bad condition have a major negative impact on the quality of life in their neighborhood.

39% of Houstonians say that home and car break-ins have a major negative impact on the quality of life in their neighborhood.

38% of Houstonians say that the homeless population has a major negative impact on the quality of life in their neighborhood, including 46% of Black and 45% of Latino Houstonians but only 28% of White Houstonians.

37% of Houstonians say that violent crime has a major negative impact on the quality of life in their neighborhood, including 52% of Black and 39% of Latino Houstonians, but only 27% of White Houstonians.

34% of Houstonians say that abandoned or poorly maintained buildings and lots have a major negative impact on the quality of life in their neighborhood, including 47% of Black and 39% of Latino Houstonians, but only 24% of White Houstonians.

39% of Houstonians would vote for and 38% would vote against a proposition which would allow the City of Houston to exceed its revenue cap annually by \$30-40 million dollars to pay for public safety, while 23% were unsure or would not vote in the election.

59% of Houstonians support and 41% oppose the passage of an ordinance to make it illegal to sleep outside in the City of Houston as part of the city's plan to end homelessness.

77% of Houstonians support and 23% oppose doubling the City of Houston's budget allocation for its animal shelter (BARC) from \$16 million to \$32 million dollars.

SURVEY POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS

White Houstonians account for 40% of this survey population, Latino Houstonians for 29%, Black Houstonians for 22%, Asian American Houstonians for 6% and others for 3%. Women represent 52% of this population, men 47% and those with another gender identity 1%. One-fourth (25%) of the population is between the ages of 18 and 34, 35% between the ages of 35 and 54, and 40% are age 55 and older. Nearly two-fifths of the respondents (39%) have a four-year college degree while 61% do not. Democrats account for 54% of this population, Republicans for 31% and Independents for 9%, with 6% either unsure of their partisan identification or identifying with another party or group.

HOW THINGS ARE GOING IN HOUSTON, HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS & THE UNITED STATES

In the survey, the Houston registered voters were asked whether they thought things in the United States, Texas, Harris County, and Houston were going in the right direction or in the wrong direction. As shown in Figure 1, a little more than two-fifths of Houstonians think that things in the City of Houston (41%) and Harris County (43%) are going in the right direction, while 59% and 57% think that things are going in the wrong direction in the City of Houston and Harris County, respectively. A little more than one-fourth of Houstonians think that things in Texas (29%) and the United States (26%) are going in the right direction, compared to 71% and 74% who think that things are going in the wrong direction, respectively.

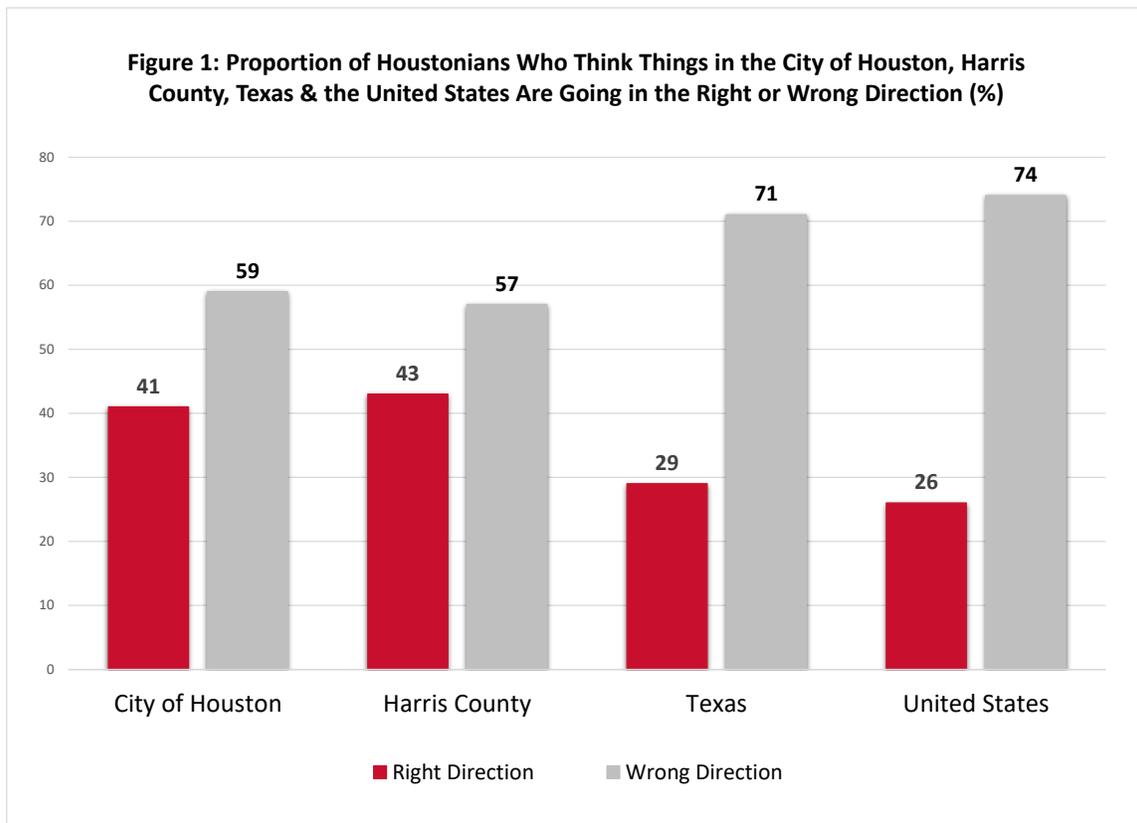


Table 1 provides the proportion of Houstonians who think that things in the City of Houston are headed in the right and wrong directions, broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, age, education, and partisanship.

Table 1. The Direction Houstonians Think Things in Houston Are Headed by Sub-Group (%)

Socio-Demographic	Sub-Group	Right Direction	Wrong Direction
Overall		41	59
Gender	Women	41	59
	Men	41	59
Ethnicity/Race	White	46	54
	Latino	39	61
	Black	40	60
Age	18 to 34	33	67
	35 to 54	37	63
	55+	51	49
Education	College Degree	43	57
	No College Degree	40	60
Partisanship	Democratic	45	55
	Independent	39	61
	Republican	39	61

There are not any noteworthy socio-demographic sub-group differences in the proportion of respondents who believe things in Houston are headed in either the right or wrong direction, with one exception. The oldest Houstonians age 55 and older (51%) are significantly more likely than those ages 35 to 54 (37%) and 18 to 34 (33%) to believe things are headed in the right direction, and significantly less likely to believe that things are headed in the wrong direction (49% vs. 63% and 67%, respectively).

APPROVAL AND DISSAPPROVAL OF THE JOB MAYOR WHITMIRE & JUDGE HIDALGO ARE DOING

Houstonians were asked if they approved or disapproved of the job John Whitmire is doing as the Mayor of the City of Houston and of the job Lina Hidalgo is doing as Harris County Judge. Figure 2 reveals that 59% of City of Houston registered voters approve of the job Mayor Whitmire is doing, while 41% disapprove, and 55% approve of the job Judge Hidalgo is doing, while 45% disapprove (the 7% and 8% who respectively answered don't know are excluded).

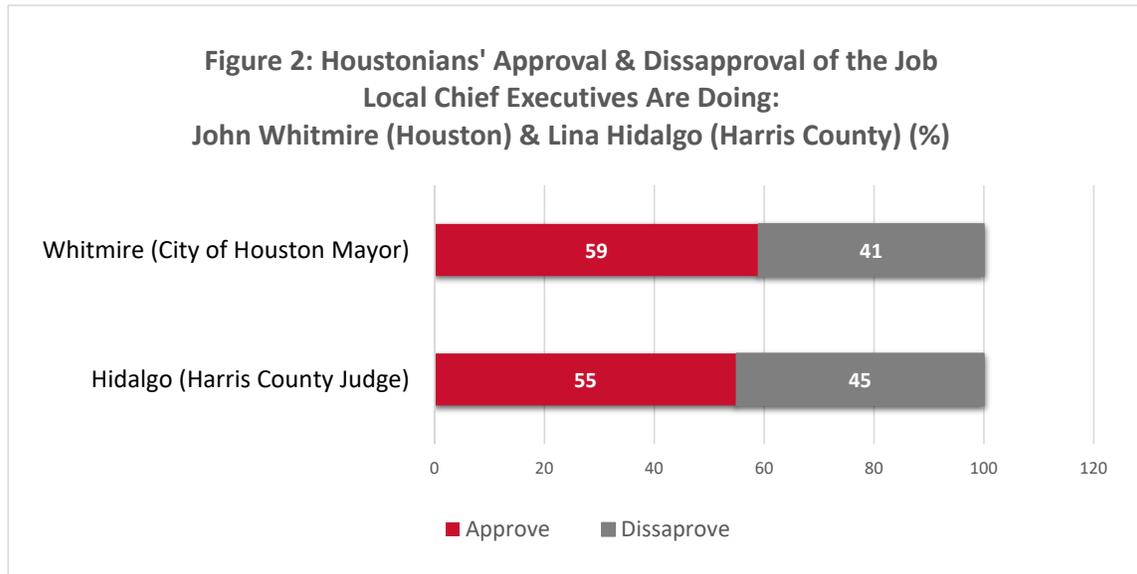


Table 2 provides the proportion of Houstonians who approve of the job that Whitmire is doing as mayor and that Hidalgo is doing as county judge, broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, age, education, and partisanship.

Table 2: Proportion of Houstonians Who Approve of the Job the Chief Executive is Doing by Sub-Group (%)

Socio-Demographic	Sub-Group	Mayor Whitmire	Judge Hidalgo
Overall		59	55
Gender	Women	60	61
	Men	58	47
Ethnicity/Race	White	70	42
	Latino	56	56
	Black	51	74
Age	18 to 34	43	52
	35 to 54	54	51
	55+	73	59
Education	College Degree	57	60
	No College Degree	60	51
Partisanship	Democratic	56	80
	Independent	61	39
	Republican	71	13

While there are no noteworthy gender differences in Whitmire’s approval, women (61%) are significantly more likely than men (47%) to approve of the job Hidalgo is doing.

While an absolute majority of all ethnic/racial groups approve of the job Whitmire is doing, White Houstonians (70%) are significantly more likely than Latino (56%) and Black (51%) Houstonians to approve of the job he is doing as Mayor of the City of Houston. Black (75%) Houstonians are significantly more likely than both Latino (56%) and White (42%) Houstonians to approve of the job Hidalgo is doing as Harris County Judge, with Latino Houstonians also significantly more likely than White Houstonians to approve of Judge Hidalgo’s job performance.

Although there are not any noteworthy age-related differences in Hidalgo’s approval, the oldest Houstonians ages 55 and older (73%) are significantly more likely than the younger Houstonians ages 35 to 54 (54%) and 18 to 34 (43%) to approve of the job Whitmire is doing.

Whitmire’s job performance is approved of by an absolute majority of Republicans (71%), Independents (61%) and Democrats (56%), although Republicans are significantly more likely to approve than are Democrats. In sharp contrast, more than six times as many Democrats (80%) as Republicans (13%) approve of the job Hidalgo is doing, with Independents in between at 39%.

OVERALL QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE CITY OF HOUSTON

The respondents were asked to rate the overall quality of life in the City of Houston, with the following response options: excellent, very good, good, fair, poor, and very poor. Figure 3 highlights that very few Houstonians rate the quality of life in Houston as either excellent (2%) or very poor (3%), and that around one in ten each rate it as very good (14%) or poor (10%). More than two-thirds of Houstonians rate the quality of life in Houston as either good (42%) or fair (29%).

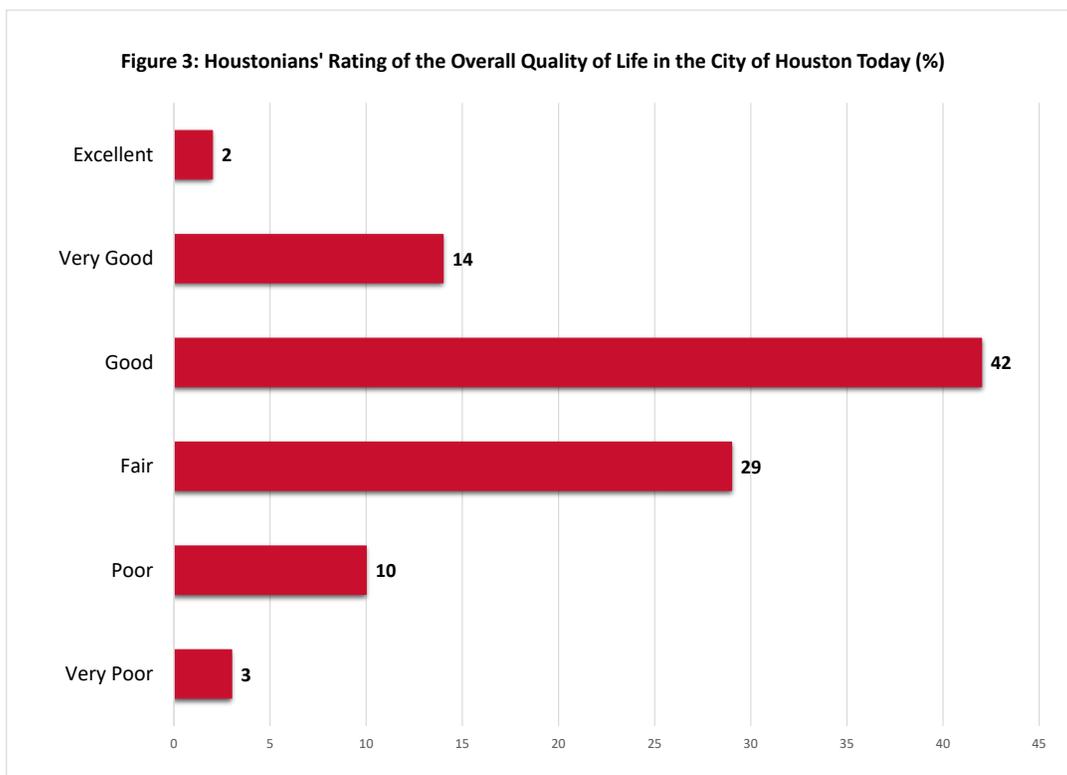


Table 3 provides the proportion of Houstonians who rate the overall quality of life in the City of Houston as excellent, very good or good (58%) and as fair, poor or very poor (42%), broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, age, education, and partisanship.

Table 3. Evaluation of the Overall Quality of Life in Houston by Sub-Group (%)

Socio-Demographic	Sub-Group	Excellent/Very Good/Good	Fair/Poor/Very Poor
Overall		58	42
Gender	Women	54	46
	Men	63	37
Ethnicity/Race	White	67	33
	Latino	47	53
	Black	56	44
Age	18 to 34	52	48
	35 to 54	57	43
	55+	62	38
Education	College Degree	68	32
	No College Degree	52	48
Partisanship	Democratic	62	38
	Independent	51	49
	Republican	55	45

There are not any noteworthy rating differences based on either age or partisanship, but there are several salient differences revolving around gender, ethnicity/race, and education.

Men are significantly more likely than women (63% vs. 54%) to consider the quality of life in the City of Houston to be excellent, very good or good. Conversely, women are significantly more likely than men (46% vs. 37%) to rate the quality of life in the city as fair, poor or very poor.

White Houstonians (67%) are significantly more likely than Latino Houstonians (47%) to rate the quality of life in Houston as excellent, very good or good. Conversely, Latino Houstonians (53%) are significantly more likely than White Houstonians (33%) to rate the quality of life in the city as fair, poor or very poor.

Houstonians with a college degree are significantly more likely than Houstonians who do not have a college degree to rate the overall quality of life in Houston as excellent, very good or good (68% vs. 52%), and significantly less likely to rate it as fair, poor or very poor (32% vs. 48%).

The respondents also were asked if they thought that over the past year the quality of life in Houston had gotten better, gotten worse or stayed the same. Figure 4 shows that far more Houstonians believe life over the past year in the Bayou City has gotten worse (41%) than better (12%), with nearly half (47%) of the opinion that the quality of the life now is the same as it was a year ago.

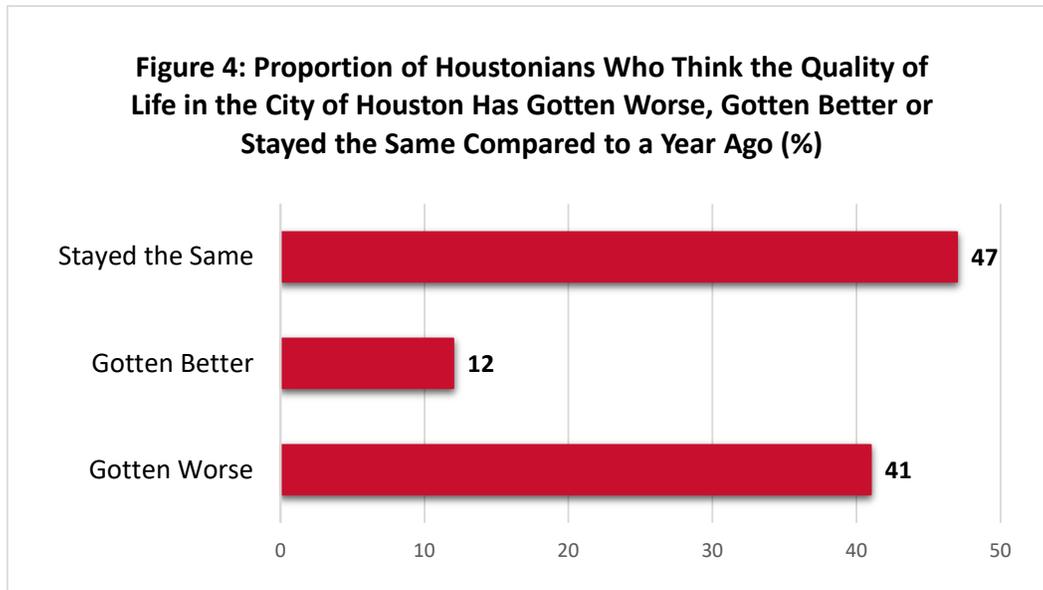


Table 4 provides the proportion of Houstonians who believe that over the past year the quality of life in Houston has gotten better, gotten worse, and has stayed the same, broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, age, education, and partisanship.

Table 4. Change in the Quality of Life in Houston Over the Past Year by Sub-Group (%)

Socio-Demographic	Sub-Group	Gotten Better	Stayed the Same	Gotten Worse
Overall		12	47	41
Gender	Women	8	43	49
	Men	16	52	32
Ethnicity/Race	White	14	53	33
	Latino	13	40	47
	Black	6	48	46
Age	18 to 34	8	51	41
	35 to 54	11	39	50
	55+	15	36	49
Education	College Degree	12	49	39
	No College Degree	12	46	42
Partisanship	Democratic	6	51	43
	Independent	15	46	39
	Republican	24	43	33

The most noteworthy socio-demographic sub-group differences in the evaluation of the evolution of the quality of life in Houston over the past year are related to gender, ethnicity/race, and age. Women (49%) are significantly more likely than men (32%) to believe that over the past year the quality of life in the City of Houston has gotten worse. Similarly, Latino (47%) and Black (46%) Houstonians are significantly more likely than White Houstonians (33%) to think that the quality of life in Houston has gotten worse over the past year. Finally, Houstonians ages 18 to 34 (51%) are significantly more likely than their elders to believe that over the past year the quality of life in Houston has remained the same.

SATISFACTION & DISSATISFACTION WITH CITY OF HOUSTON PUBLIC SERVICES

Houstonians were asked whether they were satisfied or dissatisfied with the job the City of Houston is doing today providing city services overall, and city services in the specific areas of fire and EMS service, police protection, public works (streets, water, drainage), and trash and recycling collection. Figure 5 reveals a wide degree of variance among Houstonians in regard to their satisfaction with city services. While more than four-fifths (81%) of Houstonians are satisfied with the city’s provision of fire and EMS services, only a little more than one-fourth (28%) are satisfied with public works related services (streets, water, drainage). In between are the services of police protection and trash and recycling collection, where Houstonians are split down the middle between those who are satisfied (49% each) and those who are dissatisfied (51% each). Overall, 47% of Houstonians are satisfied with the general job the City of Houston is doing providing public services, while 53% are dissatisfied.

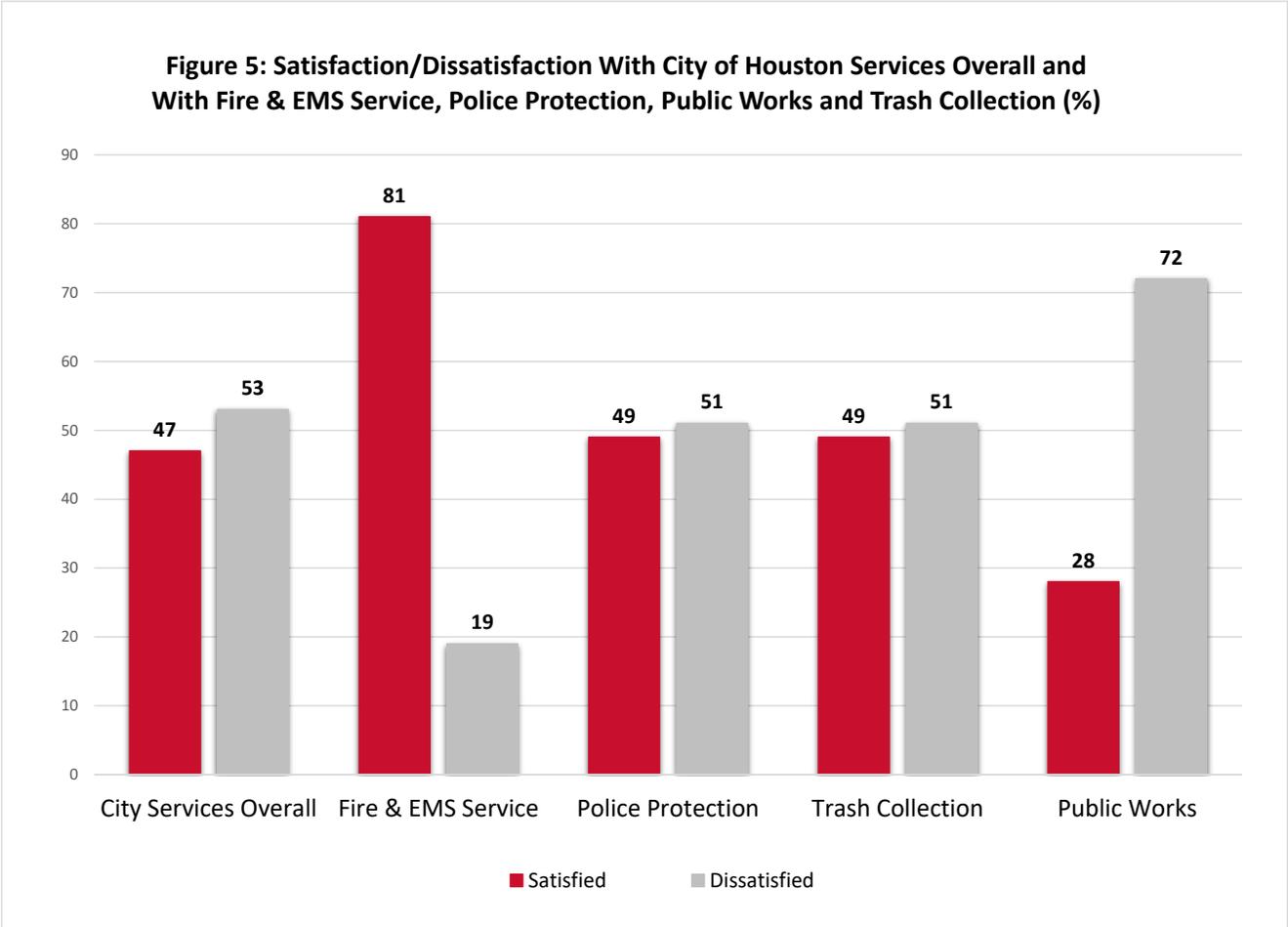


Table 5 provides the proportion of Houstonians who are satisfied with the public services provided by the City of Houston overall as well as in the specific areas of fire and EMS service, police protection, trash and recycling collection and public works, broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, age, education, and partisanship.

Table 5. Proportion of Houstonians Who Are Satisfied with City of Houston Public Services by Sub-Group (%)

Socio-Demographic	Sub-Group	Services Overall	Fire & EMS Service	Police Protection	Trash Collection	Public Works
Overall		47	81	49	49	28
Gender	Women	47	81	46	50	29
	Men	47	82	53	49	27
Ethnicity/Race	White	51	88	53	51	30
	Latino	41	78	46	49	29
	Black	52	79	51	53	29
Age	18 to 34	41	75	38	46	26
	35 to 54	47	82	46	46	30
	55+	51	84	58	54	29
Education	College Degree	50	84	47	50	26
	No College Degree	45	80	53	49	29
Partisanship	Democratic	52	83	51	52	32
	Independent	42	79	41	47	22
	Republican	40	80	51	46	24

By and large, there do not exist any noteworthy socio-demographic sub-group differences in satisfaction with City of Houston fire and EMS service, where levels of satisfaction are in a narrow band ranging from a low of 78% to a high of 84% across all 13 socio-demographic sub-groups.

There also do not exist any significant socio-demographic sub-group differences in satisfaction with police protection, trash and recycling collection public works (or with city services overall), with the exception of the oldest Houstonians ages 55 and older (58%) who are significantly more likely to be satisfied with the police protection provided by the City of Houston than are younger Houstonians ages 18 to 34 (38%).

THE MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEMS FACING THE CITY OF HOUSTON TODAY

Houstonians were asked which of 12 problems they would say is the most, the second most and the third most important problem facing the City of Houston today. The 12 problems the survey respondents were presented with (randomly) were as follows: city employee pension liabilities, crime, economic inequality, ethnic/racial inequality, flooding, high cost of housing, homelessness, insufficient public transportation, rising property taxes, roads and streets in bad condition, traffic congestion, and unreliable trash and recycling collection.

Figure 6 provides the distribution of the problems considered by these Houstonians to be the most important problem facing the City of Houston today. The largest proportion of Houstonians list crime (18%) as the most important problem facing the city, followed by roads and streets in bad condition (17%), the high cost of housing (13%), economic inequality (10%) and rising property taxes (10%) rounding out the list of the most important problem of at least one in ten Houstonians. The three problems identified by the smallest proportion of Houstonians as being the most important problem facing the city are unreliable trash and recycling collection (1%), city employee pension liabilities (2%), and ethnic/racial inequality (2%).

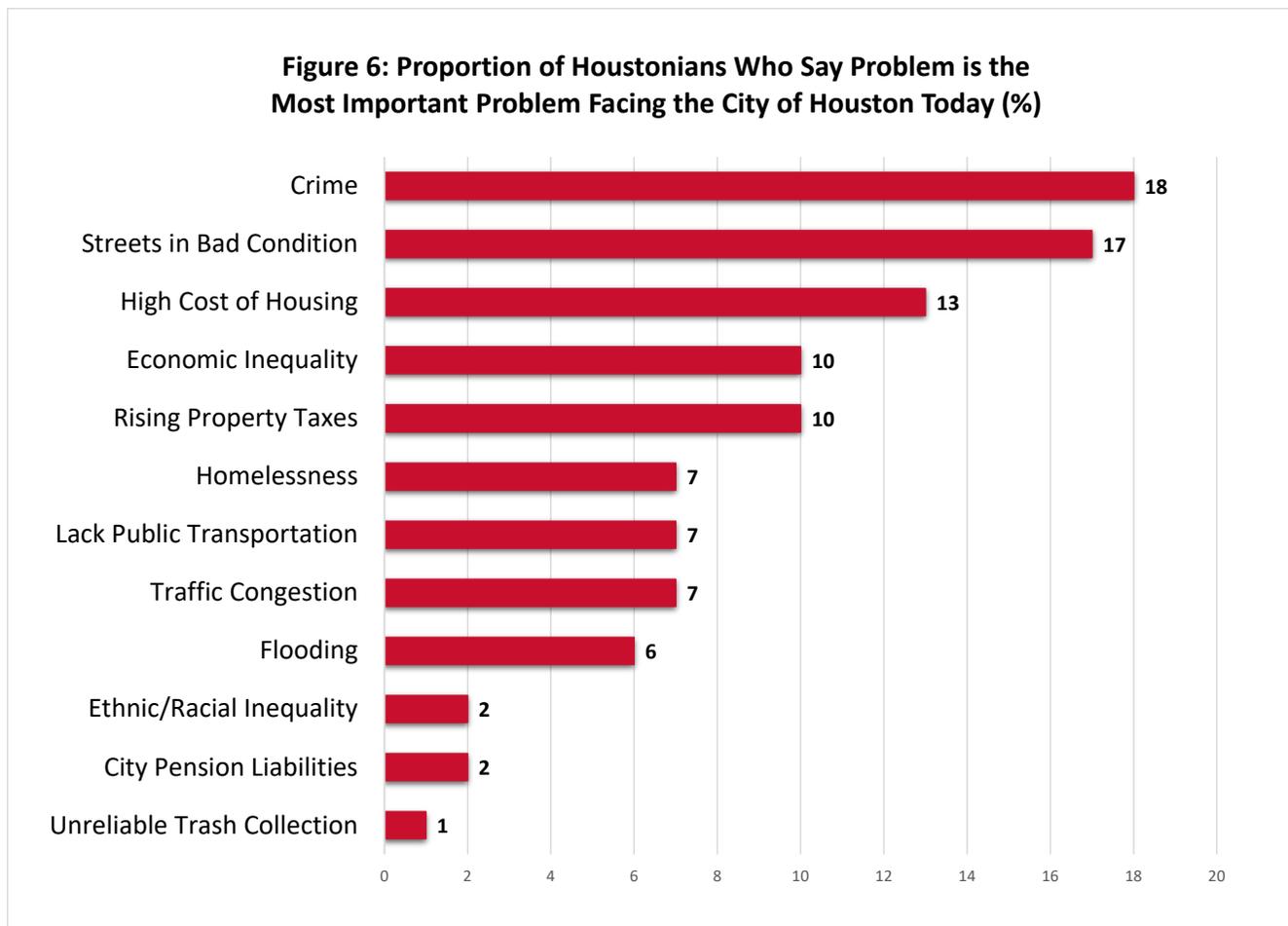


Figure 7 provides the distribution of the problems considered by these Houstonians to be among the three most important problems facing the City of Houston today. Four problems are cited by more than three out of ten Houstonians as being among the top three problems facing the City of Houston today: roads and streets in bad condition (49%), crime (41%), traffic congestion (37%), and the high cost of housing (31%). Five other problems are considered to be among the three most important facing Houston by a narrow range of between 28% (homelessness, rising property taxes) and 18% (lack of public transportation) of Houstonians, with economic inequality (23%) and flooding (23%) in between. Fewer than one in ten Houstonians consider ethnic/racial inequality (9%), unreliable trash and recycling collection (8%), and city employee pension liabilities (6%) to be among the top three problems facing the City of Houston at the present time.

Figure 7: Proportion of Houstonians Who Say Problem is One of the Three Most Important Problems Facing the City of Houston Today (%)

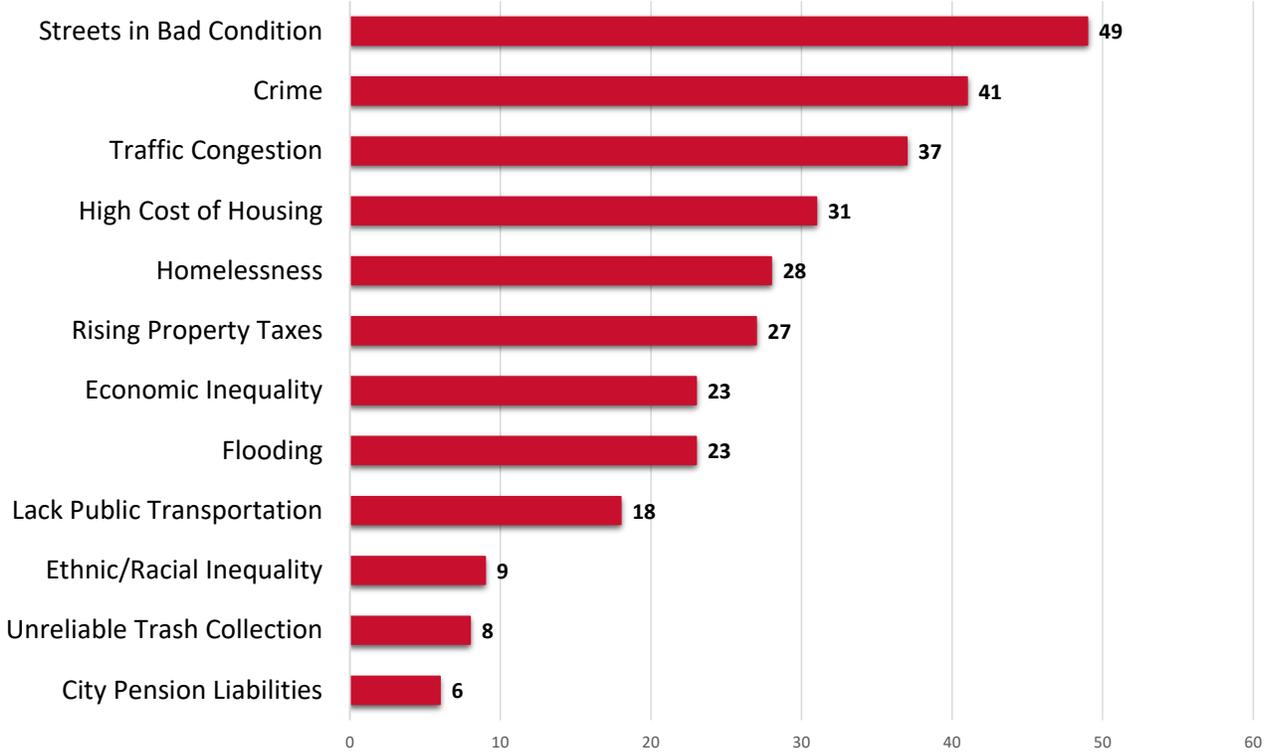


Table 6 provides the proportion of Houstonians who listed the roads and streets in bad condition, crime, traffic congestion, and the high cost of housing as being one of the top three problems facing the City of Houston today, broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, age, education, and partisanship.

Table 6: Proportion of Houstonians Citing the Problem as One of the Top Three Problems Facing Houston by Sub-Group (%)

Socio-Demographic	Sub-Group	Streets in Bad Condition	Crime	Traffic Congestion	High Cost of Housing
Overall		49	41	37	31
Gender	Women	46	40	33	38
	Men	53	42	42	24
Ethnicity/Race	White	53	41	40	24
	Latino	45	42	34	35
	Black	48	38	36	41
Age	18 to 34	40	30	33	44
	35 to 54	50	40	38	32
	55+	54	47	39	23
Education	College Degree	54	32	37	27
	No College Degree	46	45	37	34
Partisanship	Democratic	47	28	35	33
	Independent	43	46	40	38
	Republican	58	63	43	23

Overall, there are not many noteworthy socio-demographic sub-group differences in the proportion of respondents who identified these four problems as being among the top three problems facing the city. The most notable sub-group differences related to the condition of the city’s roads and streets revolve around age, with those ages 55 and older (54%) more likely than those ages 18 to 34 (40%) to cite street condition as a top three problem. The most notable sub-group difference related to crime is partisan, with 63% of Republicans, but only 28% of Democrats, listing crime as a top three problem. Similarly, 47% of the oldest Houstonians, but only 30% of the youngest Houstonians, consider crime to be a top three problem. The most notable sub-group difference related to traffic congestion is gendered, with men (42%) significantly more likely than women (33%) to list gridlock as a top three problem. Finally, Black (41%) and Latino (35%) Houstonians are significantly more likely than White Houstonians (24%) to consider the high cost of housing to be one of the top three problems facing the City of Houston today.

Table 7 provides the proportion of Houstonians who listed homelessness, rising property taxes, economic inequality, flooding, and the lack of public transportation as being among the top three problems facing the City of Houston today, broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, age, education, and partisanship.

The most notable sub-group differences in regard to the identification of homelessness as being a top three problem are related to ethnicity and race, where 40% of Black Houstonians, but only 26% of Latino and 24% of White Houstonians, list homelessness as a top three problem, and gender, where 34% of women and 21% of men say homelessness is one of the top three problems facing Houston. The most notable sub-group difference in regard to the problem of rising property taxes is partisan, with 38% of Republicans, compared to 21% of Democrats, listing it as a top three problem. The most notable sub-group difference for economic inequality is also partisan, with 32% of Democrats, compared to 5% of Republicans, listing it as a top three problem, and with those Houstonians ages 18 to 34 (38%) also notably more likely than their elders who are 55 and older (16%) to think economic inequality is one of three most important problems facing the city. There are not any noteworthy sub-group differences in regard to flooding, while the youngest Houstonians ages 18 to 34 (30%) are notably more likely than the oldest Houstonians ages 55 and older (11%) to consider the lack of public transportation as one of the most important problems facing Houston, just as are 25% of Democrats compared to 5% of Republicans.

Table 7: Proportion of Houstonians Citing the Problem as One of the Top Three Problems Facing Houston by Sub-Group (%)

Socio-Demographic	Sub-Group	Homelessness	Rising Property Taxes	Economic Inequality	Flooding	Lack of Public Transportation
Overall		28	27	23	23	18
Gender	Women	34	24	26	24	15
	Men	21	31	19	22	22
Ethnicity/Race	White	24	25	21	30	20
	Latino	26	30	28	20	19
	Black	40	22	23	20	9
Age	18 to 34	30	16	38	21	30
	35 to 54	25	32	22	23	18
	55+	29	29	16	25	11
Education	College Degree	27	27	23	25	22
	No College Degree	29	27	24	22	16
Partisanship	Democratic	32	21	32	25	25
	Independent	17	27	20	18	18
	Republican	22	38	5	23	5

THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF FACTORS ON QUALITY OF LIFE IN HOUSTONIANS' NEIGHBORHOODS

After reviewing the most important problems facing the City of Houston, Houstonians were also asked to what extent 12 different factors have a major negative impact, a minor negative impact, or no negative impact on the quality of life in their neighborhood. The 12 factors the respondents evaluated included the following: abandoned or poorly maintained buildings and lots, home and car break-ins, homeless population, illegal dumping, illegal drug sale and use, lack of parks, lack of sidewalks or poor-quality sidewalks, lack of street lighting, no major grocery store within one mile, stray dogs and cats, streets in bad condition, and violent crime.

As shown in Table 8, more than a third of Houstonians believe that seven of these 12 factors have a major negative impact on the quality of life in their neighborhood. More than one-half (52%) say that streets in bad condition have a major negative impact on the quality of life in their neighborhood, followed by home and car break-ins (39%), the lack of sidewalks or low-quality sidewalks (38%), the homeless population (38%), violent crime (37%), abandoned or poorly maintained buildings and lots (34%), and illegal drug sale and use (34%). Less than one-third, but more than one-fifth, of Houstonians say that a lack of streetlighting (28%), stray dogs and cats (27%), illegal dumping (23%), and no major grocery store within one mile (21%) have a major negative impact on the quality of life in their neighborhood, with 18% reporting that a lack of parks has a major negative impact.

Table 8: Distribution of Houstonians' Evaluations of How Negative an Impact the Factor Has on the Quality of Life in Their Neighborhood (%)

Factors	Major Negative Impact	Minor Negative Impact	No Negative Impact
Streets in Bad Condition	52	38	10
Home & Car Break-Ins	39	46	15
Lack/Poor-Quality Sidewalks	38	39	23
Homeless Population	38	41	21
Violent Crime	37	39	24
Abandoned Lots/Buildings	34	39	27
Illegal Drug Sale and Use	34	33	33
Lack of Streetlighting	28	37	35
Stray Dogs and Cats	27	39	34
Illegal Dumping	23	37	40
No Major Grocery Store	21	19	60
Lack of Parks	18	30	52

Conversely, one-third or more of Houstonians report that six factors have no negative impact on the quality of life in their neighborhood. Three-fifths (60%) say that not having a grocery store within one mile has no negative impact on the quality of life in their neighborhood, followed by a lack of parks (52%), illegal dumping (40%), a lack of streetlighting (35%), stray dogs and cats (34%), and illegal drug sale and use (33%). Fewer than one in four Houstonians however believe that streets in bad condition (10%), home and car break-ins (15%), the homeless population (21%), a lack of sidewalks or low-quality sidewalks (23%), and violent crime (24%) have no negative impact on the quality of life in their neighborhood, with abandoned or poorly maintained buildings and lots at 27%.

Table 9 provides the proportion of Houstonians who say that each one of the 12 factors has a major negative impact on the quality of life in their neighborhood, overall and broken down by ethnicity/race.

Table 9: Houstonians, by Ethnicity/Race, Who Say the Factor Has a Major Negative Impact on the Quality of Life in Their Neighborhood (%)

Factor	Overall	White	Latino	Black
Streets in Bad Condition	52	45	55	60
Lack/Poor-Quality Sidewalks	39	29	46	43
Home & Car Break-Ins	38	30	44	42
Violent Crime	38	27	39	52
Homeless Population	37	28	45	46
Abandoned Lots/Buildings	34	24	39	47
Illegal Drug Sale and Use	34	26	39	43
Lack of Streetlighting	28	17	34	39
Stray Dogs and Cats	27	17	33	39
Illegal Dumping	23	13	26	41
No Major Grocery Store	21	11	22	36
Lack of Parks	18	9	25	26

Across the board, Black and Latino Houstonians are notably more likely than White Houstonians to say that these factors have a major negative impact on the quality of life in their neighborhood. For example:

- 52% of Black and 39% of Latino Houstonians say violent crime has a major negative impact on the quality of life in their neighborhood, compared to 27% of White Houstonians.
- 47% of Black and 39% of Latino Houstonians say abandoned or poorly maintained buildings and lots have a major negative impact on the quality of life in their neighborhood, compared to 24% of White Houstonians.
- 46% of Black and 45% of Latino Houstonians say that the homeless population has a major negative impact on the quality of life in their neighborhood, compared to 28% of White Houstonians.
- 41% of Black and 26% of Latino Houstonians say that illegal dumping has a major negative impact on the quality of life in their neighborhood, compared to 13% of White Houstonians.
- 39% of Black and 34% of Latino Houstonians say that a lack of streetlighting has a major negative impact on the quality of life in their neighborhood, compared to 17% of White Houstonians.
- 39% of Black and 33% of Latino Houstonians say that stray dogs and cats have a major negative impact on the quality of life in their neighborhood, compared to 17% of White Houstonians.

Table 10 provides the proportion of Houstonians who say that each one of the factors has no negative impact on the quality of life in their neighborhood, broken down by ethnicity/race.

Table 10: Houstonians, by Ethnicity/Race, Who Say the Factor Has No Negative Impact on the Quality of Life in Their Neighborhood (%)

Factor	Overall	White	Latino	Black
No Major Grocery Store	60	73	56	43
Lack of Parks	52	65	45	40
Illegal Dumping	40	51	33	24
Lack of Streetlighting	35	46	27	27
Illegal Drug Sale and Use	34	39	29	28
Stray Dogs and Cats	33	40	34	22
Abandoned Lots/Buildings	27	32	23	22
Violent Crime	24	32	21	16
Lack/Poor-Quality Sidewalks	23	28	19	22
Homeless Population	21	27	17	15
Home & Car Break-Ins	15	17	14	13
Streets in Bad Condition	10	11	10	9

On average, White Houstonians are notably more likely to say that the factors have no negative quality of life effect, with the exception of home and car break-ins and streets in bad condition, where White, Latino and Black Houstonians are all very unlikely to say that the factor has no negative impact on the quality of life in their neighborhood. Consider the following:

- 73% of White Houstonians say having no major grocery store within a mile has no negative impact on the quality of life in their neighborhood, compared to 56% of Latino and 43% of Black Houstonians.
- 65% of White Houstonians say a lack of parks has no negative impact on the quality of life in their neighborhood, compared to 45% of Latino and 40% of Black Houstonians.
- 51% of White Houstonians say illegal dumping has no negative impact on the quality of life in their neighborhood, compared to 33% of Latino and 24% of Black Houstonians.
- 46% of White Houstonians say a lack of streetlighting has no negative impact on the quality of life in their neighborhood, compared to 27% of Latino and 27% Black Houstonians.
- 32% of White Houstonians say violent crime has no negative impact on the quality of life in their neighborhood, compared to 21% of Latino and 16% of Black Houstonians.

SUPPORT FOR THREE POLICY PROPOSALS: REVENUE CAP, SLEEPING OUTSIDE & BARC

The survey respondents were presented with the information below, and then asked a question related to a hypothetical revenue cap proposition on the November 2025 ballot in the City of Houston.

“The City of Houston has a property tax revenue cap limiting the annual amount of property tax revenue it is allowed to collect. In recent years the City of Houston has hit this revenue cap and had to reduce its property tax rate, meaning lower taxes paid by property owners but less money to fund core city services like police and fire. In 2006 Houstonians voted to approve a proposition under which an additional \$90 million above the revenue cap could be collected each year to pay for public safety (police and fire).”

“If a proposition were on the ballot in November 2025 to allow an additional \$30-40 million above the revenue cap to be collected each year to pay for public safety (more police officers and more firefighting & EMS resources) in Houston, would you vote For or Against the proposition?” The response options were: For, Against, Unsure, and Would not vote.

Figure 8 reveals that the proportions of Houstonians who would vote for (39%) and against (38%) a proposition to lift the revenue cap by \$30-\$40 million dollars annually to pay for public safety are equal, with the remaining 23% either unsure about how they would vote or indicating that they would not vote in the hypothetical November 2025 election were it to be called.

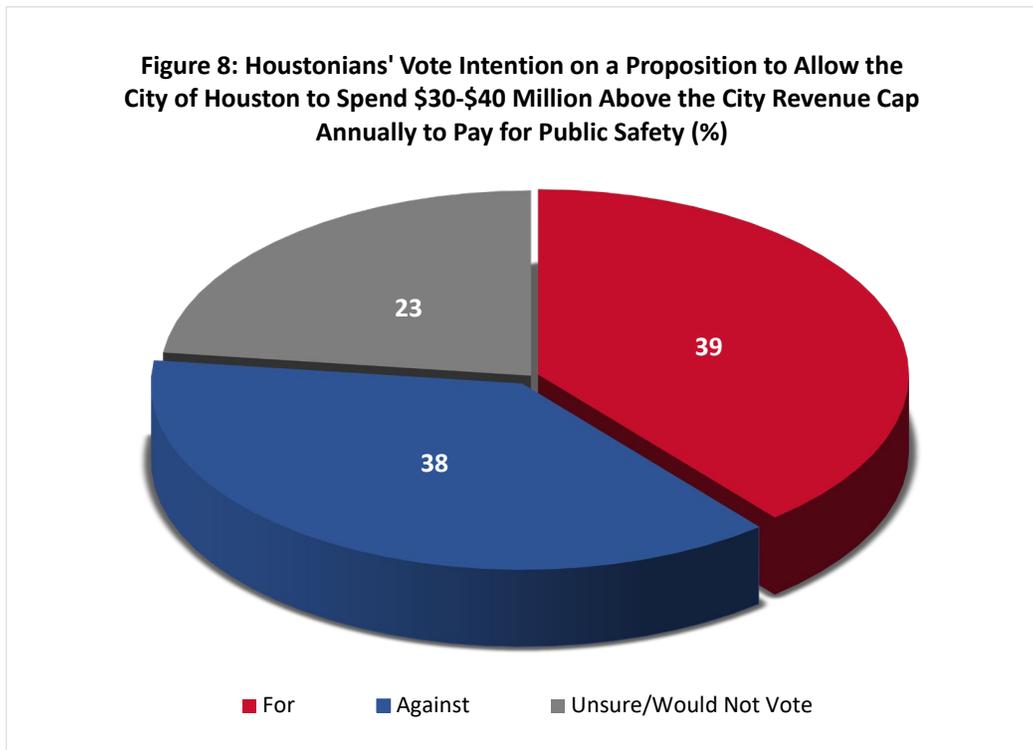


Table 11 provides the vote intention of Houstonians on the hypothetical revenue-cap proposition, broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, age, education, and partisanship. There are no noteworthy ethnic/racial or educational differences in vote intention. The oldest Houstonians ages 55 and older are however significantly more likely than the youngest Houstonians 18 to 34 to intend to vote for the proposition (46% vs. 32%) and Republicans (47%) are significantly more likely than Democrats (31%), and men (44%) significantly more likely than women (32%), to intend to vote against the proposition.

Table 11: Vote Intention of Houstonians on Proposition to Exceed the Revenue Cap for Public Safety by Sub-Group (%)

Socio-Demographic	Sub-Group	For	Against	Unsure or Wouldn't Vote
Overall		39	38	23
Gender	Women	40	32	28
	Men	38	44	18
Ethnicity/Race	White	42	37	21
	Latino	36	41	23
	Black	39	31	30
Age	18 to 34	32	41	27
	35 to 54	35	43	22
	55+	46	31	23
Education	College Degree	37	37	26
	No College Degree	40	38	22
Partisanship	Democratic	43	31	26
	Independent	36	40	24
	Republican	36	47	17

The respondents were also asked the following question regarding a proposed ordinance which would make it illegal to sleep outside in the City of Houston as part of the city’s plan to end homelessness:

“As part of the City of Houston’s plan to end homelessness, a proposal has been made to make it illegal to sleep outside. If there were sufficient funds to relocate unhoused people, would you support or oppose the adoption of a city ordinance to make it illegal to sleep outside in the City of Houston?”

Figure 9 reveals that 59% of Houstonians support the ordinance while 41% oppose it (the 4% of respondents who answered don’t know are not included).

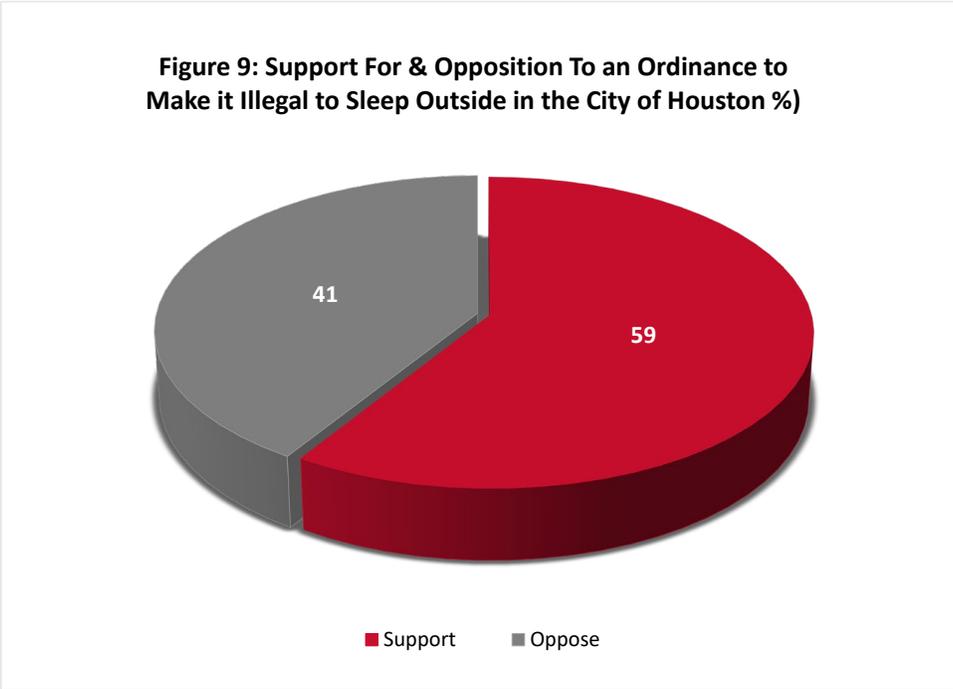


Table 12 provides the proportion of Houstonians who support and oppose the ordinance to make it illegal to sleep outside in the City of Houston, broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, age, education, and partisanship.

Table 12: Support For & Opposition To an Ordinance to Make it Illegal to Sleep Outside in Houston by Sub-Group (%)

Socio-Demographic	Sub-Group	Support	Oppose
Overall		59	41
Gender	Women	57	43
	Men	61	39
Ethnicity/Race	White	61	39
	Latino	59	41
	Black	54	46
Age	18 to 34	41	59
	35 to 54	57	43
	55+	71	29
Education	College Degree	57	43
	No College Degree	59	41
Partisanship	Democratic	49	51
	Independent	67	33
	Republican	76	24

There are no noteworthy gender, ethnic/racial or educational differences in support for or opposition to the ordinance. The oldest Houstonians ages 55 and older (71%) are however significantly more likely than the youngest Houstonians ages 18 to 34 (41%) to support the ordinance, just as Republicans (76%) are significantly more likely than Democrats (49%) to support it.

Finally, the respondents were asked the following question related to a proposed funding increase for the City of Houston’s animal shelter (BARC):

“BARC, the City of Houston’s Animal Shelter, receives less than half the funding per capita of the city animal shelters in Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth and San Antonio, and as a result has decreased the number of days it keeps dogs and cats before euthanizing (killing) them. Would you support or oppose the City of Houston doubling the size of the BARC budget allocation (from \$16 million to \$32 million) to bring funding up to the level of other Texas cities, which would increase shelter capacity and significantly reduce the number of dogs and cats euthanized?”

Figure 10 reveals that an overwhelming majority of Houstonians (77%) support a proposal to double BARC’s annual funding allocation from the City of Houston from \$16 million to \$32 million, while 23% oppose it (the 4% of respondents who answered don’t know are not included).

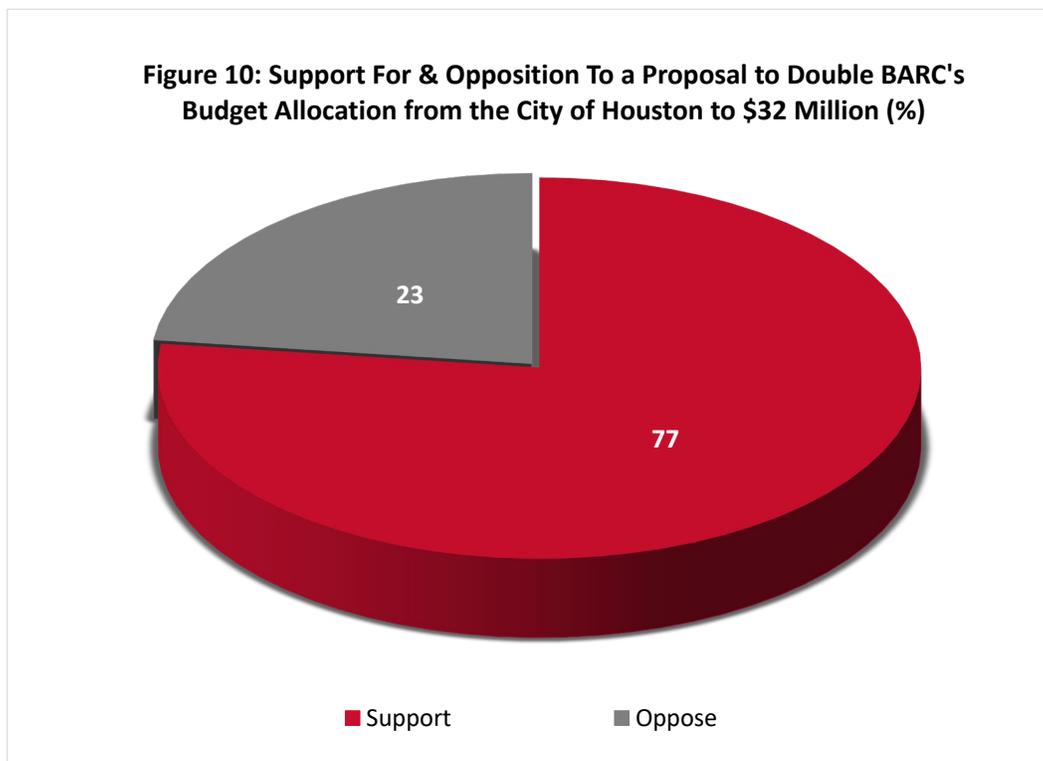


Table 13 provides the proportion of Houstonians who support and oppose doubling BARC’s budget allocation, broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, age, education, and partisanship. With one modest exception, there are not any noteworthy socio-demographic sub-group differences in support for this proposal. The one exception is that Democrats (83%) are significantly more likely than Republicans (68%) to support the proposal, although it is important to note that more than two-thirds of Houston Republicans support doubling the amount of money BARC receives from the City of Houston.

Table 13. Support For & Opposition To Doubling BARC's Budget Allocation by Sub-Group (%)

Socio-Demographic	Sub-Group	Support	Oppose
Overall		77	23
Gender	Women	81	19
	Men	73	27
Ethnicity/Race	White	82	18
	Latino	78	22
	Black	71	29
Age	18 to 34	82	18
	35 to 54	75	25
	55+	76	24
Education	College Degree	75	25
	No College Degree	78	22
Partisanship	Democratic	83	17
	Independent	77	23
	Republican	68	32

CO-INVESTIGATORS

Renée Cross, Senior Executive Director & Researcher, Hobby School of Public Affairs

Mark P. Jones, James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy's Fellow in Political Science, Rice University;
Senior Research Fellow, Hobby School of Public Affairs

RESEARCH TEAM

Maria P. Perez Argüelles, Research Associate, Hobby School of Public Affairs

Savannah Sipole, Research Associate, Hobby School of Public Affairs

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Diana Benitez, Program Manager, Web & Graphic Design, Hobby School of Public Affairs

Victoria Cordova, Director of Communications & Marketing, Hobby School of Public Affairs

Jeannie Kever, Communications Consultant

Celeste Zamora, Communications Manager, Hobby School of Public Affairs

RECOMMENDED CITATION

University of Houston Hobby School of Public Affairs, April 2025, "City of Houston 2025: Issues, Performance & Quality of Life"