Harris County Flood Control District Bond Election Survey

Figure 1. “This August, Harris County voters will be asked to approve a 2.5 billion dollar bond to fund flood risk reduction projects throughout the county. How likely are you to vote in this August bond election? Are you certain to vote, very likely to vote, somewhat likely to vote, will not vote, or are you uncertain if you will vote in this August's County bond election?”

![Bar Chart]

N = 705
Note: Nonresponses (“Don’t know” and “Refused”) are excluded.
Figure 2. “According to the Harris County Budget Office, the bond would increase property taxes by $5 a year beginning in 2020 for a person whose home is worth $230,000, increasing to $50 a year by 2035. A homeowner whose home is worth $300,000 will pay about $7 more in property taxes per year beginning in 2020, increasing to $80 a year by 2035. Persons over 65 whose homes are worth less than $200,000 do not pay county taxes and would not pay any additional property taxes. Would you vote for or against the bond issue, or are you uncertain how you would vote?”

Vote for the bond 55.0%
Vote against the bond 9.8%
Unsure 35.2%

N = 788
Note: Nonresponses (“Don’t know” and “Refused”) are excluded.
Figure 3. Support for bond by likely voters

N = 788
Note: “Yes” means that respondents are likely voters who are certain to vote in this August bond election and “No” otherwise.
Figure 4. Support for bond by damage to residence due to Hurricane Harvey

N = 787
Note: “Yes” means respondents who had damage to their residence due to Hurricane Harvey.
Figure 5. Support for bond by flooding experience

N = 781
Note: “Yes” means respondents who or whose family members experienced a personal injury, property damage, or had to evacuate in face of severe weather since 2001.
Figure 6. Support for bond by age

N = 743
Figure 7. Support for bond by education

N = 779
Figure 8. Support for bond by partisanship

N = 732
Figure 9. Support for bond among first wave respondents who opposed raising property taxes

N = 202
Note: The data come from the respondents who opposed raising property taxes to mitigate the impact of severe weather events in the December wave of survey.
Figure 10. Support for bond among first wave respondents who supported raising property taxes.

N = 211
Note: The data come from the respondents who supported raising property taxes to mitigate the impact of severe weather events in the December wave of survey.
Table 1. “Do you support or oppose this policy proposed and adopted by area governments to protect the Houston area from the effects of severe weather?”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy</th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
<th>Nonresponse</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A program to buy homes in areas that have repeatedly flooded with local state and federal moneys</td>
<td>59.6%</td>
<td>32.9%</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction of a new reservoir to protect the western portion of the Houston area</td>
<td>81.5%</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater restrictions on construction in flood plains</td>
<td>84.1%</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New building codes that require homes built in flood prone areas be elevated/raised to avoid flooding</td>
<td>84.0%</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widening bayous and channels</td>
<td>82.4%</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N = 813
Note: Nonresponse includes “Don’t know” and “Refused”.
Table 2. Individual willingness to pay property taxes to implement the infrastructure that protects to reduce the risk of flood events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flood events</th>
<th>1.4%</th>
<th>5%</th>
<th>10%</th>
<th>No increase</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Severe flood events</td>
<td>36.5%</td>
<td>22.3%</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
<td>32.6%</td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100-year flood events</td>
<td>40.4%</td>
<td>19.8%</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td>187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200-year flood events</td>
<td>39.2%</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
<td>34.3%</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500-year flood events</td>
<td>45.3%</td>
<td>16.1%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>31.8%</td>
<td>178</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 11. “Some people believe that much of the money from the $2.5 billion bond issue for flood control will go to politically connected developers and construction firms instead of directly helping risk reduction projects throughout the county. Do you share this concern? Are you extremely concerned, very concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned, or not at all concerned?”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern Level</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extremely concerned</td>
<td>21.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very concerned</td>
<td>26.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat concerned</td>
<td>34.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not very concerned</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all concerned</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonresponse</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N = 813
Note: Nonresponse includes “Don’t know” and “Refused”.
Figure 12. Concern about much of the money from the $2.5 billion bond issue for flood control going to politically connected developers and construction firms instead of directly helping risk reduction projects throughout the county.

N = 788
Note: Likely voters are those who are certain to vote in this August bond election.
Figure 13. “How confident are you that your elected county and city representatives know how to reduce/mitigate the negative impact of future flooding in the Houston area? Are you very confident, somewhat confident, not confident, or not confident at all?”

N = 791
Note: Nonresponses (“Don’t know” and “Refused”) are excluded.
Figure 14. Confidence in elected county and city representatives knowing how to reduce/mitigate the negative impact of future flooding in the Houston area

N = 791
Note: Likely voters are those who are certain to vote in this August bond election.
Figure 15. “Do you support government funding for the development of renewable energy (e.g. solar, wind, thermal)?”

N = 813
Note: Nonresponse includes “Don’t know” and “Refused”.
Figure 16. “Do you support the government regulation of greenhouse emissions gas?”

N = 813
Note: Nonresponse includes “Don't know” and “Refused”.

Yes: 56.8%
No: 29.1%
Nonresponse: 14.1%
Table 3. “Do you agree or disagree with this statement?”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Global warming poses a threat to future severe flooding in the Houston area</td>
<td>67.6%</td>
<td>32.4%</td>
<td>750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New construction in flood prone areas will result in more severe flooding</td>
<td>74.8%</td>
<td>25.2%</td>
<td>767</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The state of Texas should spend money from its rainy day fund to assist local communities with recovery after flooding events</td>
<td>87.7%</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
<td>785</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Nonresponses (“Don’t know” and “Refused”) are excluded.
Figure 17. “How many times since 2001 have you or any member of your immediate family experienced a personal injury, property damage, or had to evacuate from your home in face of severe weather?”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Once</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twice</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three times</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than three times</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No prior experience</td>
<td>56.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N = 813
Note: “No prior experience” includes non-responses (“Don’t know” and “Refused”) and those who answered “No” to the question about whether they or their family members have experienced a personal injury, property damage, or had to evacuate in face of severe weather since 2001.
Figure 18. “Did you have to move from your residence because of Hurricane Harvey?”

N = 813

- Yes: 19.7%
- No: 80.3%
Figure 19. “Have you moved back into your residence, are you still living in temporary housing, or have you relocated to a new residence?”

N = 162
Note: 1. Only those who answered “Yes” to the question about whether they had to move from their residence because of Hurricane Harvey were asked this follow-up question.
2. Nonresponse includes “Don’t know” and “Refused”.
Figure 20. “Have you lived in the Houston area all your life, or did you move here from somewhere else?”

N = 813
Note: Nonresponse includes “Don’t know” and “Refused”.

Column percentages:
- Lifetime resident: 38.5%
- Moved to Houston: 61.0%
- Nonresponse: 0.4%

Total respondents: 813
Figure 21. “How long have you lived in the Houston metropolitan area?”

N = 813
Note: Nonresponse includes “Don’t know” and “Refused”.
Figure 22. “Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or something else?”

N = 813
Note: Nonresponse includes “Don’t know” and “Refused”.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Political Affiliation</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>23.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrat</td>
<td>31.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>23.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>13.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonresponse</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 23. “In which one of the following racial or ethnic categories would you place yourself?”

N = 813
Note: Nonresponse includes “Don't know” and “Refused”.

- White or Anglo: 49.2%
- Black or African American: 20.4%
- Hispanic or Latino: 20.2%
- Asian American: 2.4%
- Others: 6.0%
- Nonresponse: 1.8%
Figure 24. Respondents’ Age

N = 766
Note: Nonresponses (“Don’t know” and “Refused”) are excluded.
Figure 25. “I'll read some annual family income categories. Could you please stop me when I reach the category that corresponds to your family income?”

[Bar chart showing the distribution of annual family income categories with the following percentages: Under $25,000: 18.0%, $25,001 to $50,000: 19.2%, $50,001 to $100,000: 22.7%, $100,001 to $150,000: 10.6%, More than $150,000: 12.6%, Nonresponse: 16.9%]

N = 813
Note: Nonresponse includes “Don't know” and “Refused”.

Technical Note

A total of 815 respondents in Harris County were interviewed in June - July 2018. Since we oversampled areas where flooding was expected to have happened, an unrepresentative sample of owner and renter occupied households occurred. Therefore, we employed probability weights for the sample to reflect the current share of renter and owner occupied households based on the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2016 American Community Survey (ACS) for Harris County. Due to the use of probability weighting, the resulting number of observations for analysis is reduced to 813.