



valley vision

Community Inspired Solutions

# THE LIVABILITY POLL

**An Annual Wellness Check of the Sacramento Region**

October 2025

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# The Livability Poll

## Contributions

### Valley Vision

For more than 30 years, Valley Vision has used research to help governments, businesses, foundations, and community groups better understand the issues facing our region. We believe that knowing and understanding the facts is the best way to establish a common working foundation for collaborative problem-solving. That's why Valley Vision conducts, produces, and interprets research including scientific public opinion polls, focus groups, community needs assessments, best practice studies, and other research tools to bring to light the information local leaders need to equitably improve quality of life in our region.

### Sacramento State's Institute for Social Research

The Institute for Social Research at Sacramento State partners with communities and decision-makers to conduct applied social research that promotes positive change across the Sacramento region and throughout California. Composed of full-time research professionals, the ISR team brings multidisciplinary expertise and deep local insight as active members of the communities they serve. Their work supports the development of relevant, scientifically sound studies for state and local agencies, as well as nonprofit organizations. ISR's collaborative approach emphasizes strong partnerships with community organizations, government entities, and other stakeholders, working closely with partners to understand the unique contexts and programs that shape each project.

### About the Polling Series

Valley Vision and ISR conduct research via scientifically administered surveys of area resident attitudes. The survey data informs policymakers and stakeholders on key regional issues by providing on-the-ground public engagement data. The approach used is highly effective and unique - establishing a scientifically valid and demographically representative panel of regional residents that reflects a microcosm of the region as a whole. The panel size is currently about 3,000 people from six counties - Sacramento, Yolo, El Dorado, Placer, Yuba, and Sutter. The panel is weighted to demographically represent the region and each survey achieves a statistically valid margin of error of no more than +/- 3% for the top line survey results.

### Report Prepared By

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With contributions from **Julia Tomassilli**, **Robert Jason Rodriguez**, and **Julie Mac** — *Institute for Social Research at Sacramento State*

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# Advancing Our Triple Bottom Line with Data-Driven Decision Making

As a civic leadership organization in the Sacramento Region, Valley Vision's mission is to support livable communities through advancing economic prosperity, social equity, and environmental sustainability. Through our Livability Poll and annual Livability Summit, we seek to catalyze this mission by creating and sharing actionable research and space for conversations where community voices belong and make change for better communities. The data in this poll is key to informing a regional agenda and aligning regional investments and leadership strategies that focus on the key issues affecting our communities most.

# The Livability Poll

## Contributor Letter

Understanding the lived experiences of our region's residents is essential to building a future where everyone can thrive. The Livability Poll is one of the ways we listen deeply to our communities, track changes over time, and bring forward voices that must inform the decisions shaping our shared future. By capturing the perspectives of people across the Capital region, this poll helps us see both where progress is being made and where challenges remain.

This year's findings show that housing, livable wages, and affordable healthcare remain the top concerns for residents, with homeownership continuing to feel out of reach for many. People across the region are proud of their communities—especially in small towns and rural areas—and most view the Sacramento Region as a good place to live, work, and raise a family. Yet significant divides persist across race, income, and geography, particularly in financial security, job confidence, and the impacts of new technologies like artificial intelligence.

Valley Vision and the Institute for Social Research at Sacramento State conduct this poll because data and stories matter. They shine a light on where we are today and point us toward the conversations we need to have as a region—about affordability, growth, opportunity, and belonging. Our hope is that this report will serve as a tool for decision-makers, community leaders, and residents alike as we work together to ensure the Sacramento Region is not only livable, but equitable, vibrant, and resilient for all who call it home.

Sincerely,



**Evan Schmidt,**  
CEO Valley Vision



**Shannon Williams,**  
Institute for Social Research  
at Sacramento State



# Executive Summary

**The Livability Poll is a broad-based quality of life poll, tracking residents' experiences with issues such as affordability of necessities, access to services, job and career satisfaction, safety, and belonging, as well as residents' perspectives of the six-county Sacramento Region that includes Sacramento, El Dorado, Placer, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba counties. The 2025 Livability Poll was in the field from mid-June to mid-July, reaching 1,273 respondents, and it is demographically representative of the Sacramento Region. This year's poll has a margin of error of +/- 2.7%.**

**More residents said that their financial situation improved over the last five years than said it had gotten worse.**

Most residents reported stability in their housing situation, job opportunities, and mental health, but finances were different: more said they were better off than worse off. The divide was sharper across race, ethnicity, and housing status (rent vs. own), exposing inequities that persist.

**Housing, livable wages, and affordable healthcare are residents' top regional priorities.**

Residents' top concerns were clear—affordable housing, accessible healthcare, and livable wages. Compared to the 2023 Livability Poll, healthcare rose in importance, while education slipped, reflecting where pressures are mounting most.

**The majority of residents think that the Sacramento Region is a good place to grow up, pursue a career, and raise a family, but not to buy a house.**

Residents praised the region as a “good” or “excellent” place to live, work, and raise children, but homeownership remains out of reach. As in the 2023 Livability Poll, over half said the region is a poor place to purchase a home or retire.

**Small towns feel a greater sense of pride and belonging compared to urban and suburban communities.**

Community pride runs high across the region, but it's strongest in small towns and rural areas. Residents there were far more likely than their suburban or urban counterparts to say that neighbors help each other in times of need and that they feel a sense of pride and attachment to their community.

**Younger respondents were more likely to prioritize transportation and outdoor recreation for their quality of life in the region compared to older respondents.**

Younger people shared many of the same concerns as older residents, but put a greater sense of priority on growth and development of transportation and outdoor recreation in our region. They were also more likely to express concern about recent federal policy changes, signaling a generational split.

**Many residents feel confident in their career path, but communities of color and urban residents express greater uncertainty.**

Most feel they have all the skills they need to thrive in their working life and the confidence to find a different good job if needed. But that confidence is lower in urban areas and among communities of color, while rural and white residents express the strongest career security.

**The majority of residents fear diminishing job prospects as a result of Artificial Intelligence.**

Artificial intelligence is viewed with concern. Most believe it will hurt job prospects for themselves and the next generation, with lower-income and less-educated residents most worried about being left behind.

**The region is divided on whether to slow down or speed up on new housing development, but more respondents in 2025 want to speed up than in 2023.**

Opinions on housing growth are split down the middle, but support for speeding up development has grown since 2023. 52% of respondents prefer for new homes to be built in existing communities, while 48% of respondents prefer for homes to be built in currently undeveloped areas.

**The majority of respondents across the region are concerned about recent federal policy changes, particularly around funding cuts to health programs.**

Recent changes to federal policies brought about concerns for most respondents, with funding cuts for Health and Human Services programs topping the list of concerns, especially for more educated residents. Tax cuts brought about the most excitement.



# The Findings

## Quality of Life in the Sacramento Region

Quality of life in the Sacramento region is more than a statistic—it's the lived experience of residents navigating housing, jobs, finances, health, and community. In this poll, we asked people to reflect on whether their lives have improved or declined in recent years and how they view the region as a place to grow up, build a career, and raise a family. Just as importantly, we asked what matters most to them—revealing the priorities they believe will define a thriving future for our six-county region.

### Livability Over the Last 5 Years

**More residents said that their financial situation improved over the last five years than said it had gotten worse.**

Reflecting upon the last five years, the majority of respondents said that their housing situation, job opportunities, and mental health had stayed the same. However, more respondents said that their financial situation had improved (39%) compared to gotten worse (29%). There were some significant differences for respondents of different demographics, including of different races and ethnicities and if they were renters or homeowners. Forty-two percent of Asian and Pacific Islander (API) respondents, 40% of white respondents, 35% of Black respondents, and 31% of Hispanic respondents said that their financial situation had improved.

#### Livability Over the Last 5 Years: Results for All Respondents

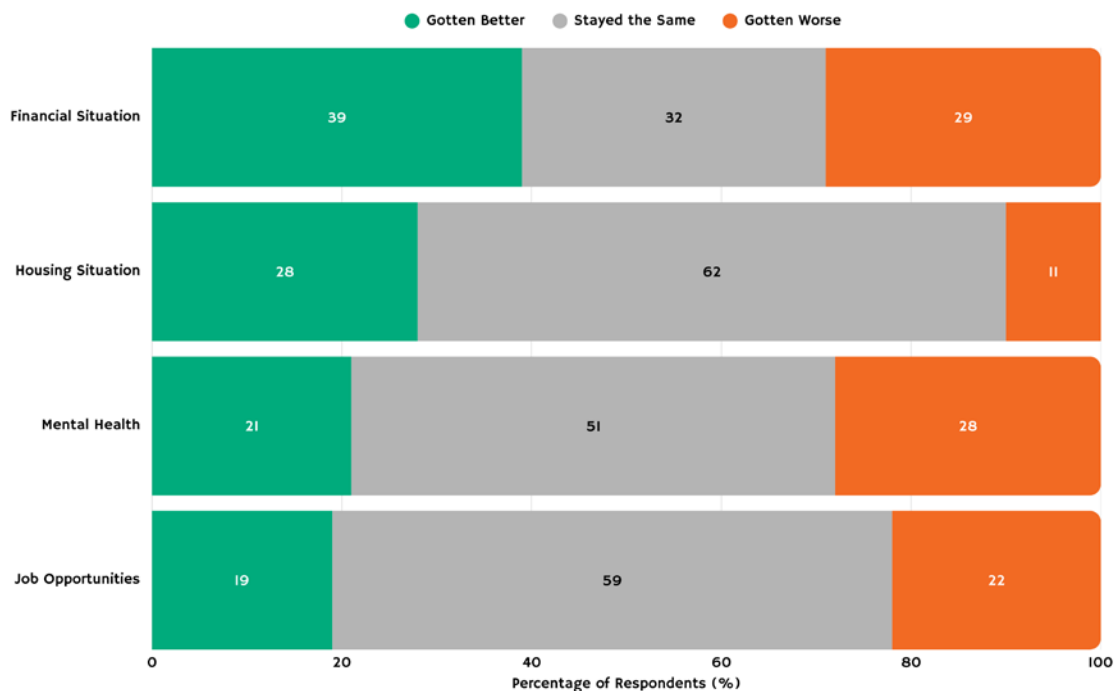


Chart 1: "Have the following improved, gotten worse, or stayed the same over the last 5 years?"



More city residents and more renters experienced changes in their housing situation over the last five years compared to suburban residents and homeowners.

Overall, 62% of residents have felt that their housing situation has stayed the same. 28% of residents felt that it had improved and 11% said that it had gotten worse. However, we noticed significant differences when looking at community type - whether a respondent lived in an urban area, rural area, or in the suburbs. 16% of respondents living in the city or an urban area said that their housing situation got worse over the last five years, in comparison to 6% of respondents living in the suburbs. At the same time, 34% of city residents said that their housing situation improved, compared to 23% of suburban residents. Renters also experienced more swings in their housing situation over recent years; 33% of renters said their housing situation improved, compared to 25% of homeowners, and 22% of renters also said it got worse, compared to 6% of homeowners.

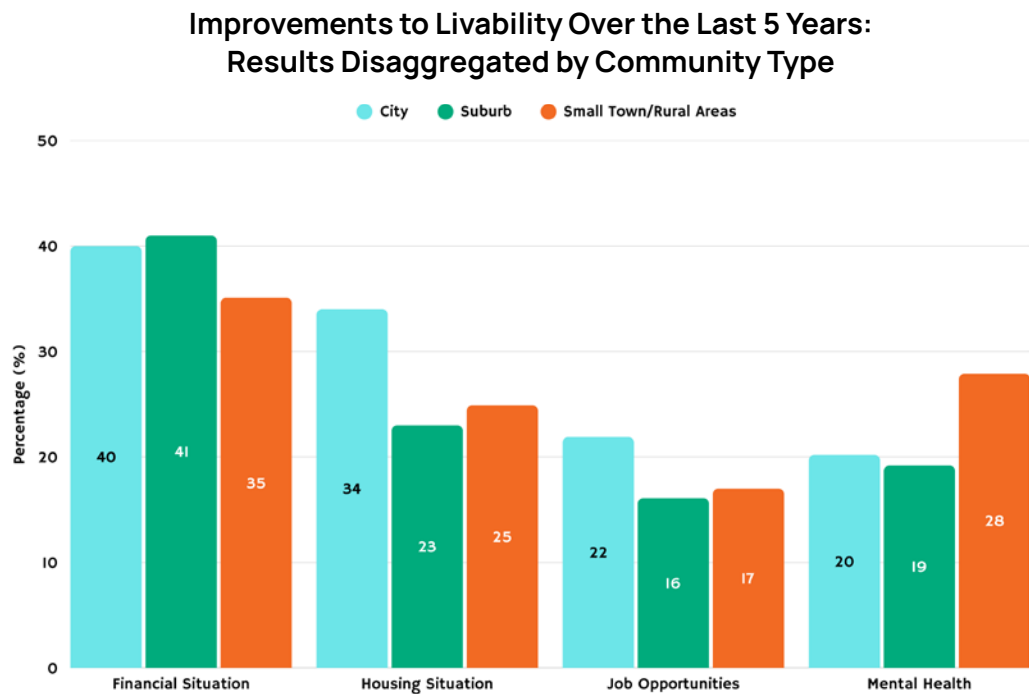


Chart 2: “Have the following improved, gotten worse, or stayed the same over the last 5 years?” Respondents who said their situation improved, disaggregated by community type.



### **Communities of color have tended to experience more challenges around job opportunities over the last five years in comparison to white residents.**

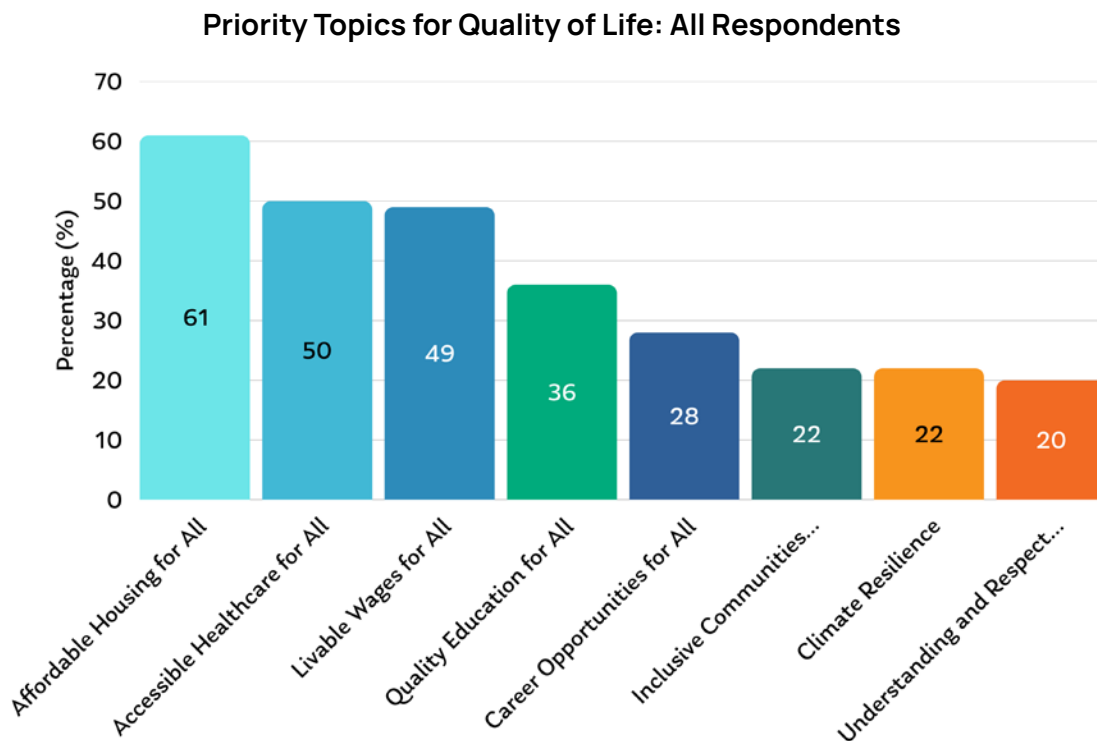
59% of all respondents said that their job opportunities stayed the same over the last 5 years, however, communities of color were more likely to say that their job opportunities had gotten worse during this time compared to white residents. 40% of Hispanic respondents, 35% of Black respondents, and 22% of API respondents said that they got worse, compared to 16% of white respondents.

### **More Hispanic respondents said that their housing situation improved over the last five years compared to other races and ethnicities.**

A greater percentage of Hispanic residents (37.6%) said that their housing situation improved over the last five years compared to most other races and ethnicities. The overall percentage of those who said their housing situation improved was 27.7% and the percentages of other races and ethnicities (including Black, API, White, and Other) who said their housing situation improved ranged from about 22.7%-28.6%. The Sacramento Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's 2025 Hispanic Economic Report also found that Hispanics have made gains in homeownership and increased the total owned units by over 19,000 between 2019 and 2023. In 2023, 53.8% of Hispanics own their home; this is an increase of 5.8 percentage points from 2019 ([Sacramento Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, 2025](#)).

### **Respondents prioritized affordable housing, accessible healthcare, and livable wages in defining their quality of life in the region.**

When respondents were asked about their top three priority elements defining quality of life in the Sacramento region, the top priorities were: affordable housing for all (61%), accessible healthcare for all (50%), and livable wages for all (49%). In revisiting the findings from the 2023 Livability Poll, the top three priorities from respondents were: affordable housing (55%), livable wages (47%), and quality education (38%). While respondents in 2025 still valued quality education (36%) at nearly the same rate as in 2023, there were more respondents coalescing around prioritizing affordable housing and healthcare.



*Chart 3: “Below are some topics important to the quality of life in the Sacramento Region. Which of these are most important to you in your community?” Topics listed: Affordable housing for all; accessible healthcare for all; livable wages for all; quality education for all; career opportunities for all; inclusive communities that are welcoming to all; understanding and respect across political party lines; and climate resilience, including wildfire, flood, and drought protection.*

When examining differences by community type, small town and rural area residents were more likely to prioritize quality education for all, inclusive communities, understanding and respect across party lines, and climate resilience, more than residents of suburbs, cities and urban areas. As we’ll discuss further, residents of small towns and rural areas may not be experiencing the same challenges in accessing affordable housing and they indicate greater confidence in their careers in comparison to suburban and urban residents, so they may have chosen to prioritize some of these other topics for quality of life.



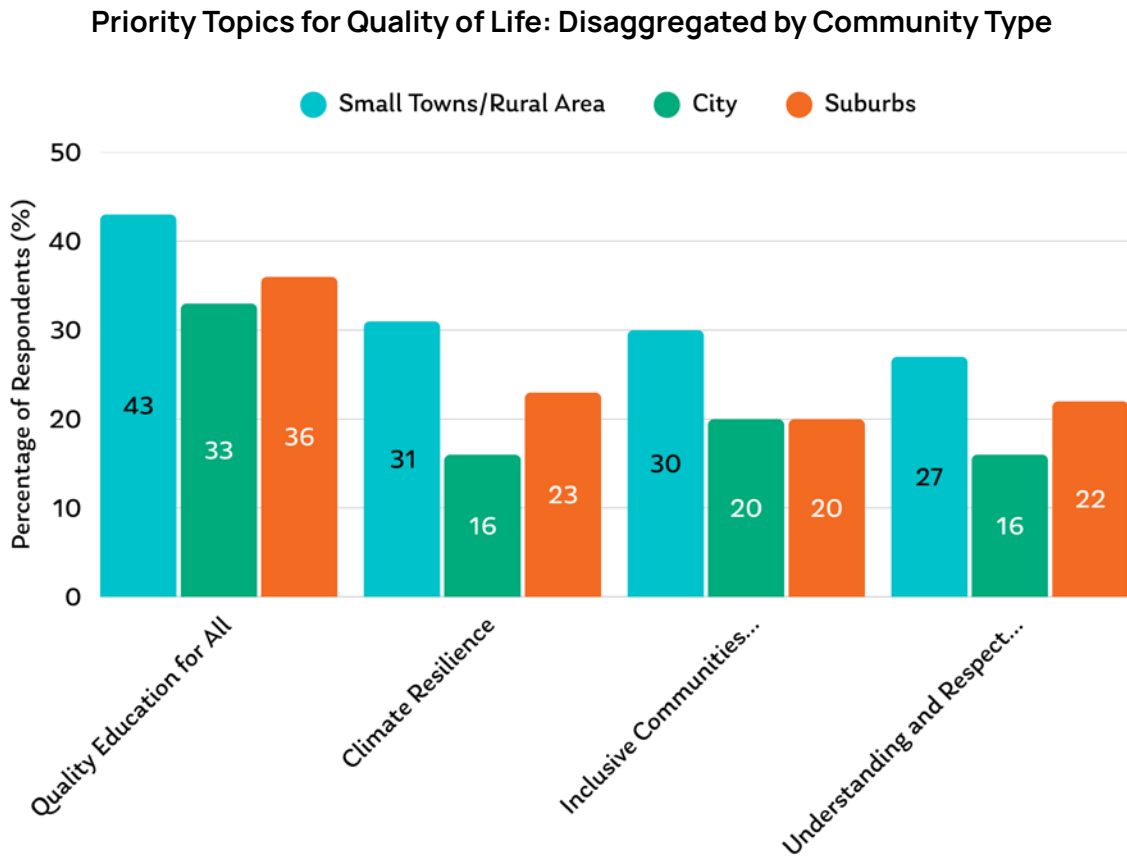


Chart 4: “Below are some topics important to the quality of life in the Sacramento Region. Which of these are most important to you in your community?” Responses are disaggregated by community type, highlighting quality education for all; inclusive communities that are welcoming to all; understanding and respect across political party lines; and climate resilience, including wildfire, flood, and drought protection.



## Residents Rate the Region

The majority of residents think that the Sacramento Region is a good place to grow up, pursue a career, and raise a family, but not to buy a house.

When asked how residents would rate Sacramento as a place to grow up, 67% of respondents overall said that it was “Good” or “Excellent.” The majority of respondents also rated the region as a “Good” or “Excellent” place to pursue a career and raise a family. However, results were less positive when respondents were asked to rate the region as a place to purchase a home. 72% of respondents rated it as “Poor” or “Fair.” This is a significant increase in comparison to the 2023 Livability Poll, where 59% of residents thought the region was a fair or poor place to purchase a home.

### Rating the Region: All Respondents

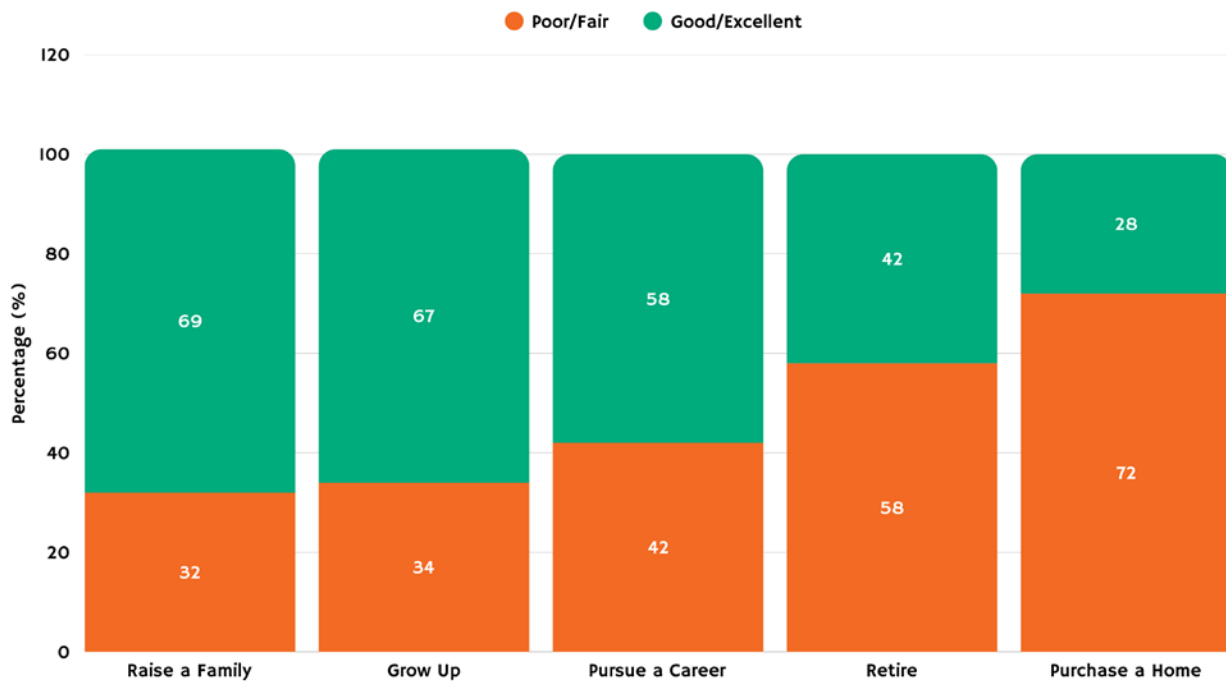


Chart 5: “How would you rate the Sacramento Region as a place to...”

Older respondents were more likely to rate the region more positively than younger respondents.

Across the categories listed above, there was a positive relationship between the age of the respondent and how positively they rated the region. When comparing the percentages of respondents aged 18-34 and aged 70+ who thought the region was “Good” or “Excellent,” the biggest difference was in their perception of the region as a place to retire - 29% of respondents aged 18-34 versus 65% of respondents aged 70+. This may be because of the increased cost of living and doubts that wages will keep up with the rate of inflation, from home prices to food, to energy rates ([PPIC](#), 2025).

# Community Belonging

At the heart of a thriving region is a strong sense of belonging—the feeling that we are part of something larger than ourselves. Community well-being depends on civic pride and the everyday acts of neighbors helping neighbors, which create trust, resilience, and shared purpose. These qualities have always been essential to quality of life, but they are especially critical now, when divisive political discourse and a polarizing media environment is fraying the civic fabric. By strengthening the ties that connect us, we not only improve individual lives but also build a region that can withstand challenges and move forward together.

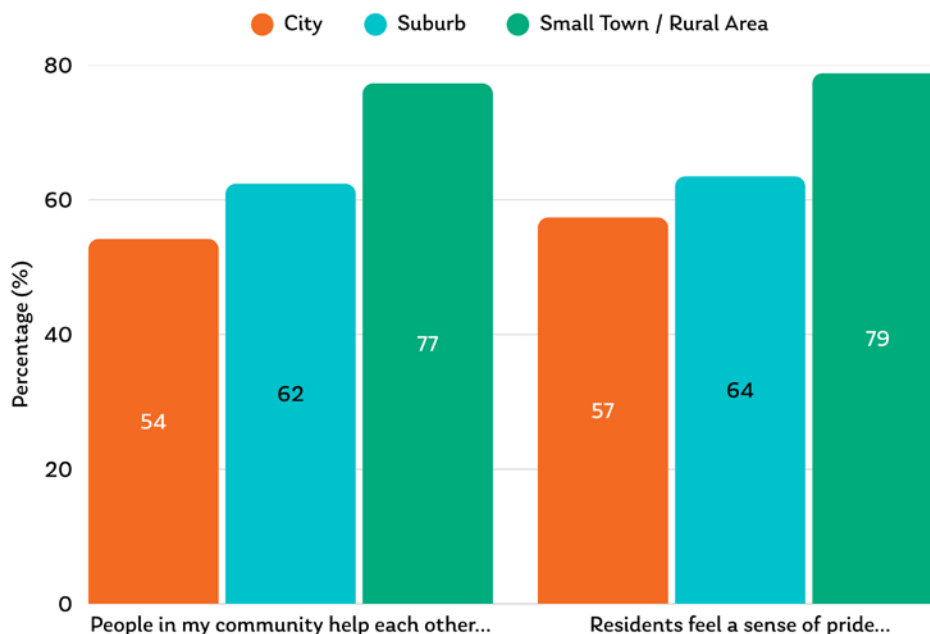
**The majority of the region's respondents agree that they have a sense of belonging and connectedness to their community.**

The majority of respondents across the region feel that people in their community help each other in times of need (62%) and that residents feel a sense of pride and attachment to their community (64%).

**Small towns expressed a greater sense of pride and belonging compared to urban and suburban communities.**

Interestingly, when examining the relationship with community type, we found that more respondents living in a small town and rural areas said that they strongly agreed or agreed that people in their community helped each other in times of need (77%), compared to respondents who lived in the suburbs (62%) or in a city or urban area (54%). Similarly, more respondents living in small towns and rural areas strongly agreed or agreed that they feel a sense of pride and attachment to their community (79%), compared to respondents who lived in the suburbs (64%) or in the city or an urban area (57%).

**Community Belonging: Disaggregated by Community Type**



*Chart 6: Percentage of respondents who strongly agree with statements about community belonging. Results are disaggregated by community type.*

Hispanic respondents are more likely to say they believe that people in their community help each other in times of need compared to other respondents.

Hispanic residents were most likely to strongly agree or agree that people in their community help each other in times of need (71%); this is a higher percentage than for respondents of any other race or ethnicity. In addition, 66% of Hispanic residents strongly agreed or agreed that residents feel a sense of pride and attachment to their community. This exceeds the percentage of all respondents overall, where 64% of total respondents said that they strongly agree or agree with this statement.

Since the beginning of 2025 and the introduction of a new federal administration, there has been an increase in the number of raids conducted by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), targeting Hispanic communities in particular ([The 19th](#), 2025). Reports from across the nation note that Hispanic residents are avoiding accessing health services, going to school, or going to grocery stores, in fear of being racially profiled and targeted for detainment or deportation. At a time when stress, fear, and grief are running high, it's more important than ever that our region collaborate around the safety and wellbeing of all residents.

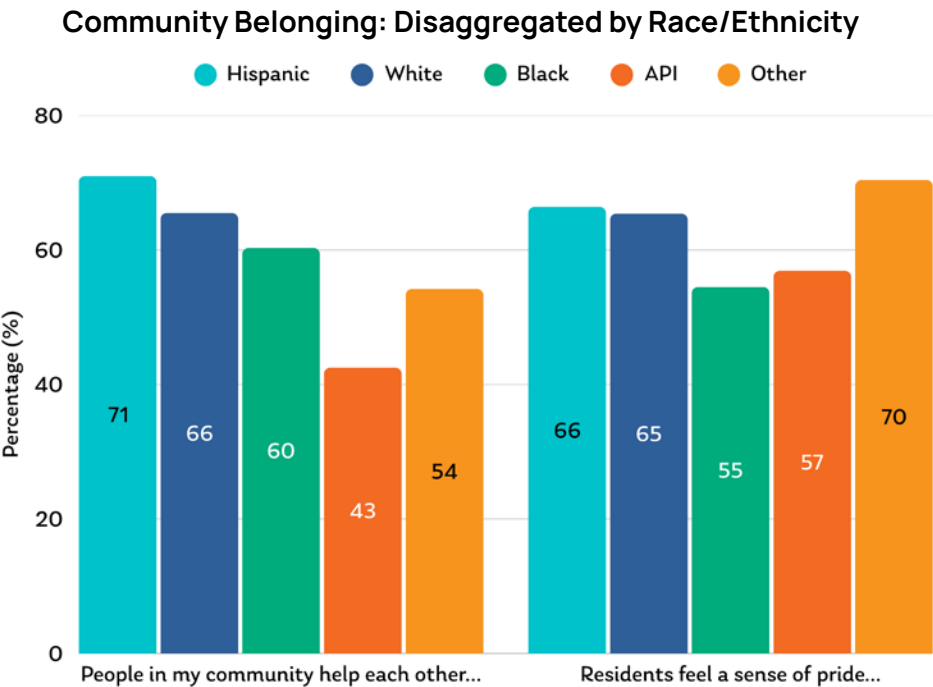


Chart 7: Percentage of respondents who strongly agree that people in their community help each other in times of need and that residents feel a sense of pride and attachment to their community. Results are disaggregated by race/ethnicity.



# Young People and Their Quality of Life

**Younger respondents were more likely to prioritize transportation and outdoor recreation for their quality of life in the region compared to older respondents.**

When asked what services and resources they'd like to see more of in their community, respondents aged 18-34 were more likely to select "outdoor recreation" (69%) and "public transportation" (67%) than other age groups. These two services, in addition to public safety (64%), were the top three services or resources that younger respondents most often selected.

As these respondents look to the future and what they'd like to preserve or grow for their local community, this age group was more likely to choose "affordable and accessible housing" (75%), "available high quality jobs" (59%), and "transportation infrastructure that minimizes gridlock" (40%). Younger respondents prioritized these topics more than respondents of any other age group. As we found in Valley Vision's 2023 Built Environment survey, the majority of the region's residents use a personal vehicle for their commute and over half of the respondents said that it was the only way to get around because public transit is inconvenient and inaccessible.

**Younger respondents are more concerned about federal policy changes across most issue areas than older respondents.**

With regards to recent federal policy changes, respondents aged 18-34 were more likely to say that they were concerned about the issue areas presented more than respondents of other age groups. We asked about eight policy areas and younger respondents were more concerned than other age groups in five of them. These policy areas were: funding cuts to Health and Human Services programs, reduced environmental regulation, support for the needs of immigrants, the dismantling of DEI initiatives, and funding cuts to colleges and universities. The federal policy change that received the most concern from these respondents was funding cuts to Health and Human Services programs (77%).





# The Future of Work



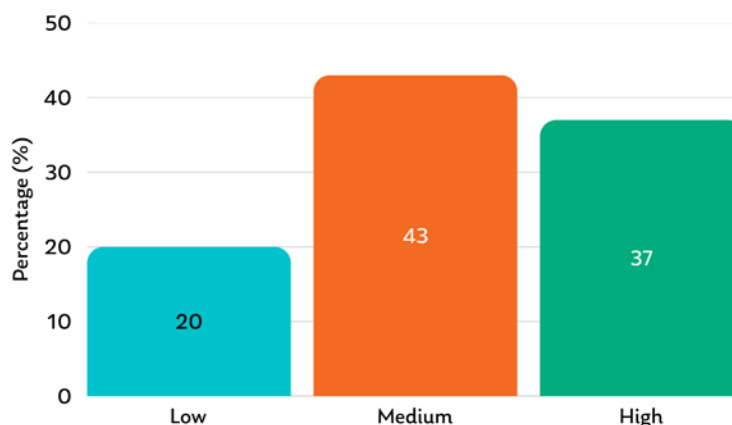
## We Prosper Together

With funding from the State of California's California Jobs First initiative, Valley Vision is leading We Prosper Together - a community-led approach to inclusive economic development across our 8-county region. This includes Colusa, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba counties. Over the last two years, we have awarded \$9 million in Catalyst funding to 22 projects that are designed to accelerate innovative strategies that address historic disinvestment and unlock regional potential. These projects advance high-quality job creation with livable wages, workforce equity, climate resilience, and community-rooted solutions across the priority tradable sectors of business services, precision manufacturing, working lands, and biotechnology.

**The majority of residents feel confident in their career path, but communities of color and urban residents express greater uncertainty.**

The majority of residents (56%) strongly agree or agree that they have all the skills that they need for the rest of their working life. In addition, nearly half of residents (43%) have medium confidence and 37% have high confidence that if they lost or wanted to leave their current job, they could find another job as good or better.

**Confidence In Finding Another Job: All Respondents**



*Chart 8: "How confident are you that if you lost or wanted to leave your current job, you could find another job as good or better?"*

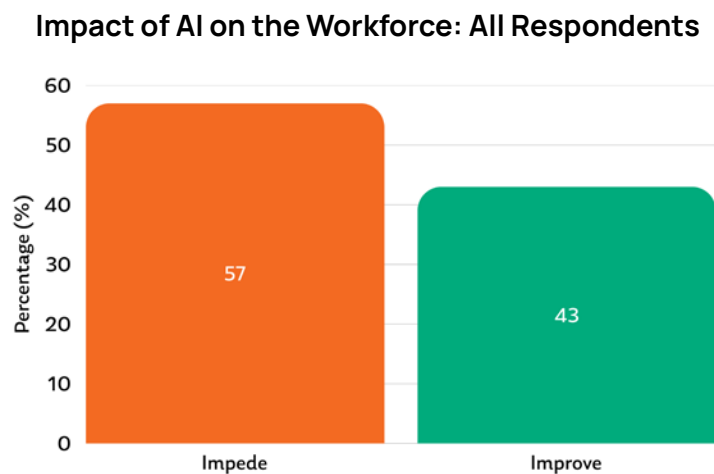
When looking at demographic differences, respondents living in small towns and rural areas were more likely to say that they agree that they have all the skills that they need and have high confidence they'd find another job as good or better, in comparison to respondents living in the suburbs or in cities and urban areas. The majority of white respondents were also more likely to say that they strongly agree or agree that they have all the skills they need for the rest of their working life (65%) compared to other races and ethnicities.

**The majority of residents fear diminishing job prospects as a result of technological developments in artificial intelligence.**

Advancements in Artificial Intelligence technology and how it's being used by the public has accelerated at an unprecedented rate over recent years. Lawmakers and experts across the country are concerned by the need to regulate AI and have called for mitigation measures for how the technology will affect the environment, public health, and increasing energy rates ([CalMatters](#), 2025). However, as the policy world continues to debate on the regulatory framework, AI's capabilities are quickly evolving, with increasing capacities in autonomous learning. At a time when political divisions are significant, this technology presents additional challenges to an eroding public trust in institutions, as AI has been used to generate misinformation, reinforce cognitive biases, and further false narratives that threaten the state of our democracy ([The Brookings Institution](#), 2024).

From the business side, companies continue to invest in AI and American workers have expressed mixed feelings about how this technology will impact them and their jobs going forward ([Pew Research Center](#), 2025). AI is being trained by humans to more accurately imitate human behavior and communication patterns, which have caused some concern amongst workers. A survey conducted by the Pew Research Center in 2024 found that 52% of surveyed U.S. employed adults were worried about how AI may be used in the workplace in the future, and 32% think AI will lead to fewer job opportunities for them in the long run. Lower- and middle-income workers were more likely to say that AI would improve their job prospects (ibid).

In line with these findings, within the Sacramento Region, the majority of respondents overall think that AI will impede their job prospects (57%), the job prospects of fellow workers (57%), and the job prospects of the next generation (63%). This finding mirrors the findings of our 2023 Livability Poll where respondents leaned towards skepticism that innovations and emergent technology in the workplace would have a positive impact on their work experience, including their ability to obtain and keep a job and their income.



*Chart 9: “Overall, how do you think technological developments in AI will impact job prospects for you or current workers?”*

Residents with lower household incomes and less educational attainment are more likely to say that AI will negatively impact their job prospects.

Diving deeper, respondents with lower incomes and less educational attainment were more likely to say that AI would negatively impact their job opportunities in comparison with respondents from higher household incomes and higher educational attainment. 65% of respondents from households who made less than \$50k said they thought AI would impede their job prospects, compared to 38% of respondents from households who made \$200k or more. When examining the relationship to educational attainment, 60% of respondents with less than a bachelor's degree thought that AI would impede their job prospects, compared to 49% of respondents with more than a bachelor's degree.

Respondents' Perceived Impact of AI on the Workforce: Disaggregation by Educational Attainment

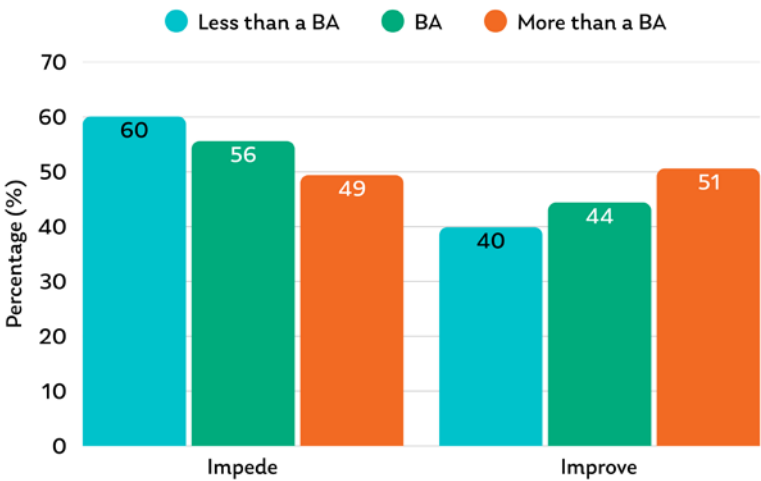


Chart 10: “Overall, how do you think technological developments in AI will impact job prospects for you or current workers?” Results are disaggregated by educational attainment.



# Housing

As in much of California, our region has seen significant increases in the cost of housing but have not seen the same pace of increases in wages. As in previous years, the region's residents are concerned about housing affordability, especially as the rate of housing development hasn't been able to meet demand. Several efforts to address this challenge include:

- Smaller scale zoning reforms at the state and local levels to allow neighborhood scale missing middle products and affordable homeownership opportunities in existing neighborhoods. Relevant state laws: SB 9, SB 684/1123.
- Larger zoning reforms at the state and local levels to increase allowed densities and affordable housing near transit and in commercial corridors. Relevant state laws: SB 79, AB 2011, Density Bonus Law.
- Parking reform at the state and local levels to reduce the cost of housing development and free up land for more housing units. Relevant state law: AB 2097.

In addition, Governor Gavin Newsom has enacted several new laws to deliver housing and infrastructure reform as part of the 2025-2026 state budget. Key components from AB 130 and SB 131 include ([CA Governor's Office, 2025](#)):

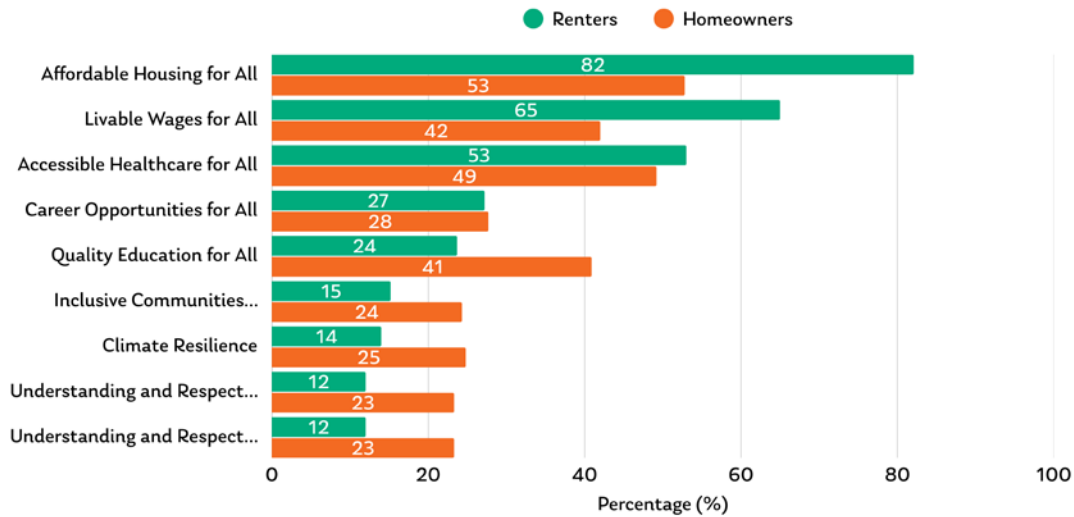
- CEQA Reforms: Streamlines CEQA review to accelerate delivery of housing and infrastructure projects while maintaining protections for natural and sensitive lands; exempts from CEQA review qualifying infill housing developments.
- Facilitating faster housing permitting and approvals processes: Expands the Permit Streamlining Act and makes permanent key provisions of the Housing Accountability Act and Housing Crisis Act.
- Doubling the Renters Tax Credit: Supports renters, subject to future appropriations, by increasing the tax credit to up to \$500 for qualified filers.

**While affordable housing remains a top priority for residents, it is especially the case for renters and communities of color.**

In comparison to the 2023 Livability Poll, the majority of respondents still prioritize affordable housing as a top priority when it comes to quality of life in the Sacramento Region, however it increased from 55% of respondents in 2023 to 61% of respondents in 2025. When examining demographic differences, more renters than homeowners said that affordable housing for all was a priority for defining quality of life in the Sacramento Region. 82% of respondents who are renters said this was a priority, in comparison to 53% of homeowners.



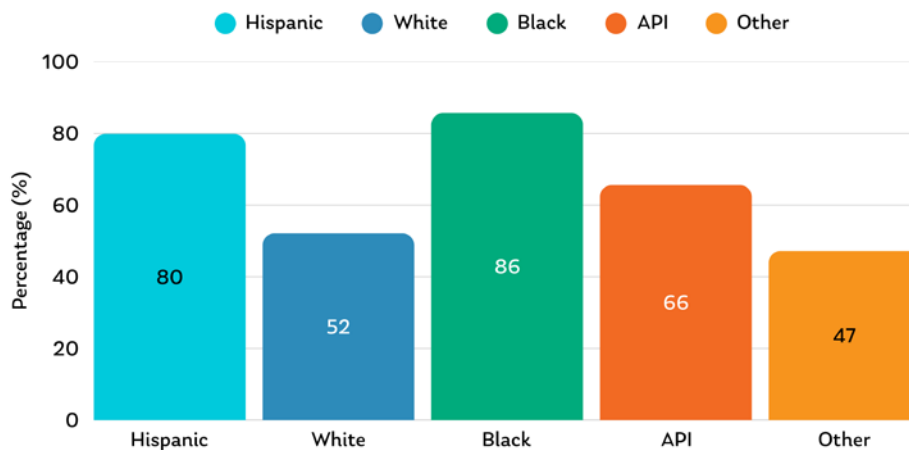
## Priority Topics for Quality of Life: Disaggregated by Renters and Homeowners



*Chart 11: "Below are some topics important to the quality of life in the Sacramento Region. Which of these are most important to you in your community?" Results are disaggregated by renters and homeowners.*

When examining racial differences of respondents, the percentage of white respondents who prioritized affordable housing for all was lower than for the percentages of Hispanic, Black, and API respondents who said this was a priority for the region's quality of life. 52% of white respondents responded in the affirmative, compared to 80% of Hispanic residents, 86% of Black residents, and 66% of API residents. As a result of historical housing policies that disadvantaged racial minorities, communities of color in the region today are less likely to own their homes and are most cost-burdened by housing, meaning that they spend 30% or more of their income on their rent, mortgage, or other housing needs. More work can be done to close the racial equity gap and produce more housing at lower price points.

## Percentage of Respondents Prioritizing Affordable Housing for All: Disaggregated by Race/Ethnicity



*Chart 12: Percentage of respondents who said affordable housing for all was a priority topic for quality of life in the Sacramento Region. Results are disaggregated by race/ethnicity.*

## The region is divided on whether to slow down or speed up on new housing development, but more respondents in 2025 want to speed up than in 2023.

When asked about new housing development, overall, respondents were evenly divided on their perspectives on whether to slow down building new housing or speed up building housing - exactly 50% each said that we need to “slow down on building new housing; neighborhoods are changing way too fast” and that we need to “speed up on building more housing and not let so many obstacles get in the way.” In comparison to Valley Vision’s 2023 Built Environment poll, there was an increase in respondents who said we should speed up housing development. In 2023, 54% of respondents thought that we needed to slow down on building housing, while 46% said that we needed to speed up on building housing.

## Communities of color and urban residents want to speed up on building more housing.

When examining differences by respondents’ race and ethnicity, more respondents from communities of color, particularly Black residents, expressed the desire for the region to speed up on building more housing and not let so many obstacles get in the way. As we saw in the 2023 Livability Poll, Black/African-American residents were most impacted by increasingly unaffordable housing. The lack of affordable housing in addition to persistent racial equity disparities contribute to heightened housing challenges for the region’s communities of color. When examining community type, urban residents (58%) were also more likely to say that they wanted to speed up on housing development compared to suburban (47%) and rural residents (38%).

## Respondents are also nearly evenly divided on whether new housing should be built in existing communities or in currently undeveloped areas.

When we asked respondents about where housing should be built, 52% of respondents said that they prefer for new homes to be built in existing communities, while 48% of respondents prefer for homes to be built in currently undeveloped areas. Respondents’ preference for building in undeveloped areas may be attributed to residents’ concern about increased traffic and parking demand in developed communities - a finding from our 2023 Built Environment poll. Despite this concern, there are many benefits to infill development, including lowering greenhouse gas emissions and supporting the revitalization of existing communities, in addition to preserving open space and natural land, which was another priority for respondents in this year’s Livability Poll.



### Where Should New Housing Be Built: All Respondents

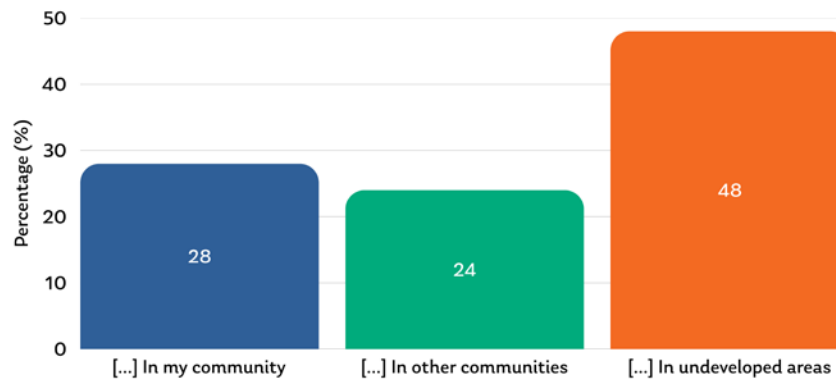


Chart 13: “Which of the following best describes your views about where new housing developments should be built...”

Statewide, California home prices continue to be more expensive than in the rest of the United States. For first-time home buyers, a bottom-tier home in California is approximately 30% more expensive than a mid-tier home in the rest of the country ([California Legislative Analyst's Office, 2025](#)). When looking at Sacramento County in particular, data from 2024 show that renters in the county need to earn \$32.92 per hour - 2.1 times the state minimum wage - in order to afford the average monthly rent of \$1,712 ([California Housing Partnership, 2024](#)).

The Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) has developed the 2025 draft Blueprint, to be finalized and adopted in November 2025, to reflect the region's priorities in transportation and building sustainable communities. The 2025 Blueprint is built on the three goals of equity, economy, and environment, and addresses the land use, air quality, and transportation needs of the 22 cities and six counties in the Sacramento region. Through a diverse outreach plan, SACOG facilitated focus group discussions with community members, advocacy groups, tribal governments, transit agencies, and local, state, and federal agencies, to document and incorporate residents' perspectives on housing, transportation pricing, perceptions of safety, and public health.



Key Blueprint implementation actions include: providing technical assistance to support community revitalization initiatives without increasing displacement; shaping new state legislation that reduces barriers to infill housing development; encouraging local policy reforms that facilitate missing middle housing; encouraging growth in industries that will grow the region's economy; and prioritizing meaningful public engagement by actively involving all communities in the development and implementation of SACOG programs.

# Climate Impacts and Opportunities

Regardless of a range of demographic differences, respondents across the region want a more robust response to natural disasters and greater protections for natural resources and agricultural land.

This year's poll asked several questions around California's clean air and environmental initiatives and for the majority of these issue areas, respondents didn't feel that the state was doing enough to address them. Overall, 36% of respondents feel that the state isn't doing enough to transition to clean energy sources; 35% feel that state is doing just right for incentivizing the use of EVs; 52% feel that the state isn't doing enough to preserve natural resources; 66% feel that the state isn't doing enough to address natural disasters like fires, floods, and earthquakes; and 57% feel that the state isn't doing enough to preserve our agricultural lands.

When specifically looking at the state's efforts around preserving agricultural lands, the majority of residents didn't think California was doing enough, and this was true regardless of demographic differences including educational attainment levels, community type, and age categories. California loses an average of 50,000 acres of agricultural land every year, mostly to urban and suburban development ([CalCAN](#)). An American Farmland Trust report identified several of the nation's top agricultural producing counties - Fresno, Tulare, and Kern - as being at the most risk of development by 2040, with 100,000 acres of agricultural land projected to be lost in the San Joaquin Valley ([AFT](#), 2022). Given residents' concern for the preservation of this land, there is an opportunity for greater community discussion about the risks that new housing development in undeveloped areas poses to the agricultural industry.

**Perspectives on State Efforts to Protect the Environment: All Respondents**

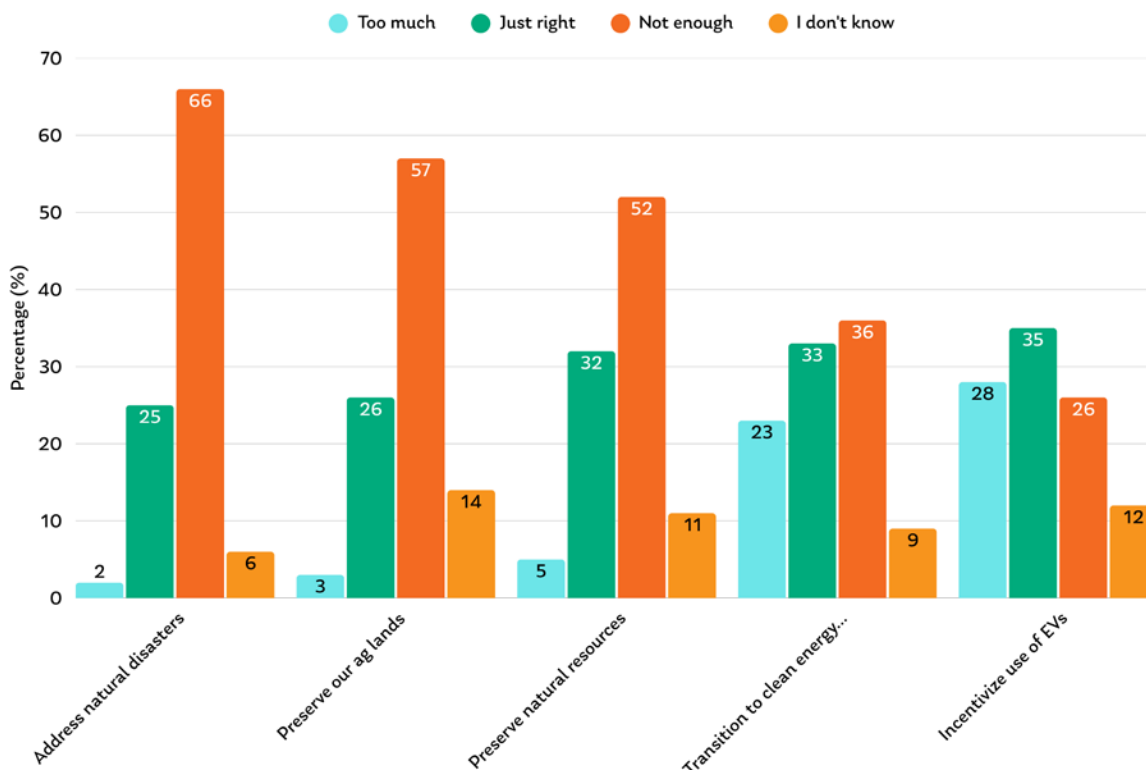


Chart 14: "Do you think California is doing too much, the right amount, or not enough to..."



However, when asked about residents' perspectives on current climate initiatives, there were more mixed responses. When asked if they thought California was doing enough to prepare for climate change impacts, nearly a third of respondents each responded with "yes," "no" or "I don't know" - 38%, 38%, and 24% respectively. Regardless of whether or not residents feel the state is doing enough in this area, a survey conducted by the Public Policy Institute of California in 2018 indicated that the majority of Californians feel that it's very important that the state is a world leader in fighting climate change ([PPIC](#), 2018). Two in three Californians also said that they favored the state acting independently of the federal government to combat global warming, which remains salient given the recent federal rollbacks in environmental policy and funding towards climate research.



# State and Federal Policies and Our Region

The majority of residents feel that California isn't doing enough to address the state's housing supply.

Of the different aspects of livability, more respondents expressed dissatisfaction over the state's efforts to address the state's housing supply compared to other issue areas. 63% said that the state wasn't doing enough, 16% said that they didn't know, and 21% said that the state was doing enough.

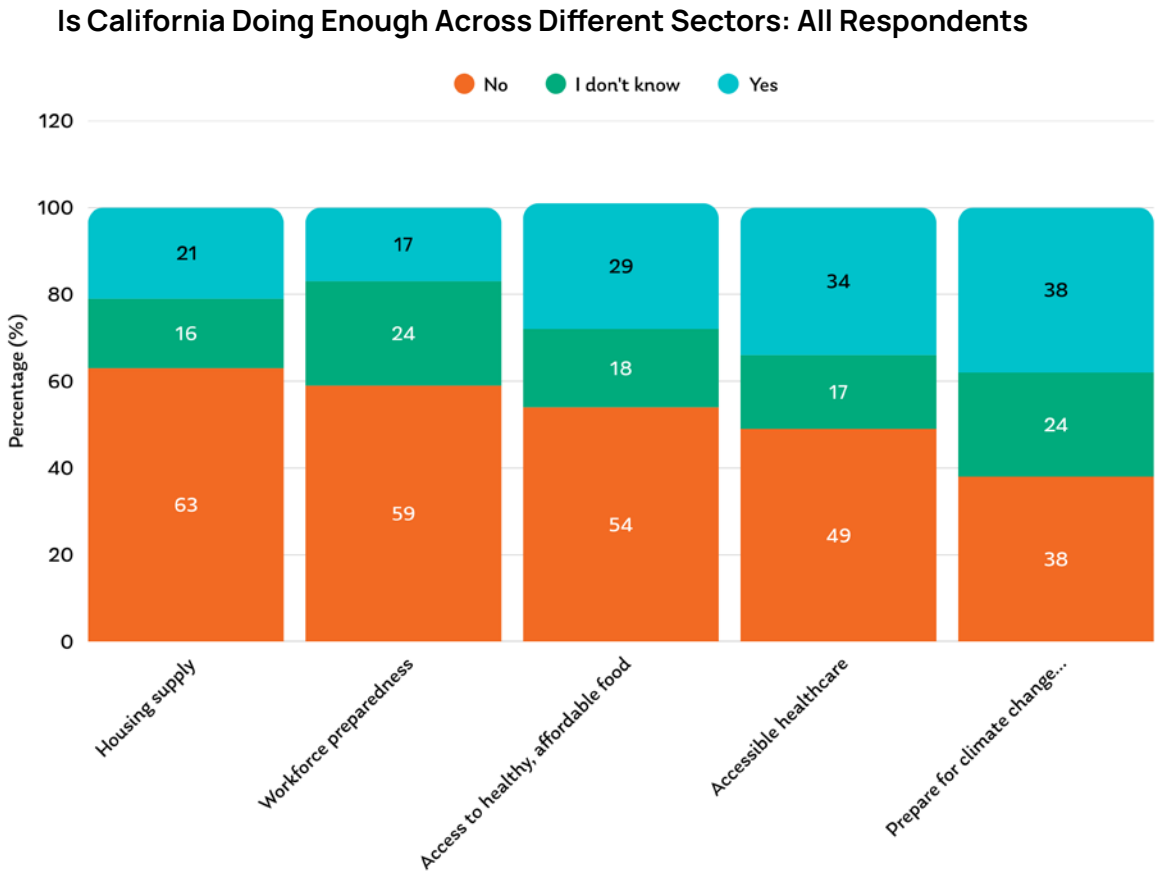


Chart 15: “Do you think California is doing enough in each of the following areas...”

The majority of respondents across the region are concerned about recent federal policy changes, particularly around funding cuts to Health and Human Services programs. Of the policy changes listed, respondents are the most positive about tax cuts.

Federal policy is shifting in ways that directly affect people and communities at the local level. Changes in funding and regulation across areas such as social services, climate action, immigration, and economic development shape the resources available to families, the priorities of local governments, and the ways that community organizations are able to meet urgent needs. These shifts are felt in very real and immediate ways in our local communities. To better understand how residents are experiencing and responding to this evolving landscape, we asked our regional poll panel to share their perspectives on recent federal policy changes.

Overall, respondents were more likely to say that they were concerned about all of the federal policy changes we presented to them for consideration. 68% of respondents are concerned about increasing tariffs; 68% of respondents are concerned about reduced environmental regulation; 60% are concerned about increasing coal, oil, and gas production; 60% are concerned about supporting the needs of immigrants; 49% are concerned by tax cuts; 59% are concerned by the dismantling of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives; 75% are concerned about funding cuts to Health and Human Services programs; and 70% are concerned by funding cuts to colleges and universities.

Regarding the federal funding cuts to Health and Human Services programs, the impact on our region will be far reaching. As a result of H.R. 1 - the One Big Beautiful Bill Act - an estimated \$1 trillion will be cut from health programs. Medicaid's changing work requirements, immigration restrictions, and more frequent eligibility checks will reduce the number of people who qualify for Medicaid coverage, while Medicare eligibility is further eliminated for lawfully present immigrants, including refugees, asylees, and survivors of human trafficking ([Center for Medicare Advocacy](#), 2025). Local health systems will also feel the impact of funding cuts. The Sacramento County Department of Public Health recently lost \$5 million from the federal government designated for immunization initiatives and \$18 million allocated for improved surveillance systems to track infectious disease outbreaks and foodborne illnesses ([CalMatters](#), 2025).

**Respondents' Views on Recent Federal Policy Changes: All Respondents**

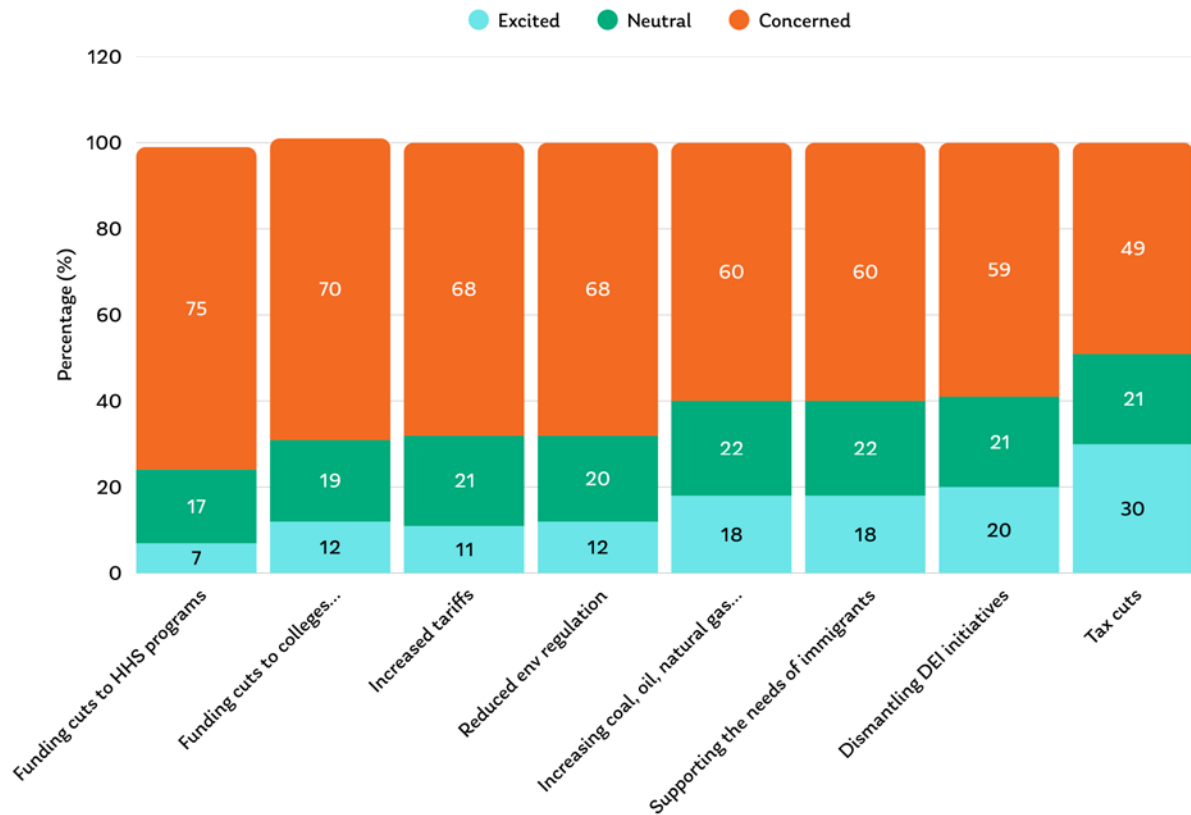


Chart 16: “The federal government is making significant policy changes in a number of different areas. How do you feel about each of the following changes?”

Older respondents expressed greater concern about federal policy changes to supporting the needs of immigrants compared to younger respondents.

Respondents aged 70+ were more likely to say that they were concerned about federal policy changes to the support available for addressing the needs of immigrants (72%), compared to younger respondents - especially respondents aged 18-34 (45%). Of the federal policy changes listed, this was also the topic that concerned respondents aged 70+ the most. Data from the American Immigration Council show that 21% of adults in California are foreign born ([American Immigration Council](#), 2023). A recent report by PPIC on our aging national population also projects that over the next fifteen years, the older adult population will become increasingly diverse, with growth rates highest among Latino and Asian adults. Of these individuals, the majority will have been foreign born ([PPIC](#), 2025). Given older people's range of healthcare and aging services needs, there may be increased concern amongst this diverse population for the reduction in services available for immigrants under this federal administration.

Respondents' Concern About Recent Federal Policy Changes in Supporting Immigrants: Disaggregation by Age

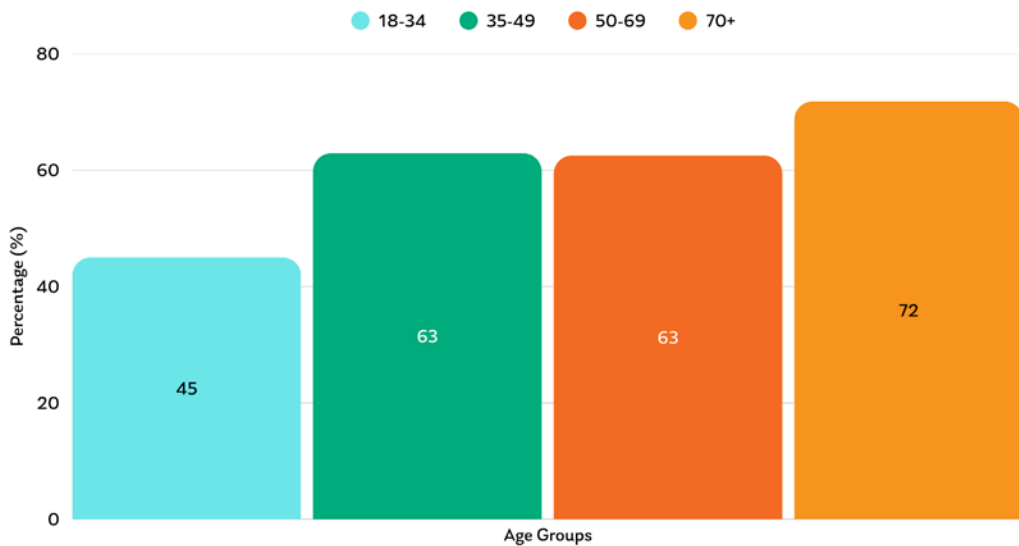


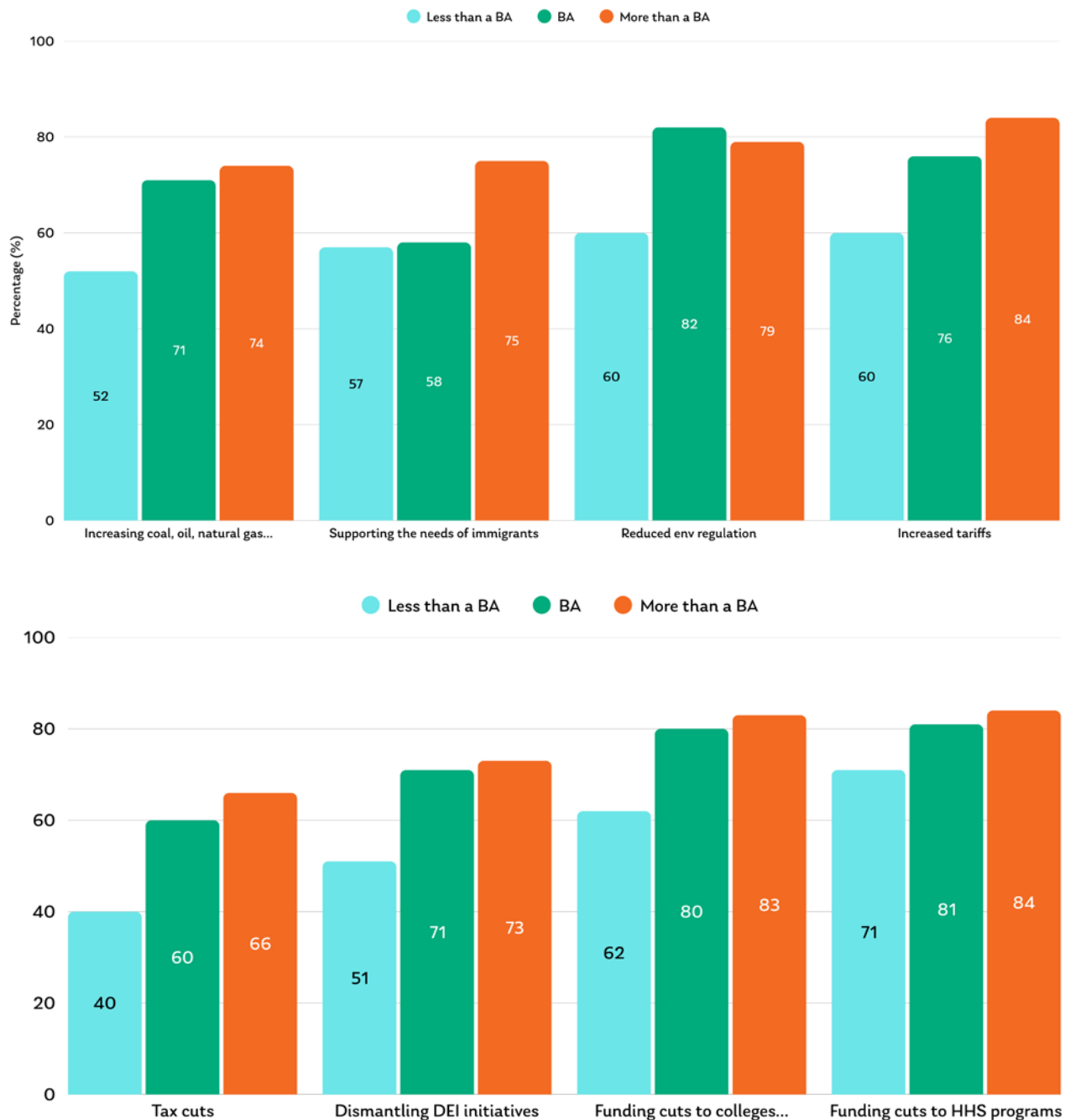
Chart 17: “The federal government is making significant policy changes in a number of different areas. How do you feel about the changes to supporting the needs of immigrants?” Results highlight the percentage of respondents who said they were concerned and are disaggregated by age group.

Residents with higher educational attainment are more concerned about recent federal policy changes.

Overall, there is also a positive relationship between individuals with greater educational attainment and concern for these federal policy changes across the topics we listed. The issue area with the most significant difference when considering educational attainment was with regard to tax cuts, where 40% of individuals with less than a Bachelor's degree expressed concern about tax cuts compared to 66% of individuals with greater than a Bachelor's degree.



## Respondents' Concern About Recent Federal Policy Changes: Disaggregation by Educational Attainment



*Chart 18: “The federal government is making significant policy changes in a number of different areas. How do you feel about the changes to...” Results highlight the percentage of respondents who said they were concerned and are disaggregated by educational attainment.*

Further, while this does not represent the majority opinion for these residents, respondents living in small towns and rural areas were more likely to say that they were excited about increasing coal, oil, and gas production and funding cuts to Health and Human Services programs (17%) than respondents living in suburbs (6%) or in the city and urban areas (5%).

# Data for Action: What Comes Next?

The findings of our Livability Poll indicate our region's perspectives and priorities on how to improve residents' quality of life and better prepare for the future. From federal policy changes to rapid technological advancements, the insights shared by respondents will help inform policy development and bolster advocacy efforts that matter most to the communities we serve.

## **Increase the availability and accessibility of livable wage jobs amidst the transition to AI:**

Creating livable wage jobs with inclusive pathways is essential to uplifting communities and strengthening the Sacramento region's economy. To achieve this, we must actively expand access to training, education, and career ladders that connect people to resilient, high-demand sectors. By diversifying our economy and growing industries such as precision manufacturing, business services, working lands, biotechnology, healthcare, and construction, we can concentrate livable wage jobs in fields that provide long-term stability and opportunity. At the same time, we need to prepare our workforce for rapid technological shifts such as artificial intelligence by investing in upskilling and aligning programs with emerging industry needs. As we continue to progress towards our regional economic development goals, it'll be crucial to continue partnering with community-based organizations and community leaders representing the needs of historically disinvested communities to better design programs and services that have equity in mind. By taking these steps, we can minimize job displacement, drive innovation, and ensure that prosperity is broadly shared across the region.

## **Increase the accessibility and affordability of housing:**

Addressing the Sacramento region's housing challenges requires a comprehensive approach that increases accessibility across the full spectrum of need. Expanding the supply of both market-rate and affordable housing is essential, with policies that encourage infill development, mixed-use projects, and more flexible zoning to make efficient use of land and infrastructure. By streamlining permitting, investing in infrastructure, and supporting diverse types of housing—from multifamily units to accessory dwelling units—we can accelerate development and create communities that are more inclusive, connected, and sustainable.

At the same time, we must pair development with programs and practices that ensure more residents can secure and keep stable housing. This means creating pathways to homeownership, expanding rental and down payment assistance, and strengthening homelessness prevention strategies that intervene before families lose their homes. It also requires innovation—piloting new housing models, leveraging public-private partnerships, and scaling programs that quickly move people from shelters or temporary housing into permanent, supportive homes. By aligning policies, investments, and partnerships, the Sacramento region can make meaningful progress toward a housing system that is more affordable, more inclusive, and within reach for all.

### Improve access to healthcare and basic services:

Access to healthcare and basic needs support is fundamental to the Sacramento region's well-being, yet both are under serious threat. Communities of color and low-income households already face higher rates of chronic illness, reduced access to preventive care, and greater barriers to healthy food, stable housing, and safe environments. Now, with federal program funding being pulled back, local organizations are being asked to do more with less. The result is widening disparities in health and well-being, alongside growing pressure on safety-net providers that are already stretched thin.

In this context, the region must act strategically to preserve and expand access where it is most urgently needed. That means targeting limited resources toward community-based health services, culturally responsive care, food and nutrition assistance, and mental health support. It requires strengthening partnerships among healthcare providers, nonprofits, and local governments to align services and avoid duplication, while also seeking innovative solutions that maximize impact with fewer dollars. Even in a constrained funding environment, advancing equity-driven policies and prioritizing preventive care can help reduce long-term costs and ensure that all residents—regardless of race, income, or zip code—have a fair chance at healthier lives.



# Survey Methodology

Since 2017, the Institute for Social Research (ISR) at Sacramento State University, in partnership with Valley Vision, has managed the Sacramento Region Research Panel, an online survey panel to collect public opinion information about the Greater Sacramento Region. Survey panels are a representative group of individuals who have agreed to participate in multiple surveys over time. In response to the declining response rates and reliability associated with telephone surveys, online survey panels have become an alternative way to gather data about a specific region or population (e.g., GfK's Knowledge Panel, Yougov's Omnibus Panel, the National Opinion Research Center (NORC)'s Amerispeak Panel, and the Pew Research Center's American Trends). Individuals were recruited into the panel by an invitation letter, which was sent to a random sample of Sacramento Valley households. Any adult in the household, age 18 or older, could join the panel by going to the online profile or by calling ISR to indicate a preference to participate with mail-in surveys. The strength of this probability-based sampling method is that virtually everyone in the Greater Sacramento Valley had a chance of being included.

The current panel is made up of 3,037 residents from El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, Yuba, Sutter, and Yolo counties. Panelists who participate by mail receive \$5 with the survey and are removed from the panel if they do not complete the survey or return the \$5. Statistical weighting is used to ensure that survey responses represent the Greater Sacramento Valley.

**Sampling and Recruitment** | The Sacramento Region Research Panel uses probability-based sampling methods. Specifically, to recruit a random sample of Sacramento Valley residents we use the United States Postal Service Delivery Sequence File (USPS DSF) of California residential addresses (stratified geographically by county and Hispanic population) [1], as a sampling frame. We send

postcards or letters to the sampled residences and invite adult residents to join the panel (via a URL address, or by calling us to indicate a preference for mail participation). The strength of this sampling method is that virtually everyone in the population of El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, Yuba, Sutter, and Yolo counties has a chance of being included in the sample, but those sampled must also choose to participate. The Institutional Review Board (IRB) at California State University, Sacramento reviewed and approved recruitment procedures outlined above for protecting the rights of human research subjects.

**Consent and Initial Profile** | During recruitment (and at the beginning of each subsequent survey), panelists learn that their participation is entirely voluntary and that they have the right to opt out at any time. They also learn that their survey responses are strictly confidential. Immediately upon agreeing to join the panel, panelists complete a 15-minute survey that includes questions about their demographics, background, interests, personality, political identity, and household composition. This profile information is merged with future survey data collections, thereby reducing the need to ask panelists to answer these questions with each survey administered.

**Survey Procedures** | ISR uses the Qualtrics Research Suite online survey platform to administer surveys. The research team optimizes all surveys for completion on mobile phones and tablets, and provides Spanish translations. Panelists receive reminders to complete the surveys approximately every three days following the initial invitation. All subsequent surveys have been offered in both English and Spanish. As mentioned, panelists who participate by mail receive \$5 with the survey and are removed from the panel if they do not complete the survey or return the \$5. Panelists have the option to receive the \$5 or "donate" it back to the study so more people can participate.



**Survey Weighting and Analysis** | For each survey, the weighting protocol proceeds in stages. First, the base weights are computed to reflect the various selection probabilities for respondents selected from different sampling frames. Second, adjustments for nonresponse and under-coverage are made by calibrating the base weights to known population-based control totals for gender, age, race, ethnicity, education, income, marital status, homeownership, household size and county using a 'raking' process. The population benchmarks are obtained from the most recent Census Bureau's American Community Survey 5-year estimates and Nielsen Claritas estimates. Finally, the raked weights are "trimmed" to reduce extreme values. The weighting process ensures that the responses from the panelists responding to the survey will

statistically represent the demographics of each county and the Greater Sacramento Valley. Surveys are analyzed by reporting out the percent of panelists (who are representative of the Greater Sacramento Valley) providing responses to the various questions.

Survey results are also often broken down by panelist characteristics, such as gender, income levels, race, and other key demographic information. When the survey responses are broken down by these categories (or disaggregated into cross-tabulations), a statistical test is run to ensure that the differences among these groups are statistically significant (i.e., any differences are not the result of "noise" in the data).



# ISR Regional Panel Weighting Methodology

## Sampling:

This survey has secured a total of 1,273 adult respondents residing in six counties of California using the ISR Regional panel for sampling and survey administration. The following table provides a summary of the population and respondent distributions by county.

**Table 1. Population and Respondent Distribution by County**

County	Population		Respondents	
El Dorado	155,082	7.6%	81	6.4%
Placer	332,631	16.4%	181	14.2%
Sacramento	1,227,284	60.4%	799	62.8%
Sutter	74,412	3.7%	35	2.7%
Yolo	178,542	8.8%	140	11.0%
Yuba	62,603	3.1%	37	2.9%
Total	2,030,554	100.0%	1,273	100.0%

## Weighting:

All survey data must be weighted before they can be used to produce unbiased estimates of population parameters. By compensating for differential nonresponse and undercoverage, weighting improves the external validity of survey data by enhancing the representation of respondents.

Weights for this survey were computed using the WgtAdjust procedure of SUDAAN, which relies on a constrained logistic regression to predict the likelihood of response as a function of a set of explanatory variables<sup>1</sup>. These variables, which represent the geodemographic characteristics of adults residing in the six counties, are summarized in the following tables.

The needed population benchmarks for this purpose were secured from the latest American Community Survey (ACS 2023). In order to improve the stability of the resulting survey estimates extreme weights were trimmed at both ends of the weight distribution before the final weights were rescaled to produce the following two sets of analysis weights:

- **WGT\_P**: analysis weights aggregated to the number of adults in the six countries (2,03,554)
- **WGT\_R**: analysis weights aggregated to the number of respondents in the six countries (1,273)

<sup>1</sup> RTI International (2012). *SUDAAN Language Manual, Release 11.0*. RTI International.

**Table 2. Population and Respondent Distributions by Gender and Age**

Age	Males				Females			
	Population		Respondents		Population		Respondents	
18 - 24	120,817	12.2%	10	2.0%	118,049	11.3%	24	3.1%
25 - 34	175,889	17.8%	50	10.0%	179,248	17.2%	84	10.8%
35 - 44	185,754	18.8%	71	14.3%	184,128	17.7%	131	16.9%
45 - 54	157,349	15.9%	72	14.5%	154,536	14.8%	119	15.4%
55 - 64	151,648	15.3%	98	19.7%	159,563	15.3%	137	17.7%
65+	198,085	20.0%	197	39.6%	245,488	23.6%	280	36.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>989,542</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1,041,012</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>775</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Table 3. Population and Respondent Distributions by Gender and Ethnicity**

Ethnicity	Males				Females			
	Population		Respondents		Population		Respondents	
Hispanic	216,073	21.8%	73	14.7%	217,596	20.9%	134	17.3%
Non-Hispanic	773,469	78.2%	425	85.3%	823,416	79.1%	641	82.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>989,542</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1,041,012</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>775</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Table 4. Population and Respondent Distributions by Gender and Race**

Race	Males				Females			
	Population		Respondents		Population		Respondents	
White	527,531	53.3%	388	77.9%	557,022	53.5%	577	74.5%
Black	66,521	6.7%	14	2.8%	66,306	6.4%	48	6.2%
Asian & PI	154,767	15.6%	72	14.5%	174,799	16.8%	107	13.8%
Other	240,723	24.3%	24	4.8%	242,885	23.3%	43	5.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>989,542</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1,041,012</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>775</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Table 5. Population and Respondent Distributions by Gender and Education**

Education	Males				Females			
	Population		Respondents		Population		Respondents	
Up to HS/GED	344,588	34.8%	30	6.0%	323,595	31.1%	59	7.6%
Some college	230,823	23.3%	72	14.5%	245,554	23.6%	135	17.4%
Associate degree	87,151	8.8%	40	8.0%	102,645	9.9%	88	11.4%
Bachelor's degree	207,488	21.0%	202	40.6%	238,516	22.9%	256	33.0%
Master's degree	70,893	7.2%	103	20.7%	90,659	8.7%	174	22.5%
Beyond Master's	48,599	4.9%	51	10.2%	40,043	3.8%	63	8.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>989,542</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1,041,012</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>775</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Table 6. Population and Respondent Distributions by Income and Gender**

Income	Males				Females			
	Population		Respondents		Population		Respondents	
\$0K < \$15K	69,785	7.1%	12	2.4%	83,517	8.0%	45	5.8%
\$15K < \$25K	29,173	2.9%	12	2.4%	41,272	4.0%	42	5.4%
\$25K < \$50K	93,235	9.4%	46	9.2%	113,664	10.9%	91	11.7%
\$50K < \$75K	122,735	12.4%	74	14.9%	136,508	13.1%	135	17.4%
\$75K < \$100K	128,434	13.0%	74	14.9%	134,831	13.0%	123	15.9%
\$100K < \$150K	209,779	21.2%	121	24.3%	209,707	20.1%	166	21.4%
\$150K < \$200K	143,602	14.5%	75	15.1%	138,558	13.3%	86	11.1%
\$200K+	192,799	19.5%	84	16.9%	182,955	17.6%	87	11.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>989,542</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1,041,012</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>775</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Table 7. Population and Respondent Distributions by Gender and Marital Status**

Marital Status	Males				Females			
	Population		Respondents		Population		Respondents	
Married	536,143	54.2%	299	60.0%	518,052	49.8%	371	47.9%
Other	453,399	45.8%	199	40.0%	522,960	50.2%	404	52.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>989,542</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1,041,012</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>775</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Table 8. Population and Respondent Distributions by Gender and Household Size**

Household Size	Males				Females			
	Population		Respondents		Population		Respondents	
1	124,830	12.6%	111	22.3%	159,819	15.4%	188	24.3%
2	306,944	31.0%	234	47.0%	320,031	30.7%	309	39.9%
3	185,748	18.8%	64	12.9%	186,198	17.9%	123	15.9%
4	172,730	17.5%	50	10.0%	175,760	16.9%	100	12.9%
5+	199,290	20.1%	39	7.8%	199,204	19.1%	55	7.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>989,542</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1,041,012</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>775</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



**Table 9. Population and Respondent Distributions by Gender and Homeownership**

Homeownership	Males				Females			
	Population		Respondents		Population		Respondents	
Own	648,918	65.6%	397	79.7%	673,696	64.7%	598	77.2%
Other	340,624	34.4%	101	20.3%	367,316	35.3%	177	22.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>989,542</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1,041,012</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>775</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Table 10. Population and Respondent Distributions by Gender and County**

County	Males				Females			
	Population		Respondents		Population		Respondents	
El Dorado	76,974	7.8%	27	5.4%	78,108	7.5%	54	7.0%
Placer	161,423	16.3%	85	17.1%	171,208	16.4%	96	12.4%
Sacramento	596,087	60.2%	304	61.0%	631,197	60.6%	495	63.9%
Sutter	36,847	3.7%	15	3.0%	37,565	3.6%	20	2.6%
Yolo	86,560	8.7%	56	11.2%	91,982	8.8%	84	10.8%
Yuba	31,651	3.2%	11	2.2%	30,952	3.0%	26	3.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>989,542</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1,041,012</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>775</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## Variance Estimation for Weighted Data:

Survey estimates can only be interpreted properly in light of their associated sampling errors. Since weighting often increases variance of estimates, use of standard variance calculation formulae with weighted data can result in misleading statistical inferences. With weighted data, two general approaches for variance estimation can be distinguished. One is Taylor Series Linearization, while the second method of variance estimation is Replication.

Also, an approximation method can be used for variance estimation when the above tools are not available. With  $W_i$  representing the final weight of the  $i$ th respondent, the inflation due to weighting, which is commonly referred to as Design Effect, can be approximated by:

$$\delta = 1 + \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{(W_i - \bar{W})^2}{n-1}}{\bar{W}^2}$$

For calculation of confidence intervals for an estimated percentage, , one can obtain the conventional variance of the given percentage, multiply it by the resulting design effect,  $\delta$ , and use the resulting quantity as adjusted variance. That is, the adjusted variance would be given by:

$$\hat{S}^2(\hat{p}) \approx S^2(\hat{p})(\hat{p}) \times \delta = \frac{\hat{p} \times (1 - \hat{p})}{n-1} \left( \frac{N-n}{N} \right) \times \delta$$

Subsequently, the  $(100-\alpha)$  percent confidence interval for  $P$  would be given by:

$$\hat{p} - z_{\alpha/2} \sqrt{\frac{\hat{p} \times (1 - \hat{p})}{n-1} \left( \frac{N-n}{N} \right) \times \delta} \leq P \leq \hat{p} + z_{\alpha/2} \sqrt{\frac{\hat{p} \times (1 - \hat{p})}{n-1} \left( \frac{N-n}{N} \right) \times \delta}$$

# Survey Respondents' Demographics and Geographic Profile

		Number	Percentage (%)
County	El Dorado	114	8.9
	Placer	227	17.8
	Sacramento	726	57.1
	Sutter	55	4.3
	Yolo	111	8.7
	Yuba	39	3.1
Race/ Ethnicity	Hispanic	241	18.9
	White, non-Hispanic	672	52.8
	Black, non-Hispanic	77	6.1
	API, non-Hispanic	211	16.6
	Other, non-Hispanic	71	5.6
Household Income	Less than \$15,000	82	6.5
	\$15,000-\$25,000	52	4.1
	\$25,001-\$50,000	116	9.1
	\$50,001-\$75,000	147	11.6
	\$75,001-\$100,000	179	14.0
	\$100,001-\$150,000	243	19.1
	\$150,001-\$200,000	202	15.9
	\$200,001-\$250,000	103	8.1
	Over \$250,000	148	11.6

		Number	Percentage (%)
Age Group	18-34	316	25.0
	35-49	357	28.2
	50-69	386	30.5
	70+	206	16.3
Urbanicity	Urban	526	41.4
	Suburban	521	40.9
	Rural/Small Town	226	17.7
Gender	Male	568	44.7
	Female	705	55.3
CHILD 0-17 in HH	No children	807	63.4
	At least one child	466	36.6
Primary Language	English	1131	88.9
	Spanish	85	6.7
	Other language	55	4.4
Education Level	< BA	771	60.6
	BA	319	25.1
	> BA	183	14.3





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