



Statewide Texas Survey
February 23-24, 2021
N=1130

Q1 Are you a Texas resident?

100.0% Yes
0.0% No

Q2 Did you or anyone in your immediate family lose power for more than 24 hours during the energy crisis last week?

63.1% Yes
34.3% No
2.6% Unsure

Q3 Even if you did not lose power, did you suffer any economic losses as a result of the winter storm, such as wasted food, lost wages or hours, lost sales due to your business being closed, or some other reason?

64.1% Yes
31.6% No
4.3% Unsure

Q4 Do you think you, your family, and other Texans received enough information during the power outages to make the right decisions about how to get through the crisis?

30.1% Yes
54.7% No
15.2% Unsure

Q5 Do you think the state energy regulators and utility providers did a good job in keeping you informed, a somewhat good job keeping you informed, a poor job keeping you informed, or a very poor job keeping you informed about when power would be restored?

12.5% Good job
23.4% Somewhat good job
27.3% Poor job
33.0% Very poor job
3.7% Unsure

Q6 As a taxpayer, what grade would you give state leaders in handling the crisis and getting the power back on?

13.4% A
14.7% B
20.8% C
20.4% D
30.6% F

Q7 As a customer, what grade would you give your energy provider in handling the crisis and getting the power back on?

29.2% A
17.1% B
24.4% C
13.1% D
16.2% F

Q7 Who do you think is more responsible for the crisis in the first place, Texas state regulators, like ERCOT, or the energy companies?

- 56.2% Texas state regulators are more responsible
- 11.1% Energy companies are more responsible
- 19.0% Regulators and energy companies are equally responsible
- 13.6% Unsure

Q9 The Texas energy grid is designed to operate in the Texas heat, not the freezing cold temperatures we experienced last week, so there's nothing which could have been done to prevent the energy crisis.

- 14.9% Very credible
- 16.3% Somewhat credible
- 21.0% Somewhat not credible
- 47.8% Not credible at all

Q10 Some critics have said the problem is the state energy corporations have too much power over the Texas government, which is why state regulations are so weak. There's no oversight, and no accountability.

- 35.5% Very credible
- 28.1% Somewhat credible
- 13.9% Somewhat not credible
- 22.5% Not credible at all

Q11 ERCOT, the state regulatory agency said Texas actually lost more power generation from thermal sources – gas, coal, and nuclear – than from wind sources. What we need is better infrastructure.

- 36.4% Very credible
- 22.3% Somewhat credible
- 17.7% Somewhat not credible
- 23.5% Not credible at all

Q12 Governor Abbott and others have blamed the so-called Green New Deal for our energy crisis last week, they say a reliance on renewables would be bad for Texas.

- 39.3% Very credible
- 13.1% Somewhat credible
- 11.2% Somewhat not credible
- 36.4% Not credible at all

Q13 Texas is experiencing extreme weather events with increasing frequency over the past few years due to climate change: Hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, and now a deep freeze. We need to harden our infrastructure to deal with this new reality.

- 50.5% Very credible
- 18.4% Somewhat credible
- 17.0% Somewhat not credible
- 14.1% Not credible at all

Q14 Ten years ago, there was another freeze event which caused blackouts in parts of the state. The Texas Public Utility Commission issued recommendations for Texas utility companies to winterize their production and transmission capacity; but those recommendations were ignored, which is why the system crashed last week.

- 55.1% Very credible
- 23.6% Somewhat credible
- 12.2% Somewhat not credible
- 9.1% Not credible at all

Q15 Residential and commercial energy customers deserve a rebate for the days of lost power, and any economic losses they suffered – without facing future rate increases from a system which failed.

- 54.9% Strongly agree
- 30.9% Somewhat agree
- 9.5% Somewhat disagree
- 4.7% Strongly disagree

Q16 Other states which have much larger temperature swings than Texas place standards on energy producers and providers who do business in their states. Those states require more resilient production and transmission infrastructure, so they don't crash in extreme hot or cold weather. Texas now needs to do the same, by enacting mandates to make sure our energy infrastructure can operate in any season.

- 67.1% Strongly agree
- 22.0% Somewhat agree
- 4.4% Somewhat disagree
- 6.5% Strongly disagree

Q17 The Texas energy grid is designed to be independent of the rest of the country, because we don't need the federal government meddling in our energy economy. We should fix our energy grid on our own, turn down federal funding, and remain independent of the rest of the country's energy infrastructure.

- 40.6% Strongly agree
- 16.0% Somewhat agree
- 12.4% Somewhat disagree
- 31.1% Strongly disagree

Q18 With an increase in extreme weather events hitting Texas, the state should create a disaster impact fund for homeowners and business to cover the economic losses from these dramatic weather events.

- 41.6% Strongly agree
- 28.1% Somewhat agree
- 21.4% Somewhat disagree
- 8.9% Strongly disagree

Q19 When the systems we pay for fail, Texans have the right to know how and why state regulators and energy corporations let us down. We need an immediate, thorough, and nonpartisan investigation to understand what happened, hold people accountable, and then make binding recommendations to state law to make sure this never happens again.

- 75.3% Strongly agree
- 14.7% Somewhat agree
- 7.0% Somewhat disagree
- 3.0% Strongly disagree

Q20 Accountability starts at the top. Governor Abbott needs to lead – by acknowledging the state's shortcomings, and then working with the legislature to ensure millions of Texans are never again placed at risk.

- 68.9% Strongly agree
- 21.1% Somewhat agree
- 7.0% Somewhat disagree
- 3.0% Strongly disagree

Q21 The legislature has called for emergency hearings, promising to get to the bottom of what happened. Whatever they come up with as solutions, the state agencies and energy providers cannot be allowed to pass the buck to taxpayers and customers who were left in the cold and in the dark.

- 73.5% Strongly agree
- 21.1% Somewhat agree
- 3.2% Somewhat disagree
- 2.3% Strongly disagree

Q22 Texas is one of the largest producers of renewable energy in the world. Now is not the time to turn our back on renewables, but we should instead require higher quality infrastructure capable of standing up to extreme weather.

- 66.2% Strongly agree
- 17.7% Somewhat agree
- 10.4% Somewhat disagree
- 5.7% Strongly disagree

Q23 Please tell us your age.

- 21.0% 18 to 34
- 26.4% 35 to 49
- 28.1% 50 to 64
- 24.5% 65 or older

Q24 Just to make sure we have a representative sample, please tell me if you consider yourself African American or Black, Caucasian or White, Asian American, Hispanic or Latino, multiracial, Native American, or some other race or ethnicity not mentioned here.

- 10.0% African American or Black
- 64.0% Caucasian or White
- 3.0% Asian American
- 20.0% Hispanic or Latino
- 1.0% Multiracial
- 1.0% Native American
- 1.0% Some other race not mentioned

Q25 For statistical purposes only, please tell us your gender.

- 46.5% Male
- 52.5% Female
- 1.0% Non-binary

Q26 How would you describe your political affiliation?

- 38.3% Republican
- 32.7% Democrat
- 20.2% Independent
- 1.3% Other party
- 7.6% Unsure or no party

Q27 For statistical purposes only, do you own or rent your home?

- 85.6% Own
- 14.4% Rent

Q28 Region

- 10.0% Austin
- 30.0% Dallas
- 25.0% Houston
- 10.0% San Antonio
- 19.0% South
- 6.0% Other