



Study Overview

The [UTSA Center for Public Opinion Research \(CPOR\)](#) conducted a countywide survey of Bexar County residents using the Bexar County Panel on behalf of the Bexar County commissioners court. The survey was conducted online from May 1 to May 12, 2026 and focused on residents' budget priorities.

About the Bexar County Panel

The Bexar County Panel is a probability-based panel of approximately 3,000 adult residents (18 and older) of Bexar County, Texas. Panelists were recruited using a combination of Random Digit Dialing (RDD), Registration-Based Sampling (RBS), and Address-Based Sampling (ABS), ensuring broad and representative coverage of the county population.

A key strength of the panel is its capacity for longitudinal research. Because the same individuals can be surveyed repeatedly over time, the panel allows for the identification of genuine trends in public opinion rather than cross-sectional snapshots.

Recruitment and Sample

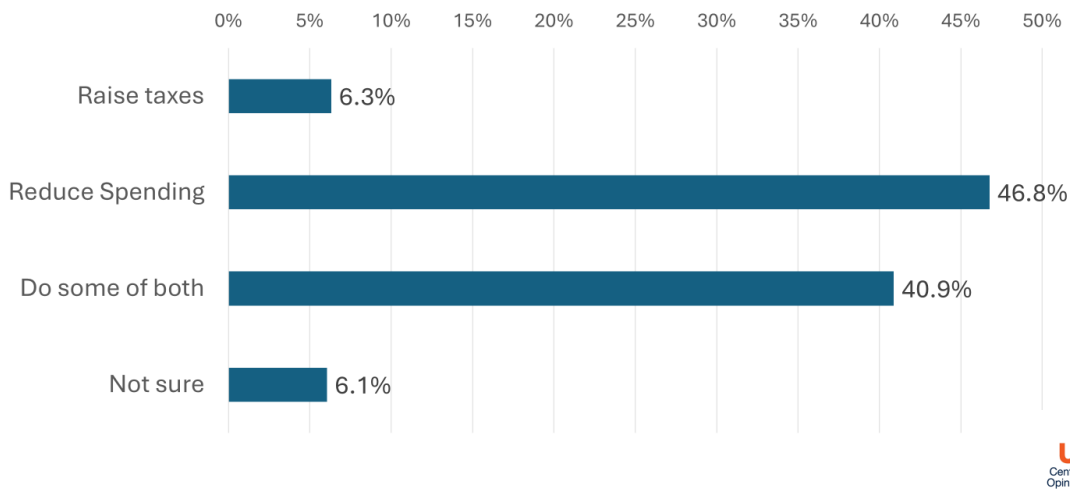
CPOR invited 2,958 Bexar County Panelists to complete the survey online. The response rate was 47% and 1,300 panelists completed the survey (completion rate: 98%). The sample was weighted on education, race and ethnicity, age, gender, and income, based 1-year American Community Survey (ACS) estimates for Bexar County. Additionally, the sample was weighted on county commissioner precinct to ensure an even distribution of respondents across precincts. Missing values on each of the above items were imputed to reduce missing weight values. With weighting, the effective sample was 1,285 (unless otherwise noted) and the margin of error was +/- 2.7%.

Data Processing and Transparency

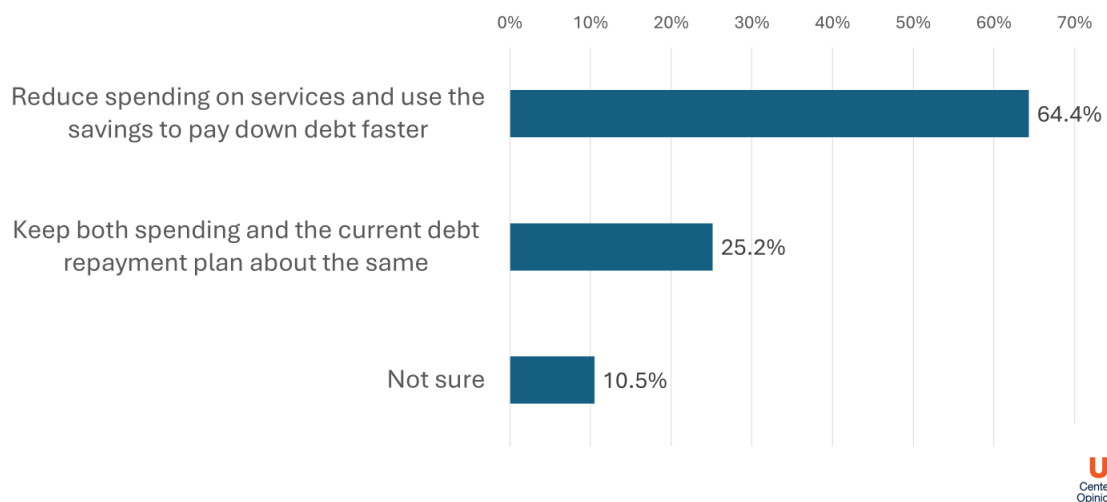
Bots, fraudulent responses, and multiple submissions were prevented via tools included on the survey platform Qualtrics. Surveys completed in less than two minutes were flagged for straightlining. The results presented below display full question wording along with all available response options. The results reported below are based on the weighted data.

Part 1. Spending and Debt Reduction Attitudes

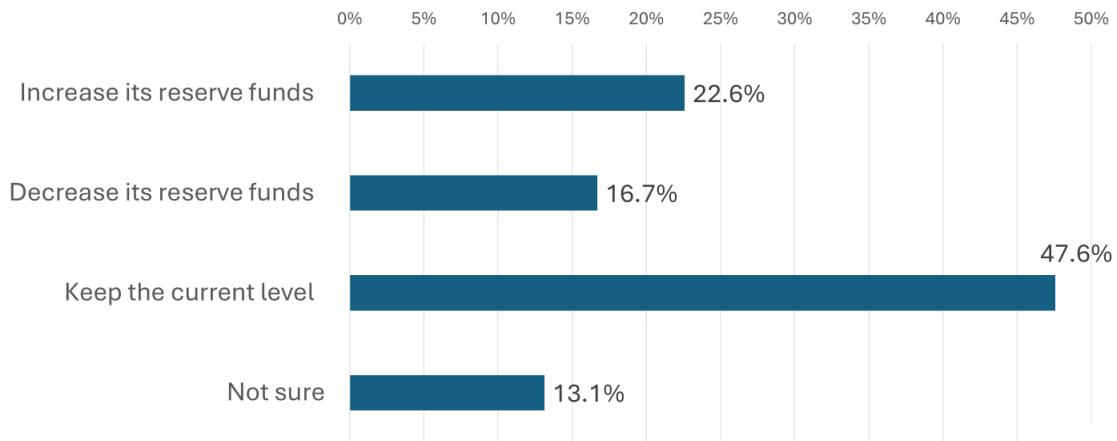
“Like all local governments, Bexar County must balance its budget each year. The FY 2025-2026 adopted budget was \$2.83 billion. If the County faced a gap between revenue and expenses, what approach would you prefer?”



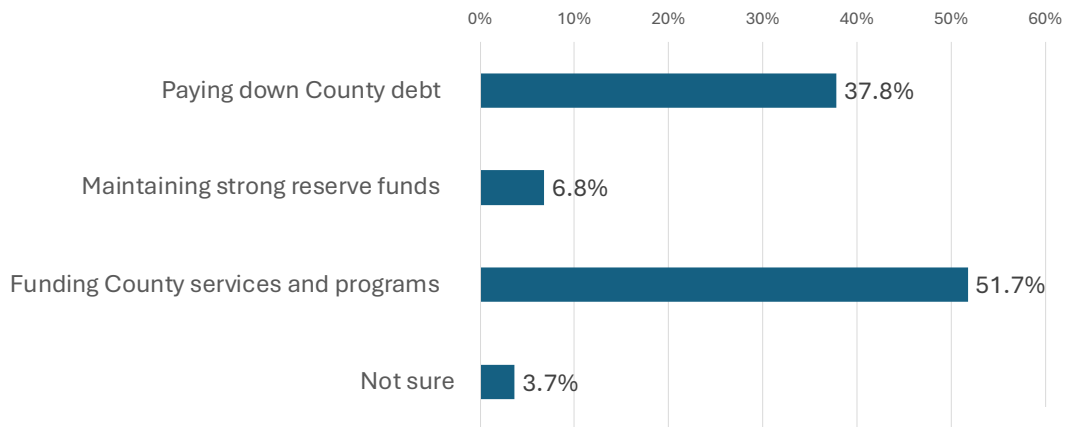
“Bexar County currently has about \$2.4 billion in total debt, which equals roughly \$1,651 per resident. This is the highest total debt per capita among counties in Texas. Which of the following approaches do you think the County should take regarding its debt?”



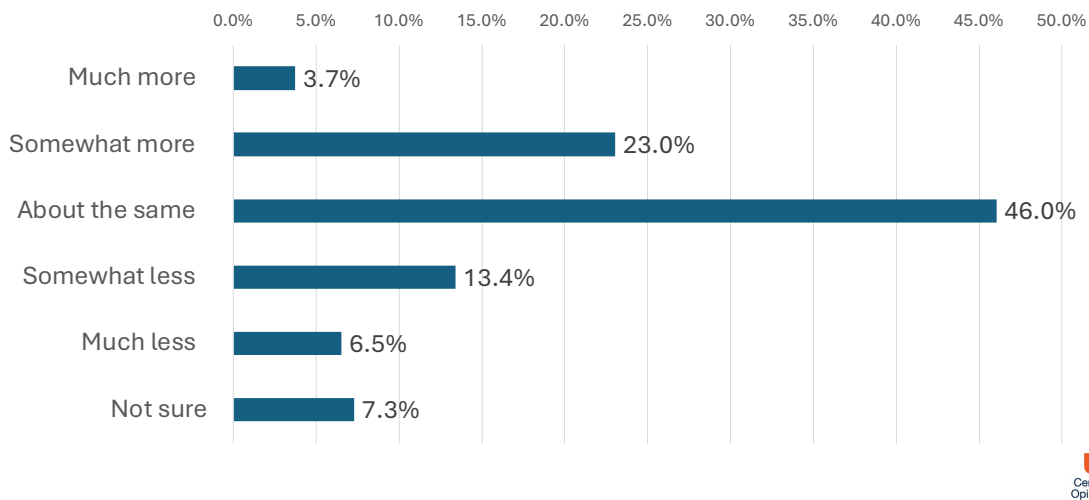
“Bexar County also keeps reserve funds (similar to a savings account) for emergencies and economic downturns. In FY 2025-2026, these were \$269.5 million, which is about 9.5% of the County’s \$2.83 billion budget. Should the County:”



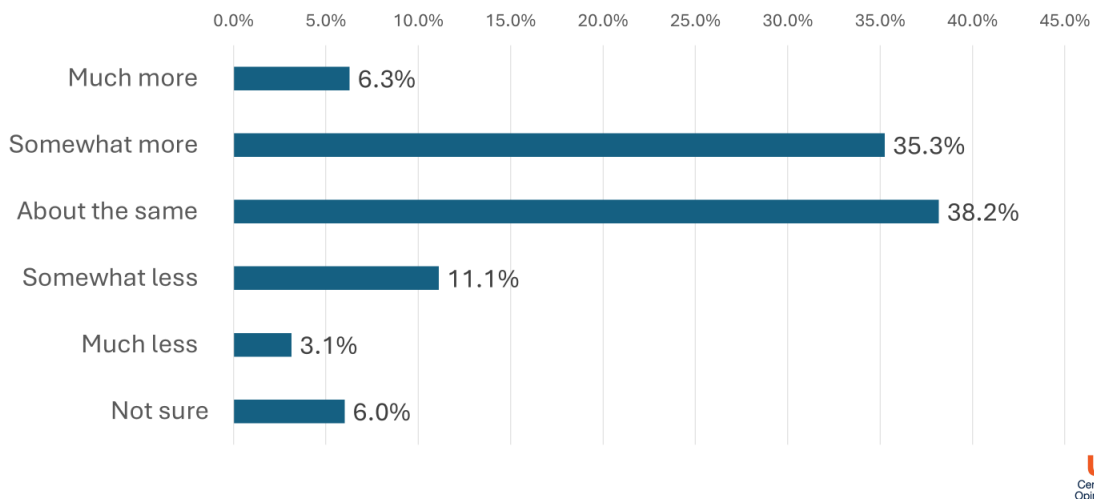
“If you had to choose one top financial priority for the County, which would it be?”



“The County allocated \$991.7 million in the FY 2025-2026 budget to day-to-day services (public safety, courts, health services, etc.). Do you believe the County should spend more, less, or about the same on day-to-day services?”



“Do you believe the County should spend more, less, or about the same on financial stability (paying down debt or increasing reserve funds)?”

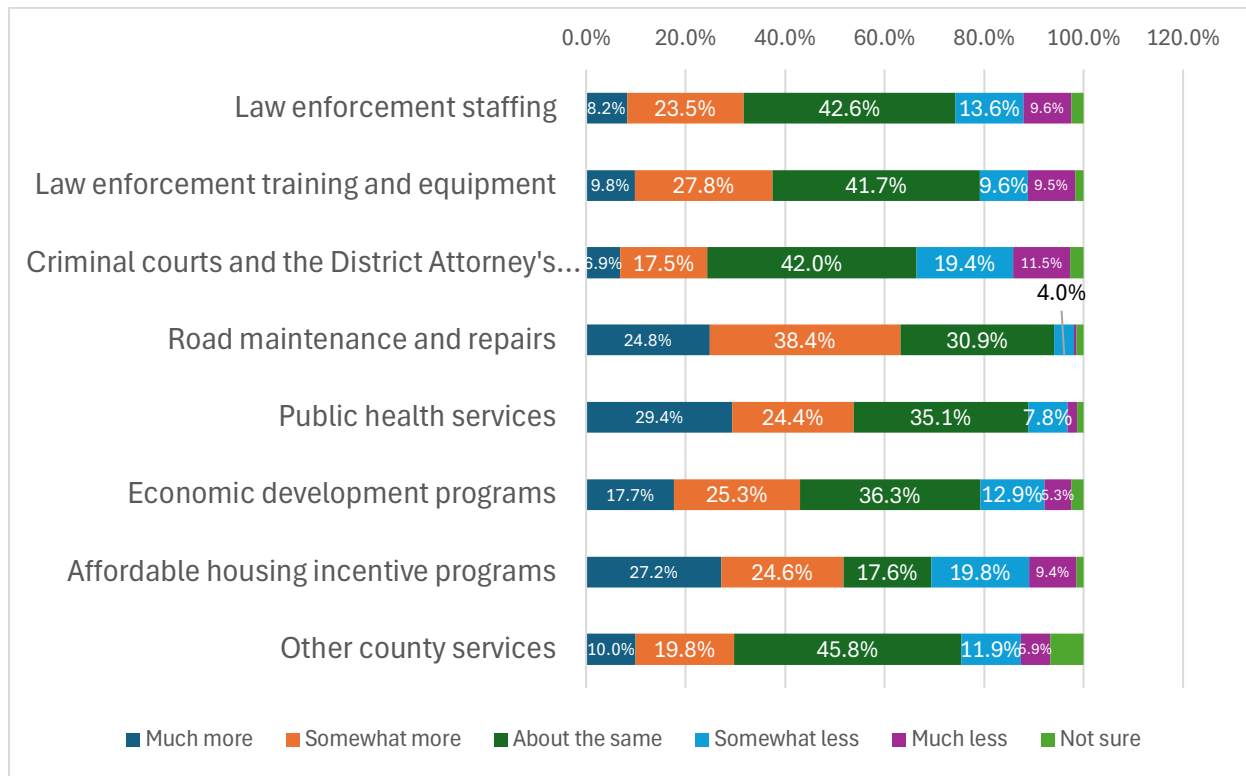


Part 2. Spending Area Priorities

“Do you think the County should spend more, less, or about the same on the following areas?” (Breakdown)

Category	Much more	Somewhat more	About the same	Somewhat less	Much less	Not sure
Law enforcement staffing	8.2%	23.5%	42.6%	13.6%	9.6%	2.46%
Law enforcement training and equipment	9.8%	27.8%	41.7%	9.6%	9.5%	1.73%
Criminal courts and the District Attorney's Office	6.9%	17.5%	42.0%	19.4%	11.5%	2.74%
Road maintenance and repairs	24.8%	38.4%	30.9%	4.0%	0.5%	1.41%
Public health services	29.4%	24.4%	35.1%	7.8%	2.0%	1.32%
Economic development programs	17.7%	25.3%	36.3%	12.9%	5.3%	2.49%
Affordable housing incentive programs	27.2%	24.6%	17.6%	19.8%	9.4%	1.48%
Other county services	10.0%	19.8%	45.8%	11.9%	5.9%	6.74%

“Do you think the County should spend more, less, or about the same on the following areas?” (Visual)





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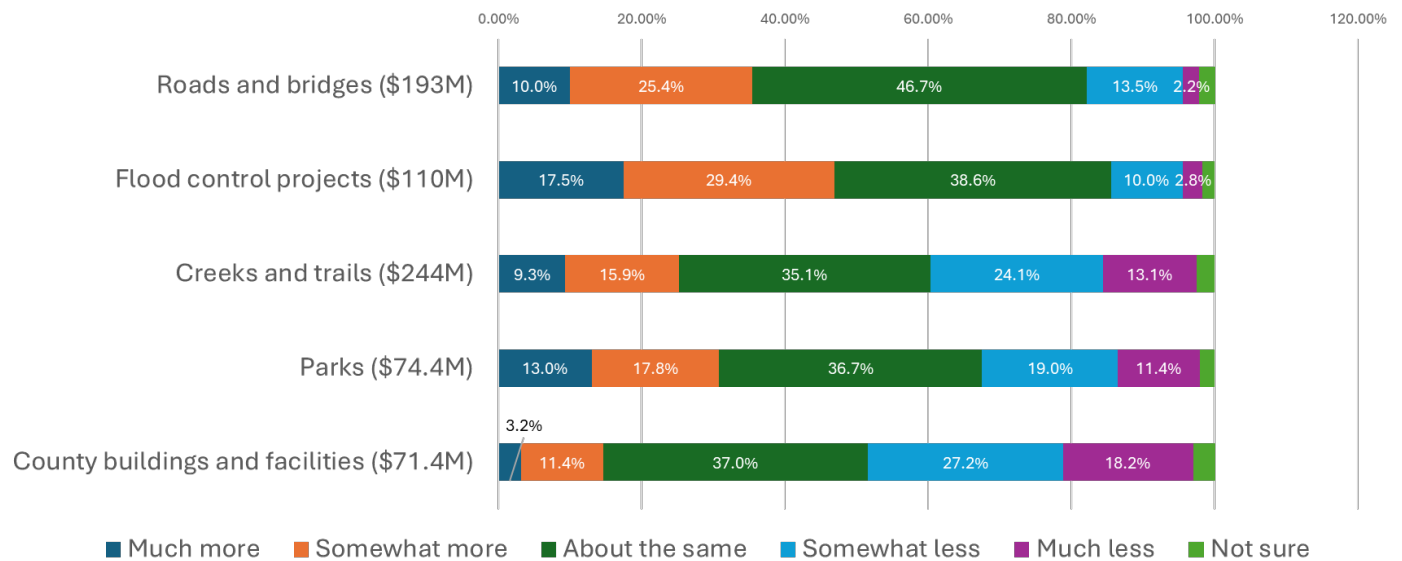
Net Favorability—Most to Least Support

Rank	Category	Net
1	Road maintenance and repairs	+58.7
2	Public health services	+44.0
3	Economic development programs	+24.8
4	Affordable housing programs	+22.6
5	Law enforcement training/equipment	+18.5
6	Other county services	+12.0
7	Law enforcement staffing	+8.5
8	Criminal courts / DA	-6.5

**“The County also invests in large projects that last many years. Currently, there is \$690 million allocated in the County’s 10-year Capital Improvements Plan. Do you think the County should spend more, less, or about the same on the following areas?”
(Breakdown)**

Category	Much more	Somewhat more	About the same	Somewhat less	Much less	Not sure
Roads and bridges (\$193M)	10.0%	25.4%	46.7%	13.5%	2.2%	2.3%
Flood control projects (\$110M)	17.5%	29.4%	38.6%	10.0%	2.8%	1.7%
Creeks and trails (\$244M)	9.3%	15.9%	35.1%	24.1%	13.1%	2.5%
Parks (\$74.4M)	13.0%	17.8%	36.7%	19.0%	11.4%	2.1%
County buildings and facilities (\$71.4M)	3.2%	11.4%	37.0%	27.2%	18.2%	3.1%

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“The County also invests in large projects that last many years. Currently, there is \$690 million allocated in the County’s 10-year Capital Improvements Plan. Do you think the County should spend more, less, or about the same on the following areas?”

Net Favorability—Most to Least Support

Rank	Category	Net
1	Flood control projects	+34.1
2	Roads and bridges	+19.7
3	Parks	+0.4
4	Creeks and trails	-12.0
5	County buildings/facilities	-30.8

“If the County had to prioritize these areas, how should they be ranked? Please rank each from 1 (highest priority) to 5 (lowest priority). Please use each number only once.”

Notes: Area order randomized. N=1,275.

Category	Mean Rank	Priority Order
Roads and bridges	1.97	1 (Highest priority)
Flood control	2.38	2
Parks	3.20	3
Creeks and trails	3.66	4
County facilities	3.91	5 (Lowest priority)