

2023 Utah Issues Poll

1 Do you think homelessness in Utah is increasing, decreasing, or staying about the same?

	GOP	DEM	IND	ALL VOTERS
Increasing	67%	67%	67%	67%
Decreasing	4%	5%	2%	4%
The Same	17%	23%	21%	19%
Unsure	11%	4%	9%	10%

2 How much worse do you think the COVID-19 pandemic made the homeless situation in Utah?

	GOP	DEM	IND	ALL VOTERS
Much Worse	31%	35%	33%	32%
A Little Worse	33%	32%	36%	33%
No Effect	14%	12%	13%	13%
Unsure	22%	20%	18%	21%

3 Do you think that homeless encampments on streets and in other public places are a threat to public safety?

	GOP	DEM	IND	ALL VOTERS
Yes	81%	48%	67%	72%
No	7%	26%	15%	12%
Unsure	12%	26%	19%	16%

4 How often do you avoid going into cities for concerts, sporting events, work, dining, or shopping where there are individuals living in tents on the streets?

	GOP	DEM	IND	ALL VOTERS
Always Avoid	39%	18%	29%	33%
Usually Avoid	18%	15%	17%	18%
Sometimes Avoid	13%	21%	18%	16%
Never Avoid	18%	35%	24%	23%
Unsure	11%	10%	11%	11%

5 How many individuals living in tents on the streets and in other public do you think are suffering from a severe mental health disorder?

	GOP	DEM	IND	ALL VOTERS
Most	35%	35%	33%	34%
Some	52%	50%	55%	53%
Unsure	13%	16%	11%	13%

6 How many individuals living in tents on the streets and in other public places do you think are struggling with addiction to alcohol or drugs?

	GOP	DEM	IND	ALL VOTERS
Most	58%	37%	45%	51%
Some	36%	52%	50%	42%
Unsure	6%	11%	6%	7%

7 Do you think individuals suffering from unmanaged, severe mental illness, such as schizophrenia, should be legally compelled to enter a health care setting where they can be treated and stabilized?

	GOP	DEM	IND	ALL VOTERS
Yes	55%	50%	47%	52%
No	16%	20%	17%	17%
Unsure	29%	30%	35%	31%

8 Which of the following two taxpayer-funded programs do you think is more helpful in reducing long-term, chronic homelessness: subsidized housing programs or mental health and substance abuse recovery programs?

	GOP	DEM	IND	ALL VOTERS
Housing	16%	43%	20%	21%
Recovery	67%	39%	64%	62%
Unsure	17%	18%	16%	17%

9 Do you think it is more compassionate to allow individuals experiencing homelessness to set up camp wherever they choose, or should they be moved into available shelter options?

	GOP	DEM	IND	ALL VOTERS
Camping Wherever	7%	4%	10%	7%
Moved to Shelter	84%	81%	73%	80%
Unsure	9%	14%	17%	12%

10 Do you think individuals experiencing homelessness have a right to camp on streets or in public places when there are other shelter options available?

	GOP	DEM	IND	ALL VOTERS
Yes	13%	16%	18%	15%
No	78%	63%	65%	72%
Unsure	9%	21%	17%	13%

11 Should the government outlaw camping on streets and in other public places?

	GOP	DEM	IND	ALL VOTERS
Yes	65%	38%	51%	57%
No	18%	35%	28%	23%
Unsure	17%	27%	21%	20%

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Would you be more or less likely to support a ban on street camping if you knew that this would lead to individuals experiencing homelessness having greater access to shelters or camps with security, sanitation, and medical treatment away from residential areas?

	GOP	DEM	IND	ALL VOTERS
More Likely	62%	54%	70%	64%
Less Likely	11%	13%	7%	10%
Unsure	27%	33%	23%	26%

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Would you support or oppose increasing government funding for homeless shelters and in-patient treatment for mental illness and addiction?

	GOP	DEM	IND	ALL VOTERS
Supportive	61%	81%	72%	68%
Opposed	16%	9%	16%	15%
Unsure	23%	10%	12%	17%

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Would you support or oppose requiring cities to enforce bans on street camping as a condition of receiving increased state funding to help alleviate homelessness?

	GOP	DEM	IND	ALL VOTERS
Strongly Supportive	38%	27%	29%	34%
Somewhat Supportive	35%	33%	35%	35%
Somewhat Opposed	12%	17%	15%	14%
Strongly Opposed	3%	10%	5%	5%
Unsure	11%	13%	17%	13%

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Please listen to the following statement and indicate whether you agree or disagree: “The primary reason individuals are experiencing homelessness is that they do not have a house. Taxpayers should pay for free or subsidized housing for all these individuals.”

	GOP	DEM	IND	ALL VOTERS
Agree	9%	24%	14%	13%
Disagree	74%	42%	59%	65%
Unsure	17%	34%	27%	23%

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Do you think elected officials in Salt Lake City are doing a good or bad job at managing homelessness?

	GOP	DEM	IND	ALL VOTERS
Good Job	13%	13%	11%	13%
Bad Job	38%	44%	48%	42%
Unsure	49%	43%	41%	45%

Demographics

PARTY ID			AGE			GENDER	
GOP	DEM	IND	18-44	45-64	65+	MALE	FEMALE
54%	13%	32%	37%	35%	28%	48%	52%

Results for this poll were collected using a mixed-mode sampling frame that combined 513 responses from likely Utah voters via automated and live telephone interviews conducted by Cor Services, Inc.

The survey was conducted January 28-31, 2023. The margin of sampling error is ± 4.27 percentage points. The margin of sampling error may be higher for subgroups. Results presented may not always appear to total 100 percent due to rounding.

Data was sampled using weighted demographic information from the U.S. Census Bureau’s Current Population Survey Voting and Registration Supplement and the state election authorities. Demographic information for actual voters in past elections was used to construct sample target weights.

This survey was paid for by Cicero Institute.