



HARRIS COUNTY 2025 WEATHER THREATS



Hobby School of Public Affairs
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON



**Harris County 2025:
Weather Threats
August 2025**

The Hobby School of Public Affairs at the University of Houston conducted a survey of Harris County registered voters to assess their preferences and opinions about a wide range of salient local issues and public officials. The survey was fielded between July 9 and July 18, 2025 by contacting Harris County registered voters via SMS text messages through which they were directed to an online survey platform with the option to answer the survey in English or Spanish. Representative of the Harris County population of registered voters, the analysis population of 2,300 has a margin of error of +/- 2.04%. Within this overall Harris County survey population, representative samples also were collected for Harris County's four county commissioner precincts, with analysis populations of 550 for Precincts 2, 3, and 4 (margin of error of +/-4.18%) and of 650 for Precinct 1 (+/- 3.84%).

This study includes four reports. The first report examined the Harris County registered voters' opinions on the direction in which the county is headed, the most important problems facing Harris County, the impact of factors on the quality of life in their neighborhood, the job performance of county elected officials, and on potential candidates for the position of Harris County Judge. A second report gauged the level of enthusiasm among Harris County registered voters for a destination theme park and for a motor speedway being built in Harris County and obtaining a Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) team and a National Hockey League (NHL) team as well as their level of support for using public funds to renovate NRG Stadium and the Astrodome. This third report assesses Harris County registered voters' concerns about the potential impact of severe summer weather as well as their evaluation of CenterPoint's efforts to harden the region's electrical grid over the past year. An additional report utilized a unique survey population drawn from this larger survey project to analyze the candidate evaluations and vote intention of Harris County registered voters who are likely to vote in the November 2025 Texas Congressional District 18 Special Election.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

69% of Harris County registered voters are either very worried (42%) or moderately worried (27%) about their home being without power for more than a day this summer, while 19% are a little worried and 12% are not at all worried.

54% of Harris County registered voters are either very worried (25%) or moderately worried (29%) about their home being damaged by high winds this summer, while 31% are a little worried and 15% are not at all worried.

44% of Harris County registered voters are either very worried (20%) or moderately worried (24%) about their home being flooded this summer, while 27% are a little worried and 29% are not at all worried.

53% of Latino and 51% of Black registered voters are either very worried or moderately worried about their home being flooded this summer, compared to 34% of White registered voters.

7% of Harris County registered voters feel that CenterPoint has made a great deal of progress in hardening the electrical grid in Harris County over the past year, while 23% feel it has made a fair amount of progress, 44% feel that it has made a little bit of progress, and 26% feel that CenterPoint has made no progress at all.

63% of Harris County registered voters have an unfavorable opinion of CenterPoint, while 33% have a favorable opinion and 4% do not know enough about CenterPoint to have an opinion about it.

SURVEY POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS

White Harris County registered voters account for 39% of this survey population, Latino registered voters for 30%, Black registered voters for 22%, Asian American registered voters for 5%, and others for 4%. Women represent 52% of this population and men 48%. Almost one-third (30%) of the population is between the ages of 18 and 34, 34% between the ages of 35 and 54, and 36% are age 55 and older. Half of the respondents (50%) have a four-year college degree, while half (50%) do not. A little more than one-fifth of these Harris County registered voters (22%) report that a child under the age of 18 lives in their home, while 78% report that no child under 18 lives in their home. Democrats account for 45% of this population, Republicans for 33% and Independents for 15%, with 7% either unsure of their partisan identification or identifying with another party or group.

WORRY ABOUT THE IMPACT OF SEVERE WEATHER THIS SUMMER

The survey respondents were asked three questions about their level of worry related to three distinct potential effects of severe weather this summer:

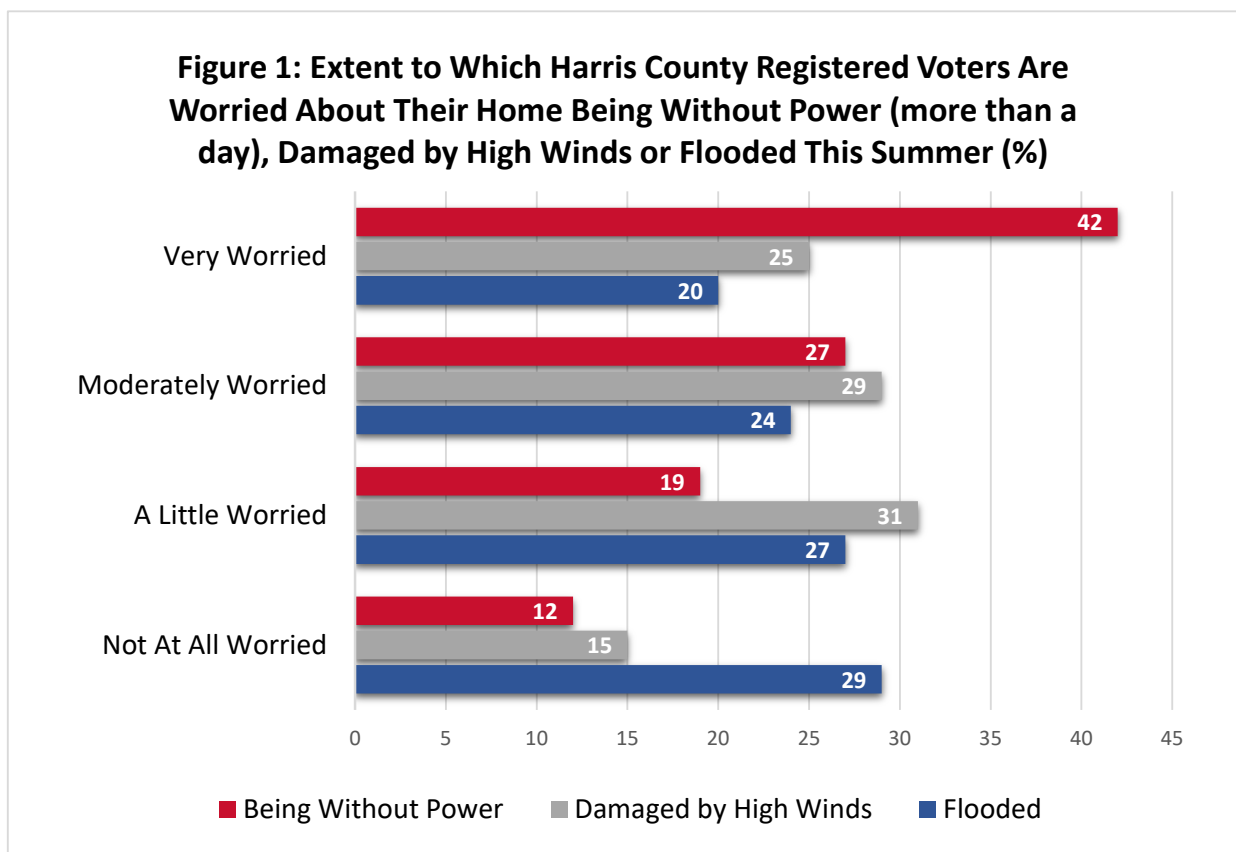
“How worried are you about your home being without electrical power for more than a day this summer?”

“How worried are you about your home being damaged by high winds this summer?”

“How worried are you about your home being flooded this summer?”

For all three questions the response options included the following: very worried, moderately worried, a little worried, and not at all worried.

Figure 1 provides the distribution of Harris County registered voters who reported that they were very worried, moderately worried, a little worried, or not at all worried about their home respectively being without electricity for more than a day, being damaged by high winds and being flooded this summer.



Of the three potential effects of severe summer weather, the one which generated the greatest amount of concern among Harris County registered voters is the potential for their home being without electrical power for more than a day. More than two-fifths (42%) of Harris County registered voters are very worried about being without electrical power for more than a day this summer, with more than a

quarter (27%) moderately worried, and less than one-third combined either a little worried (19%) or not at all worried (12%).

The potential effect of severe summer weather which generated the second greatest amount of concern among Harris County registered voters is the potential for their home being damaged by high winds. A quarter (25%) of Harris County registered voters are very worried about high winds damaging their home this summer while another 29% are moderately worried. In contrast, 31% are a little worried about high winds damaging their home and 15% are not at all worried.

The potential effect of severe summer weather which generated the least amount of concern among Harris County registered voters is their home being flooded. One-fifth (20%) of Harris County registered are very worried about their home being flooded while another 24% are moderately worried. In contrast, combined, an absolute majority of Harris County registered voters are either only a little worried (27%) or not at all worried (29%) about their home being flooded this summer.

Table 1 provides the proportion of Harris County registered voters who are very or moderately worried (69%) and a little or not at all worried (31%) about their home being without electrical power for more than a day this summer, broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, age, education, the presence of children under 18 in the home, partisanship, and the county commissioner precinct in which the registered voter resides.

Table 1: Degree of Worry Among Registered Voters About Losing Electrical Power, by Sub-Group (%)

Socio-Demographic	Sub-Group	Very or Moderately Worried	A Little or Not At All Worried
Overall		69	31
Gender	Women	72	28
	Men	67	33
Ethnicity/Race	White	66	34
	Latino	74	26
	Black	70	30
Age	18 to 34	74	26
	35 to 54	71	29
	55+	64	36
Education	College Degree	69	31
	No College Degree	70	30
Children < 18 in Home	Yes	70	30
	No	69	31
Partisanship	Democratic	79	21
	Independent	67	33
	Republican	56	44
Commissioner Precinct	1	71	29
	2	69	31
	3	68	32
	4	69	31

With one exception, there are not any significant socio-demographic differences in the proportion of Harris County registered voters who are very or moderately worried, or a little or not at all worried, about their home being without electrical power for more than a day this summer.

The exception is a noteworthy partisan split, with Democrats (79%) significantly more likely than Republicans (56%) to be very worried or moderately worried about being without electrical power this summer, and, conversely, Republicans (44%) being significantly more likely than Democrats (21%) to be either a little or not at all worried. Of note however is that an absolute majority of Republicans (56%) are nevertheless either extremely or moderately worried about being without electrical power this summer.

Table 2 provides the proportion of Harris County registered voters who are very or moderately worried (54%) and a little or not at all worried (46%) about their home being damaged by high winds this summer, broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, age, education, the presence of children under 18 in the home, partisanship, and the county commissioner precinct in which the registered voter resides.

Table 2: Degree of Worry Among Registered Voters About High Winds Damaging Home, by Sub-Group (%)

Socio-Demographic	Sub-Group	Very or Moderately Worried	A Little or Not At All Worried
Overall		54	46
Gender	Women	57	43
	Men	51	49
Ethnicity/Race	White	46	54
	Latino	63	37
	Black	60	40
Age	18 to 34	56	44
	35 to 54	55	45
	55+	52	48
Education	College Degree	51	49
	No College Degree	57	43
Children < 18 in Home	Yes	55	45
	No	54	46
Partisanship	Democratic	61	39
	Independent	58	42
	Republican	40	60
Commissioner Precinct	1	56	44
	2	59	41
	3	51	49
	4	50	50

With two exceptions (ethnic/racial and partisan), there are no significant socio-demographic differences in the proportion of Harris County registered voters who are very or moderately worried, or a little or not at all worried, about their home being damaged by high winds this summer.

First, Harris County Latino (63%) and Black (60%) registered voters are significantly more likely than White registered voters (46%) to be either very or moderately worried about high winds damaging their home, and, significantly less likely to be either a little or not at all worried (37% and 40% vs. 54%, respectively).

Second, Harris County Democrats (61%) and Independents (58%) are significantly more likely than Republicans (40%) to be either very or moderately worried about their home being damaged by high winds this summer, and, significantly less likely to be either a little or not at all worried (39% and 42% vs. 60%, respectively).

Table 3 provides the proportion of Harris County registered voters who are very or moderately worried (44%) and a little or not at all worried (56%) about their home being flooded this summer, broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, age, education, the presence of children under 18 in the home, partisanship, and the county commissioner precinct in which the registered voter resides.

Table 3: Degree of Worry Among Registered Voters About Home Being Flooded, by Sub-Group (%)

Socio-Demographic	Sub-Group	Very or Moderately Worried	A Little or Not At All Worried
Overall		44	56
Gender	Women	49	51
	Men	39	61
Ethnicity/Race	White	34	66
	Latino	53	47
	Black	51	49
Age	18 to 34	52	48
	35 to 54	43	57
	55+	39	61
Education	College Degree	39	61
	No College Degree	49	51
Children < 18 in Home	Yes	45	55
	No	44	56
Partisanship	Democratic	51	49
	Independent	47	53
	Republican	31	69
Commissioner Precinct	1	44	56
	2	49	51
	3	40	60
	4	44	56

There are five salient socio-demographic differences in the proportion of Harris County registered voters who are very or moderately worried about their home being flooded this summer (as well as in the proportion who are either a little or not at all worried). The five salient differences revolve around gender, ethnicity/race, age, education, and partisanship.

First, women are significantly more likely than men to be very or moderately worried about their home being flooded this summer (49% vs. 39%) and significantly less likely than men to be either a little or not at all worried (51% vs. 61%).

Second, Harris County Latino and Black registered voters are significantly more likely than White registered voters to be very or moderately worried about their home being flooded this summer (53% and 51% vs. 34%, respectively) and significantly less likely than White registered voters to be either a little or not at all worried (47% and 49% vs. 66%, respectively).

Third, Harris County registered voters ages 18 to 34 are significantly more likely than registered voters who are 55 and older to be very or moderately worried about their home being flooded this summer (52% vs. 39%) and significantly less likely than their elders to be either a little or not at all worried (48% vs. 61%).

Fourth, Harris County registered voters without a four-year college degree are significantly more likely than registered voters with a four-year college degree to be very or moderately worried about their home being flooded this summer (49% vs. 39%) and significantly less likely to be either a little or not at all worried (51% vs. 61%).

Fifth, Harris County Democrats and Independents are significantly more likely than Republicans to be very or moderately worried about their home being flooded this summer (51% and 47% vs. 31%, respectively) and significantly less likely to be either a little or not at all worried (49% and 53% vs. 69%, respectively).

EVALUATION OF PROGRESS MADE BY CENTERPOINT IN HARDENING THE ELECTRICAL GRID

The survey respondents were asked the following question regarding CenterPoint's efforts to harden the electrical grid over the past year:

"Last year, millions of Harris County residents were without electrical power for an extended period of time after Hurricane Beryl (and the derecho storm). How much progress do you feel CenterPoint (the electricity service provider for all of Harris County) has made over the past year in hardening the electrical grid to reduce the amount of time residents are without electricity if a similar hurricane hits in the future?"

Figure 2 provides the distribution of the responses by Harris County registered voters to this question. Fewer than one in ten (7%) feel CenterPoint has made a great deal of progress in hardening the electrical grid over the past year, with another 29% of the opinion that CenterPoint has made a fair amount of progress. The most common response among these registered voters is that CenterPoint has made a little bit (44%) of progress in hardening the electrical grid over the past year, followed by 26% who believe that CenterPoint has made no progress at all.

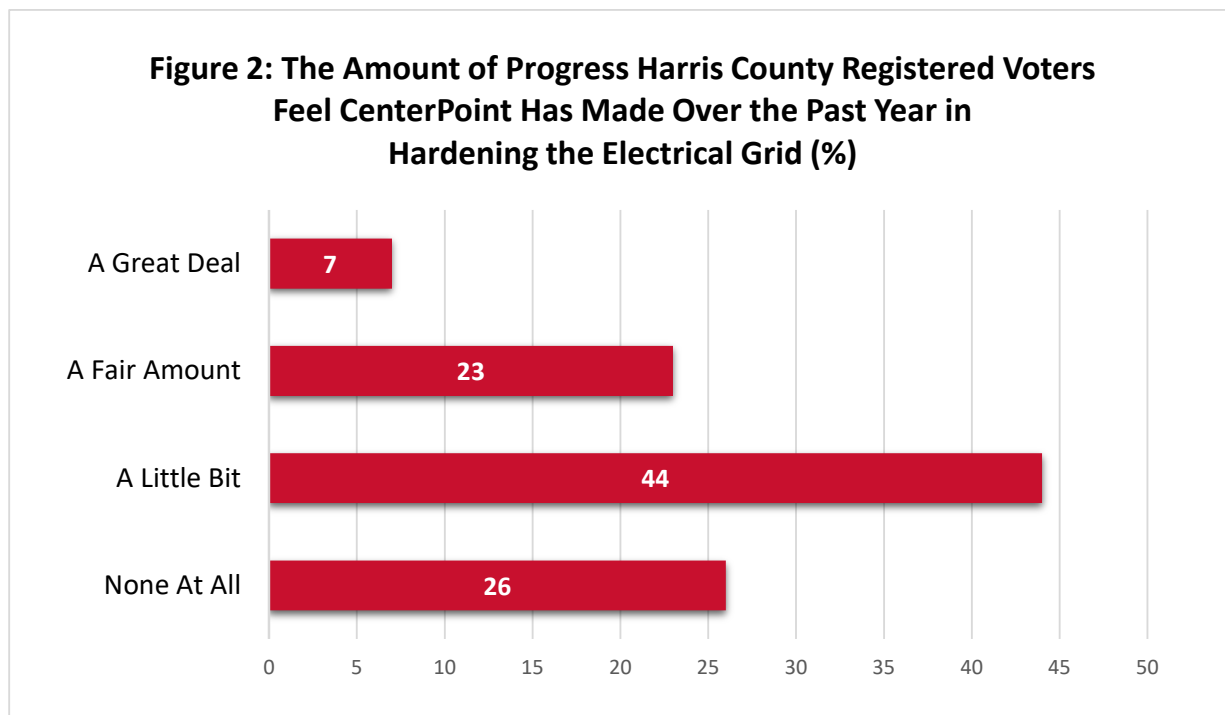


Table 4 provides the proportion of Harris County registered voters who feel CenterPoint has made a fair amount or a great deal of progress, a little bit of progress, and no progress at all in hardening the electrical grid, broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, age, education, the presence of children under 18 in the home, partisanship, and the county commissioner precinct in which the registered voter resides.

Table 4: Registered Voter Opinion of Progress Made by CenterPoint in Hardening the Electrical Grid, by Sub-Group (%)

Socio-Demographic	Sub-Group	A Fair Amount or A Great Deal	A Little Bit	None At All
Overall		30	44	26
Gender	Women	30	42	28
	Men	29	47	24
Ethnicity/Race	White	29	47	24
	Latino	29	42	29
	Black	32	42	26
Age	18 to 34	22	39	39
	35 to 54	26	47	27
	55+	40	46	14
Education	College Degree	28	45	27
	No College Degree	31	43	26
Children < 18 in Home	Yes	29	47	24
	No	30	43	27
Partisanship	Democratic	26	43	31
	Independent	24	47	29
	Republican	39	46	15
Commissioner Precinct	1	30	42	28
	2	35	41	24
	3	25	49	26
	4	27	48	25

With two main exceptions (related to age and partisanship), there are no significant differences in the proportion of Harris County registered voters who feel that CenterPoint has made a fair amount or great deal of progress, a little bit of progress, or no progress at all in hardening the electrical grid.

First, Harris County registered voters who are age 55 and older are significantly more likely than those between the ages of 18 and 34 to feel that CenterPoint has made a great deal or fair amount of progress in hardening the grid (40% vs. 22%), and significantly less likely to feel that CenterPoint has made no progress at all (14% vs. 39%).

Second, Harris County Democrats are significantly more likely than Harris County Republicans to feel that CenterPoint has made no progress at all in hardening the grid over the past year (31% vs. 15%).

FAVORABLE & UNFAVORABLE EVALUATIONS OF CENTERPOINT

The survey respondents were asked if they have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of CenterPoint, or, if they did not know enough about CenterPoint to have an opinion, one way or another.

Figure 3 reveals that 63% of Harris County registered voters have an unfavorable opinion of CenterPoint while 33% have a favorable opinion and 4% do not know enough about CenterPoint to have an opinion.

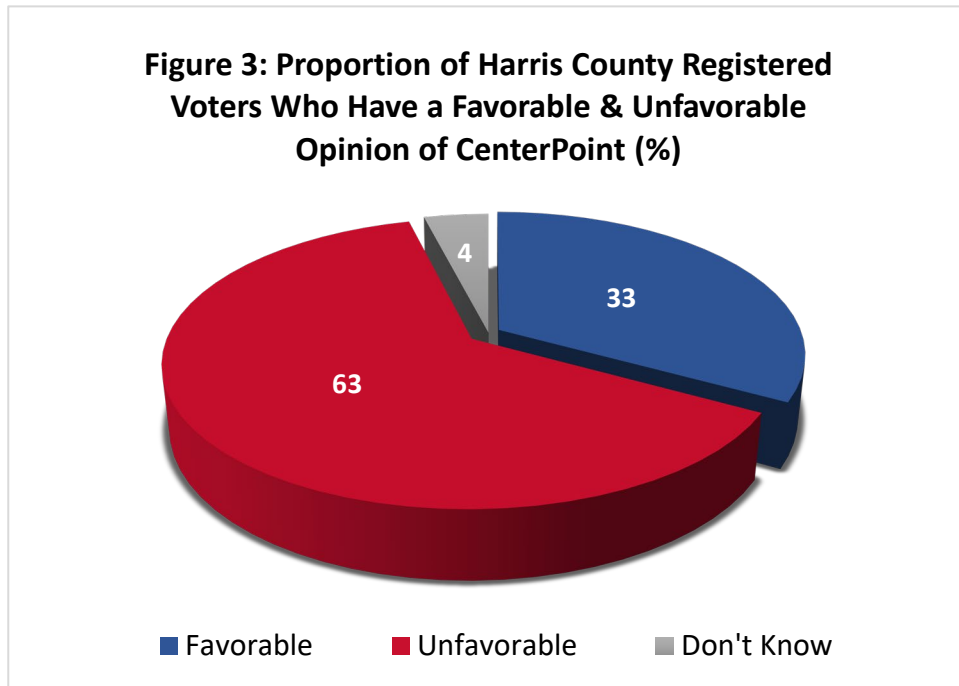


Table 5 provides the proportion of Harris County registered voters with a favorable and unfavorable opinion of CenterPoint, broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, age, education, the presence of children under 18 in the home, partisanship, and the county commissioner precinct in which the registered voter resides.

Table 5: Proportion of Registered Voters With a Favorable & Unfavorable Opinion of CenterPoint, by Sub-Group (%)

Socio-Demographic	Sub-Group	Favorable	Unfavorable	Don't Know
Overall		33	63	4
Gender	Women	33	62	5
	Men	33	64	3
Ethnicity/Race	White	31	66	3
	Latino	35	62	3
	Black	34	59	7
Age	18 to 34	18	78	4
	35 to 54	30	67	3
	55+	48	47	5
Education	College Degree	28	69	3
	No College Degree	37	58	5
Children < 18 in Home	Yes	30	67	3
	No	34	62	4
Partisanship	Democratic	28	68	4
	Independent	27	70	3
	Republican	44	53	3
Commissioner Precinct	1	31	64	5
	2	37	60	3
	3	32	64	4
	4	31	64	5

While there are not any noteworthy differences in favorable and unfavorable evaluations of CenterPoint related to gender, ethnicity/race, children under 18 in the household or county commissioner precinct, there are significant differences revolving around age, education, and partisanship.

First, Harris County registered voters who are age 55 and older are significantly more likely than those who are between the ages of 18 to 34, and to a lesser extent those between the ages of 35 and 54, to have a favorable opinion of CenterPoint (48% vs. 18% and 30%, respectively), and significantly less likely to have an unfavorable opinion of CenterPoint (47% vs. 78% and 67%, respectively).

Second, Harris County registered voters with a four-year college degree are significantly more likely than those registered voters without a four-year college degree to have an unfavorable opinion of CenterPoint (69% vs. 58%). However, it is important to note that an absolute majority (58%) of Harris

County registered voters who do not have a four-year college degree have an unfavorable opinion of CenterPoint.

Third, Harris County Republicans are significantly more likely than Harris County Democrats to have a favorable opinion of CenterPoint (44% vs. 28%) and significantly less likely to have an unfavorable opinion of CenterPoint (53% vs. 68%). However, it is important to note that an absolute majority (53%) of Harris County Republicans have an unfavorable opinion of CenterPoint.

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RECOMMENDED CITATION

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