



# TEXAS TRENDS 2023

## STATE PROPOSITIONS



Hobby School of Public Affairs  
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## Texas Trends 2023 State Propositions

In 2021, the Hobby School of Public Affairs at the University of Houston and the Executive Master of Public Administration Program in the Barbara Jordan – Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs at Texas Southern University launched a five-year survey project to study Texas's changing population. In addition to a representative sample of all Texans, the 2023 survey includes an oversample of Black Texans to allow for an objective and statistically valid report of their diverse opinions and experiences. The third survey was fielded between October 6 and October 18, 2023 and focused on opinions about elections and public policies. The survey was conducted in English and Spanish, with 1,914 YouGov respondents 18 years of age and older, resulting in a confidence interval of +/-2.2. The respondents were matched to a sampling frame on gender, age, race/ethnicity, and education and are representative of the Texas adult population. The results of this 2023 statewide survey will be presented in six separate reports: state propositions, vouchers/school choice, the 2024 primary elections, electric vehicles, extreme weather, and climate change.

This first report examines the vote intention of likely Texas voters on six statewide propositions, which if passed will amend the Texas Constitution to either increase state funding for specific activities or reduce the property taxes paid by most Texans. This survey's sub-population includes 873 respondents who self-identified as likely voters, with a confidence interval of +/-3.3. Additional information on the ballot propositions is provided by the [Texas Legislative Council](#), the [League of Women Voters of Texas](#), and [Ballotpedia](#).

### Executive Summary

At the present time, all six 2023 Texas constitutional amendment propositions examined in this survey are on track to be approved by a majority of Texas voters in the November 7 election, although some propositions enjoy considerably more support than others.

56% of likely voters intend to vote for Proposition 4 (Property Tax Relief), which if passed will, among other things, increase the residential homestead exemption for school property taxes from \$40,000 to \$100,000. 15% intend to vote against it while 29% remain undecided.

61% of home owners intend to vote for Proposition 4 compared to 47% of renters.

50% of likely voters intend to vote for Proposition 5 (Texas University Fund), which if passed will provide additional funding for the state's leading research universities other than the University of Texas and Texas A&M, which already receive substantial support via the Permanent University Fund (PUF). 23% intend to vote against it while 27% remain undecided.

58% of Democrats intend to vote for Proposition 5 compared to 45% of Republicans.

70% of likely voters intend to vote for Proposition 6 (Texas Water Fund), which if passed will provide funding to finance water projects statewide. 11% intend to vote against it while 19% remain undecided.

68% of likely voters intend to vote for Proposition 7 (Texas Energy Fund), which if passed will provide funding for the construction, maintenance and modernization of electric generating facilities that can provide dispatchable power at any time. 15% intend to vote against it while 17% remain undecided.

62% of likely voters intend to vote for Proposition 8 (Broadband Infrastructure Fund), which if passed will provide funding to expand high-speed broadband internet access. 16% intend to vote against it while 22% remain undecided.

78% of Democrats intend to vote for Proposition 8, compared to 52% of Republicans.

67% of likely voters intend to vote for Proposition 14 (Centennial Parks Conservation Fund), which if passed will provide funding for the creation and improvement of Texas state parks. 15% intend to vote against it while 18% remain undecided.

The vote intention in favor of the six propositions ranges from a high of 70% (Proposition 6) to a low of 50% (Proposition 5), with a mean “For” vote intention of 62%.

The vote intention against the six propositions ranges from a high of 23% (Proposition 5) to a low of 11% (Proposition 6), with a mean “Against” vote intention of 16%.

The proportion of likely voters which remains undecided on the propositions ranges from a high of 29% (Proposition 4) to a low of 17% (Proposition 7), with a mean undecided proportion of 24%.

### **Survey Population Demographics**

In this report, the analysis population consists of those Texas registered voters who indicated that they planned to vote in the November 2023 statewide election, with this sub-population of 873 likely voters having a confidence interval of +/-3.3. White Texans account for 58% of this sub-population, Latino Texans 25%, Black Texans 11%, and others 6%. Women account for 53% of this population and men for 47%. Regarding generations, 49% of this population belongs to the combined Silent Generation (born between 1928-1945) and Baby Boomer (1946-1964) cohort, 27% to Generation X (Gen-X) (1965-1980), and 24% to the combined Millennial (1981-1996) generation and Generation Z (1997-2012) cohort. Republicans account for 50% of this population and Democrats 41%, with 9% of these likely voters identifying as Independent.

### **Constitutional Amendments and Survey Instrument Design**

The survey respondents were asked whether they would vote for or against six of the 14 constitutional amendment propositions that are on the statewide ballot in Texas this November. The Texas Constitution can only be amended through a two-step process. First, both the Texas House and Texas Senate must each pass a House or Senate Joint Resolution containing the constitutional amendment by at least a two-thirds vote. Second, a majority of Texas voters must vote for a proposition containing the amendment, normally in November of odd-numbered years.

Five of the propositions evaluated in the survey are related to the creation of dedicated funds to provide financial support for different activities while the sixth is the property tax relief constitutional amendment, which was arguably one of the Texas Legislature’s highest priority pieces of legislation during the 2023 legislative sessions.

The respondents were presented with the same proposition language contained on the actual ballot and asked if they would vote for or against the proposition, or if they were still unsure about how they would vote.

### Proposition 4. Property Tax Relief

Proposition 4 reads as follows on the ballot:

*The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to establish a temporary limit on the maximum appraised value of real property other than a residence homestead for ad valorem tax purposes; to increase the amount of the exemption from ad valorem taxation by a school district applicable to residence homesteads from \$40,000 to \$100,000; to adjust the amount of the limitation on school district ad valorem taxes imposed on the residence homesteads of the elderly or disabled to reflect increases in certain exemption amounts; to except certain appropriations to pay for ad valorem tax relief from the constitutional limitation on the rate of growth of appropriations; and to authorize the legislature to provide for a four-year term of office for a member of the board of directors of certain appraisal districts.*

Proposition 4 is by far the longest of any of the six constitutional amendment propositions, more than three times longer than the next-longest proposition and more than four times longer than the median proposition.

Figure 1 provides the distribution of likely voters who intend to vote for (56%) and against (15%) Proposition 4, along with the proportion who remain undecided (29%). The length and complexity of Proposition 4 likely explain in part the higher than the average proportion of likely voters who are undecided on this proposition.

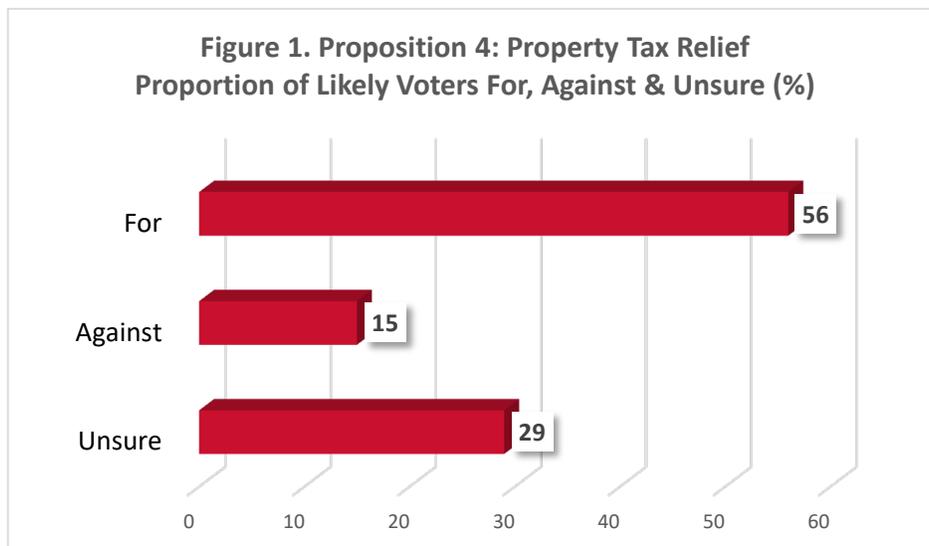


Table 1 provides the distribution of vote intention for Proposition 4 broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, generation, partisanship and residential status (homeowner or renter).

**Table 1. Socio-Demographic Groups & Distribution of Vote Intention for Proposition 4: Property Tax Relief (%)**

Demographic	Sub-Group	For	Against	Unsure
Gender	Women	48	17	35
	Men	66	12	22
Ethnicity/Race	White	62	15	23
	Latino	50	14	36
	Black	47	20	33
Generation	Silent/Boomer	60	12	28
	Gen-X	48	18	34
	Millennial/Gen-Z	58	19	23
Partisan	Democrat	50	20	30
	Independent	50	15	35
	Republican	62	12	26
Home Ownership	Own	61	12	27
	Rent	47	19	34
Overall		56	15	29

Men are significantly more likely than women to intend to vote in favor of Proposition 4 (66% vs. 48%), while women are significantly more likely than men to be undecided on Proposition 4 (35% vs. 22%). There do not exist any noteworthy ethnic/racial or generational differences in Proposition 4 vote intention.

Republicans are significantly more likely to intend to vote in favor of Proposition 4 than are Democrats (62% vs. 50%) and home owners are significantly more likely than renters to intend to vote in favor of Proposition 4, 61% vs. 47%. More than two-thirds (71%) of these likely voters own their home, 26% rent, and 3% are in other types of living arrangements.

**Proposition 5. Texas University Fund**

Proposition 5 reads as follows on the ballot:

*The constitutional amendment relating to the Texas University Fund, which provides funding to certain institutions of higher education to achieve national prominence as major research universities and drive the state economy.*

Figure 2 provides the distribution of likely voters who intend to vote for (50%) and against (23%) Proposition 5, along with the proportion who remain undecided (27%).

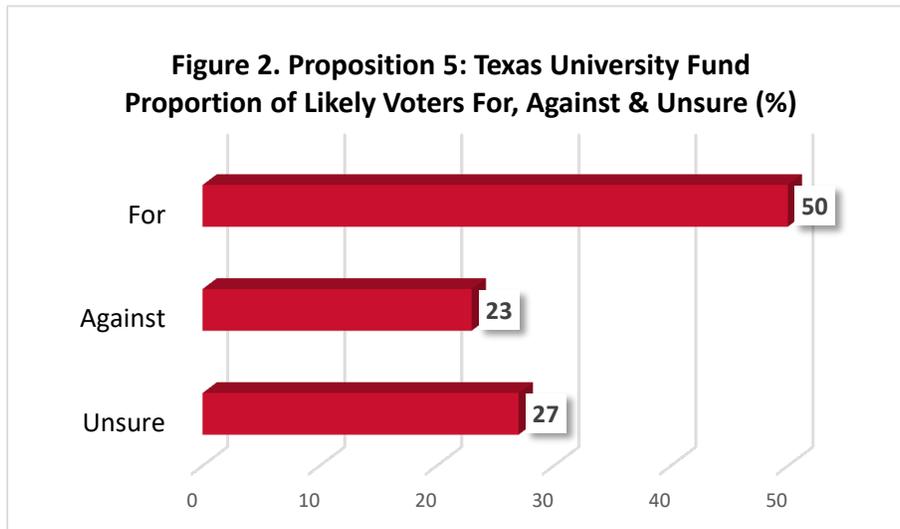


Table 2 provides the distribution of vote intention for Proposition 5 broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, generation, partisanship and educational attainment.

**Table 2. Socio-Demographic Groups & Distribution of Vote Intention for Proposition 5: TX University Fund (%)**

Demographic	Sub-Group	For	Against	Unsure
Gender	Women	47	19	34
	Men	53	27	20
Ethnicity/Race	White	50	24	26
	Latino	50	21	29
	Black	58	18	24
Generation	Silent/Boomer	46	25	29
	Gen-X	43	23	34
	Millennial/Gen-Z	64	19	17
Partisan	Democrat	58	16	26
	Independent	36	30	34
	Republican	45	28	27
Education	High School	43	26	31
	2-Yr Degree/Some College	45	23	32
	4-Yr Degree/Post-Grad	56	21	23
Overall		50	23	27

There are not any significant gender or ethnic/racial differences in vote intention for Proposition 5, with the partial exception of women (34%) significantly more likely than men (20%) to remain undecided.

Members of the Millennial/Generation Z cohort (64%) are significantly more likely to favor Proposition 5 than are likely voters who belong to Generation X (43%) or the Silent Generation/Baby Boomer cohort (46%).

Democrats are significantly more likely than Republicans to favor Proposition 5 (58% vs. 45%), while Republicans are significantly more likely than Democrats to be against Proposition 5 (28% vs. 16%).

Likely voters whose highest level of educational attainment is a four-year college degree or a postgraduate degree are significantly more likely than those whose highest level of educational attainment is a high school degree or less to intend to vote for Proposition 5, 56% vs. 43%. These two educational cohorts account for 45% and 28% of these likely voters, respectively, with those whose highest level of educational attainment is a two-year degree or some college accounting for 27% of this population of likely voters.

While Proposition 5 is likely to be approved, it is arguably the most at risk of not being approved among the six propositions examined in this report.

### Proposition 6. Texas Water Fund

Proposition 6 reads as follows on the ballot:

*The constitutional amendment creating the Texas water fund to assist in financing water projects in this state.*

Figure 3 provides the distribution of likely voters who intend to vote for (70%) and against (11%) Proposition 6, along with the proportion who remain undecided (19%).

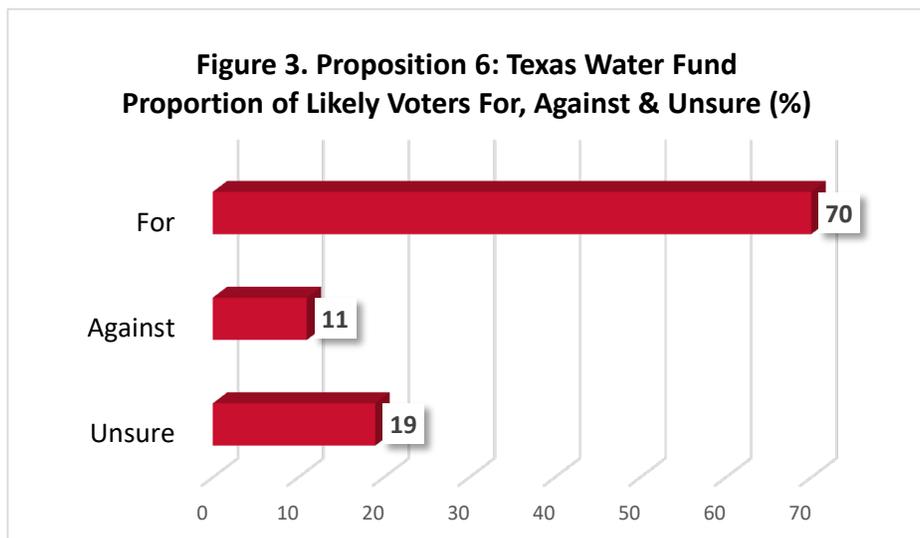


Table 3 provides the distribution of vote intention for Proposition 6 broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, generation and partisanship.

**Table 3. Socio-Demographic Groups & Distribution of Vote Intention for Proposition 6: Texas Water Fund (%)**

Demographic	Sub-Group	For	Against	Unsure
Gender	Women	69	9	22
	Men	72	12	16
Ethnicity/Race	White	72	10	18
	Latino	67	13	20
	Black	76	9	15
Generation	Silent/Boomer	72	10	18
	Gen-X	65	11	24
	Millennial/Gen-Z	73	12	15
Partisan	Democrat	76	7	17
	Independent	61	13	26
	Republican	66	14	20
Overall		70	11	19

There are no significant gender, ethnic/racial or generational differences in vote intention for Proposition 6, and only one modest partisan difference. Democrats (76%) are notably more likely than Republicans (66%) to vote in favor of Proposition 6, although two out of three Republicans intend to vote for Proposition 6.

**Proposition 7. Texas Energy Fund**

Proposition 7 reads as follows on the ballot:

*The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the Texas energy fund to support the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities.*

Figure 4 provides the distribution of likely voters who intend to vote for (68%) and against (15%) Proposition 7, along with the proportion who remain undecided (17%).

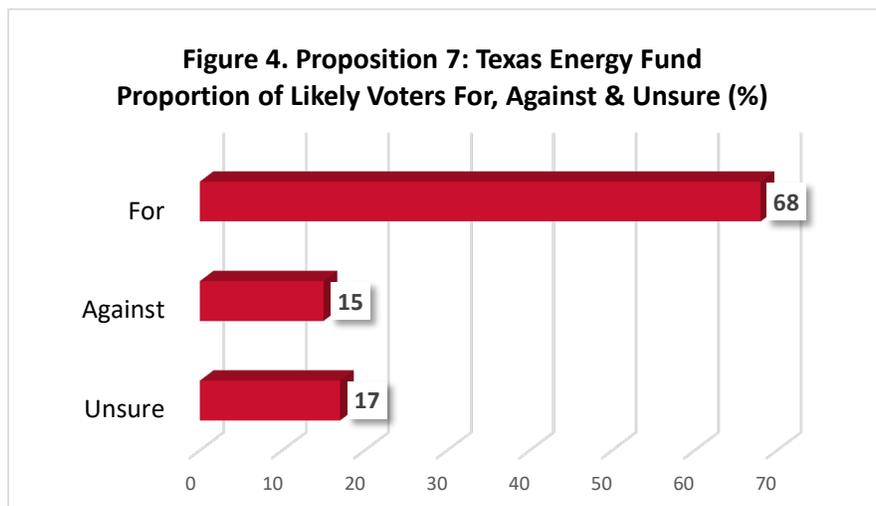


Table 4 provides the distribution of vote intention for Proposition 7 broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, generation and partisanship.

**Table 4. Socio-Demographic Groups & Distribution of Vote Intention for Proposition 7: Texas Energy Fund (%)**

Demographic	Sub-Group	For	Against	Unsure
Gender	Women	64	15	21
	Men	72	16	12
Ethnicity/Race	White	72	12	16
	Latino	60	21	19
	Black	68	16	16
Generation	Silent/Boomer	68	15	17
	Gen-X	62	17	21
	Millennial/Gen-Z	75	14	11
Partisan	Democrat	67	14	19
	Independent	67	13	20
	Republican	69	17	14
Overall		68	15	17

There do not exist any significant gender, ethnic/racial, generational or partisan differences in vote intention for Proposition 6, with one modest exception. White likely voters are significantly more likely than Latino likely voters to intend to vote for Proposition 7, 72% vs. 60%, respectively, although three-fifths of Latinos favor Proposition 7.

**Proposition 8. Broadband Infrastructure Fund**

Proposition 8 reads as follows on the ballot:

*The constitutional amendment creating the broadband infrastructure fund to expand high-speed broadband access and assist in the financing of connectivity projects.*

Figure 5 provides the distribution of likely voters who intend to vote for (62%) and against (16%) Proposition 6, along with the proportion who remain undecided (22%).

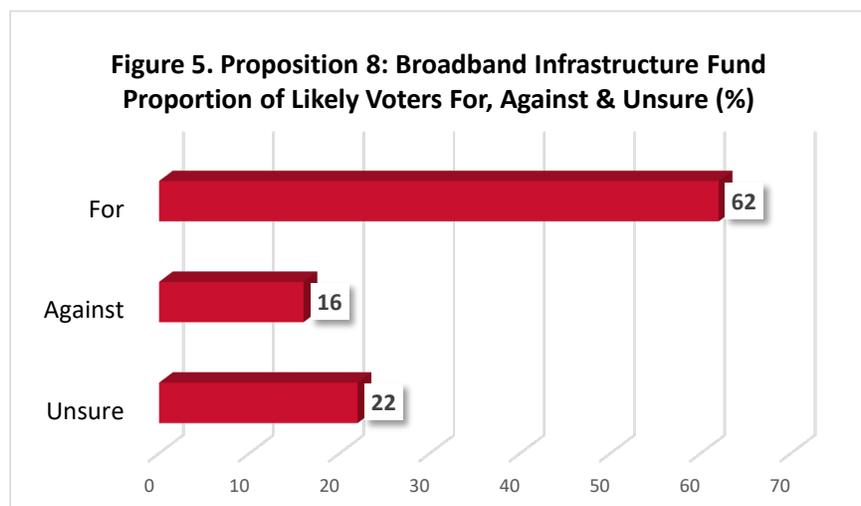


Table 5 provides the distribution of vote intention for Proposition 8 broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, generation and partisanship.

**Table 5. Socio-Demographic Groups & Distribution of Vote Intention for Proposition 8: Broadband Infrastructure Fund (%)**

Demographic	Sub-Group	For	Against	Unsure
Gender	Women	61	13	26
	Men	62	20	18
Ethnicity/Race	White	61	19	20
	Latino	64	11	25
	Black	75	10	15
Generation	Silent/Boomer	58	17	25
	Gen-X	59	14	27
	Millennial/Gen-Z	71	17	12
Partisan	Democrat	78	7	15
	Independent	46	24	30
	Republican	52	22	26
Overall		62	16	22

There are noteworthy ethnic/racial, generational and partisan differences in the vote intention for Proposition 8. First, Black likely voters are significantly more likely than white likely voters to intend to vote for Proposition 8, 75% vs. 61%. Second, members of the Millennial/Generation Z cohort are significantly less likely to be undecided in regard to their Proposition 8 vote than are the members of Generation X and the Silent Generation/Baby Boomer cohort, 12% vs. 27% and 25%, respectively. Third, Democrats are significantly more likely than Republicans and Independents to intend to vote for Proposition 8 (78% vs. 52% and 46%, respectively) and significantly less likely to intend to vote against Proposition 8 (7% vs. 22% and 24%, respectively).

**Proposition 14. Centennial Parks Conservation Fund**

Proposition 14 reads as follows on the ballot:

*The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the centennial parks conservation fund to be used for the creation and improvement of state parks.*

Figure 6 provides the distribution of likely voters who intend to vote for (67%) and against (15%) Proposition 6, along with the proportion who remain undecided (18%)

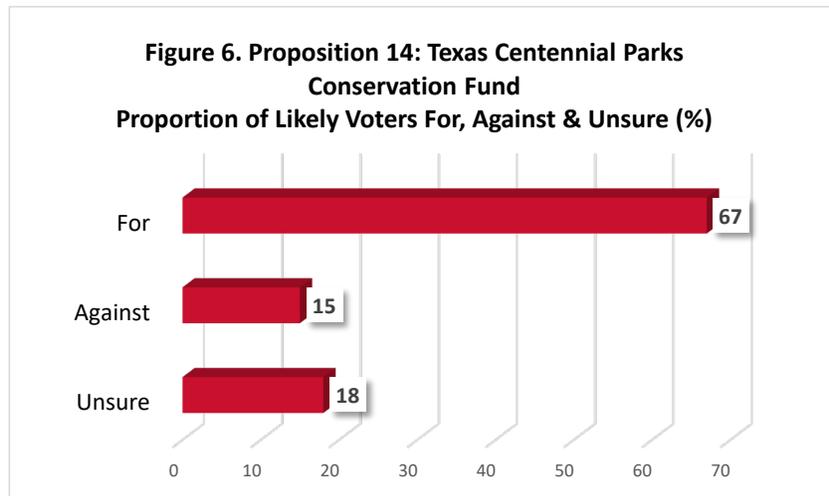


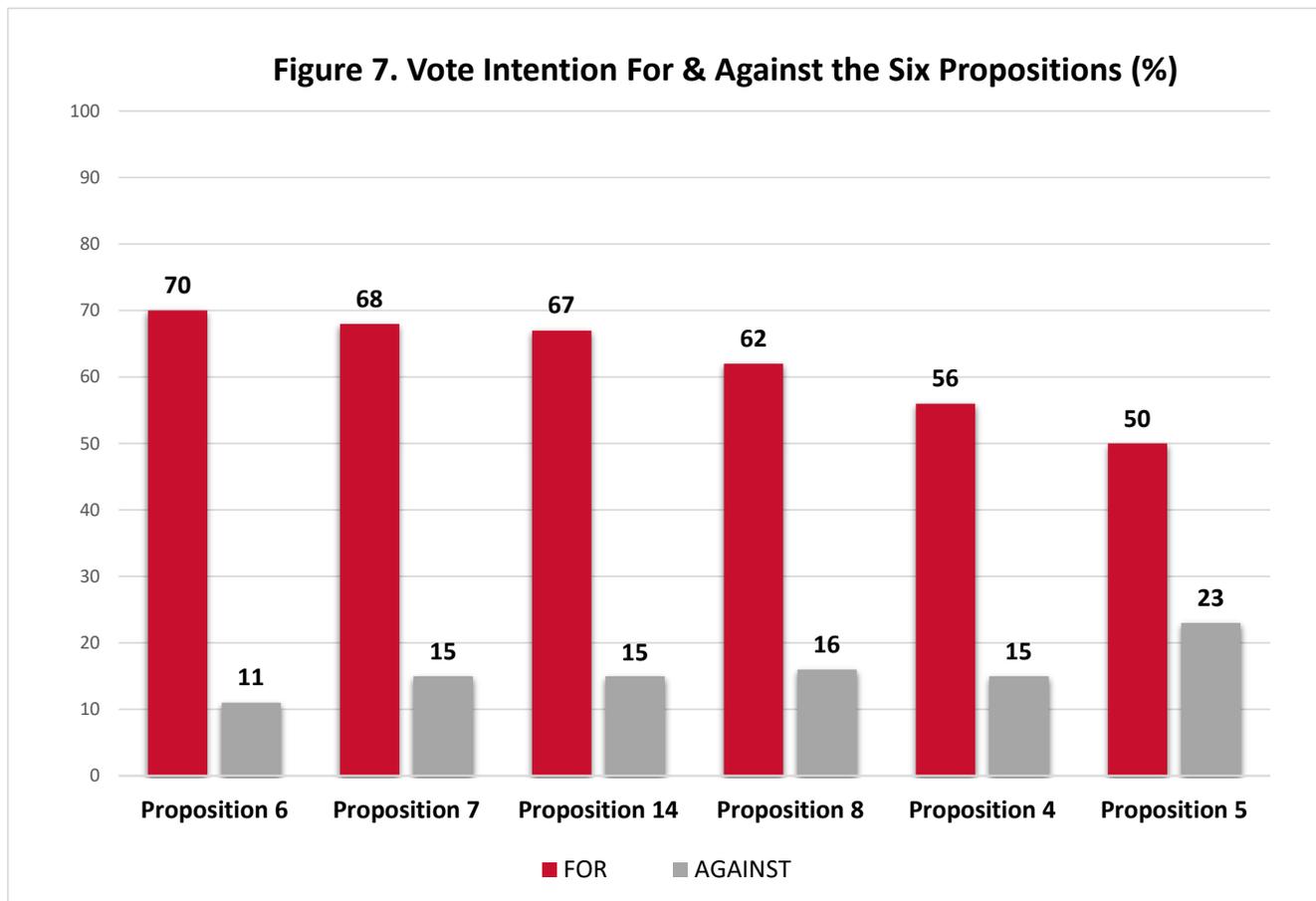
Table 6 provides the distribution of vote intention for Proposition 14 broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, generation and partisanship. The only noteworthy differences in vote intention are that Democrats are notably more likely than Republicans and Independents to intend to vote for Proposition 14, 74% vs. 63% and 55%, respectively, and notably less likely than Republicans and Independents to intend to vote against Proposition 14, 8% vs. 19% and 22%. It is important to note however that more than three-fifths of Republicans intend to vote in favor of Proposition 14 and only one-fifth of Republicans intend to vote against the proposition.

**Table 6. Socio-Demographic Groups & Distribution of Vote Intention for Proposition 14: Texas Centennial Parks Conservation Fund (%)**

Demographic	Sub-Group	For	Against	Unsure
Gender	Women	64	13	23
	Men	70	16	14
Ethnicity/Race	White	69	15	16
	Latino	63	14	23
	Black	67	13	20
Generation	Silent/Boomer	65	16	19
	Gen-X	64	13	23
	Millennial/Gen-Z	74	14	12
Partisan	Democrat	74	8	18
	Independent	55	22	23
	Republican	63	19	18
Overall		67	15	18

## Variation in Vote Intention for the Six Propositions

Figure 7 provides the proportion of likely voters who intend to vote for or against each one of the six propositions evaluated in the survey (the remaining proportion of the likely voters not included in the figure are unsure about their vote on the proposition). Recall that the six propositions evaluated in the survey are Proposition 4 (Property Tax Relief), Proposition 5 (Texas University Fund), Proposition 6 (Texas Water Fund), Proposition 7 (Texas Energy Fund), Proposition 8 (Broadband Infrastructure Fund), and Proposition 14 (Centennial Parks Conservation Fund).



Proposition 6 (Texas Water Fund) ranks first among the six propositions in regard to the proportion of likely voters who intend to vote for the proposition, with 70% intending to vote for it. It is followed by Proposition 7 (Texas Energy Fund) at 68%, Proposition 14 (Centennial Parks Conservation Fund) at 67%, Proposition 8 (Broadband Infrastructure fund) at 62%, Proposition 4 (Property Tax Relief) at 56%, and Proposition 5 (Texas University Fund) at 50%.

Proposition 5 (Texas University Fund) ranks first among the six propositions in regard to the proportion of likely voters who intend to vote against this proposition, with 23% against. It is followed by Proposition 8 (Broadband Infrastructure Fund) at 16%, Proposition 4 (Property Tax Relief) at 15%, Proposition 7 (Texas Energy Fund) at 15%, Proposition 14 (Centennial Parks Conservation Fund) at 15%, and Proposition 6 (Texas Water Fund) at 11%.

Proposition 4 (Property Tax Relief) ranks first among the six propositions in regard to the proportion of likely voters who remain undecided in regard to their November vote choice, with 29% remaining undecided less than a month before Election Day on November 7. It is followed in regard to undecided voters by Proposition 5 (Texas University Fund) at 27%, Proposition 8 (Broadband Infrastructure Fund) at 22%, Proposition 6 (Texas Water Fund) at 19%, Proposition 14 (Centennial Parks Conservation Fund) at 18%, and Proposition 7 (Texas Energy Fund) at 17%.

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