



Texas Voters' Opinions on Expanding Access to Care Key Findings from Statewide Poll

The Need

Overwhelmingly, voters in Texas want choice in how, when, and from whom they get their care.



Respondents support policy that expands their choices, including seeing a nurse practitioner for visits and treatment and additional options like communicating with providers by video, phone, and text.

75% of respondents believe it needs to be easier to access health care services in Texas.

Texas voters are concerned about being able to access care when they need it and a majority think we need more health care workers in Texas.



The survey found 82% of respondents agree that hospitals, clinics, and medical offices are



overwhelmed with the number of people seeking medical care, making it hard for people to get appointments and treatment when they need it. There's broad agreement that health care facilities are overwhelmed, and that more needs to be done to address access and quality issues.

The Opportunity



9 in 10 voters in Texas want to make it easier for patients to get care from APRNs and help end the staffing shortage. The survey found 90% of respondents agree that Texas should make it easier for more patients to get care from nurse practitioners and APRNs to help address the shortage of primary care physicians in rural and underserved communities.

83%



83% of voters say Texas should remove regulatory barriers to address our workforce shortage and help recruit and retain more APRNs.

Texas is competing with other states for the most qualified health care providers, but its laws are among the most restrictive.

Full Practice Authority



81% of voters in Texas support granting APRNs Full Practice Authority, allowing them to practice to the full extent of their education, training, and certification.

Support spans political parties with 85% of Democrats, 72% of Independents, and 80% of Republicans supporting the policy. In 2022, the State Republican Party adopted this policy into their platform and the State Democratic Party Convention adopted it as a final resolution.

79% of voters support removing the requirement that an APRN obtain an often-costly contracting agreement before they can practice.

APRNs pay up to \$50,000 per year to a physician under what is called a practice agreement, even if the physician doesn't provide care to nurse practitioners' patients or work in the same location. These fees get passed on to patients in the form of higher health care bills. 79% of respondents support eliminating these practice agreements to help reduce some health care costs.

