

# Austin Justice Coalition

## Austin City Survey



Sample                    Online sample of 504 adults fielded from July 16 to July 27, 2020.  
 Margin of Error    ±4.9%

1. Would you say you [approve or disapprove] of the job mayor Steve Adler and the city council are doing?

Strongly approve .....	17%
Somewhat approve .....	31%
Somewhat disapprove .....	20%
Strongly disapprove .....	20%
Not sure .....	13%
Totals .....	101%
Unweighted N .....	504

2. Starting in June, protests swept the United States after police killed George Floyd in Minneapolis. Generally speaking, did you [support or oppose] the protests?

Strongly support .....	37%
Somewhat support .....	27%
Somewhat oppose .....	12%
Strongly oppose .....	18%
Not sure .....	6%
Totals .....	100%
Unweighted N .....	499

3. Generally, would you say you [agree or disagree] that police brutality is a problem in Austin?

Strongly agree .....	27%
Somewhat agree .....	29%
Somewhat disagree .....	17%
Strongly disagree .....	16%
Not sure .....	11%
Totals .....	100%
Unweighted N .....	502

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4. One of the key demands coming out of the protests in the wake of the killing of George Floyd was to reduce the police budget and spend it on other things. In Austin, the City Council has suggested they want to reduce the police budget and spend the savings on social-service-based approaches to reducing crime. Do you [support or oppose] reducing the police budget and spending the savings on social-service based approaches to reducing crime?

Strongly support	33%
Somewhat support	24%
Somewhat oppose	12%
Strongly oppose	24%
Not sure	9%
Totals	102%
Unweighted N	502

5. In some cities, teams of crisis counselors and medics are deployed instead of police in response to 911 calls related to mental health crises, conflict resolution, substance abuse, and medical care, other non-criminal situations. Would you [support or oppose] reductions in the police budget to invest in this type of alternative response?

Strongly support	40%
Somewhat support	30%
Somewhat oppose	10%
Strongly oppose	13%
Not sure	7%
Totals	100%
Unweighted N	502

6. Currently, the Austin Police Department has about 170 open positions, and the next academy class has been cancelled, so it is unlikely that these positions can be filled this year. Would you [support or oppose] moving the money currently allocated to paying for these unfilled positions to support social-service-based approaches to reducing crime?

Strongly support	36%
Somewhat support	26%
Somewhat oppose	10%
Strongly oppose	16%
Not sure	13%
Totals	101%
Unweighted N	499

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7. Now, say the city decided to move this money to support social-service-based approaches to policing. Would you be [more or less supportive] of this move if the money were invested in...

	Much more supportive	Somewhat more supportive	Neither more nor less supportive	Somewhat less supportive	Much less supportive
A health-treatment approach to mental health crisis response	36%	32%	20%	6%	6%
Housing and services for people who are experiencing homelessness	29%	28%	23%	8%	11%
Additional support for survivors of violence, including but not limited to survivors of gun, family, or sexual violence	29%	31%	28%	7%	5%
Restorative justice practices, such as facilitating meetings between people who have been harmed and those who caused them harm	16%	23%	36%	14%	12%
Housing and services for people returning home from prison to encourage success and reduce recidivism	26%	31%	26%	7%	9%
Ending the war on drugs and investing in harm reduction and substance use treatment programs outside of the criminal justice system	30%	29%	25%	8%	8%

8. Austin police are among the highest paid in the state, and overtime is paid at time and a half. Would you [support or oppose] cutting the share of the budget dedicated to overtime pay for police, and hiring lower-salaried staff to cover less dangerous duties like directing traffic, event security, writing accident reports and other police jobs unrelated to crime?

Strongly support	34%
Somewhat support	32%
Somewhat oppose	9%
Strongly oppose	12%
Not sure	13%
Totals	100%
Unweighted N	500

9. The National Academy of Sciences recommends that forensics labs be managed independently from the police department because the labs' work should not be biased by police investigators. Would you support an independent forensics lab in Austin even if it actually cost more than our existing forensics lab?

Strongly support	42%
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Somewhat support .....	31%
Somewhat oppose .....	10%
Strongly oppose .....	6%
Not sure .....	12%
Totals .....	101%
Unweighted N .....	499

### 10. Generally, how safe do you feel in the presence of police?

Very safe .....	35%
Somewhat safe .....	38%
Not very safe .....	18%
Not safe at all .....	9%
Totals .....	100%
Unweighted N .....	501

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This survey is based on 504 interviews conducted by YouGov on the internet of adults who resided in an Austin, Texas ZIP code. The sample was weighted according to gender, age, race/ethnicity, and education based on the American Community Study and the Current Population Survey Voting and Registration Supplement. Respondents were selected from YouGov to be representative of the adult population of Austin, Texas. The weights range from 0.4 to 5.2 with a mean of 1 and a standard deviation of 0.52.

The margin of error (a 95% confidence interval) for a sample percentage  $p$  based upon the subsetted sample is approximately 4.9%. It is calculated using the formula:

$$\hat{p} \pm 100 \times \sqrt{\frac{1 + CV^2}{n}}$$

where  $CV$  is the coefficient of variation of the sample weights and  $n$  is the sample size used to compute the proportion. This is a measure of sampling error (the average of all estimates obtained using the same sample selection and weighting procedures repeatedly). The sample estimate should differ from its expected value by less than margin of error in 95 percent of all samples. It does not reflect non-sampling errors, including potential selection bias in panel participation or in response to a particular survey.