

VERMONT AFFORDABILITY SURVEY

PROJECT OVERVIEW

This statewide voter survey was conducted among **highly likely Vermont voters**, including individuals who identify as Republican, Democrat, and No Party Affiliation. The sample was drawn as a randomized, statewide sample, ensuring geographic and demographic representation across the entire state. All respondents were asked the same set of standardized questions to allow for consistent measurement and comparison of voter attitudes.

The survey was completed over a two-day period, December 29–30, and resulted in 500 live call completed interviews. The findings reflect the perspectives of **engaged, high-propensity voters** and provide a reliable snapshot of voter sentiment on affordability and cost-of-living issues during the 2026 legislative session.

KEY SURVEY QUESTIONS

Q1: How concerned are you about rising property taxes for your household?

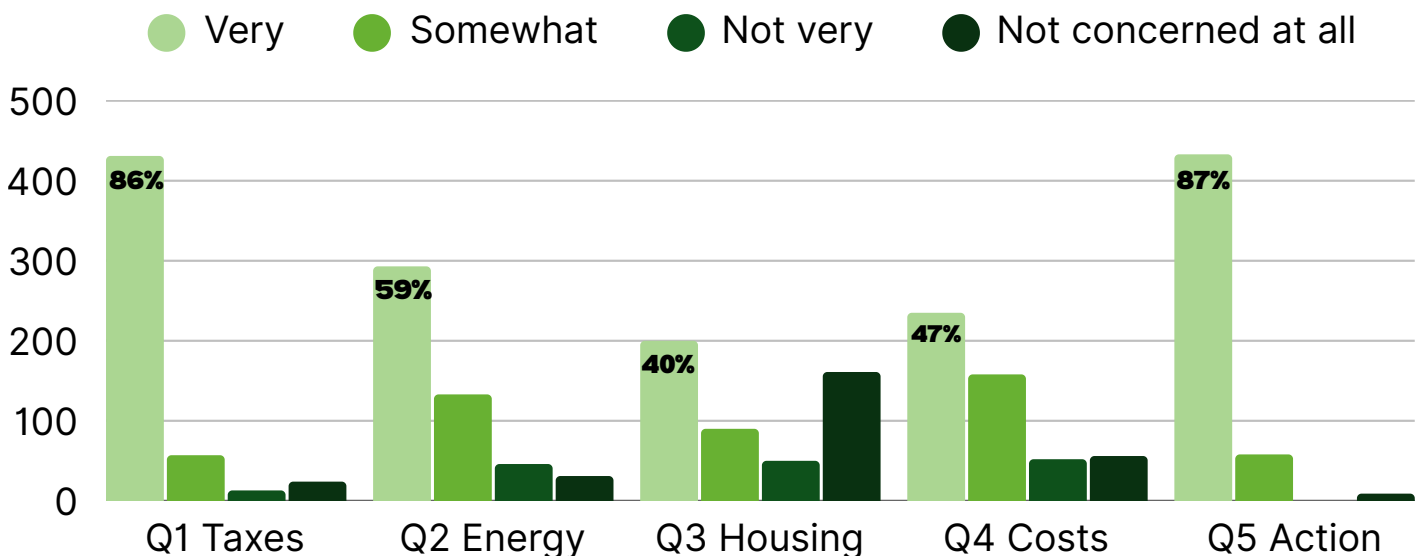
Q2: How concerned are you about the rise of energy and heating costs for your household?

Q3: How much of a concern are housing prices or rent for your household?

Q4: How much of a concern are food and everyday goods for your household?

Q5: How important is it for state lawmakers to address affordability issues during the legislative session starting in January?

AUDIENCE INSIGHTS



KEY FINDINGS – VOTER AFFORDABILITY SURVEY

Rising Property Taxes

- Very concerned: 86%
- Somewhat concerned: 11%
- Not very / not at all concerned: 6%

Property taxes are the single most acute affordability concern, with nearly 9 in 10 respondents expressing high concern.

Energy and Heating Costs

- Very concerned: 59%
- Somewhat concerned: 27%
- Not very / not at all concerned: 15%

Energy costs remain a major pressure point, with 86% expressing at least some concern.

Housing Prices or Rent

- Major concern: 40%
- Moderate concern: 18%
- Minor concern: 10%
- Not a concern: 32%

Nearly 6 in 10 voters view housing costs as a moderate-to-major concern, underscoring affordability strain beyond taxes and energy.

Food and Everyday Goods

- Major concern: 47%
- Moderate concern: 32%
- Minor concern: 10%
- Not a concern: 11%

79% of respondents say food and everyday goods are a moderate or major concern—highlighting inflation-driven household stress.

IMPORTANCE OF LEGISLATIVE ACTION ON AFFORDABILITY

- **EXTREMELY IMPORTANT: 87%**
- Somewhat important: 12%
- Not important: 2%

There is overwhelming consensus that lawmakers must prioritize affordability, with nearly 9 in 10 voters saying it is EXTREMELY IMPORTANT.

SURVEY SUMMARY

The survey demonstrates a clear and consistent message: Vermont voters are experiencing significant affordability pressure, led by property taxes, energy costs, food prices, and housing. These concerns translate directly into strong expectations for legislative action, creating a clear mandate for policymakers to address cost-of-living drivers during the 2026 legislative session.