



# UTAH FOUNDATION

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**Embargoed Until: April 30, 2024**  
**Virtual Media Roundtable at 10 am tomorrow: [join here](#).**

## **Cost of Living and Government Dysfunction are Utahns' Top Concerns**

*For the first time, most Utah voters believe the state is on the wrong track and that their quality of life is worse now than five years ago.*

**SALT LAKE CITY (April. 29, 2024)** – More than 60% of Utahns believe that Utah is on the wrong track and that their quality of life is worse now than five years ago. These and other findings will be released Tuesday in the Utah Foundation's 2024 Utah Priorities Project report titled: "Priced Out and Fed Up." The title refers to Utah voters' concerns about the cost of living and government dysfunction. By heeding voters' concerns, state leaders can work to govern by the will of the people to get the state on the right track and thereby improve the quality of life for all Utahns.

"For the first time, the majority of Utah voters say that we've had a bad five years and things are heading in the wrong direction," said Shawn Teigen, Utah Foundation president and report co-author. "They are truly fed up."

### **Highlights of the report:**

- The cost of living and political dysfunction topped the most important issues in 2024.
- For the first time in the Utah Priorities Project, housing affordability is the No. 1 concern.
- Secondary priorities included education and environmental concerns.
- More than 3 in 5 Utah voters think Utah is on the wrong track – the largest share observed since 2004.
- More than 3 in 5 Utah voters consider themselves worse off than five years ago – higher than during the Great Recession or early in the pandemic.
- The top four issues were often the same among subgroups, although the order varied.

### **Cost of living and political dysfunction encapsulate five top voter concerns in 2024.**

Figure 1: Prioritized Voter Concerns

Category	Issue of concern
Most Important	Housing affordability Politicians listening to voters
High Importance	Earning enough to pay for non-housing needs Government overreach Partisan Politics
Important	Having enough water (other than the Great Salt Lake) Kindergarten-12th grade education Air quality

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## About the Utah Foundation:

Since 1945, leaders, legislators, and community members have relied upon the **illuminating, independent, and nonpartisan public-policy research** produced by the Utah Foundation to support informed decision-making on topics that matter most. As a 501(c)3 with broad community support and a 60-member board, the Utah Foundation exists to empower **civic engagement as the foundation for enhanced quality of life for Utahns.**

Known for its signature products such as the Quality of Life Index, Utah Priorities Project, and Social Capital Index, the Utah Foundation has released more than 50 reports since 2020 on topics ranging from energy and education to taxation and transportation. Access all research, podcasts, videos, statistics, and more at [utahfoundation.org](http://utahfoundation.org).

## Report:

The report will be on the Utah Foundation website on Tuesday.

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### Three in five Utah voters consider the state to be on the wrong track – the highest share in over 20 years of the Utah Priorities Project.

Figure 2: Responses to the question, "Would you say things in the State of Utah are headed in the right direction or have they gotten off on the wrong track?"

