

Welcome to our survey on views about property taxes. Please read the consent form below and click "I Agree" when you are ready to start the survey.

**At the end of the survey, we will provide detailed step-by-step instructions on how you can file a protest online or by mail directly. These instructions make filing a protest really simple. You will not need an agent. You will not need to attend a hearing if you accept an online settlement offered by the county. If the county schedules a hearing and you do not attend it, the protest will simply be dismissed with no penalty.**

The study is being conducted by a team of researchers led by Professor Alejandro Zentner of The University of Texas at Dallas, and it has been designated by The University of Texas at Dallas Office of Research Integrity and Outreach as exempt from review by an Institutional Review Board. No deception is involved, and the study involves no more than minimal risk to participants (i.e., the level of risk encountered in daily life). Participation in the study typically takes about 10 minutes and is strictly confidential. Participants begin by entering the validation code included in the letter received by mail and then answer questions related to property taxes and demographics. All responses are treated as confidential. Data will be pooled and published in aggregated form only. Participants should be aware; however, that although the survey is being run from a "secure" https server of the kind typically used to handle credit card transactions, there is a small possibility that responses could be viewed by unauthorized third parties (e.g., computer hackers). Many individuals find participation in this study enjoyable, and no adverse reactions have been reported thus far. Participation is voluntary, refusal to take part in the study involves no penalty or loss of benefits to which participants are otherwise entitled, and participants may withdraw from the study at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to which they are otherwise entitled. By filling the survey, you may earn up to \$30 in the survey. Our best guess is that the odds of winning up to \$30 are 1 in 100. If participants have further questions about this study, they may contact the Principal Investigator, Alejandro Zentner (azentner@utdallas.edu). Participants who want more information about their rights as a participant or who want to report a research related concern may contact The University of Texas at Dallas Office of Research Integrity and Outreach at (972) 883-4579. If you are 18 years of age or older, understand the statements above, and freely consent to participate in the study, click on the "I Agree" button to begin the survey.

☐ I agree, I would like to take part in this study and confirm that I am 18 years of age or older, I understand the statements above, and freely consent to participate in the study.

Please log in.

Validation Code

123456

We want to ask you some questions about a property you own in Dallas County: 941 Trinity Dr (Lancaster, TX). In 2022, the Dallas Central Appraisal District (DCAD) assessed this property at \$329,880, with estimated property taxes of \$7,797.

Have you already filed a property tax protest in 2022?

☐ Yes

☒ **No**

Consider the richest 1% of households in Dallas County:  
households with homes assessed at \$1.9 million or more in  
**2021**.



What percent of these households do you think filed a  
property tax protest last year (in 2021)?

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100



Now, consider households from Dallas County that are similar to your household: households with homes assessed at \$250,000 – \$299,999 in **2021**. In comparison, your home was assessed at \$282,530 in 2021.

What percent of these households do you think filed a property tax protest last year (in **2021**)?

0      10      20      30      40      50      60      70      80      90      100



Consider households from Dallas County that are similar to your household (homes assessed at \$250,000 – \$299,999 in 2021) **and filed a tax protest.**

Last year (in 2021), before they filed a tax protest, these households were expected to pay, on average, \$5,271 in property taxes.

How much do you think these households saved in 2021 property taxes, on average, due to their tax protests?

\$ 500

Next, a group of survey respondents will be randomly chosen to receive some information related to the previous questions.

Please continue to the next screen to find out if you were selected to receive the information.

You have been randomly selected to receive the following information:

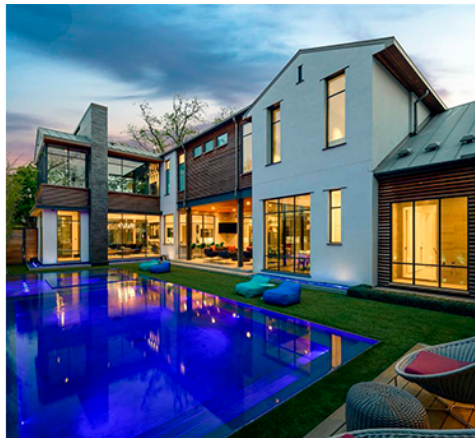
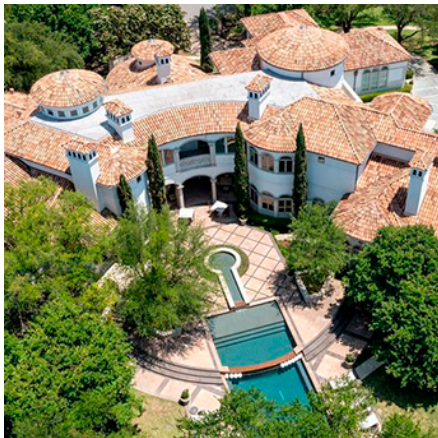
- **Among the richest 1% of households in Dallas County (homes assessed at \$1.9 million or more in 2021), 49% filed a tax protest in 2021.**
- **Among households from Dallas County that are similar to your household (homes assessed at \$250,000 – \$299,999 in 2021), 11% filed a tax protest in 2021.**
- **Among households from Dallas County that are similar to your household and filed a tax protest in 2021, they saved an average of \$377 in 2021 property taxes.**

Please take a moment to review this information carefully, because you will not be able to return to this screen.



When ready, proceed to the next screen to continue with the survey.

Previously, we asked a few questions about property taxes during the last year (2021 taxes). **Now, we want to ask you the same questions, but about this year (2022).**



Consider the richest 1% of households in Dallas County: households with homes assessed at \$1.9 million or more in **2021**.

What percent of these households do you think will file a property tax protest this year (in 2022)?

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100



Now, consider households from Dallas County that are similar to your household: households with homes assessed at \$250,000 – \$299,999 in **2021**.

What percent of these households do you think will file a property tax protest this year (in 2022)?

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

39



In 2022, if you do not file a tax protest, we estimate that you will have to pay \$7,797 in property taxes.

If you file a tax protest in 2022, how much do you expect to save in 2022 property taxes?

\$

800

You have time until May 16th, 2022 to protest Dallas CAD's proposed value of your property. How likely are you to protest this year?

- ☐ Very likely
- ☒ **Likely**
- ☐ Unlikely
- ☐ Very unlikely

If you can, please explain why you will (or will not) protest in 2022:

How justifiable do you believe it is to lawfully reduce your tax bill if you have a chance?

- ☐ Always justified
- ☐ Sometimes justified
- ☐ Never justified

Homeowners can file a protest on their own, but without our instructions it can be difficult. We can send tailored information to households for free, so that they can effortlessly appeal if they want.

Next, we will present you with **up to 10** scenarios. In each scenario, you will be given the choice of either receiving extra money as part of your reward for answering the survey OR having us help a homeowner reduce their tax bill.

We will randomly choose **1 out of 100** respondents. If you are one of these selected respondents, we will randomly select one of your choices to be implemented. As a result, it is in your best interest to respond honestly to these scenarios.

These are real scenarios: there is a chance that you are selected, and one of your decisions will be implemented, so please answer carefully.

We can reach out to a property owner in Dallas County, whose home was assessed at \$75,000 or less in 2021 (this is the poorest 1% of homes).



Would you like us to help the property owner reduce their tax bill by protesting their property value assessment?

☒ **Yes**

☐ No





Which of the following do you prefer?

- ☒ **We help one property owner whose house was assessed at \$75,000 or less reduce their taxes by protesting their property value assessment.**
- ☐ You receive a \$15 bonus.



Which of the following do you prefer?

- ☐ We help one property owner whose house was assessed at \$75,000 or less reduce their taxes by protesting their property value assessment.
- ☒ **You receive a \$24 bonus.**



Which of the following do you prefer?

- ☐ We help one property owner whose house was assessed at \$75,000 or less reduce their taxes by protesting their property value assessment.
- ☒ **You receive a \$18 bonus.**



We can reach out to a property owner in Dallas County, whose home was assessed at \$1.9 million or more in 2021 (this is the richest 1% of homes).



Would you like us to help the property owner reduce their tax bill by protesting their property value assessment?

☐ Yes

☒ **No**



Which of the following do you prefer?

- ☒ **You receive a \$15 bonus AND we help one property owner whose house was assessed at \$1.9 million or more reduce their taxes by appealing their property value assessment.**
- ☐ You receive no bonus.



Which of the following do you prefer?

- You receive a \$9 bonus AND we help one property owner whose house
- ☐ was assessed at \$1.9 million or more reduce their taxes by appealing their property value assessment.
  - ☒ **You receive no bonus.**





Which of the following do you prefer?

- You receive a \$6 bonus AND we help one property owner**
- ☒ **whose house was assessed at \$1.9 million or more reduce their taxes by appealing their property value assessment.**
  - ☐ You receive no bonus.



Which of the following do you prefer?

- ☐ You receive a \$3 bonus AND we help one property owner whose house was assessed at \$1.9 million or more reduce their taxes by appealing their property value assessment.
- ☒ **You receive no bonus.**



We are almost done. We would like to ask you a few more questions about yourself before finishing the survey. **At the end of the survey, we will provide the detailed step-by-step instructions on how you can file a protest.**

Please indicate your gender:

☐ Male

☒ **Female**

☐ Other

How old are you (in years)?

Which of the following best describes your race/ethnicity?  
*Please select all that apply*

☐ American Indian or Alaska Native

☐ Asian / Pacific Islander

☐ Black or African American

☐ Hispanic or Latino

☐ White

☒ **Other (Please specify)**

What is the highest level of education you have completed?

☐ Less than high school degree

☐ High school degree

☒ **College degree**

☐ Graduate degree

You said that 17% of the richest households (homes worth over \$1.9 million) file their tax protest, while 19% of households like yours (homes worth \$250,000 – \$299,999) file a protest. Do you think this is fair or unfair?

0 – Very unfair	1	2	3	4	<b>5 – Neither fair nor unfair</b>	6	7	8	9	10 – Very fair
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Next, we would like to better understand the views of Dallas County residents about their property taxes.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

*The local government services that I am provided (e.g., schools, roads, hospitals) justify the total amount I pay in property taxes.*

0 – Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	<b>5 – Neither agree or disagree</b>	6	7	8	9	10 – Strongly Agree
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Do you think that the property taxes on the **poorest 1%** of households should go down, stay the same or go up?

- ☐ Should go down
- ☒ **Stay the same**
- ☐ Should go up

Do you think that the property taxes on the **richest 1%** of households should go down, stay the same or go up?

- ☐ Should go down
- ☒ **Stay the same**
- ☐ Should go up

In politics, as of today, do you consider yourself a Republican, a Democrat, or an Independent?

- ☐ Republican
- ☐ Democrat
- ☒ **Independent**

If you had to pick between one of the two, which better describes you?

☐ Republican

☒ **Democrat**

☐ I would rather not say

Recent research on decision making shows that choices are affected by the context in which they are made. Differences in how people feel, in their previous knowledge, experience, and in their environment can influence the choices they make. To help us understand how people make decisions, we are interested in information about you. Specifically, whether you actually take the time to read the instructions. If you don't, some results may fail to tell us very much about decision making in the real world. To help us confirm that you have read these instructions, please ignore the question about how you are feeling. Instead, only check the "none of the above" option. Thank you very much.

- |                                     |                                       |  |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interested | <input type="checkbox"/> Hostile      | <input type="checkbox"/> Nervous                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Distressed | <input type="checkbox"/> Enthusiastic | <input type="checkbox"/> Determined                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Excited    | <input type="checkbox"/> Proud        | <input type="checkbox"/> Attentive                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Upset      | <input type="checkbox"/> Irritable    | <input type="checkbox"/> Jittery                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strong     | <input type="checkbox"/> Alert        | <input type="checkbox"/> Active                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scared     | <input type="checkbox"/> Inspired     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>None of the above</b> |

What of the following options do you agree with the most?

- ☒ **I understood all of the questions in the survey.**
- ☐ I understood almost all of the questions in the survey.
- ☐ I understood most of the questions in the survey.
- ☐ I understood a few questions in the survey.



You have reached the end of the survey. Thanks for your participation!

To file a protest in Dallas County, you can fill out a short form online or mail it in. You do not need an agent to protest. You do not need to attend a hearing if you accept an online settlement offered by the county. If the county schedules a hearing and you do not attend it, the protest will simply be dismissed with no penalty.

You can find **step-by-step instructions for filing a protest** at the following website:

<https://taxhelp.utdallas.edu/>

Please be sure to print or save this URL (https://taxhelp.utdallas.edu/), because you may not be able to return to this page.

You were not selected to have one of your choices from this survey implemented.

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