



Citizens' Congress II Voting Results: Building Blocks for a Vision of Houston's Future

Summary

The Congress voted 87% in favor of Houston leaders adopting a growth strategy to shape the city's future in a more orderly, efficient and attractive urban/suburban form. First, at tables of ten, the Congress discussed the advantages and disadvantages of alternative growth patterns for the City's long term quality of life. Then, using electronic voting keypads, the Congress expressed its opinion about the building blocks incorporated in each of the alternative patterns and affirmed:

- * Development in the flood plain should be limited (but not prohibited), especially along bayou corridors.
- * Parks are important to the our quality of life and deserve new revenue resources
- * Guiding growth to mixed use higher density town centers is beneficial.
- * More resources should be allocated to rapid transit.
- * Higher density neighborhoods are desirable under certain circumstances.
- * Plans and stronger development regulations are needed to promote quality of life & protect neighborhoods.

Attendees

500 citizens attended Citizens' Congress II:
*36% live inside the Loop and 64% live outside the Loop
*19% -African American, 8% Asian, 49% Caucasian, 20% Hispanic, 4% other
*27%-less than \$50,000; 36% between \$50,000-100,000; 37% more than \$100,000

Maps & Analysis

Envision Houston Region, Houston Galveston Area Council, Fregonese Calthorpe & Associates, Parametrix

<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	Building Blocks: Floodplains and Parks
64%	31%	5%	There should be no further development in the 100-year floodplain even though it will reduce the amount of land for development.
87%	11%	3%	Flood risks should be minimized by requiring stronger building standards (such as elevated buildings) or directing development to areas outside the floodplains, even if it means higher density development in those areas.
84%	11%	5%	The city should spend more money to reclaim land from the floodplain by improving street drainage and developing more retention ponds.
96%	3%	1%	Expansion of the park system is important to the quality of life in Houston.
54%	29%	17%	Given the current city budget constraints, plans to develop linear parks should be accelerated, even if it means building fewer neighborhood parks.
80%	11%	11%	New city revenues should be identified to purchase vacant land to build neighborhood parks.

<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	Building Block: Neighborhoods
29%	60%	11%	Increased density in existing neighborhoods should be discouraged by steering new development to other parts of the city.
28%	65%	8%	A single family house and large yard are so important to me that I would rather live outside the city where I can have a yard, and find ways to commute to my job.
89%	9%	2%	I'm willing to have a mixed use center adjacent to my neighborhood if I was assured that the new development is compatible with the character of my neighborhood and does not overload the current infrastructure.

<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	Building Block: Shaping the City (Centers & Corridors)
81%	11%	8%	Most future residential, employment, and retail development in Houston should occur in mixed use town centers and along corridors in and around the city, not just inside the Loop.
71%	23%	7%	I would be willing to live in a town center where I could walk or take transit to the store and the park and have a shorter commute, even if it meant living in a home with a smaller yard, or no yard at all.
32%	56%	12%	I would prefer to live adjacent to a transportation corridor where I could have a large yard, walk or take transit to the store even it meant having longer commute time to my job.
51%	25%	13%	Downtown Houston should remain the center of the region with the most job growth and increased residential growth.

<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	Building Block: Transportation
83%	14%	4%	More funds should be directed to forms of travel other than roads, including transit, bikes and walking.
86%	9%	5%	I support increasing our transit choices even if it requires incentives to develop more housing, jobs, and retail along the transit routes to achieve higher ridership levels.
51%	38%	10%	I am willing to pay a toll for a faster, more reliable trip to my destination.
			I am the kind of person that:
31%			Always drives my car, because I believe it is a faster, and more reliable way to my destination
69%			Would carpool or take bus rapid transit or light rail if, when I get to my destination, I can get around without a car.

<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	Wrap-up Questions
89%	11%		Do you favor strong development regulations to control blight and incompatible land uses?
			Should Houston leaders pursue policies:
5%			To continue current trends (Scenario A)
93%			To increase reliance on Envision Houston Region Building Blocks (Scenario B, C, and other)
2%			Should not have a policy
86%	12%	2%	The growth strategy should incorporate neighborhood plans developed through a formal process that involves neighbors and the City Planning Department.
87%	12%	2%	The City of Houston should adopt a strategy to guide future development



