

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: ACLU
DATE: July 6, 2026
RE: New polling shows that majority of Americans are concerned about their ability to afford housing, and view housing affordability as a “major problem.”

On behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), YouGov fielded a survey of 1,006 registered voters nationwide between June 24 and 26, 2026 as part of their bi-monthly omnibus survey. Results show that Americans are highly concerned about their ability to afford housing in the upcoming years. Americans view homelessness as a structural problem to be solved by structural solutions, such as increased wages, availability of more affordable housing, and improved access to health care, rather than a public safety issue to be solved by policing. The following are key findings from the poll:

- **American voters are worried about their ability to afford housing soon, as well as the abilities of the people they know.**
 - Over half (**55%**) are **worried they could struggle to afford housing** in the next few years, including a quarter (**23%**) who are “very” worried. Four-in-ten are not worried (23% not very, 19% not at all).
 - Almost three-quarters (**71%**) are **worried that someone they know could struggle to afford housing**, including a **third (36%)** who are very worried.
- **Americans say housing costs are a major problem for them.**
 - Six-in-ten (**62%**) say that **access to affordable housing is a “major problem”** where they live, with an additional quarter (**27%**) saying this is a “minor” problem. Only **6%** think this is not a problem at all.
 - **This is second only to inflation/prices (75% think this is a major problem)**, and above crime (**38%**), jobs and the economy (**56%**), and access to affordable healthcare (**60%**).
- **Americans view homelessness as resulting from structural inequities and want to see it solved through a real investment of resources into structural solutions—more affordable housing, higher wages, and better access to health care.**
 - Almost nine-in-ten (**89%**) **Americans think that homelessness is a problem where they live**, with half (**52%**) describing it as a “major” problem (**37%** think it is a “minor” problem).
 - Over three-quarters (**78%**) **think homelessness is caused by “insufficient income and a lack of affordable housing,”** rather than “allowing people to live on the streets without criminal consequences” (**22%**).
 - Rather than taking a tough stance and tackling homelessness through police enforcement, ticketing, and jail time, three-quarters (**76%**) of **Americans want to see “real solutions” that treat homeless people with dignity and compassion.**

- They want to see **homelessness “addressed as a resource issue”** (72%) rather than a “public safety issue” (**28%**), prioritizing increasing access to affordable housing and economic opportunities over criminalization and threatening homeless people with arrest if they refuse to leave public spaces.

Methodology: This above is based on 1,006 interviews conducted by YouGov on the internet of registered voters. The sample was weighted according to gender, age, race/ethnicity, education, and U.S. Census region based on voter registration lists, the U.S. Census American Community Survey, and the U.S. Census Current Population Survey, as well as 2020 Presidential vote and approximate 2024 Presidential vote based on available results. Respondents were selected from YouGov to be representative of registered voters. The margin of error (a 95% confidence interval) is approximately 3.5%