

# Moving Forward Together

Staying on track in a challenging year



★ **TEXAS IMPACT**  
PEOPLE OF FAITH WORKING FOR JUSTICE

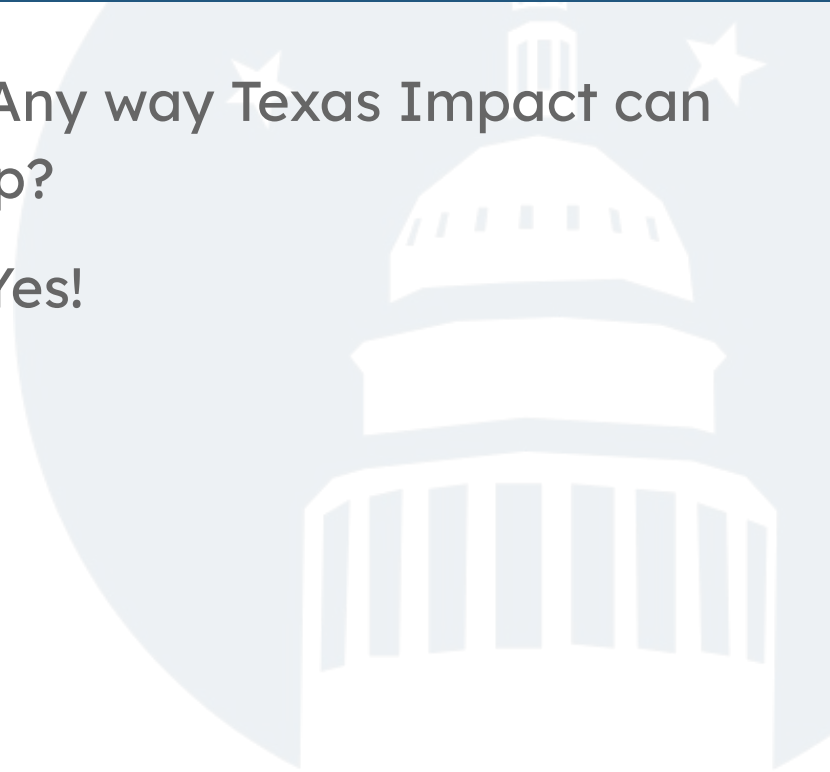
# Texas Impact's Advocacy Survey

Q: How's everyone feeling?

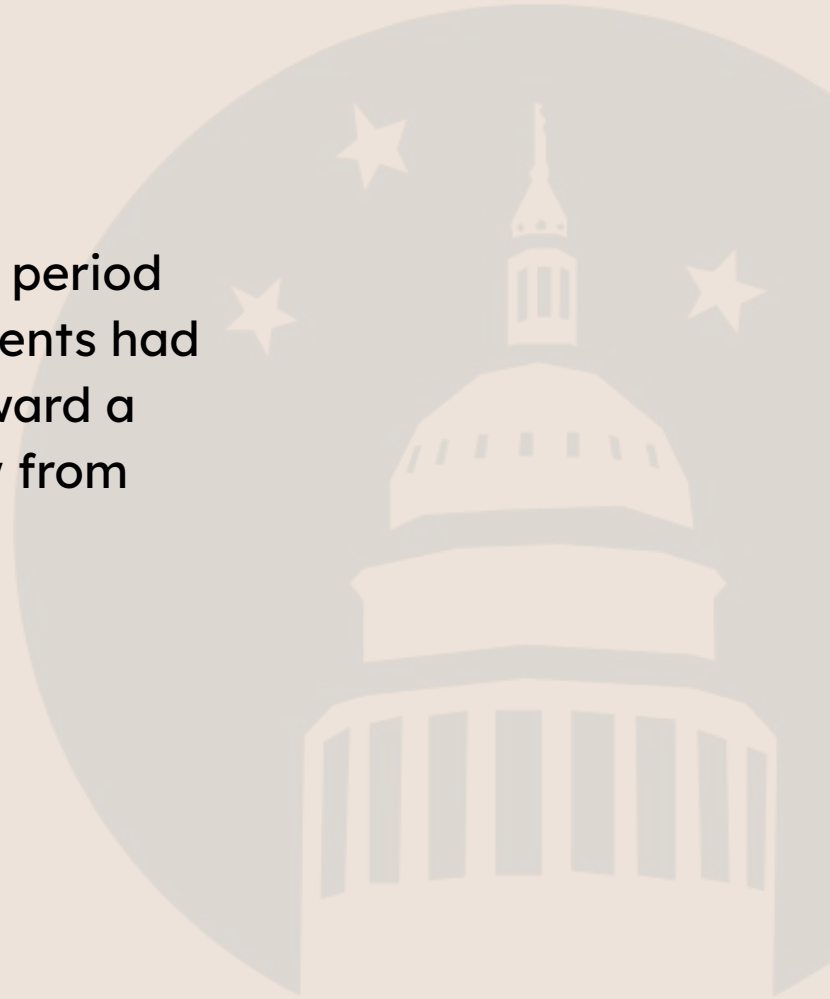
A: Okay...

Q: Any way Texas Impact can help?

A: Yes!

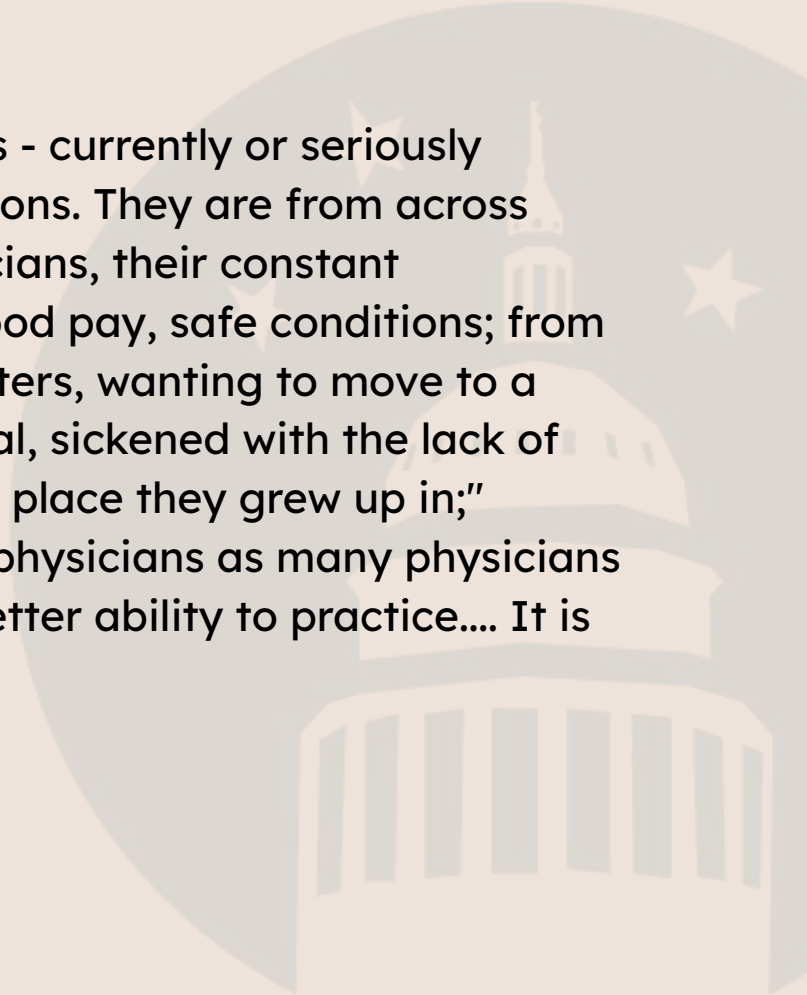


“I keep thinking of the early 1970s, another period when broad-based, idealistic social movements had recently fragmented, with some turning toward a militant sectarianism while others withdrew from politics, seeking self-realization in lifestyle experimentation.”



“Having no hope of improving their lives in any of the ways that matter, people have convinced themselves that what matters is psychic self-improvement: getting in touch with their feelings, eating health food, taking lessons in ballet or belly-dancing, immersing themselves in the wisdom of the East, jogging, learning how to ‘relate,’ overcoming the ‘fear of pleasure.’”

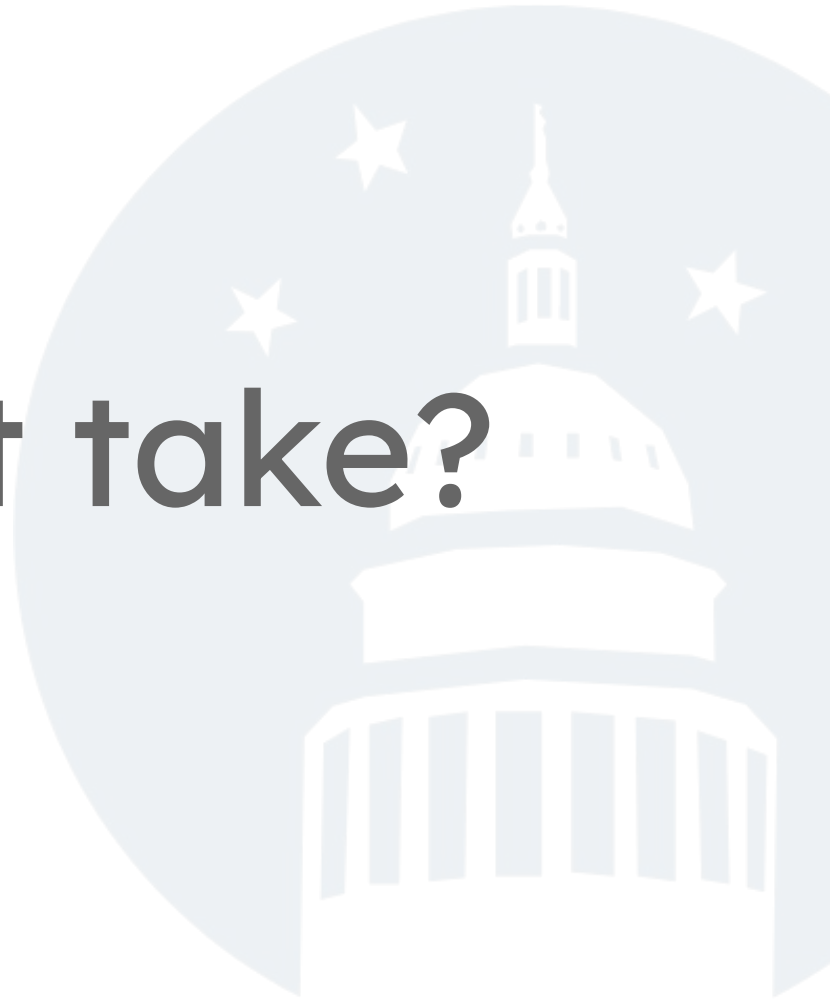
—Christopher Lasch *The Culture of Narcissism* (1979)  
as quoted by Michelle Goldberg



“I keep hearing from activists - strong advocates - currently or seriously considering moving from Texas - for various reasons. They are from across many walks; teachers burned out by Texas politicians, their constant undermining of teachers' by stripping them of good pay, safe conditions; from people in larger organizations with young daughters, wanting to move to a safer state for their safety; from others, in general, sickened with the lack of voter turnout and "Texas is no longer the friendly place they grew up in;" families struggling to find good health care and physicians as many physicians and medical staff quietly leaving this state for better ability to practice.... It is more than concerning.”

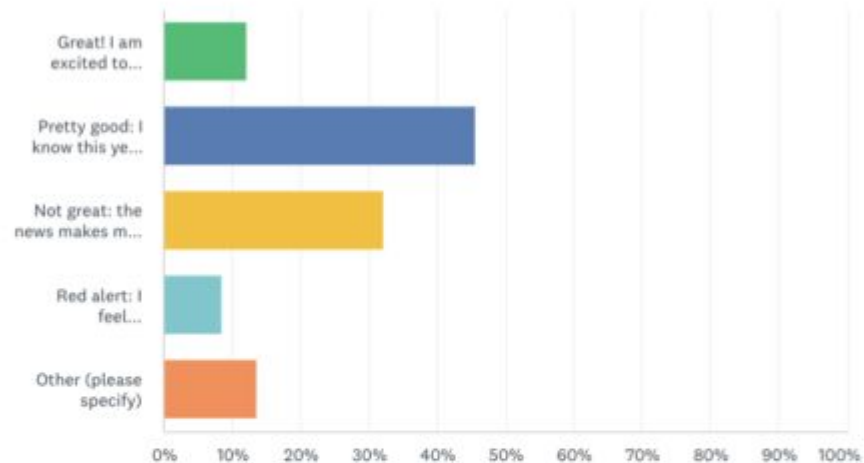
—Texas Impact Survey Respondent (2024)

**What will it take?**



# How are you feeling here at the start of 2024 with respect to civic engagement?

Answered: 140 Skipped: 1



## ANSWER CHOICES

- Great! I am excited to partner with friends and colleagues to move our community forward!
- Pretty good: I know this year is going to be challenging, but I feel up to the challenge.
- Not great: the news makes me pessimistic about the chances for progress on any front.
- Red alert: I feel overwhelmed and anxious every time I think about current events or politics.
- Other (please specify)

## RESPONSES

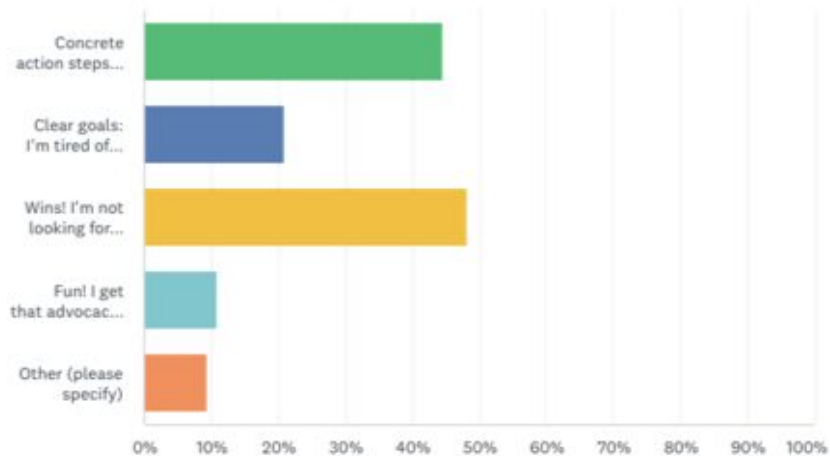
12.14%	17
45.71%	64
32.14%	45
8.57%	12
13.57%	19

Total Respondents: 140



# What do you need to stay engaged and energized in advocacy in 2024?

Answered: 139 Skipped: 2



## ANSWER CHOICES

## RESPONSES

Concrete action steps with clear endpoints: I need to know when I have "done enough."	44.60%	62
Clear goals: I'm tired of sending the emails, making the calls, and liking the posts without some idea of the endgame.	20.86%	29
Wins! I'm not looking for decisive victories on every front—I just need some kind of measurable progress, and I need to understand the units of measurement.	48.20%	67
Fun! I get that advocacy and civic engagement isn't all fun and games, but why are we doing all this work if we never enjoy ourselves?	10.79%	15
Other (please specify)	9.35%	13

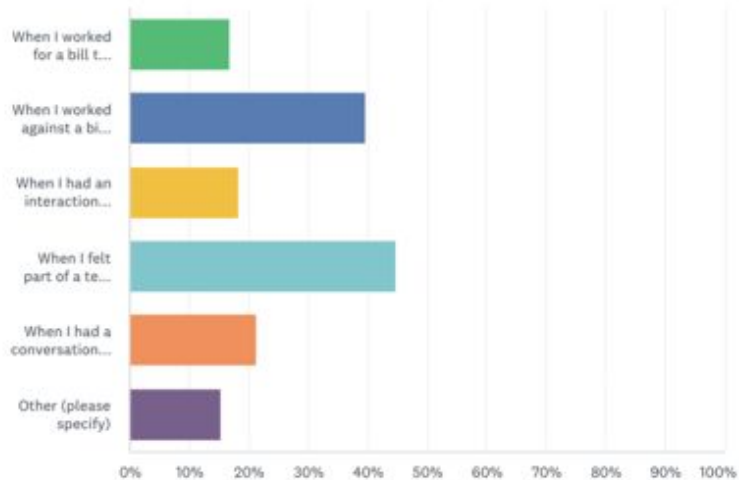
Total Respondents: 139





# When was a time in 2023 that you felt empowered, optimistic, or successful in your advocacy?

Answered: 136 Skipped: 5



## ANSWER CHOICES

## RESPONSES

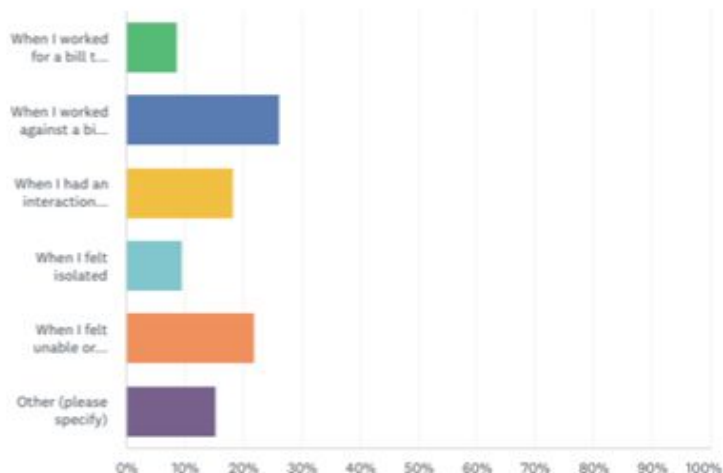
When I worked for a bill that passed	16.91%	23
When I worked against a bill that failed	39.71%	54
When I had an interaction with a lawmaker or their staff and felt they really heard me	18.38%	25
When I felt part of a team or community, like participating in a Texas Impact team	44.85%	61
When I had a conversation with a friend or family member about an issue where we disagree, and we made progress toward understanding each other	21.32%	29
Other (please specify)	Responses 15.44%	21

Total Respondents: 136



## When was a time in 2023 that you felt disempowered, pessimistic, or like a failure in your advocacy?

Answered: 137 Skipped: 4



### ANSWER CHOICES

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
When I worked for a bill that failed	8.76% 12
When I worked against a bill that passed	26.28% 36
When I had an interaction with a lawmaker or their staff and felt they were dismissive or really didn't hear me	18.25% 25
When I felt isolated	9.49% 13
When I felt unable or unequipped to articulate my values and beliefs to folks I don't see eye-to-eye with	21.90% 30
Other (please specify)	Responses 15.33% 21

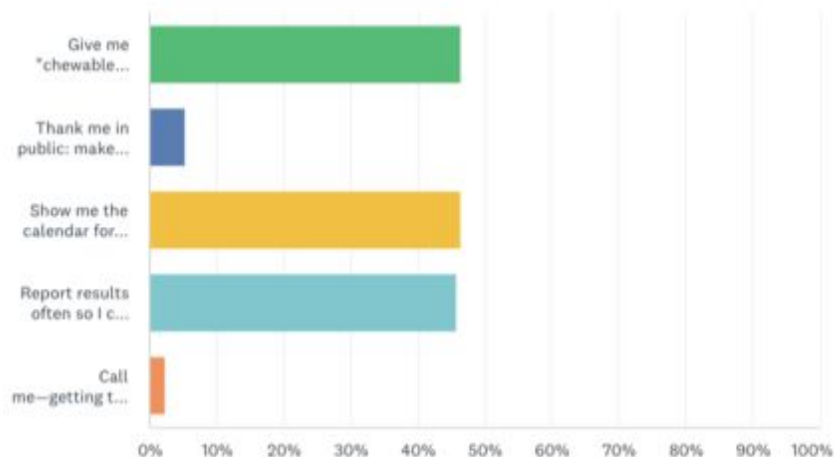
TOTAL

137



# How can Texas Impact support your advocacy in 2024?

Answered: 131 Skipped: 10



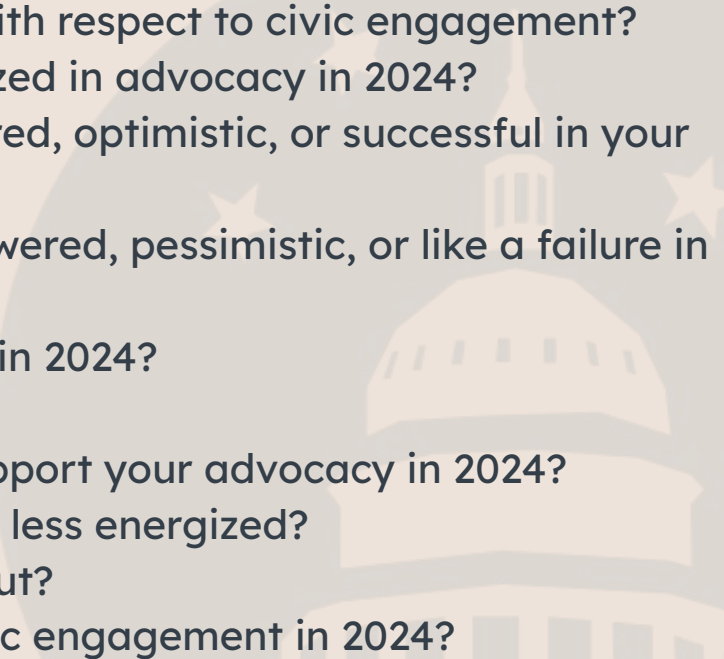
## ANSWER CHOICES

## RESPONSES

Give me "chewable chunks" and close the loop so I know I completed the job	46.56%	61
Thank me in public: make space in Texas Impact communications to list the names of members, advocates, and donors	5.34%	7
Show me the calendar for the whole year so I can plan times I want to engage and times I need to step back	46.56%	61
Report results often so I can see progress	45.80%	60
Call me—getting the chance to talk to a staff member helps me stay grounded (feel free to enter your name and number in the comment box)	2.29%	3

Total Respondents: 131



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1. How are you feeling here at the start of 2024 with respect to civic engagement?
  2. What do you need to stay engaged and energized in advocacy in 2024?
  3. When was a time in 2023 that you felt empowered, optimistic, or successful in your advocacy?
  4. When was a time in 2023 that you felt disempowered, pessimistic, or like a failure in your advocacy?
  5. How can Texas Impact support your advocacy in 2024?
  6. How can UWF support your advocacy in 2024?
  7. How can your congregation or faith leaders support your advocacy in 2024?
  8. What are ways you can support others who are less energized?
  9. What are strategies you use to deal with burnout?
  10. What's one goal you could set for your own civic engagement in 2024?

What are other questions we should be asking each other?