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New Poll: 81% Disapprove of Corpus Christi City Council, Voters Demand Action on Water Crisis

76% name water as a top problem; a majority say the City Council should approve the desalination plant

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas — A crisis over the availability of water in Corpus Christi has reached a boiling point, and voters are demanding action. 80.9% of Corpus Christi voters disapprove of the job done by the City Council and 58% support the Inner Harbor desalination project – with only 22% opposing. That is the central finding of a new Hunt Research survey commissioned by the Coastal Bend Coalition of 860 likely November 2026 General Election voters in the City of Corpus Christi.

Water now overwhelms every other issue on voters' minds. A 76.06% supermajority of likely voters name water as one of the top two problems facing the City, dwarfing concerns such as corruption, streets, jobs, crime, homelessness, and the cost of housing and goods. Asked in their own words to name the single biggest problem in the City today, voters answered univocally: water.

Share of likely voters who name WATER as one of the top two problems facing the City

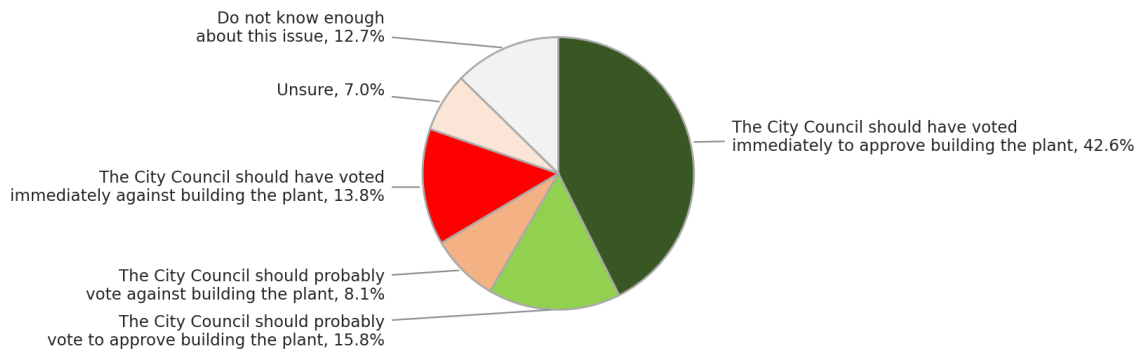


The depth of the crisis is matched by the depth of voter frustration. A supermajority (72%) believe the City is on the wrong track, while fewer than 10% say it is headed in the right direction.

Voters Want Desalination and a New Approach to Managing Water

The survey shows clear public support for desalination as a path out of the crisis. A majority of likely voters believe the City Council should have approved the desalination plant. Fewer than 10% believe the City Council should continue to exercise direct control over the water supply, and only 14% think the water supply should be managed by a City-appointed board: a majority favor managing the water supply at the state or regional level.

Should Corpus Christi City Council build the water desalination plant?



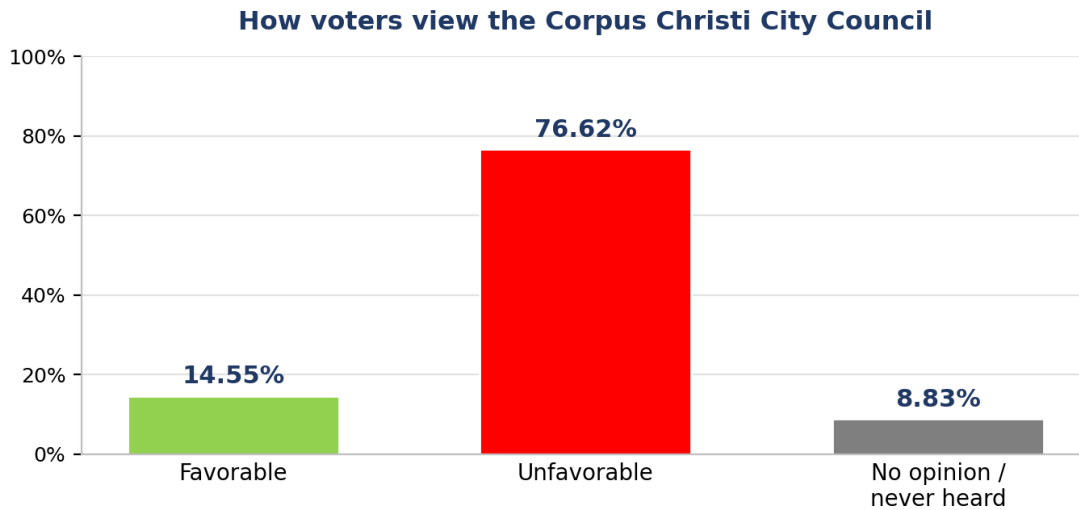
Voters also want the public to remain in control of the resource itself: 60% say the public should own the water directly through government agencies, while fewer than 25% think private supply companies should own the water.

The sense of emergency is so acute that an overwhelming supermajority of voters support the Governor declaring an emergency and deploying personnel to manage water supply projects and water distribution in the Corpus Christi area.

"Voters in Corpus Christi are speaking with one voice, and they're talking about one thing: water." said Ross Hunt of Hunt Research. "Corpus Christi voters aren't just expressing frustration: they are demanding solution. A majority of likely General Election voters believe the Council should have approved the desalination plant, and most want the water supply managed at the state or regional level rather than by City Hall. The electorate of Corpus Christi is united in their demand to solve the problem of water supply."

Frustration Has Reshaped the Political Landscape

Anger over the failure to resolve the water crisis has produced unprecedented levels of disapproval toward incumbent elected officials,. While a popular incumbent is typically viewed favorably by a ratio of 2-to-1 or 3-to-1, Corpus Christi voters view the City Council unfavorably by a ratio of 5.28-to-1. Similarly, when asked whether they approve or disapprove of the job the City Council has done, 5.36 voters disapprove for every one voter who approves.



If elections were held today, nearly three-quarters of likely voters (73.5%) would vote against all or most incumbent members of the City Council.

Methodology

On June 18–20, 2026 the Coastal Bend Coalition commissioned Hunt Research to survey 860 likely November 2026 General Election voters in the City of Corpus Christi. Interviews were conducted 72.1% via text-to-web, 26.6% via live cellphone, and 1.3% via live landline. Respondents were representative of the likely November 2026 General Election electorate; weights derived from modeled turnout projections were used to ensure the weighted sample optimally reflects that electorate. The survey's margin of sampling error is +/- 3.34%.

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