

## Challenges Facing Virginians

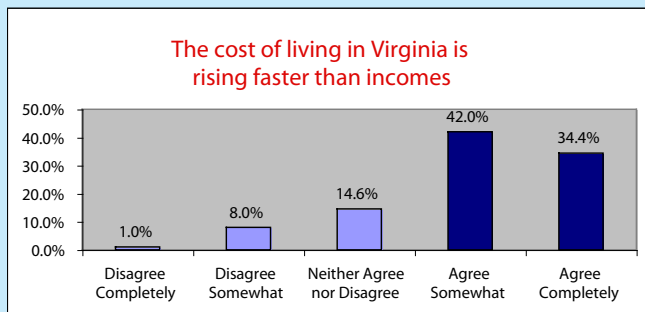
### November 2006 Research Survey Results Summary

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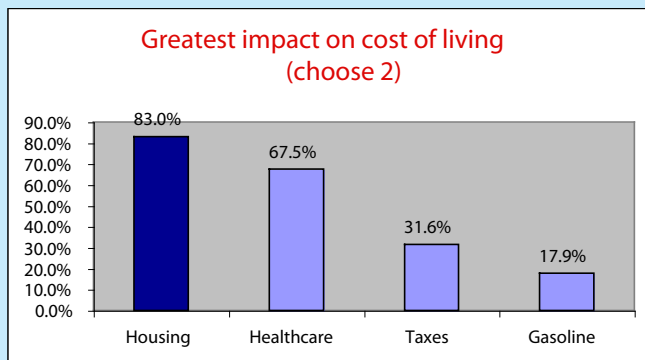
Respondent Profile	
Northern VA	21.3%
Central VA	43.4%
Tidewater	15.5%
Southwestern VA	9.4%
Shenandoah	3.8%
Southside VA	6.6%

In November, Brooks Adams Research, an independent research company, developed a survey that looked at some of the challenges Virginia is facing and how Virginians perceived these challenges. This survey was distributed to the members of a variety of organizations throughout Virginia, including professional, volunteer, and social organizations. Below, find a summary of some of the results of the survey.

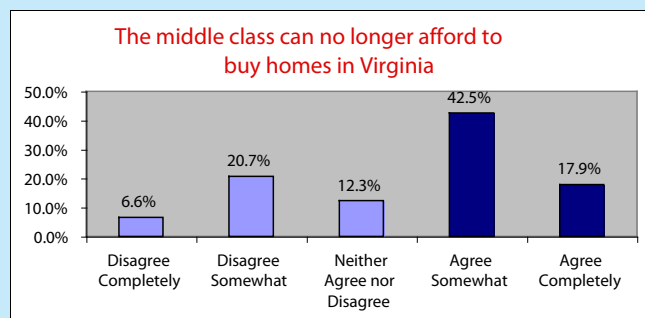
*Several hundred participants completed the survey. As you can see, survey participants represented residents from all areas of Virginia.*



When asked whether the cost of living in Virginia was rising faster than incomes, participants overwhelmingly agreed. Over 76% agreed somewhat or strongly that the cost of living was rising at a faster pace than incomes.

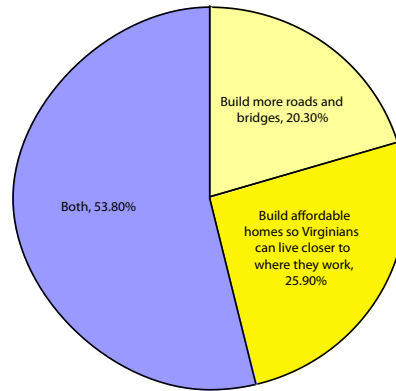


When asked to choose the two items with the greatest impact on the cost of living, most participants indicated that health care and housing had large impacts on the cost of living. In truth, many experts claim that up to 30% of income should be spent on housing, although in the current housing market, many are spending a greater amount on housing.



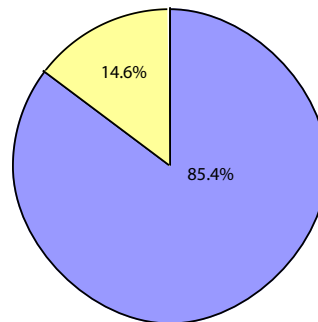
Over 60% of survey participants agreed that the middle class can no longer afford to buy homes in Virginia.

## Help solve Virginia's transportation problems



A majority (over 53%) believed that transportation problems could be solved not only by building more roads and bridges, but also by building affordable homes so Virginians could live closer to where they work. Survey participants clearly see a link between Virginia's transportation problems and affordable housing.

## Is a housing trust fund a good idea for Virginia?



When presented with the definition of a housing trust fund, which receives revenue from an on-going source of funding to help alleviate housing costs through efforts such as assistance to homebuyers, incentives to developers, matching funds to localities, and low-interest loans, survey participants overwhelmingly supported such a measure. Over 85% agreed that a housing trust fund was a good idea for Virginia.

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For more information about the Virginia Housing Coalition and efforts to create a Virginia housing trust fund, go to [www.vahousingcoalition.org](http://www.vahousingcoalition.org)



# Virginia Housing Coalition