



# **City of Galveston**

## **Short-Term Rental Community Survey Results**

### **October 23, 2025**

The Short-term Rental Community Survey is an 11-question survey written by the committee with input from city staff. The survey was distributed across platforms and open from September 30, 2025 to October 15, 2025. There were 1,020 responses to the survey.

The survey was distributed to the following groups and individuals:

- City of Galveston: Distributed via email, social media (Facebook, NextDoor), City website, City news flash
- City Council
- Chamber of Commerce e-blast
- Vision Galveston
- Galveston Park Board of Trustees
- WGIPOA (West Galveston Island Property Owners Association)
- Pirates Property Owners Association
- East End Historical District Association
- Distributed via email to all registered GVR holders in database
- GARM (Galveston Association of Vacation Rental Managers)
- STROAG (Short-Term Rental Owners Association of Galveston)



**Question 1. Which part of Galveston do you live in?**

Response	Count	Percentage
West End	470	46.1%
East End / Historic District	220	21.6%
Midtown	190	18.6%
Off-Island	70	6.9%
Downtown	9	0.9%
Other	61	5.9%

**Question 2. What is your relationship to Short-Term Rentals (STRs)? (Check all that apply)**

Response	Count	Percentage
I live near an STR	407	31.9%
I live off-island and own an STR	354	27.8%
I do not own, manage, or work with STRs	244	19.1%
I live on the island and own an STR	114	8.9%
I provide services to STRs (cleaning, maintenance, etc.)	27	2.1%
Other	129	10.1%

**Question 3. In your opinion, do STRs and their guests contribute to the local economy (shops, restaurants, services, city general fund, etc.)?**

Response	Count	Percentage
Yes	847	83.0%
Unsure	88	8.6%
No	85	8.3%



**Question 4. How often have you experienced noise or nuisance issues related to STRs in your part of Galveston?**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Never	431	42.3%
Rarely	200	19.6%
Occasionally	187	18.3%
Often	103	10.1%
Frequently	99	9.7%

**Question 4, Part 2:**

<b>Response</b>	<b>West End</b>	<b>Midtown</b>	<b>East End / Historic</b>	<b>Downtown</b>	<b>Other Areas</b>
<b>Never</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>Rarely</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Occasionally</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Often</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Frequently</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>

**Question 5. Do STRs affect parking availability on your street?**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Never	508	49.7%
Rarely	158	15.4%
Occasionally	169	16.6%
Often	79	7.7%
Frequently	106	10.4%



**Question 5, Part 2:**

<b>Response</b>	<b>West End</b>	<b>Midtown</b>	<b>East End / Historic</b>	<b>Downtown</b>	<b>Other Areas</b>
<b>Never</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>Rarely</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Occasionally</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Often</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Frequently</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>

**Question 6. Parking requirement proposal (for new STR registrants): Do you support this recommendation?**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	613	60.1%
No	271	26.6%
Unsure	136	13.3%

**Question 7. Who should be held responsible for guest behavior (noise, trash, illegal parking, etc.)? (Check all that apply)**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
STR Owner	620	26.5%
STR Manager	507	21.6%
City Marshal	177	7.6%
City Police	257	11.0%
Guest	739	31.6%
Unsure	14	0.6%
Other	28	1.2%



**Question 8. The draft ordinance proposes a Short-Term Rental Licensing Board to review and revoke licenses after 3 documented violations. Do you support this?**

Response	Count	Percentage
Yes	709	69.5%
No	210	20.6%
Unsure	101	9.9%

**Question 9. If you've experienced a problem with an STR on your street, who have you called for help? (Check all that apply)**

Response	Count	Percentage
STR Owner	191	14.6%
STR Hotline	96	7.3%
City Marshal	74	5.6%
Police	268	20.4%
City Hall	9	0.7%
City Councilmember	29	2.2%
Other	104	7.9%
Not Applicable	541	41.2%

**Question 10. In your opinion, where should more resources be dedicated for STRs? (Check all that apply)**

Response	Count	Percentage
Enforcement (City Marshal)	489	32.8%
Registration and Compliance	462	31.0%
HOT Collection and Compliance	216	14.5%
No Change Needed	323	21.7%



## **Question 11. What are the biggest benefits and/or concerns about STRs in the part of Galveston where you live? (Open Response)**

Residents expressed a wide range of perspectives on short-term rentals (STRs). While opinions differ, most comments reveal a shared interest in keeping neighborhoods livable while supporting Galveston's tourism-driven economy.

### **1. Economic and Community Benefits**

Many residents see STRs as an essential part of Galveston's visitor economy and local revitalization. Respondents credited STRs with supporting restaurants and shops, creating local jobs, and preserving older housing stock through reinvestment.

### **2. Desire for Fairness and Consistent Rules**

The theme in responses was fairness and clear enforcement. Many residents believe STRs can coexist successfully with full-time neighbors when rules are applied evenly and predictably.

### **3. Neighborhood Quality and Visitor Behavior**

Some respondents expressed frustration with noise, parking congestion, and trash from certain high-occupancy rentals or inattentive operators. Others pointed out that many STR owners and guests follow the rules.

### **4. Changing Neighborhood Character**

A number of comments reflected mixed feelings about change in traditional residential areas. Some long-time residents miss the familiarity of knowing their neighbors, while others recognize that Galveston has always been a blend of locals and visitors.