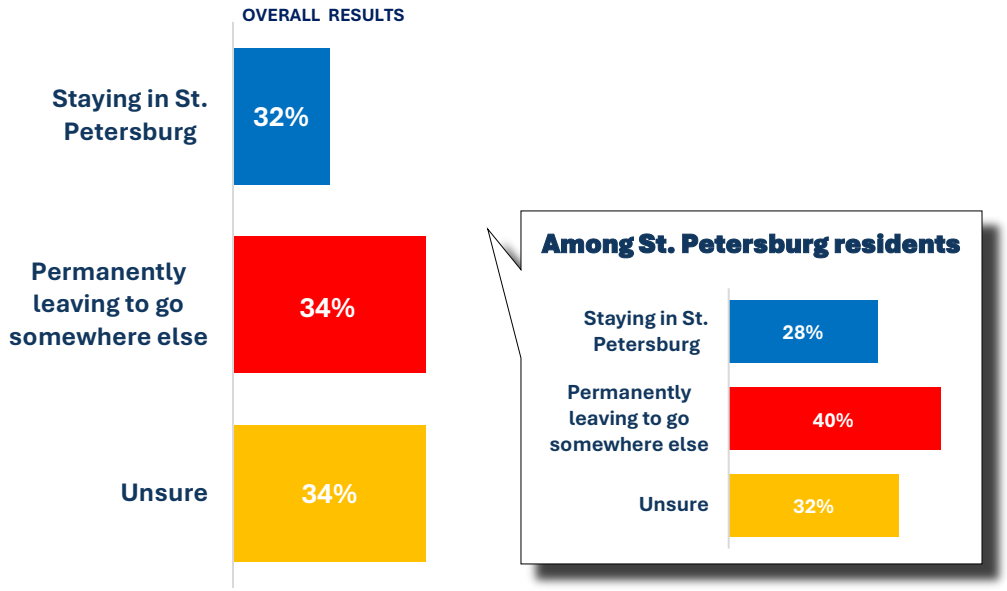
Views About the Future of MLB Baseball in Pinellas County

Regardless of what you want to happen, if you were asked to predict, do you think that the Tampa Bay Rays baseball team will end up staying in St. Petersburg or permanently leaving to go somewhere else?



Supposing for a moment that the Tampa Bay Rays baseball team permanently moves to another city, which of the following do you think will be the biggest reason for it?

OVERALL RESULTS	THINK TEAM WILL LEAVE	
15%	21%	The Tampa Bay Rays baseball team management did not negotiate in good faith
19%	20%	St. Petersburg and Pinellas County government leaders did not negotiate in good faith
25%	35%	The economics did not work out because St. Petersburg is not big enough to keep a major league team
13%	17%	Other reasons
28%	7%	Unsure

What It Means

Amid the looming unresolved question about the prospective future baseball stadium, there is a lot of uncertainty and no strong consensus about what will happen to the team. At the moment, there is a dearth of optimism about the Rays' future in the community, including in St. Petersburg, where the team is located. Suggesting that this matter may have become too byzantine for most to understand, the perceived reasons why the team might leave were equally murky with a plurality being unsure. Interestingly, market forces – such as perhaps views about the cost of the new stadium and compounding problems created by damage to Tropicana Field – may be seen by some residents and fans as too formidable, especially by those who are most pessimistic and expect the team to leave.

August, 2024 Survey Data: Rays' stadium in the wake of approval: https://t2m.io/wySLY5c

This opinion research data was gathered through secure SMS/text-to-web surveys completed by 607 voters registered in Pinellas County, Florida who had valid cellular telephone numbers. The surveys were completed during the period of March 6, 2025 through March 10, 2025. The overall estimated margin of sampling error is +/- 3.97 percent, based on a confidence level of 95 percent, although it varies for each individual question. This means that if this survey were repeated, 95 times out of 100 the results would be within plus or minus 3.97 percent of those provided herein. Some adjustments were made to weight the results toward estimates of demographic and geographic characteristics of the county's electorate, in order to account for under- and over-sampling that normally occurs as a result of the random selection process, and to ensure that all major sub-groups are represented in proportion to their actual percentages. Like all polls, this opinion survey research is subject to other possible sources of error, such as unintentional bias in the wording of questions, data-entry error and nonresponse bias.

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