



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Survey: Most SC Voters Concerned about Negative Short-Term Rental Impact

South Carolina legislature considering bill that would cause rentals to spread

**Columbia, S.C. (March 30, 2023)** – A majority of South Carolina residents are concerned about the negative impact of short-term rentals in their communities, according to a new survey conducted by Morning Consult on behalf of the Alliance for Stronger Communities.

The survey results come as South Carolina state legislators are considering [HB 3253](#), a bill that would ban almost all local oversight of short-term rentals, such as Airbnbs, and lead to the spread of short-term rental units in neighborhoods throughout the state. Even more concerning is a recent amendment passed in the House budget that would further inhibit local government’s ability to provide oversight and regulatory measures on short-term rental platforms. The budget process in the Senate will commence in the coming week with the amendment included for consideration.

A large majority of South Carolina voters – 77% – believe it is important for local officials to actively monitor short-term rental properties to deter criminal activity in residential areas. 67% of South Carolina voters agree that the presence of commercial short-term rental properties in residential communities raises concerns about neighborhood safety.

A majority of voters – 72% – think that active oversight is important to ensure short-term rental owners and companies pay their fair share of taxes. 73% of voters also agree that lawmakers should prioritize the interests of homeowners and renters in residential areas above those of out-of-state commercial short-term rental investors.

“A large majority of South Carolina voters believe short-term rentals like Airbnbs need to be monitored by local officials to deter criminal activity. Local leaders are best equipped to confront the safety risks posed by short-term rentals, but state legislators are considering harmful legislation that would strip neighborhoods of this important oversight tool,” **said Alliance for Stronger Communities President Franklin Coley.** “We know that when short-term rentals are allowed to operate with little to no local oversight, neighborhood disturbances, crime, and violence can arise. South Carolina residents deserve a safe, stable community – not a neighborhood that’s overrun with unregulated rentals that attract problems and risk safety and security.”

#### **How Short-Term Rentals Are Impacting South Carolina Public Safety**

- [Folly Beach residents argue whether or not to limit short term rentals](#)
- [Crackdown on Lake Murray short-term rentals could be coming in Lexington County](#)

Additional findings from the survey include:

- 64% of voters agree that residential areas should be inhabited by people who intend to live there for more than a few days.
- 57% agree that the presence of short-term rental properties in residential communities can lower the value of surrounding properties.
- 57% agree that the presence of short-term rental properties in residential communities would deter them from buying or renting in a certain neighborhood.
- 54% of South Carolina voters agree that the presence of short-term rental properties in residential communities is harmful to a neighborhood’s sense of community.

**Morning Consult Survey Methodology:** This poll was conducted between March 11-18, 2023, among a sample of 599 registered voters from South Carolina. Interviews were conducted online and weighted to approximate a sample of South Carolina RVs based on age, gender, education, and 2020 presidential vote choice. Results from the full survey have a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

#### **About Alliance for Stronger Communities**

Alliance for Stronger Communities is a coalition of neighbors – including child safety advocates, former law enforcement officials, parenting voices and bloggers, civic leaders, housing experts, homeowner association presidents and academics – coming together to form a collective voice to address issues impacting neighborhoods across the country.

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