Valley Broadband Survey - Key Findings

1. When presented with two options regarding the possible uses of federal money to assist local governments in building high-speed internet networks, respondents overwhelmingly select a public-private partnership at over three times the level at which they select local government attempting to own, operate and maintain its own network.

   66% - A <u>partnership</u> between the local city or county government and a private sector internet service provider to build a network to provide high-speed internet service to local residents.

   vs.

   19% - The local city or county government using federal dollars to <u>build, own, operate and maintain</u> a middle-mile network that provides high-speed internet service only to government buildings like City Hall, but not to local residents.

2. Support for the partnership option is widespread, including 68% of Hidalgo voters, 64% Cameron voters.

3. After respondents learned more about it, 71% prefer a public-private partnership while 16% opt for the government attempting to own, operate and maintain its own network.

4. Respondents overwhelmingly side with the partnership option upon learning each of the following:

   - The local government is considering building a network that only connects public and government buildings and would not connect a single resident or business.
   - Networks owned by local governments often fail due to lack of expertise and money, leaving taxpayers responsible for millions of dollars of debt.
   - Private sector internet service providers that have the technical expertise can partner with your local government to build the network residents need without any cost or risk to taxpayers.

This survey was conducted May 19-23, 2022, among N=600 voters in Cameron and Hidalgo counties. The margin of error to the results of 600 interviews is +4.0% at the .95 confidence interval. Each county had 300 interviews, to which the results of each county's results is +5.7% at the .95 confidence interval.