



MEMORANDUM

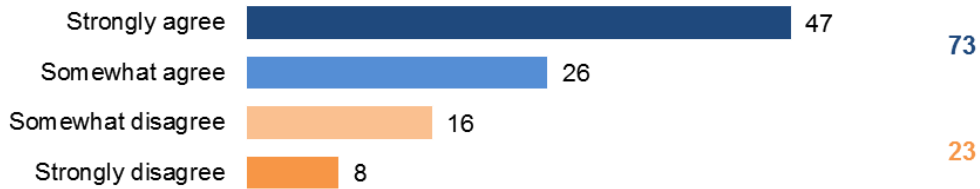
To: Interested Parties
From: Kiley & Company
Re: A Survey Of Washington Voters Concerning School Funding
Date: May 10, 2017

This memo reviews highlights from a recent survey we conducted among a representative sample of 600 voters in Washington State. Trained professionals completed the interviews by telephone between April 30 and May 4, 2017. The margin of error for the results shown here is ± 3.1 percentage points.

Five Key Findings

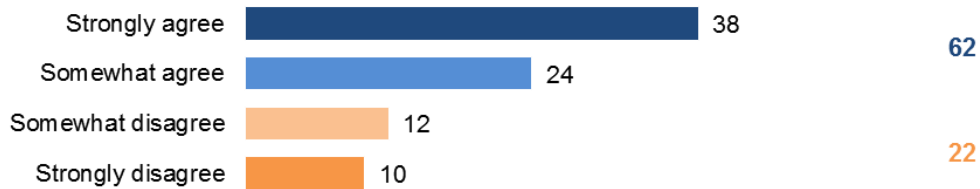
1. Voters agree that education is the state’s top priority. And by a nearly 3-to-1 margin, they believe public schools are underfunded.

The Washington state constitution says that providing an education for all children is the state’s top priority, ahead of all other needs and services. Do you agree or disagree with this section of the state constitution?



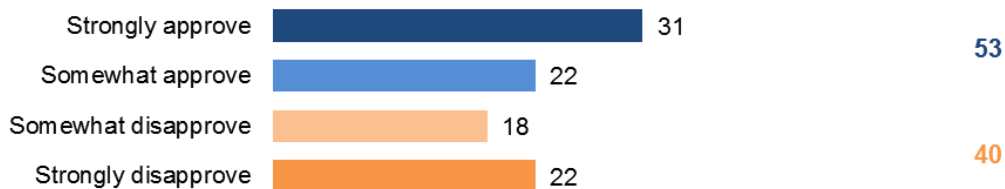
**In all cases, the remainder is not sure*

The state Supreme Court has ruled that the state has failed to meet its constitutional duty to provide ample funding for the public schools. Do you agree or disagree with the Court’s ruling?

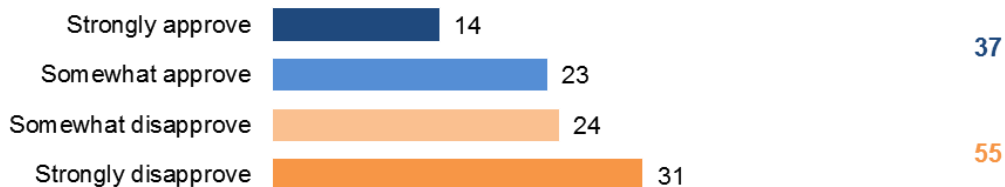


2. After hearing brief, balanced descriptions of each school budget plan, most voters express approval of the House Democratic plan and disapproval of the Senate Republican plan.

The Democratic plan would sharply increase state funding of schools, and would pay for it by raising taxes on large corporations and wealthy investors. Because the plan would also maintain local district school levies, the overall amount of school funding would go up significantly. Supporters say this plan will provide the resources needed to pay teachers fairly, offer more support services for students and implement class size reductions in future years. Opponents say the tax increases imposed by the plan are unnecessary and will hurt the economy and kill jobs.

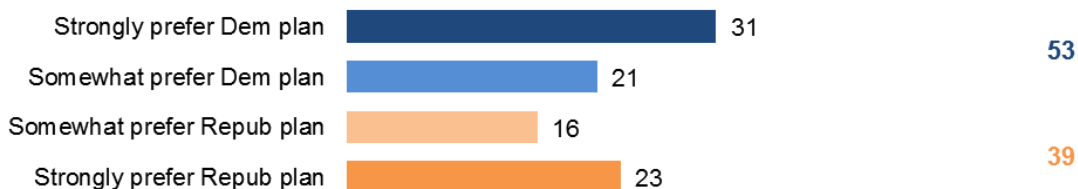


The Republican plan would provide more state funding of schools by creating a new statewide property tax but would sharply reduce local school levies, so the overall amount of school funding would stay about the same. This plan would guarantee a set amount of twelve-thousand-five-hundred dollars in annual funding for every student in the state. Supporters say this plan will create more fairness and opportunity for low-income students and will reduce local property taxes in a large majority of school districts. Opponents say the plan just moves money around, but does not increase overall funding, which is what's really needed to improve schools.



3. By a 14-point margin, voters choose the House Democratic plan as the preferred alternative.

Based on what you have just heard about the two school budget plans, do you prefer the Republican plan or the Democratic plan?



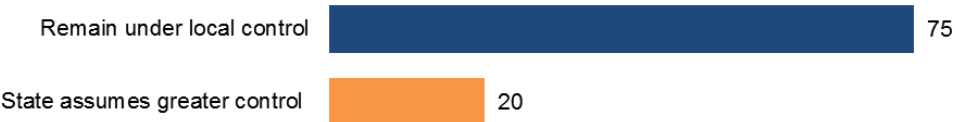
4. Three-in-four voters want to retain local control of schools.

Which of these two opinions is closer to yours?

“If the state agrees to fully fund public education, then the state should also assume greater control over how public schools operate, to ensure more accountability, and better cost control measures.”

OR

“Even if the state provides more funding, schools should remain under local control, since local communities are in the best position to decide how to support the needs of their schools and their students”



5. Voters overwhelmingly support local collective bargaining for teachers and staff.

Public school teachers and other staff currently have the right to negotiate pay, benefits and working conditions with their local school district through their union. Do you support or oppose local collective bargaining for teachers and school staff?

