



MEMO

To: Interested Parties

From: John Davis, RABA Research

RE: Bipartisan Poll of WV Voters Shows Opposition to School Vouchers, Education Overhaul; Strong Support for West Virginia Unions

Date: March 7, 2022

Overview: Bipartisan polling firm RABA Research conducted a telephone survey of 512 West Virginia voters at the beginning of March. The survey results show strong support for West Virginians' right to join a union, and strong opposition to the politicization of school board elections and the defunding of public schools through voucher programs.

The results of this survey also show overwhelming support for West Virginia teachers, with 91% of respondents trusting them to determine what information children are taught in the classroom, versus just 9% who say this should be left to politicians.

Key Findings: Below are several key findings from the research.

- 85% of respondents believe West Virginia's workers should be able to join a union if they choose to do so;
- 63% of respondents oppose diverting tax revenue away from public schools through school vouchers, with just 23% supporting it;
- 54% of respondents said they would be less likely to support a lawmaker who voted to allow tax dollars to be spent on private education;
- 75% of respondents oppose bringing partisan politics into local school board elections;
- 64% of respondents oppose efforts to limit the teaching of certain information regarding our nation's racial history in the classroom;
- 91% of respondents believe teachers should be responsible for coming up with what is taught in the classroom, with only 9% saying that politicians should do so.

Takeaways: The results of this survey tell a clear story: West Virginians oppose many of the education overhauls that are currently being considered in the legislature, and voters show a willingness to vote for someone else because of it.

Legislation to fundamentally change the way children learn, to defund public schools, and to allow partisan politicians to decide what gets taught in the classroom are all deeply unpopular in West Virginia.