



PUBLIC POLL FINDINGS AND METHODOLOGY

Vast majority of Americans believe students deserve an equal opportunity to pursue higher education

New Public Agenda/USA Today/Ipsos Hidden Common Ground poll also finds support for student debt forgiveness

Topline Findings

Washington, DC, July 11, 2022 – This Public Agenda/USA Today/Ipsos Hidden Common Ground poll examines Americans' opinions on the value of higher education and the public college and university system in the United States. It finds that Americans believe making a decent living should not depend on having a college degree. At the same time, Americans believe all high school graduates deserve an equal opportunity to get a college education, no matter their race, ethnicity or income.

Detailed Findings

1. Overall, most Americans believe there are many ways to succeed in today's work world, not just with a college education.
 - Nearly three quarters (74%) of Americans believe there are many ways to succeed in today's work world without a college education. White people (78%) are slightly more likely to believe this than Hispanics (70%) and Black people (67%).
 - Those without a college degree (80%) are also more likely to agree than those with a college degree or more (67%).
 - Two-thirds (67%) of Americans believe that there are many people who are qualified to go to college but do not have the opportunity to do so, and 61% think it would be worthwhile for their state government to invest more in public colleges, universities, and community colleges.
 - Democrats (75%) are much more likely than Republicans (46%) and independents (57%) to think it would be worthwhile for their state government to invest more in public colleges, universities, and community colleges.
2. Almost all Americans agree that people should be able to make a decent living without a college degree. That said, they also feel a college education can help working adults advance their careers.
 - Ninety percent of Americans say people should be able to make a decent living without having to get a college education, and 89% say all high school graduates — regardless of their race, ethnicity, or income — deserve an equal opportunity to get a college education.
 - The majority of Americans (86%) also agree that getting a college education can help working adults advance their careers.
 - Those with higher household incomes are more likely to agree with this: 91% among those making \$100,000 or more compared to 87% of those making \$50,000-\$99,999 and 81% of those making under \$50,000.
3. Few Americans believe public education systems in the United States are receiving too much funding.
 - Less than 10% of Americans believe early childhood education (9%), K-12 public schools (9%), and public two-year community colleges (7%) are receiving *too much* funding.





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- Americans are more split when it comes to funding for public four-year colleges, with 35% saying they receive too little, 32% saying they receive the right amount, and 17% saying they receive too much funding.
 - Republicans and independents are most likely to believe schools are receiving too much funding: 33% of Republicans and 28% of independents say flagship state schools receive too much funding, compared to 20% of Democrats and 17% of apoliticals.
- 4. Americans say public two-year community colleges are the most cost-effective way to help students get an education.
 - Over half of Americans (57%) believe public two-year community colleges help students get an education in a timely, cost-effective manner. Meanwhile, only 28% say the same about public four-year state colleges and 20% about their state's most prominent and selective public university.
 - Older Americans are most likely to feel this way, with 67% of those ages 55 or older saying public two-year colleges are cost-effective versus only 47% of those ages 18-34.
 - Americans are also more likely to believe that public two-year colleges are a worthwhile investment of public funds (43%) than public four-year colleges (32%) because they increase opportunities for low-income students and students of color.
- 5. The majority of Americans say student debt is a serious problem and that there isn't enough financial aid for both low-income and middle-income college students.
 - Fifty-nine percent of Americans say student debt is a *serious* problem, with 82% saying it is a problem overall.
 - Three-quarters (78%) of Americans believe low-income students being unable to afford college because financial aid does not adequately cover the cost of attending is a problem, and 76% say it is also a problem that middle-income students are unable to afford college because they or their parents earn too much money to qualify for financial aid.
 - Over half (55%) of Americans believe liberal, politically correct colleges where conservatives cannot speak freely is a problem. Republicans (71%) are most likely to believe this, followed by half (51%) of independents but 44% of Democrats and 42% of independents agree as well.
 - American support student loan forgiveness, whether it is a significant portion of government student loans for college graduates who have excessive debt (59%) or for all college students, regardless of income (50%) or to forgive.
- 6. When it comes to funding public colleges and universities in their state, Americans prefer the students have some financial responsibility but with help from the state.
 - Thirty percent of Americans want the public colleges in their state to be mostly funded by the state government with some contribution from students and families while 31% want it funded equally by the state government and students and families.
 - Republicans are more likely to say the funds should come equally from the state government and students/families.
 - Only 17% want public college and universities to be funded entirely by the state government and 7% want them to be entirely by students and families.
 - Republicans (12%) are four times as likely as Democrats (3%) and twice as likely as independents (6%) to say students and families should be the only ones funding public colleges and universities.





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7. Americans believe colleges and students share the blame for a student not completing their college degree or certificate in a reasonable amount of time and that public colleges and universities should prioritize making tuition and other college expenses more affordable.
 - Nearly half (46%) of Americans say making tuition and other college expenses more affordable should be one of the top priorities for public colleges and universities. Forty-four percent say making sure that all students have an equal opportunity to get a college education, no matter their race, ethnicity, or income, should also be a priority.
 - Those Americans with only some college education (57%) are more likely to believe making tuition and other college expenses more affordable should be a priority than those with a college degree or more (40%).
 - Three in five Americans say colleges and students share the blame for a lot of college students not completing their degrees or certificates in a reasonable amount of time.
8. Ultimately, Americans would like to see K-12 public schools improve so that all students graduate high school ready for college and to see public colleges and universities be clear about the debt their students are taking on.
 - Over four in five (85%) Americans support requiring public colleges and universities to clearly inform students about how much debt they will be taking on.
 - Eighty-eight percent also support improving K-12 public schools so that all students graduate from high school ready for college or work.
 - Over two-thirds (68%) of Americans support making community colleges free.

These are the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between May 3-6, 2022 on behalf of Public Agenda. For this survey, a sample of 1,662 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. The sample includes 694 Democrats, 378 Republicans, 388 Independents, and 202 apolitical Americans.

The poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 2.9 percentage points for all respondents, 4.6 percentage points for Democrats, plus or minus 6.2 percentage points for Republicans, plus or minus 6.1 percentage points for Independents, and plus or minus 8.4 percentage points for apolitical individuals.

For full results, please refer to the following annotated questionnaire:



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Full Annotated Questionnaire

1. Do you consider yourself [ROTATE “a Democrat, a Republican” OR “a Republican, a Democrat”], an independent or none of these?

	Total (N=1,662)	Democrats (N=694)	Republicans (N=378)	Independents (N=388)	Apolitical (N=202)
Democrat	38	100	-	-	-
Republican	35	-	100	-	-
Independent	19	-	-	100	-
None of these	5	-	-	-	64
Don't know	3	-	-	-	36

2. [Ask if Q1 = independent OR don't know OR none of these] Do you think of yourself as closer to the [ROTATE “Democratic or Republican” OR “Republican or Democratic”] party?

	Total (N=590)	Democrats (N=0)	Republicans (N=0)	Independents (N=388)	Apolitical (N=202)
Closer to Democratic party	23	-	-	24	19
Closer to Republican party	18	-	-	22	8
Not closer to either	59	-	-	53	73

3. [Ask if Q1 = Democrat] Do you consider yourself to be a [ROTATE “strong Democrat or moderate Democrat” OR “moderate Democrat or a strong Democrat”]?

	Total (N=694)	Democrats (N=694)	Republicans (N=0)	Independents (N=0)	Apolitical (N=0)
Strong Democrat	50	50	-	-	-
Moderate Democrat	50	50	-	-	-

4. [Ask if Q1 = Republican] Do you consider yourself to be a [ROTATE “strong Republican or moderate Republican” OR “moderate Republican or a strong Republican”]?

	Total (N=38)	Democrats (N=0)	Republicans (N=378)	Independents (N=0)	Apolitical (N=0)
Strong Republican	45	-	45	-	-
Moderate Republican	55	-	55	-	-



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5. Which of the following statements comes closest to your view?

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
There are many ways to succeed in today's work world without a college education	74	65	79	80	78
A college education is necessary for a person to be successful in today's work world	26	35	21	20	22

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
A college education is a questionable investment because of high student loans and limited job opportunities	51	40	59	52	67
A college education is still the best investment for people who want to get ahead and succeed	49	60	41	48	33

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
There are many people who are qualified to go to college but don't have the opportunity to do so	67	71	59	69	80
The vast majority of people who are qualified to go to college have the opportunity to do so	33	29	41	31	20

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
It would be worthwhile for my state government to invest more in public colleges, universities and community colleges	61	75	46	57	68
Public colleges, universities and community colleges have enough state government funding	39	25	54	43	32



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6. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Total Agree Summary

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
People should be able to make a decent living without having to get a college education	90	88	92	91	87
All high school graduates deserve an equal opportunity to get a college education, no matter their race, ethnicity or income	89	96	87	83	81
Getting a college education can help working adults advance their careers	86	92	85	81	78
The cost of attending college makes it difficult for low-income students to get a college education	83	87	76	88	80
The American economy is rigged to advantage the rich and powerful	72	81	65	70	70
Getting a college education helps students become more informed, engaged citizens	71	82	61	69	60
Corporations would do better than colleges at educating people to succeed in their industries	67	67	72	64	59
Most people with a high school diploma would make a better living if they got a college education	64	75	54	65	50
Getting a college education is too time-consuming and expensive for working adults	63	62	62	64	65
Too many high school students are pushed to attend college	61	57	65	62	60
Racial discrimination makes it more difficult for people of color to succeed in America	54	79	30	51	53
People who want a college education should find a way to pay for it themselves	54	47	65	52	41
Our nation's economy would be stronger if more Americans had a college education	52	64	40	51	49
Our nation's democracy would be stronger if more Americans had a college education	51	66	39	45	42
Racial discrimination makes it more difficult for people of color to get a college education in America	49	72	24	49	52



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6. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

a. The American economy is rigged to advantage the rich and powerful

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Strongly agree	40	49	33	34	43
Somewhat agree	33	32	32	36	27
Somewhat disagree	14	9	20	16	10
Strongly disagree	8	5	12	8	7
Don't know	5	5	3	5	14
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>72</i>	<i>81</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>70</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>16</i>

b. Racial discrimination makes it more difficult for people of color to succeed in America

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Strongly agree	24	42	8	19	22
Somewhat agree	30	37	21	33	31
Somewhat disagree	18	12	23	23	17
Strongly disagree	22	8	40	20	17
Don't know	5	2	7	6	12
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>79</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>51</i>	<i>53</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>63</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>35</i>

c. Racial discrimination makes it more difficult for people of color to get a college education in America

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Strongly agree	20	33	6	20	16
Somewhat agree	29	38	17	30	35
Somewhat disagree	21	14	27	23	21
Strongly disagree	23	9	40	22	14
Don't know	7	5	9	6	13
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>72</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>52</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>35</i>

d. The cost of attending college makes it difficult for low-income students to get a college education

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Strongly agree	52	57	44	57	50
Somewhat agree	31	31	33	31	30
Somewhat disagree	9	8	11	7	9
Strongly disagree	5	4	7	3	4
Don't know	3	1	5	1	6
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>83</i>	<i>87</i>	<i>76</i>	<i>88</i>	<i>80</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>13</i>



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6. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

e. People should be able to make a decent living without having to get a college education

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Strongly agree	52	49	55	53	51
Somewhat agree	38	40	37	38	36
Somewhat disagree	6	8	3	6	8
Strongly disagree	2	3	2	1	*
Don't know	2	1	3	1	5
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	90	88	92	91	87
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	8	10	5	7	8

f. Too many high school students are pushed to attend college

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Strongly agree	26	19	32	26	27
Somewhat agree	35	38	32	36	33
Somewhat disagree	23	26	21	21	20
Strongly disagree	8	9	7	9	5
Don't know	8	8	7	8	15
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	61	57	65	62	60
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	31	35	28	30	25

g. Getting a college education is too time-consuming and expensive for working adults

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Strongly agree	22	20	23	22	28
Somewhat agree	41	42	39	41	37
Somewhat disagree	23	21	24	24	19
Strongly disagree	11	14	9	9	7
Don't know	4	3	5	3	9
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	63	62	62	64	65
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	33	35	33	33	26

h. People who want a college education should find a way to pay for it themselves

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Strongly agree	20	13	30	18	10
Somewhat agree	34	34	36	34	31
Somewhat disagree	24	27	21	25	26
Strongly disagree	16	22	9	16	17
Don't know	6	4	5	7	16
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	54	47	65	52	41
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	40	49	30	41	43

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6. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

i. Corporations would do better than colleges at educating people to succeed in their industries

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Strongly agree	26	27	30	21	17
Somewhat agree	42	40	42	44	42
Somewhat disagree	16	19	12	16	23
Strongly disagree	6	6	5	6	5
Don't know	10	8	11	13	14
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	67	67	72	64	59
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	22	25	18	22	27

j. Getting a college education can help working adults advance their careers

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Strongly agree	32	41	27	29	20
Somewhat agree	54	51	57	52	58
Somewhat disagree	6	4	6	11	10
Strongly disagree	3	2	6	2	3
Don't know	4	2	3	6	10
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	86	92	85	81	78
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	10	6	12	13	12

k. Most people with a high school diploma would make a better living if they got a college education

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Strongly agree	22	30	17	19	11
Somewhat agree	42	45	37	46	39
Somewhat disagree	21	15	29	18	22
Strongly disagree	6	3	8	7	9
Don't know	9	7	8	11	19
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	64	75	54	65	50
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	27	19	37	25	31

l. Our nation's economy would be stronger if more Americans had a college education

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Strongly agree	19	27	13	16	14
Somewhat agree	33	37	28	35	36
Somewhat disagree	26	20	32	25	25
Strongly disagree	11	4	19	11	11
Don't know	11	12	8	12	15
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	52	64	40	51	49
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	37	24	51	36	36



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6. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

m. All high school graduates deserve an equal opportunity to get a college education, no matter their race, ethnicity or income

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Strongly agree	66	72	62	65	56
Somewhat agree	23	23	25	19	25
Somewhat disagree	6	3	5	10	10
Strongly disagree	3	1	4	3	1
Don't know	3	1	3	3	8
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	89	96	87	83	81
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	8	4	10	13	11

n. Getting a college education helps students become more informed, engaged citizens

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Strongly agree	28	42	17	25	20
Somewhat agree	42	41	44	44	40
Somewhat disagree	17	12	22	18	16
Strongly disagree	7	2	13	7	10
Don't know	5	3	4	6	14
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	71	82	61	69	60
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	25	15	35	25	26

o. Our nation's democracy would be stronger if more Americans had a college education

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Strongly agree	19	31	11	16	13
Somewhat agree	31	36	28	29	29
Somewhat disagree	26	19	32	32	20
Strongly disagree	12	5	20	12	13
Don't know	11	9	9	12	25
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	51	66	39	45	42
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	39	25	52	43	33

7. Do you think that each of the following has too little state funding, about the right amount of state funding, or too much state funding?

a. Early childhood education

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Too little	43	52	35	39	39
Right amount	35	33	38	35	27
Too much	9	4	13	10	7
Not sure	14	10	14	16	28



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7. Do you think that each of the following has too little state funding, about the right amount of state funding, or too much state funding?

b. K-12 public schools

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Too little	47	57	38	42	47
Right amount	35	30	41	38	25
Too much	9	5	13	9	6
Not sure	10	8	8	11	22

c. Public two-year community colleges

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Too little	39	50	29	39	31
Right amount	38	34	42	38	34
Too much	7	4	12	6	3
Not sure	17	13	17	18	32

d. Public four-year state colleges

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Too little	35	44	29	30	28
Right amount	32	31	31	36	32
Too much	17	13	26	16	6
Not sure	16	12	14	18	34

e. The most prominent and selective public university in your state

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Too little	19	25	15	18	15
Right amount	32	33	31	31	34
Too much	26	20	33	28	17
Not sure	23	22	21	23	35



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8. From the list below, please select the statements that best describe each of the following. (Select all that apply for each)

a. Public two-year community colleges

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Help students get an education in a timely, cost-effective manner	57	58	57	58	48
Are worthwhile investments for students and their families	44	46	42	48	34
Are a worthwhile investment of public funds because they improve business conditions, attract employers, and creates jobs in your state	37	41	34	40	27
Are a worthwhile investment of public funds because they increase opportunity for low-income students and students of color	43	49	36	46	35
Help students become informed, engaged citizens who can participate more thoughtfully in our democracy	32	37	28	33	20
None of these	6	2	11	5	5
Not sure	9	6	8	9	22

b. Public four-year state colleges

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Help students get an education in a timely, cost-effective manner	28	33	26	26	17
Are worthwhile investments for students and their families	39	43	36	42	22
Are a worthwhile investment of public funds because they improve business conditions, attract employers, and creates jobs in your state	36	43	29	38	24
Are a worthwhile investment of public funds because they increase opportunity for low-income students and students of color	32	42	24	30	24
Help students become informed, engaged citizens who can participate more thoughtfully in our democracy	35	44	26	38	21
None of these	12	5	20	11	12
Not sure	13	9	13	13	32



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8. From the list below, please select the statements that best describe each of the following. (Select all that apply for each)

c. The most prominent and selective public university in your state

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Help students get an education in a timely, cost-effective manner	20	24	18	21	8
Are worthwhile investments for students and their families	26	31	26	22	19
Are a worthwhile investment of public funds because they improve business conditions, attract employers, and creates jobs in your state	25	32	18	29	16
Are a worthwhile investment of public funds because they increase opportunity for low-income students and students of color	21	27	14	25	11
Help students become informed, engaged citizens who can participate more thoughtfully in our democracy	29	36	24	27	21
None of these	18	9	30	17	13
Not sure	22	19	19	23	42

9. How much of a problem, if at all, are each of the following?

Total Problem Summary

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Student debt	82	88	77	79	79
Low-income college students being unable to afford college because financial aid does not adequately cover the cost of attending	78	87	68	80	72
Middle-income college students being unable to afford college because they or their parents earn too much money to qualify for financial aid	76	82	71	76	72
Employers who demand college degrees for jobs that don't really require them	73	73	73	72	70
Colleges stuck in the past instead of meeting the needs of today's students	66	72	59	71	56
College students lacking the discipline and persistence to finish their degrees	65	63	69	65	53
Politicians attacking higher education to score political points	65	74	58	66	49
Cuts in state funding of public colleges	64	78	51	62	57
People with a college degree acting like they are better than people who have a high school diploma	61	59	61	62	62
Liberal, politically correct colleges where conservatives cannot speak freely	55	44	71	51	42

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GAME CHANGERS



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9. How much of a problem, if at all, are each of the following?

a. College students lacking the discipline and persistence to finish their degrees

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
A serious problem	24	20	27	27	19
Somewhat of a problem	41	44	42	37	34
Not much of a problem	20	24	17	19	17
Not a problem at all	5	4	6	5	6
Not sure	11	9	8	12	24

b. Employers who demand college degrees for jobs that don't really require them

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
A serious problem	36	36	35	36	36
Somewhat of a problem	37	37	37	36	34
Not much of a problem	14	16	13	15	9
Not a problem at all	5	4	6	4	3
Not sure	8	7	8	9	18

c. Cuts in state funding of public colleges

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
A serious problem	32	44	22	29	30
Somewhat of a problem	32	35	29	32	27
Not much of a problem	15	9	20	19	11
Not a problem at all	7	2	14	6	4
Not sure	14	11	15	13	28

d. Liberal, politically correct colleges where conservatives cannot speak freely

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
A serious problem	31	17	50	28	18
Somewhat of a problem	24	27	21	24	23
Not much of a problem	17	20	13	19	12
Not a problem at all	11	17	5	12	10
Not sure	17	19	10	18	36

e. Politicians attacking higher education to score political points

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
A serious problem	33	41	25	38	19
Somewhat of a problem	32	33	33	28	30
Not much of a problem	13	11	14	12	14
Not a problem at all	7	4	13	5	3
Not sure	15	12	14	16	35

f. Colleges stuck in the past instead of meeting the needs of today's students

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
A serious problem	26	27	24	29	27
Somewhat of a problem	39	45	35	41	29
Not much of a problem	16	14	18	15	12
Not a problem at all	6	3	9	5	5
Not sure	13	11	15	9	27

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9. How much of a problem, if at all, are each of the following?

g. People with a college degree acting like they are better than people who have a high school diploma

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
A serious problem	28	26	30	29	26
Somewhat of a problem	33	33	31	33	36
Not much of a problem	23	27	22	23	15
Not a problem at all	8	6	10	9	6
Not sure	8	7	7	7	17

h. Student debt

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
A serious problem	59	67	53	53	57
Somewhat of a problem	23	21	24	26	22
Not much of a problem	9	6	11	11	6
Not a problem at all	5	3	7	4	5
Not sure	4	3	4	5	10

i. Middle-income college students being unable to afford college because they or their parents earn too much money to qualify for financial aid

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
A serious problem	36	40	31	38	39
Somewhat of a problem	40	42	40	38	32
Not much of a problem	13	10	16	14	11
Not a problem at all	5	4	8	3	1
Not sure	6	4	6	7	16

j. Low-income college students being unable to afford college because financial aid does not adequately cover the cost of attending

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
A serious problem	42	56	28	42	44
Somewhat of a problem	35	31	40	38	27
Not much of a problem	11	8	13	11	13
Not a problem at all	5	2	10	5	1
Not sure	6	4	9	4	14

10. How should the public colleges, universities and community colleges in your state be funded?

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Equally by your state government and students	31	29	37	27	27
Mostly by your state government with some contribution from students and families	30	35	24	33	24
Entirely by your state government	17	21	11	17	25
Mostly by students and families, with some contribution from your state government	14	12	16	16	16
Entirely by students and families	7	3	12	6	8



PUBLIC POLL FINDINGS AND METHODOLOGY

11. If more people in your state had a college education, what impact do you think that would have on each of the following?

Total Positive Impact Summary

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
People's ability to earn a good living that can support a family	75	82	71	73	60
Attracting employers and creating jobs	71	78	68	70	53
Strengthening communities	62	76	53	56	50
Reducing crime	58	69	50	58	46
People's ability to participate more thoughtfully in elections	55	69	42	55	41

a. Attracting employers and creating jobs

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Extremely positive impact	30	35	29	26	19
Somewhat positive impact	41	43	39	44	34
Neither positive or negative impact	21	16	25	21	26
Somewhat negative impact	2	1	3	3	7
Extremely negative impact	*	*	1	*	1
Not sure	5	5	4	5	13
<i>Positive Impact(Net)</i>	71	78	68	70	53
<i>Negative Impact (Net)</i>	3	1	3	4	7

b. People's ability to earn a good living that can support a family

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Extremely positive impact	32	41	27	26	24
Somewhat positive impact	43	41	44	47	36
Neither positive or negative impact	18	15	20	19	25
Somewhat negative impact	3	1	4	2	5
Extremely negative impact	1	*	1	1	1
Not sure	4	2	4	5	10
<i>Positive Impact(Net)</i>	75	82	71	73	60
<i>Negative Impact (Net)</i>	3	1	6	2	5

c. People's ability to participate more thoughtfully in elections

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Extremely positive impact	20	30	14	16	11
Somewhat positive impact	34	39	28	38	31
Neither positive or negative impact	32	22	45	29	27
Somewhat negative impact	3	2	3	4	7
Extremely negative impact	2	1	2	3	4
Not sure	8	6	7	10	21
<i>Positive Impact(Net)</i>	55	69	42	55	41
<i>Negative Impact (Net)</i>	5	3	6	7	10



PUBLIC POLL FINDINGS AND METHODOLOGY

11. If more people in your state had a college education, what impact do you think that would have on each of the following?

d. Reducing crime

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Extremely positive impact	26	32	23	23	16
Somewhat positive impact	32	36	27	35	30
Neither positive or negative impact	29	21	38	28	30
Somewhat negative impact	3	3	4	2	7
Extremely negative impact	1	1	2	1	2
Not sure	8	7	6	10	16
<i>Positive Impact(Net)</i>	58	69	50	58	46
<i>Negative Impact (Net)</i>	5	3	6	4	8

e. Strengthening communities

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Extremely positive impact	23	33	15	22	18
Somewhat positive impact	39	44	38	34	32
Neither positive or negative impact	28	17	38	30	26
Somewhat negative impact	3	2	3	4	9
Extremely negative impact	1	*	1	1	1
Not sure	6	4	5	9	14
<i>Positive Impact(Net)</i>	62	76	53	56	50
<i>Negative Impact (Net)</i>	4	3	3	5	10

12. Which of the following should be the TWO primary goals for the public colleges, universities and community colleges in your state? Please choose up to two.

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Preparing students for success in their careers	57	55	56	63	57
Providing students with a well-rounded education that helps them discover their interests and talents	50	53	48	49	52
Helping students become more informed, engaged citizens	29	34	27	27	20
Attracting employers and creating jobs	28	23	37	25	12
Enriching the state's cultural and civic life	9	13	7	4	12
Other	1	*	1	1	1
None	2	2	2	2	4
Not sure	6	4	5	8	12

PUBLIC POLL FINDINGS AND METHODOLOGY

13. Which of the following should be the TWO highest priorities for the public colleges, universities and community colleges in your state? Please choose up to two.

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Making tuition and other college expenses more affordable	46	49	42	45	45
Making sure that all students have an equal opportunity to get a college education, no matter their race, ethnicity or income	44	53	38	36	43
Teaching students the skills they need to succeed in their careers	39	34	46	40	33
Providing students with a broad base of knowledge and strong critical thinking skills	29	27	33	31	22
Providing students with effective guidance and advising to help them complete their degrees	18	18	20	19	15
Other	*	*	*	1	-
None	2	1	1	3	4
Not sure	5	3	5	6	11

14. When a lot of students at a college do not complete their degrees or certificates in a reasonable amount of time, is that usually ...?

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Both the college's fault and students' fault	62	65	56	64	70
The students' fault	28	23	36	26	21
The college's fault	10	11	8	10	10



PUBLIC POLL FINDINGS AND METHODOLOGY

15. How much do you support or oppose your state government providing funding for public colleges, universities and community colleges to do each of the following?

Total Support Summary

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Create internship and training programs that allow students get job experience while earning a degree	88	93	88	86	72
Create more workforce training and certification programs	87	92	87	84	72
Create flexible, short-term credential programs that can lead to a degree	85	89	84	84	69
Provide all students with well-rounded educations, no matter what career they choose	85	91	84	84	68
Partner with K-12 school systems so students can graduate from high school with college credits	83	89	80	81	72
Teach students about voting, citizenship and civic participation	78	87	75	73	64
Hire more faculty so that college students can take the classes they need to graduate on time	77	86	71	75	63
Tailor their curriculums to meet the needs of employers	75	79	76	73	54

a. Create flexible, short-term credential programs that can lead to a degree

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Strongly support	49	54	47	45	42
Somewhat support	36	34	37	39	26
Somewhat oppose	6	3	6	7	13
Strongly oppose	2	2	3	1	1
Not sure	8	6	7	8	17
<i>Support(Net)</i>	85	89	84	84	69
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	8	5	8	8	14

b. Create more workforce training and certification programs

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Strongly support	53	56	53	52	42
Somewhat support	34	37	34	32	30
Somewhat oppose	5	3	6	5	8
Strongly oppose	1	1	2	2	3
Not sure	6	4	6	9	17
<i>Support(Net)</i>	87	92	87	84	72
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	6	4	7	7	11

PUBLIC POLL FINDINGS AND METHODOLOGY

15. How much do you support or oppose your state government providing funding for public colleges, universities and community colleges to do each of the following?

c. Tailor their curriculums to meet the needs of employers

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Strongly support	32	33	31	35	24
Somewhat support	43	46	45	39	30
Somewhat oppose	10	10	10	8	15
Strongly oppose	4	2	4	5	6
Not sure	12	10	10	14	25
<i>Support(Net)</i>	75	79	76	73	54
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	13	11	14	13	21

d. Create internship and training programs that allow students get job experience while earning a degree

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Strongly support	56	59	58	52	44
Somewhat support	32	34	30	33	28
Somewhat oppose	5	4	5	4	7
Strongly oppose	2	1	2	1	5
Not sure	5	1	5	9	17
<i>Support(Net)</i>	88	93	88	86	72
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	7	6	7	6	11

e. Hire more faculty so that college students can take the classes they need to graduate on time

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Strongly support	38	48	31	34	28
Somewhat support	39	38	40	41	35
Somewhat oppose	9	6	11	11	9
Strongly oppose	4	2	8	3	4
Not sure	10	7	11	11	24
<i>Support(Net)</i>	77	86	71	75	63
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	13	7	19	14	13

f. Teach students about voting, citizenship and civic participation

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Strongly support	42	50	42	36	21
Somewhat support	36	37	34	37	43
Somewhat oppose	9	6	10	13	11
Strongly oppose	4	2	6	5	3
Not sure	8	5	9	9	22
<i>Support(Net)</i>	78	87	75	73	64
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	13	8	16	19	14



PUBLIC POLL FINDINGS AND METHODOLOGY

15. How much do you support or oppose your state government providing funding for public colleges, universities and community colleges to do each of the following?

g. Provide all students with well-rounded educations, no matter what career they choose

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Strongly support	50	59	44	49	41
Somewhat support	35	33	39	34	27
Somewhat oppose	7	6	7	8	15
Strongly oppose	2	1	2	2	2
Not sure	6	2	6	6	15
<i>Support(Net)</i>	85	91	84	84	68
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	9	6	10	10	17

h. Partner with K-12 school systems so students can graduate from high school with college credits

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Strongly support	48	55	45	43	40
Somewhat support	35	34	35	38	32
Somewhat oppose	7	4	9	8	8
Strongly oppose	2	1	3	3	2
Not sure	8	5	8	8	18
<i>Support(Net)</i>	83	89	80	81	72
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	9	5	12	11	10



PUBLIC POLL FINDINGS AND METHODOLOGY

16A. In the past twenty years, the cost of college has increased significantly, but wages have not increased much for most people. Far fewer low-income students who start college are able to complete their degrees compared to higher-income students. Given this, how much do you support or oppose each of the following in your state?

Total Support Summary

Base: Half of respondents	Total (N=836)	Democrats (N=350)	Republicans (N=178)	Independents (N=196)	Apolitical (N=112)
Improving K-12 public schools so that all students graduate from high school ready for college or work	88	93	86	89	75
Requiring public colleges, universities and community colleges to clearly inform students how much debt they are taking on	85	88	84	86	74
Tax incentives for employers that pay their employees' college tuition	79	87	77	74	63
State government offering interest-free student loans	75	83	70	73	68
Increasing oversight of the public colleges, universities and community colleges that are doing an especially poor job at helping students complete their degrees	73	79	74	65	60
Students paying back their college loans based on a percentage of their salary after graduation	71	76	68	69	64
Making public community colleges free	65	82	47	63	68
Increasing taxes on households that earn over \$500,000 per year to make public colleges, universities and community colleges more affordable	62	84	43	58	49
Public colleges, universities and community colleges waiting to charge students tuition until <u>after</u> they graduate and start jobs	62	71	60	51	58
Forgiving a significant portion of government student loans for college graduates who have excessive debt	59	77	41	50	67
Forgiving government student loans for all college graduates, regardless of income	50	64	35	44	52

PUBLIC POLL FINDINGS AND METHODOLOGY

16A. In the past twenty years, the cost of college has increased significantly, but wages have not increased much for most people. Far fewer low-income students who start college are able to complete their degrees compared to higher-income students. Given this, how much do you support or oppose each of the following in your state?

a. Making public community colleges free

Base: Half of respondents	Total (N=836)	Democrats (N=350)	Republicans (N=178)	Independents (N=196)	Apolitical (N=112)
Strongly support	39	54	23	39	40
Somewhat support	26	27	24	24	28
Somewhat oppose	15	12	20	17	7
Strongly oppose	13	1	28	12	6
Not sure	7	5	6	8	18
<i>Support(Net)</i>	65	82	47	63	68
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	28	13	48	29	14

b. Increasing taxes on households that earn over \$500,000 per year to make public colleges, universities and community colleges more affordable

Base: Half of respondents	Total (N=836)	Democrats (N=350)	Republicans (N=178)	Independents (N=196)	Apolitical (N=112)
Strongly support	33	51	18	28	25
Somewhat support	29	33	24	31	24
Somewhat oppose	14	8	20	13	18
Strongly oppose	13	3	25	15	10
Not sure	11	5	12	14	23
<i>Support(Net)</i>	62	84	43	58	49
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	28	11	45	28	28

c. Requiring public colleges, universities and community colleges to clearly inform students how much debt they are taking on

Base: Half of respondents	Total (N=836)	Democrats (N=350)	Republicans (N=178)	Independents (N=196)	Apolitical (N=112)
Strongly support	57	57	59	60	45
Somewhat support	28	30	25	26	29
Somewhat oppose	5	5	5	6	4
Strongly oppose	4	2	3	4	10
Not sure	6	5	8	5	12
<i>Support(Net)</i>	85	88	84	86	74
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	9	8	9	10	14



PUBLIC POLL FINDINGS AND METHODOLOGY

16A. In the past twenty years, the cost of college has increased significantly, but wages have not increased much for most people. Far fewer low-income students who start college are able to complete their degrees compared to higher-income students. Given this, how much do you support or oppose each of the following in your state?

d. Forgiving government student loans for all college graduates, regardless of income

Base: Half of respondents	Total (N=836)	Democrats (N=350)	Republicans (N=178)	Independents (N=196)	Apolitical (N=112)
Strongly support	26	37	14	23	27
Somewhat support	24	27	21	22	25
Somewhat oppose	16	19	14	12	19
Strongly oppose	25	9	41	34	12
Not sure	10	8	10	9	17
<i>Support(Net)</i>	50	64	35	44	52
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	41	28	55	47	30

e. Forgiving a significant portion of government student loans for college graduates who have excessive debt

Base: Half of respondents	Total (N=836)	Democrats (N=350)	Republicans (N=178)	Independents (N=196)	Apolitical (N=112)
Strongly support	30	44	16	25	38
Somewhat support	29	33	25	25	29
Somewhat oppose	14	8	18	19	12
Strongly oppose	19	6	34	22	9
Not sure	8	8	7	9	12
<i>Support(Net)</i>	59	77	41	50	67
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	33	14	52	41	21

f. Public colleges, universities and community colleges waiting to charge students tuition until after they graduate and start jobs

Base: Half of respondents	Total (N=836)	Democrats (N=350)	Republicans (N=178)	Independents (N=196)	Apolitical (N=112)
Strongly support	26	33	21	22	26
Somewhat support	36	39	39	29	32
Somewhat oppose	17	12	17	23	22
Strongly oppose	7	5	10	9	4
Not sure	14	12	13	18	17
<i>Support(Net)</i>	62	71	60	51	58
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	24	17	27	31	26



PUBLIC POLL FINDINGS AND METHODOLOGY

16A. In the past twenty years, the cost of college has increased significantly, but wages have not increased much for most people. Far fewer low-income students who start college are able to complete their degrees compared to higher-income students. Given this, how much do you support or oppose each of the following in your state?

g. Students paying back their college loans based on a percentage of their salary after graduation

Base: Half of respondents	Total (N=836)	Democrats (N=350)	Republicans (N=178)	Independents (N=196)	Apolitical (N=112)
Strongly support	26	33	25	19	21
Somewhat support	44	43	43	50	42
Somewhat oppose	10	11	8	11	8
Strongly oppose	7	2	13	6	7
Not sure	12	10	11	14	21
<i>Support(Net)</i>	71	76	68	69	64
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	17	14	21	18	15

h. State government offering interest-free student loans

Base: Half of respondents	Total (N=836)	Democrats (N=350)	Republicans (N=178)	Independents (N=196)	Apolitical (N=112)
Strongly support	43	55	33	38	38
Somewhat support	33	28	37	35	29
Somewhat oppose	10	8	13	9	8
Strongly oppose	7	1	11	9	8
Not sure	8	8	7	8	16
<i>Support(Net)</i>	75	83	70	73	68
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	16	9	24	18	16

i. Increasing oversight of the public colleges, universities and community colleges that are doing an especially poor job at helping students complete their degrees

Base: Half of respondents	Total (N=836)	Democrats (N=350)	Republicans (N=178)	Independents (N=196)	Apolitical (N=112)
Strongly support	35	43	31	29	29
Somewhat support	38	36	43	36	31
Somewhat oppose	9	6	12	10	8
Strongly oppose	5	4	3	10	4
Not sure	13	11	11	15	28
<i>Support(Net)</i>	73	79	74	65	60
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	14	10	15	20	12



PUBLIC POLL FINDINGS AND METHODOLOGY

16A. In the past twenty years, the cost of college has increased significantly, but wages have not increased much for most people. Far fewer low-income students who start college are able to complete their degrees compared to higher-income students. Given this, how much do you support or oppose each of the following in your state?

j. Improving K-12 public schools so that all students graduate from high school ready for college or work

Base: Half of respondents	Total (N=836)	Democrats (N=350)	Republicans (N=178)	Independents (N=196)	Apolitical (N=112)
Strongly support	60	62	63	56	50
Somewhat support	28	31	23	33	26
Somewhat oppose	5	3	4	5	11
Strongly oppose	3	2	2	5	5
Not sure	4	1	8	1	8
<i>Support(Net)</i>	88	93	86	89	75
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	8	5	7	10	16

k. Tax incentives for employers that pay their employees' college tuition

Base: Half of respondents	Total (N=836)	Democrats (N=350)	Republicans (N=178)	Independents (N=196)	Apolitical (N=112)
Strongly support	41	53	36	33	31
Somewhat support	37	34	41	40	33
Somewhat oppose	7	6	5	10	13
Strongly oppose	5	1	8	6	5
Not sure	9	6	10	10	19
<i>Support(Net)</i>	79	87	77	74	63
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	12	7	13	16	18





PUBLIC POLL FINDINGS AND METHODOLOGY

16B. How much do you support or oppose each of the following in your state?

Total Support Summary

Base: Half of respondents	Total (N=826)	Democrats (N=344)	Republicans (N=200)	Independents (N=192)	Apolitical (N=90)
Improving K-12 public schools so that all students graduate from high school ready for college or work	88	92	88	85	65
Requiring public colleges, universities and community colleges to clearly inform students how much debt they are taking on	86	91	81	93	71
Tax incentives for employers that pay their employees' college tuition	79	85	77	80	52
State government offering interest-free student loans	77	86	69	78	66
Increasing oversight of the public colleges, universities and community colleges that are doing an especially poor job at helping students complete their degrees	73	79	68	82	49
Students paying back their college loans based on a percentage of their salary after graduation	69	74	67	75	41
Making public community colleges free	68	82	57	66	58
Increasing taxes on households that earn over \$500,000 per year to make public colleges, universities and community colleges more affordable	68	84	53	73	50
Public colleges, universities and community colleges waiting to charge students tuition until after they graduate and start jobs	63	70	55	68	48
Forgiving a significant portion of government student loans for college graduates who have excessive debt	59	79	40	59	55
Forgiving government student loans for all college graduates, regardless of income	53	68	42	48	47

PUBLIC POLL FINDINGS AND METHODOLOGY

16B. How much do you support or oppose each of the following in your state?

a. Making public community colleges free

Base: Half of respondents	Total (N=826)	Democrats (N=344)	Republicans (N=200)	Independents (N=192)	Apolitical (N=90)
Strongly support	41	48	34	43	39
Somewhat support	27	34	23	23	19
Somewhat oppose	14	8	19	17	10
Strongly oppose	8	1	14	12	3
Not sure	10	9	10	5	28
<i>Support(Net)</i>	68	82	57	66	58
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	22	9	33	29	14

b. Increasing taxes on households that earn over \$500,000 per year to make public colleges, universities and community colleges more affordable

Base: Half of respondents	Total (N=826)	Democrats (N=344)	Republicans (N=200)	Independents (N=192)	Apolitical (N=90)
Strongly support	37	51	23	39	28
Somewhat support	31	33	30	34	22
Somewhat oppose	8	2	12	11	16
Strongly oppose	11	3	22	9	8
Not sure	12	11	14	7	26
<i>Support(Net)</i>	68	84	53	73	50
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	20	5	34	20	24

c. Requiring public colleges, universities and community colleges to clearly inform students how much debt they are taking on

Base: Half of respondents	Total (N=826)	Democrats (N=344)	Republicans (N=200)	Independents (N=192)	Apolitical (N=90)
Strongly support	60	61	63	56	53
Somewhat support	26	29	18	37	18
Somewhat oppose	4	3	5	3	7
Strongly oppose	4	1	9	*	-
Not sure	6	5	5	4	22
<i>Support(Net)</i>	86	91	81	93	71
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	8	4	14	3	7

d. Forgiving government student loans for all college graduates, regardless of income

Base: Half of respondents	Total (N=826)	Democrats (N=344)	Republicans (N=200)	Independents (N=192)	Apolitical (N=90)
Strongly support	28	37	19	28	32
Somewhat support	25	31	24	19	15
Somewhat oppose	17	17	20	12	19
Strongly oppose	20	6	30	30	8
Not sure	10	9	8	10	26
<i>Support(Net)</i>	53	68	42	48	47
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	37	23	50	42	27

PUBLIC POLL FINDINGS AND METHODOLOGY

16B. How much do you support or oppose each of the following in your state?

e. Forgiving a significant portion of government student loans for college graduates who have excessive debt

Base: Half of respondents	Total (N=826)	Democrats (N=344)	Republicans (N=200)	Independents (N=192)	Apolitical (N=90)
Strongly support	32	43	19	34	33
Somewhat support	27	36	21	25	22
Somewhat oppose	14	9	20	15	15
Strongly oppose	15	3	29	18	3
Not sure	11	10	11	7	27
Support(Net)	59	79	40	59	55
Oppose (Net)	30	12	49	34	18

f. Public colleges, universities and community colleges waiting to charge students tuition until after they graduate and start jobs

Base: Half of respondents	Total (N=826)	Democrats (N=344)	Republicans (N=200)	Independents (N=192)	Apolitical (N=90)
Strongly support	31	35	26	32	27
Somewhat support	32	35	29	35	21
Somewhat oppose	15	14	17	14	14
Strongly oppose	7	3	13	6	4
Not sure	15	13	15	12	34
Support(Net)	63	70	55	68	48
Oppose (Net)	22	17	30	20	18

g. Students paying back their college loans based on a percentage of their salary after graduation

Base: Half of respondents	Total (N=826)	Democrats (N=344)	Republicans (N=200)	Independents (N=192)	Apolitical (N=90)
Strongly support	32	38	33	28	11
Somewhat support	37	36	34	47	30
Somewhat oppose	11	9	13	10	22
Strongly oppose	5	3	8	3	6
Not sure	14	14	13	12	31
Support(Net)	69	74	67	75	41
Oppose (Net)	16	12	20	14	28

h. State government offering interest-free student loans

Base: Half of respondents	Total (N=826)	Democrats (N=344)	Republicans (N=200)	Independents (N=192)	Apolitical (N=90)
Strongly support	47	54	39	46	44
Somewhat support	30	31	30	32	22
Somewhat oppose	6	4	7	7	10
Strongly oppose	7	2	12	6	5
Not sure	11	9	11	10	19
Support(Net)	77	86	69	78	66
Oppose (Net)	13	6	19	13	15



PUBLIC POLL FINDINGS AND METHODOLOGY

16B. How much do you support or oppose each of the following in your state?

i. Increasing oversight of the public colleges, universities and community colleges that are doing an especially poor job at helping students complete their degrees

Base: Half of respondents	Total (N=826)	Democrats (N=344)	Republicans (N=200)	Independents (N=192)	Apolitical (N=90)
Strongly support	41	50	34	44	18
Somewhat support	32	28	34	38	30
Somewhat oppose	9	7	14	4	9
Strongly oppose	5	2	7	5	6
Not sure	13	12	12	10	36
Support(Net)	73	79	68	82	49
Oppose (Net)	14	9	21	9	15

j. Improving K-12 public schools so that all students graduate from high school ready for college or work

Base: Half of respondents	Total (N=826)	Democrats (N=344)	Republicans (N=200)	Independents (N=192)	Apolitical (N=90)
Strongly support	53	53	54	54	40
Somewhat support	35	39	35	31	25
Somewhat oppose	5	3	5	7	7
Strongly oppose	1	1	1	-	6
Not sure	6	3	5	8	22
Support(Net)	88	92	88	85	65
Oppose (Net)	6	4	6	7	13

k. Tax incentives for employers that pay their employees' college tuition

Base: Half of respondents	Total (N=826)	Democrats (N=344)	Republicans (N=200)	Independents (N=192)	Apolitical (N=90)
Strongly support	43	50	35	47	29
Somewhat support	36	35	42	33	23
Somewhat oppose	7	5	8	6	10
Strongly oppose	4	2	5	6	1
Not sure	11	8	10	9	37
Support(Net)	79	85	77	80	52
Oppose (Net)	10	7	13	11	11



PUBLIC POLL FINDINGS AND METHODOLOGY

17A. Many more Black and Latino Americans want a college education than are able to get one. Given that, how much do you support or oppose your state government providing more funding for each of the following at public colleges, universities and community colleges?

Total Support Summary

Base: Half of respondents	Total (N=805)	Democrats (N=346)	Republicans (N=178)	Independents (N=188)	Apolitical (N=93)
Effective guidance and advising to help Black and Latino college students complete their degrees	75	89	63	71	58
Financial aid to help Black and Latino college students complete their degrees	69	86	54	66	48
Improving and expanding the public colleges, universities and community colleges that serve high numbers of Black and Latino students	67	82	57	60	46
Increasing oversight of the public colleges, universities and community colleges that are doing an especially poor job at helping Black and Latino students complete their degrees	69	83	62	58	52
Additional resources for the public colleges, universities and community colleges that are doing an especially good job at helping Black and Latino students complete their degrees	73	89	64	62	53

a. Effective guidance and advising to help Black and Latino college students complete their degrees

Base: Half of respondents	Total (N=805)	Democrats (N=346)	Republicans (N=178)	Independents (N=188)	Apolitical (N=93)
Strongly support	42	57	27	41	29
Somewhat support	32	32	36	30	29
Somewhat oppose	8	4	17	5	8
Strongly oppose	6	2	12	7	7
Not sure	11	6	9	17	27
Support (Net)	75	89	63	71	58
Oppose (Net)	15	5	29	12	15



PUBLIC POLL FINDINGS AND METHODOLOGY

17A. Many more Black and Latino Americans want a college education than are able to get one. Given that, how much do you support or oppose your state government providing more funding for each of the following at public colleges, universities and community colleges?

b. Financial aid to help Black and Latino college students complete their degrees

Base: Half of respondents	Total (N=805)	Democrats (N=346)	Republicans (N=178)	Independents (N=188)	Apolitical (N=93)
Strongly support	34	51	19	30	24
Somewhat support	34	35	35	37	24
Somewhat oppose	10	6	16	9	9
Strongly oppose	10	2	18	12	14
Not sure	11	6	12	13	29
<i>Support(Net)</i>	69	86	54	66	48
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	20	9	34	21	23

c. Improving and expanding the public colleges, universities and community colleges that serve high numbers of Black and Latino students

Base: Half of respondents	Total (N=805)	Democrats (N=346)	Republicans (N=178)	Independents (N=188)	Apolitical (N=93)
Strongly support	35	48	21	32	24
Somewhat support	32	33	36	27	22
Somewhat oppose	12	10	14	12	8
Strongly oppose	9	2	15	12	8
Not sure	13	6	14	17	37
<i>Support(Net)</i>	67	82	57	60	46
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	21	13	30	24	16

d. Increasing oversight of the public colleges, universities and community colleges that are doing an especially poor job at helping Black and Latino students complete their degrees

Base: Half of respondents	Total (N=805)	Democrats (N=346)	Republicans (N=178)	Independents (N=188)	Apolitical (N=93)
Strongly support	36	52	24	26	21
Somewhat support	34	32	38	31	32
Somewhat oppose	7	5	9	9	9
Strongly oppose	9	4	15	11	3
Not sure	15	8	14	22	35
<i>Support(Net)</i>	69	83	62	58	52
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	16	9	24	20	12



PUBLIC POLL FINDINGS AND METHODOLOGY

17A. Many more Black and Latino Americans want a college education than are able to get one. Given that, how much do you support or oppose your state government providing more funding for each of the following at public colleges, universities and community colleges?

e. Additional resources for the public colleges, universities and community colleges that are doing an especially good job at helping Black and Latino students complete their degrees

Base: Half of respondents	Total (N=805)	Democrats (N=346)	Republicans (N=178)	Independents (N=188)	Apolitical (N=93)
Strongly support	33	47	20	30	24
Somewhat support	40	42	44	32	29
Somewhat oppose	9	4	15	10	5
Strongly oppose	7	1	10	11	11
Not sure	11	5	11	17	31
<i>Support (Net)</i>	73	89	64	62	53
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	16	5	25	21	16

17B. Many more low-income Americans want a college education than are able to get one. Given that, how much do you support or oppose your state government providing more funding for each of the following at public colleges, universities and community colleges?

Total Support Summary

Base: Half of respondents	Total (N=857)	Democrats (N=348)	Republicans (N=200)	Independents (N=200)	Apolitical (N=109)
Effective guidance and advising to help low-income college students complete their degrees	84	90	81	86	69
Financial aid to help low-income college students complete their degrees	82	89	78	79	70
Increasing oversight of the public colleges, universities and community colleges that are doing an especially poor job at helping low-income students complete their degrees	79	84	78	79	61
Improving and expanding the public colleges, universities and community colleges that serve high numbers of low-income students	78	89	72	73	70
Additional resources for the public colleges, universities and community colleges that are doing an especially good job at helping low-income students complete their degrees	74	87	67	71	58

PUBLIC POLL FINDINGS AND METHODOLOGY

17B. Many more low-income Americans want a college education than are able to get one. Given that, how much do you support or oppose your state government providing more funding for each of the following at public colleges, universities and community colleges?

a. Effective guidance and advising to help low-income college students complete their degrees

Base: Half of respondents	Total (N=857)	Democrats (N=348)	Republicans (N=200)	Independents (N=200)	Apolitical (N=109)
Strongly support	46	55	42	40	36
Somewhat support	38	34	39	46	33
Somewhat oppose	6	4	6	2	14
Strongly oppose	3	*	5	6	-
Not sure	7	5	8	6	16
<i>Support(Net)</i>	84	90	81	86	69
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	9	5	11	8	14

b. Financial aid to help low-income college students complete their degrees

Base: Half of respondents	Total (N=857)	Democrats (N=348)	Republicans (N=200)	Independents (N=200)	Apolitical (N=109)
Strongly support	49	62	39	45	44
Somewhat support	33	27	39	34	26
Somewhat oppose	6	2	7	9	14
Strongly oppose	4	1	7	3	1
Not sure	9	7	8	9	15
<i>Support(Net)</i>	82	89	78	79	70
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	10	3	14	12	15

c. Improving and expanding the public colleges, universities and community colleges that serve high numbers of low-income students

Base: Half of respondents	Total (N=857)	Democrats (N=348)	Republicans (N=200)	Independents (N=200)	Apolitical (N=109)
Strongly support	36	48	27	33	32
Somewhat support	42	41	45	40	37
Somewhat oppose	8	4	9	14	6
Strongly oppose	4	*	9	3	6
Not sure	9	6	11	9	18
<i>Support(Net)</i>	78	89	72	73	70
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	13	5	18	17	12

d. Increasing oversight of the public colleges, universities and community colleges that are doing an especially poor job at helping low-income students complete their degrees

Base: Half of respondents	Total (N=857)	Democrats (N=348)	Republicans (N=200)	Independents (N=200)	Apolitical (N=109)
Strongly support	41	50	35	41	25
Somewhat support	38	34	43	38	35
Somewhat oppose	5	3	3	7	11
Strongly oppose	5	3	6	4	5
Not sure	12	10	13	10	24
<i>Support(Net)</i>	79	84	78	79	61
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	9	6	10	11	16



PUBLIC POLL FINDINGS AND METHODOLOGY

17B. Many more low-income Americans want a college education than are able to get one. Given that, how much do you support or oppose your state government providing more funding for each of the following at public colleges, universities and community colleges?

e. Additional resources for the public colleges, universities and community colleges that are doing an especially good job at helping low-income students complete their degrees

Base: Half of respondents	Total (N=857)	Democrats (N=348)	Republicans (N=200)	Independents (N=200)	Apolitical (N=109)
Strongly support	39	50	31	37	35
Somewhat support	35	36	36	34	23
Somewhat oppose	6	2	7	10	14
Strongly oppose	7	2	12	7	6
Not sure	13	9	14	11	22
<i>Support (Net)</i>	74	87	67	71	58
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	13	4	19	18	20

18A. People with a college degree typically earn more money and contribute more to their state in taxes than people with a high school diploma. Which of the following statements comes closest to your view?

Base: Half of respondents	Total (N=811)	Democrats (N=341)	Republicans (N=174)	Independents (N=192)	Apolitical (N=104)
It would be worthwhile for my state government to invest more in public colleges, universities and community colleges	69	83	56	57	77
Public colleges, universities and community colleges have enough state government funding	31	17	44	43	23

18B. People with a college degree typically earn more money than people with a high school diploma. Which of the following statements comes closest to your view?

Base: Half of respondents	Total (N=851)	Democrats (N=353)	Republicans (N=204)	Independents (N=196)	Apolitical (N=98)
It would be worthwhile for my state government to invest more in public colleges, universities and community colleges	67	80	51	71	79
Public colleges, universities and community colleges have enough state government funding	33	20	49	29	21

PUBLIC POLL FINDINGS AND METHODOLOGY

19A. Some states cut back on funding for public colleges, universities and community colleges during hard economic times. Which of the following statements comes closest to your view?

Base: Half of respondents	Total (N=838)	Democrats (N=345)	Republicans (N=186)	Independents (N=209)	Apolitical (N=98)
My state should maintain funding for its public colleges, universities and community colleges even during hard economic times	69	79	58	63	78
It makes sense for my state to cut back funding for its public colleges, universities and community colleges during hard economic times	31	21	42	37	22

19B. The vast majority of college students attend public colleges, universities and community colleges. Yet some states cut back on funding for these institutions during hard economic times. Which of the following statements comes closest to your view?

Base: Half of respondents	Total (N=824)	Democrats (N=349)	Republicans (N=192)	Independents (N=179)	Apolitical (N=104)
My state should maintain funding for its public colleges, universities and community colleges even during hard economic times	78	83	73	75	78
It makes sense for my state to cut back funding for its public colleges, universities and community colleges during hard economic times	22	17	27	25	22

20. Who did you vote for in the presidential election last November?

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Joe Biden, the Democrat	42	83	7	39	11
Donald Trump, the Republican	35	4	79	26	11
Jo Jorgensen, the Libertarian	1	1	1	3	1
Howie Hawkins, Green Party	*	*	*	*	2
Other	2	1	1	4	3
I did not vote	16	9	10	21	63
Prefer not to answer	4	2	3	7	8



PUBLIC POLL FINDINGS AND METHODOLOGY

About the Study

These are some of the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between May 3-6, 2022, on behalf of Public Agenda and USA Today. For this survey, a sample of 1,662 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. The sample includes 694 Democrats, 378 Republicans, 388 Independents, and 202 apolitical Americans.

The sample for this study was randomly drawn from Ipsos' online panel (see [link](#) for more info on "Access Panels and Recruitment"), partner online panel sources, and "river" sampling (see [link](#) for more info on the Ipsos "Ampario Overview" sample method) and does not rely on a population frame in the traditional sense. Ipsos uses fixed sample targets, unique to each study, in drawing a sample. After a sample has been obtained from the Ipsos panel, Ipsos calibrates respondent characteristics to be representative of the U.S. Population using standard procedures such as raking-ratio adjustments. The source of these population targets is U.S. Census 2019 American Community Survey data. The sample drawn for this study reflects fixed sample targets on demographics. Posthoc weights were made to the population characteristics on gender, age, race/ethnicity, region, and education. Party ID benchmarks are from recent high quality telephone polls.

Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online non-probability polls. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error and measurement error. Where figures do not sum to 100, this is due to the effects of rounding. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 2.9 percentage points for all respondents. Ipsos calculates a design effect (DEFF) for each study based on the variation of the weights, following the formula of Kish (1965). This study had a credibility interval adjusted for design effect of the following (n=1,662, DEFF=1.5, adjusted Confidence Interval=+/- 4.4 percentage points).

The poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 4.6 percentage points for Democrats, plus or minus 6.2 percentage points for Republicans, plus or minus 6.1 percentage points for Independents, and plus or minus 8.4 percentage points for apolitical individuals.

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About Ipsos

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