



May 7, 2019

TO: Interested Parties

FR: Mark Ayoub, Change Research

RE: New poll shows strong support for funding public education in Arizona

A new poll from Change Research of 1,032 likely 2020 voters finds that Arizonans of all ideologies are still not happy with public education funding in Arizona, and that Governor Ducey risks losing his narrow Republican majorities in the House and Senate in 2020 if he directs the budget surplus towards tax cuts instead of education.

Republicans currently hold a very narrow 50%-47% lead in the generic state legislative ballot. However, a majority (51%) of voters say they would be less likely to vote to re-elect their local state senator or representative if they voted to cut taxes instead of funding education, including 22% of Republicans and 52% of Independents.

Voters were also asked to allocate \$100 million between funding education, tax breaks, and putting money in the rainy day fund, and on average, they said they would allocate 52% to education, 27% toward tax breaks, and 22% toward the rainy day fund. Notably, even among Republicans, funding education was the most popular choice - Republicans said that 39% should go toward education, 35% should go toward tax breaks, and 26% should go toward the rainy day fund.

This desire to fund education is also not a result of a lack of awareness of Governor Ducey's current accomplishments on education - 73% of voters say they've seen, heard or read about Governor Ducey's agreement last year with the State Legislature to raise teacher pay, but 74% say that more needs to be done, including 57% of Republicans.

Despite what conservative critics may say, Arizonans don't see themselves as extremely overtaxed - they are much more likely to feel that education is underfunded - just 13% say that taxes in Arizona are much too high, compared to 48% who say that education funding is much too low.

56% of Arizonans voted to re-elect Governor Ducey last November, but 56% of those voters say that he is not doing enough to fund education - he would be wise to listen to them and focus more on improving Arizona schools than unnecessary tax breaks.

Change Research surveyed 1,032 likely Arizona voters from May 3-4. The survey was conducted online, using Change Research's Bias Correct Engine. Post-stratification was done on age, gender, race, region, and 2016 vote. The margin of error as traditionally calculated is +/-3.1%.

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