



## MEMO

To: Interested parties  
From: Emma White  
Re: Results of statewide voter survey  
Date: December 10, 2018

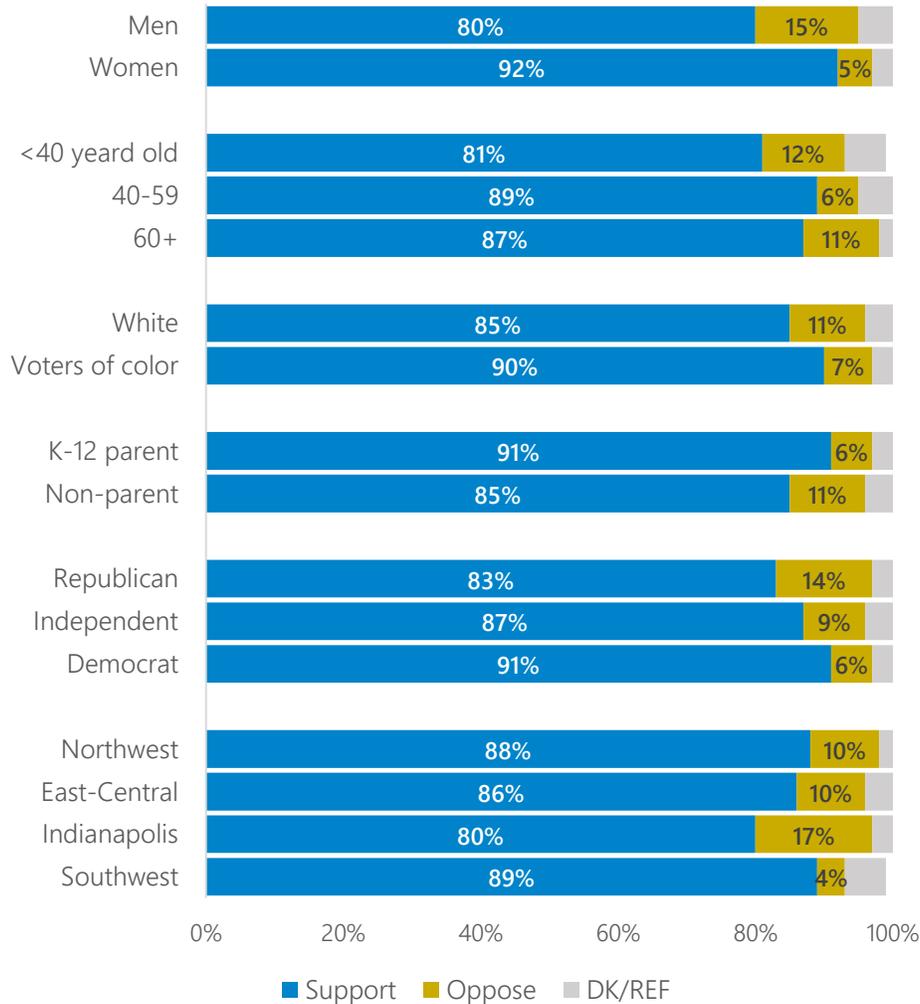
Our 2018 voter survey<sup>1</sup> finds **strong enthusiasm among the electorate for increasing education funding and requiring a higher proportion of funds to be spent in the classroom.** Highlights of the survey include the following:

- **A majority believes Indiana public schools are underfunded.** Seven in ten (70%) say public schools in Indiana need more funding while only a quarter (25%) believes they have enough.
- **In particular, they see educators as underpaid.** Seven in ten (72%) say public school teachers in Indiana are paid too little, while only 1% say they are paid too much and 19% say they are paid about the right amount.
- **Over eight in ten support increased school funding when it comes with the requirement of spending more of it in the classroom.** Respondents heard that “there is a proposal to increase state funding for public schools in Indiana and to require that a higher proportion of school funding be used on classroom instruction rather than administration.” Eighty-six percent support the proposal including 64% who “strongly” support it. Only one in ten (10%) opposes it.
- **Support for increased funds and accountability crosses political and demographic lines.** As shown in Figure 1 on the next page, the proposal to increase funding along with increasing the proportion spent in the classroom rather than on administration receives majority support regardless of gender, age, race, political affiliation, region of the state, or whether voters have children in K-12 schools.

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<sup>1</sup> EWR conducted 605 interviews among registered voters by telephone (landline and cell) from July 30-August 7, 2018, including an oversample of 200 30-to 49-year-old voters. The data have been weighted by age and listed political party to reflect the composition of the population. A random sample survey of this size has a margin of sampling error of +/- 4.0 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

**Figure 1: Support for Funding Proposal by Subgroups**



Combining gender and party shows that there is little difference in support among Democratic women (92%) and Democratic men (90%). Independent women (96%) and Republican women (89%) are both strong supporters of the proposal, with independent men (80%) and Republican men (76%) somewhat lower in support.

- **The top priority for spending is attracting and retaining quality teachers.** They see a range of other spending areas as high priority as well, including up-to-date textbooks and services for students with special needs. The top priorities tested are as follows:
  - Attract and retain quality teachers (89% “top” or “high” priority);
  - Ensure all students have up-to-date textbooks (78%);
  - Services for students with special needs (78%);
  - Maintain and expand career prep in high schools (75%);

- Make more resources available for schools in lower-income districts (73%);
- Improve safety and security of school buildings (72%); and
- Increase the percentage of school funds spent on classroom instruction (70%).

Taken together, the survey results demonstrate that **voters in Indiana perceive a clear need for additional resources for public schools and support an increase in funding.** Including a provision to move funds from administration to classroom instruction seals the deal for voters, broadening support for a funding proposal beyond even those who believe schools are underfunded.