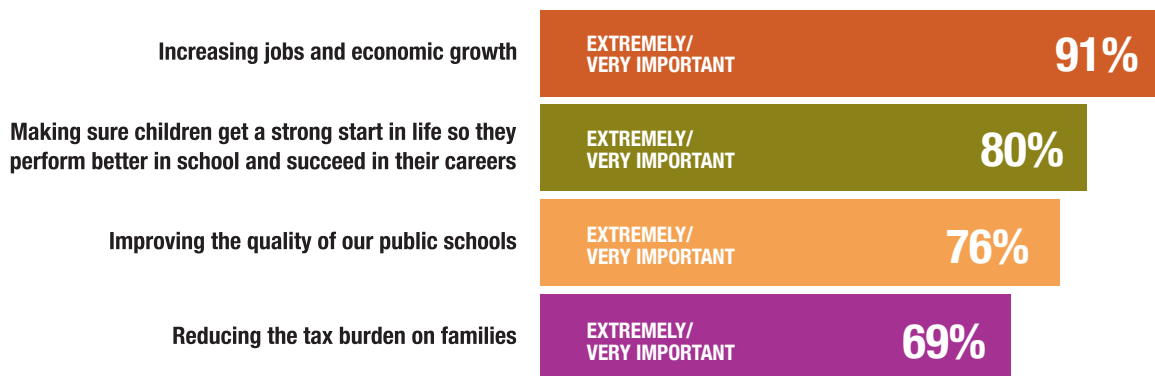


# OHIO SPEAKS: INVESTING IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION IS A TOP PRIORITY.



A new state poll conducted by the bipartisan team of Public Opinion Strategies and Hart Research Associates shows that Ohio voters view early childhood education as a priority issue for the state and nation<sup>1</sup>. **Overwhelming majorities of Ohio voters want to fund early childhood education and voluntary parental coaching with money from state budget surpluses—and nearly two-thirds support a federal plan to help states and local communities provide better early childhood education programs to children from birth to age five.** Three-quarters of Ohio voters say these investments will help Ohio's economy.

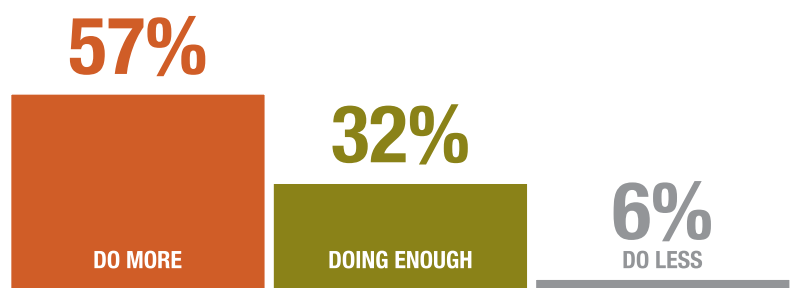
**Making sure children get a strong start in life so they will perform better in school is the second highest priority after jobs and the economy.** 80% of voters ranked the issue as very or extremely important.



**76% of Ohio voters say that investments in early childhood education programs would help Ohio's economy.** Only 21% said it would only help a little or not at all.

**A solid majority of Ohio voters (57%) say Ohio should be doing more to prepare children for kindergarten.** This strong support holds throughout the state:

- Toledo: 55%
- Cleveland: 56%
- Cincinnati: 51%
- Dayton: 56%
- Columbus: 60%



<sup>1</sup> **Methodology:** Public Opinion Strategies and Hart Research Associates conducted a telephone survey of N=500 voters throughout Ohio on both landline and cell phones. The survey was conducted September 9-14, 2014 and has an overall margin of error of ±4.38%. Sampling error for subgroups within the sample will be larger. The sample was distributed proportionally throughout the state and is demographically representative of the electorate.

# OHIO VOTERS AGREE: EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION IS AN ESSENTIAL ISSUE FOR THE STATE AND THE NATION ALIKE.

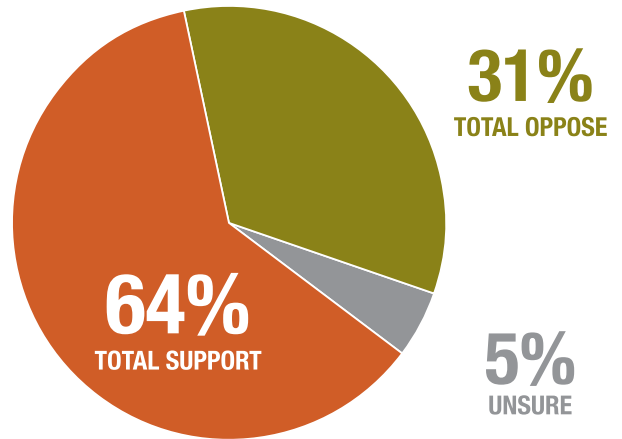
Nearly two-thirds of Ohio voters support a proposal that would increase federal investment to help states provide more access to high-quality early childhood programs for low- and moderate-income families. Support goes up to 69% if the plan increased the deficit in the short-term, but paid for itself in the long-term by improving children’s education, health and economic situations so that less spending will be needed in these areas.

**There is majority support for this proposal among Independents and Democrats, with Republicans almost evenly split:**

- Independents: 60%
- Democrats: 81%
- Republicans: 49%

**There is a solid majority of support for the proposal across age groups and key groups of swing voters:**

- Voters aged 18-34: 76%
- Voters aged 65 and over: 65%
- Moderate/Conservative Democrats: 77%
- Moderate/Liberal Republicans: 75%
- Women without children: 70%



**Ohio voters want Congress to act immediately.** A solid majority (53%) of voters want Congress to act on this proposal now.

**Seven in ten Ohio voters support using a portion of the state budget surplus to provide more early childhood education.** Large majorities in every major region of Ohio support funding early childhood education through the state budget surplus. 66% of voters in Cincinnati support this plan, as do 71% of voters in Cleveland, Dayton, and Columbus as well as 72% of voters in Toledo.



**Strong majorities of voters across demographic subgroups support this plan.** 61% of men aged 50+, 72% of women aged 50+, and more than three-quarters of women and men aged 18-49 support this plan.

**Over two-thirds of Ohio voters say yes to offering every new parent voluntary coaching and parental education.** 67% say they support offering every new parent voluntary coaching and education from a registered nurse to help them improve their child’s health and help ensure children are ready to learn when they start school.

**Early childhood education and voluntary parent coaching get majority support across party lines.**

