

## OHIO STATEWIDE SURVEY

*State of Ohio*

*3/1 – 3/4/2009*

*n=807, +/- 3.44%*

**Registered Voters**

*(percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding)*



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*Q. 1. Generally speaking, would you say that Ohio is going in the right direction, or has it gotten off onto the wrong track?*

31.3% Right direction  
47.4 Wrong track  
6.6 Mixed/both (volunteered)  
14.6 Unsure/no answer

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*Q. 2. What do you think should be the top priority for state government officials to work on right now? Do you think it is...*

(randomly rotated)

11.1% Improving the quality of public education  
48.2 Attracting more businesses and jobs to the state  
8.9 Providing more access to affordable healthcare  
5.8 Preventing home foreclosures  
10 Changing the way schools are funded  
10.4 Lowering taxes  
3 Other (volunteered)  
2.6 Unsure/no answer

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*Q. 3. How would you currently rate Ohio's economy? Would you say it is...*

3.5% Good  
37.4 Fair  
57.6 Poor  
1.5 Unsure/no answer

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*Q. 4. Please tell me which of the following you think is most important in order to improve the state's economy and create jobs? Is it...*

(randomly rotated)

17.7% Improving the public school system  
7.4 Better higher education at universities and colleges  
25.9 Lower income taxes  
6.5 Improving transportation systems, transit and roadways  
3.8 Greater access to credit for potential homebuyers

- 31.3 Offering tax credits to attract new businesses
- 2.3 Other (volunteered)
- 5 Unsure/no answer

*Q. 5. How important do you believe improving the public schools system is to Ohio's overall economy? Would you say it is very important, somewhat important, not very important or not at all important?*

- 61.6% Very
- 29.8 Somewhat
- 3.7 Not very
- 3.7 Not at all
- 1.1 Unsure/no answer

**Looking more closely at public education in Ohio...**

*Q. 6. How much news and information have you heard, read or seen about the proposed changes and reforms that Ohio Governor Ted Strickland has recently announced for public education in Ohio? Is it a lot, some, not very much or nothing at all?*

- 12.3% A lot
- 37.9 Some
- 30.1 Not very much
- 17.7 Nothing at all
- 2 Unsure/no answer

*Q. 7. Based on what you have heard, read or seen, do you approve or disapprove of the proposed changes and reforms that Ohio Governor Ted Strickland has recently announced for public education in Ohio, or do you not have enough information to have formed an opinion? Follow-up: Would that be strongly approve/disapprove or just somewhat approve/disapprove?*

- |                         |      |                     |
|-------------------------|------|---------------------|
| <b>TOTAL APPROVE</b>    | 5.8% | Strongly approve    |
| <b>14.3%</b>            | 8.5  | Somewhat approve    |
| <b>TOTAL DISAPPROVE</b> | 5.8% | Somewhat disapprove |
| <b>13.9%</b>            | 8.1  | Strongly disapprove |
| 70.1%                   |      | Not informed        |
| 1.8%                    |      | Unsure/no answer    |

**I would like to read you some of the proposed changes and reforms that Ohio Governor Ted Strickland has recently announced for improving public education in Ohio. After each one, please tell me whether you favor or oppose it. Follow-up: Would that be strongly**

**favor/oppose it or just somewhat favor/oppose it?**

(RANDOMLY ROTATED QUESTIONS 8 THROUGH 19)

*Q. 8. Do you favor or oppose all-day kindergarten classes?*

<b>TOTAL FAVOR</b>	44.5%	Strongly favor
<b>64.8%</b>	20.3	Somewhat favor
<b>TOTAL OPPOSE</b>	13.2%	Somewhat oppose
<b>29.8%</b>	16.6	Strongly oppose

5.4% Unsure/no answer

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(SPLIT SAMPLE - Random assignment between versions A and B)

*Q. 9a. Do you favor or oppose gradually adding 20 more days to the school year over the next ten years?*

<b>TOTAL FAVOR</b>	28.3%	Strongly favor
<b>46.8%</b>	18.5	Somewhat favor
<b>TOTAL OPPOSE</b>	15.6%	Somewhat oppose
<b>48.5%</b>	32.9	Strongly oppose

4.6% Unsure/no answer

*Q. 9b. Do you favor or oppose adding four more days to next year's school calendar and gradually increasing to 20 more days over the next ten years?*

<b>TOTAL FAVOR</b>	32.4%	Strongly favor
<b>55.8%</b>	23.4	Somewhat favor
<b>TOTAL OPPOSE</b>	12%	Somewhat oppose
<b>38.6%</b>	26.6	Strongly oppose

5.6% Unsure/no answer

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*Q. 10. Do you favor or oppose having new public school teachers participate in a 4-year residency program that would require them to be monitored, evaluated and advised by more experienced teachers?*

<b>TOTAL FAVOR</b>	44.1%	Strongly favor
<b>74.6%</b>	30.5	Somewhat favor

**TOTAL OPPOSE** 11.4% Somewhat oppose  
**20.8%** 9.4 Strongly oppose

4.7% Unsure/no answer

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*Q. 11. Do you favor or oppose giving school districts more authority to discipline and fire teachers that do not meet standards for classroom performance?*

**TOTAL FAVOR** 64.1% Strongly favor  
**86%** 21.9 Somewhat favor

**TOTAL OPPOSE** 6.1% Somewhat oppose  
**10.7%** 4.6 Strongly oppose

3.3% Unsure/no answer

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*Q. 12. Do you favor or oppose recognizing academic talent in subjects like science, math and writing by creating a series of academic contests that are similar to the ways that students are currently recognized in athletic competition?*

**TOTAL FAVOR** 49% Strongly favor  
**78.7%** 29.7 Somewhat favor

**TOTAL OPPOSE** 8.8% Somewhat oppose  
**16.6%** 7.8 Strongly oppose

4.7% Unsure/no answer

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*Q. 13. Do you favor or oppose eliminating the current statewide high school graduation test, and replacing it with a requirement for a minimum passing score on the ACT college entrance test, which would have to be taken by all students, even if they do not plan to attend college?*

**TOTAL FAVOR** 26.7% Strongly favor  
**47.8%** 21.1 Somewhat favor

**TOTAL OPPOSE** 19.6% Somewhat oppose  
**44.9%** 25.3 Strongly oppose

7.3% Unsure/no answer

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*Q. 14. Do you favor or oppose creating state exams for each high school class subject that would have to be passed in order for students to receive credit for the coursework?*

<b>TOTAL FAVOR</b>	32%	Strongly favor
<b>55.7%</b>	23.7	Somewhat favor
<b>TOTAL OPPOSE</b>	20.3%	Somewhat oppose
<b>39.5%</b>	19.2	Strongly oppose
4.8% Unsure/no answer		

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*Q. 15. Do you favor or oppose determining graduation requirements on a combination of factors, including community service and senior projects, rather than one factor, such as a single test score?*

<b>TOTAL FAVOR</b>	35.1%	Strongly favor
<b>66.1%</b>	31	Somewhat favor
<b>TOTAL OPPOSE</b>	14.7%	Somewhat oppose
<b>27.6%</b>	12.9	Strongly oppose
6.3% Unsure/no answer		

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*Q. 16. Do you favor or oppose requiring a ratio of no more than 15 students for each teacher in classes for kindergarten through the third grade?*

<b>TOTAL FAVOR</b>	49.2%	Strongly favor
<b>70%</b>	20.8	Somewhat favor
<b>TOTAL OPPOSE</b>	13.1%	Somewhat oppose
<b>26.2%</b>	13.1	Strongly oppose
3.8% Unsure/no answer		

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(SPLIT SAMPLE - Random assignment between versions A and B)

*Q. 17a. Do you favor or oppose increasing the length of school days to offer more learning opportunities?*

<b>TOTAL FAVOR</b>	26.6%	Strongly favor
<b>43.5%</b>	16.9	Somewhat favor
<b>TOTAL OPPOSE</b>	20.3%	Somewhat oppose
<b>53.3%</b>	33	Strongly oppose

3.2% Unsure/no answer

*Q. 17b. Do you favor or oppose increasing the length of school days to offer more learning opportunities, such as tutoring, community service, and personal development programs?*

<b>TOTAL FAVOR</b>	32.6%	Strongly favor
<b>57.7%</b>	25.1	Somewhat favor
<b>TOTAL OPPOSE</b>	16.2%	Somewhat oppose
<b>37.2%</b>	21	Strongly oppose

5% Unsure/no answer

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*Q. 18. Do you favor or oppose changing Ohio education standards to include skills like teamwork, problem-solving, critical thinking, and global and cultural awareness?*

<b>TOTAL FAVOR</b>	48.3%	Strongly favor
<b>78.8%</b>	30.5	Somewhat favor
<b>TOTAL OPPOSE</b>	8.8%	Somewhat oppose
<b>17.1%</b>	8.3	Strongly oppose

4.1% Unsure/no answer

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(SPLIT SAMPLE - Random assignment between versions A and B)

*Q. 19a. Do you favor or oppose giving state-funded college scholarships to students who are seeking teaching degrees and commit to teaching in under-performing or disadvantaged school districts?*

<b>TOTAL FAVOR</b>	51.8%	Strongly favor
<b>79.9%</b>	28.1	Somewhat favor
<b>TOTAL OPPOSE</b>	8.6%	Somewhat oppose
<b>17.3%</b>	8.7	Strongly oppose

2.8% Unsure/no answer

*Q. 19b. Do you favor or oppose giving state-funded college scholarships to students who are seeking degrees to teach math, science, chemistry and other subjects where there is a shortage of qualified educators to teach them?*

<b>TOTAL FAVOR</b>	56.3%	Strongly favor
<b>82.7%</b>	26.4	Somewhat favor

**TOTAL OPPOSE** 7.2% Somewhat oppose  
**14.5%** 7.3 Strongly oppose

2.8% Unsure/no answer

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*Q. 20. Looking back on the proposed changes and reforms we have just discussed, if they are implemented, do you think that the quality of public education in Ohio will get better, stay about the same or get worse?*

68.3% Better  
22 Stay the same  
7 Worse  
2.7 Unsure/no answer

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*Q. 21. Do you think that the proposed changes and reforms we discussed should be required for... (randomly rotated) ...all of the school districts in the state...just the school districts in the state that have poor academic rankings ...or...none of the school districts in the state?*

80.3% All of the districts  
11.2 Just districts in the state that have poor academic rankings  
5.7 None of the districts  
2.7 Unsure/no answer

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*Q. 22. Supposing for a moment that a school district with a poor academic ranking does not implement these proposed changes and reforms, do you favor or oppose having the state take over control and management of the local school district? Follow-up: Would that be strongly favor/oppose it or just somewhat favor/oppose it?*

**TOTAL FAVOR** 26.4% Strongly favor  
**49.8%** 23.4 Somewhat favor

**TOTAL OPPOSE** 15.7% Somewhat oppose  
**43.8%** 28.1 Strongly oppose

6.4% Unsure/no answer

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*Q. 23. As you may or may not know, some of these proposed changes and reforms will be funded through part of the money that Ohio receives from the U.S. Federal Stimulus Bill that was just approved by Congress. I would like to read you two things that people have said about this and, when I am done, please tell me which opinion comes closest to yours... (rotated)...*

*...(Some/other) people say that it is a good idea to use part of the money that Ohio receives from the U.S. Federal Stimulus Bill to pay for proposed education changes and reforms because*

*improving education will help the economy. The one-time money can off-set the costs until things get better, when higher tax revenues can cover the costs in future years. They support using part of the stimulus money for education...*

*...(Other/some) people say that it is a bad idea to use part of the money that Ohio receives from the U.S. Federal Stimulus Bill to pay for proposed education changes and reforms because it should be used to help struggling industries. A more reliable funding plan is needed because once the one-time money has been spent, there is no assured way to pay for the reforms in future years. They oppose using part of the stimulus money for education...*

*Which opinion comes closest to yours?*

50.6% Support  
42.6 Oppose  
6.8 Unsure/no answer

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**Thinking more about school funding...**

**I would like to read you some of the proposed changes and reforms that Ohio Governor Ted Strickland has recently announced for funding public education in Ohio. After each one, please tell me whether you favor or oppose it. Follow-up: Would that be strongly favor/oppose it or just somewhat favor/oppose it?**

(RANDOMLY ROTATED QUESTIONS 24 THROUGH 29)

*Q. 24. Do you favor or oppose a system that uses state funds to hire additional teachers for school districts that have low property values and high levels of poverty?*

<b>TOTAL FAVOR</b>	38.9% Strongly favor
<b>75.4%</b>	36.5 Somewhat favor
<b>TOTAL OPPOSE</b>	11.3% Somewhat oppose
<b>21.4%</b>	10.1 Strongly oppose
3.2% Unsure/no answer	

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*Q. 25. Do you favor or oppose requiring each district to issue an annual fiscal and operational report card to taxpayers on how effectively they are spending money and meeting established standards for budgeting and finance?*

<b>TOTAL FAVOR</b>	71.1% Strongly favor
<b>89.9%</b>	18.8 Somewhat favor
<b>TOTAL OPPOSE</b>	4.4% Somewhat oppose

8.9% 4.5 Strongly oppose

1.2% Unsure/no answer

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(SPLIT SAMPLE - Random assignment between versions A and B)

*Q. 26a. Do you favor or oppose having the state pay to provide local school districts with summer school teachers to help students who are falling behind?*

**TOTAL FAVOR** 46.4% Strongly favor  
**76.2%** 29.8 Somewhat favor

**TOTAL OPPOSE** 10.8% Somewhat oppose  
**22.4%** 11.6 Strongly oppose

1.4% Unsure/no answer

*Q. 26b. Do you favor or oppose having the state pay to provide local school districts with after-school and summer school programs for student enrichment?*

**TOTAL FAVOR** 35.7% Strongly favor  
**70.5%** 34.8 Somewhat favor

**TOTAL OPPOSE** 12% Somewhat oppose  
**28%** 16 Strongly oppose

1.5% Unsure/no answer

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*Q. 27. Do you favor or oppose having the state pay to provide local school districts with nurses, and family and community resources to break down non-academic barriers that may inhibit learning?*

**TOTAL FAVOR** 31.3% Strongly favor  
**63.5%** 32.2 Somewhat favor

**TOTAL OPPOSE** 16.7% Somewhat oppose  
**29.7%** 13 Strongly oppose

6.8% Unsure/no answer

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*Q. 28. Do you favor or oppose increasing fees for permits, licenses and other services to help pay for the proposed changes and reforms?*

<b>TOTAL FAVOR</b>	14.9% Strongly favor
<b>42.5%</b>	27.6 Somewhat favor
<b>TOTAL OPPOSE</b>	21.3% Somewhat oppose
<b>51.8%</b>	30.5 Strongly oppose
5.6% Unsure/no answer	

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*Q. 29. Do you favor or oppose reducing state spending on other services in order to spend more money on public education?*

<b>TOTAL FAVOR</b>	21.8% Strongly favor
<b>50.9%</b>	29.1 Somewhat favor
<b>TOTAL OPPOSE</b>	20.4% Somewhat oppose
<b>41.2%</b>	20.8 Strongly oppose
7.8% Unsure/no answer	

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**As you may or may not know, Governor Ted Strickland has proposed the creation of a policy to reduce the amount of levies school districts have to put on the ballot. If local voters approve, the policy would allow school districts to collect additional property tax revenue as local property values increase.**

*Q. 30. If it was on the ballot in your community, would you vote for or against a policy that would allow property taxes for schools to automatically increase when property values go up?*

31.7% For
63.9 Against
4.5 Unsure/no answer

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*Q. 31. Thinking more about this, I would like to read you two things that people have said. After I am done, please tell me which opinion comes closest to yours...(rotated)...*

*...(Some/other) people say that allowing property taxes for schools to automatically increase as property values go up is a way to make school funding fair and more predictable for individual districts and will result in fewer elections. They are in favor of the policy...*

*...(Other/some) people say that allowing property taxes for schools to automatically increase as property values go up is an un-voted tax that takes accountability away from voters and will make school districts less responsive to the public. They are opposed to the policy...*

*Which opinion comes closest to yours?*

31.4% In favor of the policy  
 65.6 Opposed to the policy  
 3 Unsure/no answer

*Q. 32. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the system that the state currently uses to decide how much money is adequate for school districts and how it should be allocated, or do you not have enough information to have formed an opinion? Follow-up: Would that be strongly approve/disapprove or just somewhat approve/disapprove?*

<b>TOTAL FAVOR</b>	2.2%	Strongly favor
<b>6.4%</b>	4.2	Somewhat favor
<b>TOTAL OPPOSE</b>	4.5%	Somewhat oppose
<b>18.5%</b>	14	Strongly oppose

73.1% Not Informed  
 2 Unsure/no answer

*Q. 33. Would you favor or oppose switching to a new system of deciding how much money is adequate for school districts and how it should be allocated that would be based on research data and evidence of what works, instead of the current system, or do you not have enough information to have formed an opinion about this? Follow-up: Would that be strongly favor/oppose it or just somewhat favor/oppose it?*

<b>TOTAL FAVOR</b>	19.1%	Strongly favor
<b>34.5%</b>	15.4	Somewhat favor
<b>TOTAL OPPOSE</b>	1.4%	Somewhat oppose
<b>3.9%</b>	2.5	Strongly oppose

59.5% Not Informed  
 2.2 Unsure/no answer

**Finally, I have a few short questions for statistical purposes...**

*Q. 34. I would like to read you a list of age groups. Please stop me when I get to the one you are in.*

14.6% 18 to 29  
 27.9 30 to 44  
 29.1 45 to 59  
 27.6 60 and older  
 .6 Refused  
 .2 Unsure

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*Q. 35. What is your main racial or ethnic heritage? Is it...*

81.1% White  
12 African-American  
1.9 Hispanic  
2.8 Something else  
.3 Mixed race (volunteered)  
1.8 Refused  
.1 Unsure

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*Q. 36. Do you have any children currently enrolled in a public school?*

24.7% Yes  
74.4 No  
.9 Unsure/no answer

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*Q. 37. Politically speaking, do you consider yourself a...(rotated Republican and Democrat)...Republican...Democrat...or something else?*

31.1% Republican  
28.5 Independent/something else  
37.4 Democrat  
2.9 Unsure/no answer

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*Q. 38. Which of the following best describes the type of public school district that serves your community? Is it is an urban school district, suburban school district or rural school district?*

26.6% Urban  
41.4 Suburban  
27.1 Rural  
.7 Other (volunteered)  
4.2 Unsure/no answer

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*Q. 39. Do you own or rent your current home?*

81% Own  
13.2 Rent  
3.8 Other (volunteered)  
2 Unsure/no answer

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*Q. 40. Lastly, are you employed in the field of education as a teacher, administrator, specialist or a member of a support staff for a public school district?*

8% Yes  
91.2 No  
.9 Unsure/no answer

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*Gender:*

47.7% Men  
52.3 Women

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