



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Voters Want to See Early Childhood Funding Protected**

**Raleigh, N.C.** – Public Policy Polling’s newest survey finds that North Carolina voters think funding for early childhood education should continue to be a top priority for state funding, even in a difficult budget year, and that cuts in education funding should be equitable from birth to college.

Just 21% of voters in the state think that early childhood education is a good target for funding cuts this year. That sentiment is held across the party spectrum with just 32% of Republicans, 26% of independents, and 12% of Democrats feeling that’s a good place to cut back.

Voters also believe that if cuts do need to be made they should be distributed evenly among the state’s different education priorities. The Senate’s proposed budget slashes early childhood spending much more than higher education spending, but 74% of voters think the same percentage of funding should be cut from both of those areas.

Additionally, 67% of North Carolinians say they’d be willing to accept increases in the cigarette and alcohol taxes if it meant that cuts on early childhood education spending could be reduced.

“North Carolinians have shown repeatedly throughout the years that the state being a leader nationally on early childhood education is important to them,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “That sentiment is holding true even during these tough economic times. They don’t want cuts in funding to impede the progress we’ve made and hope to continue to make.”

PPP will release new numbers related to Sonia Sotomayor in the state later this week.

PPP surveyed 609 North Carolina voters from May 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>. The survey’s margin of error is +/-4.0%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.

Complete results are attached and can be found at [www.publicpolicypolling.com](http://www.publicpolicypolling.com).

If you would like an interview regarding this release, please contact Dean Debnam at (888) 621-6988 or 919-880-4888.

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## North Carolina Survey Results

**Q1** Do you think that government financial support for early childhood education is very important, somewhat important, or not important? If very important, press 1. If somewhat important, press 2. If not important, press 3.

*Very Important* ..... 53%  
*Somewhat Important*..... 34%  
*Not Important*..... 13%

**Q2** When economic times are tough do you think early childhood education is a good thing for the government to cut spending on? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

*Yes* ..... 21%  
*No*..... 63%  
*Not Sure*..... 15%

**Q3** Right now a proposed state budget would cut funding for higher education by 3% while reducing early childhood spending by 25%. What is your position on this? If you think early childhood spending should be cut at a much higher rate than higher education spending, press 1. If you think equitable percentages of funding should be cut from both, press 2.

*Cut Early Childhood Spending at Higher Rate* 26%  
*Cut Equitable Percentages of Both*..... 74%

**Q4** Do you think it is important during tough economic times for the government to continue providing subsidies for child care so that parents are able to work? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2.

*Yes* ..... 58%  
*No*..... 42%

**Q5** Would you support increases in the alcohol and cigarette taxes if it would help reduce cuts in spending on early childhood education? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2.

*Yes* .....67% *No*.....33%

**Q6** If you are a woman, press 1, if a man, press 2.

*Woman* ..... 53%  
*Man*.....47%

**Q7** If you are a Democrat, press 1. If you are a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

*Democrat* ..... 49%  
*Republican*..... 36%  
*Independent/Other*..... 15%

**Q8** If you are white, press one now. If you are African-American, press two now. If other, press 3.

*White* ..... 75%  
*African-American* ..... 21%  
*Other*..... 3%

**Q9** If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1 now. If you are 30 to 45, press 2. If you are 46 to 65, press 3. If older, press 4.

*18 to 29*..... 11%  
*30 to 45*..... 25%  
*46 to 65*..... 45%  
*Older than 65*..... 19%





**Q10** If you make less than \$25,000 a year, press 1.  
If you make between \$25,000 and \$50,000 a  
year, press 2. If you make between \$50,000  
and \$75,000 a year, press 3. If you make  
between \$75,000 and \$100,000 a year, press  
4. If you make more than \$100,000 a year,  
press 5.

<i>Less than \$25,000</i> .....	31%
<i>\$25,000 to \$50,000</i> .....	32%
<i>\$50,000 to \$75,000</i> .....	18%
<i>\$75,000 to \$100,000</i> .....	8%
<i>More than \$100,000</i> .....	10%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Importance of Early Childhood Funding</b>			
<b>Very Important</b>	53%	57%	48%
<b>Somewhat Important</b>	34%	34%	35%
<b>Not Important</b>	13%	9%	17%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Cutting Early Childhood Spending</b>			
<b>Yes</b>	21%	18%	25%
<b>No</b>	63%	66%	60%
<b>Not Sure</b>	15%	16%	15%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Equity of Funding Cuts</b>			
<b>Cut Early Childhood Spending at Higher Rate</b>	26%	24%	29%
<b>Cut Equitable Percentages of Both</b>	74%	76%	71%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Subsidies for Child Care</b>			
<b>Yes</b>	58%	63%	51%
<b>No</b>	42%	37%	49%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Sin Tax Hikes for Early Childhood Funding</b>			
Yes	67%	76%	57%
No	33%	24%	43%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Importance of Early Childhood Funding</b>				
Very Important	53%	67%	39%	40%
Somewhat Important	34%	27%	43%	37%
Not Important	13%	6%	19%	24%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Cutting Early Childhood Spending</b>				
Yes	21%	12%	32%	26%
No	63%	77%	51%	48%
Not Sure	15%	10%	17%	26%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Equity of Funding Cuts</b>				
Cut Early Childhood Spending at Higher Rate	26%	19%	31%	36%
Cut Equitable Percentages of Both	74%	81%	69%	64%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Subsidies for Child Care</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	58%	68%	46%	51%
<b>No</b>	42%	32%	54%	49%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Sin Tax Hikes for Early Childhood Funding</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	67%	75%	59%	60%
<b>No</b>	33%	25%	41%	40%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Importance of Early Childhood Funding</b>				
<b>Very Important</b>	53%	47%	76%	22%
<b>Somewhat Important</b>	34%	41%	12%	39%
<b>Not Important</b>	13%	12%	12%	39%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Cutting Early Childhood Spending</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	21%	21%	19%	36%
<b>No</b>	63%	62%	71%	48%
<b>Not Sure</b>	15%	17%	10%	15%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Equity of Funding Cuts</b>				
<b>Cut Early Childhood Spending at Higher Rate</b>	26%	26%	24%	57%
<b>Cut Equitable Percentages of Both</b>	74%	74%	76%	43%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Subsidies for Child Care</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	58%	54%	72%	45%
<b>No</b>	42%	46%	28%	55%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Sin Tax Hikes for Early Childhood Funding</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	67%	66%	73%	46%
<b>No</b>	33%	34%	27%	54%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Importance of Early Childhood Funding</b>					
<b>Very Important</b>	53%	39%	50%	55%	57%
<b>Somewhat Important</b>	34%	44%	34%	33%	31%
<b>Not Important</b>	13%	17%	16%	11%	11%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Cutting Early Childhood Spending</b>					
<b>Yes</b>	21%	25%	21%	21%	20%
<b>No</b>	63%	53%	65%	67%	60%
<b>Not Sure</b>	15%	22%	14%	12%	20%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Equity of Funding Cuts</b>					
<b>Cut Early Childhood Spending at Higher Rate</b>	26%	31%	26%	25%	26%
<b>Cut Equitable Percentages of Both</b>	74%	69%	74%	75%	74%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Subsidies for Child Care</b>					
<b>Yes</b>	58%	47%	58%	62%	53%
<b>No</b>	42%	53%	42%	38%	47%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Sin Tax Hikes for Early Childhood Funding</b>					
<b>Yes</b>	67%	57%	68%	68%	69%
<b>No</b>	33%	43%	32%	32%	31%







**Crosstabs**

	Base	Income				
		Less than \$25,000	\$25,000 to \$50,000	\$50,000 to \$75,000	\$75,000 to \$100,000	More than \$100,000
<b>Importance of Early Childhood Funding</b>						
<b>Very Important</b>	53%	52%	45%	55%	71%	58%
<b>Somewhat Important</b>	34%	32%	41%	34%	21%	32%
<b>Not Important</b>	13%	15%	14%	12%	8%	10%

	Base	Income				
		Less than \$25,000	\$25,000 to \$50,000	\$50,000 to \$75,000	\$75,000 to \$100,000	More than \$100,000
<b>Cutting Early Childhood Spending</b>						
<b>Yes</b>	21%	23%	22%	25%	12%	15%
<b>No</b>	63%	56%	62%	65%	79%	74%
<b>Not Sure</b>	15%	21%	15%	11%	8%	11%

	Base	Income				
		Less than \$25,000	\$25,000 to \$50,000	\$50,000 to \$75,000	\$75,000 to \$100,000	More than \$100,000
<b>Equity of Funding Cuts</b>						
<b>Cut Early Childhood Spending at Higher Rate</b>	26%	29%	29%	25%	14%	18%
<b>Cut Equitable Percentages of Both</b>	74%	71%	71%	75%	86%	82%

	Base	Income				
		Less than \$25,000	\$25,000 to \$50,000	\$50,000 to \$75,000	\$75,000 to \$100,000	More than \$100,000
<b>Subsidies for Child Care</b>						
<b>Yes</b>	58%	52%	57%	65%	65%	61%
<b>No</b>	42%	48%	43%	35%	35%	39%



**Crosstabs**

	Base	Income				
		Less than \$25,000	\$25,000 to \$50,000	\$50,000 to \$75,000	\$75,000 to \$100,000	More than \$100,000
<b>Sin Tax Hikes for Early Childhood Funding</b>						
<b>Yes</b>	67%	59%	66%	79%	81%	63%
<b>No</b>	33%	41%	34%	21%	19%	37%