Granite State Poll Sample Questions Final
Commission to Study School Funding


**Timing:** September 2020 – Data collected online over a 4-day period. The UNH Survey Center provides raw data and a report a week later.

**About the Granite State Panel Sample from UNH Survey Center Staff:** We are conducting all statewide polls now using randomly selected respondents from the Granite State Panel. It is a probability-based web panel of approximately 5,500 panelists we have recruited from randomly selected phone numbers by conducting phone or text-to-web surveys then asking them to join the panel. Unlike most web panels, which are opt-in, meaning anyone can join and are therefore not representative, we use the same random selection methods as traditional telephone surveys, thus keeping our panel representative of the state of New Hampshire. We also ran many side-by-side comparisons of phone and panel surveys to validate our panel results before making this decision. In fact, our web results were slightly closer to the actual outcome of the 2020 Democratic Presidential Primary than our phone results were.

**Demographics:**
- Asked on each poll: Age, sex, region, level of education, income, party
- Want to make sure we ask:
  - Community of residence
  - Employment status: employed, unemployed, retired
  - Current parent in the public schools (yes/no)
  - Property owner in NH or renter
  - Seasonal or full-time resident

**Questions:**

1. Next are some questions about public education in New Hampshire. First, how much on average do you think New Hampshire school districts spend per student? ENTER DOLLAR AMOUNT

2. And what percentage of public education costs do you think are currently funded by the state government? ENTER PERCENTAGE 0-100%

3. On average, New Hampshire school districts spend approximately $19,000 per student each year and the state government pays for approximately 31% (approximately $6,000 per student) of local public education costs while the rest is covered by local property taxes. In your opinion, do you think that the state government should increase its funding to support local public education, decrease its funding, or keep it about the same? (Increase funding, decrease funding, keep about the same, don’t know) (NOTE: This is formatted similar to questions previously asked about state government funding to UNH Survey Center)

4. In some communities, taxpayers pay less than $3 per $1,000 of property value in combined local and statewide property tax to pay for their local schools, while in other communities, taxpayers pay as much as $24 per $1,000 in education property tax. Would you favor or oppose...
changing this so that everyone pays the same property tax rate to fund public schools in New Hampshire? – Strongly Favor, Somewhat Favor, Neutral, Somewhat Oppose, Strongly Oppose, Don’t know/Not sure (see NH Department of Revenue Administration - https://www.revenue.nh.gov/mun-prop/municipal/property-tax-rates.htm).

5. Currently, New Hampshire communities fund over 65% of total public education costs with local property taxes. Should the percentage of public education costs funded by local property taxes increase, decrease, or stay about the same? (Increase, Decrease, Stay about the same, Don’t know)

6. Would you favor or oppose using one of the following options to decrease reliance on local property taxes to fund education in New Hampshire? (Strongly Favor, Somewhat Favor, Neutral, Somewhat Oppose, Strongly Oppose, Don’t Know/Not Sure (online matrix))
   - A statewide property tax
   - An income tax
   - A sales tax
   - Other state taxes (add field for respondents to insert what they mean)

7. Which of these comes closest to your opinion on what New Hampshire should have for a school funding system? (this format is highly recommended by the Survey Center).
   - A state funding system that distributes money to districts based upon differences in poverty and property wealth
   - A state funding system that distributes money equally to every school district
   - Don’t know enough about this to say

8. In your opinion, which of the following do you think is most important in order to provide New Hampshire students a high-quality public education? (Please rank your top 5).
   - Higher teacher salaries
   - Teacher quality
   - Student and school access to technology
   - Smaller class sizes
   - Access to up-to-date curriculum and learning materials
   - Well-maintained and up-to-date classrooms and buildings
   - Social, emotional, mental and behavioral resources
   - Special education services
   - Public early childhood education (preschool, pre-k, kindergarten)
   - English language learner services
   - Career and technical education classes
   - Low-income student services (e.g., free and reduced breakfast and lunch)
   - Other (Please specify)