**Granite State Poll Sample Questions Draft 3**

Commission to Study School Funding

**Goal:** Frame 5 to 6 questions to poll NH residents. What is the most important feedback the Commission needs to design a fair and effective funding formula?

**Timing:** September 2020, next version to Survey Center by Wednesday, August 12th. Data will be collected online over a 4-day period. The Survey Center provides raw data and a report a week later.

**Demographic Questions**

* Asked on each poll: Age, sex, region, level of education, income, party
* Other suggestions from our group:
  + Current parent in the public schools (grade/school level or yes/no)
  + Property owner in NH, renter, seasonal property owner, out of state owner, other,
  + School district you live in (drop down list), Community you live in (drop down list)
  + Employment status: employed, unemployed, retired

**Guidance from the UNH Survey Center Staff:**

* Avoid, “nice to know questions.” Ask ourselves, “how does this help make a decision?”
* Avoid lots of information in the questions. If it can’t be succinct, probably not worth asking.

**Draft Questions for Discussion:** *Use track changes.*

1. On average, school districts spend approximately $19,000 per student each year. What proportion should the state contribute (vs. local property tax revenues) for public education? (0-25%, 25-50%, 50-75%, 75-100% as choices)

2. Some communities pay as little as $2 of property tax per $1,000 of property value. Some pay as much as $24 of property tax per $1,000 of property value. Should everyone pay the same property tax rate to fund public education in New Hampshire? (check numbers, need a citation from DRA)

3. Would you support a statewide funding system that allocates more money to districts with less property wealth than those districts with more property wealth to equalize students’ opportunity for an adequate education?

3a. Would you support a statewide system that uniformly distributes funding to districts regardless of property wealth?

3b. Would you support a statewide system that accounts for these inequities?

4. Which of these options is closest to your opinion of what should be the primary source of education funding in NH? (local property taxes, a state-wide property tax, an income tax, a sales tax, or some combination of these? (Last asked on GSP, 1999, 2002).

Original wording from 2002 Poll: “Which of these options is closest to your opinion of what should be done about education funding in New Hampshire ... an income tax ... a sales tax ... a state-wide property tax ... revenues from legalized gambling ... or a constitutional amendment overturning the Claremont decision?”

5. What are the most important ingredients for providing an adequate education? (select your top 5).

* teacher compensation
* instructional technology
* class size
* school leadership
* learning standards
* quality of classrooms and buildings
* social and behavioral supports
* transportation
* extracurricular programs
* content of the curriculum
* special education
* early childhood education
* English language learner supports
* Career and technical education
* Advanced placement courses
* low-income student supports (e.g., breakfast/lunch)
* ***Add and edit this list based on your knowledge and thinking***

**This poll provides us another pulse on public understanding, values, and thinking.**

What else do we need to ask in terms of the main areas of decision-making or concern that is at the core of the Commission’s charge?

Section 193-E:2-e - <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/XV/193-E/193-E-mrg.htm>

**About the Granite State Poll Sample:**

“In addition to working with individual clients on single issue polling projects, the UNH Survey Center also conducts the Granite State Poll, a quarterly survey of public opinion in the state of New Hampshire. The Granite State Poll is an omnibus survey in which interested groups, agencies, or organizations can purchase one or more questions. In this way, fixed costs are shared. The Granite State Poll is a statewide, scientific survey of public opinion and behavior concerning policy issues. Conducted quarterly, the Poll randomly interviews approximately 500 respondents from across the state.

All adult residents of New Hampshire with a working telephone (including new and unlisted numbers) are eligible for the Granite State Poll. Reports on New Hampshire public opinion written by the Center are made available to legislators, members of the executive branch and other key government officials dealing with public policy as well as the media. Of course, any proprietary data collected by the Survey Center are held in strict confidence.” – From GSP website - <https://cola.unh.edu/unh-survey-center/projects/granite-state-poll>.