

State Innovation Exchange

Multi-State Poll - Mississippi Findings
July 2020



Survey Methodology



TargetSmart designed and administered this multimodal survey. Forty-eight interviews were conducted online among panelists who were matched to the TargetSmart voter file (52 weighted), 370 interviews were conducted online using text-to-web and email-to-web (66 email, 304 SMS) solicits from the TargetSmart voter file (357 weighted), and 39 interviews (48 weighted) were conducted over the phone (17 on wireless phones, 22 on landlines). In total, the survey reached 457 adults, age 18 or older, who are registered to vote in Mississippi. Quotas were designed to reflect the demographic and geographic distribution of registered voters in Mississippi. The data were weighted by gender, age, race from file, TargetSmart Partisan Score, TargetSmart High School Only Score, and region by media market to ensure an accurate reflection of the population.

The credibility interval (the theoretical margin of error for a blended-methodology poll that relies partially on telephone-based probability sampling, and partially on non-probability based online panel sampling) is +/- 4.6 %. The margin of error for subgroups is larger and varies. Percentage totals may not add up precisely due to rounding.

Issue Environment and the Role of State Government

Issue Environment: Key Findings

Mississippi

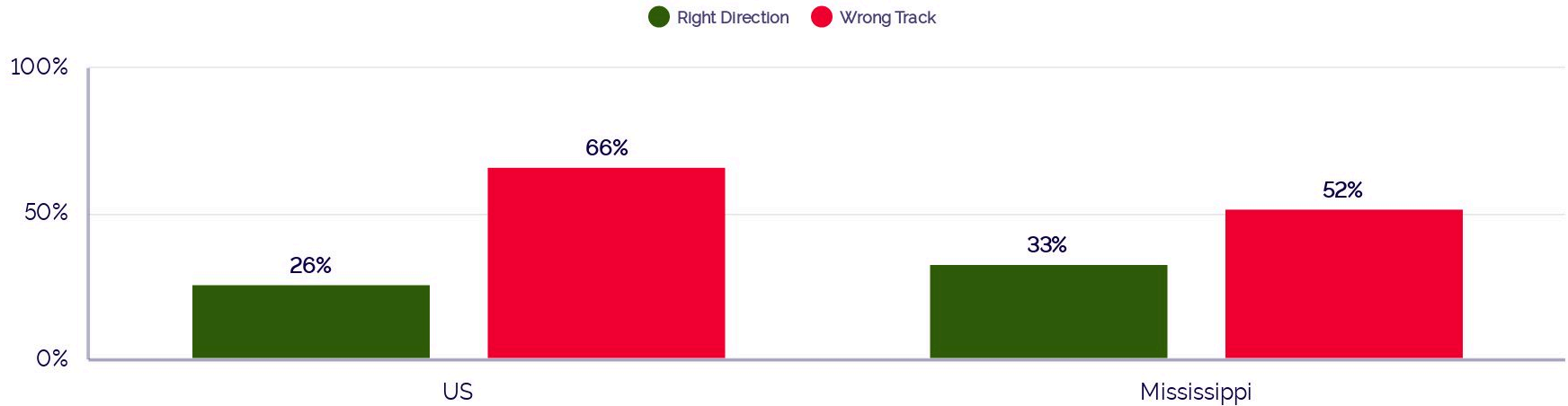
- Mississippi voters are highly pessimistic about the direction of the U.S. (26 percent right direction, 66 percent wrong track). Voters are more mixed, but pessimistic on net, about the direction of the state (33 percent right direction, 52 percent wrong track).
- Top issue priorities for Mississippians are quite diffuse -- preserving the state flag (24 percent), systematic racism and the Black Lives Matter movement (19 percent), and the coronavirus (18 percent) surface as some of the most pressing issues facing the state today.

Mississippi deviates from other trends we are seeing in this body of research -- voters in most other states, including other southern states like Georgia and Florida, are clearly prioritizing the coronavirus pandemic over any other issues that were cited.

- When it comes to the status of the coronavirus, a solid majority of voters believe the worst is still yet to come (58 percent). Fewer than 1-in-5 voters believe the worst is over (17 percent).
- We also see a bare majority of Mississippi voters indicate that their feelings about how Black people and communities are treated in American have changed over the last month in light of recent events (52 percent).

Mississippians Highly Pessimistic About Direction of the U.S. and the State

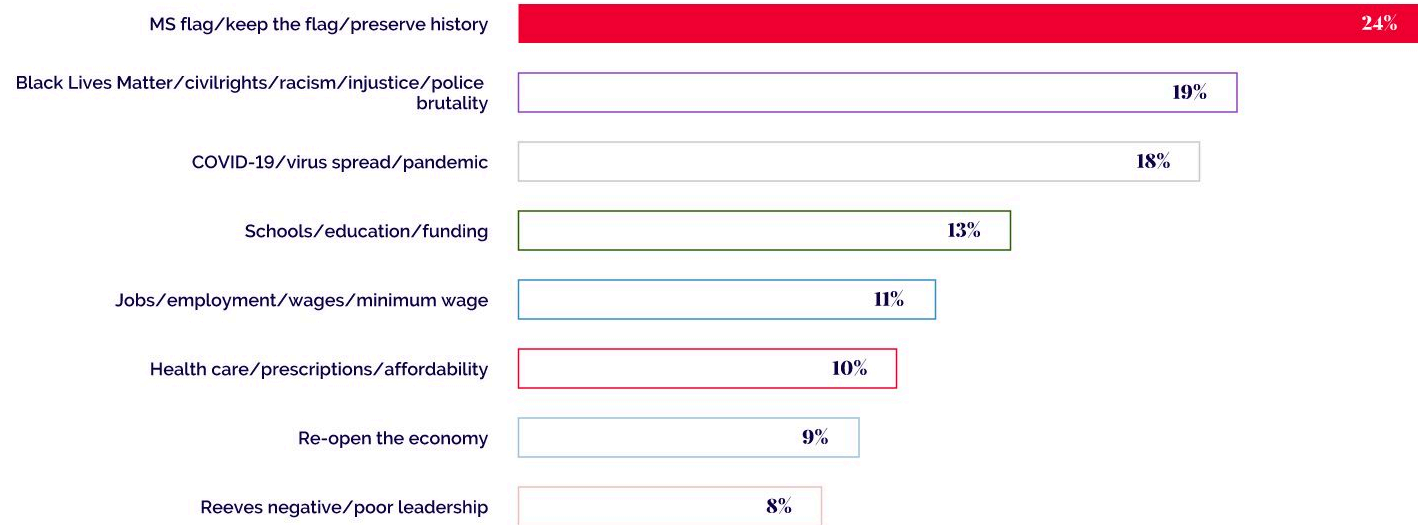
Direction of the US and Mississippi



5. Generally speaking, do you think that things in the United States are going in the right direction, or do you feel things have gotten pretty seriously off on the wrong track?

6. And generally speaking, do you think that things in Mississippi are going in the right direction, or do you feel things have gotten pretty seriously off on the wrong track?

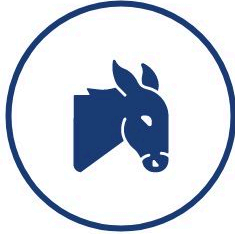
Issue Priorities Diffuse for Mississippians; Preserving the State Flag, Systematic Racism, and Coronavirus Surface as Top Issues



7. What would you say is the most important issue facing the state of Mississippi these days?

Democrats Highly Prioritize Black Lives Matter Movement; Independents, Republicans Prioritize Preserving the State's Flag

Issue priorities by Party ID



ID Democrat

1. Systematic racism/BLM - 26%
2. Schools/education - 18%
3. Coronavirus pandemic - 17%



ID independent

1. Preserve MS flag - 30%
2. Systematic racism/BLM - 17%
2. Coronavirus pandemic - 17%
3. Schools/education - 11%

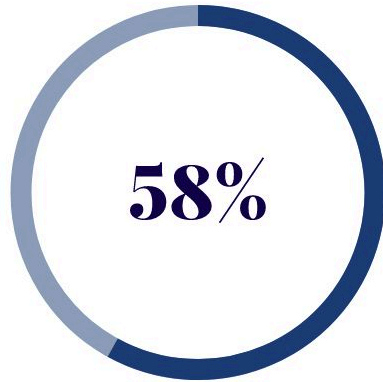


ID Republican

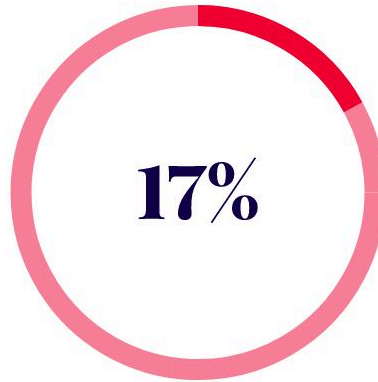
1. Preserve MS flag - 29%
2. Coronavirus pandemic - 20%
3. Systematic racism/BLM - 14%

A Majority of Mississippians Believe The Worst of the Pandemic Is Yet to Come

Worst is yet to come vs. worst is over



The worst of the coronavirus outbreak is yet to come



The worst of the coronavirus outbreak is over



Unsure

9. Do you believe....

Solid Majority of Independents, Plurality of Republicans Believe Worst is Yet to Come

State of Pandemic by Key Demographics

	Worst is yet to come	Worst is over	Unsure
All voters	58%	17%	25%
ID Democrat	84%	5%	12%
ID independent	48%	18%	34%
ID Republican	42%	28%	30%
Men	51%	24%	25%
Women	64%	12%	24%
Under 50	64%	12%	24%
Over 50	53%	22%	25%

Mississippians Want More State Investment, Even if it Means More Taxes

State Investment vs. Tax Cuts



State government in Mississippi should invest more in the state and its residents, ensuring they are safe, healthy, are economically secure, even if it means some people have to contribute a little more in taxes.



State government in Mississippi should keep taxes low, even if it means cutting funding for education and infrastructure, and cutting unemployment insurance and healthcare coverage.

14. And which of these statements comes closer to your own view, even if neither of them is exactly right?

Voters Across the Board Prefer State Investment, Including Republicans

Investment vs. Taxes by Key Demographics

	Invest more	Lower Taxes	Margin
All voters	55%	19%	+36
ID Democrat	69%	13%	+56
ID independent	53%	18%	+35
ID Republican	41%	24%	+17
White	53%	18%	+35
POC	64%	15%	+49
Under 50	61%	18%	+44
Over 50	50%	20%	+30

Mississippi Voters Want State Government To Play a Role in Election Administration and Education – Access to Food, Coronavirus, Pay Equity Fall Closely Behind

Government Involvement on Issues - top tier issues based on % major/some role



15. Please indicate whether you think state government in Mississippi should have a major role, some role, a minor role, or no real role in dealing with each of the following issues.

Most Voters See Role for Government Involvement in Affordable Childcare, Affordable Housing, and Addressing Racism

Government Involvement on Issues - second tier issues based on % major/some role



15. Please indicate whether you think state government in Mississippi should have a major role, some role, a minor role, or no real role in dealing with each of the following issues.

A Majority of Mississippians Indicate Their Feelings Have Changed About the Treatment of Black People in America

Feelings About How Black People and Communities Are Treated



16. Would you say your feelings about how Black people and Black communities are treated in America have changed a lot, a changed a little, or not changed at all in the last month or so?

Election and Democracy Reforms

Democracy Key Findings: Government's Role, Voting Options, and Intersection with Race

Mississippi

- Election administration surfaces as the top policy area Mississippi voters would like government to play a role in, with 92 percent of voters believing state government should play a “major” or “some” role in safely and fairly administering elections.
- Furthermore, a majority of voters are optimistic about how elections will be administered in November, with 2-in-3 voters believing they will be run well (65 percent), compared to just 1-in-5 voters believing they will not be run well (26 percent).
- An overwhelming majority of Mississippians plan to vote in-person on Election Day (80 percent). Voting early in-person (8 percent) and voting by mail (10 percent) are not popular voting options for the Mississippi electorate.
- We also find that a majority of Mississippi voters want state government to reduce barriers that stop Black people and communities from voting (57 percent).

Democracy Key Findings: Voting Reforms

Mississippi

- While very few Mississippi voters plan to vote by mail in November (10 percent), voters generally support policies to make voting by mail easier.
- We find that 63 percent of voters support allowing any registered Mississippi voter to vote-by-mail and 54 percent of voters support mailing all registered Mississippi voters applications to vote by mail.
- Mississippi voters are also broadly supportive of reforms to make processing mail-in ballots easier. A majority of voters support counting mail-in ballots postmarked by, but received after Election Day (56 percent). Likewise, 48 percent of voters support counting mail-in ballots received by Election Day but received up to 10 days after election Day.
- While voting early in-person is not a popular option for voters in Mississippi, voters are broadly supportive of lengthening the early voting window and letting voters cast a ballot up through the day before Election Day (78 percent).

Democracy Key Findings: Coronavirus and Voting

Mississippi

- Mississippi voters strongly agree with measures to increase safety and sanitary standards at polling places.
- Over 9-in-10 voters agree with both equipping poll workers with PPE like masks and gloves (95 percent) and conforming with CDC guidelines and social distancing at polling locations (92 percent).
- Voters are also supportive of opening additional polling locations to reduce crowds (86 percent) and oppose consolidating polling places in anticipation of poll worker shortages (66 percent oppose).

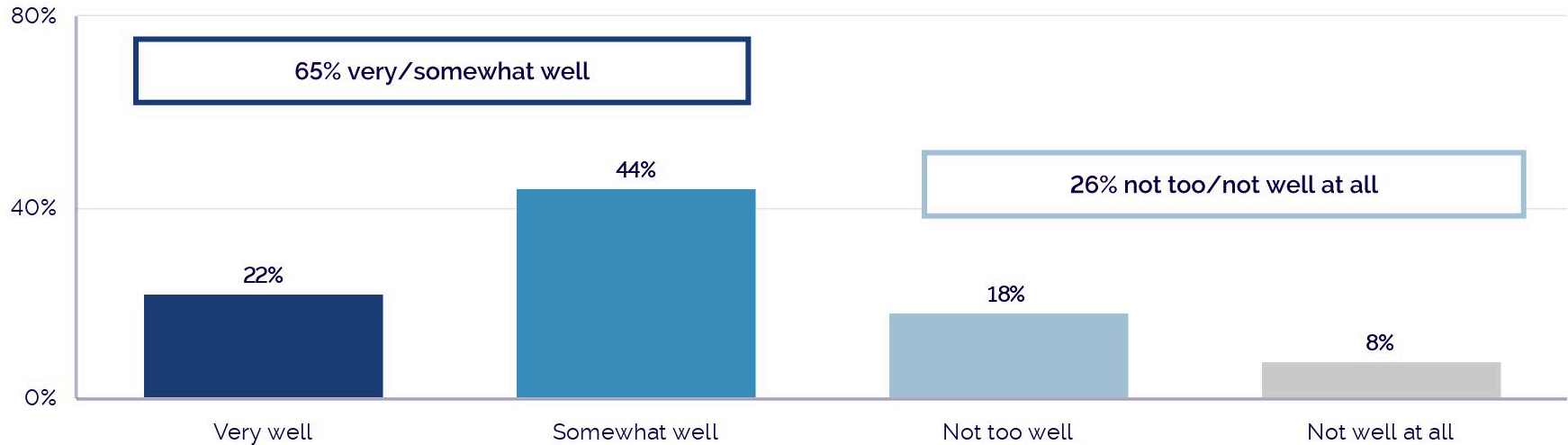
Democracy Key Findings: Voting Security

Mississippi

- While voting by mail is unpopular among the Mississippi electorate, voters here still place a high importance on voting security as it pertains to mail in ballots.
- Over 8-in-10 voters believe ballot tracking for mail-in ballots is important (86 percent), with 7-in-10 voters believing this to be very important (70 percent).
- Likewise, nearly 9-in-10 voters believe it is important for election officials to immediately notify voters if there is a problem with their submitted mail-in ballot (85 percent), and 76 percent of voters find this to be very important.

Nearly 2-in-3 Mississippians Believe Elections Will Be Run “Well” This November

November Election Administration in Mississippi



21. Switching gears a bit, do you think the elections this November in Mississippi will be run and administered very well, somewhat well, not too well, or not well at all?

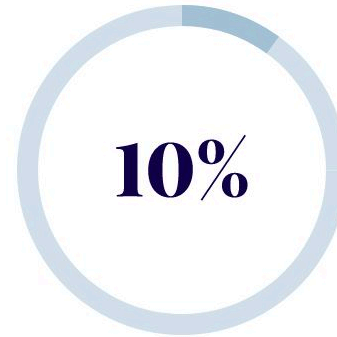
An Overwhelming Majority of Mississippians Plan to Vote In-Person on Election Day



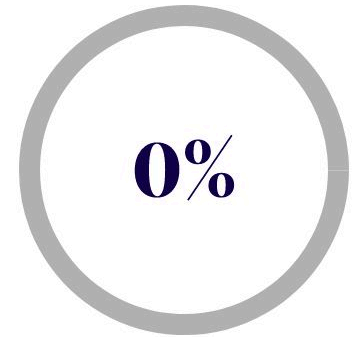
In-person at my local
polling place on Election
Day



In-person at an early
voting center before
Election Day



By mail, using my state's
vote by mail or absentee
voter system



I am not voting

4. And how do you intend to vote in the general election for President and other offices this November?

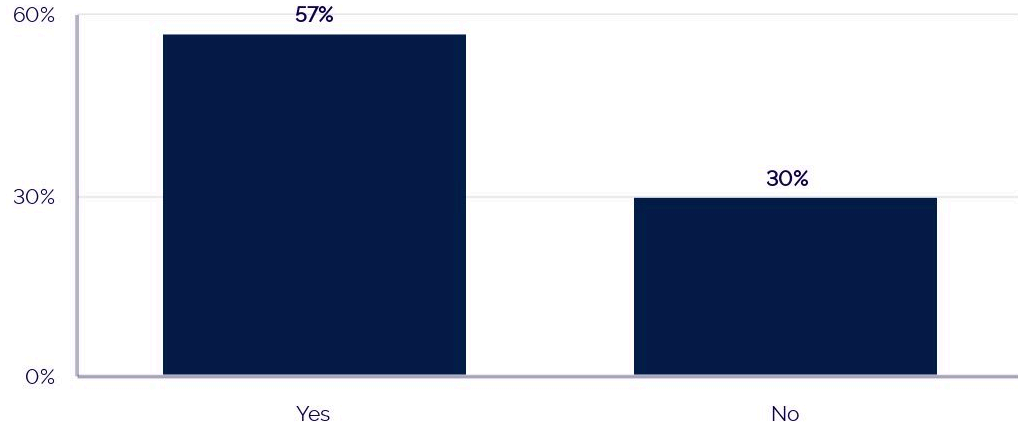
Mississippians Divided on Whether Systematic Racism has Prevented Black People from Voting; A Majority Wants State Government to Reduce Barriers to Voting for Black People

49% of Mississippi voters agree with the following statement:

"Systemic racism has prevented Black people and other people of color from being able to fully participate in our democracy."

42% disagree with this statement.

Reduce Barriers That Stop Black People From Voting

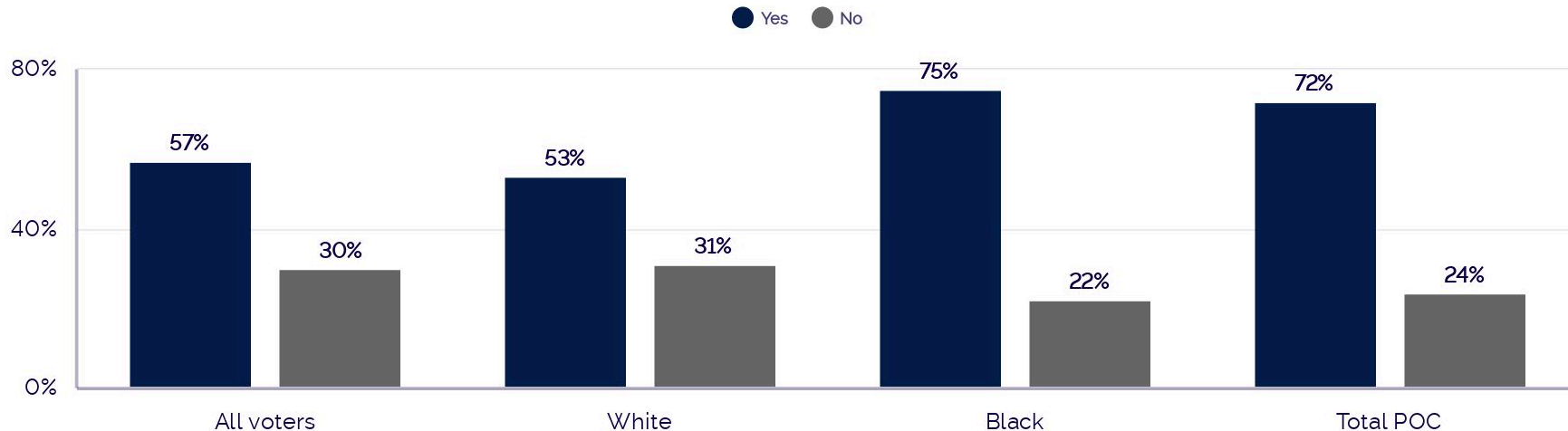


18. Do you believe the state of Mississippi should reduce barriers that stop Black people from voting?

22. Please indicate whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statements about different ways people can vote in the United States.

Voters of Color More Likely To Want State Government to Reduce Barriers to Voting

Reduce Barriers That Stop Black People From Voting - by race



18. Do you believe the state of Mississippi should reduce barriers that stop Black people from voting?

Near Unanimous Support for Increased Safety Standards at Polling Places

Voting Reforms - % total agree

95%

Poll workers should be provided with personal protective equipment like masks and gloves.

81% strongly agree

92%

Polling locations should conform with CDC guidelines on sanitation and social distancing.

74% strongly agree

22. Please indicate whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statements about different ways people can vote in the United States.

Mixed Public Opinion on Whether Voters Have Enough Information on Alternatives to In-Person Voting; 1-in-3 Voters Are Concerned About VBM Reliability

Voting Reforms - % total agree

70%

I have a clear understanding of the in-person early voting options available to me in my state.

43% strongly agree

63%

I am concerned that the mail system in my state cannot be relied upon to get vote-by-mail ballots to election officials in time for them to be counted.

42% strongly agree

59%

I don't have enough information about how to take advantage of alternatives to voting in-person on Election Day.

31% strongly agree

58%

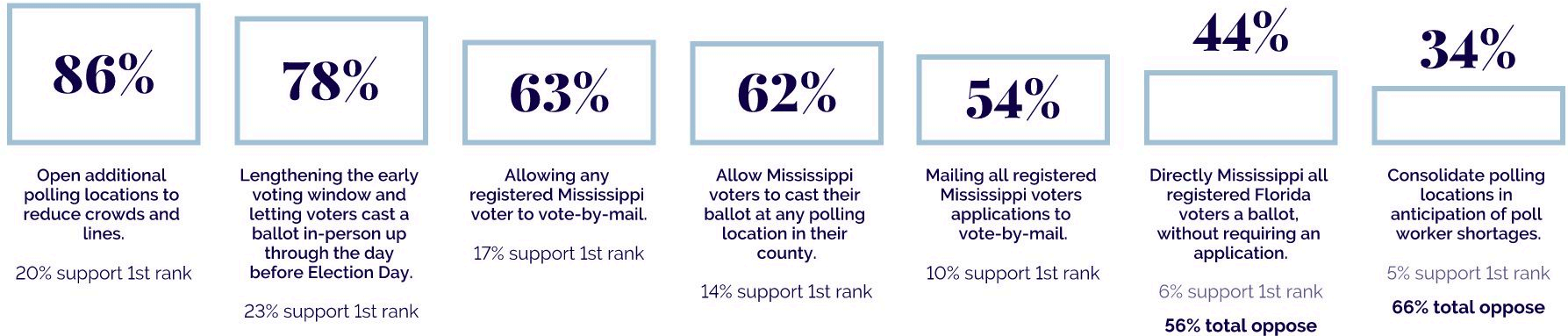
I have a clear understanding of how to request a vote-by-mail ballot in my state.

37% strongly agree

22. Please indicate whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statements about different ways people can vote in the United States.

Reforms to Make Voting Easier and More Accessible During the Pandemic Are Broadly Popular; Voters Opposed to Consolidating Polling Locations

Voting Method Reforms - % Total Support



23. Switching gears a bit, below are several reforms related to voting in Mississippi. By dragging the reforms to the "support" or "oppose" box, please indicate which ones you support and which ones you oppose. Then, by dragging the reforms up and down within each box, please indicate which ones you support the MOST and which ones you oppose the MOST.

Various Ballot Return Options Are Supported by Mississippi Voters

Ballot Return Reforms - % Total Support



24. And to help citizens vote safely during the coronavirus outbreak, elections officials in Mississippi are considering several ways voters can cast or return their ballot in this year's elections. By dragging the proposals to the "support" or "oppose" box, please indicate which ones you support and which ones you oppose. Then, by dragging the proposals up and down within each box, please indicate which ones you support the MOST and which ones you oppose the MOST.

Mississippians Likely to Vote-In Person

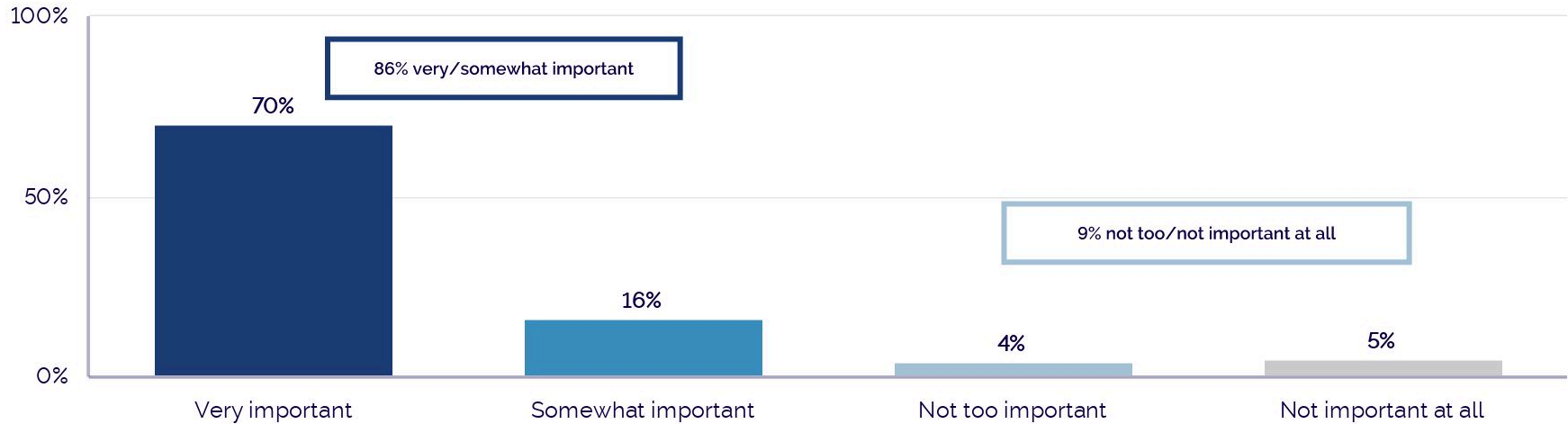
Ballot Return Methods - % Almost Certain/Good Chance



25. And assuming each of the following were available to you in Mississippi, how likely would you be to use each of these options for casting your vote or returning your ballot in the upcoming election?

Ballot Tracking Important to Nearly 9-in-10 Mississippi Voters; 7-in-10 Voters Indicate it is “Very” Important

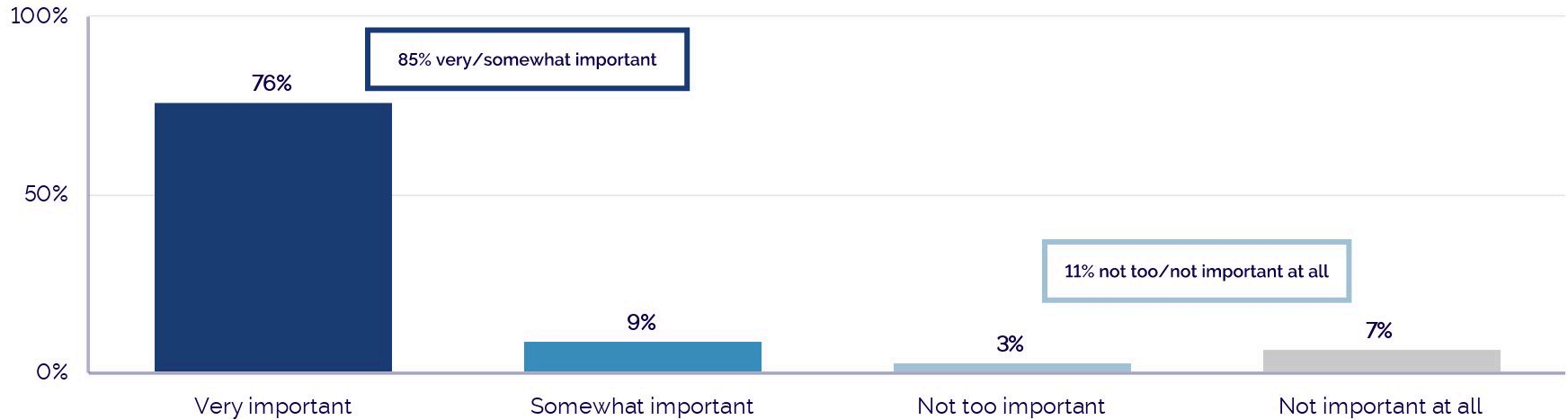
Ballot Tracking Importance



26. And do you think it is very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not important at all for election officials in Mississippi to allow voters to track the status of their mail-in ballot in case any issues come up?

Consensus Public Opinion Around Notifying Voter If There is a Problem With Their Mail-In Ballot

Notification of Mail-in-Ballot Issues



27. And do you think it is very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not important at all for election officials in Mississippi to immediately notify voters if there is a problem with their submitted mail-in ballot, such as if they forgot to sign their ballot, so the voter has an opportunity to correct it.

Online and Same-Day Voter Registration Generally Supported by Mississippi Electorate; Majority Also Supports Removing Registration Deadlines

Voter Registration Reforms - % Total Support

63%

Allow verified eligible voters to register to vote online

27% support 1st rank

61%

Allow verified eligible voters to register to vote on Election Day.

17% support 1st rank

56%

Remove all voter registration deadlines, allowing verified eligible voters to register to vote any day up to and on Election Day.

20% support 1st rank

39%

Allow verified eligible voters to register to vote online, even if they do not have DMV - issued ID.

10% support 1st rank

61% total oppose

28. Switching gears a bit, below are several reforms related to voter registration in Mississippi. By dragging the reforms to the "support" or "oppose" box, please indicate which ones you support and which ones you oppose. Then, by dragging the reforms up and down within each box, please indicate which ones you support the MOST and which ones you oppose the MOST.

Fiscal Policy and the Economy

Economic and Fiscal Key Findings: Coronavirus and the Economy

Mississippi

- Mississippians express more concern about the pandemic's impact on health and safety (54 percent) than they do about the impact on jobs and income (38 percent).
- Furthermore, a majority of Mississippi voters believe businesses should be required to provide safe working environments and be held liable if they do not (52 percent), while just 30 percent of voters believe businesses should be protected from liability if an employee gets sick on the job.
- Acute concerns about employment and small businesses surface. Nearly 9-in-10 voters express concerns about small business closures in Mississippi (87 percent) and losing work and income (90 percent).

Economic and Fiscal Key Findings: Budget and Revenue

Mississippi

- Mississippi voters want more state investment in services over lower taxes and budget cuts. A majority of voters believe state government in Mississippi should invest more in its residents to ensure they are safe, healthy, and economically secure (55 percent), while just 19 percent of voters believe state government should keep taxes low by cutting funding to education, infrastructure, and unemployment.
- At the same time, Mississippi voters are also concerned about the state of Mississippi losing tax revenues and facing budget cuts in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic (76 percent).
- Mississippians want corporations and the wealthy to pay their fair share, strongly supporting progressive revenue streams such as closing corporate tax loopholes, increasing taxes on companies that pollute, increasing taxes on the wealthiest Mississippians and corporations, and establishing a carbon tax.

Economic and Fiscal Key Findings: Economy and Workplace Policies

Mississippi

- Nearly seven-in-ten Mississippi voters believe state government should have a role in addressing systematic racism (68 percent), and a solid majority of voters believe state government should address economic barriers faced by Black people and the Black community (58 percent).
- Mississippians want state government to play a role in making pay equity a reality, with 84 percent of voters believing state government should play a "major" or "some" role in ensuring equal pay for equal work.
- Mississippi voters also solidly support extending the length of time that laid-off workers can receive unemployment compensation and increasing the amount they receive (65 percent).
- Most voters also see a role for government in workplace policies such as ensuring access to affordable childcare (74 percent major or some role) and ensuring workers have access to paid sick days and family leave (77 percent major or some role).
- It follows that workplace policies resonate strongly with the Mississippi electorate -- 88 percent of voters support creating an insurance plan to provide aid family and medical leave for employees, 83 percent of voters support paid sick requirements, and 73 percent support eliminating tax breaks for corporations that don't offer paid sick and family leave to their employees.

Economic and Fiscal Key Findings: Health Policy

Mississippi

- We find that policies relating to health care and health insurance during the coronavirus pandemic are some of the most resonant economic proposals tested in this survey.
- Near-consensus public opinion emerges around the following policies related to health insurance and health care:
 - *Extending grace periods for people to pay health insurance bills (93 percent support).*
 - *Offering Mississippians public health insurance options (91 percent support).*
 - *Limiting what drug companies can charge for prescription drugs (90 percent support).*
 - *Banning the practice of surprise medical billing (86 percent support).*

Mississippians Want More State Investment, Even if it Means More Taxes

State Investment vs. Tax Cuts



State government in Mississippi should invest more in the state and its residents, ensuring they are safe, healthy, are economically secure, even if it means some people have to contribute a little more in taxes.

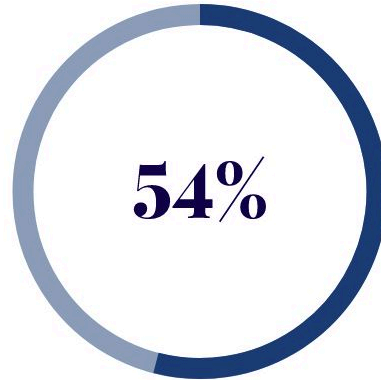


State government in Mississippi should keep taxes low, even if it means cutting funding for education and infrastructure, and cutting unemployment insurance and healthcare coverage.

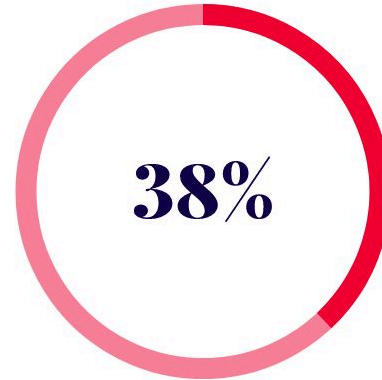
14. And which of these statements comes closer to your own view, even if neither of them is exactly right?

Mississippians More Concerned with the Pandemic's Impact On Health and safety

Health and safety vs. jobs and income



The coronavirus outbreak's impact on health and safety



The coronavirus outbreak's impact on jobs and income.

10.And what would you say concerns you more...

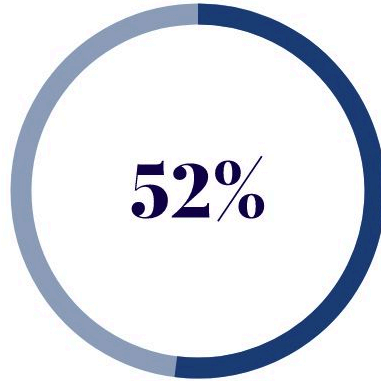
Democrats, Independents, Voters of Color, Women Tend to Side with Health and Safety Argument

Health and Safety vs. Jobs and Income by Key Demographics

	Health and Safety	Jobs and Income	Margin
All voters	54%	38%	+16
ID Democrat	75%	21%	+54
ID independent	50%	40%	+10
ID Republican	37%	51%	-15
White	50%	41%	+10
POC	69%	27%	+42
Men	45%	45%	-
Women	61%	31%	+31

A Majority of Voters Side With Workplace Safety Argument Over Liability Protections for Corporations

Workplace safety requirements vs. liability protections for corporations



Required to provide safe working conditions and should be penalized if workers get sick due to corporate negligence.

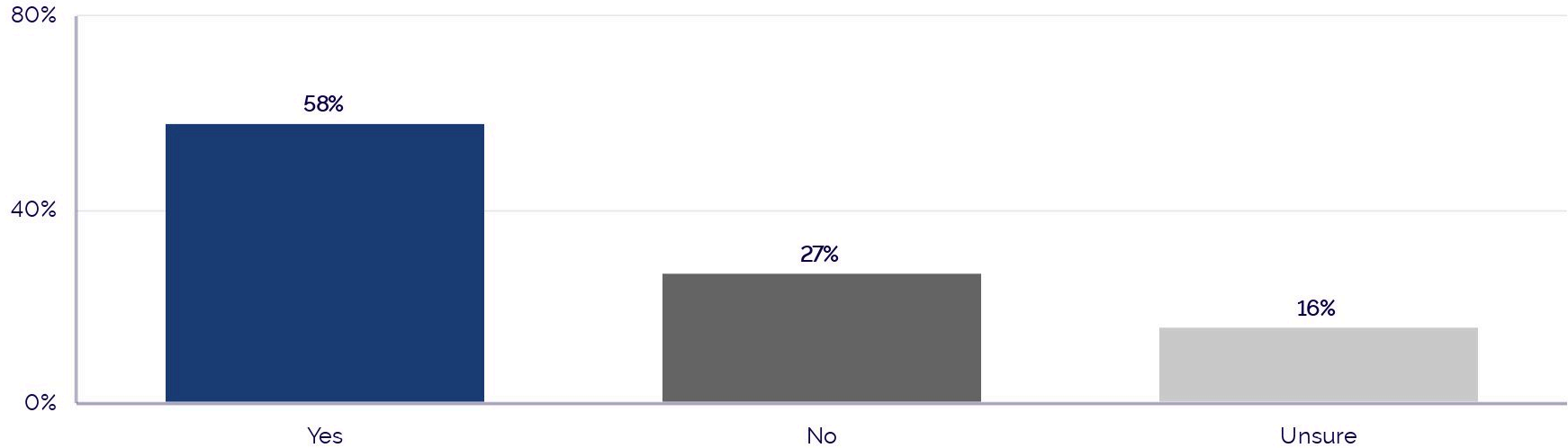


Protected from liability if workers get sick on the job so they can get people back to work.

11. And do you think businesses in Mississippi should be...

Nearly 3-in-5 Mississippians Want State Government To Address Economic Barriers Black People And Communities Face

Address Economic Barriers Faced by Black People and Communities



17. Do you believe the state of Mississippi should address economic barriers faced by Black people and the Black community?

Near Unanimity Behind A Number of Progressive Economic and Health Care Agenda Items

Top Tier Economic Proposals - % Total Support



19. Now, what follows below is a list of proposals being considered by the state legislature in Mississippi in response to the coronavirus outbreak. By dragging the proposals to the "support" or "oppose" box, please indicate which ones you support and which ones you oppose. Then, by dragging the proposals up and down within each box, please indicate which ones you support the MOST and which ones you oppose the MOST.

Paid Sick and Family Leave Policies Also Surface As Top Priorities For Mississippians

Top Tier Economic Proposals - % Total Support

88%

Creating an insurance plan to provide paid family and medical leave for employees to care for a sick family member, bond with a new baby or recover from a major illness or injury.

8% support 1st rank

83%

Requiring workplaces to provide paid sick days to their employees.

7% 1st support rank

73%

Eliminating tax breaks for corporations and large businesses that don't offer paid sick and family leave and health care to their employees.

10% support 1st rank

19. Now, what follows below is a list of proposals being considered by the state legislature in Mississippi in response to the coronavirus outbreak. By dragging the proposals to the "support" or "oppose" box, please indicate which ones you support and which ones you oppose. Then, by dragging the proposals up and down within each box, please indicate which ones you support the MOST and which ones you oppose the MOST.

Out-of-Network Cost Protections, Tax Credit and Medicaid Expansion, Slightly Less Salient But Still Widely Supported Overall

Middle Tier Economic Proposals - % Total Support

82%

Protecting patients from having to pay the costs not covered by their insurance when treated at an out-of-network hospital or by an out-of-network doctor.

7% support 1st rank

75%

Expanding a tax credit to provide extra income to working people with low incomes.

4% support 1st rank

74%

Expanding the number of people who can get healthcare through Medicaid to cover more uninsured people who otherwise can't afford healthcare coverage.

10% support 1st rank

19. Now, what follows below is a list of proposals being considered by the state legislature in Mississippi in response to the coronavirus outbreak. By dragging the proposals to the "support" or "oppose" box, please indicate which ones you support and which ones you oppose. Then, by dragging the proposals up and down within each box, please indicate which ones you support the MOST and which ones you oppose the MOST.

Mississippians Reject Anti-Worker Policies

Bottom Tier Economic Proposals - % Total Oppose

82%

Allowing businesses to stop paying more
for overtime hours.

27% oppose 1st rank

80%

Allowing businesses to pay less than the
minimum wage

31% oppose 1st rank

19. Now, what follows below is a list of proposals being considered by the state legislature in Mississippi in response to the coronavirus outbreak. By dragging the proposals to the "support" or "oppose" box, please indicate which ones you support and which ones you oppose. Then, by dragging the proposals up and down within each box, please indicate which ones you support the MOST and which ones you oppose the MOST.

Nearly 2-in-3 Mississippians Support Extending the Length of Time Laid-Off Workers can Receive Unemployment Benefits

Bottom Tier Economic Proposals - % Total support

65%

Extending the length of time that laid-off workers can receive unemployment compensation and increasing the amount that they receive.

5% support 1st rank

35% total oppose

19. Now, what follows below is a list of proposals being considered by the state legislature in Mississippi in response to the coronavirus outbreak. By dragging the proposals to the "support" or "oppose" box, please indicate which ones you support and which ones you oppose. Then, by dragging the proposals up and down within each box, please indicate which ones you support the MOST and which ones you oppose the MOST.

Voters Across the Board Support Extending Unemployment Benefits; Republicans Only Narrowly Oppose Reform On Net

Extending length of unemployment benefits by key demographics

	Support	Oppose
All voters	65%	35%
ID Democrat	87%	12%
ID independent	61%	40%
ID Republican	45%	55%
Under 50	78%	22%
Over 50	56%	42%
White	55%	42%
POC	85%	12%

Array of Progressive Revenue Raisers Supported by Mississippi Voters

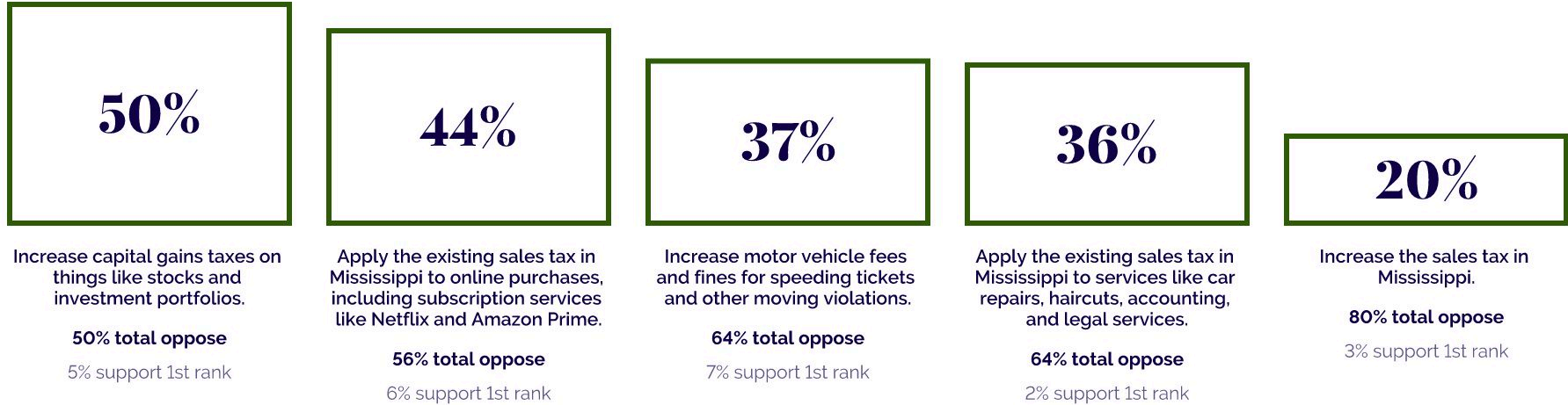
Top Tier Revenue Proposals - % Total Support



20. As you may know, states, counties, and towns across the country are seeing tax receipts and tax revenues fall dramatically due to the coronavirus crisis and economic slowdown. Below are some proposals that are being considered to raise revenue for the state of Mississippi to prevent large budget cuts to things like education, health care, infrastructure, and human services. By dragging the proposals to the "support" or "oppose" box, please indicate which ones you support and which ones you oppose. Then, by dragging the proposals up and down within each box, please indicate which ones you support the MOST and which ones you oppose the MOST.

Increasing Sales Taxes, Capital Gains Taxes, and Motor Vehicle Fees Far Less Popular

Bottom Tier Revenue Proposals - % Total Support

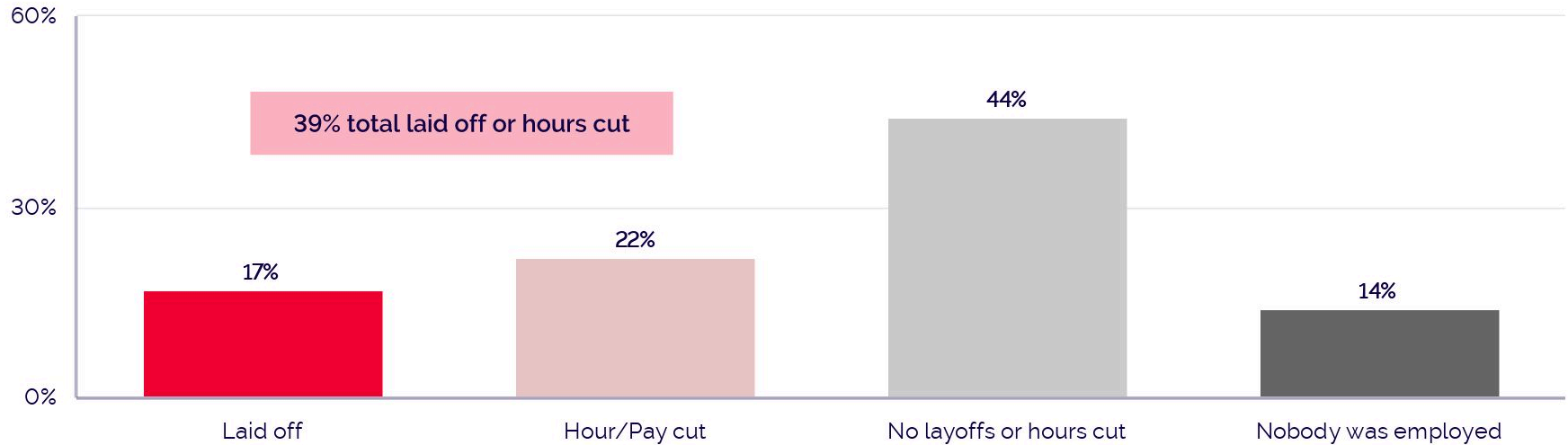


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Coronavirus

Nearly 2-in-5 Mississippi Voters Have Been Laid Off or Had Their Hours or Pay Cut

Coronavirus Impact



8. Have you or any member of your household been laid off, had work hours reduced, or their pay cut as a result of the coronavirus outbreak, or was nobody in your household employed before the outbreak?

Employment and Small Business Closures Surface As Most Salient Coronavirus Concerns

Top Tier Concerns - % total concerned



Q.13 Please indicate if you are very concerned, somewhat concerned, a little concerned, or not concerned at all about each of the following concerns people in Mississippi might have due to the coronavirus outbreak.

Majorities of Mississippi Also Express Concerns About Coronavirus and Voting and the Disproportionate Impact on Black Communities

Second Tier Concerns - % total concerned

70%

The coronavirus outbreak preventing Mississippi citizens from voting in this year's elections.

49% very concerned

64%

The disproportionate impact of the coronavirus on the Black community.

46% very concerned

58%

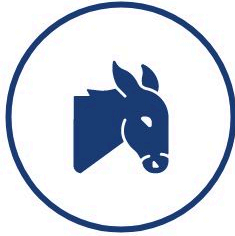
Problems with administering elections in Mississippi, like long lines on Election Day.

37% very concerned

Q.13 Please indicate if you are very concerned, somewhat concerned, a little concerned, or not concerned at all about each of the following concerns people in Mississippi might have due to the coronavirus outbreak.

Concern Around Losing Work and Income Spans Partisan Lines

Top Coronavirus Concerns by Party ID - % total concerned



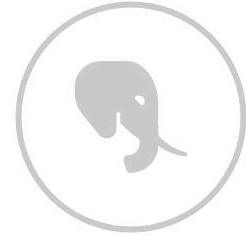
ID Democrat

1. **Losing work and income - 96%**
2. Contracting the virus - 95%
3. Rent and mortgage payments - 93%



ID independent

1. Small business closures - 91%
2. **Losing work and income - 90%**
3. Rent and mortgage payments - 87%



ID Republican

1. Small business closures - 85%
2. **Losing work and income - 83%**
3. Losing tax revenue - 75%

Q.13 Please indicate if you are very concerned, somewhat concerned, a little concerned, or not concerned at all about each of the following concerns people in Mississippi might have due to the coronavirus outbreak.

Recommendations

Democracy and Voting Narrative

- Over 9-in-10 Mississippi voters want state government to play an active role in election administration, and most voters are quite confident in it's ability to do so.
- Voting in-person on Election day remains the most popular voting option for Mississippians. Although voting by mail is less popular, the voting and democracy narrative should be centered on legislators' efforts to ensure safe and secure elections, regardless of how Mississippians vote. This narrative should ensure both safety at in-person polling places and reliability when it comes to voting by mail in attempt to encourage more voters to pursue vote-by-mail as an option.
- When it comes to voting in-person, legislators should focus the narrative around increase safety and sanitation standards at polling places, opening additional polling locations to reduce crowds, and lengthening the early voting window so voters have more time to cast their ballots early in-person.
- On vote by mail, legislators should highlight their efforts to streamline ballot processing, provide prepaid postage for ballots, and improve ballot tracking and notifications about ballot issues.

Fiscal Policy and Economy Narrative

- Mississippians prioritize state investment in core services and they see an array of progressive avenues for raising the revenue to make that happen.
- Voters express strong concerns about losing work and income and small business closures in Mississippi due to the pandemic, and any economic narrative should be cognizant of these realities.
- Legislators should use a narrative that strikes the right balance between prioritizing health and safety and helping working families who are suffering and struggling to make ends meet.
- To do this, we recommend making workplace policies that benefit the employee AND employer a focal point of the narrative. Highlighting legislators' efforts to establish workplace liability during the pandemic, paid sick and paid family leave requirements, and affordable childcare for Mississippians.
- Since health care policy resonates strongly with Mississippians, we recommend making this part of the fiscal and economic narrative as well. Particularly highlighting policies that aim to extend grace periods for paying insurance bills, limit what drug companies can charge for prescriptions, offer public health insurance plans, and ban surprise medical billing.

Questions?