

# State Innovation Exchange

Multi-State Poll - Tennessee Findings  
July 2020



# Survey Methodology

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TargetSmart designed and administered this multimodal survey. Two-hundred and sixteen interviews were conducted online among panelists who were matched to the TargetSmart voter file (227 weighted) and 286 interviews were conducted online using text-to-web and email-to-web (53 email, 233 SMS) solicits from the TargetSmart voter file (273 weighted). In total, the survey reached 502 adults (500 weighted), age 18 or older, who are registered to vote in Tennessee. Quotas were designed to reflect the demographic and geographic distribution of registered voters in Tennessee. The data were weighted by gender, age, race on 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 +/- 4.4%. 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

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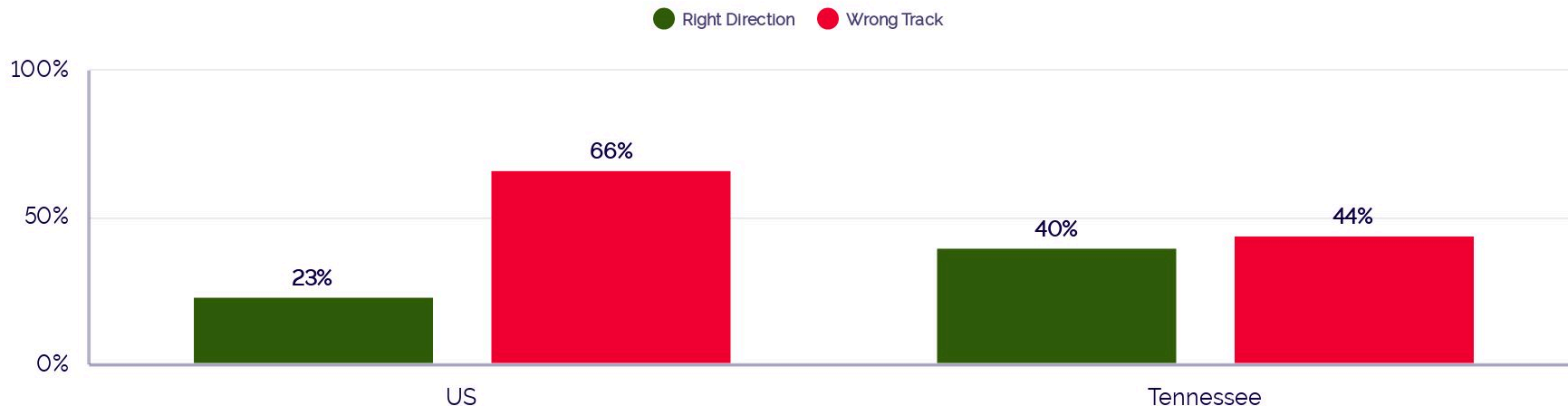
## Tennessee

- Tennessee voters are highly pessimistic about the direction of the U.S. (23 percent right direction, 66 percent wrong track), however they are more mixed about the direction of the state (40 percent right direction, 44 percent wrong track).
- The coronavirus surfaces as a top issue priority for Tennesseans, with 31 percent citing it as the most important facing the state. Public opinion on the state of the pandemic is quite pessimistic, as 53 percent of voters believe the worst is still yet to come.
- A majority of Tennessee voters indicate their feelings about how Black people and Black communities are treated in America have changed over the last month in light of recent events (51 percent).



# Tennessee Voters Very Pessimistic About the Direction of the U.S.; Divided on Direction of the State

Direction of the US and Tennessee

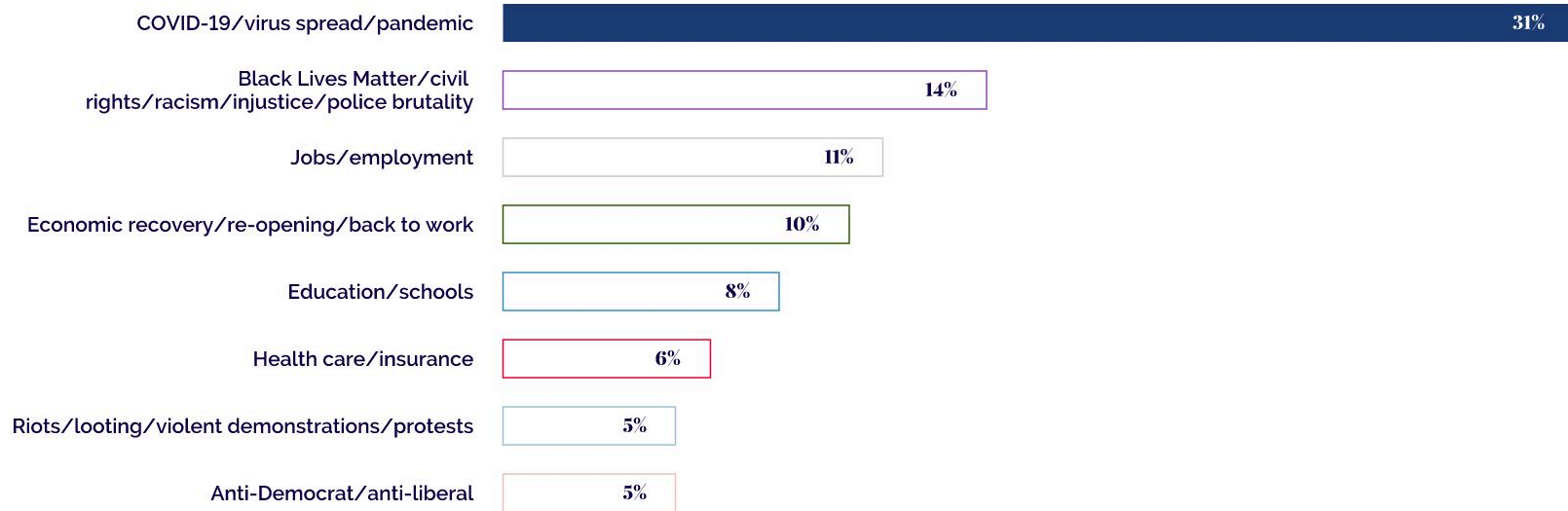


5. Generally speaking, do you think that things in the United States are going in the right direction, or do you feel things have gotten pretty seriously off on the wrong track?

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

# Coronavirus Pandemic Surfaces as a Clear Priority for Tennessee Voters

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

# Concern Around Coronavirus Pandemic Spans Party Lines

Issue priorities by Party ID



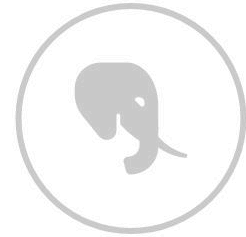
## ID Democrat

1. Coronavirus pandemic - 36%
2. Black Lives Matter - 20%
3. Health care/insurance - 9%



## ID independent

1. Coronavirus pandemic - 31%
2. Education/schools - 14%
3. Jobs/employment - 11%

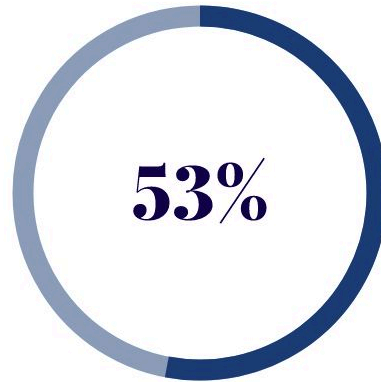


## ID Republican

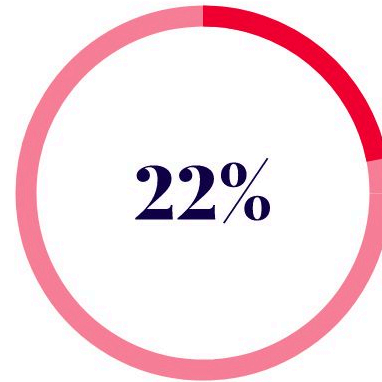
1. Coronavirus pandemic - 29%
2. Jobs/unemployment - 13%
3. Economic recovery - 12%

# A Majority of Tennesseans 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.

9. Do you believe....

# Democrats, Independents, Women, and Younger Voters Most Likely to Believe the Worst is Yet to Come

State of Pandemic by Key Demographics

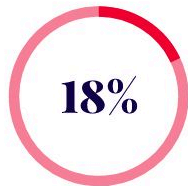
	Worst is yet to come	Worst is over
All voters	53%	22%
ID Democrat	<b>78%</b>	5%
ID independent	56%	21%
ID Republican	33%	36%
Men	46%	34%
Women	<b>59%</b>	12%
Under 50	<b>61%</b>	18%
Over 50	47%	25%

# By a 3:1 Margin, Tennesseans Want More State Investment, Even if Means More Taxes

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State government in Tennessee 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 Tennessee 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?

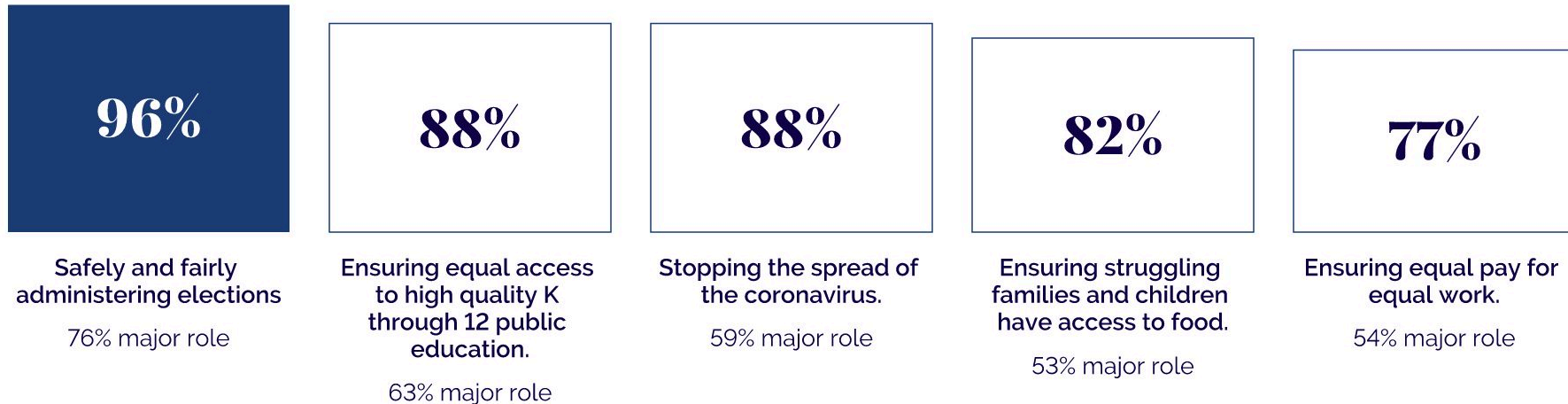
# Voters Across the Board Prefer State Investment; Republicans More Divided but Support Investment On Net

Investment vs. Taxes by Key Demographics

	Invest more	Lower Taxes	Margin
All voters	58%	18%	+40
ID Democrat	84%	6%	+78
ID independent	59%	16%	+43
ID Republican	37%	28%	+9
Men	49%	27%	+23
Women	64%	11%	+54
Under 50	65%	14%	+52
Over 50	52%	22%	+30

# Tennessee Voters Want State Government to Play a Major Role in Election Administration; Education and Coronavirus Fall Closely Behind

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



15. Please indicate whether you think state government in Tennessee 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 in Health Care, Affordable Housing, Paid Leave, Childcare, and Addressing Racism

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



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

# Democrats, Independents, Women Most Likely to See a Role for State Government in Ensuring Workers Have Access to Paid Sick and Family Leave

*Ensuring workers have access to paid sick days and paid family leave* - by Key Demographics

	Some/Major Role	Minor/No Real Role
All voters	69%	29%
ID Democrat	95%	4%
ID independent	63%	32%
ID Republican	55%	44%
Men	58%	42%
Women	78%	18%

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

Feelings about Black People and Communities



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

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## Tennessee

- Public opinion is unanimous when it comes to state government's role in election administration -- 96 percent of voters believe state government should have a “major” or “some” role in safely and fairly administering elections.
- Voting early in-person emerges as the most popular voting option for voters in Tennessee (46 percent). Voting in-person on Election Day is also quite popular (37 percent), while voting by mail is the least popular option (15 percent).
- Tennessee voters are split on whether systematic racism in the voting system has prevented Black people and communities from participating in our democracy, but over 6-in-10 voters want state government to reduce barriers that stop Black people from voting.

# Democracy Key Findings: Voting Reforms

## Tennessee

- Tennesseans strongly support and highly prioritize voting early in person. Nearly 9-in-10 voters support lengthening the early voting window and letting voters cast a ballot in-person up through the day before Election Day (88 percent).
- Although voting by mail is the least popular voting option for Tennesseans, voters still strongly support policies intended to make the vote-by-mail process more efficient and streamlined.
- Two-in-three voters support allowing any registered Tennessee voter to vote-by-mail (66 percent), and 52 percent of voters support mailing all registered Tennessee voters applications to vote-by-mail.
- What's more, Tennessee voters are broadly supportive of reforms to make processing mail-in ballots easier. Over 6-in-10 voters support counting mail-in ballots postmarked by and received after Election Day (62 percent).

# Democracy Key Findings: Coronavirus and Voting

## Tennessee

- Most voters in Tennessee plan to vote in-person, whether it be early or on Election Day, so it follows that they strongly agree with measures to increase safety and sanitary standards at polling places.
- Ninety-two percent of voters agree that poll workers should be provided with PPE like masks and gloves, and 89 percent of voters agree that polling locations should conform with CDC guidelines.
- What's more, over 8-in-10 voters support opening additional polling locations to reduce crowds and lines (84 percent).
- Voters also oppose consolidating polling places in anticipation of poll worker shortages (69 percent oppose).

# Democracy Key Findings: Voting Security

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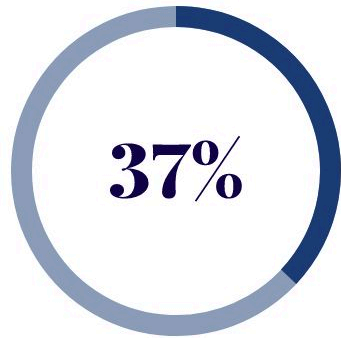
## Tennessee

- Although voting by mail is not the most popular option for Tennessee voters, voters here still place a high importance on voting security as it relates to voting by mail.
- Nearly 9-in-10 voters believe ballot tracking for mail-in ballots is important (87 percent), with 62 percent of voters believing this to be very important.
- Likewise, 89 percent of voters believe it is important for election officials to notify voters if there is a problem with their submitted mail-in ballot, and 76 percent of voters find this to be very important.

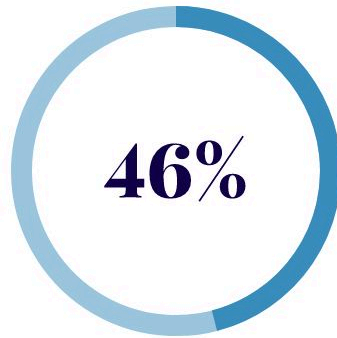


# A Plurality of Voters Plan on Voting Early In-Person; Voting In-Person on Election Day Also Quite Popular

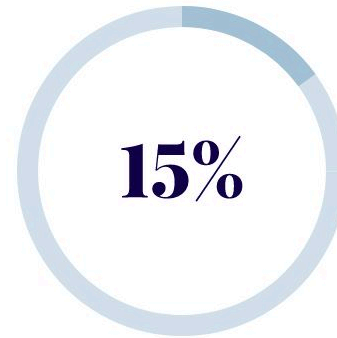
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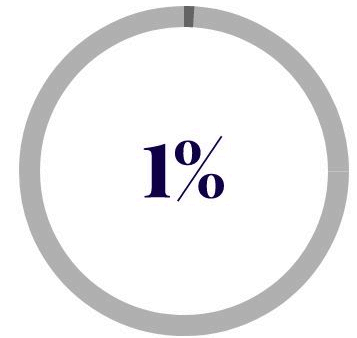
In-person at my local  
polling place on Election  
Day



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?

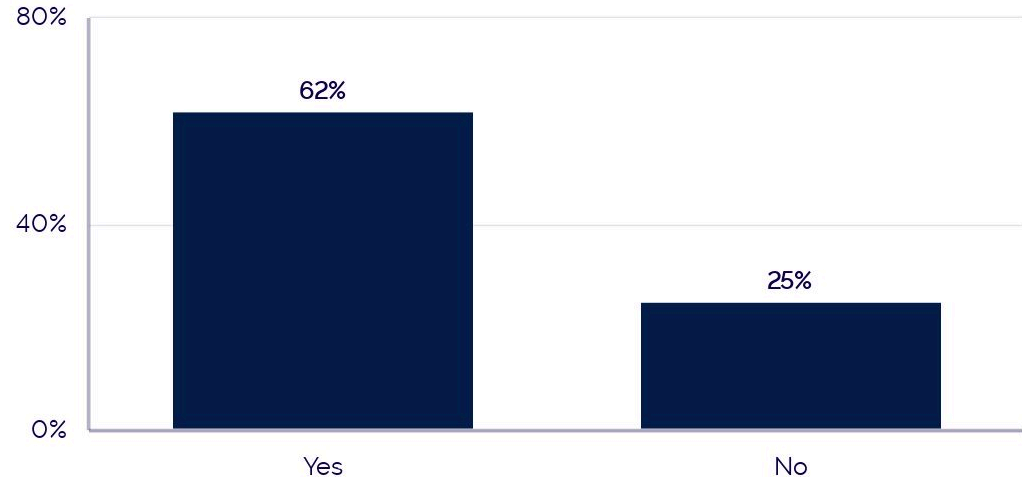
# Voters Split on Systemic Racism as a Barrier to Voting But Want Barriers that Prevent Black People from Voting Removed

**45% of Tennessee 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."*

46% disagree with this statement.

Reduce Barriers That Stop Black People From Voting



18. Do you believe the state of Tennessee 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.

# Near Unanimous Support for Increased Safety Standards at Polling Places

Voting Reforms - % total agree

92%

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

74% strongly agree

89%

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

67% 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.

# Two-in-Five Voters Do Not Have Enough Information to Take Advantage of Alternatives to In-Person Voting on Election Day

Voting Reforms - % total agree



40%

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

16% 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.

# Voters of Color Less Likely to Have Information About Alternatives to Voting In-Person on Election Day

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

	Agree	Disagree
All voters	40%	48%
ID Democrat	48%	42%
ID independent	44%	44%
ID Republican	43%	56%
White	39%	50%
Black	46%	36%
Total POC	47%	37%
Men	37%	51%
Women	42%	46%

# Reforms to Make Voting More Accessible During the Pandemic are Broadly Popular

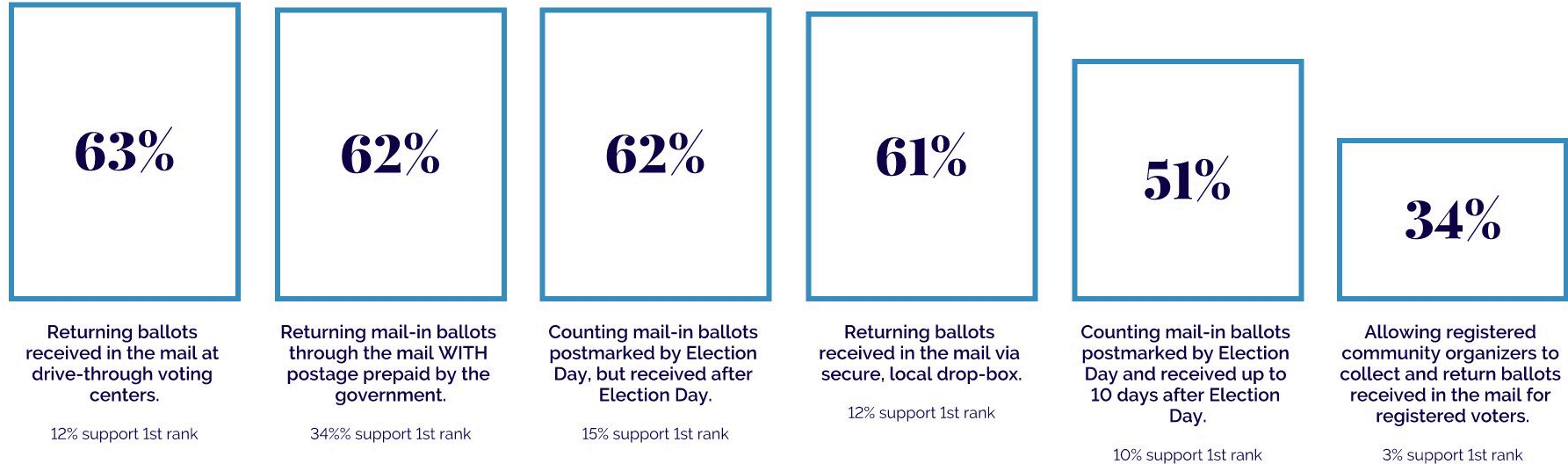
Voting Method Reforms - % Total Support



23. Switching gears a bit, below are several reforms related to voting in Tennessee. 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 Popular

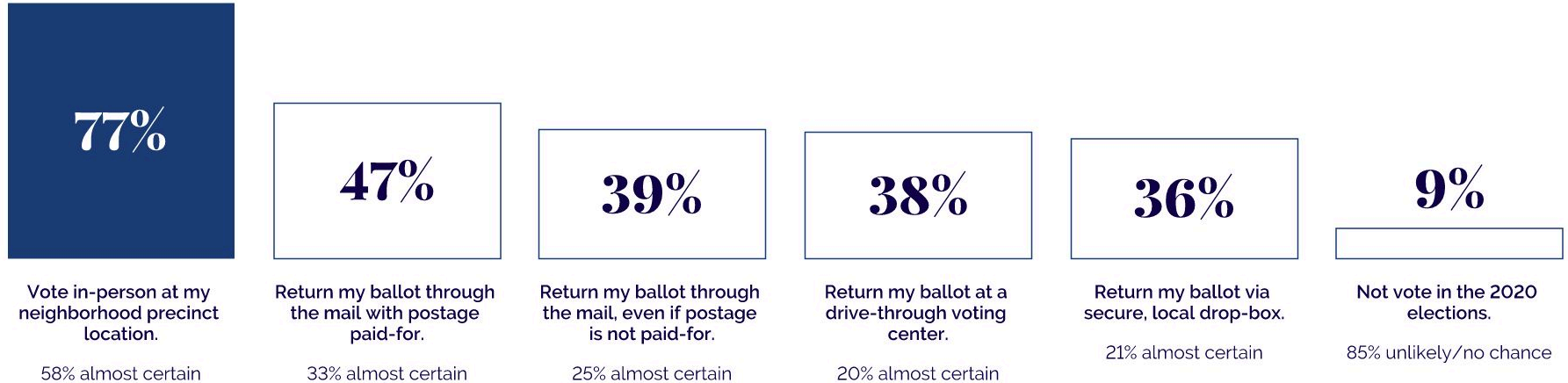
Ballot Return Reforms - % Total Support



24. And to help citizens vote safely during the coronavirus outbreak, elections officials in Tennessee 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.

# Tennesseans Likely to Vote in Person; Prepaid Postage Increases Likelihood of Voting by Mail

Ballot Return Methods - % Almost certain/Good chance

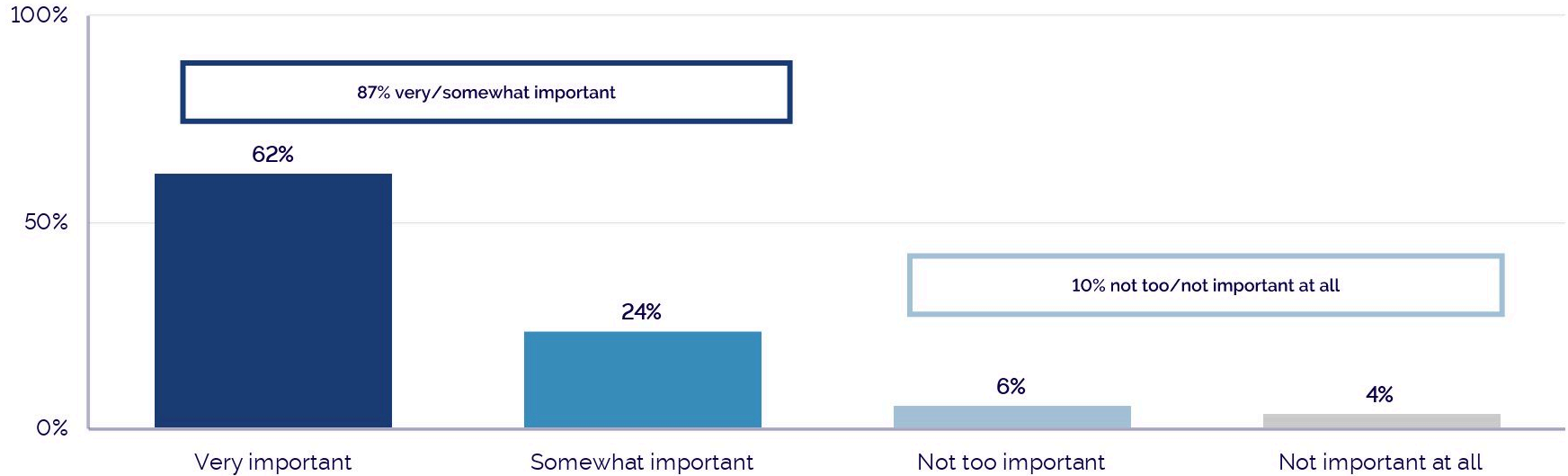


25. And assuming each of the following were available to you in Tennessee, how likely would you be to use each of these options for casting your vote or returning your ballot in the upcoming election?



# Ballot Tracking Important to nearly 9-in-10 Tennessee Voters

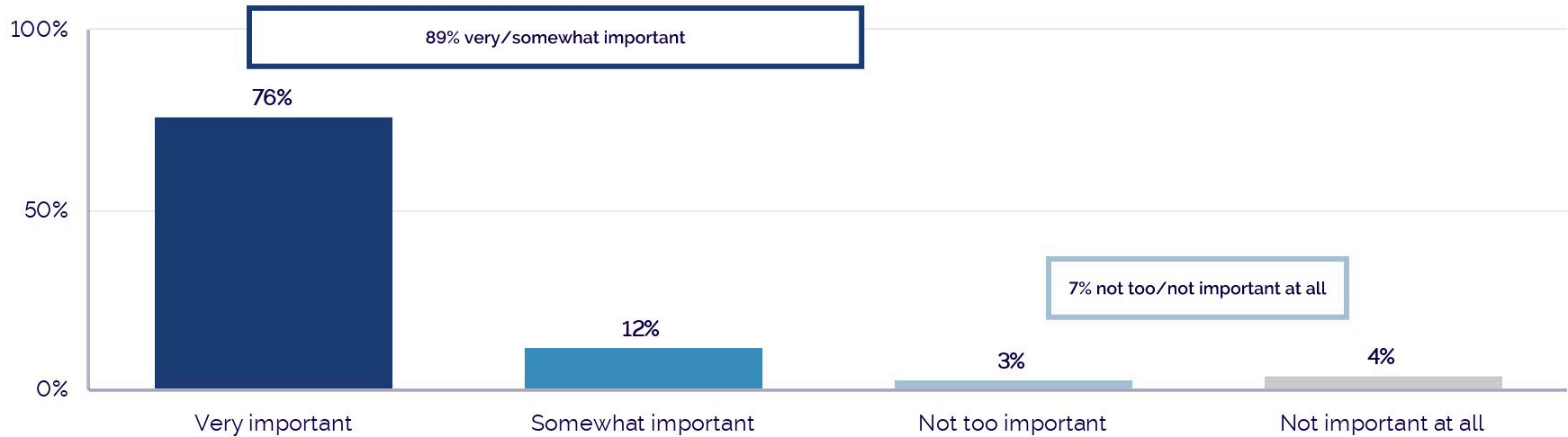
## Ballot Tracking Importance



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

# Consensus Public Opinion Around Notifying Voters if there is a Problem with their Mail-In Ballot

## Ballot Curing Importance



27. And do you think it is very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not important at all for election officials in Tennessee 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 Highly Supported by Tennessee Electorate

Voter Registration Reforms - % Total Support



28. Switching gears a bit, below are several reforms related to voter registration in Tennessee. 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.

# **Economy and Revenue**

# Economic and Fiscal Key Findings: Coronavirus and the Economy

## Tennessee

- On the margin, Tennessee voters express more concern about health and safety (52 percent) than they do about jobs and income (43 percent).
- Tennesseans tend to believe businesses should be required to provide safe working environments and be held liable if they do not (52 percent). Fewer than 1-in-3 voters believe businesses should be protected from liability if an employee gets sick on the job (30 percent).
- Tennessee voters express strong concerns around employment and business closures in Tennessee. Nearly 9-in-10 voters are concerned about Tennesseans losing work and income (88 percent) and 85 percent of voters are concerned about small business and restaurant closures.

# Economic and Fiscal Key Findings: Budget and Revenue

## Tennessee

- Voters in Tennessee want more state investment in core services, even if it means they have to pay more in taxes.
- By a 3:1 margin, Tennessee voters believe state government should invest more in its residents to ensure they are safe, healthy, and economically secure (58 percent), over state government keeping taxes low and cutting funding to services like education, infrastructure, and unemployment (18 percent).
- Furthermore, 7-in-10 voters express concern about the state of Tennessee losing tax revenues and facing budget cut in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic (71 percent).
- Voters are also open to making corporations and the wealthy pay their fair share. The electorate is broadly supportive of progressive revenue streams, such as closing corporate tax loopholes, increasing taxes on companies that pollute the state's water, and increasing taxes on the wealthiest Tennesseans and businesses.

# Economic and Fiscal Key Findings: Economy and Workplace Policies

## Tennessee

- A majority of voters believe state government should have a role in addressing economic barriers faced by Black people and the Black community (54 percent).
- Likewise, voters here also see a role for state government making pay equity a reality, as 77 percent of voters want state government to play a role in ensuring equal pay for equal work.
- Tennessee voters also broadly support extending the length of time laid-off workers can receive unemployment compensation and increasing the amount they receive (59 percent).
- Furthermore, Tennesseans see a role for state government promoting pro-worker policies, such as ensuring access to paid sick and family leave (69 percent) and access to affordable child care (69 percent).
- It follows that 84 percent of voters support creating an insurance plan to provide paid leave for employees, 81 percent of voters support paid leave requirements for employers, and 72 percent support eliminating tax breaks for corporations that do not provide paid sick and family leave.

# Economic and Fiscal Key Findings: Health Policy

## Tennessee

- Policies relating to affordable health care and insurance during the pandemic surface as some of the most resonant economic proposals tested in this poll.
- Near-consensus public opinion emerges around the following policies related to health care and insurance:
  - *Banning the practice of surprise medical billing (92 percent support).*
  - *Extending grace periods for people to pay health insurance bills (92 percent support).*
  - *Offering a public health insurance options for Tennesseans (91 percent support)*
  - *Limiting what drug companies can charge for prescriptions (89 percent support)*

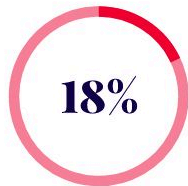


# By a 3:1 Margin, Tennesseans Want More State Investment, Even if Means More Taxes

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

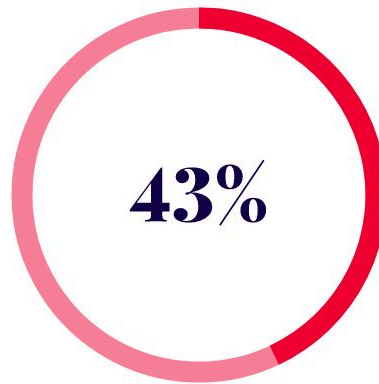
14. And which of these statements comes closer to your own view, even if neither of them is exactly right?

# Tennesseans Narrowly Express More Concern About the Pandemic's Impact on Health and Safety Than They Do About Jobs and Income

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...

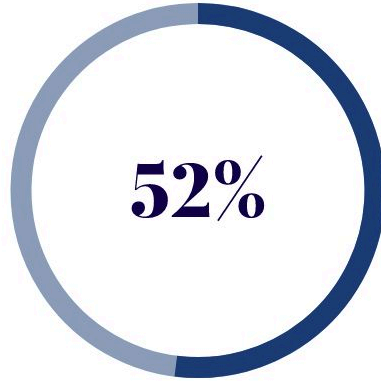
# Democrats and Younger Women Most Likely to Be More Concerned About Health and Safety

Health and Safety vs. Jobs and Income by Key Demographics

	Health and Safety	Jobs and Income	Margin
All voters	52%	43%	+10
ID Democrat	<b>78%</b>	20%	+58
ID independent	52%	40%	+13
ID Republican	35%	61%	-26
Men under 50	39%	57%	-18
Men over 50	47%	48%	-2
Women under 50	<b>64%</b>	34%	+30
Women over 50	56%	37%	+20

# 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.

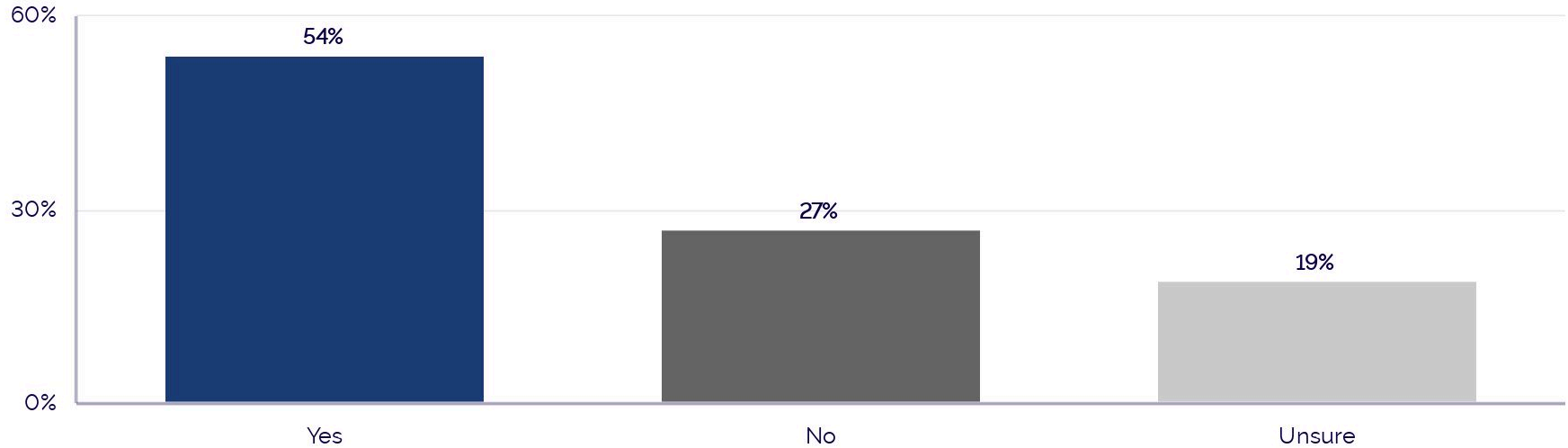


Protected from liability if workers get sick on the job so they can get people back to work.

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

# A Majority of Tennesseans Want State Government To Address Economic Barriers Black People And Communities Face

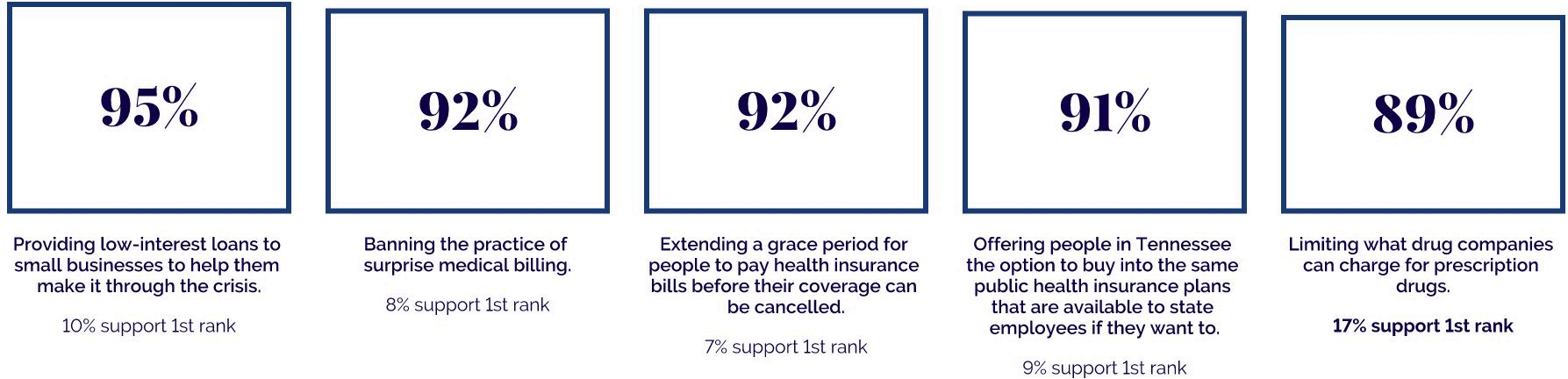
Address Economic Barriers Faced by Black People and Communities



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

# Consensus Agenda Around Small Business Loans and Health Care Policies

Top Tier Economic Proposals - % Total Support



19. Now, what follows below is a list of proposals being considered by the state legislature in Tennessee 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 Policy Also Surface as Top Priorities

Middle Tier Economic Proposals - % Total Support

**84%**

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.

5% support 1st rank

**81%**

Requiring workplaces to provide paid sick days to their employees.

11% support 1st rank

**72%**

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

9% 1st rank

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# Voters Across Partisan Spectrum Support Creating an Insurance Plan to Provide Paid Family and Medical Leave for Employees

*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.* - by Key Demographics

	Total Support	Total Oppose
All voters	84%	16%
ID Democrat	95%	6%
ID independent	84%	11%
ID Republican	69%	27%
Men	73%	27%
Women	92%	8%



# Paid Sick Day Requirements Broadly Popular Across Partisan Spectrum

*Requiring workplaces to provide paid sick days to their employees.* - by Key Demographics

	Total Support	Total Oppose
All voters	81%	19%
ID Democrat	96%	4%
ID independent	80%	20%
ID Republican	71%	30%
Men	71%	29%
Women	88%	12%

# Eliminating Tax Breaks for Corporations that Don't Provide Paid Leave Receives Slightly Softer Support, but Still Widely Accepted by Voters

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

	Total Support	Total Oppose
All voters	72%	28%
ID Democrat	81%	19%
ID independent	78%	25%
ID Republican	63%	37%
Men	64%	36%
Women	79%	21%

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

Bottom Tier Economic Proposals - % Total Support

74%

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.

3% support 1st rank

74%

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

5% support 1st rank

72%

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

8% support 1st rank

19. Now, what follows below is a list of proposals being considered by the state legislature in Tennessee 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.

# Tennesseans Reject Anti-Worker Policies

Bottom Tier Economic Proposals - % Total Oppose

**88%**

**Allowing businesses to stop  
paying more for overtime hours.**

40% oppose 1st rank

**85%**

**Allowing businesses to pay less  
than the minimum wage**

23% oppose 1st rank

19. Now, what follows below is a list of proposals being considered by the state legislature in Tennessee 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.

# A Majority of Tennessee Voters Support Extending the Length of Time Laid-Off Workers Can Receive Unemployment Benefits

Bottom Tier Economic Proposals - % Total Support

**59%**

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

4% support 1st rank

42% total oppose

19. Now, what follows below is a list of proposals being considered by the state legislature in Tennessee 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.

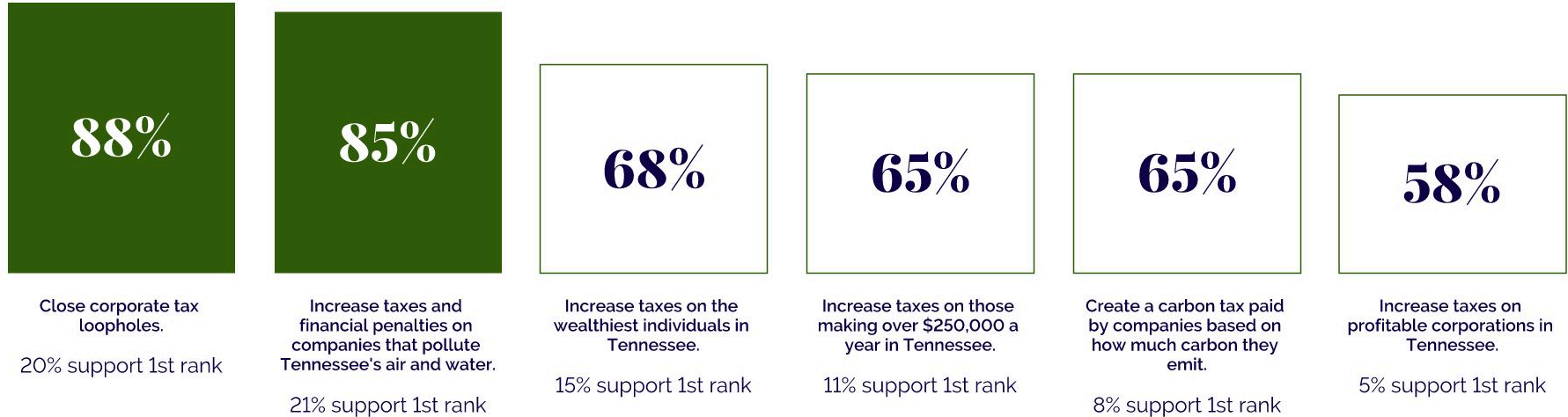
# Democrats and Younger Voters Most Supportive of Extending Unemployment Benefits

Extending length of unemployment benefits by key demographics

	Support	Oppose
All voters	59%	42%
ID Democrat	78%	22%
ID independent	53%	47%
ID Republican	48%	52%
Under 50	65%	47%
Over 50	53%	38%
College grad	60%	40%
Non-college	57%	43%

# Array of Revenue Raisers Supported by Tennessee Electorate

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 Tennessee 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 Capital Gains Tax, Motor Vehicle Fees, Sales Taxes Far Less Popular

Bottom Tier Economic Proposals - % Total Support



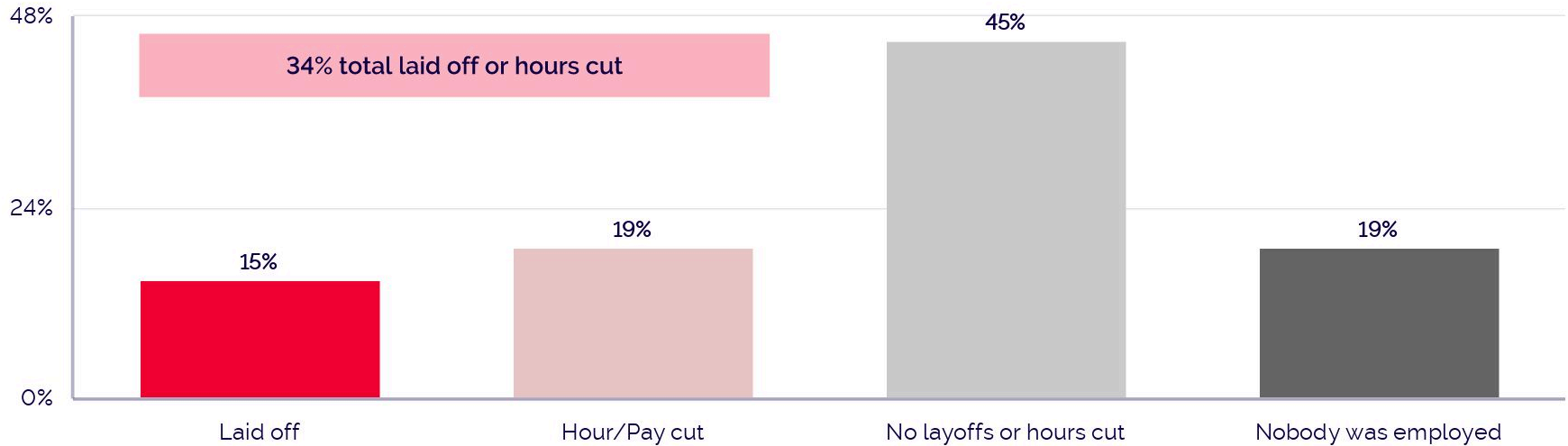
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# Coronavirus

# Roughly 1-in-3 Tennessee Voters Have Been Laid Off or Had Their Hours or Pay Cut

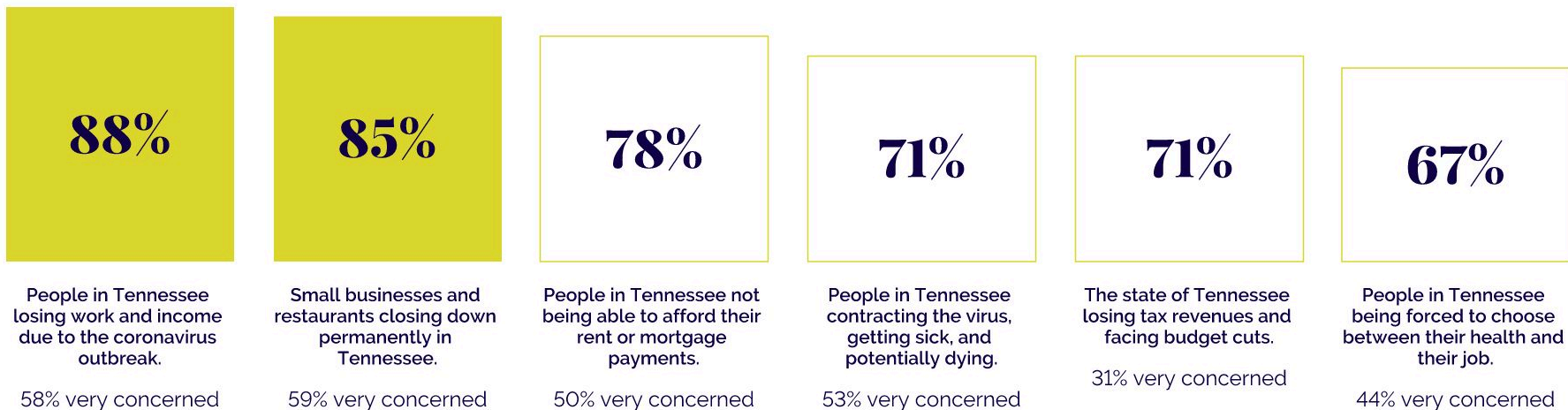
## Coronavirus Impact



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 Tennessee might have due to the coronavirus outbreak.

# Majorities Also Concerned with the Pandemic's Impact on Voting and Disproportionate Impacts on Black Communities

Second Tier Concerns - % total concerned

**62%**

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

37% very concerned

**55%**

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

27% very concerned

**52%**

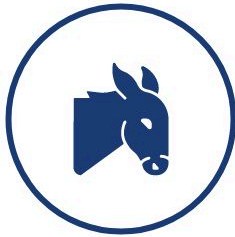
The disproportionate impact of the coronavirus on the Black community.

34% 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 Tennessee might have due to the coronavirus outbreak.

# Concerns About Losing Work and Income Cross Partisan Lines

Top Coronavirus Concerns by Party ID - % total concerned



## ID Democrat

1. Losing work and income - 95%
2. Health vs. job - 94%
3. Rent and mortgage payments - 92%



## ID independent

1. Small business closures - 83%
2. Losing work and income - 82%
3. Rent and mortgage payments - 80%



## ID Republican

1. Small business closures - 87%
2. Losing work and income - 86%
3. Losing tax revenue - 68%

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

# Recommendations

# Democracy and Voting Narrative

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- Tennesseans want state government to play an active role in election administration, and most are confident in its ability to do so.
- The narrative should be centered on legislators' efforts to ensure safe and secure elections, whether Tennesseans vote in person or by mail.
- Voting early in-person emerges as the most popular voting method for November's elections, and voting in-person on Election Day is a close second. Legislators should highlight their efforts to ensure safe and sanitary in-person polling sites and open additional polling places to reduce crowds and long lines.
- Although vote-by-mail is a less popular option, legislators should still highlight their efforts to make the process more secure and efficient. Process improvements, ballot tracking, and notifications about ballot issues are all broadly popular among the Tennessee electorate.

# Fiscal Policy and Economy Narrative

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- Generally, Tennessee voters want more state investment in services, and they see progressive avenues for raising the revenue to make that happen.
- Concerns around unemployment and business closures loom large. We recommend centering a balanced response to the coronavirus that prioritizes the tools necessary to slow the spread of infection so that businesses can re-open safely and people can go back to work safely.
- Workplace policies should be the focal point of the fiscal policy and economic narrative: workplace liability, paid sick leave, paid family leave, and affordable child care are highly popular policies that benefit both the employee AND employer - legislators should highlight their consistent efforts to push these policies.
- Health care policy is a clear opportunity to engage. Policies that make health care more affordable during the coronavirus pandemic are strongly supported by the electorate, particularly reforms that limit what drug companies can charge for prescriptions, offer public health insurance plans, extend grace periods to pay medical bills, and end surprise medical billing,



**Questions?**