



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**GOV DUCEY AND LEGISLATURE GETTING BAD GRADES WITH VOTERS. WHOPPING DISAPPROVAL OVER NEW TAX GIVEAWAYS FOR THE WEALTHY. STRONG SUPPORT FOR PROP 208 – INVEST IN ED AND EDUCATION FUNDING.**

*New Arizona public opinion poll shows sharp disapproval of Ducey and Legislature at the end of 2021. Education remains a top issue and voters show emphatic support for additional education funding. There is unmistakable opposition to new tax giveaways for the wealthy and efforts to overturn Prop 208 – Invest in Ed.*

(Phoenix, AZ) -- Today, Stand for Children Arizona released their 2021 Annual Poll. The new public opinion survey reveals that a majority of Arizonans believe the state is headed in the wrong direction and have continued their low approval ratings for the Governor and the legislature from last year. This poll is also significant because it delivers five years of data on some questions.

**Voters are not happy with the direction of the state, or state policy makers**

- *52% of voters believe things in Arizona are on the wrong track.* This has held steady from last year and is up 20% since 2019. Similarly, only 33% of voters believe the state is on the right track, down from its highest point of 50% in 2018. Going even further back, in 2016 48% believed the state was heading in the right direction and only 34% believed the state was on the wrong track. (Slide 4)
- *52% of voters have a total unfavorable impression of Gov Ducey, with 33% saying “very unfavorable.”* (Slide 5)
- *50% of voters have an unfavorable view of the AZ legislature, up from 48% last year* (Slide 5)
- *Arizona voters give Gov Ducey a failing grade when it comes to helping Arizona’s public schools, 43% give him a “D or Fail”.* This is way up from 31% in 2019. (Slide 7)
- *Arizona voters give the legislature a failing grade when it comes to helping Arizona’s public schools, 47% give a “D or Fail”.* This is up from 41% in 2019. (Slide 8)

**At the same time voters give these sinking favorability ratings, they intend to hold policy makers accountable for key policy decisions affecting education funding.**

- *46% of voters say they would be less likely to vote for a candidate for state office who was part or supported the efforts to overturn Prop 208 – Invest in ED.* (Slide 11)
- *In order to stop the citizen referral Prop 307, legislators are considering a legislative gimmick known as “repeal and replace” that would basically block voters from voting on the referral, ensuring the tax cut for the wealthy stays in place. 55% of voters say that they would be less likely to vote for a candidate for state office who was part of or supported efforts by the legislature to “repeal and replace.”* (Slide 12)

#### **Voters continue to strongly support education funding.**

- *71% of Arizona voters believe there is a need for additional funds for public schools, with 48% saying that there is a “great need.” This overwhelming support has held steady since last year. Only 24% say there is not much need.* (Slide 9)
- *67% of voters believe the state spending cap on education funding needs to be addressed. 37% of voters say they support increasing the spending limit on education, while 30% say they would support permanently removing the spending limit on education. This includes 76% of rural voters supporting an increase/removal on the spending limit and 52% of Republican voters supporting the increase/removal of the spending limit on education.* (Slides 14 & 15)
- *60% of voters say that “Politicians shouldn’t be allowed to overturn voter-approved education funding just because they don’t like the results of the election,” is a convincing reason to oppose efforts to “repeal and replace” SB 1828 – the tax giveaway for the wealthy.* (Slide 13)
- *61% of voters say that “The fate of Prop 208 should be decided by the 1.7 million voters who passed it, not 48 politicians in Phoenix,” is a convincing reason to oppose efforts to “repeal and replace” SB 1828 – the tax giveaway for the wealthy.* (Slide 13)

#### **Politicians who oppose increased education funding are in jeopardy. Voters are watching their elected officials and strongly dislike candidates that oppose education funding.**

- *59% of voters find that “Legislators must be held accountable in next November’s election for undermining the will of the voters,” is a convincing reason to oppose efforts to “repeal and replace” SB 1828 – the tax giveaway for the wealthy.* (Slide 13)
- *61% of voters say that “The Legislature shouldn’t try any dishonest gimmicks to push through their tax cut for the wealthy – they should let the voters decide in November” is a convincing reason to oppose efforts to “repeal and replace” SB 1828 – the tax giveaway for the wealthy.* (Slide 13)

Rebecca Gau, Executive Director of Stand for Children Arizona, highlights the implications of the poll results, “The last year and a half has given all of us an opportunity to reflect on how strongly 48 politicians at the capitol oppose education funding, and what that means to voters. Voters want politicians to fulfil their commitment to students and teachers.”

“Arizonans have spoken and will not give in to any attempts to cut funding to our schools. In fact, voters feel quite the opposite.” Gau says that there will be new efforts to restore education funding and fix the education funding cap.

The survey was conducted December 1-4, 2021, by Moore Information Group. Poll results are attached.

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*Stand for Children Arizona is a non-profit education advocacy organization focused on ensuring all students receive a high quality, relevant education, especially those whose boundless potential is overlooked and under-tapped because of their skin color, zip code, first language, or disability.*