



Arizona Voters' Top Priorities



Education

Survey Research on the Election Priorities of Likely Arizona Voters

Center for the Future of Arizona (CFA) and **Education Forward Arizona** recently conducted surveys of likely voters in the 2022 General Election to determine what voters believe are the top issues facing the state and what they want candidates to address as they campaign for their votes. The results demonstrate overwhelming support among all political parties and age groups for important education issues, including increasing education funding, expanding secondary education opportunities, and improving education outcomes.

Key Findings

Voters Want Positions and Plans

- Arizona voters across party lines prioritize positions and plans for selecting a candidate: 38% name “position on the issues” and another 27% name “has clear plans or solutions” as their top criteria, well ahead of “ideology” (12%) and “party registration” (10%).

Education Remains a Top Priority Among Arizona Voters

- Of all the topics tested, voters identified education among the top three for both “most important issue facing the state” and “most important issue for candidates to discuss.”
- Two of the top five highest supported policy issues in CFA's Arizona Voters' Agenda survey are education-related.
- The current findings are consistent with multiple previous surveys from CFA and Education Forward Arizona.

There is Agreement on Many Issues

- Over a dozen education issues are supported by large majorities of voters, including ensuring schools have quality leaders, improving outcomes in reading and math, improving access to Career and Technical Education, increasing school funding and teacher pay, and increasing attainment, among other topics.

Top Education Priorities of 2022 Likely Voters

To be considered an education priority, an issue must meet all of the following criteria:

- "Strongly Agree/Support" is 50% and above among all likely voters
- **AND**
- Total support (i.e., the sum of "Somewhat Agree/Support" and "Strongly Agree/Support") is 50% and above among every political affiliation and age group



What Didn't Make the List of Priorities?

The surveys covered a wide array of issues and topics, and the following did NOT reach the level of support among likely voters necessary to be considered a priority:

- Banning critical race theory and controversial topics
- Restricting discussions of gender identity and sexual orientation during sex education
- Closing failing schools

What Voters Want Discussed in this Election: Questions for Candidates

When it comes to education, the survey data point to essential questions for moderators, voters, and others to ask candidates as they are competing for votes. Begin with:

1. How will you ensure that every Arizona student has quality teachers and school leaders?
2. How will you address funding for education, including early education, K-12, community colleges, and universities?
3. Are you supportive of providing additional funding to support low-income students in K-12?
4. What should Arizona do to increase teacher pay?
5. What will you do to increase the number of school counselors or these types of services to students across the state?
6. What will you do to help more students be proficient in reading and math?
7. What will you do to increase the number of quality early learning opportunities for 3- and 4-year-olds? Will you support greater PreK options and full-day Kindergarten?
8. What will you do to close achievement gaps to help low-income students and students of color succeed?
9. How will you expand Career and Technical Education opportunities for students?
10. How will you increase the number of Arizonans with a degree or credential in order to meet the state's Achieve60AZ goal?
11. How will you expand college scholarships for low-income students or provide other state-based financial aid?

Additional questions at educationforwardarizona.org/priorities

About the Surveys Conducted

Arizona Voters' Agenda, Center for the Future of Arizona	Arizona Education Priorities, Education Forward Arizona
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identifies top issues likely voters want candidates to address in the campaign – across all ages and political affiliations.• Poll conducted April 12 through 19, 2022. Survey of 500 likely Arizona voters. Margin of Error +/-4.3%.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A deep dive into the education priorities of Arizona voters• Poll conducted May 10-17, 2022. Survey of 500 likely Arizona voters. Margin of Error +/-4.9%