

## NEVADA Statewide Survey <br> 

Key findings from a statewide survey of 500 likely voters in Nevada, with 125 cell phone interviews, conducted February 16-18, 2013.

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## Methodology

Public Opinion Strategies is pleased to present the key findings of a statewide telephone survey conducted in Nevada. The survey was completed February 16-18, 2013, among 500 likely voters, with 125 cell phone interviews, and has a margin of error of $\pm \mathbf{4 . 3 8 \%}$.

Glen Bolger was the principal researcher on this project. Jim Hobart was the project director, and Kyle Clark provided analytical support.

## Voters across party lines support collecting the Amazon tax early.

"Still thinking about taxes, as you may know, Amazon is scheduled to begin collecting sales taxes on online purchases made in Nevada in 2014. Would you favor or oppose the state starting such a requirement on all online retailers six months earlier in order to increase the state and local tax revenues in 2013 by about $\$ 150$ million?"



## Margin Tax

## Nevadans strongly favor the Education Initiative's margin tax.

"Would you favor or oppose a ballot question called the Education Initiative that would create an additional two percent tax, called a margin tax, on all non-gaming businesses whose net revenue exceeds one million dollars, with all tax revenues being used to fund education?"

*Denotes Rounding
RIN Nevada statewide survey - Fehriary 16-18,2013

## Only base GOPers oppose the margin tax.

Education Initiative Ballot by Party


## Voters across all regions back the margin tax.

Education Initiative Ballot by Region


## Older men oppose the initiative, while all other gender/age groups and seniors support it.

Education Initiative Ballot by Gender/Age + Seniors


## Conservatives largely oppose the margin tax, while moderates and liberals strongly support it.

Education Initiative Ballot by Ideology


## Both parents and non-parents support this initiative. Moms/grandmothers strongly back it, while dads/grandfathers are evenly split.

Education Initiative Ballot by Kids/Grandkids


## Nevadans remain divided on the potential impact of the margin tax.

"Still thinking about this proposal, I am going to read you two statements about the proposal. After I read each statement, please tell me which one comes closest to your own opinion..."

| $2 / 12$ | $9 / 12$ | $2 / 13$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $47 \%$ | $45 \%$ | $48 \%$ |
| $48 \%$ | $49 \%$ | $48 \%$ |

> Some people say that this general business tax will generate needed tax revenues to support education and this form of corporate income tax is necessary to improve our schools.
...while...

Other people say that this type of general business tax will increase unemployment, cause already struggling businesses to fail since it applies even to businesses that are not profitable, and harm efforts to attract new businesses to Nevada.

## Base partisans are mirror opposites; Independents believe the margin tax will raise prices and the unemployment rate and will hurt business.



## A majority of voters say they agree with the opponents of the margin tax.

"Continuing to think about the margin tax proposal, I am going to read you what supporters of the margin tax are saying and what opponents of it are saying. After I read each statement, please tell me who you most agree with..." Supporters of the margin tax say that adding a tax on businesses will not increase prices and note that large retail store prices in Nevada are not lower than in other states that already do tax businesses.
...while...

52\%
Opponents of the margin tax say that adding a tax on businesses impacts more than product pricing and that businesses make a number of decisions, including expanding, hiring, and wage decisions, based on their total costs of operations, including taxes and local competition.

## Top Groups

Top Groups, Supporters (44\%)

| Democratic Women | $69 \%$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| Base Democrat | $68 \%$ |
| Liberal | $67 \%$ |
| Teachers Association | $64 \%$ |
| Total Unfavorable/Tea Party | $62 \%$ |
| Women w/ Degrees | $61 \%$ |
| Democratic Men | $61 \%$ |
| Hispanics | $61 \%$ |
| Soft Democrat | $58 \%$ |
| Government Employee | $57 \%$ |

Top Groups, Opponents (52\%)

| Strongly Favorable/Tea Party | $\mathbf{8 6 \%}$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| Very Conservative | $\mathbf{8 3 \%}$ |
| Somewhat Favorable/Tea Party | $\mathbf{8 0 \%}$ |
| Base GOP | $78 \%$ |
| GOP Men | $78 \%$ |
| GOP Women | $72 \%$ |
| Men 50+ | $71 \%$ |
| Soft GOP | $69 \%$ |
| Somewhat Conservative | $64 \%$ |
| Independent Men | $63 \%$ |

## GOPers and Independents agree with opponents of the margin tax, while Dems agree with its supporters.




## A plurality of voters support the creation of an appeals court in Nevada.

"As you may know, the Nevada Legislature may place a question on the ballot in 2014 concerning whether Nevada should add an appeals court to its court system. Currently, appeals of District Court decisions are made directly to the Nevada Supreme Court. Would you favor or oppose the creation of an appeals court?"

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Total Favor:
48%
Total Oppose: 42%
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## Democrats back the creation of an appeals court; Independents are divided, and GOPers are opposed.



## Younger voters support the creation of an appeals court, while older voters largely do not.

By Gender/Age + Seniors


$■$ Total Favor $\square$ Total Oppose


Minimum

## Wage

## Voters are divided over whether some Nevada employers should have to pay a higher minimum wage.

"Changing topics..."

As you may know, Nevada law requires that employees who do not provide health insurance coverage pay a minimum wage that is one dollar higher than the federal minimum wage. Currently, there is a proposal to increase the federal minimum wage to nine dollars an hour, which would increase the minimum in Nevada to ten dollars an hour for Nevada employers who do not provide health insurance coverage. Do you favor or oppose changing Nevada law to eliminate this requirement that some Nevada employers pay a higher minimum wage?

| Total Favor: | $47 \% *$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| Total Oppose: | $49 \%$ |


*Denotes Rounding

## Split decision: GOPers and Independents are divided on the minimum wage proposal, and soft Democrats have broken ranks with base Democrats.

Minimum Wage by Party


## Only voters in Washoe County support eliminating the higher minimum wage requirement. Clark County is divided.

Minimum Wage by Region
$-4 \%$
$+18 \%$
$-30 \%$


■Total Favor ■Total Oppose


## Issues

## There has been no change since September: Nevadans continue to believe that the education system needs reforms.

"Thinking now about education, Nevada's education system has below average graduation rates and has below average scores on standardized tests. Do you think that EITHER the school system can be improved through increased spending OR do you believe that the system needs significant reforms in order to improve results?"


## A plurality of voters believe that reducing K-12 class sizes should be the most important priority for funding.

"As the state legislature considers how to allocate new funding for education, which of the following do you believe should be the MOST important priority for funding?"

*Denotes Rounding

## Voters across the partisan spectrum believe reducing class sizes should be the most important priority for funding.

| $\begin{gathered} \text { Base GOP } \\ (21 \%) \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: |
| Reducing Class Sizes (30\%) |
| Putting More Money into Creating Charter Schools (28\%) |
| Increasing Teacher Salaries (24\%) |
| Adding Full-Day Kindergarten for all Public Schools (8\%) |
| Increasing Funding for English as Second Language Programs (5\%) |

\(\left.\left.\left.$$
\begin{array}{|c|}\hline \text { Soft GOP } \\
\mathbf{( 1 3 \% )}\end{array}
$$\right] $$
\begin{array}{c|}\hline \text { Reducing Class Sizes } \\
(32 \%)\end{array}
$$\right] \begin{array}{c}Putting More Money <br>
into Creating <br>
Charter Schools <br>

(31\%)\end{array}\right]\)| Increasing Teacher |
| :---: |
| Salaries |
| (21\%) |


| Lean/Ind (22\%) | Soft Democrat $(13 \%)$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| Reducing Class Sizes (35\%) | Reducing Class Sizes (47\%) |
| Increasing Teacher Salaries (24\%) | Adding Full-Day Kindergarten for all Public Schools (21\%) |
| Adding Full-Day Kindergarten for all Public Schools (19\%) | Increasing Teacher Salaries (18\%) |
| Putting More Money into Creating Charter Schools (14\%) | Putting More Money into Creating Charter Schools (13\%) |
| Increasing Funding for English as Second Language Programs (3\%) | Increasing Funding for English as Second Language Programs (0\%) |


| Base Democrat <br> $(29 \%)$ |
| :---: |
| Reducing Class Sizes <br> (45\%) |
| Increasing Teacher <br> Salaries <br> (24\%) |
| Adding Full-Day <br> Kindergarten for all <br> Public Schools <br> (17\%) |
| Putting More Money <br> into Creating <br> Charter Schools <br> (6\%) |
| Increasing Funding <br> for English as Second <br> Language Programs <br> (6\%) |

## Among parents, reducing class sizes and adding full-day Kindergarten are the top funding priorities.

## By Kids/Grandkids

| $\begin{gathered} \text { Yes } \\ (38 \%) \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: |
| Reducing Class Sizes (39\%) |
| Adding Full-Day Kindergarten for all Public Schools (26\%) |
| Increasing Teacher Salaries (17\%) |
| Putting More Money into Creating Charter Schools (13\%) |
| Increasing Funding for English as Second Language Programs (2\%) |


| $\begin{gathered} \text { No } \\ (62 \%) \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: |
| Reducing Class Sizes (38\%) |
| Increasing Teacher Salaries (26\%) |
| Putting More Money into Creating Charter Schools (19\%) |
| Adding Full-Day Kindergarten for all Public Schools (9\%) |
| Increasing Funding for English as Second Language Programs (4\%) |




## Reducing class sizes in K-12 is a top funding priority for whites, African Americans, and Hispanics.

|  | By Ethnicity |
| :---: | :---: |
| White $(66 \%)$ | African American (9\%) |
| Reducing Class Sizes (38\%) | Increasing Teacher Salaries (30\%) |
| Putting More Money into Creating Charter Schools (20\%) | Reducing Class Sizes (30\%) |
| Increasing Teacher Salaries (20\%) | Adding Full-Day Kindergarten for all Public Schools (25\%) |
| Adding Full-Day Kindergarten for all Public Schools (13\%) | Putting More Money into Creating Charter Schools (9\%) |
| Increasing Funding for English as Second Language Programs (4\%) | Increasing Funding for English as Second Language Programs (7\%) |


| Hispanic (18\%) |
| :---: |
| Reducing Class Sizes (42\%) |
| Increasing Teacher Salaries (32\%) |
| Adding Full-Day Kindergarten for all Public Schools (17\%) |
| Putting More Money into Creating Charter Schools (6\%) |
| Increasing Funding for English as Second Language Programs (0\%) |

## Legalizing marijuana is a generational issue. Younger voters overwhelmingly support it, while only seniors are opposed.

"Turning to a different issue, as you may know, two states legalized the sale of marijuana for recreational use in the elections last November. Would you favor or oppose legalizing the sale of marijuana for recreational use in

Nevada if all tax revenue generated from the sale of marijuana was used for educational funding?"


## Fully three-quarters of Nevada voters support drug testing applicants for welfare benefits.

"Would you favor or oppose Nevada requiring drug tests of people who apply for welfare benefits, even if the benefits are not for them but for their children?"

*Denotes Rounding

## A majority of Nevadans, including Independents, support removing the Protection of Marriage provision.

"Thinking now about something different, would you favor or oppose removing the Protection of Marriage provision from the Nevada Constitution? Removing this provision would allow same-sex couples to legally marry in Nevada..."


## Younger voters strongly support removing the Protection of Marriage provision. Seniors oppose removing the provision.



## Immigration proposals that require verification and that back permanent residency contingent upon certain circumstances have broad support.

"Thinking now about immigration, I am going to read you a list of various policy proposals related to immigration. After I read each one, please tell me if you favor or oppose it..."


Giving permanent residency to undocumented immigrants who arrived in the U.S. as children, graduated from high school in the U.S., and have
lived in the U.S. for at least five years.


Allow undocumented immigrants to obtain $\square$
27\% drivers' licenses.$-45$

72\%

## Just over half of Nevada voters believe that there should be no changes to the state's gun laws.

"Turning now to gun laws in Nevada, which of the following best describes your position on gun laws in the state..."

9\% Gun laws in the state should be loosened.
$36 \%$ Gun laws in the state should be tightened.
$51 \%$ No changes to the gun laws in the state should be made.

## Not surprisingly, Democrats, liberals, and voters unfavorable to the Tea Party believe the state's gun laws should be tightened.

Top Groups Should be Tightened (36\%)

| Base Democrat | $66 \%$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| Democratic Women | $65 \%$ |
| Liberal | $59 \%$ |
| Democratic Men | $55 \%$ |
| African American | $53 \%$ |
| Total Unfavorable/Tea Party | $53 \%$ |
| Soft Democrat | $50 \%$ |
| Third Congressional District | $50 \%$ |
| Women 50+ | $49 \%$ |
| Total Minority | $45 \%$ |
| Clark County Women | $44 \%$ |
| High School or Less | $43 \%$ |
| $55-64$ | $42 \%$ |
| Women w/ Degrees | $42 \%$ |
| Women | $42 \%$ |

## Voters are divided over whether to legalize online gambling.

"On a different subject, would you favor or oppose legislation that would legalize online gambling in Nevada?"


## Voters are split in the Las Vegas DMA, while online gambling has solid support in Reno.

By DMA



## Older women and seniors oppose online gambling legalization, while younger voters are more supportive.

By Gender/Age + Seniors


$■$ Total Favor $\square$ Total Oppose

## Men and women with degrees are largely supportive of legalizing online gambling.

By Education/Gender



For more information about this presentation or about Public Opinion Strategies, please give us a call.

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## Turning Questions Into Answers

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