

To: Interested Parties
Fr: Lake Research Partners
Re: Proposition 123
Date: May 23, 2016

Voters narrowly passed Proposition 123. However, an election eve poll of Special Election's voter shows that **voters overwhelmingly want to increase funding for public education, regardless of how they voted.**

Seventy-six (76) percent of voters say state funding for public schools should be increased. This was a driver for Yes voters, of whom 89 percent say funding should be increased, and is strong among No voters as well, of whom 67 percent say funding should be increased.

Yes voters were motivated by increasing funding. They say they voted for Proposition 123 to give schools desperately needed funding.

(For what reasons did you vote Yes on Proposition 123? Verbatim Responses)

"So the schools at least get something and it better than nothing."

"I'm so frustrated with education here and I voted yes so education can get the money needed."

"Because we can't force the government to do the right things so we settle with what they give us."

"All public schools, colleges and other learning institutions desperately need more funding."

"So the kids need the services today and the teachers need to get supplies instead of their own pay."

"Because our schools are underfunded and I think this is a good way for them to get the money."

However, many think that Proposition 123 does not go far enough. A 49 percent plurality of **Yes voters say that Proposition 123 does not provide enough funding for public education** (just 34 percent say that it is enough funding, 2 percent say too much funding, and 15 percent are not sure).

Those who voted NO are upset by the change in Trust Lands distribution. They want a greater state General Fund commitment from legislators, and they do not trust our state politicians to ensure that funding gets to public school classrooms. Many also want the state to do more for public schools, and do not think Proposition 123 does enough.

(For what reasons did you vote No on Proposition 123? Verbatim Responses)

"We need a better plan to fund education."

"Because it just seems like the legislatures are trying a quick fix instead of doing what they need to do."

"Because they are robbing the future they should raise taxes or spend the money that is already in the budget. They shouldn't rob our children's future."

“They keep saying they will give the teachers a raise but they won’t.”

“Don’t believe funds are going to be used for education as stated. The government is going to keep the money and spend it on the projects they want.”

“Because we have a legislature that could have done something and didn’t so now they’re trying to get themselves out of hot water and I don’t approve.”

“Because the state the government was court ordered to pay the education fund and failed to do so. This is a bandage and does not address the court order.”

Voters overall give the state legislature negative job performance ratings, but No voters had much stronger negative ratings. Seventy-two (72) percent of Yes voters give a negative job performance rating of the state legislature, including 30 percent who give a *poor* rating. Among No voters, 81 percent give a negative job performance rating of the state legislature, **including 50 percent who give a *poor* rating**, a 20-point increase over Yes voters in intensity.

The campaign’s message of encouraging a yes vote because it increases funding without increasing taxes seems to not have been of top of mind importance for those who voted yes. Just 3 percent of Yes voters mentioned lack of tax increases as a reason for their support.

Support for More Funding Beyond Proposition 123

Arizona voters want to increase funding for public education and, regardless of how they voted, believe that Proposition 123 does not provide enough funding. Nearly half (49 percent) of those who voted yes say Proposition 123 does not provide enough funding. Among those who voted no, 44 percent say that Proposition 123 does not provide enough funding, while just 17 percent say it provides enough, and 20 percent say it provides too much (and 20 percent remain unsure).

While the official results took several days to declare, voters clearly want to increase funding for Arizona’s public schools.

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Lake Research Partners conducted a telephone survey of 500 registered likely voters in the State of Arizona who were screened for indicating they had voted in the May 17th Arizona Special Election, or were “almost certain” to vote. Interviews were conducted by professional live interviewers over the telephone on Monday May 16th and Tuesday May 17th. 32 percent of interviews were completed among respondents who were using a cell phone. The survey has a margin of error of ±4.38% at the 95% confidence interval.

The poll was commissioned by the Arizona Education Association, Children’s Action Alliance and The Friends of ASBA.