



Groundwork OHIO

OHIO POLL: Investing in Quality Child Care is Key to Getting Ohioans Back to Work

The child care crisis has kept many parents—especially mothers with young children—out of the workforce, slowing Ohio’s business and economic recovery.

A new statewide poll of Ohio voters and parents with children under the age of 5 reveals that access to quality, affordable child care is key to getting Ohioans back to work.

The poll—commissioned by Groundwork Ohio and conducted by Public Opinion Strategies—also shows that parents with children under the age of 5 care deeply about early childhood education and are willing to voice their support at the voting booth and to their elected officials.

80% of Ohio voters believe child care is expensive where they live.

Access to quality, affordable child care is an economic issue. Ohio parents are under pressure, and it’s causing challenges at home and at work.



of Ohio parents with children under 5 have had **serious problems** with child care, meeting work and family responsibilities, or affording child care in recent months, which has impacted their work.

Access to quality, affordable child care is a major barrier for Ohio parents—especially moms.



of non-working or part-time working moms with children under 5 in Ohio would go back to work or work more hours if they had **access** to quality child care at a reasonable cost.



Ohio voters overwhelmingly recognize the importance of quality early childhood education and giving children a strong start in life.



74% of Ohio voters (including 80% of parents with children under 5) agree early childhood learning is the most important education experience of a child's life.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a tipping point for Ohio families, and they are concerned about the mental health of their young children.



86% of Ohio parents with children under the age of 5 said they have undergone stress from the COVID-19 pandemic.

NEARLY 7 in 10 OHIO PARENTS

with children under the age of 5 said they are worried about the mental or emotional health of their child(ren).

Ohio voters want state policymakers to invest substantially more in early childhood education. When asked about allocating education dollars:

24% Ohio voters said 24.2% should be allocated to early childhood education.

31% Ohio parents with children under the age of 5 said more than 31% should be spent on early childhood education.

23% Even "strong" Republicans said 23.4% should be spent on early childhood education.

Early childhood education is an issue that activates Ohio voters and parents with young children.

An overwhelming majority of Ohio voters agree that funding for early childhood education would be a top factor in voting for a political candidate.

93% Democratic voters

89% Ohio parents with children under age 5

79% All Ohio voters

73% Independent voters

71% Republican voters



NEARLY 9 in 10 OHIO PARENTS

with children under the age of 5 would be willing to contact their representative to voice their support for early childhood education.

Citation: Public Opinion Strategies Statewide Ohio Survey, conducted October 26–November 8, 2021

THE BOTTOM LINE:

Ohio parents are telling us they need quality, affordable child care to return to work. If policymakers want to solve Ohio's workforce crisis now and in the future, they must listen to the experts—parents!

Learn more about the statewide poll at:

GroundworkOhio.org/child-care-survey-2021



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