

INVESTING IN YOUTH

The poll was designed and analyzed by Ethel Klein, President of EDK Associates Inc., a New York City-based public opinion research firm with input from the Forum for Youth Investment and Connect for Kids.

Methodology:

Data for each city are based on a random-digit-dialed telephone survey of 300 adults in ten cities across the nation from January 26–February 2, 2005. The margin of error on a poll this size is +/- 5.6%.

The national figures are from a random-digit-dialed nationwide telephone survey of 1028 adults conducted by ORC on February 17–20, 2005. The margin of error on a poll this size is +/-3.1%. Answers may not add up to 100% due to rounding error.

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Americans think helping students stay in school is critical. Studies show that many students who are not doing well in school by eighth grade begin to lose interest in school and eventually drop out. Researchers believe academic mentors, tutors or smaller schools can help these students stay engaged and achieve the academic skills they need to succeed in school and later in life. This will ultimately require spending more money on schools and community programs.

Results from this national and city-level poll show that adults place a high priority on after-school, job training, service-learning, recreation, arts and health care programs — ahead of other concerns like senior centers or tax breaks for new businesses, with 45 percent of respondents nationally saying these programs are a very high priority. At the city level, this support is even higher, ranging from 78 percent to 62 percent. Support for both tax increases on high-income taxpayers and for community “trust funds” to pay for services for young people was surprisingly strong (66 percent favor the tax increases and 78 percent favor the trust funds nationally).

Strengthening Coordination

Q1 In most cities, agencies aimed at helping children do not communicate well with one another. Strengthening the coordination between these programs and agencies in order to get the best outcomes for the money we spend should be a high priority because it is a smart investment. Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Opinion
NATIONAL	37.0%	46.0%	8.0%	3.0%	5.0%
Chicago	50.3	40.0	2.7	1.0	6.0
Atlanta	45.7	40.0	6.0	2.0	6.3
Boston	38.7	45.0	5.7	1.0	9.7
Baltimore	48.0	40.3	4.0	1.3	6.3
Philadelphia	45.0	44.0	4.0	1.0	6.0
Denver	34.0	54.3	3.3	.3	8.0
Portland	50.7	38.1	2.3	1.3	7.6
Detroit	51.0	38.0	4.0	2.3	4.7
Nashville	43.7	46.3	2.7	1.7	5.7
Oakland	37.5	44.9	4.7	1.3	11.6

Neighborhood Services

Q2 In a time of limited financial resources, we need to make sure that city services for children in this community such as after school programs, education, job training, service learning, recreation, arts and health care are available in those neighborhoods where there is the most need for these services. Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Opinion
NATIONAL	47.0%	41.0%	7.0%	3.0%	2.0%
Chicago	71.3	23.7	3.0	1.3	.7
Atlanta	58.7	33.0	4.0	1.7	2.7
Boston	65.0	26.7	5.0	1.7	1.7
Baltimore	71.0	20.7	4.0	3.3	1.0
Philadelphia	65.0	26.3	6.0	1.7	1.0
Denver	53.3	37.7	4.7	1.0	3.3
Portland	62.3	31.1	4.3	.7	1.7
Detroit	71.0	23.3	3.0	1.7	1.0
Nashville	57.7	33.7	3.7	2.3	2.7
Oakland	63.8	30.2	4.3	1.0	.7

Taxpayer Investments

Q3 Voters in California recently passed an initiative that increased the income tax for high income tax payers in order to expand services for children. Suppose there was a similar proposal before your state legislature to increase income taxes for high income tax payers in order to expand services for children such as after-school programs, education, job training, service-learning, recreation, arts and health care, would you strongly favor, favor, oppose or strongly oppose this legislation?

	Strongly Favor	Favor	Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No Opinion
NATIONAL	30.0%	36.0%	16.0%	14.0%	4.0%
Chicago	44.0	27.7	15.7	8.3	4.3
Atlanta	24.0	33.3	18.0	15.7	9.0
Boston	31.0	39.7	12.0	11.0	6.3
Baltimore	41.0	30.0	12.7	7.7	8.7
Philadelphia	34.0	34.3	12.7	9.7	9.3
Denver	31.7	35.0	15.0	11.3	7.0
Portland	35.8	24.5	18.2	14.9	6.6
Detroit	33.0	35.3	13.0	11.3	7.3
Nashville	29.0	25.7	18.7	16.0	10.7
Oakland	45.5	28.6	10.0	9.3	6.6

Children's Trust Funds

Q4 Children's Trust Funds are pots of money created by communities that generate revenue that can only be used for services that help children including after-school programs, education, job training, service-learning, recreation, arts and health care. Suppose there was an effort to establish a Children's Trust Fund in your city based on tax dollars and private contributions. Would you strongly favor, favor, oppose or strongly oppose such an effort?

	Strongly Favor	Favor	Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No Opinion
NATIONAL	28.0%	50.0%	12.0%	6.0%	4.0%
Chicago	46.0	37.3	7.3	7.0	2.3
Atlanta	29.3	44.3	9.7	7.7	9.0
Boston	39.0	44.0	6.3	5.0	5.7
Baltimore	40.0	43.7	7.0	4.7	4.7
Philadelphia	37.7	43.0	8.7	5.7	5.0
Denver	29.7	50.3	9.7	3.0	7.3
Portland	35.4	44.4	9.9	4.0	6.3
Detroit	38.0	45.3	8.0	4.3	4.3
Nashville	34.3	42.3	9.7	6.7	7.0
Oakland	38.5	39.9	8.0	5.6	8.0

Academic Investments

Q5 Studies show that many students who are not doing well in school by eighth grade begin to lose interest in school and eventually drop out. Researchers believe academic mentors, tutors or smaller schools can help these students stay engaged and achieve the academic skills they need to succeed. Such approaches will require spending more money on schools. Do you think that these solutions should be: a very high priority and we should find the money to fund them, important but there are other issues, such as senior centers and tax breaks for new businesses, which have higher priority that we should be funding now, or are these programs not a high priority for your community?

	Very high priority Find the money now	High priority but other issues, such as senior centers and tax breaks for new businesses	Not a priority for my community	No opinion
NATIONAL	43.0%	35.0%	17.0%	6.0%
Chicago	69.0	17.7	7.0	6.3
Atlanta	61.3	23.3	10.0	5.3
Boston	66.7	17.7	7.7	8.0
Baltimore	67.0	19.0	9.0	5.0
Philadelphia	62.7	24.0	8.3	5.0
Denver	59.3	20.7	11.0	9.0
Portland	61.3	22.2	10.6	6.0
Detroit	74.3	11.3	7.0	7.3
Nashville	60.0	19.0	13.7	7.3
Oakland	73.4	15.0	7.6	4.0

Positive Role Models and Programs

Q6 Research shows that every child benefits by coming into contact with caring, responsible adults to help them develop the educational and life skills needed to get a good job and become responsible citizens. Do you think that programs like after-school programs, education, job training, service-learning, recreation, arts and health care programs that provide access to positive role models should be: a very high priority and we should find the money to fund them, important but there are other issues, such as senior centers and tax breaks for new businesses, that have higher priority that we should be funding now, or are these programs not a high priority for your community?

	Very high priority Find the money now	High priority but other issues, such as senior centers and tax breaks for new businesses	Not a priority for my community	No opinion
NATIONAL	45.0%	33.0%	16.0%	5.0%
Chicago	75.3	14.0	7.0	3.7
Atlanta	64.3	23.3	8.7	3.7
Boston	70.7	19.3	5.0	5.0
Baltimore	72.0	16.3	7.0	4.7
Philadelphia	67.7	25.0	4.3	3.0
Denver	62.0	24.7	6.3	7.0
Portland	62.6	22.8	7.9	6.6
Detroit	78.0	12.3	4.7	5.0
Nashville	64.7	22.3	8.3	4.7
Oakland	73.4	17.3	6.0	3.3



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