

TO: Interested Parties
FR: Strategies 360 Research
RE: Key findings from a recent survey of voters in WA
DT: 3/24/2016



Voters support public charter schools by a 57% to 25% margin.

- 47% of Democrats support charters while 37% oppose. Further, strong majorities of Independents (60%) and Republicans (69%) say they favor charters.
- Voters of color support charters by a margin of 59% to 21% and parents support them 58% to 27%.
- There is also strong support for charters among legislative-persuadables (defined as those who don't lean towards either party in the election for state legislature). Among this segment, 60% favor charters.
- Similarly, voters in swing legislative districts favor charters by a 57% to 26% margin.

Voters say they want their elected leaders to take action to prevent charter schools from closing.

- When asked how the governor and legislature should respond to the Washington Supreme Court ruling, 71% say "the governor and legislature should take action to keep public charter schools open." This includes 52% who say they feel *strongly* that their leaders should take action. Just 24% say they should allow charters to close.
- 72% of voters in swing legislative districts say they want to see action to prevent charters from closing, as do 75% of legislative-persuadables and 78% of Independents.

69% of voters want to see Governor Inslee sign the bill to keep charters open.

- There is strong bipartisan support for signing the charter school bill with large majorities of Democrats (60%), Independents (73%), and Republicans (80%) in favor.
- Support for signing the bill extends to every demographic subgroup including liberals (55%), King County (72%), voters of color (76%), low-income households (80%), and young voters (84%).
- By a 63% to 25% margin, voters who support re-electing Governor Inslee want to see the bill signed.
- Further, voters in swing legislative districts (68%) and legislative-persuadables (77%) are also highly supportive.

"As you may know, the legislature recently passed a bill that addresses the court's legal concerns and would prevent charter schools from closing. The Governor must now decide whether to sign or veto the bill. In your opinion, should the governor sign the bill and allow charter schools to stay open or should he veto the bill and allow charter schools to close?"

Sign the bill and keep charters open	69%
Veto the bill and allow charters to close	20%

Democratic support surges when they are told more about the students charter schools serve.

- After hearing that two-thirds of charter school students are low-income and over 70% are students of color, Democratic support for signing the bill surges to 69%.
- Similarly, support among liberals and King County voters surged to 64% and 77%, respectively.

Statement of Methodology - Strategies 360 conducted a telephone survey of 504 likely 2016 voters in Washington. Surveys were administered March 19-22, 2016 by trained interviewers based in Spokane, WA. Respondents were reached on landline and mobile telephones to ensure greater coverage of the electorate. The margin of error for this survey is +/-4.4%.