

ALABAMA

# Public Opinion Survey

2022



*Alabama Public Opinion Survey: 2022 Edition*

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# Alabama Public Opinion Survey: 2022 Edition

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**Public Affairs  
Research Council  
of Alabama**



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## Executive Summary

PARCA's 2022 public opinion survey finds, once again, aversion to certain taxes, support for public education, and mistrust in state government. At the same time, the survey finds a lack of consensus in how the state should respond to other critical issues facing the state.

Among the findings:

- Alabamians continue to rank education as the most important state government activity. See page 3.
- Large majorities of Alabamians say the state spends too little on education and healthcare. See page 5.
- Alabamians have an aversion to taxes but say upper-income residents pay too little. See page 8.
- A slim majority say budget surpluses should be reinvested in state services, specifically education, rather than used to cut taxes. See pages 9 and 10.
- If budget surpluses are used to cut taxes, the most popular tax cut is the sales tax on groceries. See page 11.
- Alabamians are willing to pay more taxes to support education but do not agree on *which* taxes should be increased. See page 13.
- Alabamians are essentially split on tax-funded vouchers to pay for private school tuition. However, a majority believe vouchers, if allowed, should be available to all students. See page 22.
- Alabamians continue to believe that they have no say in state government and that government officials in Montgomery do not care about their opinions. See page 26.

## Introduction

PARCA's annual public opinion survey was conducted between January 12 and April 21, 2022. Roughly 60% of the respondents were interviewed in a statewide random digit dialed (RDD) sample of cell and landline numbers. The remaining 40% were reinterviews of survey participants from the 2020 and 2021 studies. With 408 completed interviews, the margin of error for the survey is +/- 4.85%. Responses were weighted by race, gender, and age to match state demographics. Toplines at the end of this report contain exact question wording.

The 2022 PARCA survey includes many questions asked in previous studies and several new questions. As has been the case for several years, we see great continuity in responses to the repeated items. In general, we see much less polarization than one sees when the public is asked about hot-button issues or candidate preferences. On many important issues there is broad agreement, and even when there is not broad agreement, we rarely see polarization, where a majority of some subpopulation holds the opposite view of a majority of another subpopulation. Each of the results presented below is tested to see if significant differences exist across a varied of demographic, political, or regional factors that may affect one's stand on issues. When substantial differences are identified, they are reported.

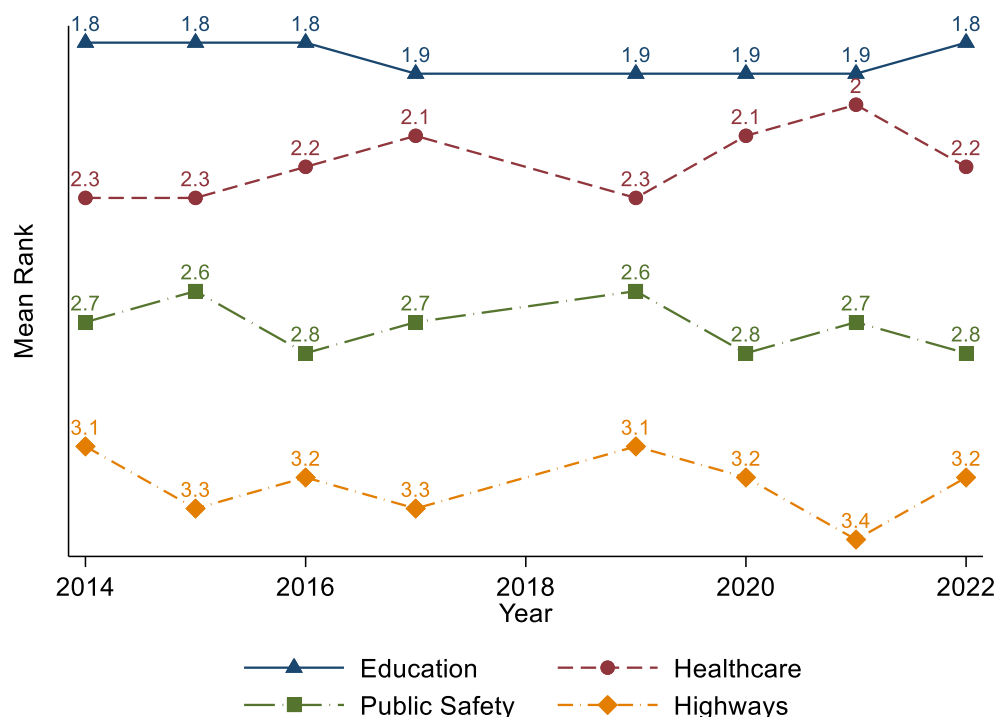
## Survey Results

### **I. State Budget Priorities**

For several years, we have asked respondents to rank the importance of the four main areas of state government: education, healthcare, public safety, and highways. After listing the areas in random order, respondents are asked to assign a rank of 1 to the most important service, a 2 to then next most important, and so on. The average ranks for the last several years are presented in Figure 1. The relative position of the services has been remarkably consistent. Education is consistently identified as the most important service the state provides, with an average rank of less than 2. Healthcare is seen as the next most important service, followed by public safety and highways.

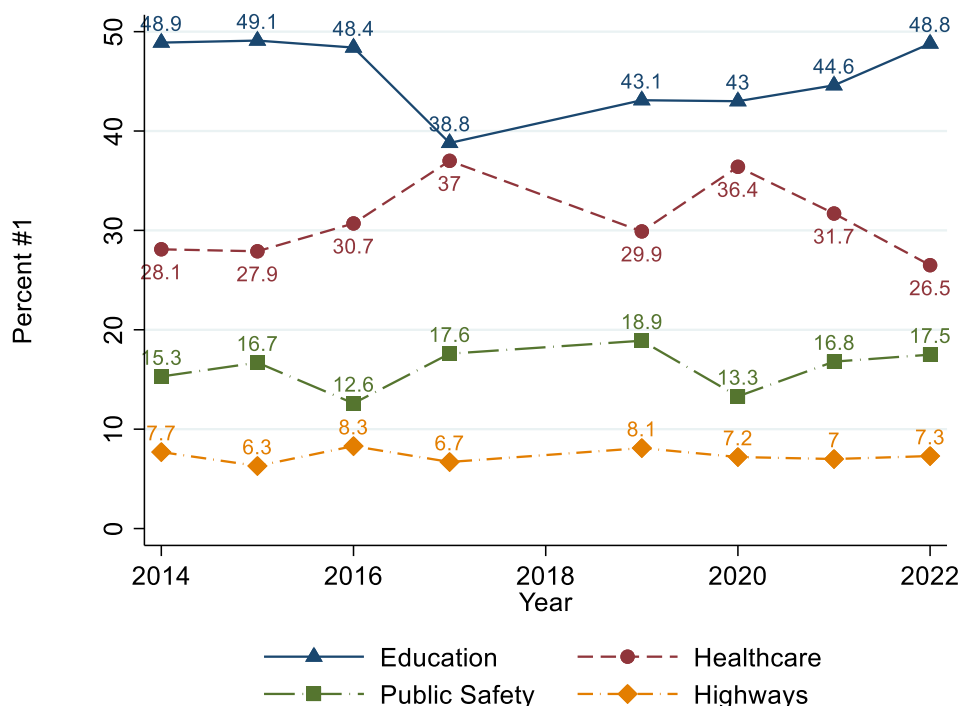


Figure 1. Average rank of major budget areas, 2014–2022



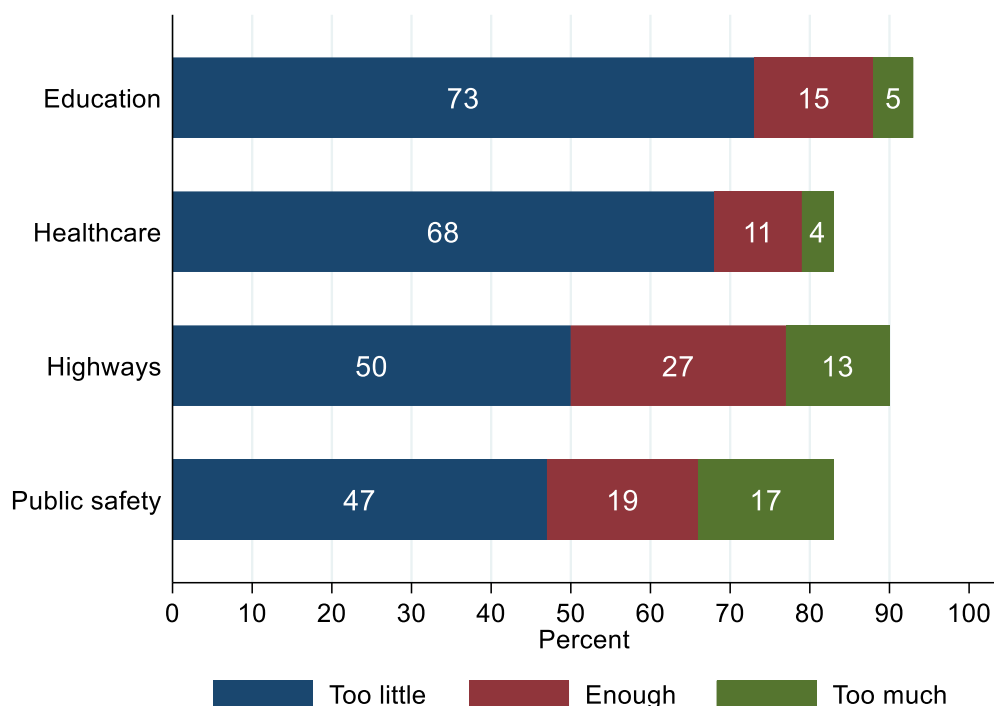
While the relative rank of these areas is very stable, we do see some fluctuation in the percentage of respondents who give each area a number one ranking. (See Figure 2.) Between 2021 and 2022, the prioritization of education increased and healthcare decreased. The changes could be attributed to the COVID-effect: increased concerns about health in 2021 and worries about students making up lost ground in 2022. We do see some differences across subpopulations. Younger and more educated respondents are more likely to rank education as the most important service than are others. While pluralities or majorities of every partisan identity rank education number one, Democratic identifiers and independents are more likely to do so than are Republicans. Those with low incomes are more likely to rank healthcare as the most important service than are others.

Figure 2. Percent prioritizing each budget area #1, 2014–2022



We asked respondents if the state is investing or spending enough in each of the major areas of activity. (See Figure 3.) Nearly three-quarters (73%) say too little is being spent on education, and about two-thirds (68%) say too little is being spent on healthcare. About half of respondents say too little is being spent on highways, and just under half say too little is being spent on public safety. Large majorities of every subpopulation say too little is being spent on education, including almost two-thirds of Republicans and 90% of Democrats. Men are slightly less likely to say too little is spent on education than are women. While large majorities of every subpopulation say too little is spent on healthcare, higher income respondents are less likely to say this than are those with lower incomes. Similarly, majorities of every political stripe say too little is being spent on healthcare, with even larger majorities of independents and Democrats saying this than Republicans. Older respondents and registered voters are more likely to say too little is being spent on highways than are others. Older respondents and women are more likely to say too little is being spent on public safety.

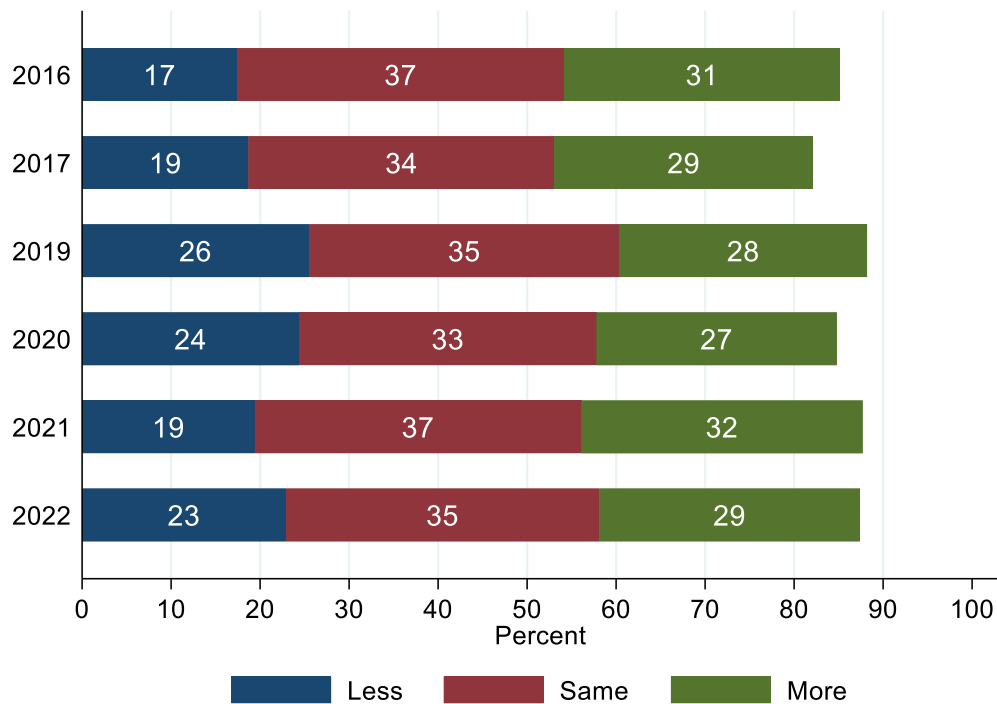
Figure 3. Amount spent in major areas: Percent saying too little, enough, or too much



## II. Taxes

We asked respondents if they think they are paying more or less in state and local taxes than people like them in neighboring states. As readers of the PARCA report [How Alabama Taxes Compare 2021](#) will know, this question got a lot harder this year with Tennessee now collecting about \$250 less than Alabama in per capita taxes and claiming the bottom spot in tax collections nationally. As has been the case for the last few years, a plurality say that people like them in other states pay about the same in state and local taxes. (See Figure 4.) Just under a third say those in other states pay more.

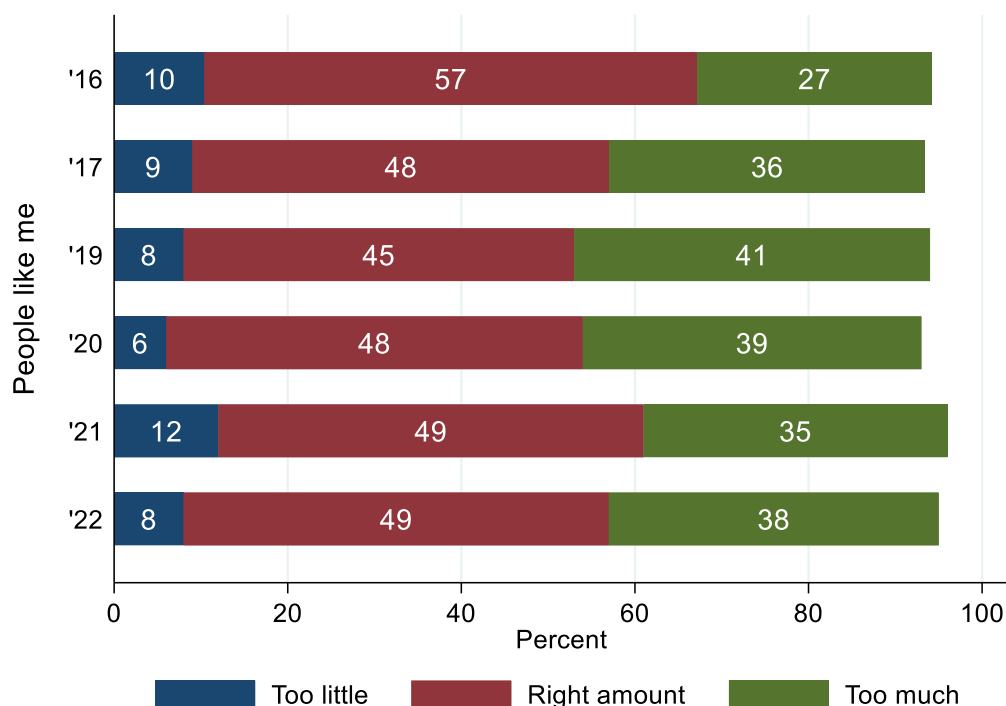
Figure 4. What people like me in other states pay in state and local taxes\*



\*This question was not asked in 2018.

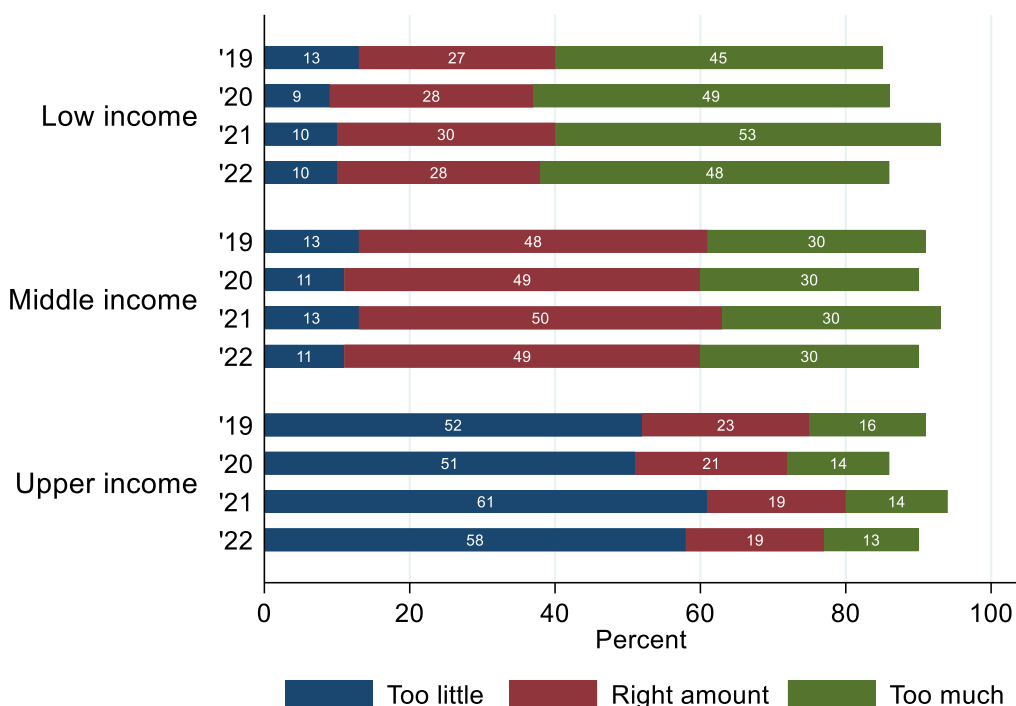
We asked respondents if they and people like them are paying too much, too little, or about the right amount in state and local taxes. (See Figure 5.) About half of respondents say they are paying about the right amount with over a third saying they are paying too much. Respondents with higher levels of education were less likely to say they are paying too much than others.

Figure 5. Amount paid by people like me in state and local taxes, 2016–2022



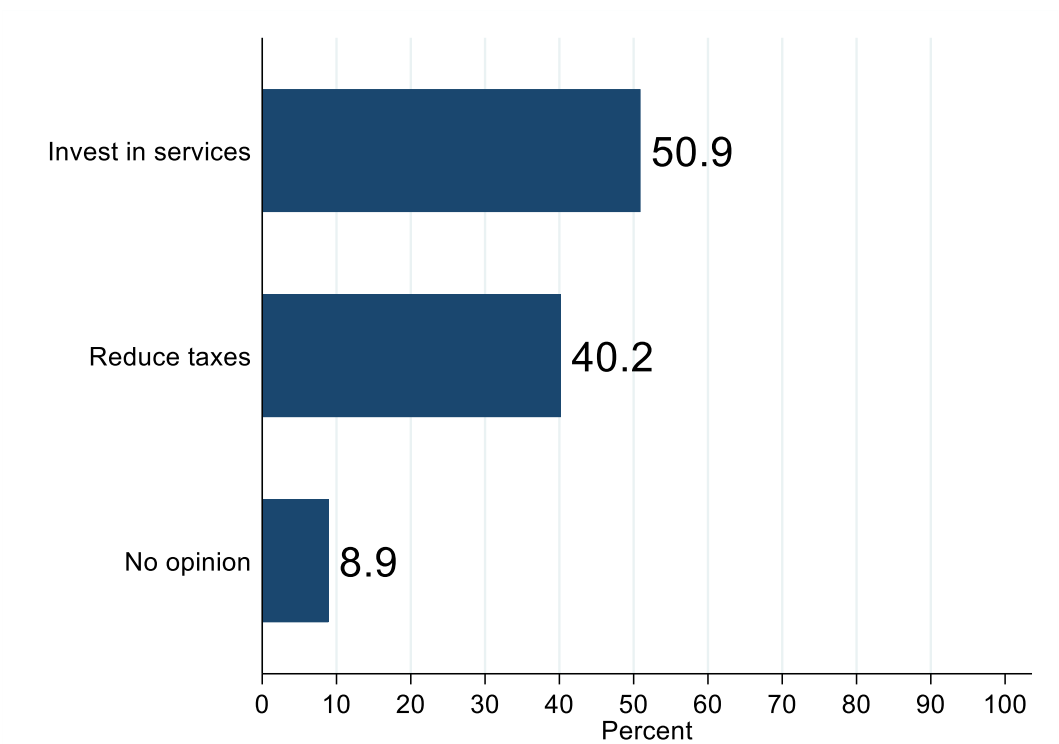
For a number of years, we have asked respondents if people in different income groups were paying too much, too little, or the right amount in state and local taxes. Results from the most recent four years are presented in Figure 6. A consistent pattern is evident: About half of respondents say the poor are paying too much, about half say those in the middle-income group are paying about the right amount, and just over half say the upper-income group pays too little in state and local taxes. A plurality of Republicans and majorities of independents and Democrats say those with lower incomes are paying too much. There are no differences by any subpopulation regarding the middle-income group. A plurality of Republicans and large majorities of independents and Democrats say those with higher incomes are paying too little.

Figure 6. Amount paid by income groups in state and local taxes, 2019–2022



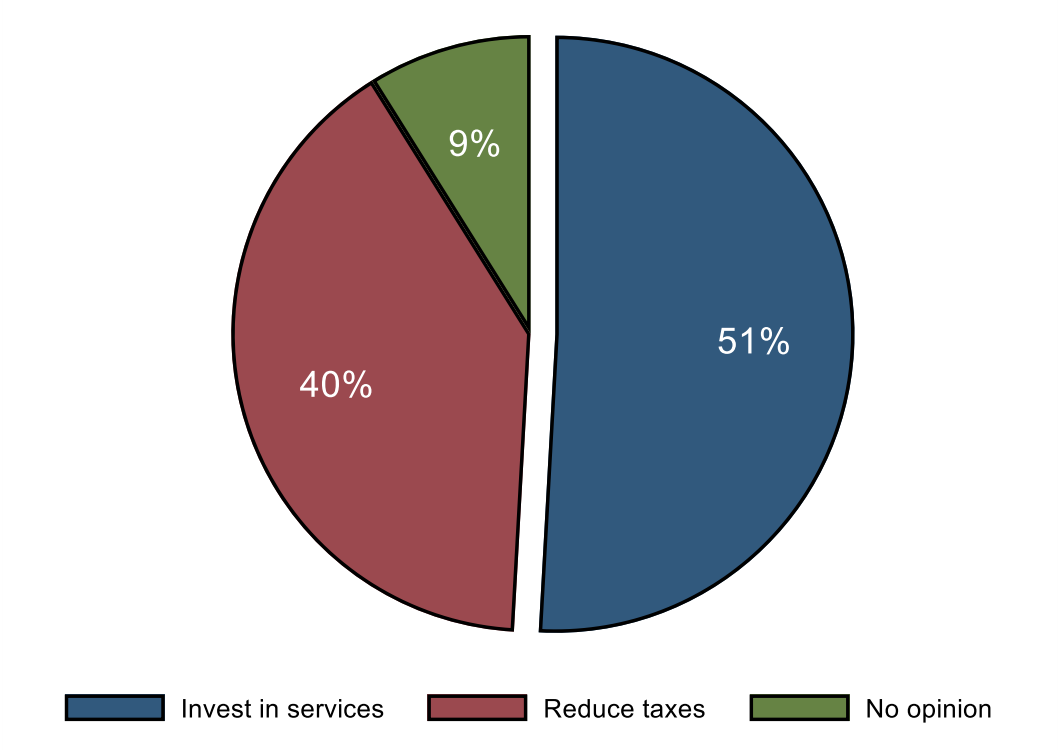
Because of higher than expected revenue in recent years, Alabama has a surplus in the current year. We asked respondents if they thought the surplus should be invested in state services or used to reduce taxes. (See Figure 7.) Slightly more respondents (about 50%) say invest in services, just beyond the margin of error of the roughly 40% who say the surplus should be used to reduce taxes. A plurality of Republicans say the surplus should be used to reduce taxes, while majorities of independents and Democrats say the surplus should be invested in services. Those with higher levels of education were more likely to say the surplus should be invested in services than those with lower levels of education. (See Figure 7.)

Figure 7. Use for surplus funds in budget



or

Figure 7b. Use for surplus funds in budget



We asked follow-up questions. To those who said the surplus should be invested in services, we asked what they thought the most important use of surplus funds is. (See Figure 8.) We listed as options the four main areas of state activity and “something else.” About half say surplus funds should be invested in education, and about a quarter say the funds should be invested in healthcare. Pluralities of Republicans and independents and a substantial majority of Democrats say the funds should be invested in education. Democrats and independents are more likely to say the healthcare is the most important use of surplus funds than Republicans, whose preferences are more diffuse. Registered voters are more likely to say the funds should be used for education than those who are not registered. We asked those who said the surplus should be used to reduce taxes what they think is the most important tax to reduce. (See Figure 9.) A plurality (42%) identifies the tax on groceries as the most important tax to reduce. There are no significant differences across any of the subpopulations tested.

Figure 8. Service for surplus funds

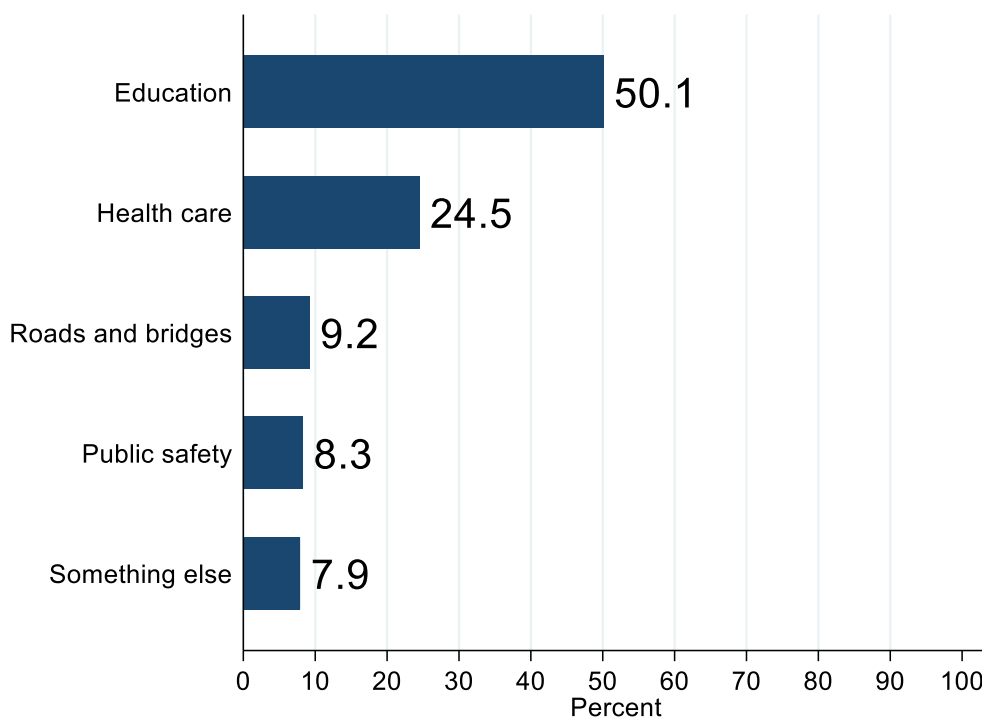
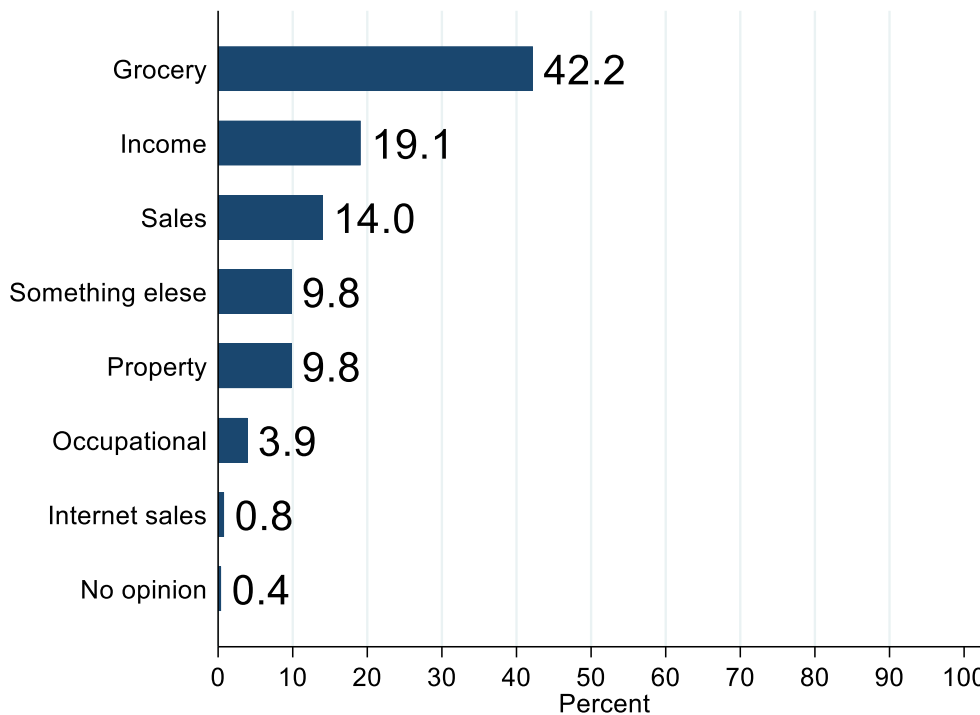




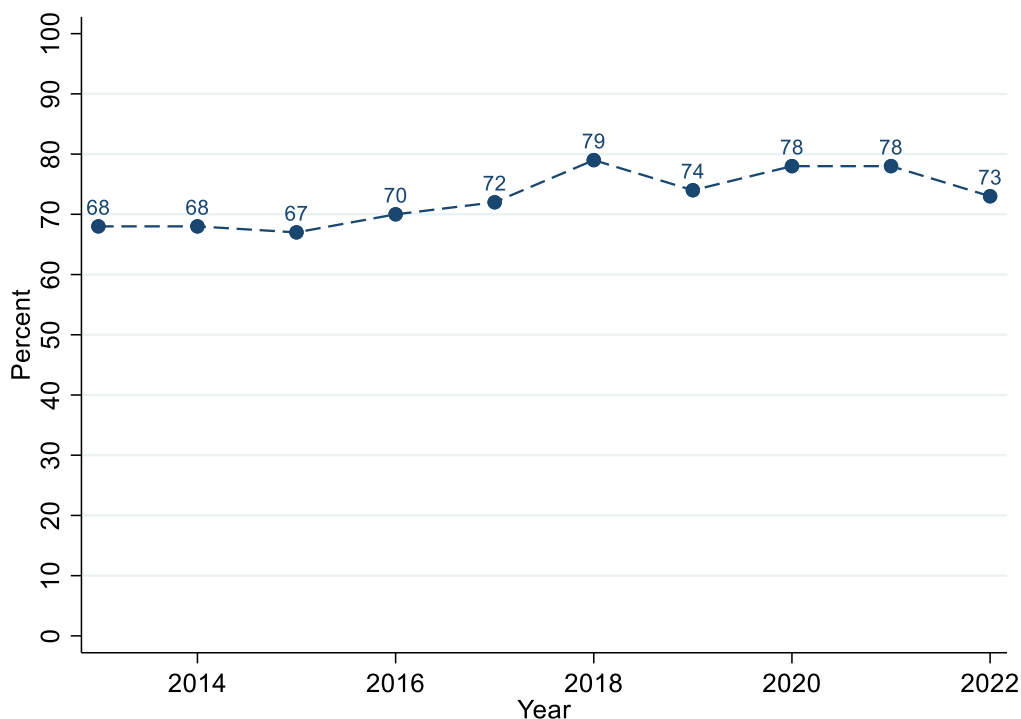
Figure 9. Tax to reduce with surplus funds



### III. Public Education

Each year we ask a series of questions about public education, supported in part by the Alabama Association of School Boards. While we strive for consistency in the questions we ask, we do include some questions that reflect current concerns. We discussed the amount of spending in the major areas of state government activity above. We have asked this question about state spending on education for a decade, and the entire series report is reflected in Figure 10. We consistently see two-thirds to three-quarters of respondents saying too little is being spent on public education in the state.

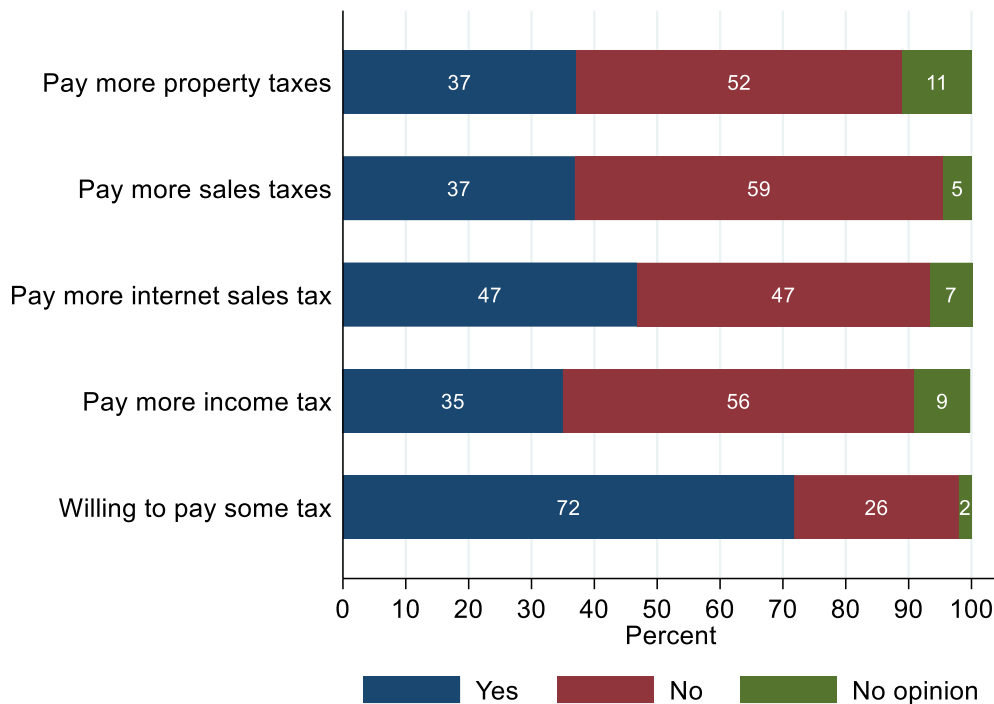
Figure 10. Too little now being spent on education in Alabama



With a majority saying too little is being spent on education, we inquired if respondents would be willing to pay more in taxes to fund it. We asked about four different types of taxes: property, sales, Internet sales, and income taxes (presented in random order). The results are presented in Figure 11. Just over a third of respondents say they would be willing to pay more property, sales, or income tax to increase funding for education with majorities saying they are not willing to pay more of that type of tax. Residents are divided on paying more Internet sales tax with about 47% saying yes and about 47% saying no. While there is not a groundswell of support for any particular revenue source, over two-thirds (72%) indicate that they are willing to pay more of at least one of the taxes listed to increase funding for education. Majorities of every subpopulation indicate a willingness to pay more of some tax to increase funding for education, although there are some differences in the extent of support across groups. Younger Alabamians are more willing to pay more of some kind of tax, as are those with higher levels of education. Large majorities of every partisan group express a willingness to pay more of some tax, although independents and Democratic identifiers indicate higher levels of support than Republicans. These findings represent a challenge for policymakers. Most

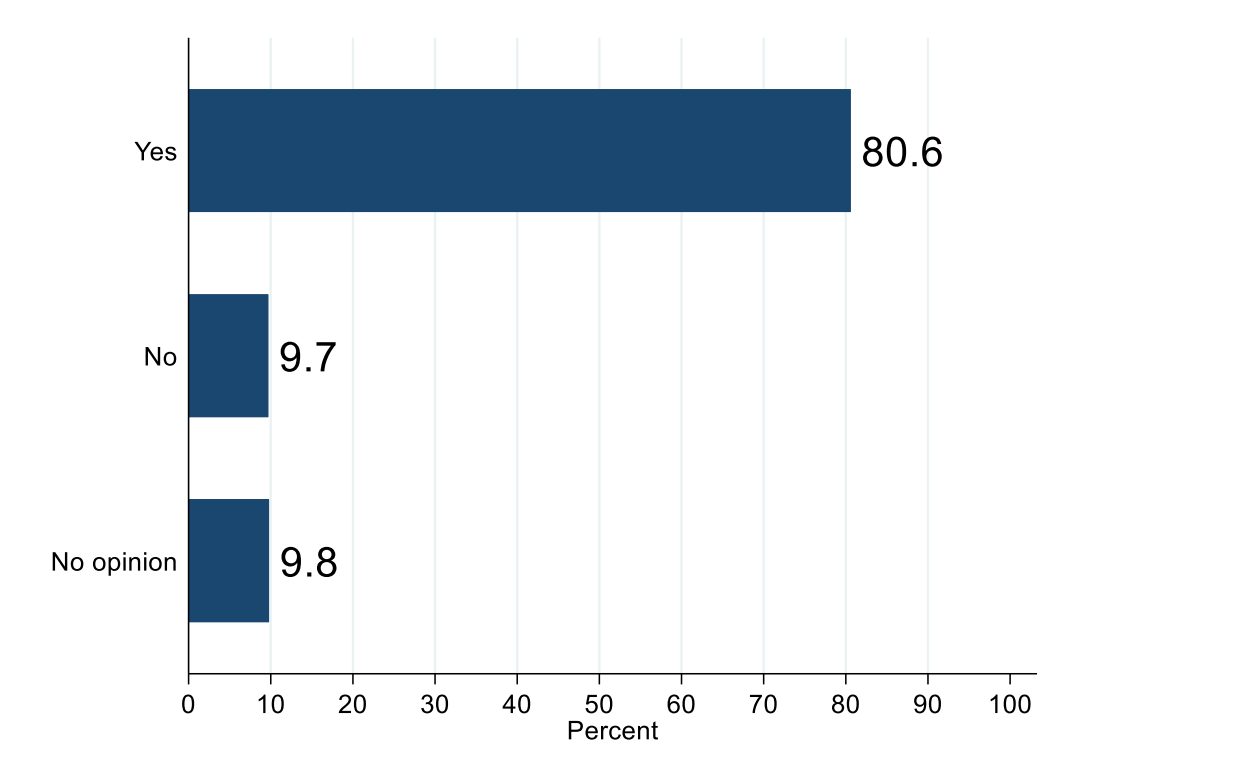
residents think too little is spent on education and are willing to pay more in taxes to fund it, but they do not agree on any single revenue mechanism.

Figure 11. Willing to increase education funding by paying more



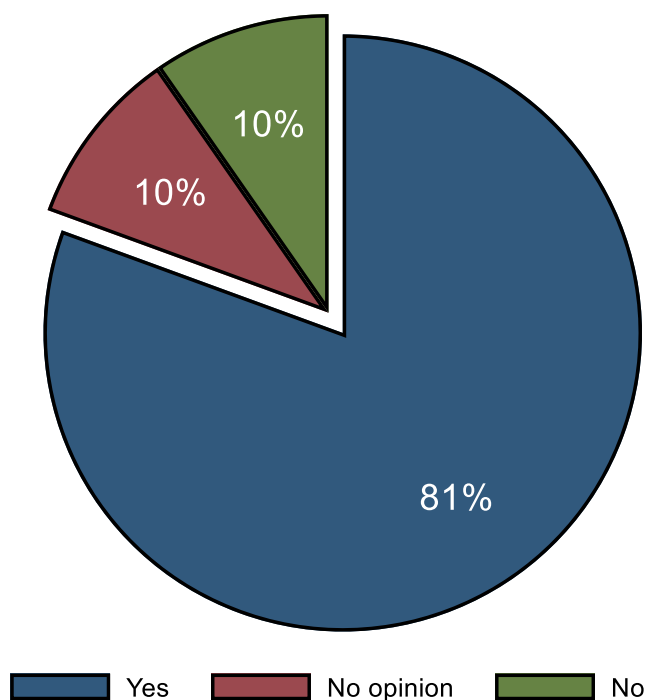
Many Internet retailers collect sales taxes for the State of Alabama. The state distributes a portion of this revenue to local governments. While many localities pass some of this revenue on to local schools, not all do. We asked if local governments should distribute Internet sales tax revenue the same way they share locally collected sales taxes. (See Figure 12.) About 80% of respondents say Internet sales tax revenue should be shared with schools the same way locally collected sales taxes are. There are no significant differences across any subpopulation or region of the state.

Figure 12. Should online sales taxes go to local schools



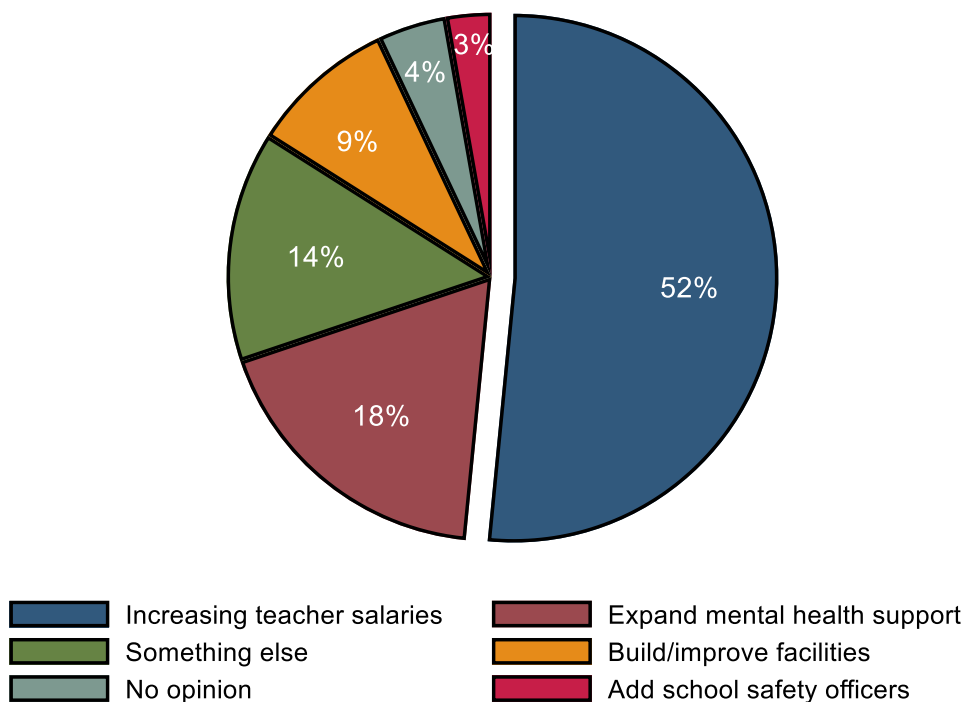
Or

Figure 12b. Should online sales taxes go to local schools



We asked respondents what their top priority would be for spending new education dollars. Respondents were given a randomized list of possible items and the option of naming something else. The results are presented in Figure 13. Just over half of respondents say that new education dollars should be spent increasing teacher salaries and benefits. Just under a fifth say new education dollars should be used to hire school counselors and provide mental health support. Those with higher levels of education are more likely to support increasing teacher salaries and benefits than are those with lower levels of education. Pluralities or majorities of every partisan stripe select increasing teacher salaries as their top priority, although independents and Democrats do so at higher rates than Republicans.

Figure 13. Top priority for new education revenue



We asked a series of questions to assess the level of government residents think is best equipped to make education-related decisions. We identified the federal government, the state legislature, State Board of Education, and the local board of education as the relevant entities for these questions. In general, respondents prefer that decisions be made locally instead of by state or federal officials. For example, in Figure 14 we see that nearly three-fifths of respondents think that school spending decisions are best made by local boards of education. Majorities of every partisan identity hold this view, with Republicans being more likely to select local boards than independents or Democrats. We see a similar pattern when respondents are asked about student discipline. (See Figure 15.) Over two-thirds of respondents say that local school boards are best equipped to make decisions regarding student discipline. While all partisan groups prefer local decisions, Republicans do so in higher proportions than others.

Figure 14. Best level of government to decide school spending

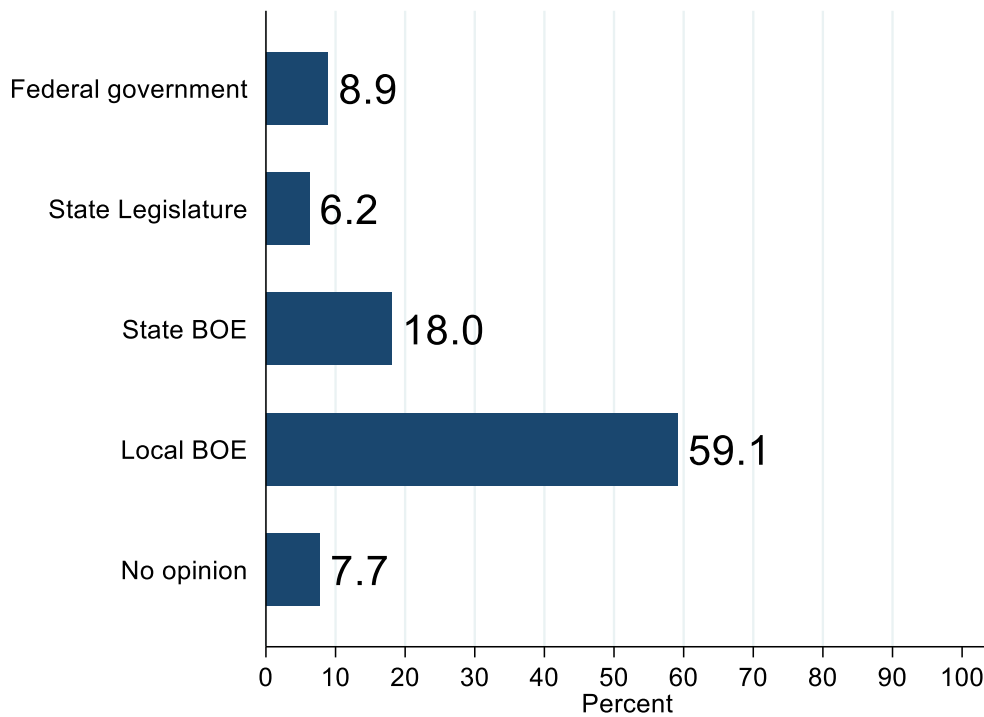
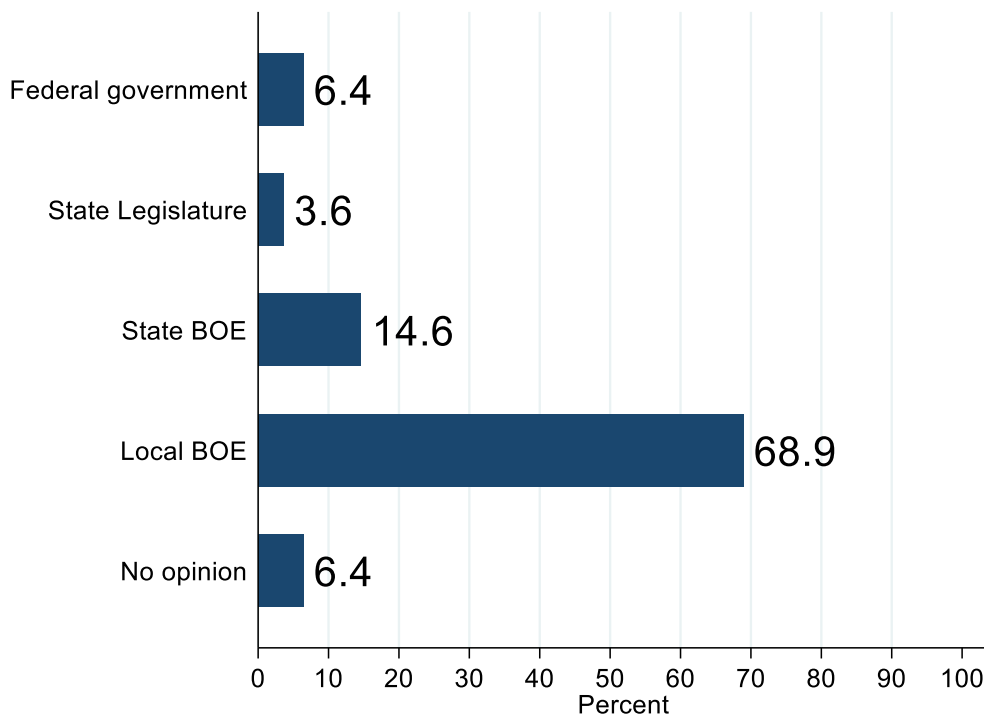
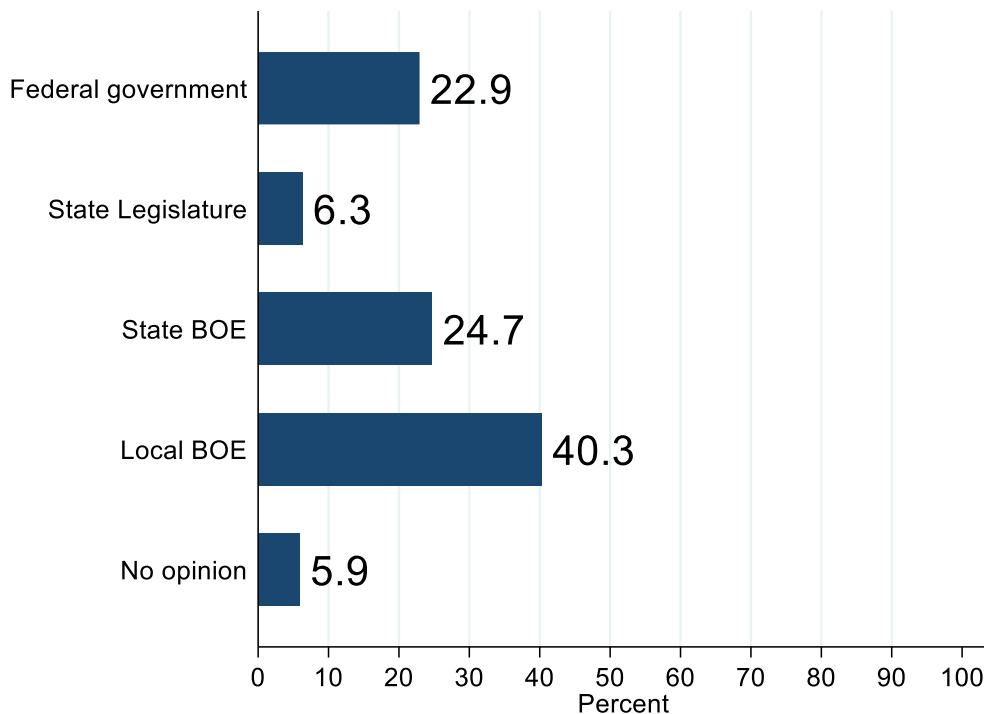


Figure 15. Best level of government to decide student discipline



The picture is less clear when respondents are asked which level of government is best equipped to decide what is taught in schools. (See Figure 16.) While a plurality (40%) say local school boards are best equipped to make these decisions, just under a quarter say the federal government and about a quarter of respondents say the State Board of Education is best equipped. Older residents and Republicans are more likely to say local boards are best equipped to decide what is taught than others.

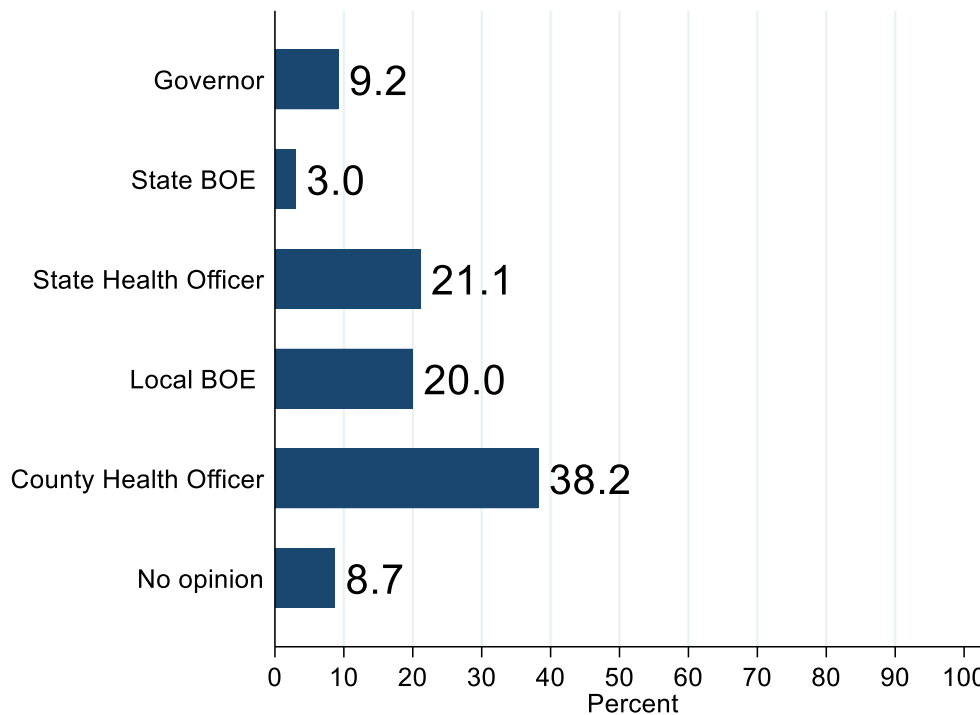
Figure 16. Best level of government to decide what is taught



We asked a similar question regarding who should make decisions about school masking policy. We identified the relevant officials as the governor, the State Board of Education, the State Health Officer, local boards of education, or county health officers. The results, presented in Figure 17, show a marked preference for local decision-making. A plurality say the county health officer is best equipped to make decisions about public school masking requirements. Over half of respondents selected either the county health officer or the local board of education. There are no significant differences across any subpopulation or region on this question.

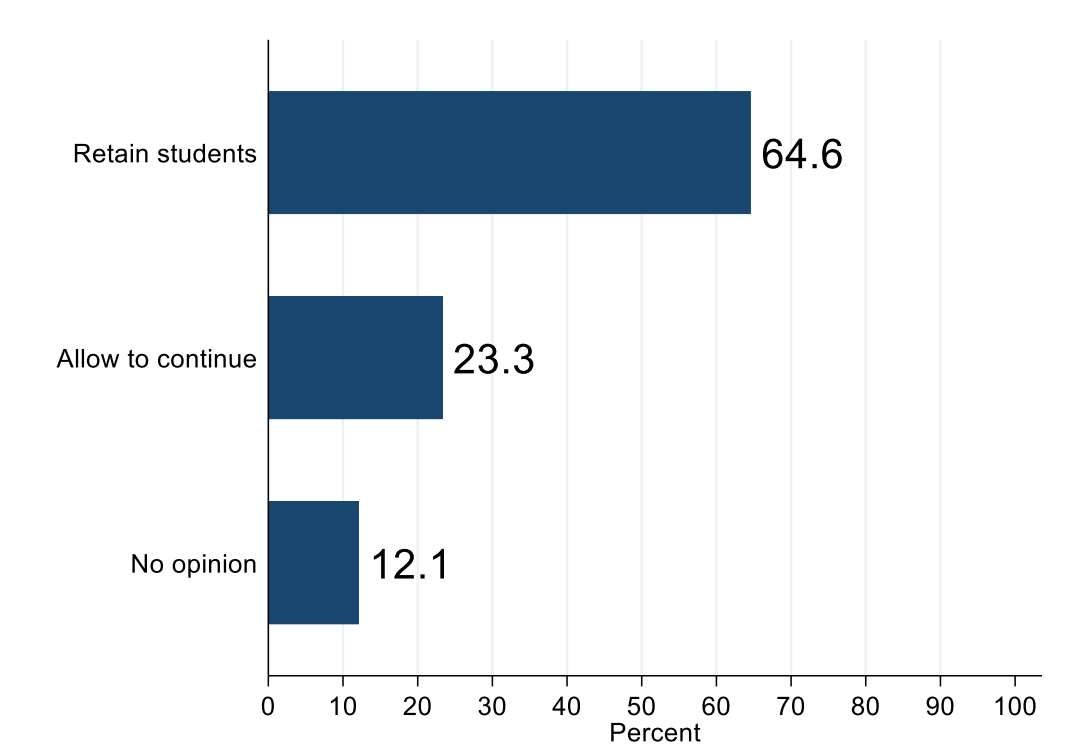


Figure 17. Best level of government to decide school masking requirements



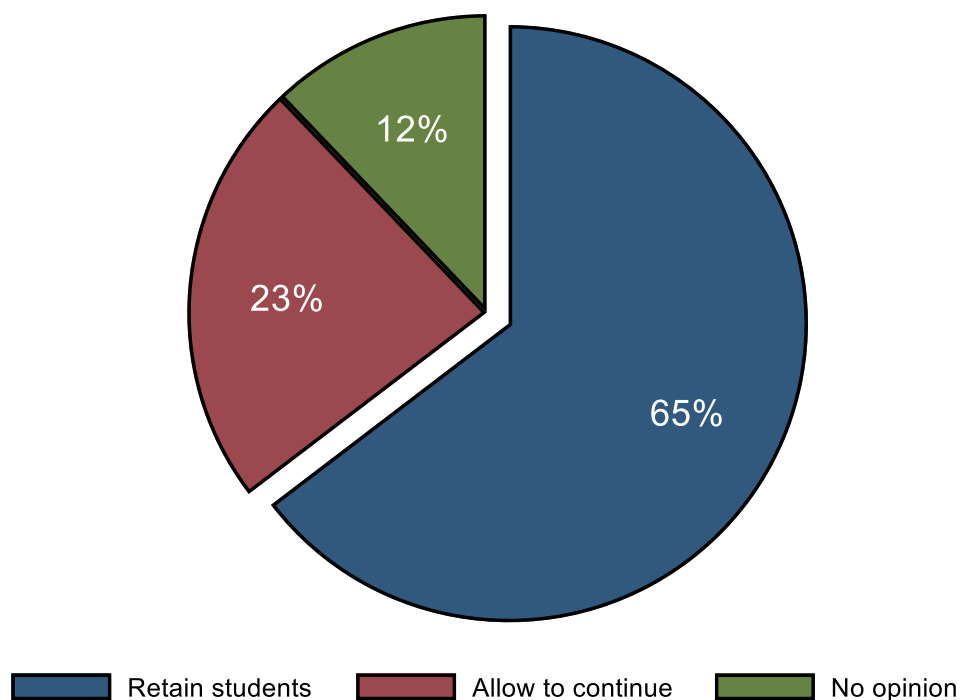
There has been some debate concerning the implementation of the Alabama Literacy ACT, which provides for a series of remediation steps when elementary students fall behind in reading proficiency. If remediation efforts fail, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students may be retained or held back until they are able to read at grade level. This provision of the act was suspended due to the disruptive effect of the COVID pandemic on schools. We asked respondents if students who have not met reading standards in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade should be held back or continue to the next grade. (See Figure 18.) Nearly two-thirds of respondents say students should be held back if they do not meet reading standards. There were not significant differences across different subpopulations in the state.

Figure 18. Retain 3rd graders not meeting reading standards



Or

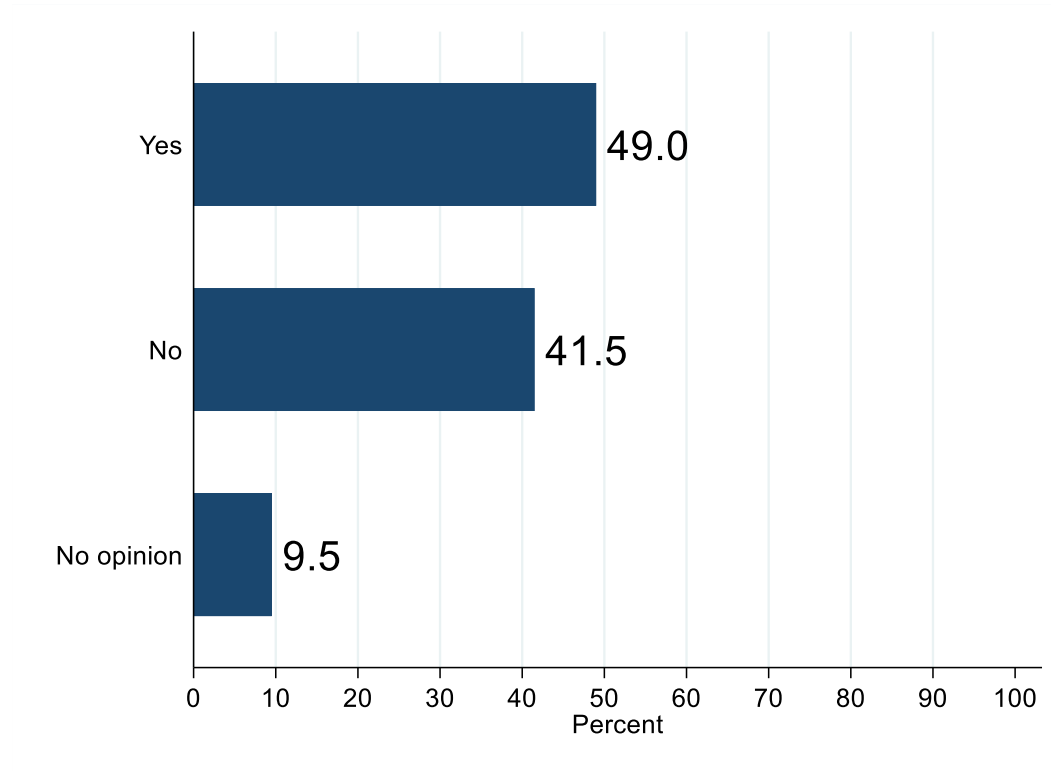
Figure 18b. Retain 3rd graders not meeting reading standards



Another frequently discussed topic involves the use of voucher programs that would allow parents to spend state funds on private school tuition or home schooling. About 18 states have such programs. We asked if Alabama should have a voucher program. As presented in Figure 19, we see that about 49% of respondents say yes and just over 41% say no. Statistics alert: Because the true value the yesses could be 49% minus the margin of error (4.85) and the true value of the noes could be 41% plus the margin of error, we cannot say that one position has more support than the other. To use the inexact, albeit useful, analogy from horse race polls, this is a statistical dead heat. We asked a similar question last year with even less difference between yesses and noes, and no identifiable group or constituency was more likely to support than any other. The same is true with one exception: Registered voters are less likely to support vouchers than those who are not registered to vote. We asked a follow-up question: If Alabama had a voucher program, to whom should vouchers be made available? The actual question wording was a little less stilted, “If Alabama had a school voucher program, who should vouchers be available to?” Despite the division of opinion on the question of vouchers, a strong majority, nearly two-thirds of respondent say that if the state had a voucher program, the vouchers

should be available to all students and not just students in failing schools, students with disabilities, or other conditions. (See Figure 20.)

Figure 19. Should Alabama have voucher program



or

Figure 19b. Should Alabama have voucher program

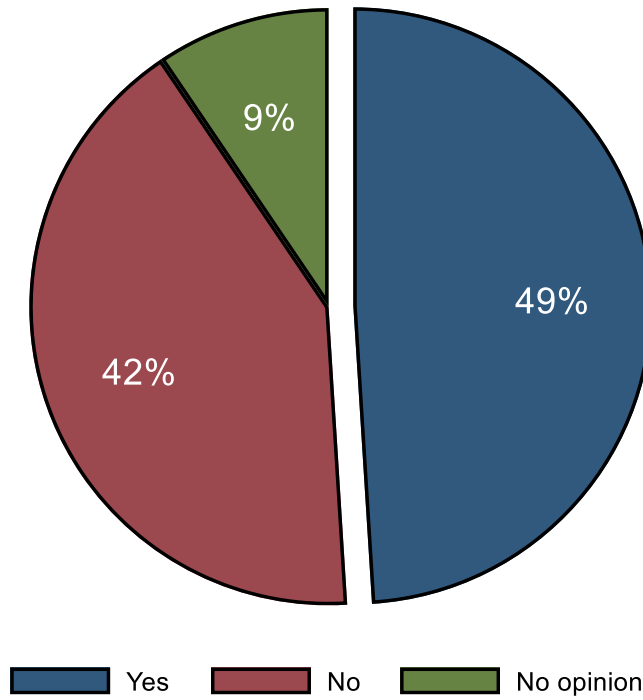
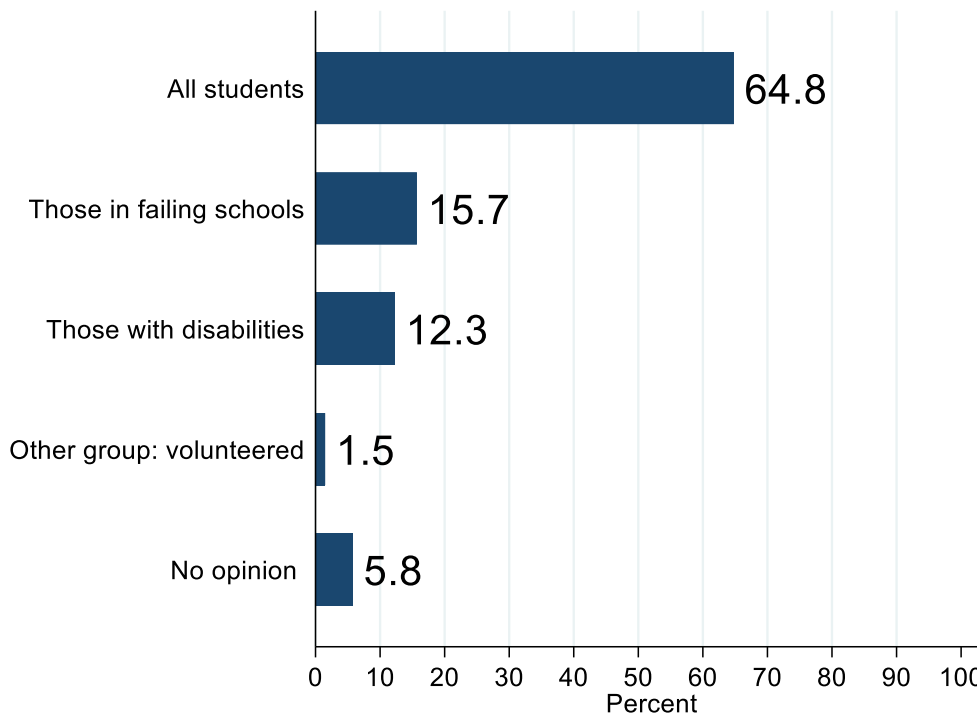


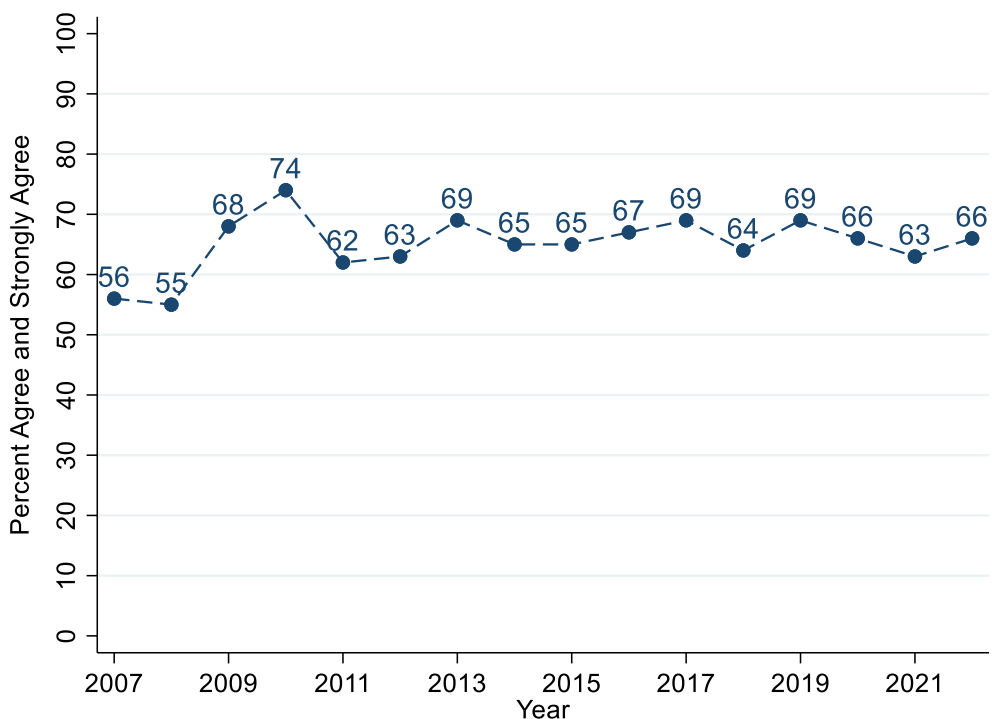
Figure 20. Eligible students if Alabama had vouchers



#### IV. Relationship with State Government

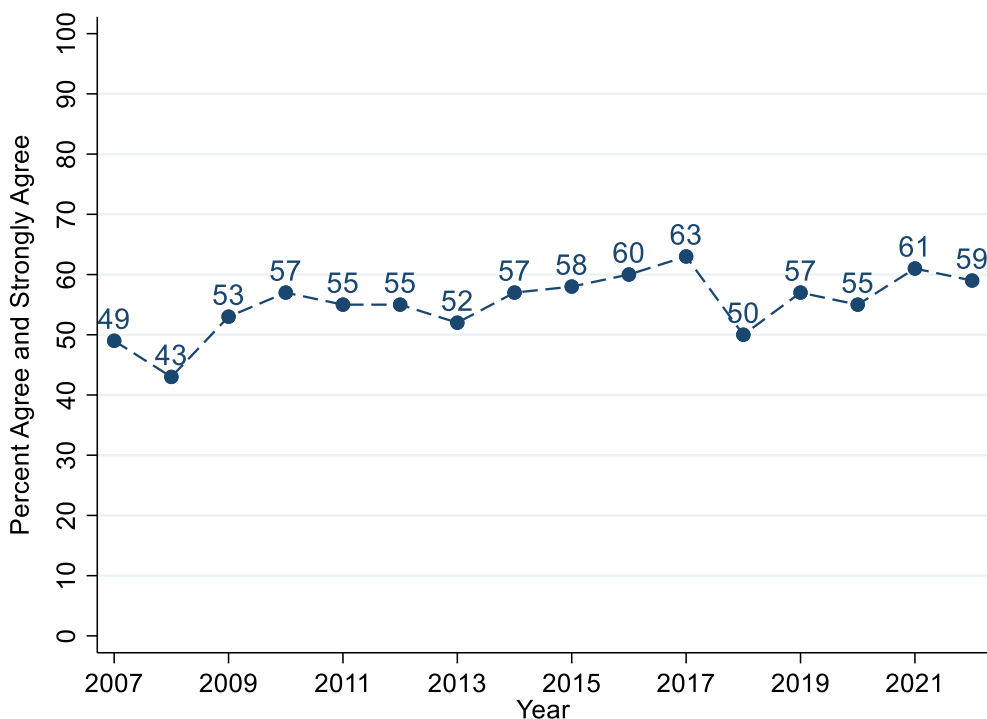
Starting in 2007, we have asked two questions to measure Alabamians' connection to their leaders in Montgomery. Respondents are asked to agree or disagree with two statements. The first is, "Government officials in Montgomery do not especially care what people like me think." The entire series is presented in Figure 21. For much of the series, the percentage agreeing or strongly agreeing that officials do not care has hovered in the sixties. The feeling is widespread. Majorities of every subpopulation agree or strongly agree with the statement. Residents from the Blackbelt region are slightly less likely to agree with the statement compared to residents from other parts of the state.

Figure 21. Officials in Montgomery do not care what people like me think



The second statement we asked respondents to agree or disagree with is, “People like me have no say in what the government in Montgomery does.” The percentage of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing with this statement has been in the upper fifties or low sixties in most recent years. In some years, we have seen some relationship between socioeconomic status or partisanship and people’s sense of efficacy. This year, the sense that people have no say in what the government in Montgomery does is widespread, with majorities of every subpopulation agreeing or strongly agreeing with the statement. Again, residents of the Blackbelt region are slightly less likely to agree with this statement than residents from elsewhere in the state.

Figure 22. People like me have no say in what the government in Montgomery does



## Conclusion

The results of the 2022 survey are largely consistent with what we have seen over the last decade. Alabama residents list education as a top priority for state government, followed by healthcare, public safety, and highways. Pluralities or majorities say the major areas of state activity are underfunded. A plurality says lower-income residents pay too much in state and local taxes, and a majority say upper-income residents pay too little. While residents do not agree on a single revenue mechanism, more than two-thirds (72%) say they are willing to pay more in taxes to improve funding for education. A large majority (80%) say Internet sales taxes should be apportioned to schools in the same way as locally collected sales taxes. Education tops the list as a use for surplus revenue, with reducing grocery taxes topping the list for those who say surplus budget funds should be used to cut taxes. The top priority for using new education funds is to increase teacher salary and benefits. Alabama residents value education and seek greater investment in it.

As has been noted in previous reports, there are indications of a stormy relationship between residents and state government. Respondents express concerns about tax



fairness, so working to make taxes more fair could improve confidence in state government. The widespread notion that state services are underfunded may be taken at face value, but it may also represent concerns about performance. While funding and general performance may be associated with state officials, respondents prefer that many decisions related to public education are made locally rather than by state officials. Although there have been some fluctuations over the years, the high percentage of respondents agreeing with the statements that officials in Montgomery don't care what they think or that people like me have no say in what state government does is a cause for concern. The fluctuations indicate that concerns about state government responsiveness are not set in stone. Public officials acting to improve performance in education, healthcare, public safety, and infrastructure and to better communicate those efforts can improve the relationship between citizens and state government.

## 2022 PARCA Survey Toplines

Conducted January 12 - April 21, 2022

State-wide RDD sample, n=408

Margin of error +/- 4.85%

Weighted by race and gender to match state demographics

I'm going to name four big investments the state makes with your tax dollars. If you had to choose just one of them as the most important service the state provides, which one of these would it be? [Randomized] Which one of these services would you rank as the next most important? Response categories: Education; Healthcare; Highways; Public safety, including prisons

mean rank		Mean
-----+-----		
Education		1.82
Healthcare		2.20
Highways		3.21
Public safety		2.77

Priority tabulated for each service

Four big investments-Education | percentage

-----+-----		
1		48.83
2		28.52
3		14.58
4		8.07
Total		100.00

Key: percentage = Cell percentage

Four big investments-Healthcare | percentage

-----+-----		
1		26.47
2		39.21
3		22.43
4		11.90
Total		100.00

Four big investments-Highways | percentage

-----+-----		
1		7.26
2		14.80
3		27.63
4		50.31
Total		100.00

Four big invest. -Public safety | percentage

-----+-----		
1		17.45
2		17.48
3		35.35
4		29.72
Total		100.00

Do you think there is too little, too much, or enough money now being spent on [ITEM] in Alabama? (Randomized) *Note: Same categories as previous question.*

Education	percentage
Too much	5.32
Enough	14.53
Too little	72.72
No opinion	7.42
Total	100.00

Healthcare	percentage
Too much	4.45
Enough	11.00
Too little	67.91
No opinion	16.65
Total	100.00

Highways	percentage
Too much	13.08
Enough	27.06
Too little	50.48
No opinion	9.38
Total	100.00

Public safety	percentage
Too much	17.41
Enough	18.62
Too little	47.07
No opinion	16.90
Total	100.00

Thinking about how much you pay in state and local taxes here in Alabama, do you think people like you in neighboring states pay more, less, or about the same in state and local taxes?

Amt people like you pay in S&L taxes	percentage
More	29.33
Same	35.17
Less	22.86
No opinion	12.63
Total	100.00

Next, I want to ask you about how much different people in Alabama are paying in state and local taxes. For each group I name let me know if you think they are paying too much, too little, or about the right amount in state and local taxes? First, would you say that you and people like you in Alabama are paying too much, too little, or about the right amount in state and local taxes? [AFTER ANSWER: How about [NEXT ITEM]?

You and people like you	percentage
Too much	37.66
Right amount	48.53
Too little	8.46
No opinion	5.35
Total	100.00

People w/ lower income	percentage
Too much	47.82
Right amount	27.97
Too little	10.06
No opinion	14.16
Total	100.00

People w/ middle income	percentage
Too much	29.95
Right amount	49.17
Too little	11.27
No opinion	9.61
Total	100.00

People w/ upper income	percentage
Too much	13.03
Right amount	18.94
Too little	58.07
No opinion	9.95
Total	100.00

I'm going to list some ways to increase funding for education. Would you be willing to increase funding for education by paying higher[randomized]?

Pay more sales tax for education	percentage
Yes	36.89
No	58.64
No opinion	4.47
Total	100.00

Pay tax on internet purchases	percentage
Yes	46.77
No	46.55
No opinion	6.68
Total	100.00

Pay more property tax	percentage
Yes	37.09
No	51.91
No opinion	11.00
Total	100.00

Pay more income tax	percentage
Yes	35.04
No	55.97
No opinion	8.99
Total	100.00

Willing to pay one of these taxes	percentage
Yes	71.78
No	26.23
No opinion	2.00
Total	100.00

What would be your top priority for spending NEW education dollars?  
 [Randomized] Response categories: Hiring additional K-12 teachers; Increasing teacher salary and benefits; Hiring school counselors and providing mental health support; Hiring additional school safety officers; Or something else.

Top priority for new dollars	percentage
Build/improve school facilities	8.99
Increase teacher salary and ben.	51.55
Hire counselors/provide ment.	18.28
Hiring additional school safety	2.78
Something else	14.16
No opinion	4.23
Total	100.00

Which level of government is best equipped to make decisions about spending for public schools in your area? Would you say it is the federal government, the state legislature, the state board of education, or the local board of education?

School spending decisions	percentage
Federal government	8.92
State Legislature	6.23
State BOE	18.00
Local BOE	59.10
No opinion	7.74
Total	100.00

Which level of government is best equipped to make decisions about student discipline in public schools? Would you say it is the federal government, the state legislature, the state board of education, or the local board of education?

Decide student discipline	percentage
Federal government	6.43
State Legislature	3.61
State BOE	14.63
Local BOE	68.92
No opinion	6.41
Total	100.00

Which level of government is best equipped to make decisions about what is taught in public schools? Would you say it is the federal government, the state legislature, the state board of education, or the local board of education?

Decide what is taught	percentage
Federal government	22.91
State Legislature	6.26
State BOE	24.66
Local BOE	40.28
No opinion	5.89
Total	100.00

Which level of government is best equipped to make decisions about public school masking requirements? Would you say it is the Governor, the State Health Officer, the state board of education, the local board of education, or the county health department?

Decide masking requirements	percentage
Governor	9.16
State Health Officer	21.07
State BOE	2.97
Local BOE	19.97
County health department	38.17
No opinion	8.66
Total	100.00

Alabamians pay sales taxes on almost all purchases, whether in stores or online. Sales taxes collected in stores stay in the local community. Taxes on internet sales are collected by the state and distributed to local communities through a population-based formula. Some counties and cities share a portion of their sales tax revenue to support the local schools. Should all counties and cities share internet sales tax revenues with local schools in the same way they share local sales taxes?

Internet tax to local schools	percentage
Yes	80.59
No	9.67
No opinion	9.75
Total	100.00

Current law requires that students be retained or held back in 3rd grade if they have not met reading standards. Do you think students who have not met reading standards in 3rd grade should be held back or should they continue to the next grade?

Retain 3rd graders	percentage
Retain students	64.62
Allow to continue	23.27
No opinion	12.11
Total	100.00

About 18 states have school voucher programs which allow parents to spend state funds on private school tuition or home schooling. Should Alabama parents be able to use state funds to pay private school tuition or home school their children?

Should Alabama have vouchers	percentage
Yes	49.00
No	41.53
No opinion	9.46
Total	100.00

If Alabama had a school voucher program, who should vouchers be available to? (Randomized) Response categories: All students; Students in schools classified as failing; Students with disabilities

Eligible students if AL had vouchers	percentage
Available to all	64.81
In schools classified as failing	15.65
Students with disabilities	12.28
Some other group: volunteered	1.45
No opinion	5.81
Total	100.00

Because of higher than expected tax revenues in recent years, Alabama has a budget surplus. [If necessary: The state is collecting more money than it spends.] Do you think surplus funds should be invested in state services or used to reduce taxes?

Use for surplus state funds	percentage
Invest in services	50.89
Reduce taxes	40.22
No opinion	8.89
Total	100.00

If invest in services: What do you think would be the Most important use of surplus funds? (n=205) (Randomized) Response categories: Education; Healthcare; Highways; Public safety, including prisons; or something else

	percentage
-----+-----	
Education	50.08
Public Safety	8.31
Roads and bridges	9.21
Health care	24.52
Something else	7.88
Total	100.00

If reduce taxes: What do you think is the most important tax to reduce? (n=168) (Randomized) Response categories: Tax on groceries; Sales tax; Property tax; Income tax; Income tax; Occupational taxes; Taxes on internet purchases; or Something else

Most important tax to reduce	percentage
-----+-----	
Tax on groceries	42.23
Sales tax	14.04
Property tax	9.80
Income tax	19.08
Occupational taxes	3.92
Taxes on internet purchases	0.76
Something else	9.81
No opinion	0.35
Total	100.00

Now I'm going to read some statements. Please indicate whether you strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, or strongly disagree with each statement.

Government officials in Montgomery do not especially care what people like me think.

	percentage
-----+-----	
Strongly Disagree	2.81
Disagree	17.20
Neither Agree nor Disagree	10.50
Agree	34.45
Strongly Agree	31.65
No opinion	3.39
Total	100.00

People like me have no say in what the government in Montgomery does.

	percentage
-----+-----	
Strongly Disagree	5.86
Disagree	25.77
Neither Agree nor Disagree	8.10
Agree	32.54
Strongly Agree	26.29
No opinion	1.44
Total	100.00





# Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama

## WHO WE ARE

The Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama is a nonpartisan research organization focused on helping state and community leaders make better-informed public policy decisions.

## WHAT WE BELIEVE

State and community leaders make better-informed decisions when provided with unbiased, nonpartisan data and resources about the topics they care about the most.

## HOW WE WORK

We conduct *nonpartisan research* on issues affecting the people of Alabama so state and community leaders, and others, can make better-informed decisions based on facts, not rhetoric.

We *independently evaluate* the efficacy of public programs and services.

We offer technical and research assistance for public and nonprofit partners to help them integrate the use of *accurate data* into their work.

We engage in *meaningful dialogue* with state and community leaders and others on the topics Alabamians care about the most.



## WHY WE MATTER

There are many groups and organizations vying for the attention of state and community leaders. It's often hard to identify what's real from alternative facts and partisan-leaning talking points. Our founders started the Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama more than three decades ago to counter the rising tide of misinformation. They recognized then, and it remains true today, that emotional appeals and fiery rhetoric often lead to indecision and false choices.

### Major Projects

PARCA's research informs major policy debates of the day and is relied upon by policymakers and policy organizations across the spectrum.



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