

To: Interested Parties

From: National Skills Coalition

Re: Virginia Poll Finds Overwhelming Support for More Skills Training Funding

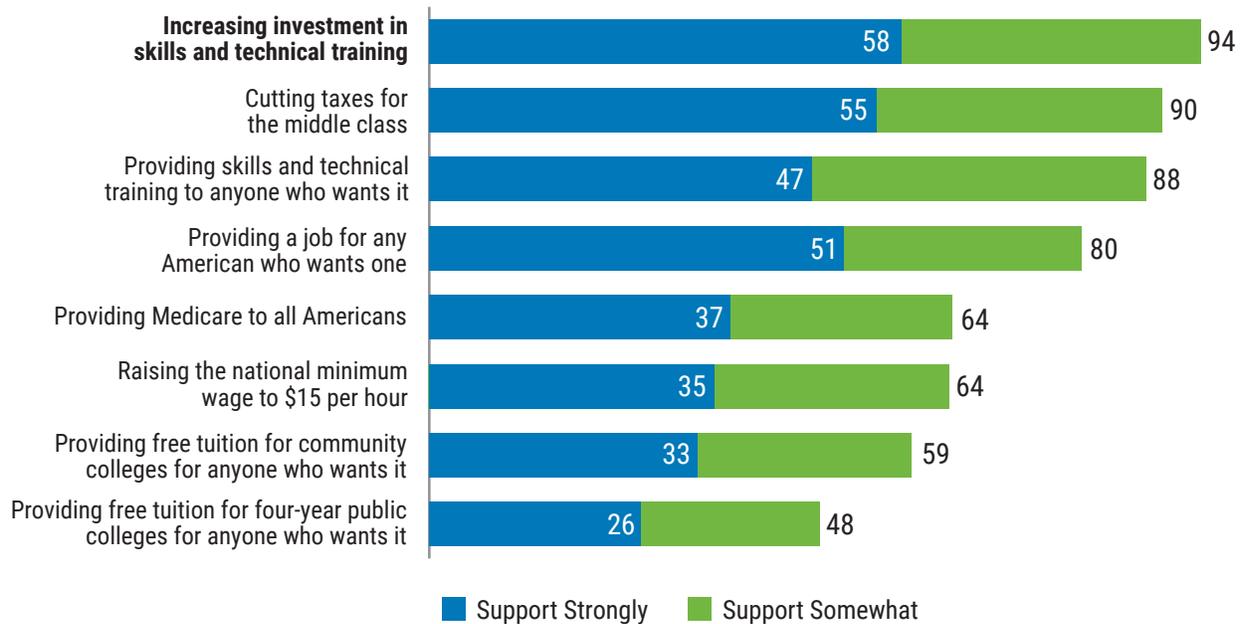


POWERED BY NATIONAL SKILLS COALITION

Likely 2020 Voters in Virginia: Key Findings

- **Virginia voters overwhelmingly support increasing investment in skills training.** More than nine-out-of-ten voters (94%) support increasing investment in skills and technical training, with a majority of voters (58%) strongly supporting more investment.
- **Increasing investment in skills training was the most popular of eight economic proposals tested.** Increasing investment in skills training was more popular than other economic policy proposals such as cutting taxes for the middle class (90%), providing Medicare to all Americans (64%), raising the minimum wage to \$15 (64%) and free tuition for four-year public colleges (48%). Independents also rated more investment in skills training as their top proposal (92%).

Support for Economic Policy Proposals



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- **Support remains extremely high even when investment is framed as “government funding.”** Noting that increased funding for skills training would come from the government does little to dampen support, with 82% of Virginia voters continuing to back it. This sentiment extends across party lines, with 89% of Democrats, 77% of Independents and 79% of Republicans in support. Support is also just as high in the southern (82%) and western portions of the state (83%) as it is in the DC suburbs (82%).
- **African American voters are especially supportive.** Nearly nine-out-of-ten of African American voters (88%) support more government funding for skills training – including 64% who do so strongly – but support is very high among white voters (80%) as well.
- **Supporting more investment in skills training helps candidates of both parties.** By a 47-point margin (55% more likely / 8% less likely), voters say they are more likely to support a candidate who supports increasing government funding for skills training. This positive impact extends across the political spectrum.
- **There is strong, bipartisan support for a range of proposals related to skills training.** At least 75% of voters support each of the ten skills training proposals tested in the poll. These proposals include providing tax incentives for employers who invest in skills training (92%), making it easier for those on government assistance to get skills training (92%), making data available to help identify which programs give students the skills they need (90%), and making federal financial aid to anyone seeking skills training (89%). All ten skills training proposals tested enjoyed broad support across party lines.

Support for Skills Training Proposals	
	% Support
Create closer links between community colleges and businesses to help community colleges train people for the jobs businesses are hiring for	96
Make it easier for people who receive government assistance like welfare or food stamps to get skills training, so they can find a family supporting job	92
Provide tax incentives to employers who invest in skills training for their workers	92
Make user-friendly data available so that the public can see which post secondary programs are giving students the skills they need for existing jobs	90
Make federal financial aid available to anyone seeking skills training, not just those seeking college degrees	89
Help laid off workers find new jobs by providing skills retraining at no cost to any worker who loses their job due to automation	89
Increase government funding in technical education and apprenticeships for high school students and young adults	89
Invest in skills training programs at the same level that we invest in college	88
Increase government funding for support services to help people finish skills training programs, such as for career counseling, childcare and transportation assistance.	82
Increase government funding for child care to help parents participate in and finish skills training	79

This memo is based on the results of an online survey conducted in Virginia of N=401 likely 2020 general election voters, conducted by ALG Research March 1-5, 2019.