

To: Interested Parties

From: National Skills Coalition

Re: Poll of Washington Voters Finds Overwhelming Support for More Skills Training Funding

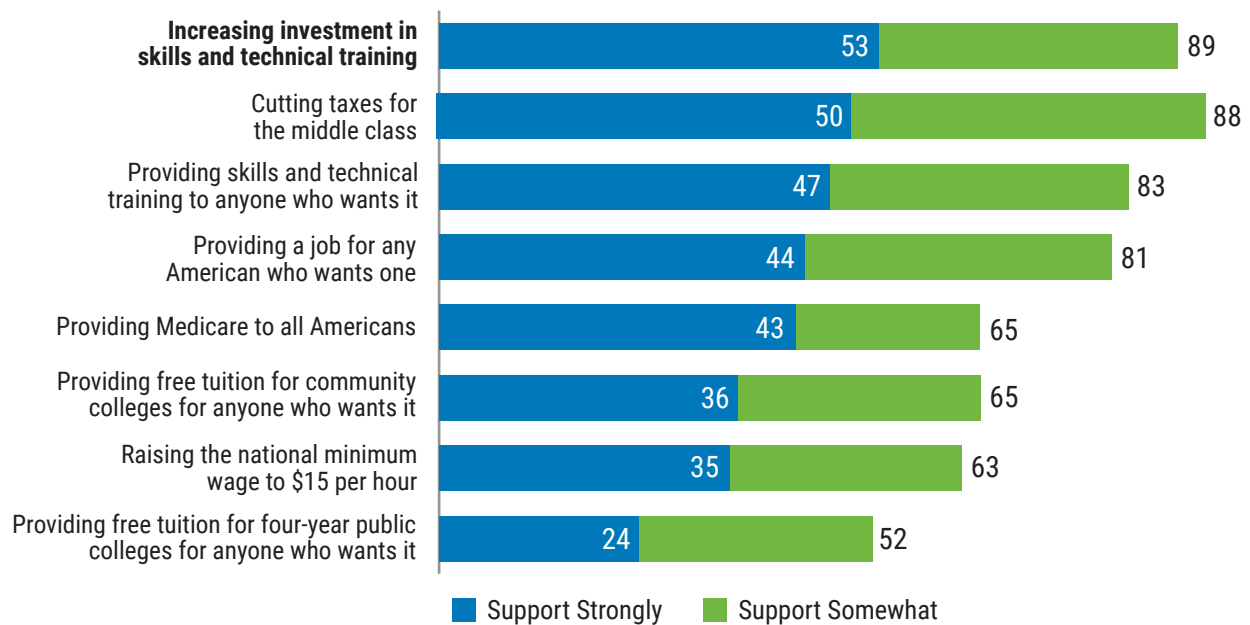


POWERED BY NATIONAL SKILLS COALITION

Likely 2020 Voters in Washington: Key Findings

- **Washington voters overwhelmingly support increasing investment in skills training.** Nearly nine-out-of-ten voters (89%) support increasing investment in skills and technical training, with a majority of voters (53%) 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 (88%), providing Medicare to all Americans (65%), raising the minimum wage to \$15 (63%) and free tuition for four-year public colleges (52%). More investment in skills training also tested at the top with Independents (88%).

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 78% of Washington voters continuing to back it. This sentiment extends across party lines, with 93% of Democrats, 73% of Independents and 62% of Republicans in support. There is also broad support in both the Seattle (81%) and Spokane (68%) media markets.
- **Supporting more investment in skills training helps candidates of both parties.** By a 43-point margin (53% more likely / 10% 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.** Over 70% 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 (87%), making data available to help identify which programs give students the skills they need (86%), making federal financial aid to anyone seeking skills training (85%), and making it easier for those on government assistance to get skills training (84%). 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	94
Help laid off workers find new jobs by providing skills retraining at no cost to any worker who loses their job due to automation	88
Provide tax incentives to employers who invest in skills training for their workers	87
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	86
Make federal financial aid available to anyone seeking skills training, not just those seeking college degrees	85
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	84
Invest in skills training programs at the same level that we invest in college	83
Increase government funding in technical education and apprenticeships for high school students and young adults	80
Increase government funding for support services to help people finish skills training programs, such as for career counseling, childcare and transportation assistance.	80
Increase government funding for child care to help parents participate in and finish skills training	73

- **Washington voters believe expanding skills training would significantly help workers.** Fifty-eight percent believe that more skills training would significantly help workers, and workers were also the group that these voters felt it was most important for more skills training to help.