

# ***School Starts in Ohio***

## ***Key Findings from Statewide Survey of Ohio Registered Voters***

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*Survey Summary of 800 Ohio Registered Voters  
Conducted Sept. 9-12, 2017 by Neil Newhouse and Public Opinion Strategies  
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### **VOTERS HAVEN'T BEEN ASKED ABOUT SCHOOL START PREFERENCES**

- 93% say they've never been asked their opinion regarding when the school year should begin, indicating this is less of a local control issue and more of a school board control issue.
- 71% of teachers haven't been asked either.

### **OHIO VOTERS WANT A POST-LABOR DAY START AND CONSISTENCY OF SCHOOL START DATES.**

- Voters prefer a school start date after Labor Day (59%) over the fourth week of August (12%), the third week of August (15%) or the first two weeks of August (12%).
- By nearly 2:1, Ohio voters believe all K-12 public schools should start on the same date.

### **VOTERS SUPPORT LEGISLATION REQUIRING OHIO SCHOOLS TO START AFTER LABOR DAY**

- 66% support the legislation.
- 65% of teachers support the legislation, while 61% of parents are in support.
- Support cuts across gender, age, partisanship, media markets, income, education and ethnicity.

### **THEY'LL VOTE FOR CANDIDATES WHO SUPPORT POST LABOR DAY SCHOOL START LEGISLATION**

- Supporting this legislation is supporting the wishes of constituents, as 52% say they would vote for a candidate who supported this proposal. Only 25% said they'd vote for a candidate opposing the issue, and 17% said it won't make any difference.

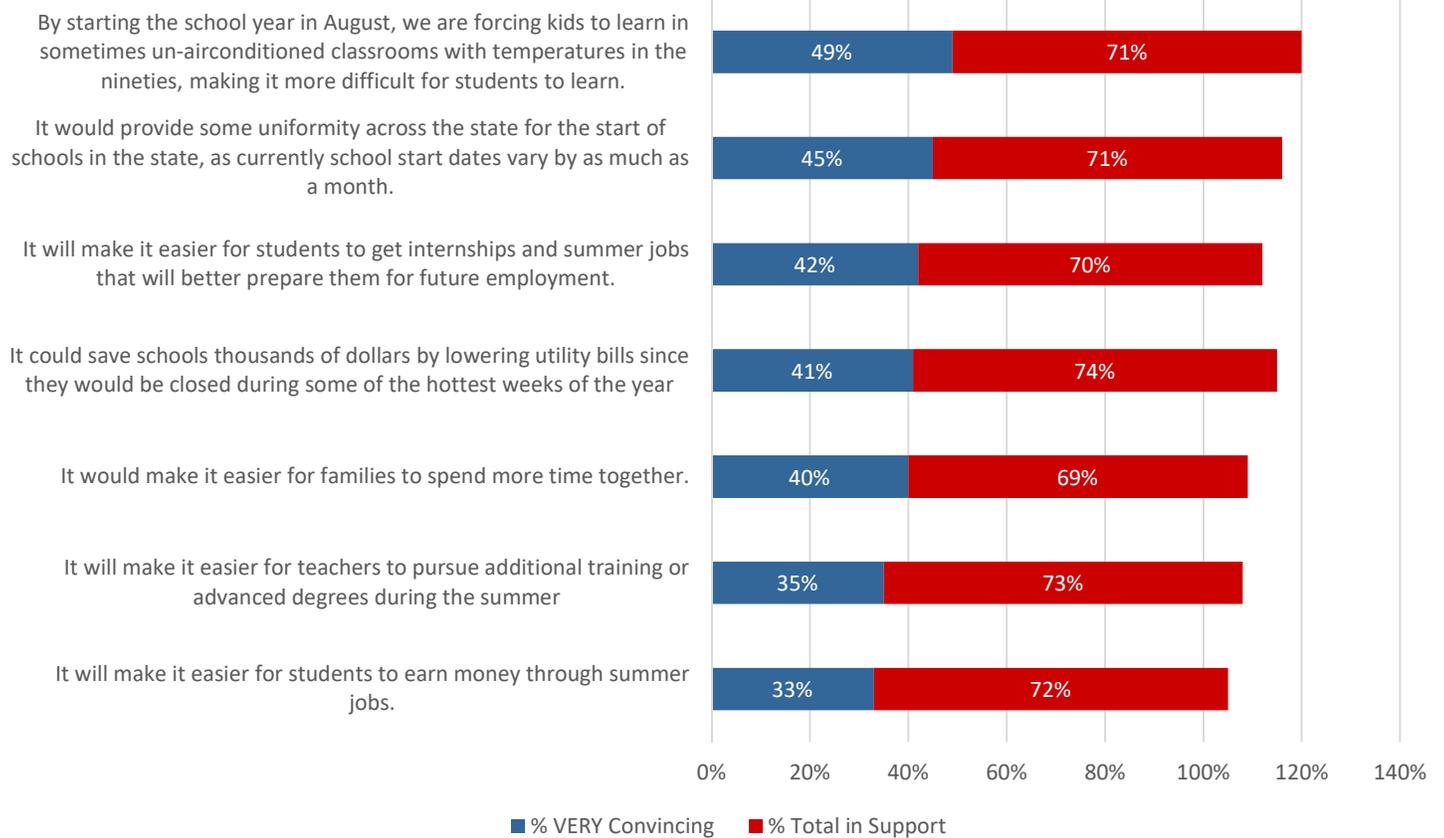
### **TO MAKE THIS WORK, WIDE MAJORITIES SUPPORT EXTENDING THE SCHOOL DAY**

- 75% are in favor of lengthening the school day by 15 minutes.
- 69% are in favor of lengthening the school day by 30 minutes.

### **VOTERS SAY INSUFFICIENT FUNDING IS THE MOST RECOGNIZED PROBLEM FACING SCHOOLS**

- Voters identified insufficient funding (32%) as the most important problem facing K-12 public schools in the state over quality of education, curriculum, testing, accountability, etc.

## TOP REASONS OHIOANS SUPPORT A LATER SCHOOL START



**SURVEY FIELD DATES:** September 9-11, 2017

**SAMPLE:** N= 800 Registered Voters Statewide

**SAMPLE TYPE:** N=480 Landline/N=320 Cell-Phone

**MARGIN OF ERROR:** ±3.46% at a 95% confidence level

### ABOUT PUBLIC OPINION STRATEGIES

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