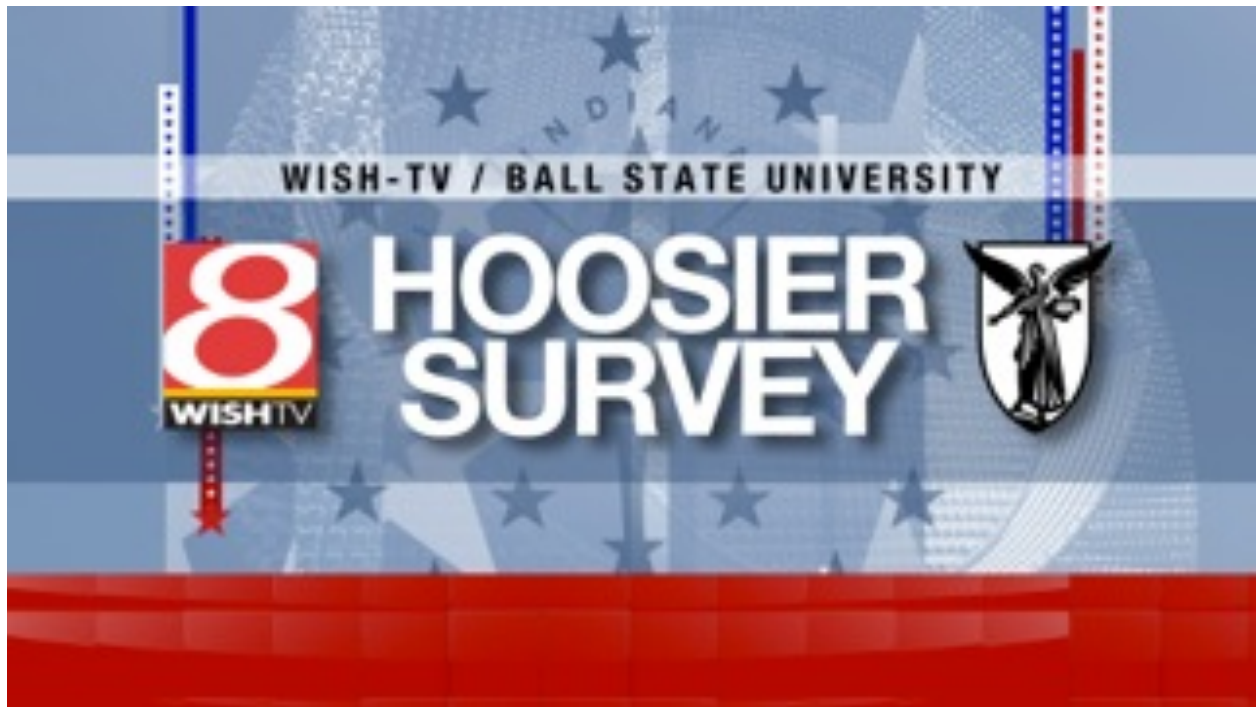


WISH TV / BALL STATE UNIVERSITY 2012 HOOSIER SURVEY



The Bowen Center for Public Affairs at Ball State University is pleased to partner this year with WISH TV, Channel 8, in Indianapolis in presenting the fifth annual Hoosier Survey. The Survey is designed to provide Indiana citizens and policymakers with a measure of public opinion on current issues facing our state in the coming year. The results of this non-partisan survey are delivered to every member of the Indiana General Assembly and top administration officials at the beginning of the calendar year so that lawmakers can gauge public views about issues they are likely to face in the coming session.

Major findings in the 2012 Hoosier Survey include:

- Job creation continues to be the number one priority for Hoosier residents with 81% of respondents saying this item should be at the top of the legislative agenda. Other top priorities include improving schools (65%) and making health care more affordable (61%). Reducing illegal immigration dropped as a priority item by nearly nine percentage points from last year's survey.
- Most Hoosiers believe the quality of state services remained the same last year and 81.7% believe Indiana is an excellent or good place to live.
- A majority of Hoosiers (64%) prefer investing state surpluses in creating jobs and improving education over cutting taxes further.
- Hoosiers express a relatively a high degree of satisfaction (69%) with the quality of public education in the state. Satisfaction is particularly pronounced among those with children in the system (82% very or somewhat satisfied), rivaling the very high level of satisfaction expressed by those with children in private or charter schools. Hoosiers seek to increase parental involvement as the best way to improve the schools. Support for expanding school vouchers has dropped by six percentage points from last year.
- Creating financial incentives for students to complete college degrees in four years is the most preferred option (27.1%) of Hoosiers for keeping the cost of higher education affordable. Capping tuition increases and freezing tuition tied for second place with just over 19% support. Nearly 10% supported the consolidation of institutions to reduce administrative costs and duplication.
- Hoosiers are almost evenly divided on their opinion of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), but there is overwhelming support for some of its provisions including the prohibition against discrimination based on pre-existing conditions. A majority (50%) favor a partnership between the federal and state government in creating the newly required health insurance exchanges.
- Hoosiers overwhelmingly support the legality of abortion in cases of rape or incest (75%) and when the mother's life (83%) or health (76%) is in danger.
- Hoosiers are evenly divided (45%) on whether same sex couples should be allowed to marry while a majority (55%) supports civil unions. Fifty-four percent oppose a constitutional amendment banning same sex marriage in Indiana.
- A majority of Hoosiers (53%) supports the decriminalization of the possession of small amounts of marijuana.

The survey was conducted for WISH TV and the Bowen Center for Public Affairs by Princeton Survey Research Associates International (PSRAI) from November 12-24, 2012. PSRAI surveyed 602 Hoosier adults by landline and cell phone, chosen randomly, yielding a margin of sampling error of $\pm 4.5\%$.

In addition to providing results for the state as a whole, some findings also are broken down by the three major regions of the state: Northern, Central, and Southern. The maps below illustrate the counties in each region.



For further information about the Bowen Center and the Hoosier Survey, contact:

Dr. Raymond H. Scheele, Co-Director, The Bowen Center for Public Affairs 765-285-8982.
rscheele@bsu.edu.

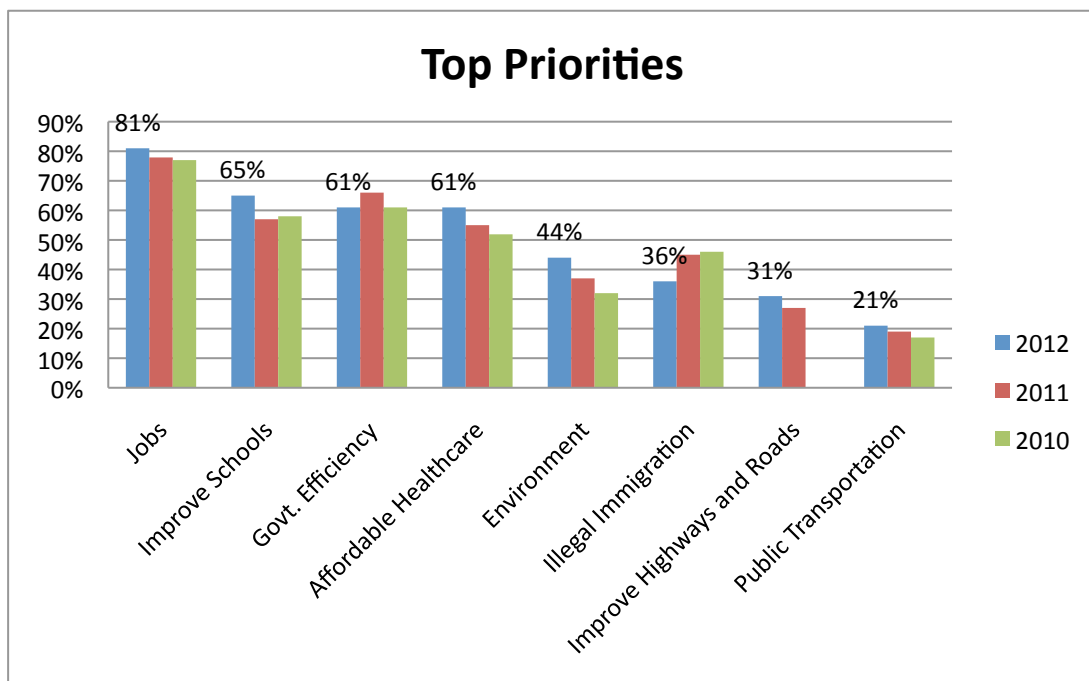
Dr. Joseph Losco, Chair, Department of Political Science, Ball State University 765-285-8780.
jlosco@bsu.edu.

Dr. Sally Jo Vasicko, Co-Director, The Bowen Center for Public Affairs 765-285-8982. svasicko@bsu.edu.

Major Findings

Policy Priorities for the State

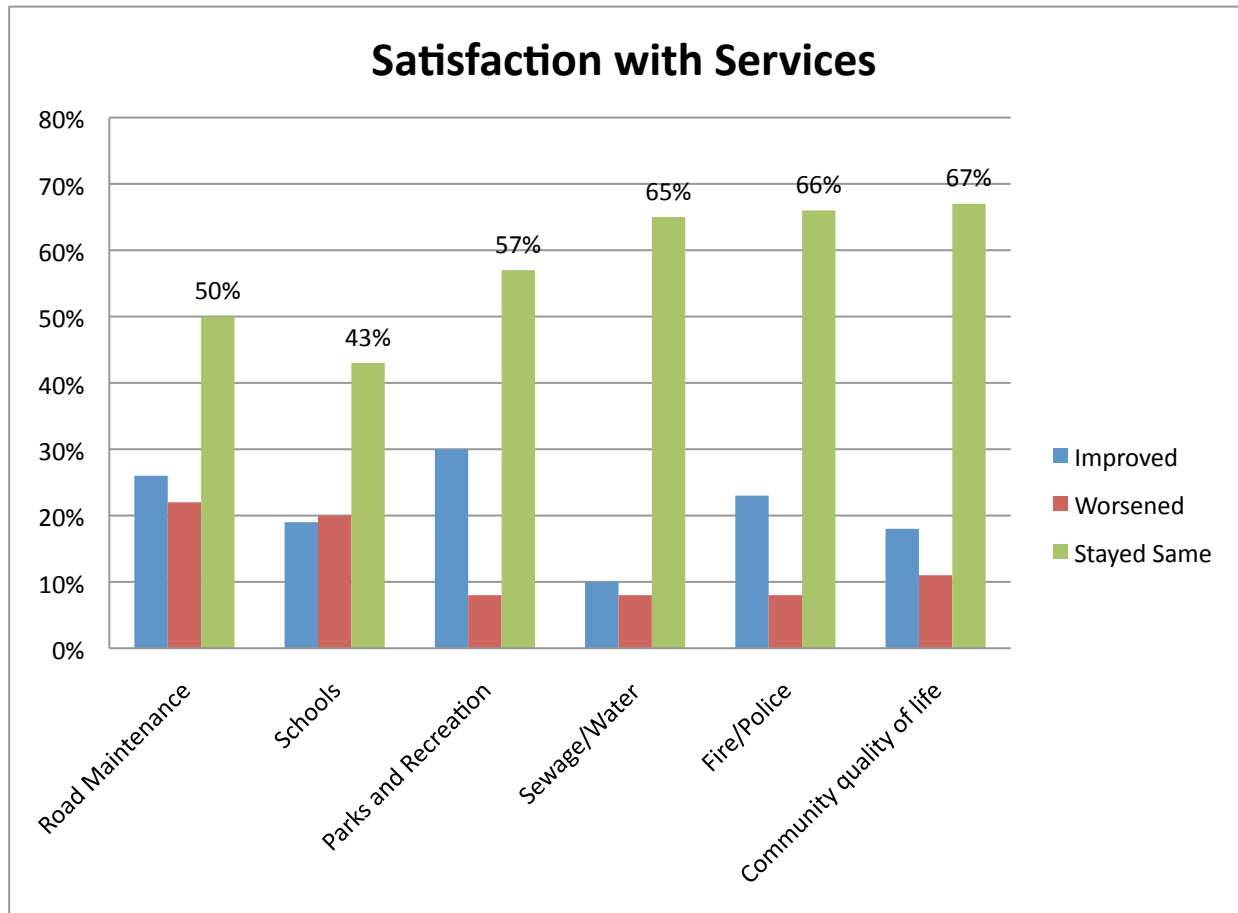
For the third year in a row, job creation is the top concern of Hoosiers with 81% saying the state needs to do more to bring jobs to the state even though a majority of Hoosiers (60%) are either very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the record the state has built in this area. There is a shift from last year, however, in the rank ordering of other political priorities advanced by Hoosiers in the 2012 Survey. Improving the public schools has moved into second place this year with 65% of Hoosiers saying this should be a top priority, eclipsing government efficiency which ranked second in last year's survey (66%). Making healthcare more affordable tied with improving government efficiency for the third spot this year, both with 61%. Protecting the environment was mentioned as a top priority by 44% this year, up from 37% in 2011; while reducing illegal immigration dropped nearly 9 points from last year to just 36% who consider it a top priority in 2012. Improving highways attracted 31% of the respondents, making this the seventh ranked priority, edging out public transportation (at 21%) which remained virtually unchanged from last year (19%). There was very little variation in these ranking across the state.



Assessing Government Services

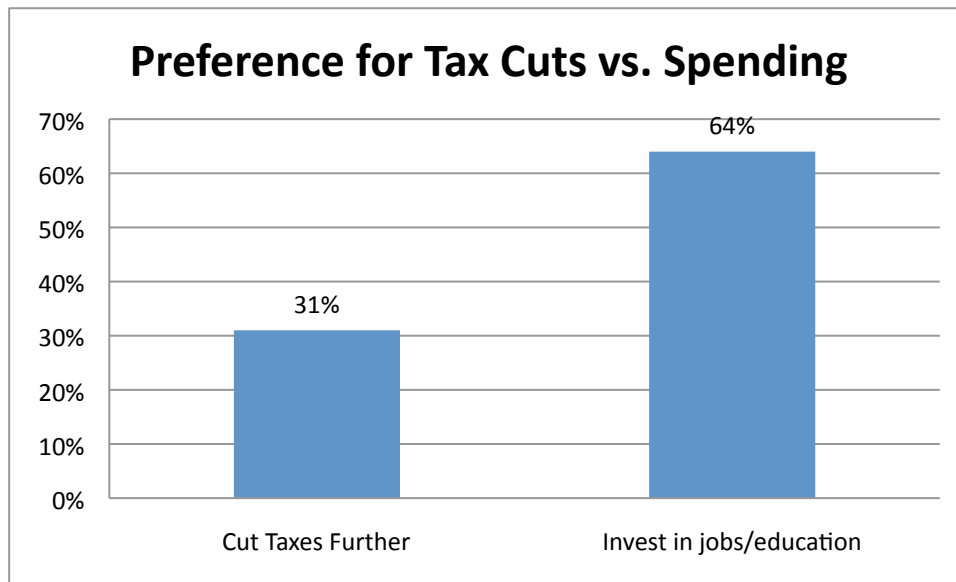
As with last year, Hoosiers have not noticed a dramatic difference in service delivery across a host of areas ranging from road maintenance to schools to parks and recreation to sewage and water treatment to fire and police safety. Small improvements were seen, however, in all categories except schools where those reporting services have worsened (20%) barely edged out the number (19%) who have

seen improvement. There were few regional variations with the exception of the Northern Counties where a slightly higher proportion of residents reported a worsening of conditions in public schools (24% as opposed to 20% in central counties and 15% in the south) and road maintenance (24% as opposed to 19% in the central counties and 18% in the south). Overall, however, Hoosiers reported a high degree of satisfaction with the quality of life in Indiana (81.7% rating it excellent or good) and in their communities (76% rating it excellent or good) with little or no regional variation.



Support for Tax Cuts and Spending

During his campaign, Governor-elect Mike Pence called for a ten percent cut in personal income taxes for all Hoosiers. Some members of the General Assembly think the state has reduced taxes enough and should instead invest more revenue in workforce training for jobs and education. We asked Hoosiers to weigh-in on this matter. By a two-to-one margin, Hoosiers prefer that surplus revenues be used to invest in jobs and education rather than rebating 10% to taxpayers. There was virtually no variation across regions of the state. Support for investment over tax cuts was slightly higher for Hoosiers at the lower income scales than those at the higher levels. Support for additional tax cuts was highest for earners making between \$75,000 and \$100,000 (48%).

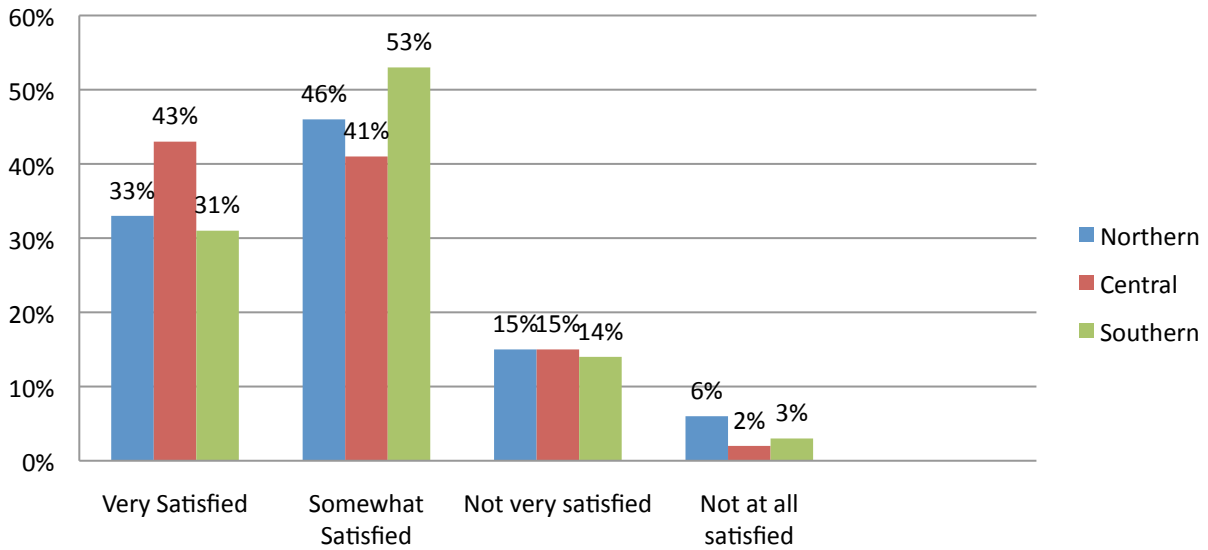


Education

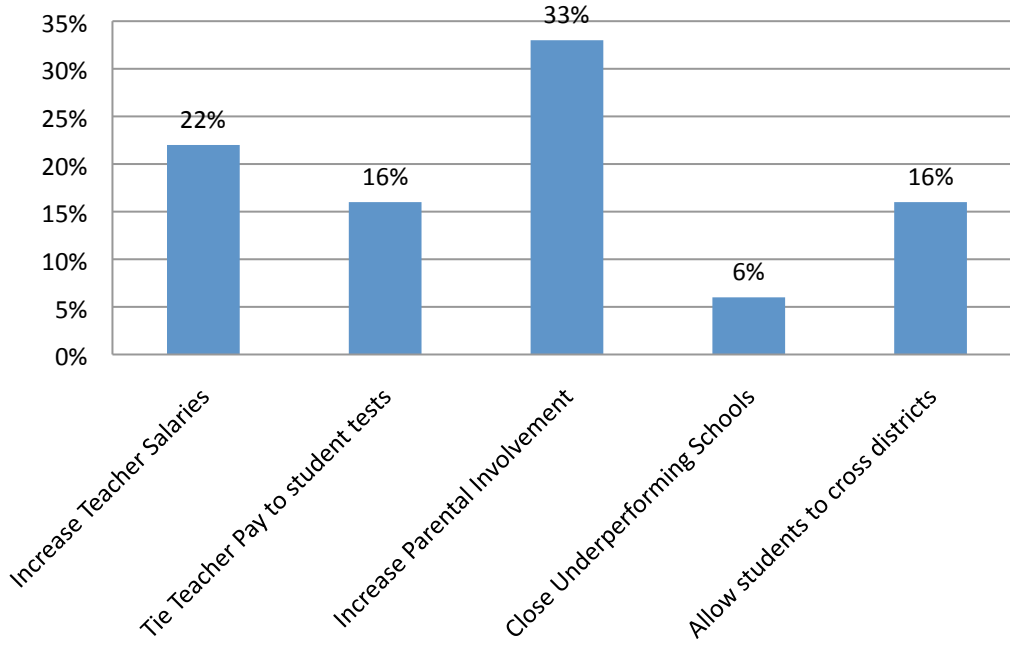
Any policy discussion about Indiana schools must start with the recognition that there is widespread satisfaction with public school education among Hoosiers, especially those with children in the system. This has been the case for the last three years for which the Hoosier Survey has collected data on this topic and it continues to hold in 2012. Overall, 69.7% of Hoosiers say they are very or somewhat satisfied with the local public schools. Twenty-two percent are very or somewhat dissatisfied. When we ask adults with children in the public schools (just over a fifth of the sample), satisfaction is even stronger. Eighty-two percent of Hoosiers with children attending the public schools in the school year ending in June 2012 reported being very or somewhat satisfied with their school’s performance. Only 18% were either very or strongly dissatisfied. These results are fairly uniform across all regions of the state as the chart below illustrates.

Our findings do indicate there is room for improvement. In line with findings over the previous two years, Hoosiers continue to believe that schools can best be improved by greater parental involvement with the schools (33%). Increasing teacher salaries ranked second at 22% followed by tying teacher salaries to student test scores and permitting students to attend public schools outside of their home district, both tied for third place with 16% support. Only 6 % preferred closing failing schools. Rank ordering was consistent across the state. When it comes to improving educational opportunities for our youngest children, Hoosiers prefer fully funding all-day kindergarten for all students over funding pre-K education for the economically disadvantaged by a margin of 61% to 29%.

Satisfaction with Public Schools 2012 (Those with Children Attending)



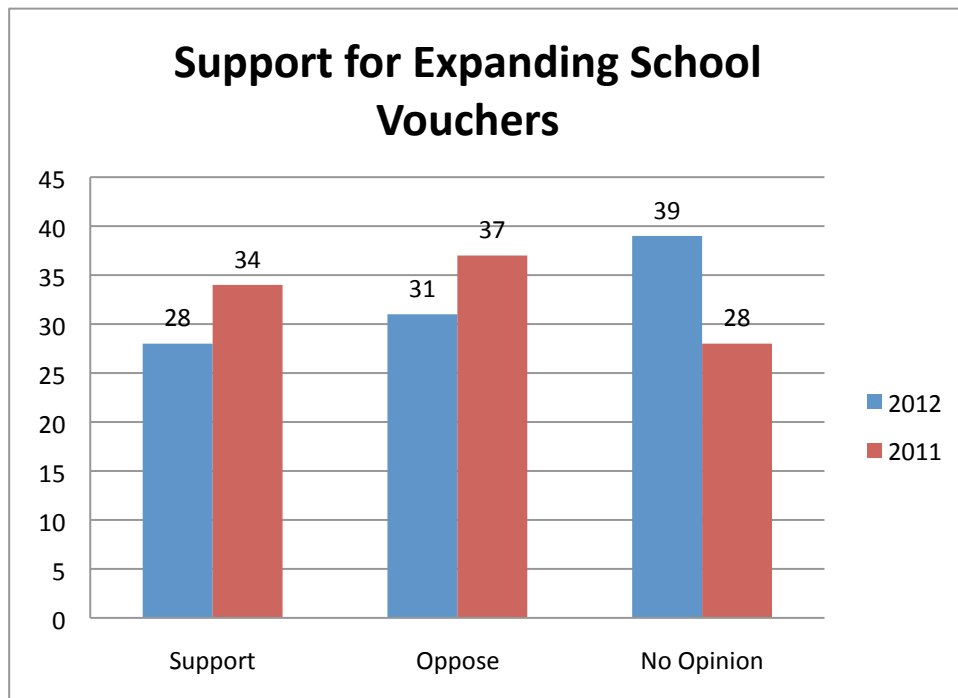
Preferences for Improving Education



According to the Indiana Department of Education, the state recognizes over 70 charter schools serving nearly 24,000 students. In addition, nearly 7,500 students have enrolled in Indiana's voucher program, allowing families to use tax dollars to send children to private schools. During its first year, the voucher program was capped at 7,500. This year, the program is capped at 15,000 students. Next year, an unlimited number of students can apply. This year, the Hoosier Survey inquired into satisfaction with charter and private schools as well as the reasons parents send their children to these schools over district public schools.

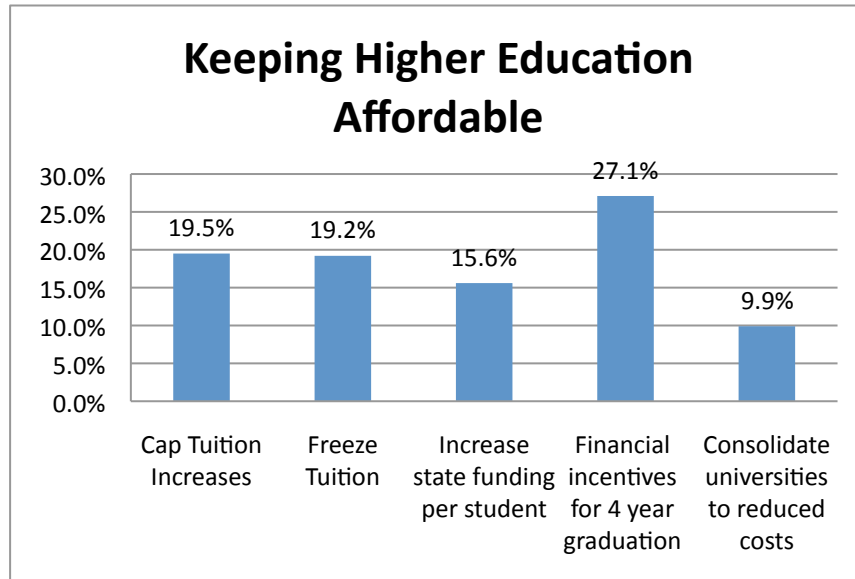
Fourteen percent of our sample reported having children in charter or private schools. Virtually all of these parents expressed satisfaction with the quality of their children's education.¹ While quality of instruction was the primary reason respondents gave for sending their child to private or charter schools, dissatisfaction with the quality of education in the public schools (17.2%) and availability of religious instruction (16.7%) were nearly tied for second place. Nearly 13% reported seeking a charter education because it provides a classroom environment more conducive to learning.

Last year, the Hoosier Survey found slightly more Hoosiers opposing the expanded use of vouchers for charter schools than supporters (a difference of 3%, within the margin of error for our survey). While there is still relative parity between those who support and oppose the expansion of vouchers, the most significant change we found is the increase in those who indicate they don't know or don't have an opinion. This group has grown by nearly eleven percentage points over last year, indicating substantial volatility. There are slight regional differences in our findings with the greatest support for expansion of vouchers occurring in the southern counties (31% support) versus 27% support in northern and central regions of the state.



¹ Because the number of charter/private school respondents is small, cross tabular analysis is limited.

National polls indicate growing concern with the rise in tuition at our nation’s colleges and the size of student debt upon graduation. This year, the Hoosier Survey asked residents what measures they would prefer to hold down the high cost of higher education. Respondents chose from a menu of items often cited by policymakers. Opinions are spread widely across categories but more than a quarter (27.1%) of respondents support using financial incentives to promote graduation within four years, a policy recently embraced by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education. Capping tuition increases and freezing tuition tied for second place with just over 19% support. Nearly 10% supported the consolidation of institutions to reduce administrative costs and duplication.

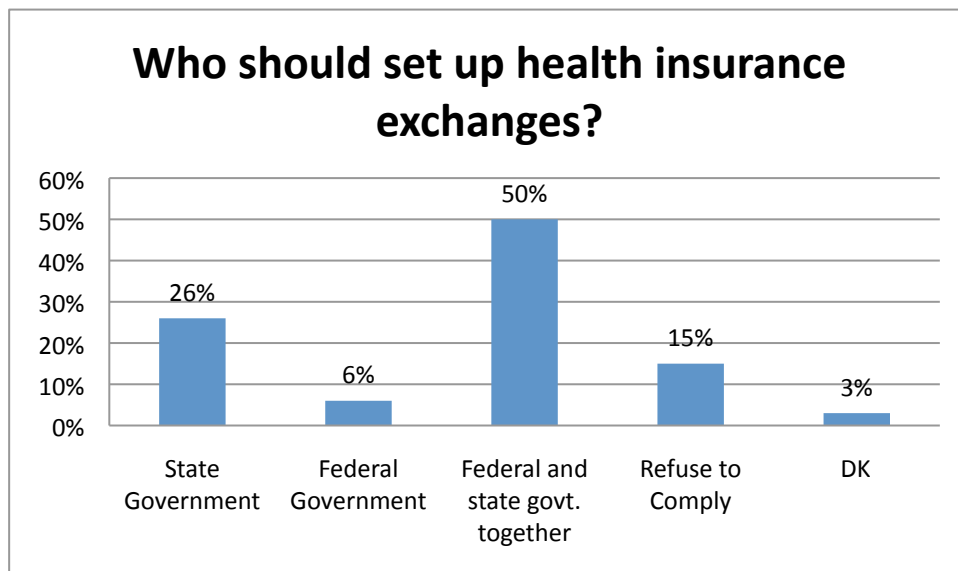
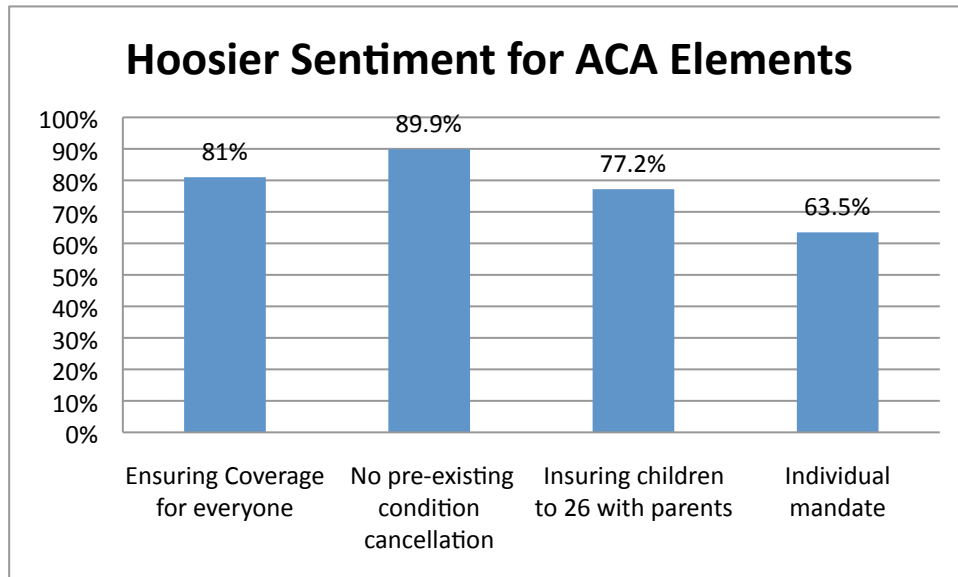


Healthcare

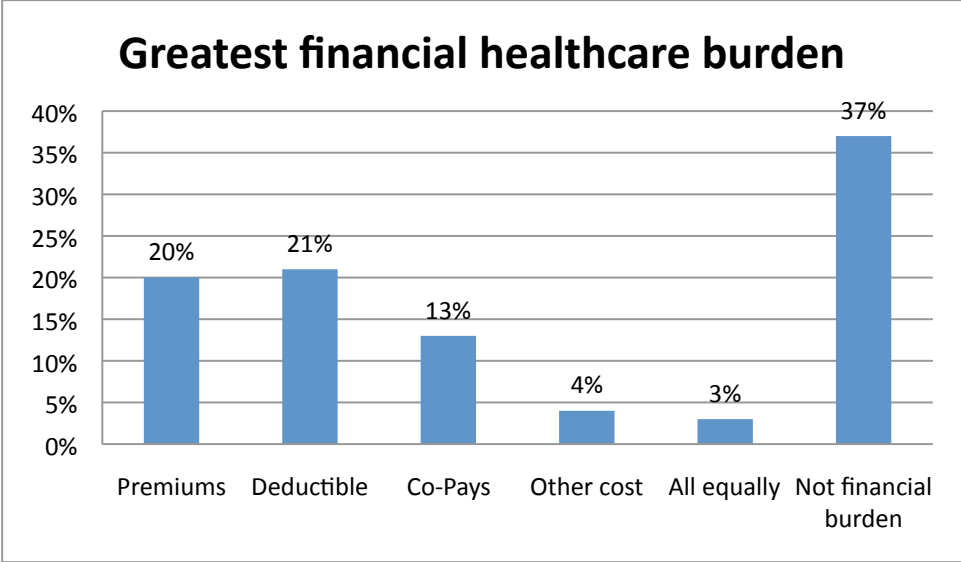
Last summer, the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed the constitutionality of contested provisions of the Affordable Care Act and this year’s re-election of President Obama assured that many of Act’s provisions would be enacted. Last year, the Hoosier Survey found that 51% of the state’s residents opposed the law with only 35% expressing support. Opinions are much more evenly divided this year with 43.6% expressing a very or somewhat favorable view of the legislation while 42% express a somewhat or very unfavorable view. As with last year’s survey, we found that regardless of one’s views of the ACA as a whole, there is substantial support for many of the provisions that are part of the legislation. There was even strong support (63.5%) for the most contentious part of the legislation, the insurance mandate.

In order to help those who must purchase health insurance under this mandate, the federal legislation calls for the creation of health insurance exchanges, or marketplaces, where individuals can compare rates and types of coverage from competing insurers. States were encouraged to set up their own exchanges. However, if a state decided not to do so, the federal government will do so for them, according to the legislation. Before the recent election, Governor Daniels decided to defer a decision on this matter and left it up to the incoming Governor to make this decision. Governor-elect Pence, long an opponent of the Act when he was in Congress, decided the state would not set up its own health insurance exchange. During candidate debates, Pence’s opponent, John Gregg, announced his preference for a “hybrid” exchange in which the federal government and the state would partner in its creation. When asked which approach to the formation of such an exchange they would prefer, half of

all Hoosiers opted for the mixed system. Only 6% preferred allowing the federal government to do it alone.

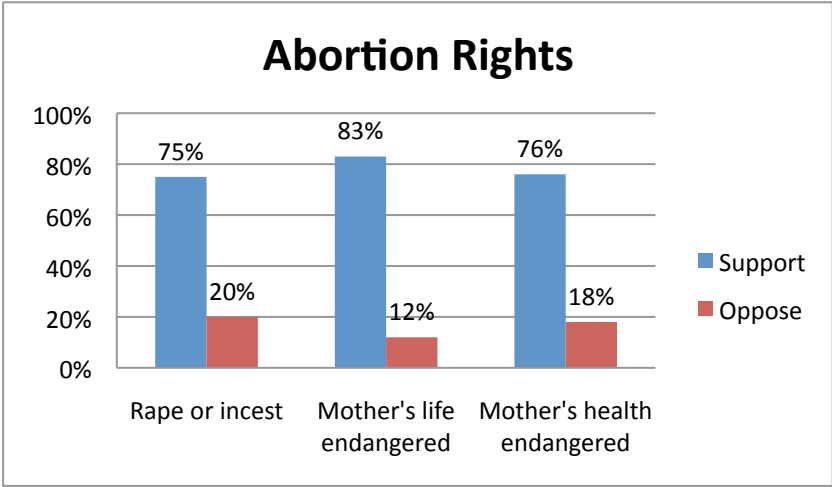


Finally, we asked Hoosiers what aspects of healthcare costs they find most burdensome. More than a third of the respondents indicated that health care costs for them were not a financial burden. Of those who did find it burdensome, nearly identical percentages cited the high cost of premiums and health insurance deductibles. Co-pays were cited by 13% of respondents.



Social Issues

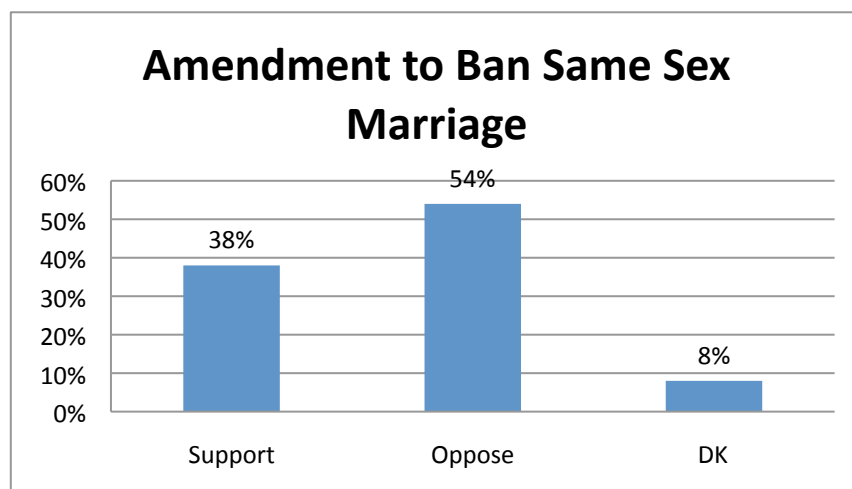
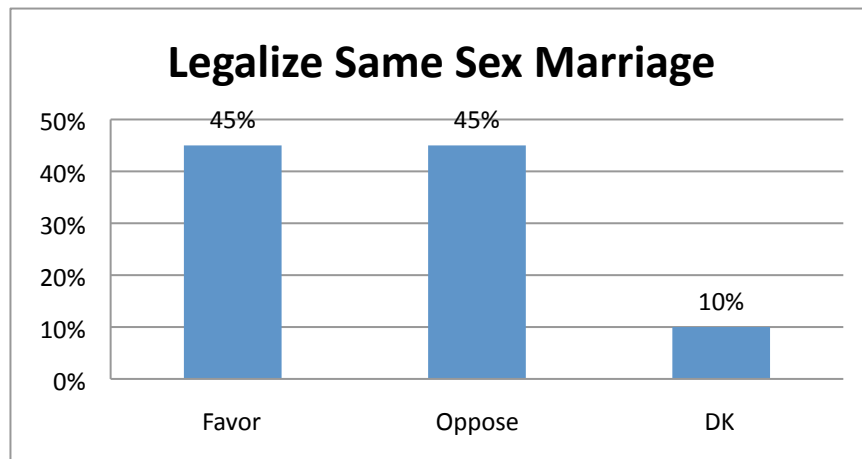
While the economy was the dominant issue in the recent election, social issues played a role, especially in the primary and general election for the U.S. Senate seat from Indiana. National attention to this race increased after comments by Republican candidate Richard Mourdock regarding abortion. We asked Hoosiers their views about the legal status of abortions and the conditions under which it should be permitted. Overall, slightly more Hoosiers believe abortion should be legal in all (22%) or most (30.2%) cases; while 15.4% of respondents said abortions should be illegal in all cases and 25.1% said it should be illegal in most cases. However, when specific conditions are cited, support for the legality of abortions rises. Overwhelming majorities support the right to abortion in cases of rape and incest, or when the mother’s life or health is endangered. There is very little variation in responses across regions, races, and gender for these cited conditions.

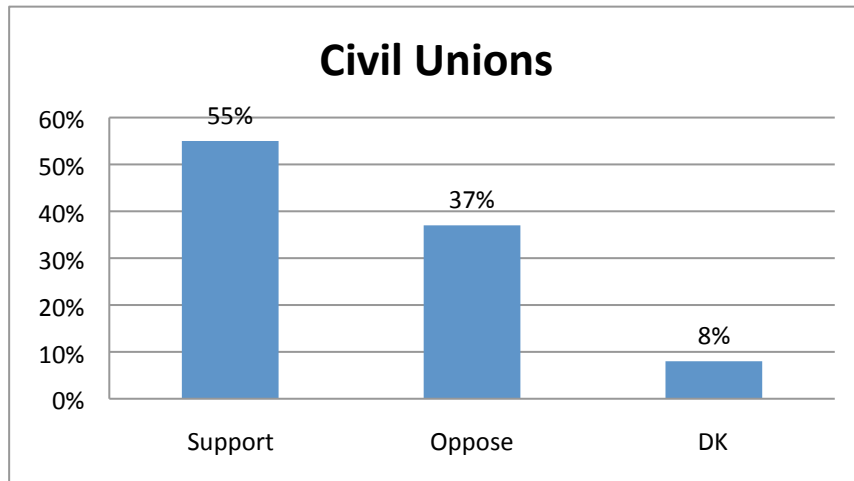


Gay rights was also a topic of debate during the recent election, elevated by the announcement by President Obama of his support for same sex marriage. Indiana has been debating a constitutional amendment banning same sex marriage for several years and the matter is currently before the General Assembly. As the charts below indicate, Hoosiers are evenly split in their opinion about same sex marriage generally but they are not prepared to support an amendment to ban it.

Support for the legalization of same sex marriage is greatest among the young (69% support among those ages 18 to 24) and those with more education (57% among those with post graduate training) and is most opposed by older Hoosiers (57% among those 65 and older) and those with less than a high school degree (72%). However, there is very little difference among regions or groups in their opposition to placing a ban on this practice in the constitution. Opponents outnumber supporters across all regions of the state although there is slightly more support in the northern counties (42% in the north as opposed to 38% in the central region and 39% in the southern counties). Opposition is also strongest among the young and those with more education.

More than a majority of Hoosiers also expressed support for civil unions that would give same sex couples the same rights and benefits as a married couple, a sentiment that drew only slightly less support in the southern counties (50%) than in the northern (56%) or central (54%) regions of the state.





Some lawmakers have suggested that the General Assembly move to decriminalize the possession of small amounts of marijuana. They recommend making possession of small amounts of marijuana a civil offense like a traffic violation, rather than a criminal misdemeanor. Supporters say the change would save the criminal justice system the high cost of prosecuting minor offenses and would spare young offenders from having a criminal record. Opponents believe such a change would encourage marijuana use in the state or lead to usage of more serious drugs. We asked Hoosiers to weigh in. By a twelve point margin, Hoosiers support decriminalization (53% to 41%) although support varies by demographics. Support is highest among the young (69% among 18 to 24 year olds), those with higher incomes (57% support among those with incomes above \$100,000), and those with higher levels of educational attainment (59% among those with four years of college or more). Opposition grows with age and is slightly higher in the central portion of the state (44% as opposed to 39% in the north and 40% in the southern counties).

