

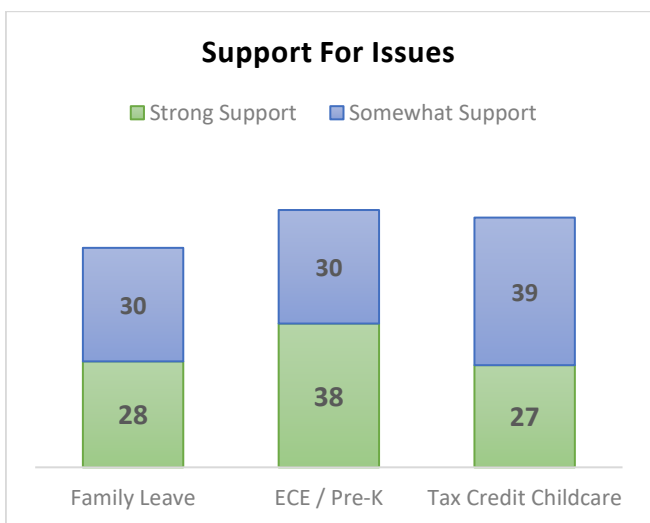
To: Interested Parties  
 From: DFM Research  
 Date: July 17, 2020

Survey results show that legislative races in eastern North Dakota have the makings of a friendly electoral environment for progressive candidates. Successful candidates in 2020 will be those best able to message on core issues that tend to favor the Democratic Party: Health care, K-12 education and other working family issues.

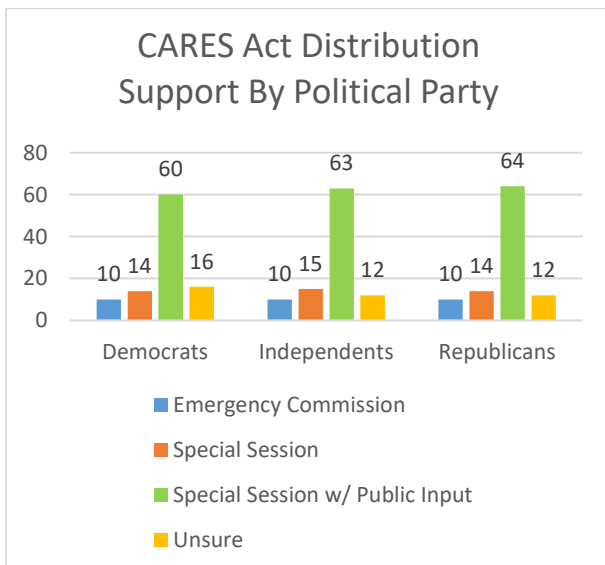
Health care continues to resonate with the voting public, remaining the number one issue with voters at 24 percent. Health care does not have the same intensity as a primary issue for Republicans, but noticeable ‘pops’ with Independents and Democrats. Also, 52 percent of respondents said they are concerned/very concerned with health insurance and medical cost on a monthly basis.

Besides health care, likely voters are also more concerned/interested in issue such as: paid family leave, early childhood education and childcare cost. Each issue has at a minimum a two-to-one ratio of support over opposition, with early childhood education the top issue in both support/oppose ratio and intensity (with 38% strongly supporting).

Survey data also shows LGBTQ issues in eastern North Dakota is no longer the wedge issue it once was during the election season. The issue of ‘Local Control’ is one area where the data popped, but caution should be used how specific this issue is framed.



The data also clearly shows that voters are not ‘big fans’ of the Governor’s Emergency Commission to distribute North Dakota’s CARES Act share of 1.25 billion dollar. Three-out-of-four voters would rather see a legislative special session called to distribute CARES Act money, than the current six member Emergency Commission. This is not a partisan issue, like number of Republicans, Democrats and Independents agree on a special session.



The last major point is that a slight majority of voters prefer an all Vote-by-Mail election; although the conduct of the election has become a hyper-partisan issue.

Bottom line: the candidate(s) best able to message on core issues with the challenges COVID-19 presents on voting and message delivery, is best positioned to have success on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The July survey is comprised of 400 General Election likely voters in eastern North Dakota contacted by mixed mode of text, cell and landline. The margin-of-error is plus/minus 4.9 percentage points.