



TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Terry Schilling, President, American Principles Project

DATE: Wednesday, April 6, 2022

SUBJECT: Indiana Polling

MEMO ON INDIANA POLLING

In the wake of Governor Eric Holcomb's veto of a bill that would have prevented males from competing in girls' sports in Indiana K-12 public schools, we commissioned a poll from SPRY Strategies to better understand the attitudes of Indiana voters. The poll was conducted by online mobile and online panel interviews from March 28 - April 3 among a random sample of 1,012 likely 2022 voters. Results are weighted, with a margin of error of +/- 3.1 percentage points.

Indiana Voters Are Strongly Pro-Republican, Lukewarm On Holcomb

Given the Biden administration's recent dismal polling at the national level, we were unsurprised to find his approval rating nearly 24 points underwater in Indiana, with more than half of likely voters strongly disapproving of his performance. Nor were we surprised to see a 16-point advantage for Republicans on a generic congressional ballot test, including an 8-point advantage among independent voters.

What we were surprised to see, however, given this favorable environment, was remarkably tepid support for Republican Governor Eric Holcomb. Fewer than one in five voters strongly approve of Holcomb's performance, with an additional 36.7% giving only qualified approval. Furthermore, we were surprised to see that, among Republican voters in particular, nearly a third (32.2%) disapprove of the job Holcomb is doing as their governor.

Voters Want to Protect Women's Sports

This lackluster support may in part be due to the 42.2% of Indiana likely voters who strongly disapprove of Governor Holcomb's recent decision to veto a bill that would have prohibited biological males who identify as transgender from competing against girls in K-12 sports in Indiana's public schools. Voters overall oppose Holcomb's veto by a 13.8-point margin, with 33% disapproval even among Democrats. Republicans and independents disapprove of Holcomb's veto by 36 and 16.1 points, respectively.

Overall, Indiana voters support legislation protecting girls' K-12 sports by a 37.8-point margin (64.5%-26.7%), including large majorities of Republican and independent voters. Even Democrats are split almost evenly on the issue, with 40.3% supporting a ban, and 44.4% opposing.

Interestingly, although some states have been hesitant to extend their legislation protecting women's sports to the collegiate level, voters don't seem to see much of a difference. If anything, our polling indicates slightly stronger support for legislation banning biological males from competing in women's athletic competitions in college (66.7%-25.6%).

- Would you support legislation that banned biologically male students that identify as transgender girls from competing in girls' sports programs at Indiana K-12 public schools?
Total: 64.5% support (54.4% strongly); 26.7% oppose (19.5% strongly)
 - *Republicans:* 81.7 (73.8) - 14.9 (11.5)
 - *Independents:* 63.8 (54.3) - 25.1 (16.7)
 - *Democrats:* 40.3 (25.7) - 44.4 (32.9)
- Would you support legislation that banned biologically male students that identify as transgender women from competing in women's sports programs at Indiana colleges?
Total: 66.7% support (56.4% strongly); 25.6% oppose (17.2% strongly)
 - *Republicans:* 87.2 (78.2) - 10.5 (6.6)
 - *Independents:* 66.5 (58.1) - 25 (15.8)
 - *Democrats:* 36.7 (22.6) - 49.2 (35)

Voters likewise disapprove of the NCAA's decision to allow swimmer Lia Thomas to compete against women at the NCAA Collegiate National Championship. Among the 77.4% of voters who had heard the story, nearly three quarters (74.5%) opposed the NCAA's decision.

Voters Want Indiana to Do More to Protect Kids

Huge majorities of voters also support doing even more to protect Indiana's children. By a 44.1-point margin (65.1%-21%), voters oppose Indiana allowing sex-change procedures, such as surgeries, puberty blockers, and cross-sex hormones, for children under the age of 18. Additionally, voters support legislation creating a right of action that would allow individuals who were pushed into such procedures as children to sue those responsible for doing so (57.4%-23.5%).

When asked about legislation, like Florida's, that would ban instruction on "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" in kindergarten through third grade, voters supported such a measure by nearly 20 points (56.3%-36.4%). Voters also support requiring pornography sites to verify the age of their users in order to prevent minors from accessing obscene material, 83.1%-10.5%. Nearly 80% of voters likewise support creating a right of action for parents to sue porn sites that distribute obscenity to their children.