

SB 29 – Civics Education in Alaska

Summary of Recent Polling Data

- There is bipartisan agreement on a solution. According to Frank Luntz, Data from a representative sample of 1,000 likely voters in a nationwide survey of policy priorities, conducted June 2020. A majority of Americans across the political spectrum believe that civic education is the best prescription to what ails our democracy.
- A [new report from More in Common](#) importantly identifies a “perception gap” with regard to those with differing political views when it comes to how civics and history should be taught. While rather extreme perceptions are only true for those occupying the far right and left ends of the political spectrum, these perceptions are manipulated by “conflict entrepreneurs” to fuel the culture wars and undermine a relative consensus on teaching a plural, yet shared national history.
- An [NBC News Poll](#) released in August 2022 once again found voters across the political spectrum identifying “threats to democracy” as the most important issue facing the country, eclipsing cost of living, jobs and the economy, and immigration.
- A subsequent [CBS News Poll](#) released in September 2022 showed 72% of respondents believe U.S. democracy is “threatened,” versus 28% who see it as “secure.”
- Prominent pollster Brent Buchanan and his firm [Cygnal](#) gauged [public support for stronger K-12 civic education](#), including the bipartisan federal civics legislation. The poll engaged a national sample of 3,002 adults from September 15–26, 2022, including 2,385 likely voters; 1,195 Republican primary voters; and 803 K-12 parents, with substantial overlap across groups. Overall, respondents demonstrated strong support for more emphasis on civics in this pivotal moment for our constitutional democracy:
 - Two-thirds of likely voters think civics in schools should be emphasized more, with Republican primary voters (64%) and parents (59%) registering strong, but slightly lower support.
 - Similar numbers across these three groups see civics as more important now than it was five years ago (likely voters, 69%; Republican primary voters, 66%; and K-12 parents, 66%).
 - Nearly two-thirds of likely voters (65%) support more funding to ensure every child receives an adequate civic education, as do 59% of Republican primary voters and 64% of K-12 parents.