

**CAPITAL POLL**

Alabama 08 Education Budget (08022)  
 568 Registered Voters  
 June 4-5, 9-11, 2008  
 SME +/-4.1%

1. Overall, do you think Alabama is currently:

	Frequency	Percent
On the right track	267	47%
On the wrong track	183	32%
Don't Know / No Reply / Other	118	21%
Total Qualified	568	

2. Do you think Alabama public education is currently:

	Frequency	Percent
On the right track	217	38%
On the wrong track	260	46%
Don't Know / No Reply / Other	91	16%
Total Qualified	568	

3. Why do you think Alabama public education is on the wrong track?  
 (Open End)

Funding	54	17%
Not getting appropriate education	30	9%
Teachers	24	7%
Wasteful spending of tax dollars	17	5%
Discipline/ Security	15	5%
Class size / Reduced number of schools	14	4%
Teachers pay	13	4%
Legislature	11	3%
Curriculum	11	3%
Firing staff / Teacher pink slips	11	3%
National survey / Ranking	9	3%
NCLB	9	3%
Mismanagement / Corruption	8	2%
Standards too low	8	2%
Politics / Politicians	7	2%
Dropout rate	7	2%
Buildings / Facilities	6	2%
Too much sports	5	2%
Gambling / Lottery	4	1%
Teaching tests	3	1%
Poor management / Leadership	3	1%
Administration pay too high	3	1%
Not run by Educators / Parents	3	1%

3. (Cont.) Why do you think Alabama public education is on the wrong track? (Open End)

Local schools	2	1%
Liberals	2	1%
Private schools are better	2	1%
Removal of prayer in schools	2	1%
Federal government / Congress	2	1%
Joy of education gone	2	1%
Corruption	2	1%
Graduation exam	2	1%
Text books out of date	2	1%
Segregation / Racism	2	1%
Governor	1	0%
Paperwork	1	0%
Drugs	1	0%
School boards	1	0%
No value placed on getting a education	1	0%
Rules	1	0%
President Bush	1	0%
School closings	1	0%
School budgets	1	0%
Courts	1	0%
Don't Know / No Reply / Other	16	5%
Total	321	

4.-6. In Alabama, do you feel Very Positive (VP), Positive (P), Negative (N), Very Negative (VN), or Don't Know (DK) about each of the following education organizations?

	VP	P	N	VN	DK
4-Year Colleges and Universities	20%	66%	6%	1%	7%
Community and Technical Colleges	12%	64%	10%	3%	11%
K-12 Public Schools	8%	54%	25%	5%	9%

7. In Alabama, which of the following education organizations do you believe is most important to the state?

	Frequency	Percent
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All of equal importance to the State	335	59%
K-12 Public Schools	176	31%
4-Year Colleges and Universities	26	5%
Community and Technical Colleges	17	3%
Don't Know / No Reply / Other	14	3%

8.-10. In Alabama, do you believe the following education organizations are Over Funded (OF), Under Funded (UF), Funded at the Right Level (FRL), or Don't Know (DK)?

	OF	UF	FRL	DK
4-year Colleges and Universities	19%	26%	44%	12%
Community and Technical Colleges	10%	37%	36%	17%
K-12 Public Schools	5%	73%	17%	5%

11.13- In Alabama, do you believe education funding for each of the following is Sufficient (S), Not Sufficient (NS), or Don't Know (DK) to have quality education programs?

	S	NS	DK
4-Year Colleges and Universities	66%	24%	10%
Community and Technical Colleges	54%	33%	14%
K-12 public schools	28%	68%	5%

14. If selective cuts have to be made in the state education budget, please tell me which of the following you support?

	Frequency	Percent
	-----	-----
Cut 4-year colleges and universities and fund K-12 schools	222	39%
Cut all the same	178	31%
Cut Community and Technical Colleges and fund K-12 schools	64	11%
Cut K-12 schools and fund colleges and universities	7	1%
Cut K-12 schools and fund Community and Technical Colleges	4	1%
Don't Know / No Reply / Other	93	16%
Total Qualified	568	

The Alabama Legislature ended its 2008 regular session without adopting an education budget. A Special Session of the Legislature was called by the Governor to adopt an education budget for the coming school year.

15. Who do you think was most responsible for the failure of the Legislature to adopt an education budget in the regular session?

	Frequency	Percent
Governor	93	16%
Republican Senators	82	14%
Democratic Senators	105	19%
K-12 supporters	19	3%
College and university supporters	40	7%
Don't Know / No Reply / Other	229	40%
Total Qualified	568	

The education budget before the Legislature was proposed by Governor Riley and was supported by all state public school organizations and opposed by universities. The budget was not adopted because a minority of senators supporting additional funding for universities prevented a vote on the education budget.

16. Do you believe universities were justified in preventing a vote on the education budget?

	Frequency	Percent
Justified	109	19%
Not Justified	399	70%
Don't Know / No Reply / Other	60	11%
Total Qualified	568	

17. The proposed education budget cut funding for both K-12 public schools and colleges and universities. K-12 funding was cut 3% and colleges and universities were cut 10%. Do you believe the 3% cut for K-12 and the 10% cut for universities were justified and fair or do you believe both should have been cut the same percentage?

	Frequency	Percent
3% and 10% cuts justified and fair	228	40%
Both should have been cut same percentage	218	38%
Don't Know / No Reply / Other	122	22%
Total Qualified	568	

18. State education funding in Alabama for K-12 ranks 43rd among all 50 states. Funding for colleges and universities higher education ranks 5th on the basis of personal income and 15th on the basis of per pupil expenditures. Do you believe the 3% cut for K-12 and the 10% cut for universities were justified and fair or do you believe both should have been cut the same percentage?

	Frequency	Percent
3% and 10% justified and fair	252	44%
Both should have been cut the same percentage	193	34%
Don't Know / No Reply / Other	123	22%
Total Qualified	568	

19. 18 votes were needed in the Senate to allow action on the education budget. 17 Democrats voted for allowing a vote and zero Republicans voted for allowing a vote. In the next election for the Alabama Senate, will this make you more or less likely to vote for a Democrat or a Republican or will it make no difference in your vote?

	Frequency	Percent
More likely to vote for a Democrat	140	25%
Less Likely to vote for a Democrat	21	4%
More likely to vote for a Republican	40	7%
Less likely to vote for a Republican	28	5%
Make no difference in your vote	292	51%
Don't Know / No Reply / Other	47	8%
Total Qualified	568	

20. In the next election for the Alabama Senate, will you be more or less likely to vote for the reelection of a senator who prevented a vote on the Governor s proposed education budget, whether Republican or Democrat, or will it make no difference in your vote?

	Frequency	Percent
More likely vote for reelection	35	6%
Less likely vote for reelection	197	35%
Make no difference	273	48%
Don't Know / No Reply / Other	63	11%
Total Qualified	568	

21. A Special Session of the Legislature, at a cost of some \$300,000, adopted the original 6.3 billion dollar education budget proposed by the Governor for next year. In the final budget, K-12 got 5 million dollars more and universities were cut 5 million dollars. Which of the following best describes how you feel about the Special Session of the Legislature?

	Frequency -----	Percent -----
Angry a budget was not adopted in the regular session	224	39%
Justified to get an education budget	31	6%
Did the best they could	44	8%
Mad, but nothing I can do about it	61	11%
Mad, and I plan to let it be known in the next election	102	18%
Pleased	32	6%
Don't Know / No Reply / Other	74	13%
Total Qualified	568	

Demographics

Region

North	45%
Middle	29%
South	26%

Party I. D.

Democrat	42%
Republican	40%
Independent	10%
Other	8

School Age Children

Public School	20%
Private School	4%
Public & Private	1%
Home School	1%
None	73%
Other	1%

Gender

Male	41%
Female	59%

Race

Black A-A	20%
White	76%
Hispanic	1%
Other	3%

Age

18-24	2%
25-34	6%
35-50	26%
51-64	31%
65 or Older	35%

Income

< \$25,000	17%
\$25-\$50,000	25%
\$50-\$75,000	19%
\$75-\$100,000	11%
> \$100,000	16%
Other	11%

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