September 29, 2023



# Survey of Likely General Election Voters Texas House Districts

April 2023 | n=8,417



### **Insights & Analysis**

- In April, Governor Abbott commissioned individual polls in 21 state house districts held by Republicans to gauge how important School Choice is to voters (TL:DR very important). In an effort to get a more wholistic picture, the results were combined from the 21 individual surveys. It provides a clear message that, while results vary slightly from district to district, the overall result is the same – School Choice is a winning issue across Texas that all Republicans should embrace or experience electoral consequences.
  - More than 8,400 likely general election voters were surveyed as part of the project, including 4,808 Republicans.
- Support for school choice in the 21 combined House Districts in Texas is strong as 58% of overall voters support school choice (including 69% of Republicans) and just 27% oppose. Only 17% of Republicans oppose.
- It is imperative for Republicans up for re-election to support school choice. Initial reelection support for the combined state representatives reaches 34% overall (49% among Republicans), and support drops to 25% overall (28% among Republicans) if the state representative doesn't vote for school choice, as a majority of Republicans become opposed.
  - If Abbott endorses another candidate against the state representative in a Republican primary because he/she wouldn't vote to provide school choice, the Abbott-endorsed candidate gets 57% while the state representative drops all the way to 19% in the primary.
- Even in state house district where the Republican state representative gets the highest initial support for re-election (53% overall; 69% among Republicans), that Republican state representative's support for re-election craters (36% overall; 40% among Republicans) if he doesn't support school choice.



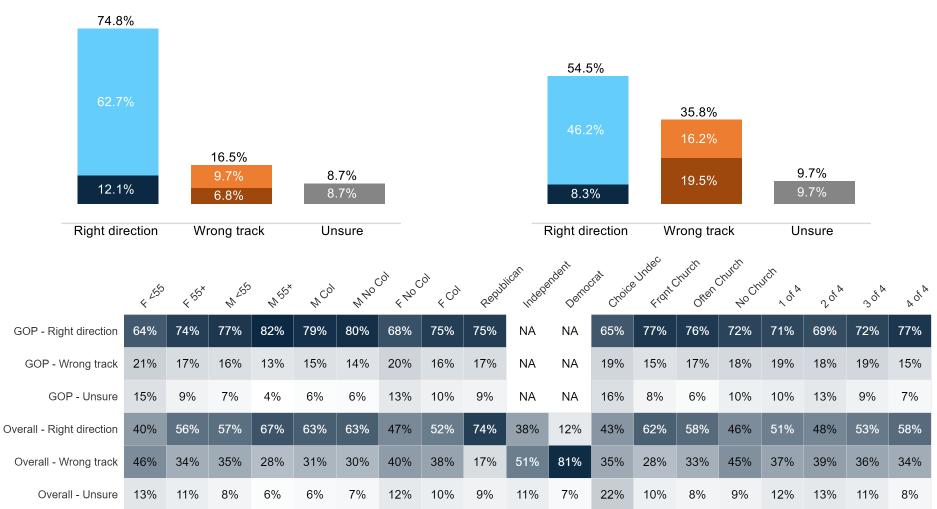
# **Insights & Analysis**

- As an example, the picture gets even worse for the state representative if Abbot endorses another candidate against him in a Republican primary because he voted against school choice legislation, only 34% of primary voters would support the current state representative whereas 43% would support the Abbott-endorsed candidate.
  - After basic messaging promoting school choice while also sharing the main arguments against choice, support increases +3 to reach 61% support overall (including 73% of Republicans support).
- Voters are **optimistic** about the direction of the state (55% right direction overall, 75% right direction GOP), and **Abbott is very well liked** (+24 net fav overall; +70 net fav with GOP).
- Machine-learning generated three segmentation analysis groups: Persuadables (23%), School Choice Opposers (24%), and School Choice Supporters (53%).
  - The **Persuadables** group supports school choice but is undecided or ready for someone new on the re-elect ballot. They tend to be mid-income moderate women without a degree. This is a crucial group for Republicans in general elections.



# **TX Direction**

<u>Republicans</u>



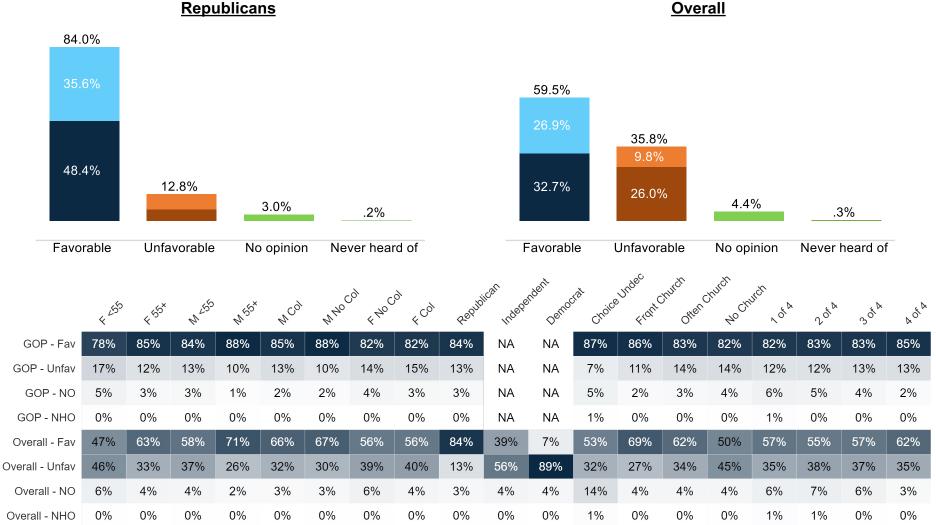
Overall

Generally speaking, would you say things in Texas are headed in the right direction or off on the wrong track?

CYGNAL

### **Abbott Image**

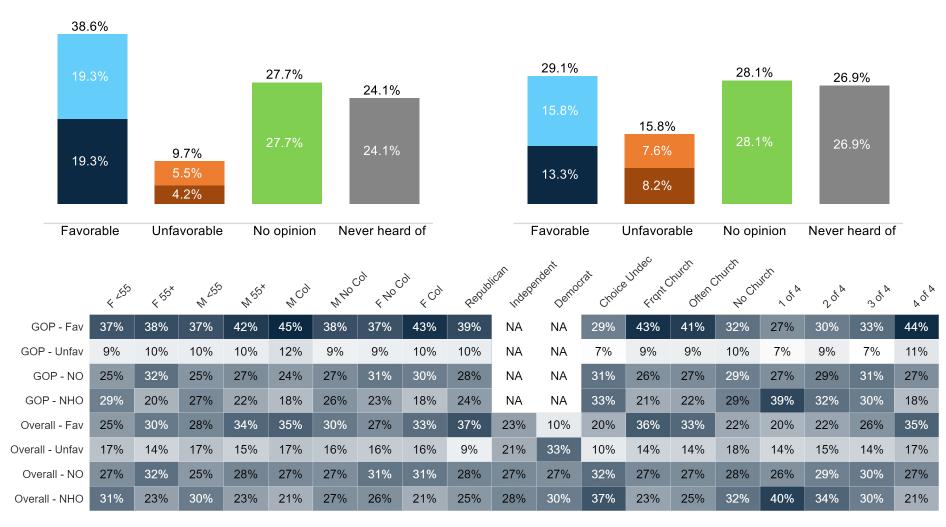
**Republicans** 





# State Rep Image

Republicans



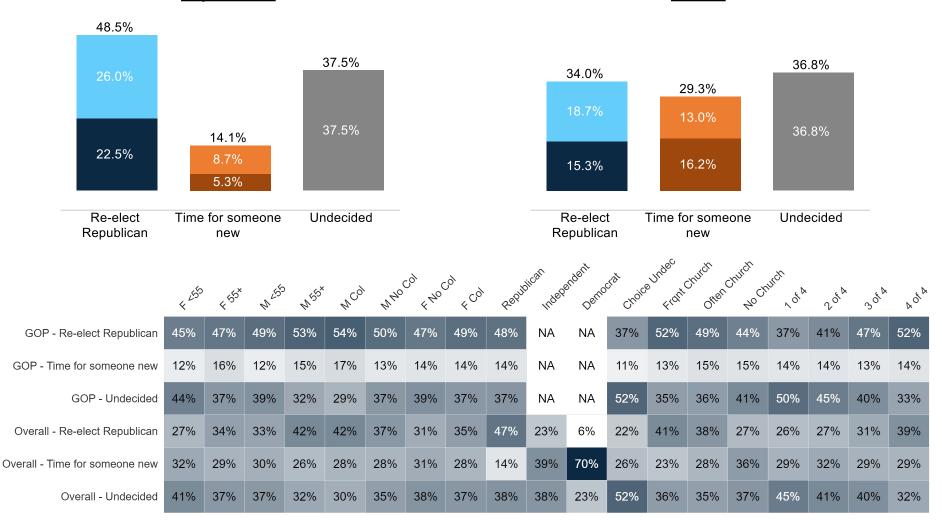
Overall

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of [name of local Republican state representative]?



# State Rep Re-Elect

Republicans



Overall

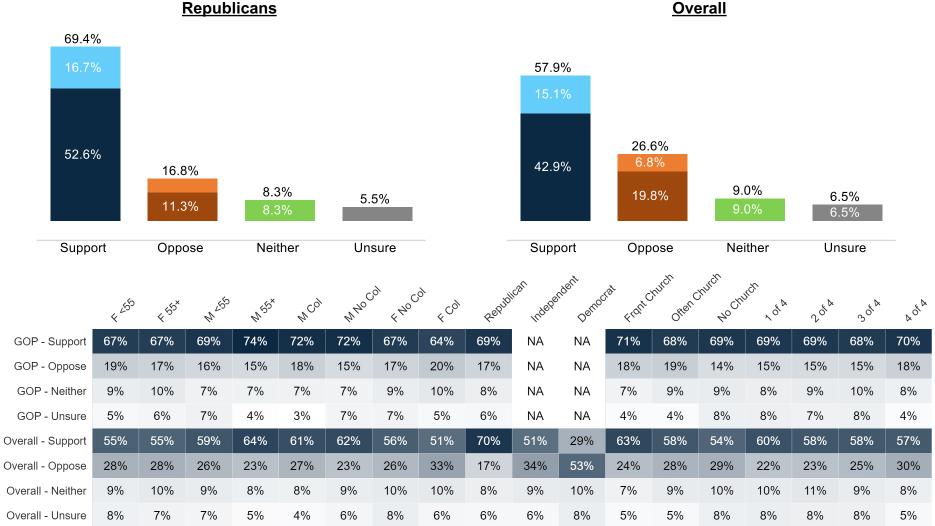
(A)

CYGNAL

Do you believe [name of local Republican state representative] deserves re-election for Texas House of Representatives, or is it time for someone new?

# **School Choice S/O Initial**

**Republicans** 



Do you support or oppose school choice, allowing parents to send their children to public, charter, or private schools with funding following the student?





**Low-Income**: Some of the best education is often reserved for students with parents who can afford the best schools. School choice evens the playing field for all families and makes the best education available to every student of any background.

**Freedom from Indoctrination**: Schools should teach kids how to think, not what to think. Sadly, many are trying to indoctrinate kids in schools. School choice gives parents the ability to choose an education setting that is free from indoctrination at a public school.

**Empower Parents**: School choice empowers parents to be the final decision maker when it comes to their child's future. Parents should be able to consider options and have a say in their own child's education, regardless of income or ZIP code.

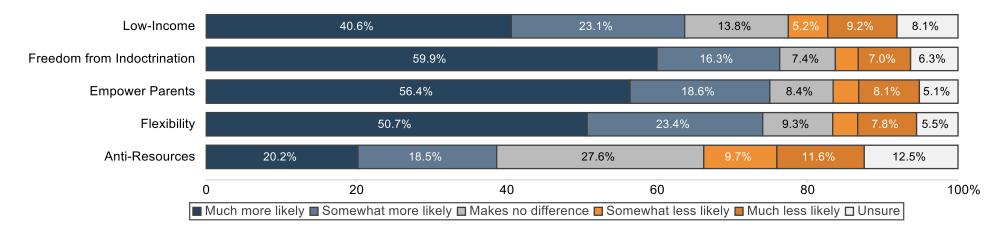
**Flexibility**: Every child learns differently and has different needs when it comes to education. School choice gives flexibility to parents to decide the right education that fits their child's unique needs.

**Anti-Resources**: Local education officials worry that expanding school choice options for parents would take away existing resources from public schools.

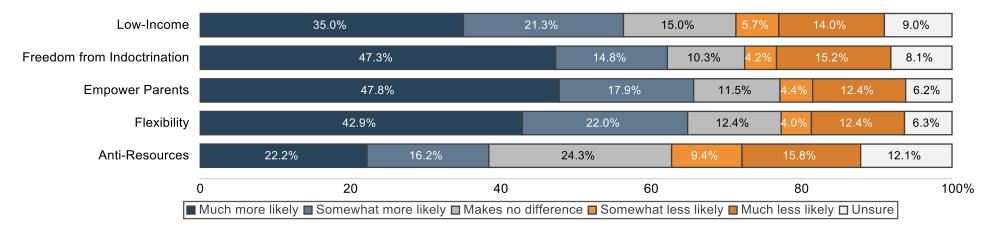


### Messages

#### **Republicans**

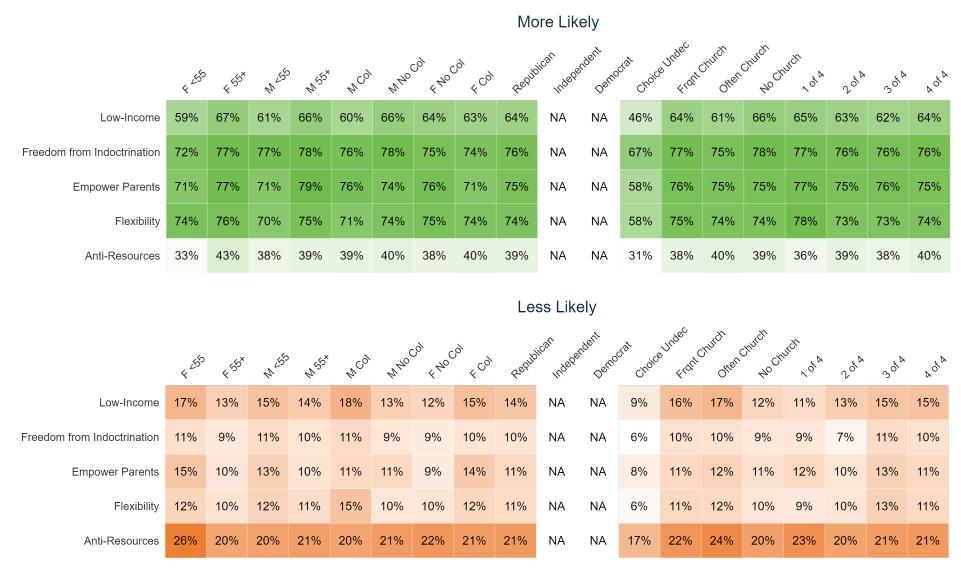


#### <u>Overall</u>



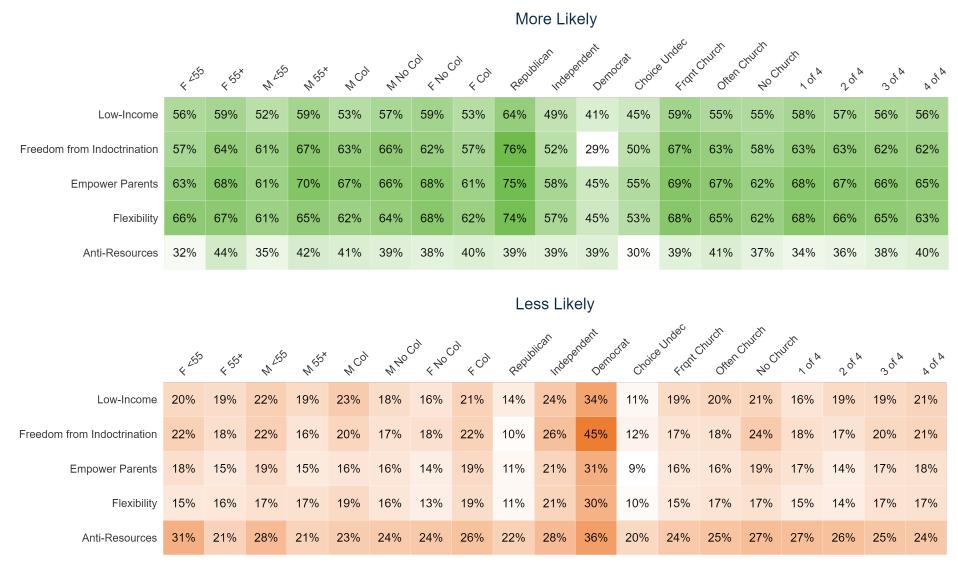


### **Messages Heatmaps (Republicans)**



CYGNAL

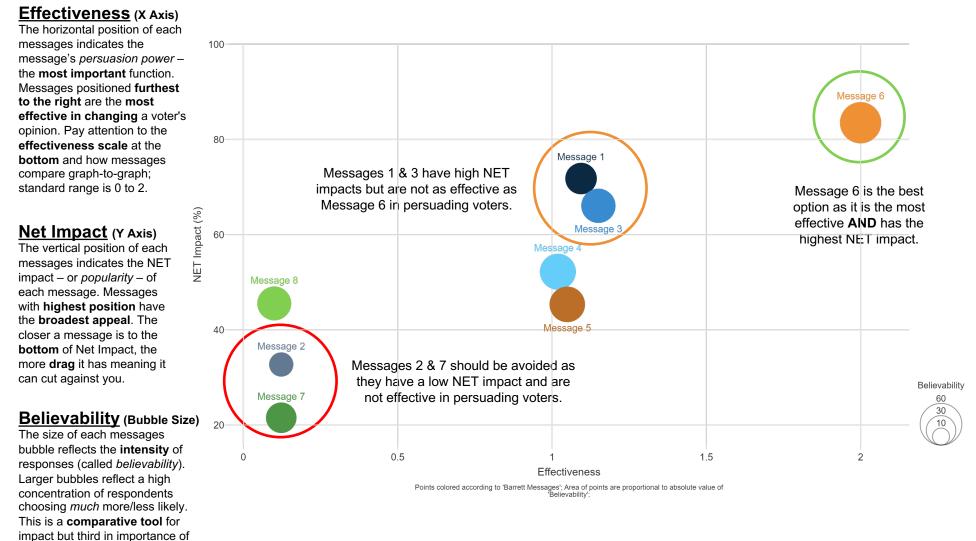
### **Messages Heatmaps (Overall)**





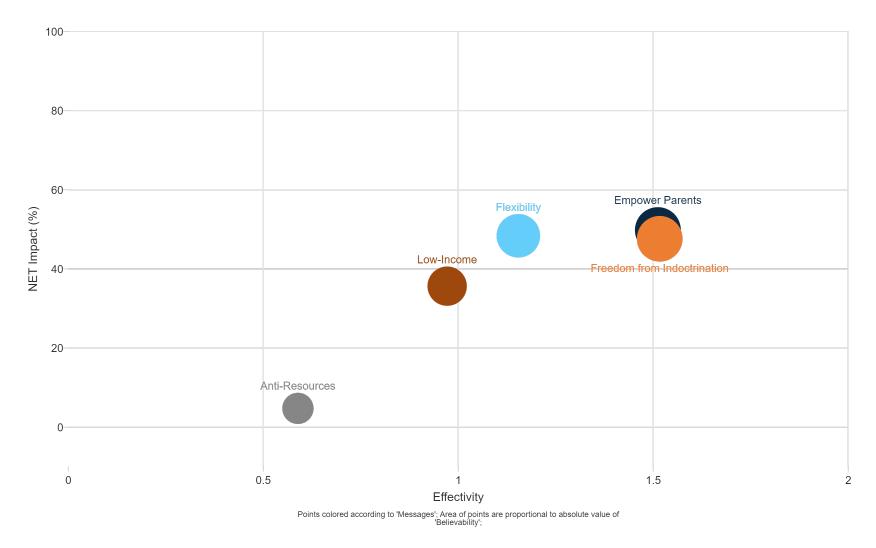
# How to Read a Cygnal Message Map (Example)

the overall graph.



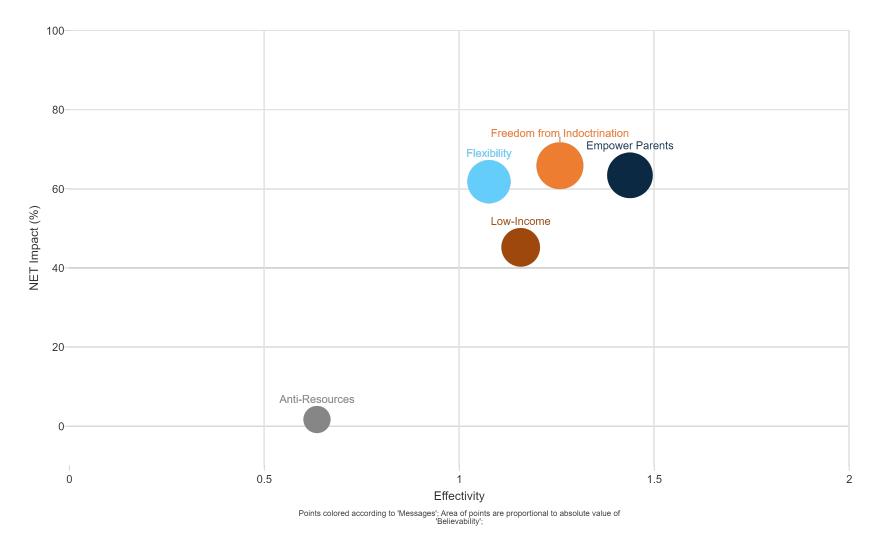


### **Pro-School Choice Message Mapping: Overall**



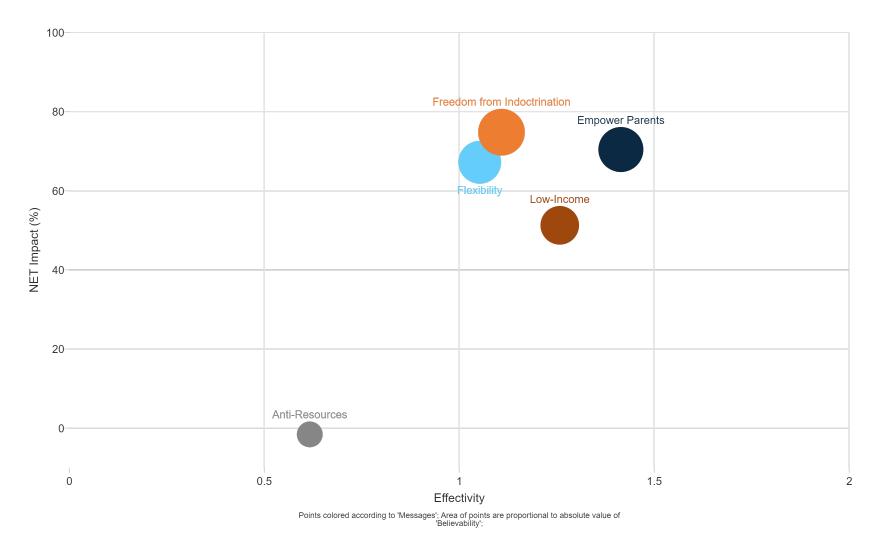


### **Pro-School Choice Message Mapping: Republicans**



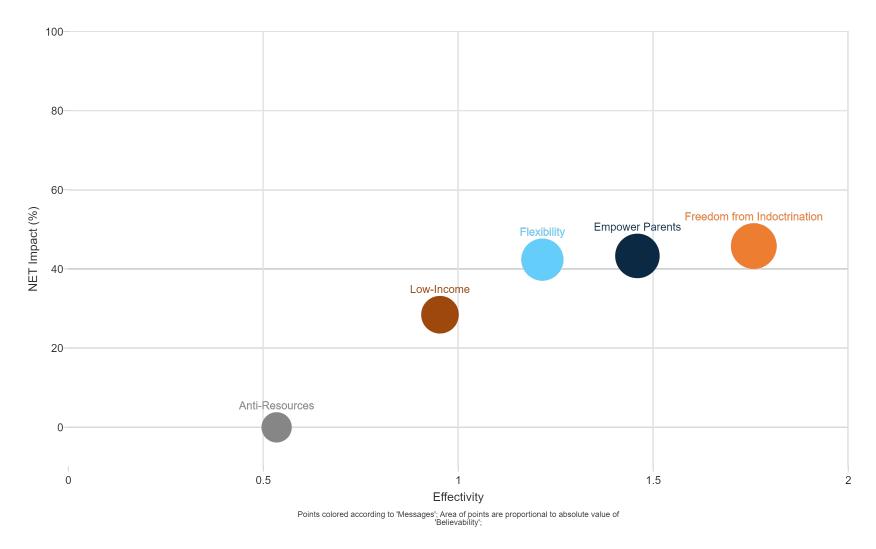


### **Pro-School Choice Message Mapping: Republicans, Very Conservative**



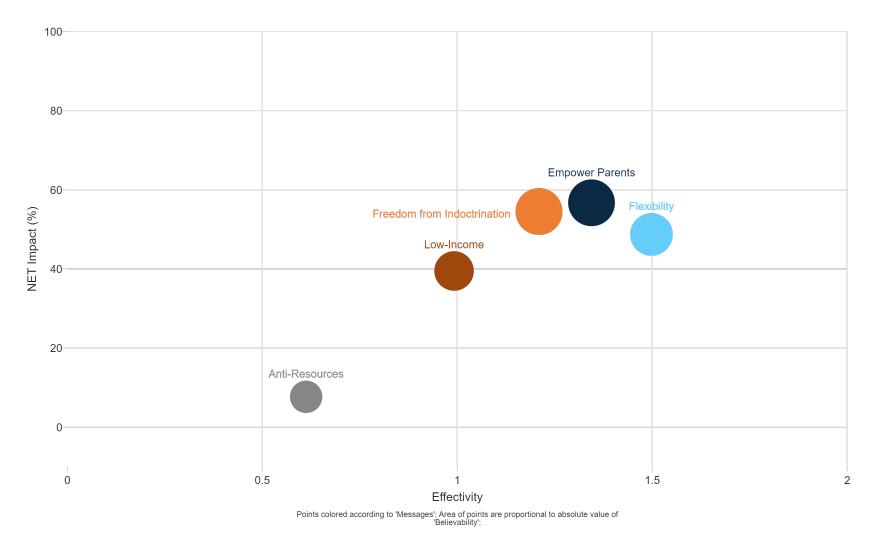


### **Pro-School Choice Message Mapping: Men <55**



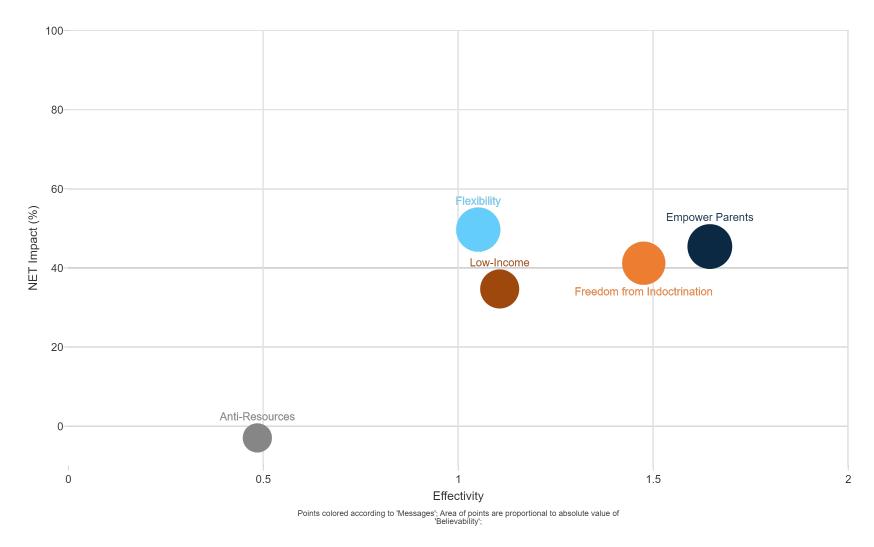


### **Pro-School Choice Message Mapping: Men 55+**



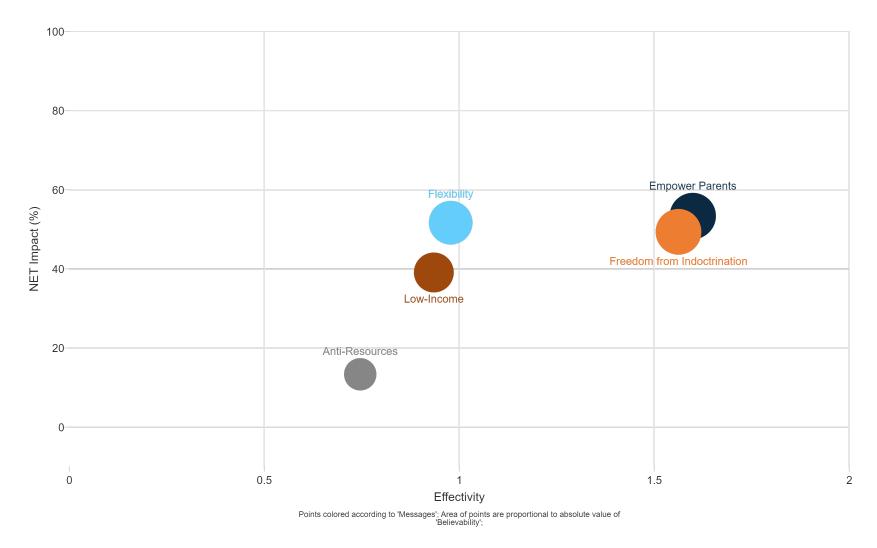


### **Pro-School Choice Message Mapping: Women <55**



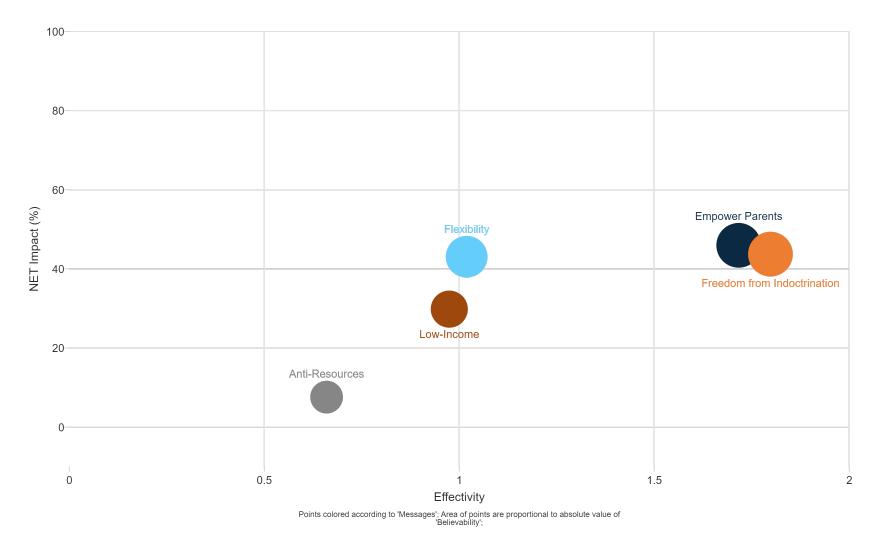


### **Pro-School Choice Message Mapping: Women 55+**



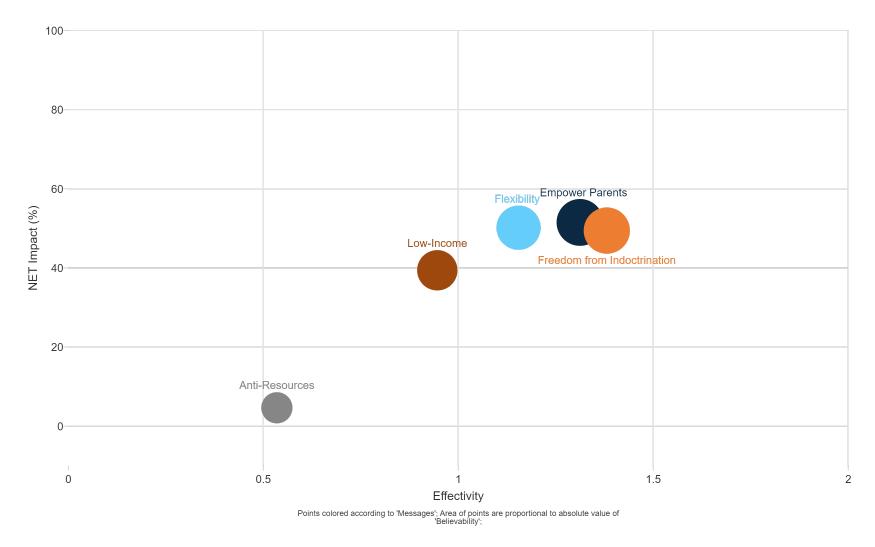


### **Pro-School Choice Message Mapping: College**



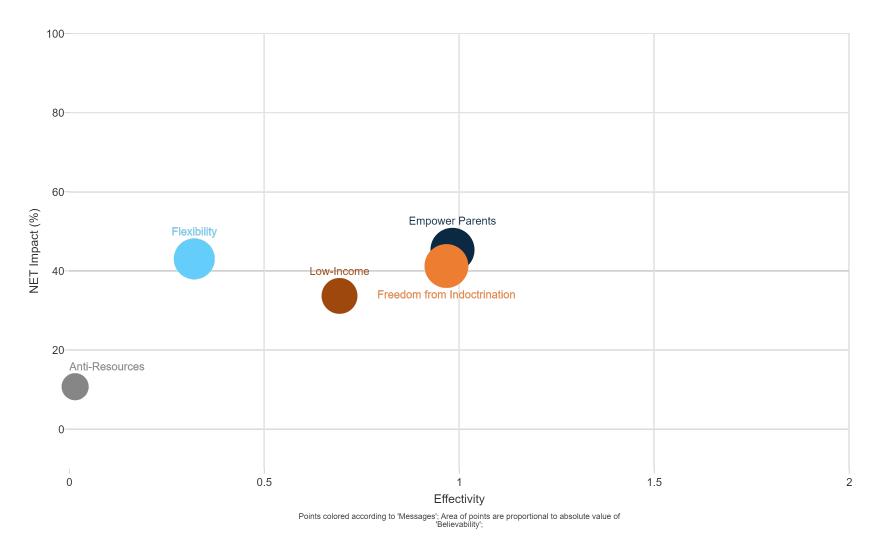


### **Pro-School Choice Message Mapping: No College**





### Pro-School Choice Message Mapping: Unsure on Initial School Choice S/O





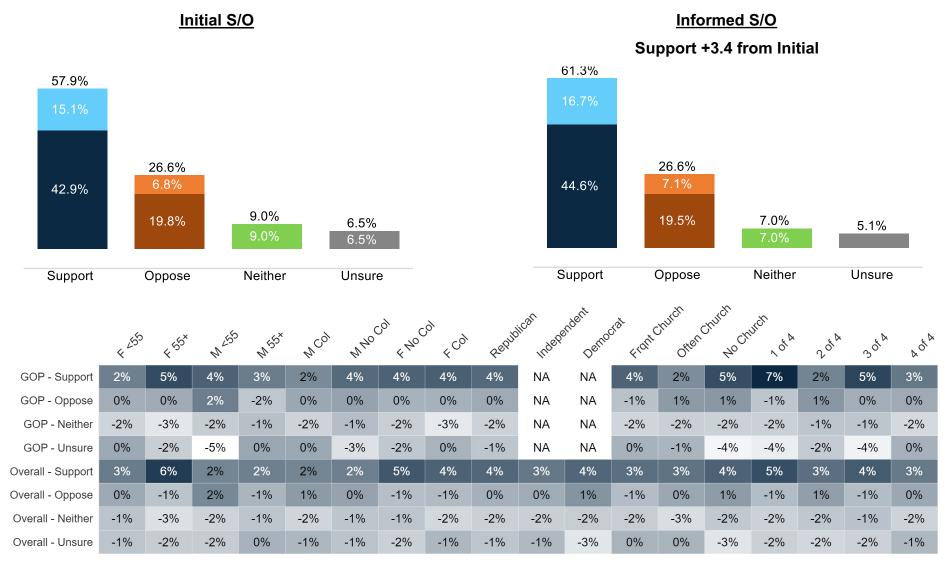
# **School Choice S/O Informed**

**Republicans** Overall 72.9% 61.3% 26.6% 54.7% 7.1% 44.6% 16.8% 7.0% 6.1% 19.5% 5.1% 4.1% 10.8% 7.0% Support Oppose Neither Support Oppose Neither Unsure Unsure choice Under FrontChurch Often Church Independent Republican No Church MN0 COI Democrat + NO COI 14255 N 55× MCO 4 <sup>255</sup> <<sup>۲55×</sup> \* co NOTA 2010 BOLA AOTA 70% 72% 73% 77% 74% 75% 71% 68% 73% 45% 75% 69% 74% 76% 71% 73% 73% GOP - Support NA NA 12% GOP - Oppose 19% 17% 18% 14% 18% 15% 17% 20% 17% NA NA 17% 20% 15% 13% 16% 15% 18% 6% 6% 6% 6% 5% 6% 7% 7% 6% 12% 5% 7% 7% 6% 8% 8% 5% GOP - Neither NA NA 4% GOP - Unsure 5% 4% 3% 4% 3% 4% 5% 5% 4% NA NA 32% 4% 4% 4% 6% 4% 4% 63% 55% 54% 67% Overall - Support 58% 61% 61% 67% 65% 61% 73% 32% 38% 61% 58% 65% 62% 62% 60% 54% 12% 23% 21% 30% Overall - Oppose 28% 27% 28% 23% 28% 23% 25% 32% 16% 34% 28% 29% 24% 24% **Overall - Neither** 8% 7% 7% 6% 5% 7% 8% 8% 6% 7% 8% 13% 6% 7% 8% 7% 9% 8% 6% 5% 37% 5% 6% 5% 5% 4% 4% 5% 6% 5% 4% 5% 4% 5% 6% 6% 6% 4% **Overall - Unsure** 

Do you support or oppose school choice, allowing parents to send their children to public, charter, or private schools with funding following the student?

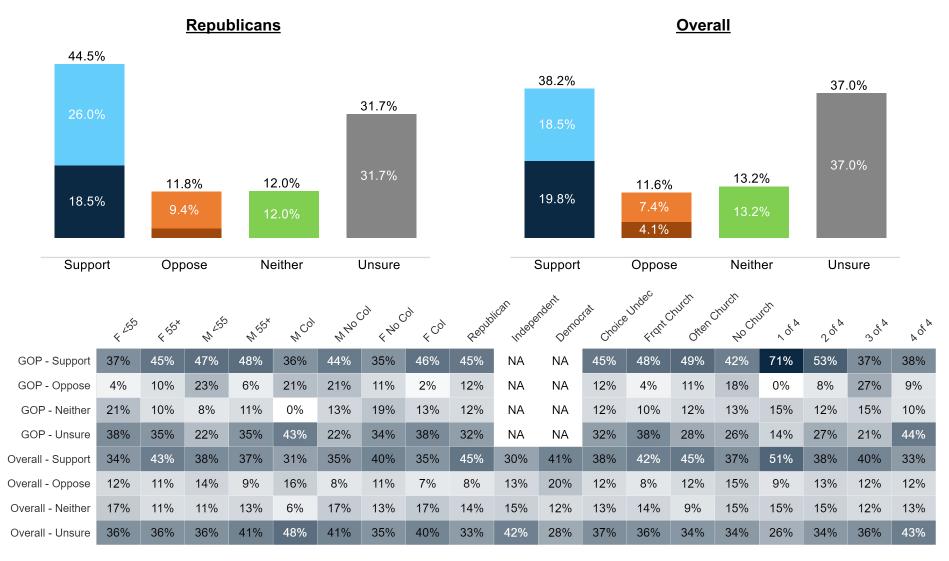


### **Percent Change: Initial to Informed S/O (Overall)**





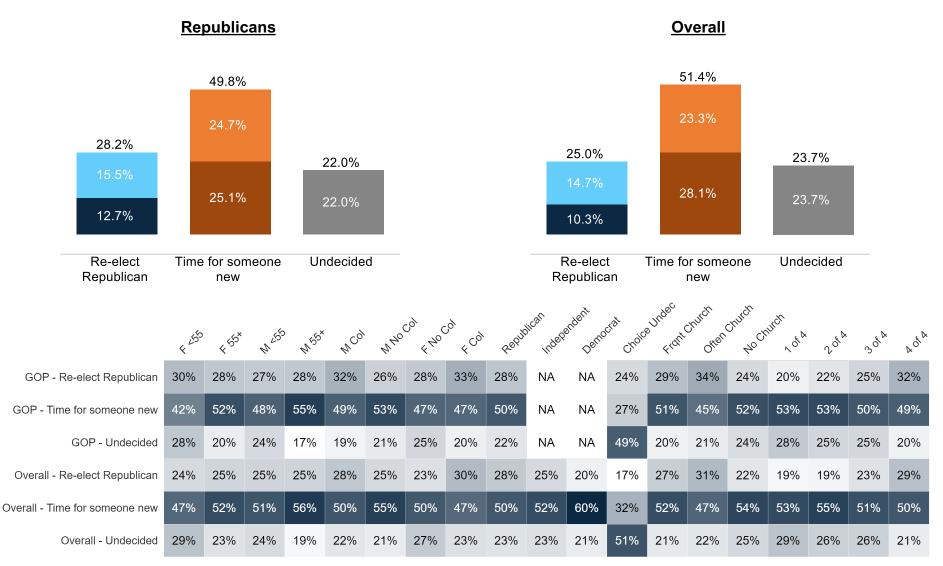
# **School Choice S/O Informed Among Initial Undecideds**



Do you support or oppose school choice, allowing parents to send their children to public, charter, or private schools with funding following the student?



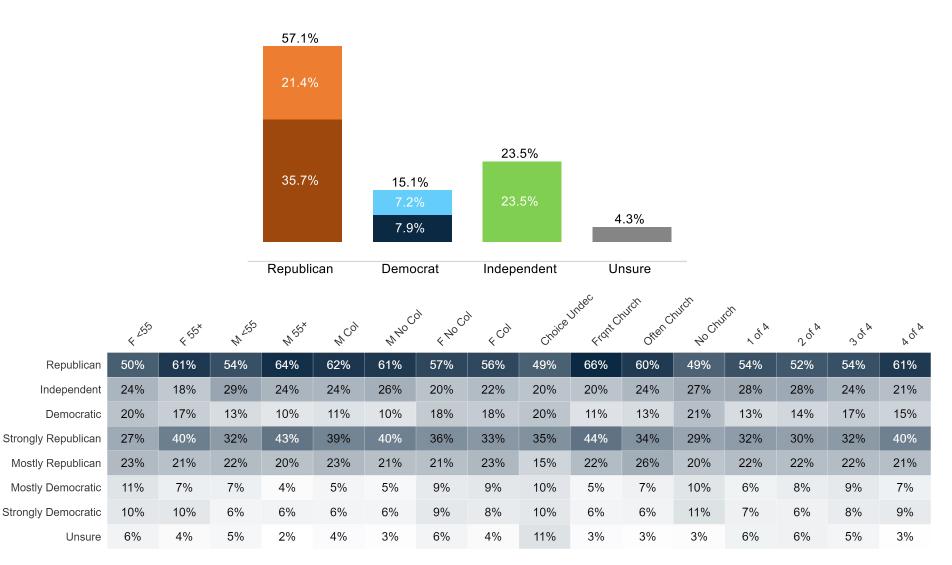
# **State Rep Informed Re-Elect**



If [name of local Republican state representative] voted against school choice legislation, would you believe she deserves re-election to the Texas House of Representatives, or would it be time for someone new?



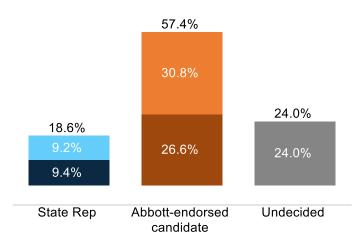
# **Partisanship by Response**



Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Democrat, Republican, or Independent?



### State Rep Re-Elect – Abbott Other



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State Rep	21%	18%	18%	18%	24%	15%	18%	23%	9%	20%	22%	15%	11%	12%	16%	22%
Abbott-endorsed candidate	52%	57%	57%	63%	57%	62%	56%	52%	51%	57%	54%	62%	64%	62%	60%	55%
Definitely State Rep	11%	8%	10%	9%	12%	8%	9%	11%	5%	11%	12%	7%	7%	5%	8%	11%
Probably State Rep	10%	9%	8%	10%	12%	8%	8%	11%	4%	10%	11%	8%	5%	6%	8%	11%
Probably Abbott-endorsed candidate	32%	30%	32%	30%	29%	34%	30%	30%	28%	29%	30%	34%	37%	34%	30%	29%
Definitely Abbott-endorsed candidate	19%	27%	25%	33%	28%	28%	25%	23%	24%	28%	23%	27%	26%	28%	30%	25%
Undecided	27%	25%	25%	19%	19%	22%	27%	25%	40%	23%	24%	24%	25%	27%	24%	23%

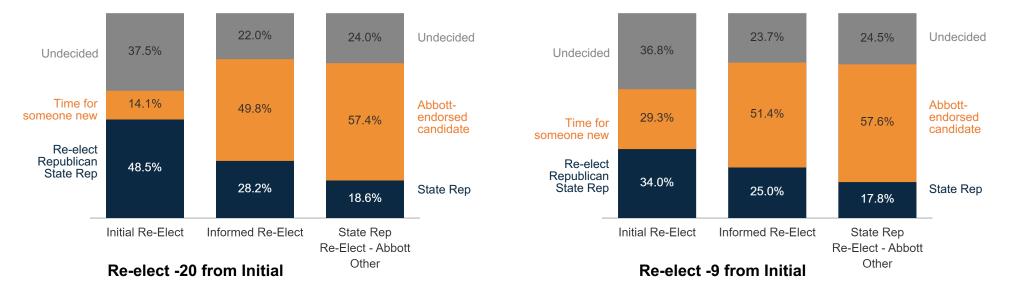
If Governor Greg Abbott endorsed another candidate in a Republican primary against [name of local Republican state representative] because she voted against school choice legislation, would you support Slawson or the Abbott-endorsed candidate?



# **State Rep Re-Elect Summary**

**Republicans** 

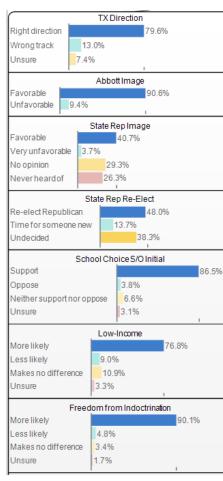


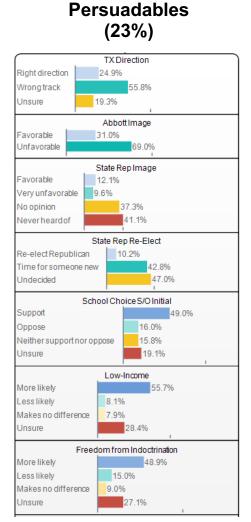




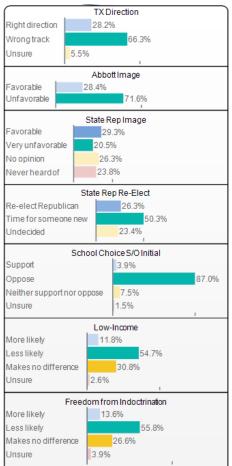
# **Segmentation Analysis:**

#### School Choice Supporters (53%)





#### School Choice Opposers (24%)

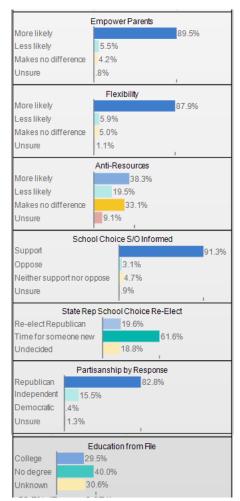


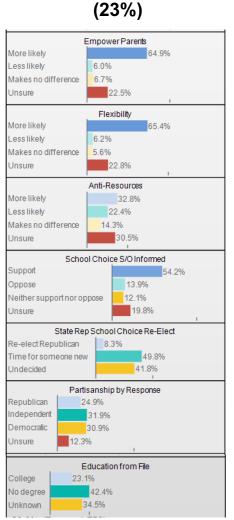
Latent class analysis was used to determine if there are groups of respondents that emerge in the survey. The segments/groups created are examined in terms of difference in demographics and question responses and named based on the dominating characteristics within the group.



# **Segmentation Analysis:**

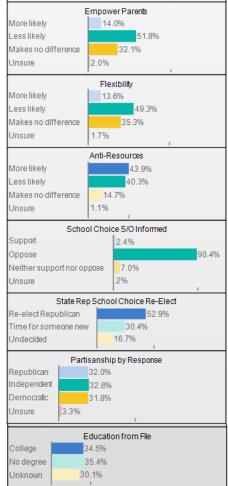
#### School Choice Supporters (53%)





Persuadables

### School Choice Opposers (24%)

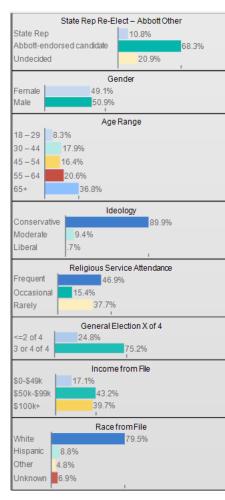


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# **Segmentation Analysis:**

#### School Choice Supporters (53%)



# Persuadables (23%)

State Rep Re-Elect - Abbott Other

Gender

Age Range

Ideology

43.3%

Religious Service Attendance

57.7%

General Election X of 4

59.9%

Income from File

Race from File

63.6%

29.5%

27.2%

28.4%

40.1%

43.7%

33.9%

22.4%

18.5%

12.0%

5.9%

13.9%

65.5%

34.5%

20.5%

13.5%

18.2%

23.5%

24.2%

8.3%

36.2%

55.5%

State Rep

Indecided

Female

18 – 29

30 - 44

45 - 54

55 - 64

Conservative

Moderate

Frequent

Rarely

<=2 of 4

3 or 4 of 4

\$0-\$49k

\$100k+

Nhite

Other

Hispanic

Jnknown

\$50k-\$99k

Occasional

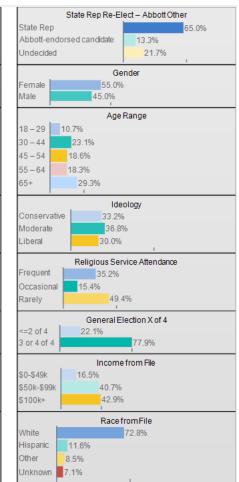
iberal

65+

Male

Abbott-endorsed candidate

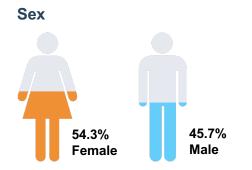




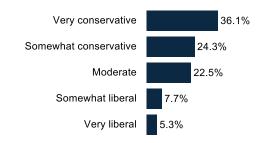
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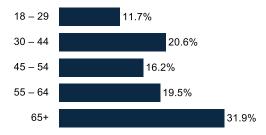
# **Demographics (Overall)**



#### Ideology



#### Age Range

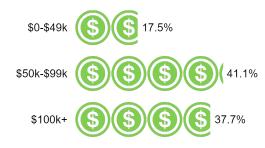


#### Education

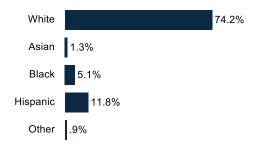


39.4% have no college degree

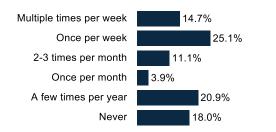
#### **Household Income**



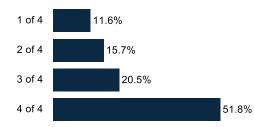
#### **Race/Ethnicity**



#### **Religious Service Attendance**

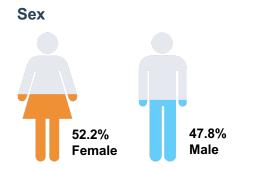


#### **General Election X of 4**

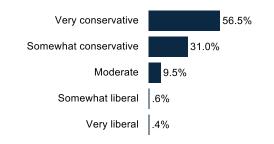




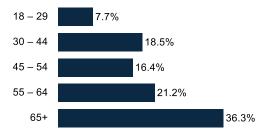
# **Demographics (Republican)**



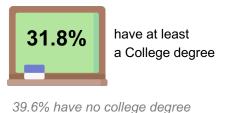
#### Ideology



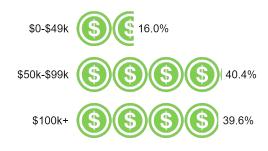
#### Age Range



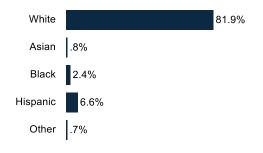
#### Education



#### **Household Income**



#### **Race/Ethnicity**



#### **Religious Service Attendance**



#### **General Election X of 4**

