

A STATEWIDE SURVEY OF LIKELY 2014 VOTERS IN COLORADO

Commissioned by:

DEMOCRATS **CO**
for EDUCATION REFORM COLORADO

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RESEARCH CONDUCTED BY: STRATEGIES 360

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

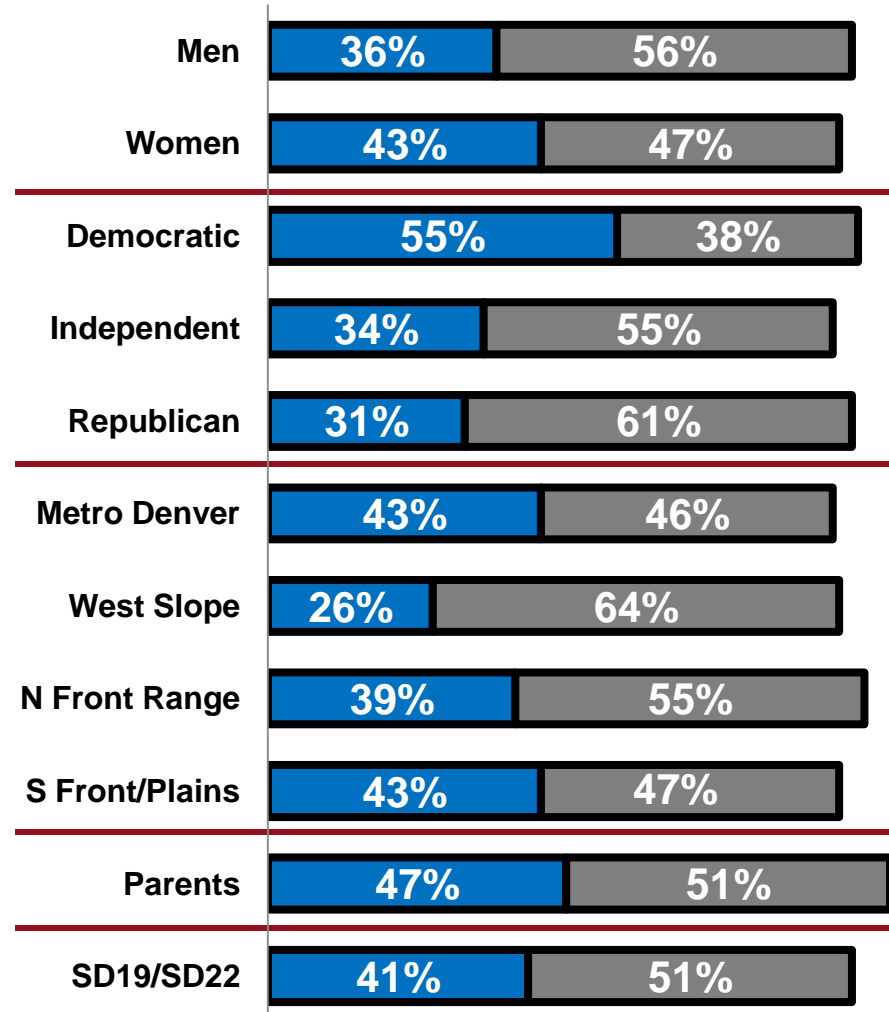
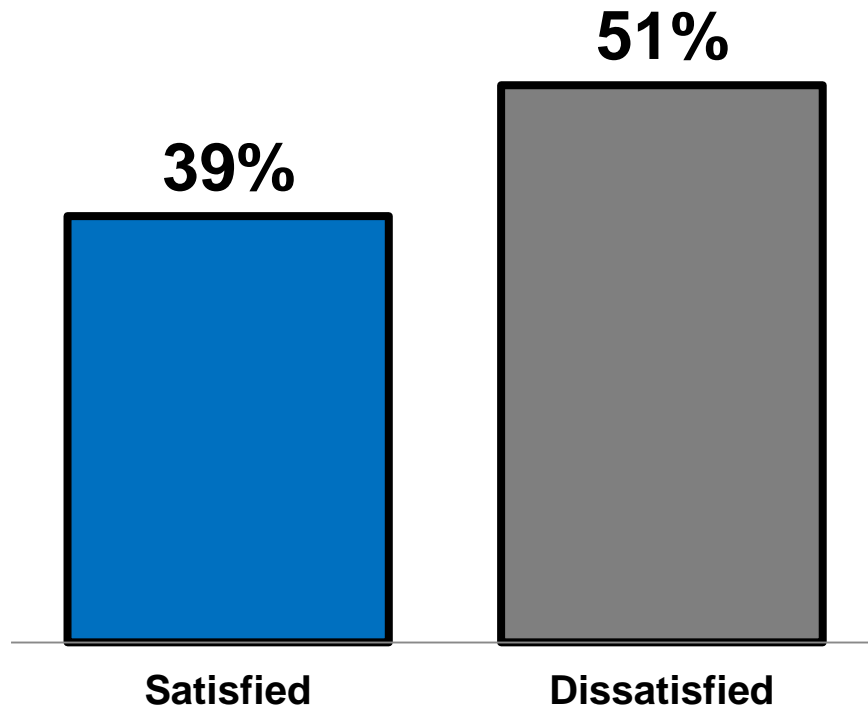
- Strategies 360 conducted a live telephone survey of 804 likely 2014 General Election voters in Colorado. Respondents were randomly selected from a list of registered voters. 601 interviews were conducted statewide and 203 oversample interviews were conducted in Senate Districts 19 and 22.
- Survey conducted Dec. 7-12, 2013.
- Interviews completed on both landline and mobile phones.
- At the 95% confidence level, the margin of error for the statewide sample is $\pm 4.0\%$. The margin of error for the oversample senate districts is 6.4% .

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- A majority of voters express dissatisfaction with the quality of public education in Colorado.
- The tenure reforms included in Senate Bill 191 (SB191) enjoy broad, bipartisan support that extends to all areas of the state.
- By a wide margin, voters express support for requiring the consent of the teacher and principal before a school district can place a teacher in a school, sometimes referred to as “mutual consent.”
- Over 80% of voters support prioritizing teacher performance over seniority when determining layoffs, including a majority who *strongly support*.

A majority are dissatisfied with the quality of education in Colorado with dissatisfaction highest among Independents and Republicans. Even parents, who are typically more positive towards public education, are divided in their assessment of education quality.

Thinking about kindergarten through 12th grade public schools in Colorado, would you say you are satisfied or dissatisfied with the quality of education children are receiving?

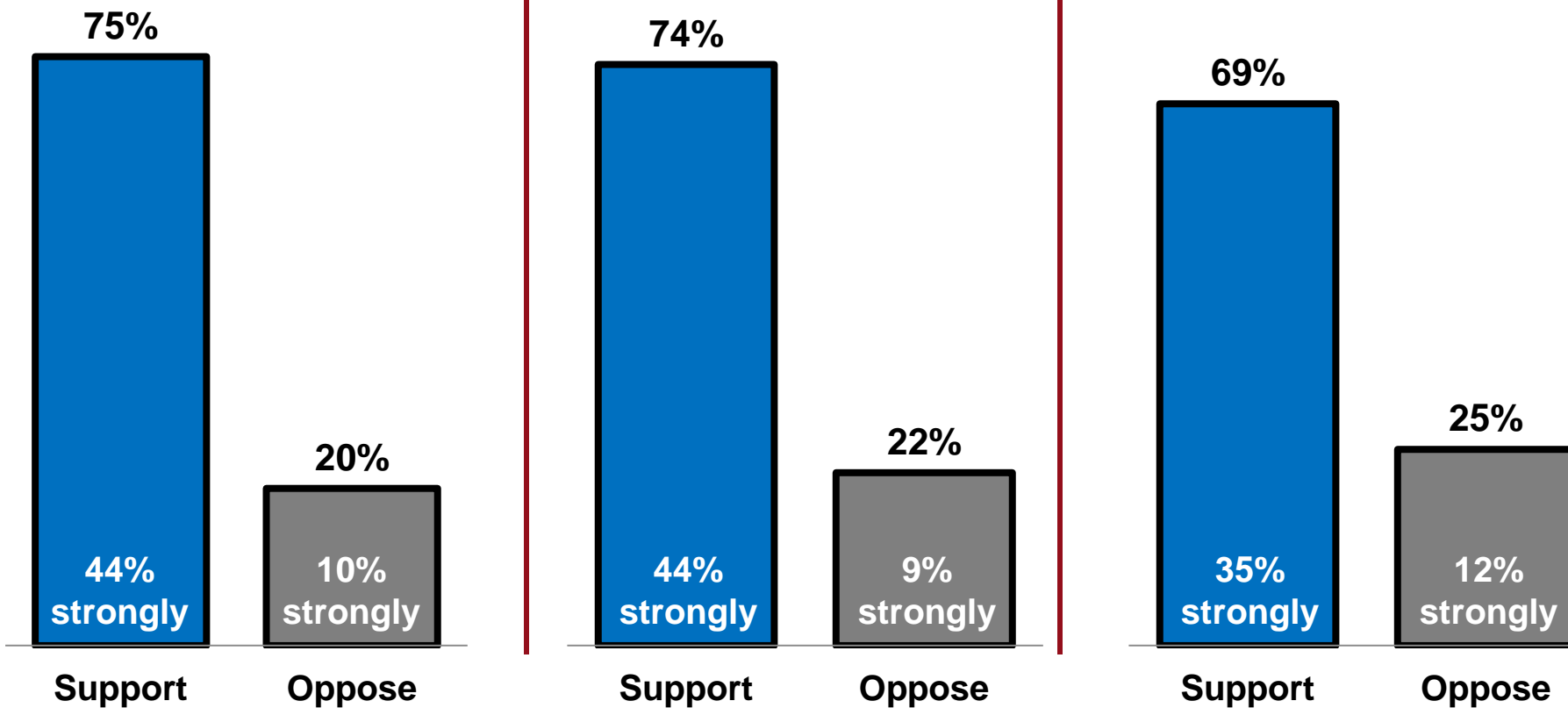


When asked their opinion about the **tenure reforms** included in SB191, voters are overwhelmingly supportive. At least two-thirds support each reform with intensity of opinion strongly in favor.

Requiring teachers to demonstrate three consecutive years of effectiveness in order to gain tenure

Reforming tenure so that teachers who earn ineffective ratings for two consecutive years can lose tenure

Requiring annual teacher and principal performance evaluations with 50% based on student achievement



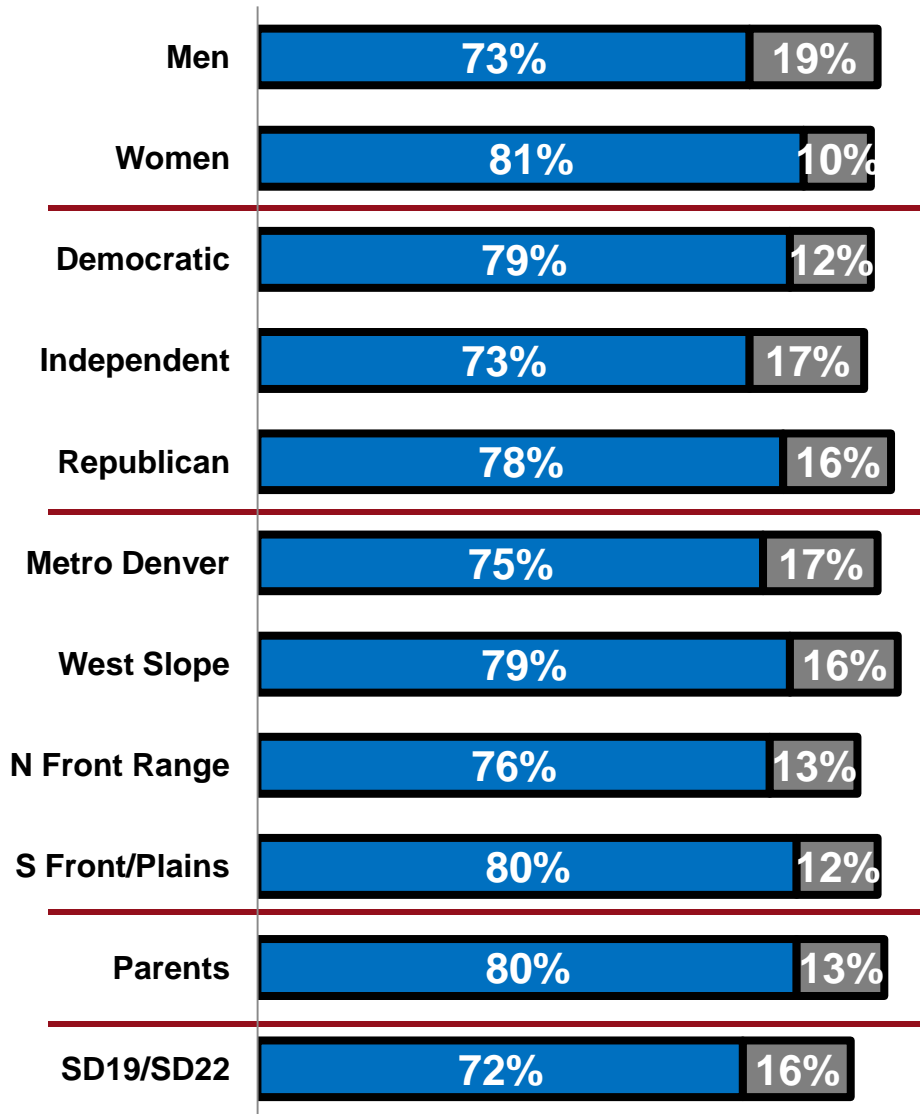
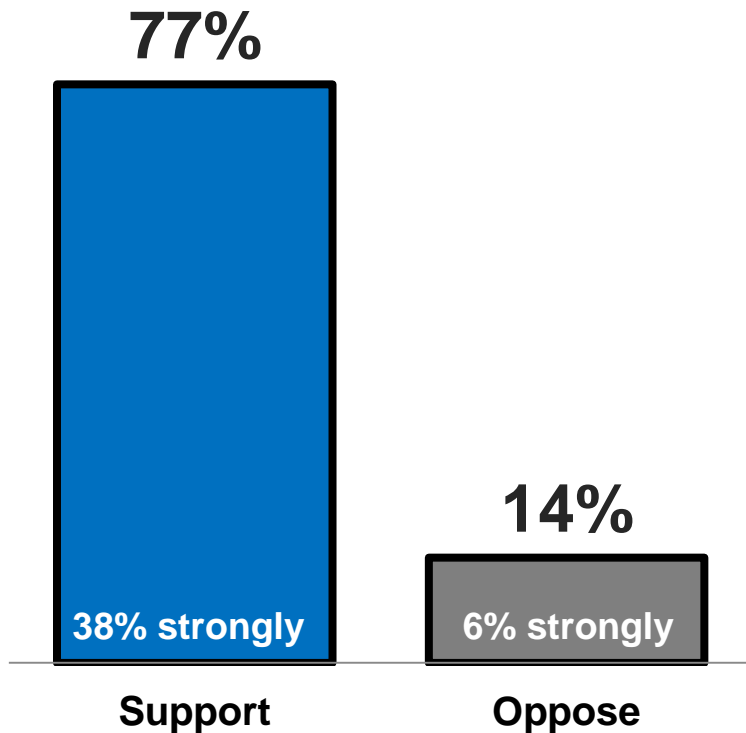
Support for SB191's **tenure reforms** is high across all major subgroups, including Independents and suburban swing districts.

<i>Requiring teachers to demonstrate three consecutive years of effectiveness in order to gain tenure.</i>		<i>Reforming tenure so that teachers who earn ineffective ratings for two consecutive years can lose tenure</i>		<i>Annual teacher and principal performance evaluations with 50% based on student achievement.</i>	
Men	74% 21%	Men	75% 20%	Men	74% 20%
Women	76% 19%	Women	72% 24%	Women	66% 31%
Democratic	76% 20%	Democratic	64% 31%	Democratic	64% 30%
Independent	67% 27%	Independent	80% 15%	Independent	73% 25%
Republican	79% 17%	Republican	79% 19%	Republican	74% 22%
Metro Denver	77% 19%	Metro Denver	75% 22%	Metro Denver	71% 24%
West Slope	70% 22%	West Slope	77% 19%	West Slope	74% 19%
N Front Range	77% 20%	N Front Range	70% 24%	N Front Range	67% 29%
S Front/Plains	72% 24%	S Front/Plains	74% 22%	S Front/Plains	68% 28%
Parents	75% 18%	Parents	73% 24%	Parents	72% 23%
SD19/SD22	74% 19%	SD19/SD22	74% 20%	SD19/SD22	69% 22%

Three-quarters of voters support CO's **mutual consent** law, including 38% who are strongly supportive.

The state legislature recently made some changes to the way school districts fill teacher vacancies in schools. In the past, school districts could fill vacancies in individual schools without the consent of the teacher or the principal of that school. The legislature changed the law to require the consent of both the teacher and the school principal.

Do you support or oppose requiring the consent of the teacher and principal before a school district can place a teacher in a school?



Voters strongly support changing **last in, first out** policies by prioritizing performance over seniority when determining layoffs.

The state legislature recently made some changes to the way schools handle teacher layoffs. In the past, when a school had to lay off teachers for budget reasons, layoffs were determined by seniority. The legislature changed the law so that layoffs are determined by teacher performance.

Do you support or oppose prioritizing teacher performance over seniority when determining layoffs? Seniority would only be used as a tie-breaker.

