



For Immediate Release

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California statewide poll shows two-thirds support for ballot measure to expand and improve Early Childhood Education in California by taxing millionaires.

Civil rights groups, **The Latino Policy Coalition** and the **California NAACP** have released a poll showing positive voter support (**67% yes**) for enacting a measure entitled The Early Childhood Education Expansion and Improvement Act of 2018. The measure has majority support from voters of across the regions of the state, age groups, genders, income brackets, and racial/ethnic groups.

The potential statewide ballot measure would provide an average of \$1.5 billion dollars in annual funding to increase living wages for teachers and educational staff; expand the availability of early childhood education for working parents; and improve classrooms and educational facilities.

The statewide poll was conducted among 898 registered voters likely to vote in the November 2018 election by the national polling firm of *Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz and Associates (FM3)*.

Key Findings:

Voters recognize that early childhood education programs help prepare young people for school and that California needs additional funding for these programs.

- 75% say early childhood education programs are effective in preparing children ages 0-5 for school.

- 78% say California has a great, some or a little need for additional funding for early childhood education. Just 14% say there is no need for additional funding.

There is also very strong support for every element of the ballot measure, including:

- 85% support offering preschool spaces to families of veterans and active duty military members that do not currently have access to them
- 80% support using funding to improve existing early childhood education programs
- 75% support for providing \$300 million per year to expand the availability of early childhood education programs, including active duty military families and veterans.
- 71% support for providing \$300 million per year to expand and upgrade early childhood education classrooms and facilities.
- 68% support for providing a \$900 million per year for increased salaries and benefits for early childhood teachers and educators to improve retention and quality.
- 68% support for increasing taxes by 1 percent on incomes over \$1 million to generate \$1.5 billion per year to establish a dedicated fund to expand and improve early childhood education programs.
- 70% support for prohibiting the state from decreasing early childhood education funding below existing levels.

Jim Gonzalez, Chair of the Latino Policy Coalition stated:

"California voters clearly understand, that investing in the next generation, not only helps working parents but all of us.

Solid academic research has proven that early care and education helps most students succeed, helps working parents advance financially, and strengthens our economy.

The Early Childhood Education Expansion and Improvement Act would provide for living wages for educators, reduce waiting lists, and address the needs of over 645,000 children under five who are not enrolled in early care and education. In California, only 27% of children with working parents have access to licensed ECE services. This includes more than 200,000 low income children eligible for subsidized services.

This lack of access is especially burdensome for California single mothers, where the cost of placing a child in early childhood education can exceed \$11,000.¹ Studies have found that a single mother in California earning the median income would have to spend more than 60 percent of her income on center- based early childhood education for two children.²

These issues are particularly critical in communities of color, where approximately 45% of Latino children and 40% of African American children are not enrolled in preschool or kindergarten."

Alice Huffman, President of California NAACP stated:

"Providing full funding for early childhood education is a social and economic justice issue.

Californians have a clear choice to make: truly invest in sustainable early childhood education programs for all of California's pre-kindergarten children, or continue with a public policy of benign neglect.

In California in 2015, the median wage for a childcare worker was \$11.61 per hour, hardly a living wage; and nearly half have to rely on some kind of public income support just to get by.

¹ <https://www.care.com/care-index>

² http://calbudgetcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/140606_FiveThingsAboutCCDP.pdf

This glaring inequality is made even worse when we realize that 97% of early care and education workers are women, and half are persons of color.

Providing early childhood education is a proven way to ensure success in later life, including preventing youngsters from later on becoming susceptible to the criminal behaviors that feed the prison industrial complex.”

In the coming weeks, The Latino Policy Coalition and the California NAACP will conduct detailed briefings regarding the poll’s findings with candidates for Governor of California, Members of the Legislature, editorial boards, and early care and education leaders .

Visit www.latinopolicycoalition.org to view a detailed presentation of poll findings with key graphs.

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The Latino Policy Coalition (LPC) is a national non-partisan non-profit consortium of the country’s leading Latino research organizations and scholars. The LPC analyzes, through public opinion surveys, policy issues affecting the Latino community. LPC seeks to highlight Latino community views on key public policy issues; and thus stimulate constructive debate among local, state and national elected officials

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is the nation’s largest and strongest civil rights organization.

The California State NAACP boasts 72 branches and youth units mobilized across the state to help ensure racial justice and equality. The NAACP’s principal objective is to ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of minority citizens of the United States and eliminate race prejudice. From school desegregation, fair housing, employment and voter registration, to health and equal economic opportunity, the NAACP plays a significant role in establishing legal precedents in order to improve the quality of life of America’s downtrodden.