

## MEMORANDUM

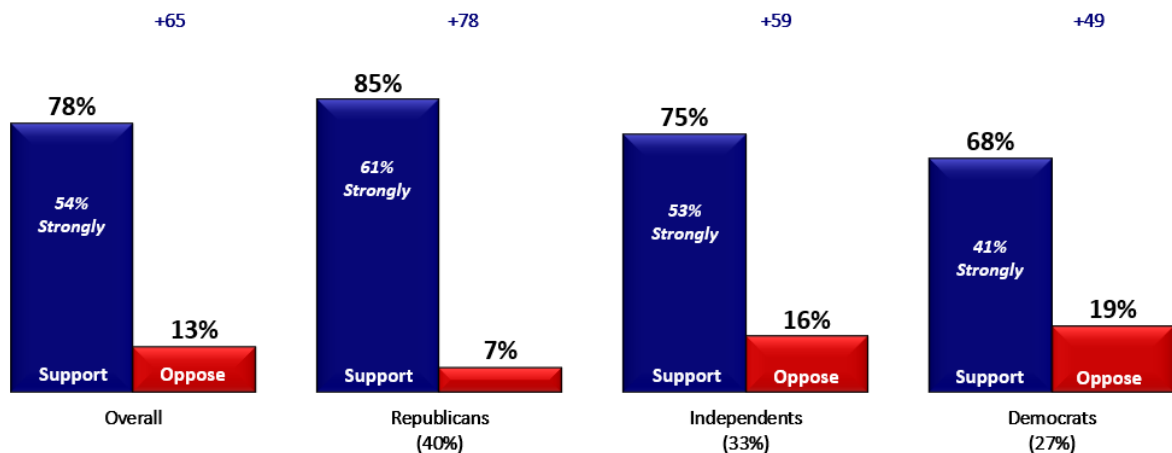
**TO: INTERESTED PARTIES**  
**FROM: SHAKA MITCHELL, TENNESSEE FEDERATION FOR CHILDREN STATE DIRECTOR**  
**DATE: FEBRUARY 7, 2019**  
**RE: MASON-DIXON TENNESSEE STATEWIDE POLL**

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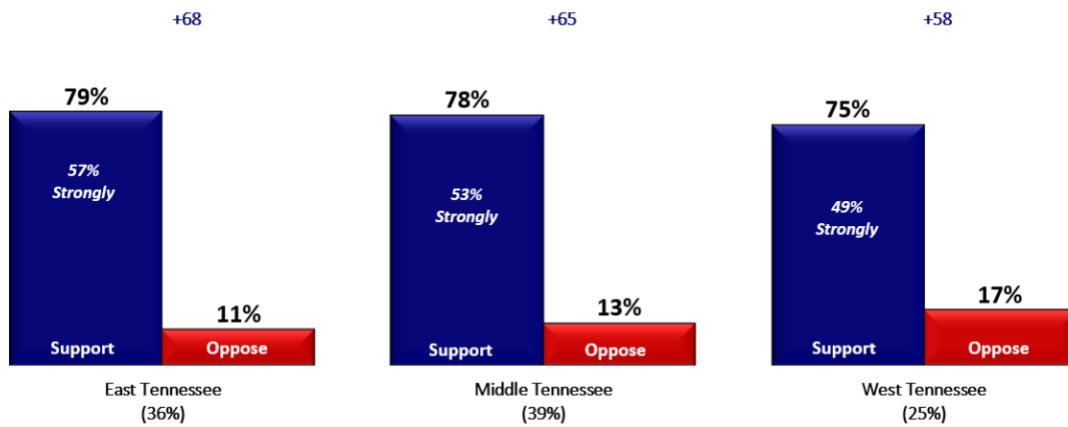
Mason-Dixon Polling & Research, Inc. conducted a statewide survey in Tennessee between January 31th – February 4th. The sample size was n=625 registered Tennessee voters with a margin of error of  $\pm 4\%$ .

We see a number of encouraging signs in this poll. Most notably, that when voters receive any information about Education Savings Accounts, they are overwhelmingly supportive. And, this support cuts across party lines.

*Education Savings Accounts, also known as ESAs, allows parents to use their education tax dollars to customize their child's learning and development. Approved ESA expenses include technical training, K-12 school tuition, or even special needs therapies from an array of providers, including public and private schools or tutors. Knowing this, would you support or oppose the Legislature passing an ESA program in Tennessee? (Is that strongly support/oppose or somewhat support/oppose?)*



We see this widespread support in each of the Grand Divisions. Notably, the lowest opposition and the highest support come from East Tennessee.



Additionally, **80% of Tennesseans support (including 55% who strongly support)** ESAs when they learned that, “you would essentially get back \$7,500 of your own tax dollars into a bank account for you to spend on your child’s education. You could spend the tax dollars you get back on career and technical training, K-12 private school tuition, tutoring services, or even special needs therapies from your choice of providers to customize for your child’s K-12 education. Any remaining funds could also roll over in the account year-by-year to be used for college education.” Only 10% of Tennesseans opposed ESAs after hearing this information. Again, support cuts across party lines here.

Unsurprisingly, when voters are able to see the tangible benefit these accounts would have, they are even more likely to be supportive, and their support strengthens.

**The bottom line is the data shows that Tennesseans overwhelmingly support ESAs.**

**NEXT STEPS**

We will continue to share information with Tennesseans about Education Savings Accounts as another vehicle of educational choice and parental empowerment. Additionally, we will continue to work with members of the General Assembly and Governor Lee’s administration to implement legislation that opens doors to a high-quality education for all Tennessee children.