

MEMORANDUM

TO: N2 AMERICA AND FIGHT FOR SCHOOLS
FROM: ROBERT BLIZZARD, PUBLIC OPINION STRATEGIES
DATE: JUNE 9, 2021
RE: NORTHERN VIRGINIA POLL RESULTS

Public Opinion Strategies recently conducted a survey among 400 registered voters in Fairfax and Loudoun counties (June 1-6, 2021; ± 5.59%) utilizing a mixed-mode methodology (online and P2P text).

KEY POLL FINDINGS

- ***“Critical Race Theory” is viewed negatively by voters in Fairfax and Loudoun counties, especially among older voters, Independents, and public-school parents.***

Voter impressions of “Critical Race Theory” are inverted, 42% favorable-50% unfavorable. Significant negative intensity of “Critical Race Theory” can be found among the key demographic groups of Men 55+ (37%-61%), Women 55+ (19%-79%), Independent voters 55+ (19%-81%), Independent voters (31%-48%), and public-school parents (39%-59%).

- ***Fairfax and Loudoun voters oppose “Critical Race Theory” being taught in local public schools.*** Fully 50% of voters in these two suburban counties oppose “Critical Race Theory” being taught in local public schools, compared with just 42% who are in support.

Republicans (9%-86%) and Independent voters (30%-57%) drive opposition, but even one-quarter of Democrats are against “Critical Race Theory” being taught (69%-23%). Further, public-school parents oppose “Critical Race Theory” being taught in local public schools by 20 points (38%-58%).

- ***By more than two-to-one, voters are much less likely to vote for an elected official who supports “Critical Race Theory.”***

Just 16% of Fairfax and Loudoun voters say they would be much more likely to vote for an elected official who supported “Critical Race Theory” and wanted it taught in local public schools, versus 39% who say they would be much less likely to vote for that official. Among Independent voters, just 12% say they would be much more likely while 43% say they would be much less likely.

- ***Nearly three-quarters of Fairfax and Loudoun voters oppose eliminating advanced math courses in Virginia public schools until 11th grade.***

By an overwhelming margin, voters in these two key suburban counties oppose eliminating advanced math courses in Virginia public schools until the 11th grade. Voters across party lines oppose this proposal, as well as public-school parents:

Support-Oppose	
Overall	17%-72%
<i>Republicans</i>	4%-83%
<i>Independents</i>	26%-70%
<i>Democrats</i>	23%-65%
<i>Public School Parents</i>	15%-71%

- **Nearly two-thirds of Fairfax and Loudoun voters oppose eliminating the use of advanced diplomas for all public-school students.**

Fully 62% of Fairfax and Loudoun county voters oppose eliminating the use of advanced diplomas for all public-school students, even high performing students. Voters across party lines oppose this proposal, as well as public-school parents:

Support-Oppose	
Overall	26%-62%
<i>Republicans</i>	21%-75%
<i>Independents</i>	12%-50%
<i>Democrats</i>	35%-58%
<i>Public School Parents</i>	32%-64%

- **Loudoun County voters strongly support efforts to recall the Loudoun County School Board.**

By a 49%-31% margin, voters in Loudoun County support efforts to recall the Loudoun County School Board. More than one-quarter of Democratic voters in Loudoun County support the recall, as well as nearly one-third of Biden 2020 voters:

Support-Oppose	
Overall	49%-31%
<i>Republicans</i>	79%-17%
<i>Independents</i>	48%-25%
<i>Democrats</i>	27%-43%
<i>Trump 2020 Voters</i>	85%-12%
<i>Biden 2020 Voters</i>	31%-39%
<i>Public School Parents</i>	54%-33%

As an aside, we found similar levels of voter and parent frustration with school boards and local school officials in our qualitative research earlier in the year among suburban parents across the entire state: <https://n2america.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Virginia-Parents-on-School-Re-Openings.pdf>