



Statewide Poll of Idaho Voters' Views on Government Union Reform Proposals

Methodology

From Nov. 4-15, 2023, a poll conducted on behalf of the Freedom Foundation surveyed 600 registered voters in Idaho considered likely to participate in the 2024 general election for president. An oversample representing one-third of all interviews was included in this study. Respondents were contacted by cell phone, land line, and online. The survey's margin of error is +/- 4.2% overall, and +/- 6% on the oversample.

Key Findings

By wide margins, Idaho voters support changing state law to prevent taxpayer funds and government resources from being used to support teachers unions.

- 66% support getting public schools out of the business of collecting union dues on behalf of teachers unions. Only 22% are opposed.
- 54% support prohibiting taxpayer funds from supporting teacher union activities. Only 32% are opposed.
- 53% support requiring teachers unions to reimburse public schools for time teachers spend on union business during working hours. Only 34% are opposed.
- 51% support giving rival unions and nonprofit groups the same access to public school facilities and resources that incumbent teachers unions enjoy. Only 32% are opposed.

By 55-28%, Idaho voters also support legislation proposed but not adopted in 2021 to allow school districts to opt-out of collective bargaining with teachers unions.

Support for these reforms is strongest among Republican voters, though the proposals are also broadly popular among independents. Democrats and voters in union households are generally more evenly divided. Each proposal wins the backing of a majority or plurality of voters in every Idaho media market.

Results

1. Ending government deduction of union dues from teachers' paychecks

Today, some public-school districts in Idaho withhold union dues from teachers' paychecks and forward these funds to teachers unions. Would you support or oppose a state law that ends this practice and gets government out of the business of collecting dues on behalf of teachers unions? And would that be STRONGLY or SOMEWHAT support/oppose?

	Total	Party ID			Labor Union Household
		Rep.	Ind.	Dem.	
<i>Share of Respondents</i>	100%	55%	27%	18%	6%
Strongly support	40	46	37	27	43
Somewhat support	25	26	20	30	14
Somewhat oppose	11	5	15	22	29
Strongly oppose	11	10	13	14	7
Not sure/Refused	12	12	15	8	7
COMBINED SUPPORT	66	73	57	57	57
COMBINED OPPOSE	22	15	28	35	36

	Major Media Markets				
	Boise	Idaho Falls/Pocatello	Spokane	Twin Falls	Salt Lake City
<i>Share of Respondents</i>	50%	17%	20%	12%	<1%
Strongly support	45	46	32	29	0
Somewhat support	24	20	29	33	0
Somewhat oppose	10	9	17	8	0
Strongly oppose	9	14	7	25	0
Not sure/Refused	12	11	15	4	1
COMBINED SUPPORT	69	66	61	62	
COMBINED OPPOSE	19	23	24	33	

2. Prohibiting taxpayer funding of teachers unions

Do you support or oppose changing Idaho law to ensure that taxpayer funds are not used to support activities of teachers unions in public schools? And would that be **STRONGLY** or **SOMEWHAT** support/oppose?

	Total	Party ID			Labor Union Household
		Rep.	Ind.	Dem.	
<i>Share of Respondents</i>	100%	54%	31%	15%	6%
Strongly support	32	40	28	12	45
Somewhat support	22	25	15	25	14
Somewhat oppose	13	9	18	19	18
Strongly oppose	19	15	18	36	14
Not sure/Refused	14	11	21	8	9
COMBINED SUPPORT	54	65	43	37	59
COMBINED OPPOSE	32	24	36	54	32

	Major Media Markets				
	Boise	Idaho Falls/Pocatello	Spokane	Twin Falls	Salt Lake City
<i>Share of Respondents</i>	42%	24%	23%	10%	2%
Strongly support	28	35	32	42	50
Somewhat support	26	24	15	18	0
Somewhat oppose	14	11	16	11	0
Strongly oppose	21	11	25	18	33
Not sure/Refused	12	19	12	11	17
COMBINED SUPPORT	54	60	47	61	50
COMBINED OPPOSE	34	21	41	29	33

3. Requiring teachers unions to reimburse schools for time teachers spend working for the union

Some Idaho public schools allow teachers to work on union business during the workday while continuing to receive their full teacher salary and benefits. Do you support or oppose changing Idaho law to require teachers' unions to reimburse school districts for the time teachers spend on union business during working hours? And would that be STRONGLY or SOMEWHAT support/oppose?

	Total	Party ID			Labor Union Household
		Rep.	Ind.	Dem.	
<i>Share of Respondents</i>	100%	54%	31%	15%	6%
Strongly support	28	32	28	12	18
Somewhat support	25	26	23	27	23
Somewhat oppose	12	11	12	20	23
Strongly oppose	21	17	25	31	23
Not sure/Refused	13	15	12	10	14
COMBINED SUPPORT	53	58	51	39	41
COMBINED OPPOSE	34	27	37	51	45

	Major Media Markets				
	Boise	Idaho Falls/Pocatello	Spokane	Twin Falls	Salt Lake City
<i>Share of Respondents</i>	42%	24%	23%	10%	2%
Strongly support	24	30	33	29	17
Somewhat support	29	27	18	24	17
Somewhat oppose	11	12	11	26	17
Strongly oppose	24	16	25	16	17
Not sure/Refused	13	16	13	5	33
COMBINED SUPPORT	53	56	52	53	33
COMBINED OPPOSE	34	28	35	42	33

4. Ending teachers unions preferential access to public school resources

Do you support or oppose changing Idaho law to ensure teachers unions and other nonprofit organizations have equal access to public school facilities, systems, equipment, supplies, and other resources? And would that be STRONGLY or SOMEWHAT support/oppose?

	Total	Party ID			Labor Union Household
		Rep.	Ind.	Dem.	
<i>Share of Respondents</i>	100%	54%	31%	15%	6%
Strongly support	24	21	23	37	27
Somewhat support	27	30	22	25	18
Somewhat oppose	14	16	13	12	32
Strongly oppose	18	20	21	5	18
Not sure/Refused	17	13	22	20	5
COMBINED SUPPORT	51	51	45	63	45
COMBINED OPPOSE	32	36	34	17	50

	Major Media Markets				
	Boise	Idaho Falls/Pocatello	Spokane	Twin Falls	Salt Lake City
<i>Share of Respondents</i>	42%	24%	23%	10%	2%
Strongly support	28	22	18	24	50
Somewhat support	27	30	24	26	22
Somewhat oppose	15	13	15	16	0
Strongly oppose	13	21	23	24	0
Not sure/Refused	18	14	20	11	17
COMBINED SUPPORT	54	52	42	50	83
COMBINED OPPOSE	28	34	38	39	0

5. Allowing school districts to opt-out of union negotiations

Current Idaho law requires that if teachers in a school district are represented by a labor union the district must negotiate legally binding agreements with the union over things like teacher salaries, working conditions, or aspects of public-school operations. Do you support or oppose changing state law to give individual school districts the autonomy to decide whether to negotiate with teachers' unions? And would that be STRONGLY or SOMEWHAT support/oppose?

	Total	Party ID			Labor Union Household
		Rep.	Ind.	Dem.	
<i>Share of Respondents</i>	100%	54%	31%	15%	6%
Strongly support	25	29	21	19	18
Somewhat support	30	33	29	24	32
Somewhat oppose	11	11	11	10	9
Strongly oppose	18	11	22	34	27
Not sure/Refused	16	17	18	14	14
COMBINED SUPPORT	55	62	50	42	50
COMBINED OPPOSE	28	22	33	44	36

	Major Media Markets				
	Boise	Idaho Falls/Pocatello	Spokane	Twin Falls	Salt Lake City
<i>Share of Respondents</i>	42%	24%	23%	10%	2%
Strongly support	24	26	27	24	17
Somewhat support	27	34	33	26	50
Somewhat oppose	14	10	9	8	17
Strongly oppose	18	14	17	26	0
Not sure/Refused	18	17	14	16	17
COMBINED SUPPORT	50	60	60	50	67
COMBINED OPPOSE	32	23	26	34	17

About the Freedom Foundation

The Freedom Foundation is 501(c)(3) nonprofit, nonpartisan organization with a mission to promote individual liberty, free enterprise, and limited, accountable government through policy advocacy, public interest litigation, and public education.

Originally founded in 1991 in Olympia, Wash., the Freedom Foundation now operates nationwide, with staff and offices around the country, with a focus on holding government unions accountable to their members and taxpayers.

The Freedom Foundation is not affiliated with the Idaho Freedom Foundation founded in 2009.

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