

# No Dead Ends

JFF's Policy Agenda for a Learn-and-Work System With Boundless Opportunities at School, at Work, and in Life



## Voters across party lines agree on what matters this election year. Do you?

On Super Tuesday, Jobs for the Future (JFF) launched **No Dead Ends**, a national campaign calling for policymakers and candidates for elected office to do two things this election year: Pursue common-sense bipartisan policy solutions that meet the needs of today's learners and workers, and focus more intently on the kitchen-table issues that voters really care about.

In June, just before the first 2024 presidential debate, JFF commissioned a survey of more than 2,000 registered voters to ask Democrats, Republicans, and Independents whether issues on educational and economic opportunities mattered to them this campaign season.

Voters rated the importance of education, employment, and economic issues on a five-point scale from "very important" or "somewhat important" to "a little important" or "not at all important," with a neutral option for "don't know/no opinion." Ratings of "very important" or "somewhat important" are grouped as "important" below.

**What we found:** Regardless of which party controls the White House, Congress, or state houses, voters across party lines want elected officials to not only do better, but also re-engineer our education and employment systems to eliminate the dead ends millions of workers and learners face in their pursuit of economic advancement.

### Of the issues covered in our survey, respondents identified these as the five most important:

84%

OF VOTERS AGREE IT'S IMPORTANT TO:

**Encourage employers to hire people based on their skills and not whether they hold a college degree.**

83%

OF VOTERS AGREE IT'S IMPORTANT TO:

**Provide high school students with opportunities to develop job-related skills.**

THIS ISSUE RECEIVED THE MOST BIPARTISAN SUPPORT.

80%

OF VOTERS AGREE IT'S IMPORTANT TO:

**Ensure that all people working a full-time job can earn a high enough wage to support their families.**

80%

OF VOTERS AGREE IT'S IMPORTANT TO:

**Make information more readily available about job opportunities in a local area that pay a family-supporting wage.**

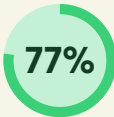
76%

OF VOTERS AGREE IT'S IMPORTANT TO:

**Encourage people receiving public benefits to work by ensuring they can keep some benefits if their income increases.**

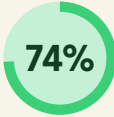
### Our polling also revealed that these issues were important to respondents across party lines:





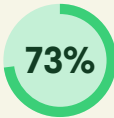
OF VOTERS AGREE IT'S IMPORTANT TO:

**Provide high school students with paid work-based learning experiences, such as youth apprenticeships and internships, while they attend school.**



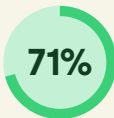
OF VOTERS AGREE IT'S IMPORTANT TO:

**Boost funding for college and career advising to help high school students and families make informed choices.**



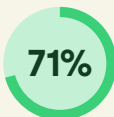
OF VOTERS AGREE IT'S IMPORTANT TO:

**Provide high school students with the opportunity to take college-level courses and earn credit toward a college degree or credential.**



OF VOTERS AGREE IT'S IMPORTANT TO:

**Increase funding for registered apprenticeships programs.**



OF VOTERS AGREE IT'S IMPORTANT TO:

**Increase child care access for workers.**



OF VOTERS AGREE IT'S IMPORTANT TO:

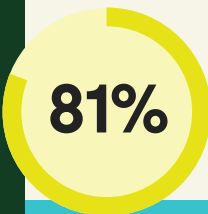
**Increase funding for job training programs.**



OF VOTERS AGREE IT'S IMPORTANT TO:

**Hold colleges and other postsecondary education and training providers accountable for increasing the number of their graduates who get jobs that pay a family-supporting wage.**

## Voters support the core tenet of the No Dead Ends campaign.



OF VOTERS AFFIRM:

**Everyone should get the support they need to explore their learning and work options and make decisions that best match their goals and needs.**



Voters rated their support on a five-point scale: "very supportive," "somewhat supportive," "neutral," "somewhat unresponsive," or "very unresponsive." Ratings of "very supportive" or "somewhat supportive" are grouped as affirming statements.



Sign the No Dead Ends pledge and read our policy recommendations: [info.jff.org/nodeadends](https://info.jff.org/nodeadends)

## Voters are not satisfied with the attention that candidates are giving to these economic and education issues.

SATISFIED WITH ATTENTION TO **EMPLOYMENT & ECONOMIC ISSUES:**



SATISFIED WITH ATTENTION TO **POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION & TRAINING ISSUES:**



SATISFIED WITH ATTENTION TO **SECONDARY EDUCATION ISSUES:**



Voters rated their satisfaction on a five-point scale: "very satisfied," "somewhat satisfied," "don't know/no opinion," "a little satisfied," or "not at all satisfied." Ratings of "very satisfied" or "somewhat satisfied" are grouped as "satisfied."

## Voters want elected officials to pursue bipartisan solutions on the issues they think are important.

AGREE IT'S IMPORTANT THAT OFFICIALS PURSUE BIPARTISAN SOLUTIONS ON **EMPLOYMENT & ECONOMIC ISSUES:**



AGREE IT'S IMPORTANT THAT OFFICIALS PURSUE BIPARTISAN SOLUTIONS ON **POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION & TRAINING ISSUES:**



AGREE IT'S IMPORTANT THAT OFFICIALS PURSUE BIPARTISAN SOLUTIONS ON **SECONDARY EDUCATION ISSUES:**



Voters rated the importance of education, employment, and economic issues on a five-point scale: "very important," "somewhat important," "don't know/no opinion," "a little important," or "not at all important." Ratings of "very important" or "somewhat important" are grouped as "important."