



Delawareans say taxes for better schools OK

By JONATHAN STARKEY • The News Journal • February 18, 2010

Delawareans across party lines would be willing to pay more in taxes to improve the quality of the state's public schools, according to results of a survey commissioned by the nonprofit Education Voters of Delaware.

The survey found that 59 percent said they were willing to pay higher taxes, with 18 percent responding that they were very willing. Some 53 percent of Republicans and 55 percent of seniors agreed.

"It echoes what we've been hearing," said Doug Gramiak, executive director of Education Voters and a former assistant to then-Lt. Gov. John Carney.

"This is not really a partisan issue. The key is that people need to know that their money is going to be used to really improve education. Sometimes I think there's some doubt."

Washington, D.C.-based Lake Research Partners conducted the survey. Pollster Celinda Lake said she was "stunned" by the result of the taxes question.

"These are very high numbers compared to what we've seen elsewhere," she said. "Most states have less than a majority. Throughout the data, we were really surprised at the commitment of Delaware voters to education."

Committed, but not impressed by recent results. Of those polled, 60 percent don't think Delaware's schools have improved over the last five years and 29 percent think they've gotten worse. Some 21 percent said public schools have improved, while 31 percent said they have stayed the same.

State Education Secretary Lillian Lowery had not seen the survey Wednesday and would not comment.

Advertisement

BE A PART OF HISTORY
Follow the 2010 Winter Games

View photo galleries, blogs, instant results, video reports and more.

vancouver

USA TODAY
usatoday.com

CLICK HERE

Print Powered By FormatDynamics™