

February 2025

**SUMMARY OF
PUBLIC OPINION
POLLING ON
HEALTH
EDUCATION &
STI PREVENTION
IN OKLAHOMA**



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Exposure to sexual health education (sex ed) impacts adolescent use of contraception, teen pregnancy, and the spread of sexually transmitted infections, all of which have **broad implications for long-term and population health**. Decisions about **sex ed access and curriculum** are determined by federal and state law as well as individual school district policy.

The Kirkpatrick Family Fund (KFF) has provided leadership in central Oklahoma to reduce the teen birth rate since 2006. In February 2025, in collaboration with the Economic Development and Health Coalition (EDHC), KFF commissioned Amber Integrated to conduct polling across the state of Oklahoma.

The objective of this study was to collect detailed insights into Oklahomans' attitudes toward and understanding of sexual health education and related topics. The polling results highlight significant differences between state and local policy and the beliefs of Oklahoma voters.

The purpose of this report is to inform the efforts of advocates and policymakers and to ensure that Oklahomans and their children have access to educational opportunities and resources that align with their needs and values.

KEY FINDINGS



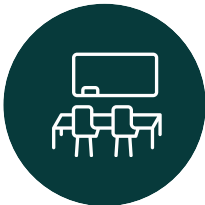
01 — Oklahomans want to reduce STIs in their community.

A majority of Oklahomans (90%) strongly agree that lowering sexually transmitted infections (STIs) is important. Additionally, most voters (78%) strongly agree that teaching students about STIs in school is important.



02 — Support for teen pregnancy prevention is strong and widespread.

82% of Oklahomans believe lowering teen pregnancy in the state is very important. 76% of conservative voters strongly believed the issue was important, alongside 91% of liberal voters.



03 — Most Oklahoma voters want middle and high school sexual health education.

The majority (88%) of Oklahomans want middle and high school students to have access to sexual health education. Both 91% of urban voters and 84% of rural voters thought this issue was very or somewhat important.



04 — Parent and caregiver input on student sexual health is widely favored.

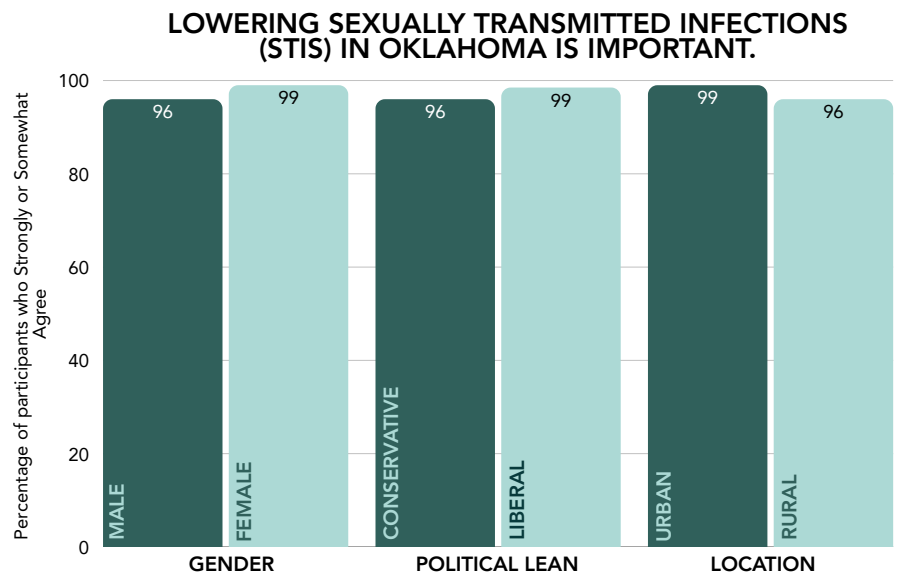
78% of Oklahomans strongly support teaching students how to talk with their parents and caregivers about puberty and sexual health. Across political leanings, 82% of conservative voters either somewhat or strongly agreed alongside 98% of liberal voters.

OKLAHOMANS WANT TO REDUCE STIs IN THEIR COMMUNITIES.

97% of survey participants indicated that lowering STI rates is important.

Across every surveyed demographic, an overwhelming majority of Oklahomans who participated in the poll indicated either “somewhat agree” or “strongly agree” when presented with the statement: “Lowering sexually transmitted infections (STI) is important.”

Overall, only 3% of those surveyed somewhat or strongly disagreed with the statement.



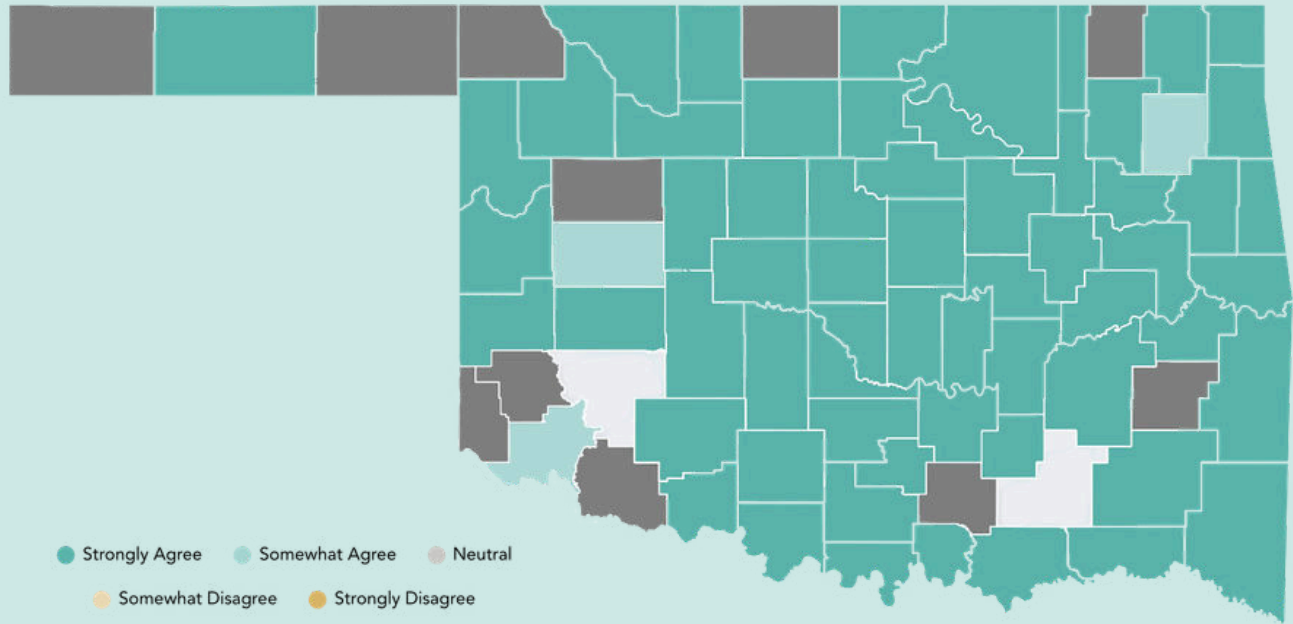
Agreement that reducing STI rates is important was slightly higher among women and urban residents compared to men or rural residents; however, these differences were not significant.

Across religious affiliation support for reducing STIs was nearly universal. Although non-religious voters (95%) were significantly more likely to strongly agree, the opinion was shared by the majority of Protestant Christian (89%), Evangelical Christian (92%), Catholic (91%), and Jewish (100%) voters. 100% of Muslim voters agreed overall, with 58% somewhat agreeing and 42% strongly agreeing.



“[We should] educate both teenagers and parents on being able to talk about sex, birth control, and STDs.”

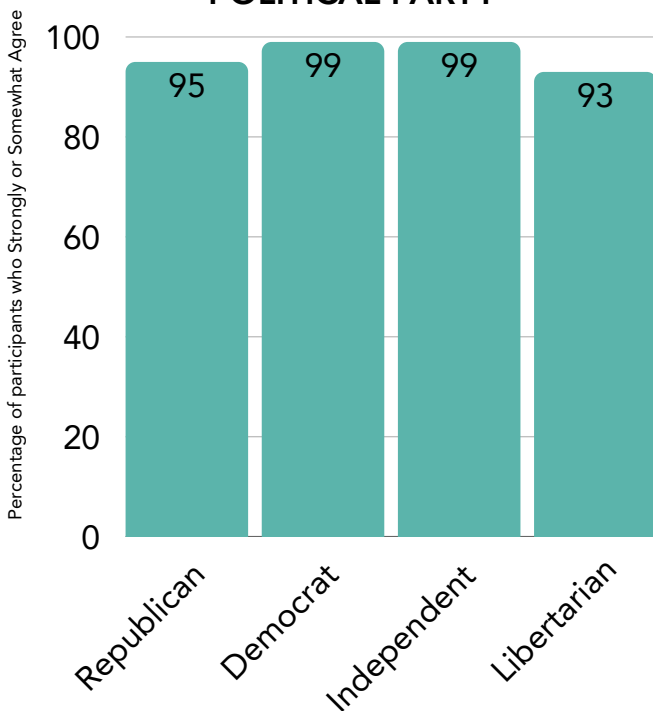
**“LOWERING SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS (STI) IS IMPORTANT.”
PARTICIPANT RESPONSE BY COUNTY**



Responses indicate that reducing STIs is a bipartisan issue in Oklahoma. Across political groups, overall agreement was consistently above 93%. **Among those who self-identified as liberal or conservative general agreement remained above 95%.**

Although **the majority of each group agreed**, somewhat liberal (96%), were significantly more likely to **strongly agree** than very liberal (95%), moderate (92%), very conservative (87%) or somewhat conservative (86%) voters.

PARTICIPANT RESPONSE BY POLITICAL PARTY



“[We should be] educating kids and adults about the responsibility they have over their bodies and what that means... including STDs.”

Individuals from across the state by and large believe strongly in the importance of STI prevention. A county-level examination of the polling data shows only two of the surveyed counties had a primarily “neutral” response, while the majority of counties strongly agreed.

OKLAHOMANS WANT STUDENTS TO LEARN STI PREVENTION IN SCHOOL.

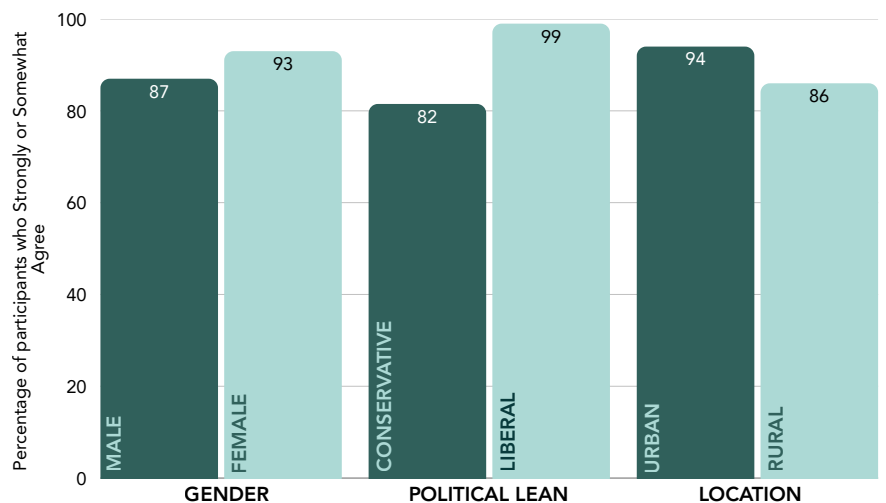
90% of participants support teaching students about Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and how to prevent them.

Across every surveyed demographic, an overwhelming majority of Oklahomans who participated in the poll indicated either “somewhat agree” or “strongly agree” when presented with the statement: “Teaching students about preventing sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in school is important.”

Oklahomans under age 40 (age 18-29, 81%; age 30-39, 81%) were significantly more likely to express strong support for sex ed compared to older citizens (age 40-49, 67%; age 50-59, 68%; age 60-69, 62%; age 70 or older, 59%).

Although non-religious voters (93%) were significantly more likely to strongly agree, the opinion was shared by the majority of Protestant Christian (74%), Evangelical Christian (70%), Catholic (81%), and Jewish (100%) voters. 100% of Muslim voters agreed overall, with 58% somewhat agreeing and 42% strongly agreeing.

TEACHING STUDENTS ABOUT PREVENTING SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS (STIS) IN SCHOOL IS IMPORTANT

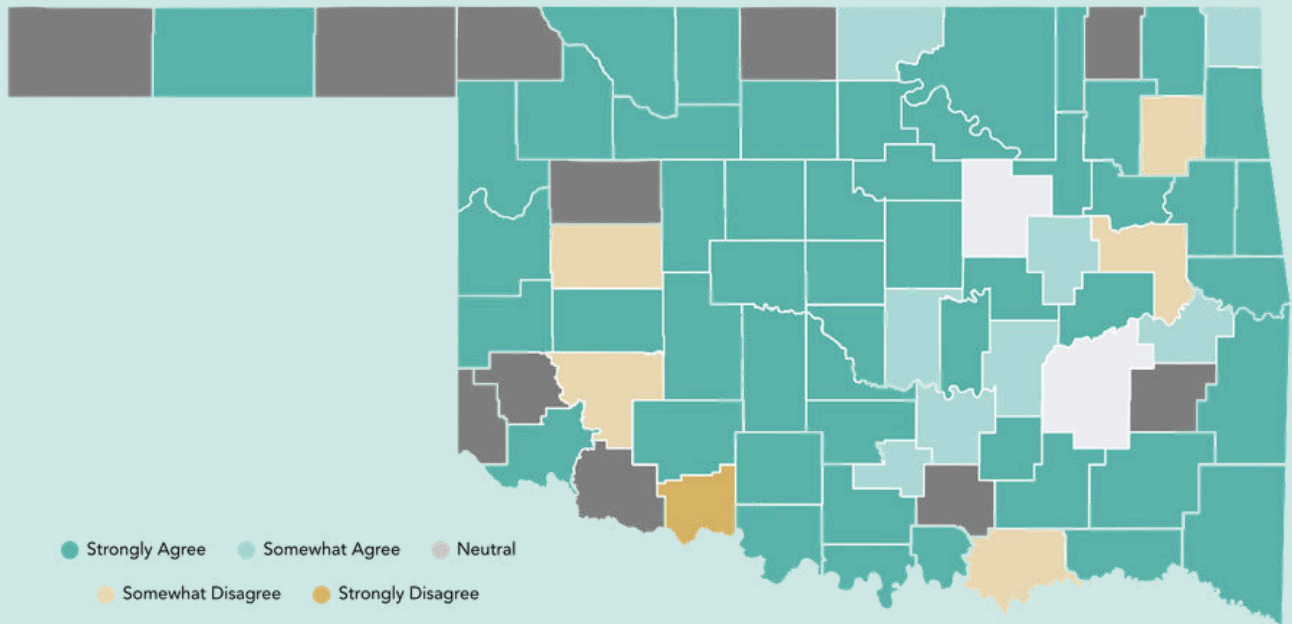


“[We should] teach the kids at school. They aren’t getting this information at home.”



“TEACHING STUDENTS ABOUT PREVENTING SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS (STIS) IN SCHOOL IS IMPORTANT.”

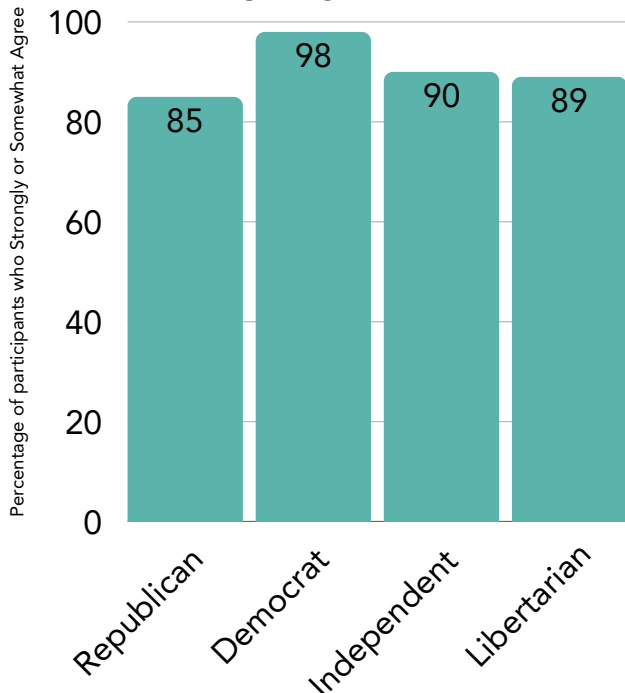
PARTICIPANT RESPONSE BY COUNTY



General support for STI education was 85% or higher across party lines. Significant differences are present in the strength of support, with 92% of Democrats expressing strong agreement compared to 70% of Republicans. Self-identification as liberal or conservative made political differences more

visible. Although the majority of each group **agreed**, very liberal (98%), somewhat liberal (94%), and moderate voters (86%) were significantly more likely to **strongly agree** than very conservative (59%) or somewhat conservative (70%) voters. **Whether voters identified as conservative or liberal, general agreement remained above 76%.**

PARTICIPANT RESPONSE BY POLITICAL PARTY



“There should be an RN [Registered Nurse] or another resource at schools who can answer questions... More information for everyone.”

There were significant differences in agreement across geographic classifications. **The majority of voters from across the state strongly agreed that students should be taught about STIs;** however, urban Oklahomans were more likely (85%) than rural (70%) or suburban ones (79%) to strongly agree.

THE MAJORITY OF OKLAHOMANS SUPPORT TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION.

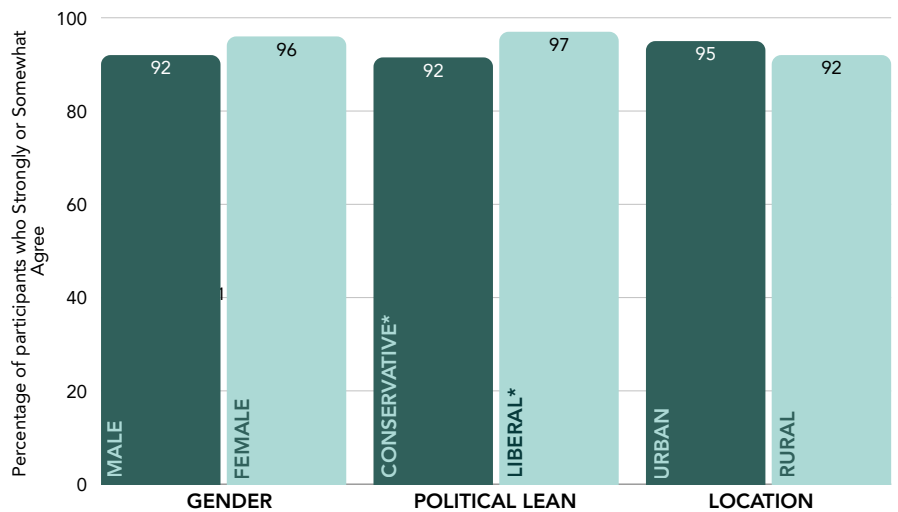
94% of participants believed lowering teen pregnancy is important.

An overwhelming majority of Oklahoma voters across all surveyed demographics, indicated either “somewhat agree” or “strongly agree” when presented with the statement: “Lowering teen pregnancy in Oklahoma is important.”

Across all age groups, respondents expressed strong support for lowering teen pregnancy as a public health priority (age 18-29, 77%; age 30-39, 83%; age 40-49, 85%; age 50-59, 86%; age 60-69, 81%; age 70 or older, 80%), indicating that teen pregnancy prevention is not a generational worry, but a broad concern.

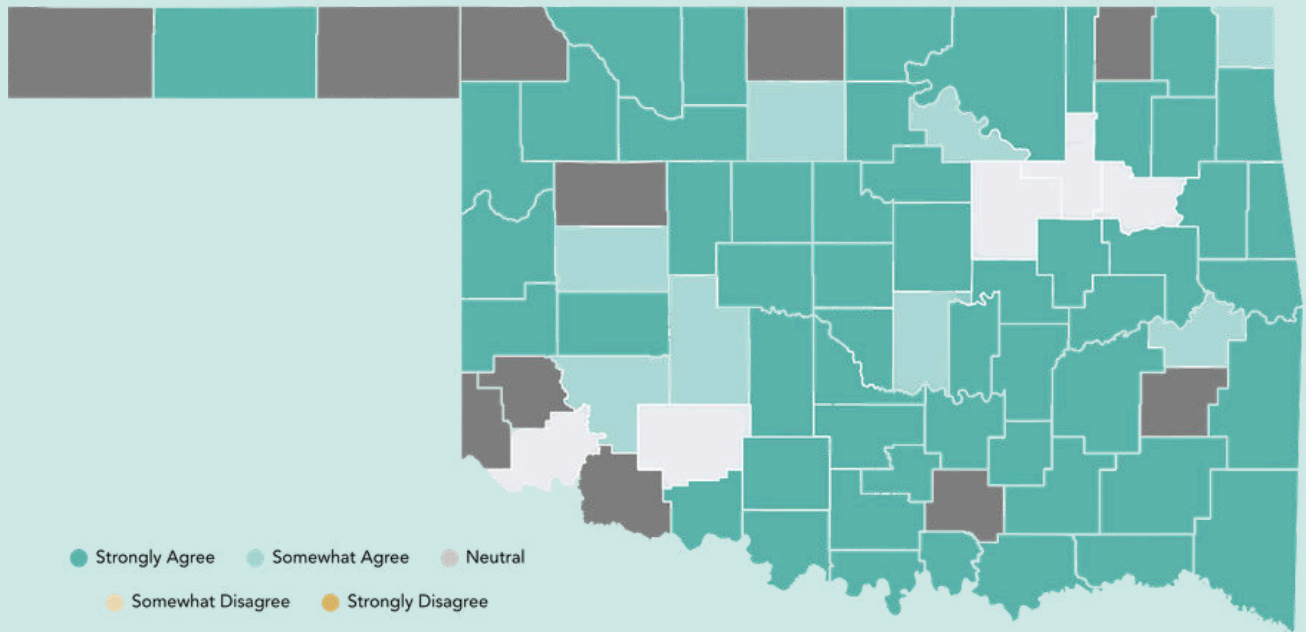
Although non-religious voters (90%) were significantly more likely to strongly agree, the opinion was shared by the majority of Protestant Christian (81%), Evangelical Christian (80%), Catholic (79%), and Jewish (78%) voters. 80% of Muslim voters agreed overall, with 58% somewhat agreeing and 22% strongly agreeing.

LOWERING TEEN PREGNANCY IN OKLAHOMA IS IMPORTANT



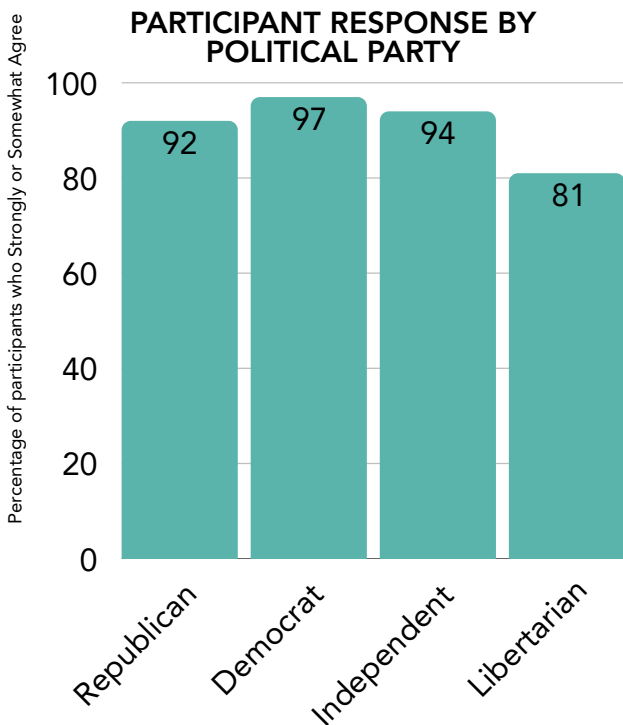
“[We should be] educating the kids about the different ways to reduce pregnancy [and providing] available low-cost or free birth control.”

**“LOWERING TEEN PREGNANCY IN OKLAHOMA IS IMPORTANT.”
PARTICIPANT RESPONSE BY COUNTY**



Lowering teen pregnancy is a bipartisan public health concern. Democrat, Republican, Independent, and Libertarian voters all agree that addressing this issue is important. Although **the majority of each group agreed**, very liberal (90%), somewhat liberal (91%) were significantly more likely to **strongly**

agree than moderate (85%) very conservative (76%) or somewhat conservative (76%) voters. **Whether voters identified as conservative or liberal, general agreement remained above 90%.**



“The most effective way to prevent unplanned pregnancy is probably knowledge.”

General agreement was strong across geography in rural (92%), urban (95%), and suburban (94%) voters. In a county-level analysis of the polling data, respondents in most counties rated lowering teen pregnancy as very or somewhat important, with only five of the surveyed counties presenting a neutral majority.

PUBLIC BACKING FOR SEX-ED IN OKLAHOMA SECONDARY SCHOOLS IS BROAD.

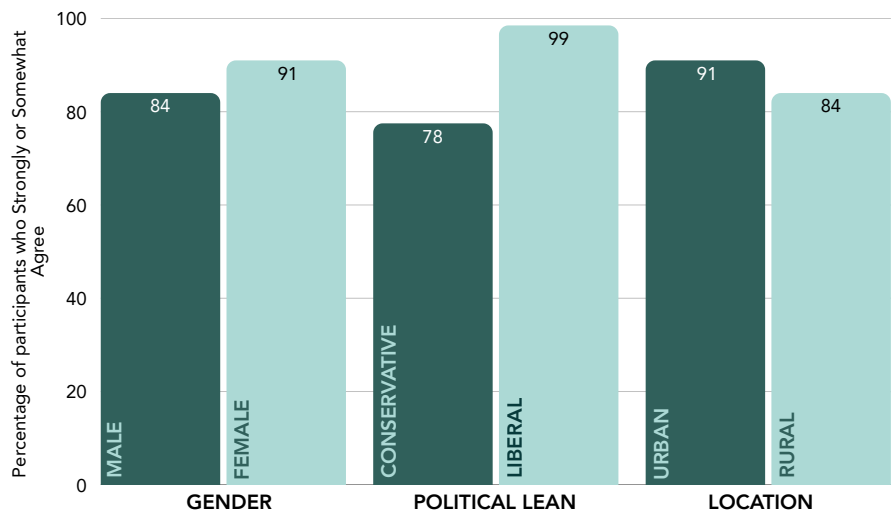
88% of Oklahomans surveyed believed middle and high school sexual health education is important.

When presented with the statement: "Teaching middle and high school students sexual health education ('Sex Ed') in school is important," an overwhelming majority of respondents across all surveyed demographics indicated either "somewhat agree" or "strongly agree."

Oklahomans under age 40 (age 18-29, 81%; age 30-39, 81%) were significantly more likely to express strong support for sex ed compared to older citizens (age 40-49, 67%; age 50-59, 68%; age 60-69, 62%; age 70 or older, 59%).

Although non-religious voters (90%) were significantly more likely to strongly agree, the opinion was shared by the majority of Protestant Christian (60%), Evangelical Christian (54%), Catholic (66%), and Jewish (85%) voters. 80% of Muslim voters agreed overall, with 58% somewhat agreeing and 22% strongly agreeing.

TEACHING MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION ("SEX ED") IN SCHOOL IS IMPORTANT.

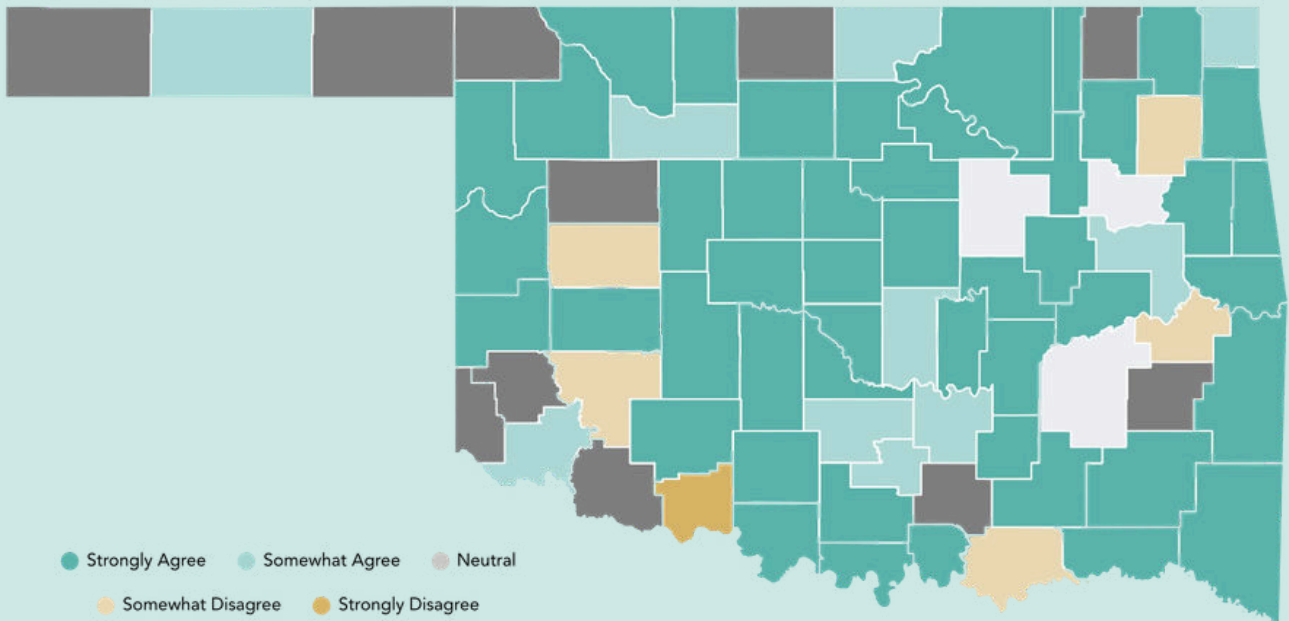


"It starts with educating them in school. I don't think parents do an exceptional job at doing that at home. I feel like they're already in a learning environment. Just teach them."



“TEACHING MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION (“SEX ED”) IN SCHOOL IS IMPORTANT.”

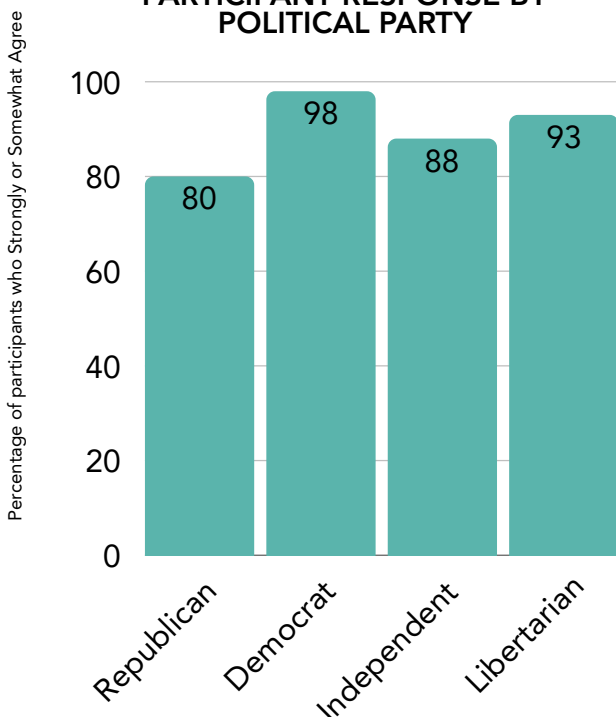
PARTICIPANT RESPONSE BY COUNTY



Across all political categories, the majority of voters agreed that sexual health education for middle and high schoolers is important. Although **the majority of each group agreed**, very liberal (94%), somewhat

liberal (91%), and moderate voters (82%) were significantly more likely to **strongly agree** than very conservative (47%) or somewhat conservative (55%) voters. **Whether voters identified as conservative or liberal, general agreement remained above 73%.**

PARTICIPANT RESPONSE BY POLITICAL PARTY



“[Students should know] the reality of birth control and pregnancy. You do that by giving them a good foundation in middle school so that they can grow with the proper knowledge.”

OKLAHOMANS WANT STUDENTS TO UNDERSTAND HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS.

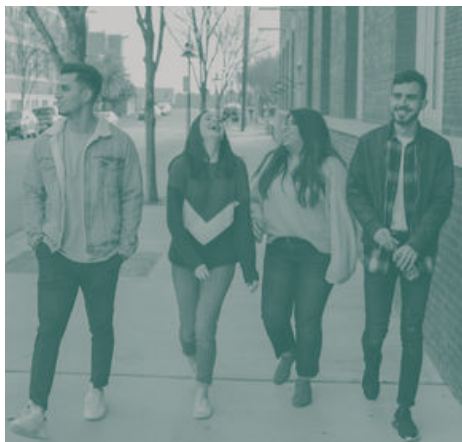
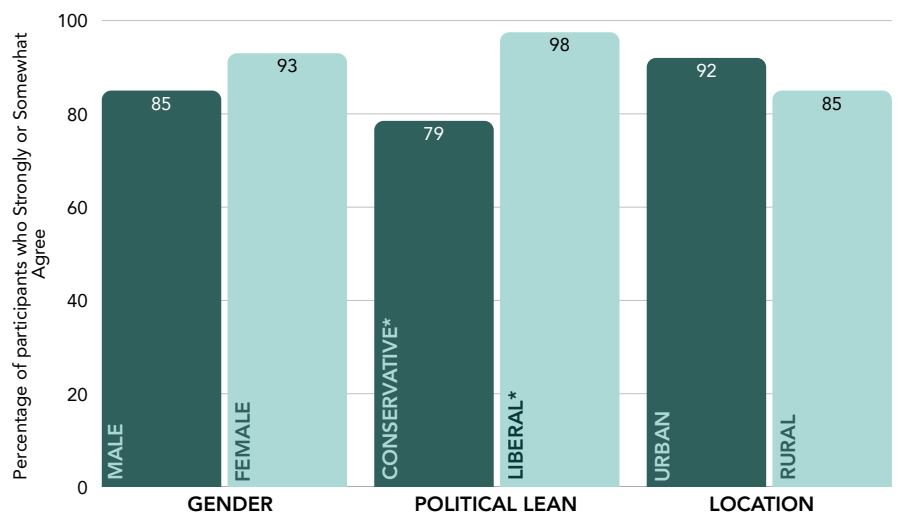
89% of Oklahomans support teaching students about healthy relationships and consent in school.

Across every surveyed demographic, the majority of Oklahomans who participated in the poll indicated they “somewhat agree” or “strongly agree” that “Teaching students about healthy relationships and consent in schools is important.”

The majority of each age group agreed with the statement. However, voters under age 40 (age 18-29, 90%; age 30-39, 88%) were significantly more likely to express strong support than older citizens (age 40-49, 75%; age 50-59, 73%, age 60-69, 68%; age 70 or older 66%).

Although non-religious voters were significantly more likely to strongly agree (90%), the majority of Protestant Christian (68%), Evangelical Christian (72%), Catholic (78%), and Jewish (100%) voters agreed. 80% of Muslim voters agreed overall, with 58% somewhat agreeing and 22% strongly agreeing.

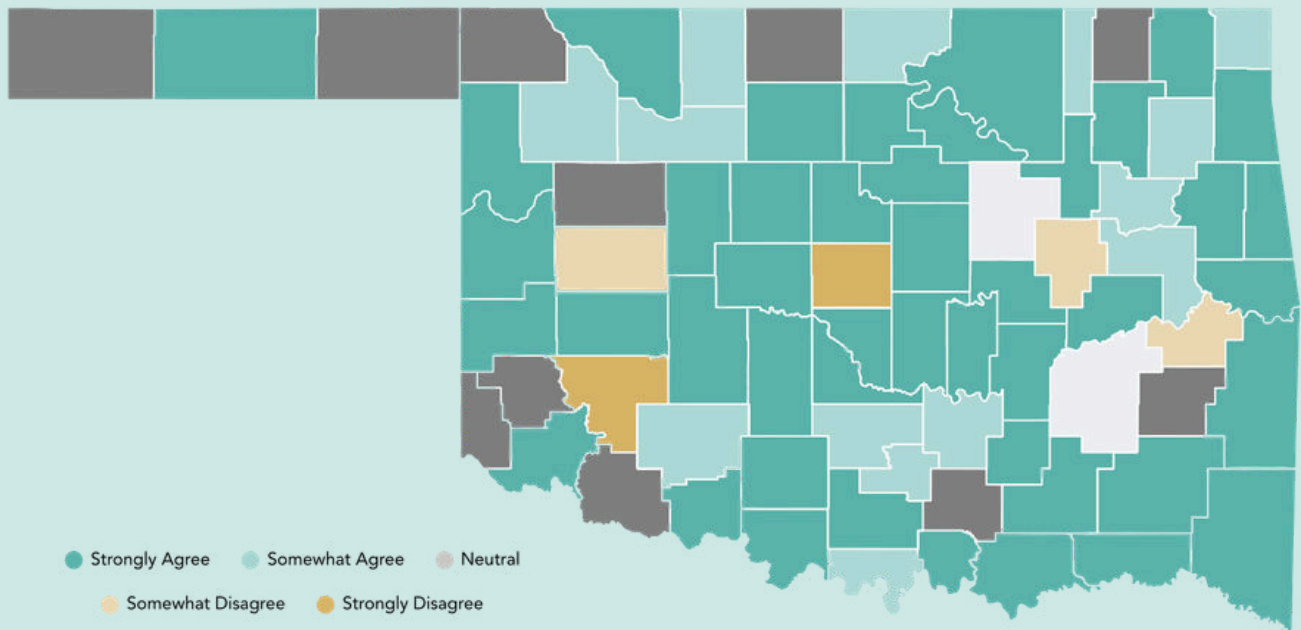
TEACHING STUDENTS ABOUT HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS AND CONSENT IN SCHOOL IS IMPORTANT.



“Focus on teaching consent and respecting an individual’s autonomy. [Students need] education on sexual hygiene and how mutual respect, trust, and open communication create strong healthy relationships that last.”

“TEACHING STUDENTS ABOUT HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS AND CONSENT IN SCHOOLS IS IMPORTANT.”

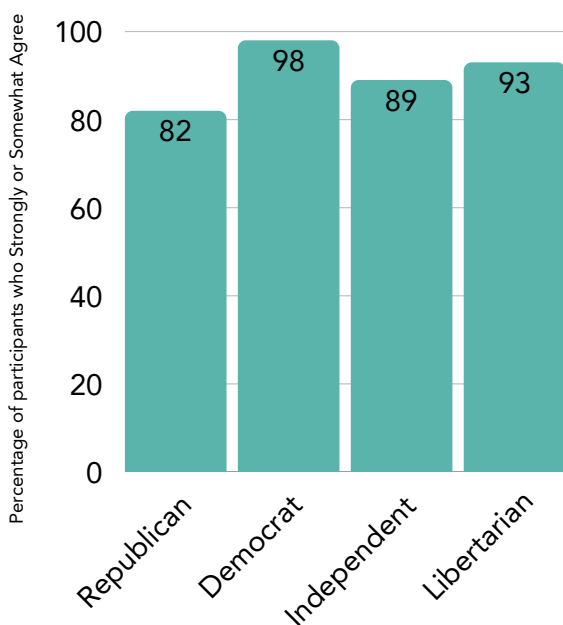
PARTICIPANT RESPONSE BY COUNTY



Across all political affiliations, Oklahomans expressed **considerable approval for student education about consent and healthy relationships**. Across party lines, **voters think it is important to prepare young people** to navigate interpersonal,

sexual, and romantic relationships. There were, however, significant differences in agreement across political leanings. Although **the majority of each group agreed**, very liberal (94%), somewhat liberal (91%), and moderate voters (83%) were significantly more likely to **strongly agree** than very conservative (62%) or somewhat conservative (67%) voters. **Whether voters identified as conservative or liberal, general agreement remained above 73%.**

PARTICIPANT RESPONSE BY POLITICAL PARTY



“[We should be] raising awareness and teaching students in school and in the community about safe sex, consent, contraceptives, and places to access birth control.”

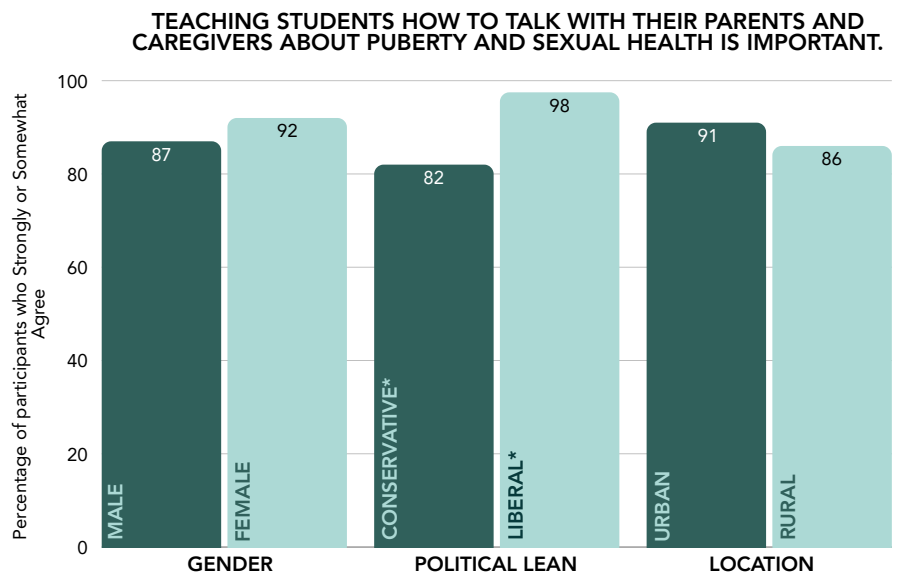
TEACHING OKLAHOMA STUDENTS HOW TO TALK TO PARENTS ABOUT SEXUAL HEALTH IS SEEN AS ESSENTIAL.

90% of participants indicated students should be taught how to talk to their parents and caregivers about puberty and sexual health.

Most respondents, across all surveyed demographic groups, indicated “somewhat agree” or “strongly agree” when presented with the statement: “Teaching students how to talk with their parents and caregivers about puberty and sexual health is important.”

Oklahomans expressed support regardless of age; however, those under age 40 were more likely to express strong support (age 18-29, 85%; age 30-39, 86%) under age 40 were more likely to express strong support (age 18-29, 85%; age 30-39, 86%) than older voters (age 40-49, 75%; age 50-59, 78%; age 60-69, 71%; age 70 or older, 74%).

Although non-religious voters were significantly more likely to strongly agree (88%), the majority of Protestant Christian (72%), Evangelical Christian (75%), Catholic (80%), and Jewish (78%) voters agreed. Most 80% of Muslim voters agreed overall, with 58% somewhat agreeing and 22% strongly agreeing.

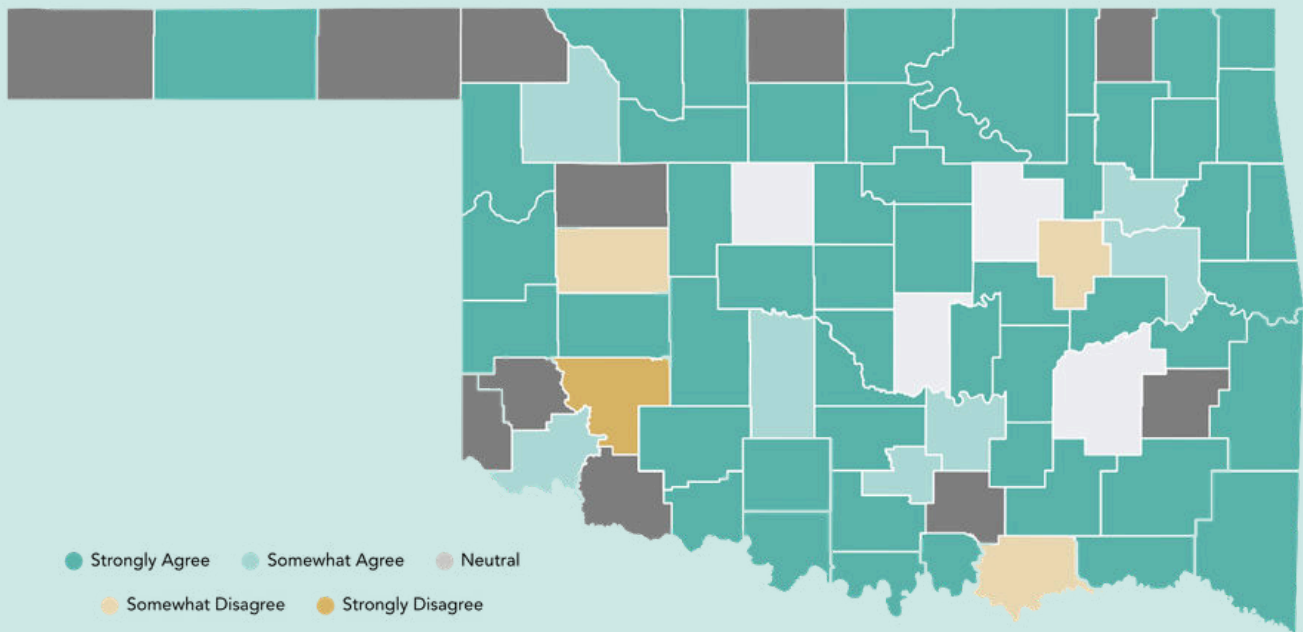


“If we were going to teach it in school, we need to teach it correctly and involve the parents in knowing what they will be taught.”



“TEACHING STUDENTS HOW TO TALK WITH THEIR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS ABOUT PUBERTY AND SEXUAL HEALTH IS IMPORTANT.”

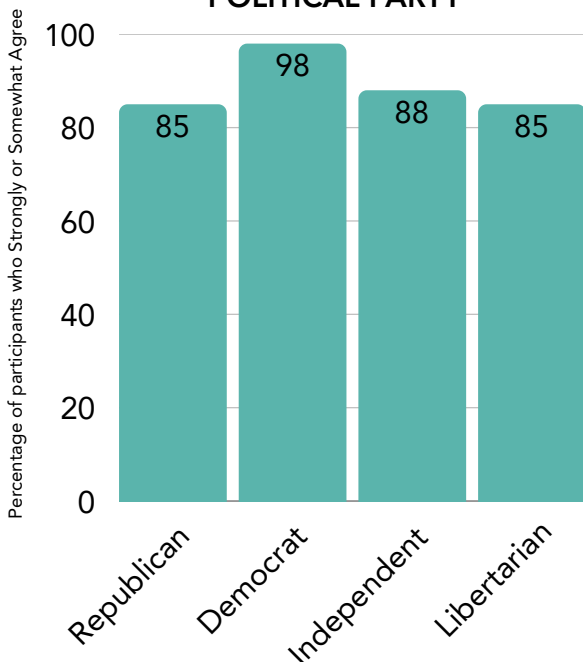
PARTICIPANT RESPONSE BY COUNTY



General agreement was shared by male (87%) and female (92%) voters; however, female Oklahomans (82%) were significantly more likely to strongly believe in the importance of parent and caregiver involvement compared to their male counterparts (73%).

Although the majority of each group agreed, very liberal (88%), somewhat liberal (91%), and moderate voters (83%) were significantly more likely to **strongly agree** than very conservative (71%) or somewhat conservative (68%) voters. **Whether voters identified as conservative or liberal, general agreement remained above 81%.**

PARTICIPANT RESPONSE BY POLITICAL PARTY



“I think so much begins with educating the parents in all honesty. If parents are better educated on how to have productive conversations with their teenagers about sex, I think that would help.”

MOST OKLAHOMANS FAVOR SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION

Many Oklahomans believe that sexual health education is an important policy solution. Despite differences in age, gender, geographic location, or political affiliation, **Oklahoma voters want students to be informed.**

Differences arise, however, when evaluating the subject matter of sexual education and how/when to deliver critical information. Qualitative responses to this survey revealed that while some topics were divisive (such as abstinence-only education), **Oklahomans are broadly supportive of sexual health education that involves parents and is age-appropriate.**

Oklahomans favor sex education that is age-appropriate and includes parents as partners.

"Start teaching the kids by third grade [or] fourth grade."

"Make milestone goals for our children to promote better decision-making skills."

"[Students need] parental involvement and [to] get the information from the correct source, like parents and religious means. And if we were going to teach it in school, we need to teach it correctly and involve the parents in knowing what will be taught."

"Communication. I think that's the best thing — definitely parents communicating with their children. Students communicating with teachers, guidance counselors, whatever it needs to be, just an open conversation to allow for people, to be able to understand without there being confusion, or complications."

"Giv[e] our educators directives to give factual, science-backed information to our middle and high school students."

"The parents [need] to get involved and the schools [need] to talk about parents being involved in sexual conversations."



METHODS

Polling for this study was conducted from February 1 - 2, 2025. The poll surveyed both cell phones and landlines. The final sample includes 1,004 registered voters in Oklahoma. The survey has a margin of error of 3.09% at a 95% confidence interval.

It is important to remember that subsets based on party affiliation, gender, age, religion, and education have higher margins of error, as the sample size is reduced.