



Bryant University

Hassenfeld Institute for Public Leadership March 2017 Poll

- 1) Generally speaking do you feel things in the State of Rhode Island are moving in the right direction or do you feel that things have moved in the wrong direction?

Right Direction...**41.8%** Wrong Direction...**36.3%** Remained the same (Vol)...
15.9% Not Sure...**6.0%**

- 2) Do you think that your family is financially better off today than they were a year ago?

Yes...**38.3%** No...**29.1%** Remained the same (Vol)...**29.9%** Not
Sure...**2.7%**

- 3) There is a proposal that the State of Rhode Island pay for Rhode Island students graduating from high school for either two years of college tuition at Community College of Rhode Island or years three and four at Rhode Island College or University of Rhode Island. This would be for tuition only. Would you favor or oppose the State paying for two years of college tuition for students?

Favor...**60.0%** Oppose...**29.9%** Not sure...**10.2%**

- 4) Some people have said that free college tuition should have stipulations; I am going to read you some stipulations please tell me if you agree or disagree with each in order to receive free college tuition?

A family's ability to pay Agree...**61.7%** Disagree...**27.1%** Not sure...**11.2%**

Maintain a certain grade point average in high school Agree...**80.8%**
Disagree...**15.2%** Not sure...**4.0%**

- 5) The governor has proposed that residents' car taxes be reduced by 30%. The State would reimburse the cities and towns with the difference costing the State about \$55 million annually. Would you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose the reduction in the car taxes? **72.1% - 23.6%**

Strongly favor **40.0%** Somewhat favor **32.1%** Somewhat oppose **11.2%** Strongly
oppose **12.4%** Not sure **4.2%**

- 6) The House Speaker has called for the elimination of the car tax over a 5 year period. The State would reimburse the cities and towns the money they would lose which at the end of the 5 years would cost the State about \$215 million annually. Would you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose this plan? **52.2%- 40.0%**

Strongly favor **27.4%** Somewhat favor **24.9%** Somewhat oppose **17.9%** Strongly oppose **22.1%** Not sure..**7.7%**

- 7) I am going to read you a list of State taxes, which tax would be the most important for you to have reduced? Would It be the: **(ORDER WAS ROTATED)**

Car tax....**24.4%** Sales tax...**24.4%** Income tax...**35.8%** Business tax...**11.9%**
Not sure...**3.5%**

- 8) Do you think that the Governor should have a line item veto on the State's budget? This potentially would allow the governor to reject items in the budget instead of the whole budget.

Yes ...**74.6%** No...**16.2%** Not sure...**9.2%**

- 9) Currently the minimum wage in the State of Rhode Island is \$9.60 per hour. There is a proposal before the General Assembly to raise the minimum wage to \$10.50. Would you favor or oppose raising the minimum wage to \$10.50?

Favor **78.1%** Oppose...**17.4%** Not sure...**4.5%**

- 10) Do you believe an increase in the minimum wage will have a positive, negative, or no impact on job availability in the State?

Positive....**43.5%** Negative...**17.9%** No impact...**32.8%** Not sure...**5.7%**

- 11) Currently a person running for Governor and other General Statewide offices can be elected with less than 50% of the vote if more than two people are running. Would you favor or oppose a run off election of the top two vote getters if no one receives at least 50% of the vote for general office holders?

Favor...**60.0%** Oppose...**27.1%** Not sure....**12.9%**

This poll was conducted from March 25th-March 29th. The sampling Margin of error is 4.9% with a sample size of 402 registered Rhode Island voters.