

## **Marginals/Toplines**

October/November 2023 Cardinal Registered Voter Poll MOE +/- 3.47%

December 20, 2023

Targoz Market Research®

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Occupational licensing is a regulatory requirement where individuals must obtain specific permits or licenses from the state government to practice in certain professions or jobs legally. Some examples include positions like massage therapists, barbers, or upholsterers. Considering this, to what extent do you believe occupational licensing requirements contribute to individuals remaining on public assistance?	27
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How do you feel about the proposal of a Grace Period policy, which would maintain the level of public assistance benefits for a set period, such as 30 to 90 days, after an individual’s income surpasses the eligibility limit? The aim would be to provide a smoother transition rather than an abrupt end of benefits. Do you support or oppose this idea? 33

The "benefits cliff" refers to a situation where individuals or families on public assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid, or housing assistance, experience an increase in their earned income. However, once their income surpasses a specific threshold (even by a minor amount), they may lose these benefits, resulting in a net loss in overall resources. Do you support or oppose efforts to address the “benefits cliff”? 34

How do you feel about the Gradual Benefits Reduction policy proposal, which introduces a scaled approach to reducing welfare benefits as a recipient’s income increases? This program would allow recipients to transition smoothly into work without fearing sudden loss of benefits. Do you support or oppose this idea? 35

To simplify and streamline the application process for various social assistance programs, Utah instituted a “One Door” policy, consolidating multiple social assistance programs into a single, user-friendly application process. A person looking for assistance is connected to a single point of contact, whose job is to help that person find the services and support they need to get back on their feet. Would you support or oppose implementing a "One Door" policy in West Virginia, like Utah’s approach? 36

Some have suggested implementing annual adjustments to income guidelines for state welfare programs to align with inflation and cost of living changes. Would you support or oppose this proposal? 37

Some have suggested requiring the West Virginia Legislature to conduct a comprehensive review of all public assistance programs in the state every four years. The goal of this review would be to assess the efficacy, efficiency, and relevance of these programs and to make necessary changes based on the findings. Would you support or oppose this proposal? 38

Some have suggested implementing a Location-Based Cost of Living Adjustment (LCOLA) in West Virginia to distribute assistance based on local living costs. Individuals’ benefits would be based on the cost of living in their specific county or region instead of the average cost of living for the whole state. Would you support or oppose an effort to implement a Location-Based Cost of Living Adjustment (LCOLA) in West Virginia? 39

Some have suggested adjusting the benefits calculation for public assistance by considering individual circumstances and specific reasons a person cannot work, such as health conditions, caregiving responsibilities, or other personal challenges. This could result in some people receiving increased benefits based on their unique situations, while others might see no change. Would you support or oppose an effort to adjust the benefits calculation for public assistance by considering the individual circumstances of recipients? 40

Some say there is a combined benefits penalty for recipients of public assistance where couples are better off not getting married due to the potential loss of benefits, making it difficult for them to afford necessities like rent and jeopardizing their financial stability. Would you support or oppose an effort to eliminate the combined benefits penalty for couples receiving public assistance? 41

From the following list of proposals to improve the state’s public assistance programs, which are most important for the West Virginia legislature to address?(Select Your Top Three)	42
Have you or your immediate family received any of the following types of government public assistance in the past three years? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)	44
Please select how much you agree or disagree with the following statements about your family’s experience with public assistance programs: Accessing the benefits and services of the program was straightforward and uncomplicated	45
Please select how much you agree or disagree with the following statements about your family’s experience with public assistance programs: The program’s representatives communicated clearly and provided necessary support throughout the process	46
Please select how much you agree or disagree with the following statements about your family’s experience with public assistance programs: We were satisfied with the support provided by the public assistance program	47
Please select how much you agree or disagree with the following statements about your family’s experience with public assistance programs: The assistance was crucial to my family’s well-being	48
Do you care for an aging or ill adult or someone (adult/child) with a disability?	49
Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a ...?	50
What is your age?	51
Thinking about your general approach to issues, do you consider yourself to be...	52
Which of the following are you?	53
How many infants and children under 18 years of age live in your household today?	54
Ethnicity	55
Which of the following best describes your household's total income in 2022 BEFORE taxes?	56
Which of the following best describes your current education level?	57
What is your current marital status?	58
Is this your first marriage?	59
Do you own or rent your home?	60
Are you now employed full-time, part-time, self-employed, or not employed?	61

October/November 2023 Cardinal Registered Voter Poll MOE +/- 3.47%

In general, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in: The United States

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	765
<b>Total Satisfied</b>	
Column %	19%
<b>Very Satisfied</b>	
Column %	8%
<b>Somewhat Satisfied</b>	
Column %	11%
<b>Somewhat Dissatisfied</b>	
Column %	26%
<b>Very Dissatisfied</b>	
Column %	47%
<b>Total Dissatisfied</b>	
Column %	73%
<b>Not Sure</b>	
Column %	8%

October/November 2023 Cardinal Registered Voter Poll MOE +/- 3.47%

In general, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in: The State of West Virginia

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	765
<b>Total Satisfied</b>	
Column %	47%
<b>Very Satisfied</b>	
Column %	13%
<b>Somewhat Satisfied</b>	
Column %	34%
<b>Somewhat Dissatisfied</b>	
Column %	25%
<b>Very Dissatisfied</b>	
Column %	14%
<b>Total Dissatisfied</b>	
Column %	39%
<b>Not Sure</b>	
Column %	14%

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Compared to a year ago, would you say that you and your family are economically...

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	765
<b>Total Better Off</b>	
Column %	15%
<b>A lot better off</b>	
Column %	5%
<b>Somewhat better off</b>	
Column %	10%
<b>About the same</b>	
Column %	28%
<b>Somewhat worse off</b>	
Column %	38%
<b>A lot worse off</b>	
Column %	18%
<b>Total Worse Off</b>	
Column %	57%



October/November 2023 Cardinal Registered Voter Poll MOE +/- 3.47%

How would you rate the economic opportunities available in your area of West Virginia?

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	765
<b>Total Excellent or Good</b>	
Column %	13%
<b>Excellent</b>	
Column %	4%
<b>Good</b>	
Column %	9%
<b>Average</b>	
Column %	36%
<b>Poor</b>	
Column %	36%
<b>Very poor</b>	
Column %	14%
<b>Total Poor or Very Poor</b>	
Column %	50%

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Compared to 10 years ago, how would you rate the economic opportunities in your area of West Virginia right now?

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	765
<b>Total Better</b>	
Column %	27%
<b>Much better</b>	
Column %	6%
<b>Somewhat better</b>	
Column %	21%
<b>About the same</b>	
Column %	19%
<b>Somewhat worse</b>	
Column %	33%
<b>Much worse</b>	
Column %	22%
<b>Total Worse</b>	
Column %	55%

October/November 2023 Cardinal Registered Voter Poll MOE +/- 3.47%

How easy or difficult is it for someone in your community to find a job that pays a living wage?

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	765
<b>Total Easy</b>	
Column %	18%
<b>Very easy</b>	
Column %	4%
<b>Somewhat easy</b>	
Column %	14%
<b>Neutral</b>	
Column %	23%
<b>Somewhat difficult</b>	
Column %	34%
<b>Very difficult</b>	
Column %	25%
<b>Total Difficult</b>	
Column %	60%

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The labor force participation rate refers to the percentage of working-age individuals who are either employed or actively seeking employment. The rate is like a score that tells us how many adults have jobs or are trying to find a job. For each of the following factors, please indicate how significant a role you believe it plays in contributing to the low labor force participation rate in West Virginia. Lack of good-paying jobs

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	765
<b>Total Major or Moderate</b>	
Column %	75%
<b>Major Role</b>	
Column %	45%
<b>Moderate Role</b>	
Column %	29%
<b>Minor Role</b>	
Column %	16%
<b>No Role</b>	
Column %	5%
<b>Total Minor or No Role</b>	
Column %	20%
<b>Not Sure</b>	
Column %	5%

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The labor force participation rate refers to the percentage of working-age individuals who are either employed or actively seeking employment. The rate is like a score that tells us how many adults have jobs or are trying to find a job. For each of the following factors, please indicate how significant a role you believe it plays in contributing to the low labor force participation rate in West Virginia. Aging population and retirement

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	765
<b>Total Major or Moderate</b>	
Column %	56%
<b>Major Role</b>	
Column %	25%
<b>Moderate Role</b>	
Column %	31%
<b>Minor Role</b>	
Column %	33%
<b>No Role</b>	
Column %	6%
<b>Total Minor or No Role</b>	
Column %	39%
<b>Not Sure</b>	
Column %	5%

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	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	765
<b>Total Major or Moderate</b>	
Column %	53%
<b>Major Role</b>	
Column %	18%
<b>Moderate Role</b>	
Column %	35%
<b>Minor Role</b>	
Column %	34%
<b>No Role</b>	
Column %	6%
<b>Total Minor or No Role</b>	
Column %	40%
<b>Not Sure</b>	
Column %	8%

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	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	765
<b>Total Major or Moderate</b>	
Column %	55%
<b>Major Role</b>	
Column %	21%
<b>Moderate Role</b>	
Column %	34%
<b>Minor Role</b>	
Column %	30%
<b>No Role</b>	
Column %	10%
<b>Total Minor or No Role</b>	
Column %	40%
<b>Not Sure</b>	
Column %	5%

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The labor force participation rate refers to the percentage of working-age individuals who are either employed or actively seeking employment. The rate is like a score that tells us how many adults have jobs or are trying to find a job. For each of the following factors, please indicate how significant a role you believe it plays in contributing to the low labor force participation rate in West Virginia. Generous welfare or unemployment benefits

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	765
<b>Total Major or Moderate</b>	
Column %	58%
<b>Major Role</b>	
Column %	32%
<b>Moderate Role</b>	
Column %	25%
<b>Minor Role</b>	
Column %	23%
<b>No Role</b>	
Column %	11%
<b>Total Minor or No Role</b>	
Column %	34%
<b>Not Sure</b>	
Column %	8%



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The labor force participation rate refers to the percentage of working-age individuals who are either employed or actively seeking employment. The rate is like a score that tells us how many adults have jobs or are trying to find a job. For each of the following factors, please indicate how significant a role you believe it plays in contributing to the low labor force participation rate in West Virginia. High childcare costs or family responsibilities

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	765
<b>Total Major or Moderate</b>	
Column %	73%
<b>Major Role</b>	
Column %	38%
<b>Moderate Role</b>	
Column %	35%
<b>Minor Role</b>	
Column %	17%
<b>No Role</b>	
Column %	4%
<b>Total Minor or No Role</b>	
Column %	21%
<b>Not Sure</b>	
Column %	6%

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The labor force participation rate refers to the percentage of working-age individuals who are either employed or actively seeking employment. The rate is like a score that tells us how many adults have jobs or are trying to find a job. For each of the following factors, please indicate how significant a role you believe it plays in contributing to the low labor force participation rate in West Virginia. Discouraged workers who have given up on finding employment

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	765
<b>Total Major or Moderate</b>	
Column %	60%
<b>Major Role</b>	
Column %	29%
<b>Moderate Role</b>	
Column %	31%
<b>Minor Role</b>	
Column %	23%
<b>No Role</b>	
Column %	8%
<b>Total Minor or No Role</b>	
Column %	31%
<b>Not Sure</b>	
Column %	8%

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The labor force participation rate refers to the percentage of working-age individuals who are either employed or actively seeking employment. The rate is like a score that tells us how many adults have jobs or are trying to find a job. For each of the following factors, please indicate how significant a role you believe it plays in contributing to the low labor force participation rate in West Virginia. Criminal records hindering job opportunities

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	765
<b>Total Major or Moderate</b>	
Column %	53%
<b>Major Role</b>	
Column %	22%
<b>Moderate Role</b>	
Column %	31%
<b>Minor Role</b>	
Column %	31%
<b>No Role</b>	
Column %	6%
<b>Total Minor or No Role</b>	
Column %	37%
<b>Not Sure</b>	
Column %	10%

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The labor force participation rate refers to the percentage of working-age individuals who are either employed or actively seeking employment. The rate is like a score that tells us how many adults have jobs or are trying to find a job. For each of the following factors, please indicate how significant a role you believe it plays in contributing to the low labor force participation rate in West Virginia. Issues with drugs or substance abuse

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	765
<b>Total Major or Moderate</b>	
Column %	81%
<b>Major Role</b>	
Column %	52%
<b>Moderate Role</b>	
Column %	29%
<b>Minor Role</b>	
Column %	11%
<b>No Role</b>	
Column %	3%
<b>Total Minor or No Role</b>	
Column %	14%
<b>Not Sure</b>	
Column %	5%

October/November 2023 Cardinal Registered Voter Poll MOE +/- 3.47%

Please select how much you agree or disagree with the following statements: West Virginia's K-12 education system prepares people for a successful life and career

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	765
<b>Total Agree</b>	
Column %	46%
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	
Column %	9%
<b>Agree</b>	
Column %	37%
<b>Not Sure</b>	
Column %	11%
<b>Disagree</b>	
Column %	29%
<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	
Column %	15%
<b>Total Disagree</b>	
Column %	43%

October/November 2023 Cardinal Registered Voter Poll MOE +/- 3.47%

Please select how much you agree or disagree with the following statements: Having a non-violent criminal record should not hold you back from finding a job or a better economic opportunity

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	765
<b>Total Agree</b>	
Column %	89%
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	
Column %	44%
<b>Agree</b>	
Column %	45%
<b>Not Sure</b>	
Column %	5%
<b>Disagree</b>	
Column %	5%
<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	
Column %	1%
<b>Total Disagree</b>	
Column %	6%

October/November 2023 Cardinal Registered Voter Poll MOE +/- 3.47%

Please select how much you agree or disagree with the following statements: Individuals with a non-violent criminal record should be allowed to re-enter the workforce if the job isn't directly related to their criminal history

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	765
<b>Total Agree</b>	
Column %	87%
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	
Column %	37%
<b>Agree</b>	
Column %	50%
<b>Not Sure</b>	
Column %	6%
<b>Disagree</b>	
Column %	5%
<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	
Column %	2%
<b>Total Disagree</b>	
Column %	7%

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Please select how much you agree or disagree with the following statements: West Virginia should offer public assistance programs to residents of the state

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	765
<b>Total Agree</b>	
Column %	79%
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	
Column %	35%
<b>Agree</b>	
Column %	43%
<b>Not Sure</b>	
Column %	9%
<b>Disagree</b>	
Column %	10%
<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	
Column %	3%
<b>Total Disagree</b>	
Column %	12%



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Please select how much you agree or disagree with the following statements: Individuals with a non-violent criminal record should not be allowed to receive an occupational or professional license for jobs such as massage therapist, mobile home installer, etc.

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	765
<b>Total Agree</b>	
Column %	28%
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	
Column %	13%
<b>Agree</b>	
Column %	14%
<b>Not Sure</b>	
Column %	16%
<b>Disagree</b>	
Column %	33%
<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	
Column %	24%
<b>Total Disagree</b>	
Column %	56%

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Please select how much you agree or disagree with the following statements: Non-disabled adults should be required to work or participate in job training programs as a condition of receiving public assistance

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	765
<b>Total Agree</b>	
Column %	78%
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	
Column %	38%
<b>Agree</b>	
Column %	39%
<b>Not Sure</b>	
Column %	7%
<b>Disagree</b>	
Column %	9%
<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	
Column %	7%
<b>Total Disagree</b>	
Column %	16%

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Occupational licensing is a regulatory requirement where individuals must obtain specific permits or licenses from the state government to practice in certain professions or jobs legally. Some examples include positions like massage therapists, barbers, or upholsterers. Considering this, to what extent do you believe occupational licensing requirements contribute to individuals remaining on public assistance?

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	765
<b>Total Major or Moderate</b>	
Column %	41%
<b>Major Role</b>	
Column %	17%
<b>Moderate Role</b>	
Column %	25%
<b>Minor Role</b>	
Column %	33%
<b>No Role</b>	
Column %	16%
<b>Total Minor or No Role</b>	
Column %	49%
<b>Not Sure</b>	
Column %	10%

October/November 2023 Cardinal Registered Voter Poll MOE +/- 3.47%

Which of the following descriptions do you believe best characterizes the majority of individuals on public assistance in our state? (Select the one that you believe applies most broadly.)

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	765
<b>Not motivated to work or seeking to rely on assistance</b>	
Column %	33%
<b>Lacking the necessary skills or education for available jobs</b>	
Column %	21%
<b>Disabled or dealing with health issues</b>	
Column %	10%
<b>Hard-working but facing financial challenges</b>	
Column %	14%
<b>Actively seeking employment but unable to find suitable jobs</b>	
Column %	15%
<b>Temporarily facing a challenging life event (e.g., sudden job loss, family crisis)</b>	
Column %	6%
<b>Other (please specify):</b>	
Column %	1%

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Thinking about the public assistance or welfare programs West Virginia provides to people in need, do you think the government...?

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	765
<b>Should provide more assistance</b>	
Column %	42%
<b>Is providing about the right amount of assistance</b>	
Column %	21%
<b>Should provide less assistance</b>	
Column %	18%
<b>Not sure</b>	
Column %	19%

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What would you say is the main purpose behind public assistance programs?

	Total
Unweighted Sample Size	765
<b>To help poor people climb out of poverty</b> Column %	48%
<b>To simply provide for peoples' basic needs while they are poor</b> Column %	46%
<b>Not sure</b> Column %	7%

October/November 2023 Cardinal Registered Voter Poll MOE +/- 3.47%

In general, do you think public assistance benefits...?

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	765
<b>Give poor people a chance to stand on their own two feet and get started again</b>	
Column %	51%
<b>Make poor people dependent and encourage them to stay poor</b>	
Column %	38%
<b>Not sure</b>	
Column %	11%

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Do you think that most poor people who receive public assistance benefits...?

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	765
<b>Would rather earn their own living</b>	
Column %	45%
<b>Prefer to stay on public assistance</b>	
Column %	47%
<b>Not sure</b>	
Column %	9%



October/November 2023 Cardinal Registered Voter Poll MOE +/- 3.47%

How do you feel about the proposal of a Grace Period policy, which would maintain the level of public assistance benefits for a set period, such as 30 to 90 days, after an individual's income surpasses the eligibility limit? The aim would be to provide a smoother transition rather than an abrupt end of benefits. Do you support or oppose this idea?

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	765
<b>Total Support</b>	
Column %	79%
<b>Strongly support</b>	
Column %	39%
<b>Somewhat support</b>	
Column %	40%
<b>I'm not sure</b>	
Column %	10%
<b>Somewhat oppose</b>	
Column %	8%
<b>Strongly oppose</b>	
Column %	4%
<b>Total Oppose</b>	
Column %	11%

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The "benefits cliff" refers to a situation where individuals or families on public assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid, or housing assistance, experience an increase in their earned income. However, once their income surpasses a specific threshold (even by a minor amount), they may lose these benefits, resulting in a net loss in overall resources. Do you support or oppose efforts to address the "benefits cliff"?

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	765
<b>Total Support</b>	
Column %	56%
<b>Strongly support</b>	
Column %	24%
<b>Somewhat support</b>	
Column %	32%
<b>I'm not sure</b>	
Column %	12%
<b>Somewhat oppose</b>	
Column %	17%
<b>Strongly oppose</b>	
Column %	14%
<b>Total Oppose</b>	
Column %	31%

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How do you feel about the Gradual Benefits Reduction policy proposal, which introduces a scaled approach to reducing welfare benefits as a recipient's income increases? This program would allow recipients to transition smoothly into work without fearing sudden loss of benefits. Do you support or oppose this idea?

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	765
<b>Total Support</b>	
Column %	82%
<b>Strongly support</b>	
Column %	42%
<b>Somewhat support</b>	
Column %	40%
<b>I'm not sure</b>	
Column %	7%
<b>Somewhat oppose</b>	
Column %	9%
<b>Strongly oppose</b>	
Column %	2%
<b>Total Oppose</b>	
Column %	11%

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To simplify and streamline the application process for various social assistance programs, Utah instituted a "One Door" policy, consolidating multiple social assistance programs into a single, user-friendly application process. A person looking for assistance is connected to a single point of contact, whose job is to help that person find the services and support they need to get back on their feet. Would you support or oppose implementing a "One Door" policy in West Virginia, like Utah's approach?

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	765
<b>Total Support</b>	
Column %	83%
<b>Strongly support</b>	
Column %	43%
<b>Somewhat support</b>	
Column %	39%
<b>I'm not sure</b>	
Column %	10%
<b>Somewhat oppose</b>	
Column %	5%
<b>Strongly oppose</b>	
Column %	1%
<b>Total Oppose</b>	
Column %	7%

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Some have suggested implementing annual adjustments to income guidelines for state welfare programs to align with inflation and cost of living changes. Would you support or oppose this proposal?

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	765
<b>Total Support</b>	
Column %	79%
<b>Strongly support</b>	
Column %	40%
<b>Somewhat support</b>	
Column %	39%
<b>I'm not sure</b>	
Column %	10%
<b>Somewhat oppose</b>	
Column %	7%
<b>Strongly oppose</b>	
Column %	4%
<b>Total Oppose</b>	
Column %	12%

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Some have suggested requiring the West Virginia Legislature to conduct a comprehensive review of all public assistance programs in the state every four years. The goal of this review would be to assess the efficacy, efficiency, and relevance of these programs and to make necessary changes based on the findings. Would you support or oppose this proposal?

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	765
<b>Total Support</b>	
Column %	85%
<b>Strongly support</b>	
Column %	46%
<b>Somewhat support</b>	
Column %	40%
<b>I'm not sure</b>	
Column %	10%
<b>Somewhat oppose</b>	
Column %	4%
<b>Strongly oppose</b>	
Column %	1%
<b>Total Oppose</b>	
Column %	5%

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Some have suggested implementing a Location-Based Cost of Living Adjustment (LCOLA) in West Virginia to distribute assistance based on local living costs. Individuals' benefits would be based on the cost of living in their specific county or region instead of the average cost of living for the whole state. Would you support or oppose an effort to implement a Location-Based Cost of Living Adjustment (LCOLA) in West Virginia?

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	765
<b>Total Support</b>	
Column %	74%
<b>Strongly support</b>	
Column %	35%
<b>Somewhat support</b>	
Column %	38%
<b>I'm not sure</b>	
Column %	15%
<b>Somewhat oppose</b>	
Column %	9%
<b>Strongly oppose</b>	
Column %	2%
<b>Total Oppose</b>	
Column %	11%

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Some have suggested adjusting the benefits calculation for public assistance by considering individual circumstances and specific reasons a person cannot work, such as health conditions, caregiving responsibilities, or other personal challenges. This could result in some people receiving increased benefits based on their unique situations, while others might see no change. Would you support or oppose an effort to adjust the benefits calculation for public assistance by considering the individual circumstances of recipients?

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	765
<b>Total Support</b>	
Column %	77%
<b>Strongly support</b>	
Column %	35%
<b>Somewhat support</b>	
Column %	42%
<b>I'm not sure</b>	
Column %	12%
<b>Somewhat oppose</b>	
Column %	9%
<b>Strongly oppose</b>	
Column %	2%
<b>Total Oppose</b>	
Column %	11%



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Some say there is a combined benefits penalty for recipients of public assistance where couples are better off not getting married due to the potential loss of benefits, making it difficult for them to afford necessities like rent and jeopardizing their financial stability. Would you support or oppose an effort to eliminate the combined benefits penalty for couples receiving public assistance?

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	765
<b>Total Support</b>	
Column %	61%
<b>Strongly support</b>	
Column %	27%
<b>Somewhat support</b>	
Column %	34%
<b>I'm not sure</b>	
Column %	18%
<b>Somewhat oppose</b>	
Column %	14%
<b>Strongly oppose</b>	
Column %	7%
<b>Total Oppose</b>	
Column %	21%

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From the following list of proposals to improve the state’s public assistance programs, which are most important for the West Virginia legislature to address?(Select Your Top Three)

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	765
Valid Cases	765
Total Mentions	2,295
<b>Implementing a Gradual Benefits Reduction policy, which introduces a scaled approach to reducing welfare benefits as a recipient’s income increases. This program would allow recipients to transition smoothly into work without fearing sudden loss of benefits</b>	
Mentions	314
% Valid Cases	41%
<b>Instituting a “One Door” policy, consolidating multiple social assistance programs into a single point of contact, whose job is to help that person find the services and support they need to get back on their feet</b>	
Mentions	366
% Valid Cases	48%
<b>Adjusting the benefits calculation for public assistance by considering individual circumstances and specific reasons a person cannot work, such as health conditions, caregiving responsibilities, or other personal challenges. This could result in some people receiving increased benefits based on their unique situations, while others might see no change.</b>	
Mentions	318
% Valid Cases	42%
<b>Implementing annual adjustments to income guidelines for state welfare programs to align with inflation and cost of living changes</b>	
Mentions	283
% Valid Cases	37%
<b>Establishing a Grace Period policy, which would maintain the level of public assistance benefits for a set period, such as 30 to 90 days, after an individual’s income surpasses the eligibility limit</b>	
Mentions	292
% Valid Cases	38%
<b>Requiring the West Virginia Legislature to conduct a comprehensive review of all public assistance programs in the state every four years. The goal of this review would be to assess the efficacy, efficiency, and relevance of these programs and to make necessary changes based on the findings</b>	
Mentions	301
% Valid Cases	39%
<b>Implementing a Location-Based Cost of Living Adjustment (LCOLA) that would distribute assistance based on local living costs. Benefits individuals would receive would be based on the cost of living in their specific county or region instead of the average cost of living for the whole state</b>	
Mentions	234
% Valid Cases	31%

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From the following list of proposals to improve the state's public assistance programs, which are most important for the West Virginia legislature to address?(Select Your Top Three)

	Total
<b>Eliminating the combined benefits penalty for couples who want to marry while receiving public assistance</b>	
Mentions	186
% Valid Cases	24%

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Have you or your immediate family received any of the following types of government public assistance in the past three years? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	765
Valid Cases	765
Total Mentions	1,266
<b>Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)</b>	
Mentions	250
% Valid Cases	33%
<b>Medical Assistance Programs (State-Based Health Assistance Programs)</b>	
Mentions	187
% Valid Cases	24%
<b>Free Or Reduced Lunch (At School)</b>	
Mentions	90
% Valid Cases	12%
<b>Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program</b>	
Mentions	114
% Valid Cases	15%
<b>Special Supplemental Nutrition Program For Women, Infants, And Children (WIC)</b>	
Mentions	67
% Valid Cases	9%
<b>Job Training &amp; Education Assistance (WorkForce West Virginia)</b>	
Mentions	69
% Valid Cases	9%
<b>Section 8 Housing Vouchers</b>	
Mentions	31
% Valid Cases	4%
<b>Childcare &amp; Parent Services (Choices Child Care Resource &amp; Referral)</b>	
Mentions	39
% Valid Cases	5%
<b>Temporary Assistance For Needy Families (TANF)</b>	
Mentions	33
% Valid Cases	4%
<b>None of these (Have you or your immediate family received any of the following types of government public assistance in the past three years?)</b>	
Mentions	350
% Valid Cases	46%
<b>Not sure/prefer not to answer</b>	
Mentions	36
% Valid Cases	5%

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Please select how much you agree or disagree with the following statements about your family’s experience with public assistance programs: Accessing the benefits and services of the program was straightforward and uncomplicated

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	439
<b>Total Agree</b>	
Column %	61%
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	
Column %	20%
<b>Agree</b>	
Column %	41%
<b>Not Sure</b>	
Column %	6%
<b>Disagree</b>	
Column %	18%
<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	
Column %	15%
<b>Total Disagree</b>	
Column %	33%

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Please select how much you agree or disagree with the following statements about your family’s experience with public assistance programs: The program’s representatives communicated clearly and provided necessary support throughout the process

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	439
<b>Total Agree</b>	
Column %	58%
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	
Column %	20%
<b>Agree</b>	
Column %	38%
<b>Not Sure</b>	
Column %	7%
<b>Disagree</b>	
Column %	22%
<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	
Column %	13%
<b>Total Disagree</b>	
Column %	35%

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Please select how much you agree or disagree with the following statements about your family’s experience with public assistance programs: We were satisfied with the support provided by the public assistance program

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	439
<b>Total Agree</b>	
Column %	69%
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	
Column %	20%
<b>Agree</b>	
Column %	49%
<b>Not Sure</b>	
Column %	6%
<b>Disagree</b>	
Column %	20%
<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	
Column %	6%
<b>Total Disagree</b>	
Column %	26%

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Please select how much you agree or disagree with the following statements about your family’s experience with public assistance programs: The assistance was crucial to my family’s well-being

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	439
<b>Total Agree</b>	
Column %	85%
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	
Column %	45%
<b>Agree</b>	
Column %	40%
<b>Not Sure</b>	
Column %	4%
<b>Disagree</b>	
Column %	8%
<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	
Column %	3%
<b>Total Disagree</b>	
Column %	11%



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Do you care for an aging or ill adult or someone (adult/child) with a disability?

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	765
<b>Yes</b>	
Column %	16%
<b>No</b>	
Column %	82%
<b>Not Sure</b>	
Column %	1%

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Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a ...?

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	765
<b>Republican</b> Column %	44%
<b>Independent</b> Column %	24%
<b>Democrat</b> Column %	30%
<b>Something Else:</b> Column %	2%

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What is your age?

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	765
<b>18 to 24</b> Column %	9%
<b>25 to 34</b> Column %	15%
<b>35 to 44</b> Column %	13%
<b>45 to 64</b> Column %	36%
<b>65+</b> Column %	27%

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Thinking about your general approach to issues, do you consider yourself to be...

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	765
<b>Very conservative</b>	
Column %	17%
<b>Somewhat conservative</b>	
Column %	23%
<b>Moderate</b>	
Column %	33%
<b>Somewhat liberal</b>	
Column %	14%
<b>Very liberal</b>	
Column %	8%
<b>Not Sure</b>	
Column %	6%

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Which of the following are you?

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	765
<b>Male</b> Column %	49%
<b>Female</b> Column %	50%
<b>Other/Non-binary</b> Column %	1%

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How many infants and children under 18 years of age live in your household today?

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	765
<b>1 to 2</b> Column %	23%
<b>3 or more</b> Column %	8%
<b>None</b> Column %	69%

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Ethnicity

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	765
<b>White Non-Hispanic</b> Column %	93%
<b>Black or African American</b> Column %	4%
<b>Other/Prefer not to say</b> Column %	2%

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Which of the following best describes your household's total income in 2022 BEFORE taxes?

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	765
<b>&lt; \$15,000</b>	
Column %	13%
<b>\$15,000-\$24,999</b>	
Column %	10%
<b>\$25,000-\$34,999</b>	
Column %	11%
<b>\$35,000-\$49,999</b>	
Column %	13%
<b>\$50,000-\$74,999</b>	
Column %	17%
<b>\$75,000-\$99,999</b>	
Column %	13%
<b>\$100,000-\$124,999</b>	
Column %	7%
<b>\$125,000-\$149,999</b>	
Column %	6%
<b>\$150,000-\$199,999</b>	
Column %	2%
<b>\$200,000 and over</b>	
Column %	4%
<b>Not sure</b>	
Column %	4%



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Which of the following best describes your current education level?

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	765
<b>Some high school or less</b>	
Column %	15%
<b>High school graduate</b>	
Column %	40%
<b>Associate's degree (Two-year post-secondary degree)</b>	
Column %	7%
<b>Some college but no degree</b>	
Column %	19%
<b>Bachelor's degree</b>	
Column %	12%
<b>Master's or professional degree</b>	
Column %	6%
<b>Doctorate degree</b>	
Column %	1%
<b>Prefer not to say</b>	
Column %	0%

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What is your current marital status?

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	765
<b>Married</b>	
Column %	50%
<b>Living with partner</b>	
Column %	8%
<b>Divorced</b>	
Column %	12%
<b>Never married</b>	
Column %	22%
<b>Separated</b>	
Column %	2%
<b>Widowed</b>	
Column %	6%
<b>Prefer not to say</b>	
Column %	1%

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Is this your first marriage?

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	332
<b>Yes</b>	
Column %	65%
<b>No</b>	
Column %	35%
<b>Prefer not to say</b>	
Column %	1%

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Do you own or rent your home?

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	765
<b>Own</b>	
Column %	71%
<b>Rent</b>	
Column %	29%

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Are you now employed full-time, part-time, self-employed, or not employed?

	<b>Total</b>
Unweighted Sample Size	765
<b>Full-time</b> Column %	35%
<b>Self-employed</b> Column %	7%
<b>Part-time</b> Column %	9%
<b>Retired</b> Column %	27%
<b>Not employed</b> Column %	22%
<b>Don't know</b> Column %	0%