



Kansas Speaks
Fall 2020
Statewide Public Opinion Survey

Prepared For
The Citizens of Kansas
By
The Docking Institute of Public Affairs
Fort Hays State University

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Mission:

To Facilitate Effective Public Policy Decision-Making.

The staff of the Docking Institute of Public Affairs and its University Center for Survey Research are dedicated to serving the people of Kansas and surrounding states.

Kansas Speaks Fall 2020



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Acknowledgement

The Docking Institute would like to extend our thanks to the following policy fellows for their valuable contribution to the survey questionnaire development and advice regarding survey methodology:

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Executive Summary

The 2020 Kansas Speaks fall survey were conducted from September 21 to October 1. A panel of 417 adult residents of Kansas age 18 and older were surveyed online to assess their attitudes and opinions regarding various issues of interest to Kansas citizens. The survey finds:

- 56% of respondents indicated Kansas was a “very good” or “excellent” place to live. 5.8% said Kansas was a “poor” or “very poor” place to live.
- 69% of respondents would be living in the same community they are now. 15.3% would relocate out of Kansas in five years.
- 21% of respondents felt the state economy was “very good” or “excellent.” 12.1% felt the economy was “poor” or “very poor.” The percentage who rate it as at least “good” dropped by about 8% compared to last year’s Kansas Speaks survey results.
- 12.9% of respondents felt that the Kansas economy was getting better in the last 12 months, 38% felt that it stayed the same, and 49.1% felt it was getting worse. This compares to only 20% last year who felt it was getting worse.
- 17.6% of respondents were “very concerned” about the future economy threatening their own or their family’s welfare, and 26.7% were “moderately concerned” for a combined percentage of concerned at 44%. This is substantially higher than the 27.8% in last year’s Kansas Speaks survey.
- 68.5% of respondents felt Kansas was on the “right track,” down from 77.4% last year. 31.6% felt Kansas was on the “wrong track” this year.
- When asked to compare what they paid in sales tax, property tax, and state income tax with the amount they paid two years ago, 58.5% of respondents felt that their tax burden had increased as compared with two years ago, 36.1% felt no change, and 5.4% felt their tax burden had decreased.
- 24.4% of respondents preferred higher taxes and spending, while 49.8% preferred lower state taxes and spending. 25.7% wanted to keep the current level of taxes and spending.
- Among those in favor of increases in taxes and spending, 40.2% favored increasing income tax, 37.9% favored increasing sales tax, and 21.8% favored increasing property tax. 69% supported increasing state funding for grades kindergarten through high school, 63.2% supported increasing spending for social services, and about forty percent of respondents supported increasing funding for roads and highways, and state colleges and universities.
- Among those who preferred lower taxes and spending, 47.8% favored lowering income tax, and more than 50% favored lowering Sales taxes and property tax. 56.2% favored cutting state funding for state colleges and universities. Less than 20% of respondents supported cutting funding for roads and highways, social services, and grades kindergarten through high school.

- 66.1% of respondents “strongly supported” or “somewhat supported” increasing taxes on cigarettes and cigars.
- 62.5% of respondents “strongly supported” or “somewhat supported” increasing taxes on alcohol.
- 66.9% of respondents “strongly supported” or “somewhat supported” legalizing recreational marijuana for individuals 21 and older to allow taxation by the State of Kansas. 22.2% of respondents “somewhat opposed” or “strongly opposed.”
- 49.5% of respondents were satisfied with the performance of Governor Laura Kelly, and 32.2% were dissatisfied.
- 43.7% of respondents were satisfied with President Trump, and 47.6% were dissatisfied.
- 17.5% of respondents were satisfied with the U.S. Congress, and 58.4% were dissatisfied.
- Among those respondents who voted in the 2018 Kansas election, 46.3% voted for Laura Kelly.
- Among registered voters, 52% would vote for Donald Trump in the upcoming presidential election; 37.6% would vote for Joe Biden.
- 26.4% of respondents were “very concerned” that voting by mail this year would lead to voter fraud and another 30.5% were “somewhat concerned;” a combined 43.1% were “not very concerned” or “not at all concerned.”
- 76.6% of respondents were confident that they understood how to request and cast a vote by mail ballot in Kansas.
- 42.7% of respondents agreed and 33.9% did not agree that the winner of the November presidential election should name the successor to Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.
- 44.3% of respondents agreed and 35.7% did not agree that the U.S. Senate should confirm the nominee if President Trump appoints a new Supreme Court Justice before the presidential inauguration in January 2021.
- When asked how Justice Ginsburg’s death affected their support for presidential nominees, 17% said Justice Ginsburg’s death increased their support for President Trump, 21.9% said it increased their support for Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden, and 61.2% said no impact.
- In terms of amount of thought given to the issue, 32.1% of respondents thought “a great deal” or “a lot” of Medicaid expansion as a current political issue with the Kansas legislature.
- 71.8% of respondents agreed that expanding Medicaid would help rural Kansas hospital remain in business.
- 64% of respondents agreed that the Kansans who might obtain health insurance from expanding Medicaid deserve this benefit from the state.
- 63.5% of respondents supported expanding Medicaid in Kansas.

- Close to or more than 25% of respondents said since the start of the coronavirus outbreak, someone in their households had serious problems affording food or medical care, paying utilities, or paying credit cards/loans/debt.
- 37.3% of respondents said certain household members had wages or hours reduced since the start of the coronavirus outbreak, 23.3% said someone in the household lost their job, and more than 10% said someone in the household had been furloughed or taken mandatory unpaid leave.
- Dr. Anthony Fauci received the highest approval rating among a group of public officials/institutions with regard to his handling of the coronavirus outbreak, with 51.1% of respondents answering “strongly approve” or “approve.” Governor Laura Kelly’s rating was the second highest (47.5% approving). The rating on the U.S. Congress was the lowest (16.9% approving). President Trump’s rating was polarized, with 42.9% approving and 46.3% disapproving.
- 93.5% of respondents wore a mask or face covering when in stores or other businesses all or most of the time in the past month.
- 72.1% of respondents agreed that “wearing masks/face covering helps reduce the spread of coronavirus.”
- 73.2% of respondents agreed that it was their “responsibility to protect other people from coronavirus by wearing a mask/face covering.”
- 30.7% of respondents thought the threat from coronavirus had been severely exaggerated, and 27.3% agreed that herd immunity was the best way to stop the spread of coronavirus.
- 41.1% of respondents would get vaccinated when a coronavirus vaccine became available, 28% say they would not get vaccinated, and 31% were not sure.
- When asked if they were confident that Kansas Secretary of State and local election officials had done everything possible to have a safe election during the coronavirus pandemic, 56.4% of respondents were “very” or “somewhat confident” with the Kansas Secretary of State, and 61% were “very” or “somewhat confident” with local election officials.
- When asked to rate how several political figures and groups handled the protests regarding police behavior, respondents’ rating was highest for the police, with 50.8% of respondents selecting favorable ratings. About 35% were “very favorable” or “favorable” toward how Black Lives Matter protestors handled the protest. Black Lives Matter counter-protestors received the lowest rating, with 16% of respondents selecting favorable ratings, and 60.7% selecting unfavorable ratings. President Trump’s rating was polarized, with 39.6% being favorable and 45.2% being unfavorable.
- 49% of respondents said the Black Lives Matter movement made racial issues worse in America, 17.2% said the movement made racial issues better, and 23.5% said the movement had not really changed things.

- 37% were “not at all worried” that the protests associated with the Black Lives Matter movement would bring violence to their neighborhoods; 15.2% were “slightly worried” and another 17.1% were “somewhat worried;” 17.3% were “moderately worried,” while 13.5% were “extremely worried.”

Introduction and Methods

To assess attitudes and opinions of Kansans about public affairs matters, the Docking Institute has surveyed a random sample of Kansas residents age 18 and older every year since 2009. For this year's survey, the Docking Institute developed the survey questionnaire and contracted with Qualtrics for data collection. Qualtrics surveyed a representative panel of Kansas residents from September 21 to October 1, and 417 respondents answered all or most of the survey questions. The margin of error was 4.8% at the 95% confidence level. A margin of error of 4.8% means that there is a 95% probability that findings among the sample vary no more than +/- 4.8% from the value that would be found if all adult Kansas residents were surveyed, assuming no response bias.

Females and people who are 65 years and older are somewhat underrepresented in the final sample. According to the U.S. Census population estimates, 50.4% of adults (18 years and older) in Kansas are female and 21.6% are 65 years or older, whereas in the sample, 47.2% of respondents were female and 17% were 65 years or older. The gender and age distributions can be found in Appendices A and B. To adjust this underrepresentation, the analyses were conducted after the survey data were weighted by gender and age. The weighted demographic characteristics are presented in Appendix C.

The following analysis contains four sections:

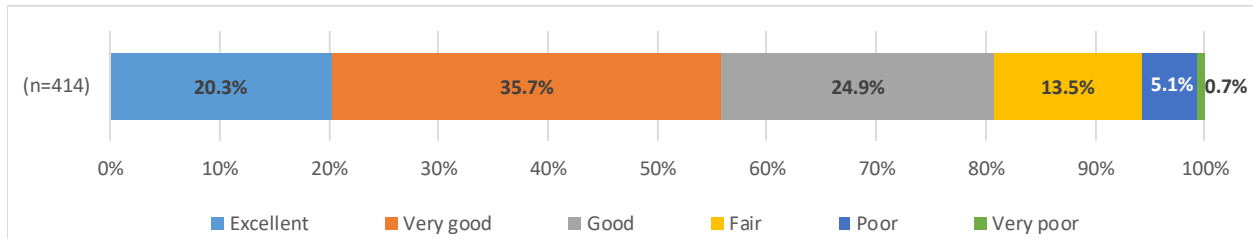
- 1) **Overall Quality of Life in Kansas.** This section shows how Kansans generally feel about Kansas as a place to live.
- 2) **Taxes & Economy.** This section shows results on questions addressing various economic concerns to citizens and fair and effective personal and business taxation policies.
- 3) **Government, Politicians & Election.** This section presents the results of citizens' ratings of the state government in general, state elected officials, and the U.S president. There are also results regarding the upcoming presidential election.
- 4) **Public Policy Issues.** This section looks at citizens' opinions on some contemporary national and state policies and issues.

These sections present descriptive analyses of respondents' answers to each question. Except for the questions asking about respondents' demographic information, all of the survey questions are displayed verbatim under those graphs presenting descriptive analyses. Survey questions can also be found in the questionnaire presented in Appendix D.

Section 1: Overall Quality of Life in Kansas

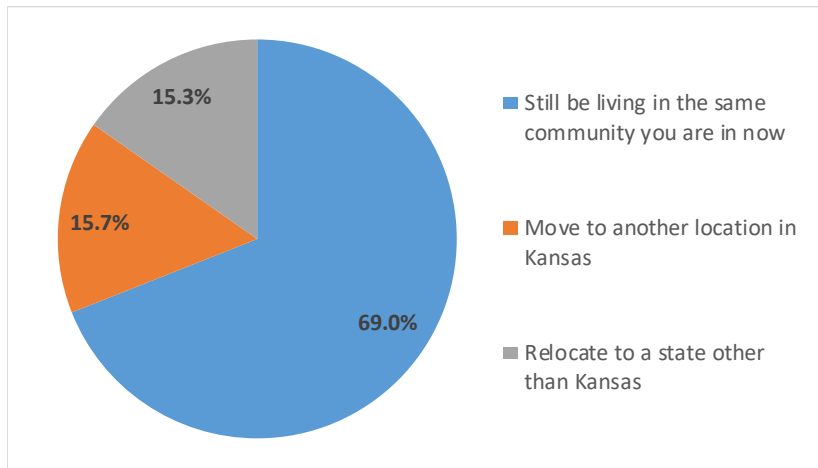
When asked to rate Kansas as a place to live, more than half (56%) indicated Kansas was a “very good” or “excellent” place to live, while 5.8% said Kansas was a “poor” or “very poor” place to live (Figure 1). When asked where they will be in 5 years, 69% of respondents said they would be living in the same community that they live in now, 15.7% said they would be moving to another location in Kansas and 15.3% said they would relocate to a state other than Kansas (Figure 2).

Figure 1: Rating of Kansas as a Place to Live



Question: *In general, how would you rate Kansas as a place to live?*

Figure 2: Residence in 5 Years (n=336)

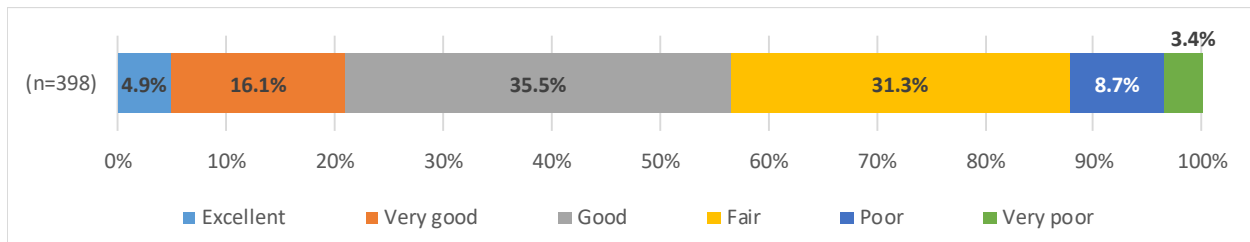


Question: *By your best guess, where will you be in 5 years? Are you likely to still be living in the same community you are in now, move to another location in Kansas, or relocate to a state other than Kansas?*

Section 2: Taxes & Economy

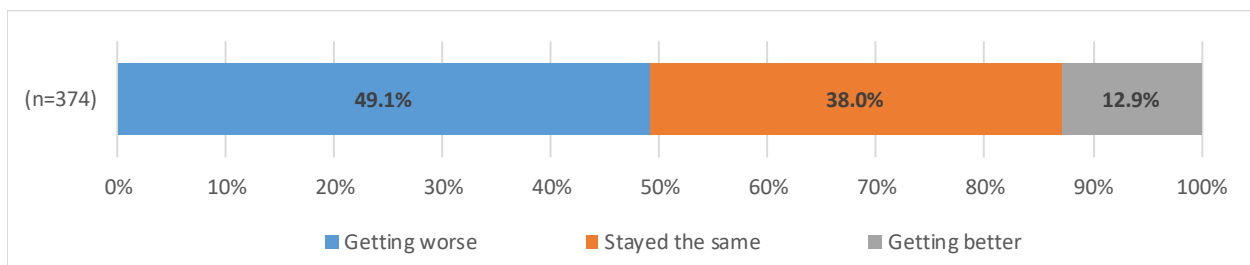
Given the current coronavirus global pandemic with its effects on the Kansas economy starting around mid-March, ratings of the economy in 2020 are compared here to the same ratings found in the 2019 Kansas Speaks survey. When asked to rate the Kansas economy, 21% of respondents said they felt the state’s economy was “very good” or “excellent,” while 12.1% indicated they felt the economy was “poor” or “very poor” this year (Figure 3). The percentage who rate it as at least “good” dropped by about 8% compared to last year’s Kansas Speaks survey results. In 2020 about thirteen percent (12.9%) of respondents felt that the Kansas economy was getting better over the past year, 38% felt that it stayed the same, and 49.1% felt that it was getting worse (Figure 4). This compares to only 20% last year who felt it was getting worse. In 2020 more than forty percent (44.3%) of respondents were “very concerned” or “moderately concerned” that the Kansas economy would seriously threaten their own or their family’s welfare (Figure 5). This is substantially higher than the 27.8% in last year’s Kansas Speaks survey. Another 37.8% were “slightly concerned this year.” Almost eighteen percent (17.9%) of respondents said they were “not concerned at all.”

Figure 3: Rating of Kansas Economy



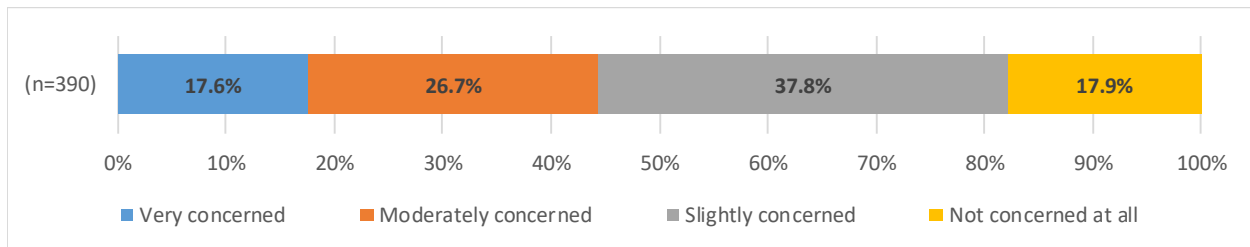
Question: *In general, how would you rate the Kansas economy?*

Figure 4: Opinion on Change of Kansas Economy



Question: *Over the last 12 months, how would you say the Kansas economy has changed?*

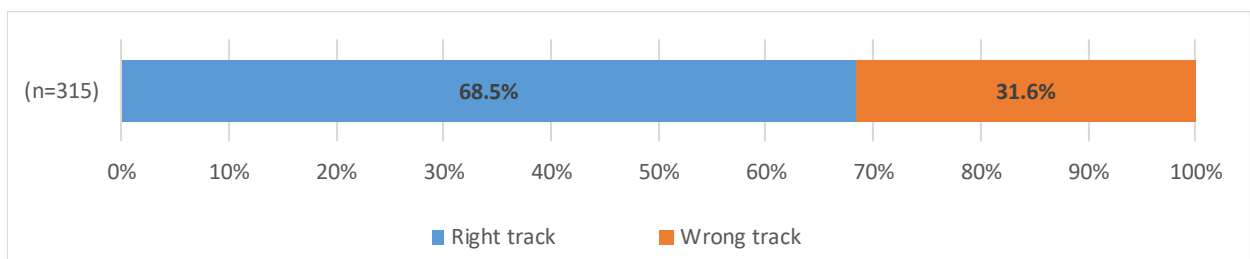
Figure 5: Level of Concern that the Kansas Economy Will Seriously Threaten Individual’s or Family’s Welfare over the Next Year



Question: *How concerned are you that the Kansas economy will seriously threaten you or your family’s welfare in the coming year?*

In 2020 just over two-thirds (68.5%) of respondents indicated they felt Kansas was on the “right track,” down from 77.4% last year. Slightly more than thirty percent (31.6%) of respondents believe Kansas is on the “wrong track” this year (Figure 6).

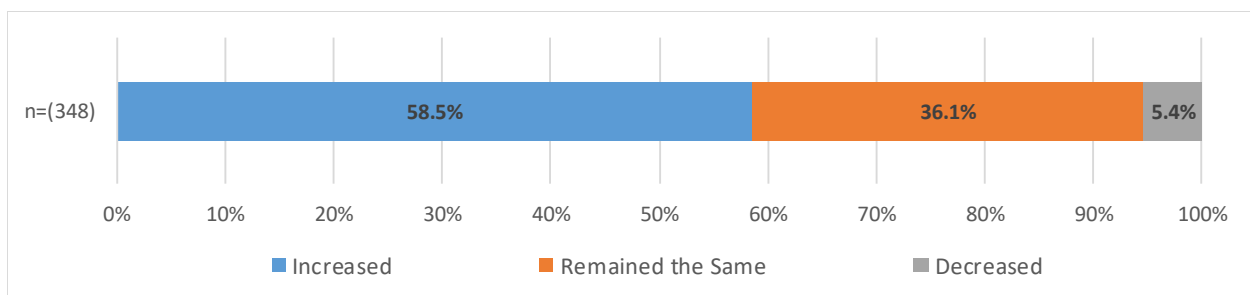
Figure 6: Opinion on whether Kansas is on the Right or Wrong Track



Question: *Generally speaking, do you think Kansas is on the right track or wrong track?*

Respondents were asked if there had been changes in amount of taxes paid to the state. Almost sixty percent (58.5%) responded that the sales tax, property tax, and state income tax they paid had “increased” as compared to two years ago, 36.1% said the amount “remained the same,” and 5.4% said the amount “decreased” (Figure 7).

Figure 7: Change in Taxes Paid to the State



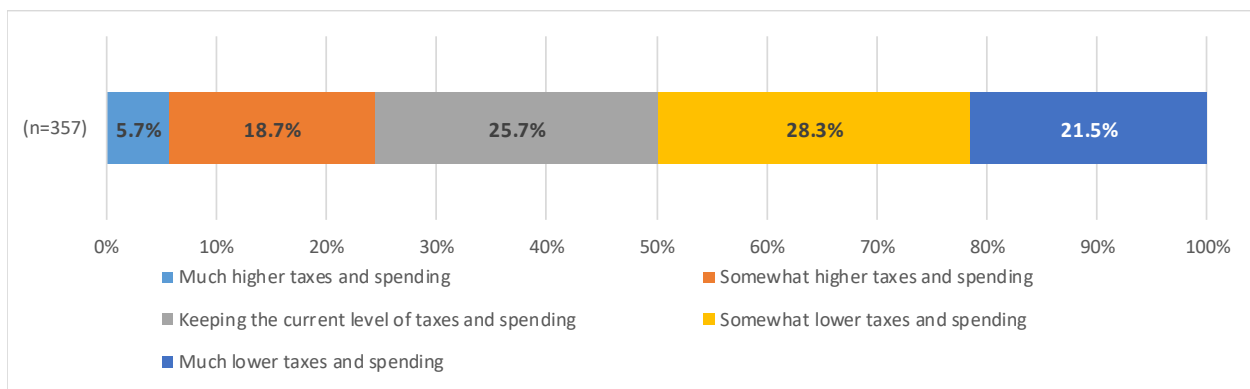
Question: *Think about what you paid in sales tax, property tax, and state income tax together. Compared to two years ago, has the amount you pay in state taxes increased, remained the same, or decreased?*

When respondents were asked their preferences about state taxes and spending, 24.4% wanted to have higher taxes and spending, while 49.8% preferred lower taxes and spending. About twenty-six percent (25.7%) would like to keep the current level of taxes and spending (Figure 8).

Among those respondents who preferred higher taxes and spending, 40.2% favored increasing income tax, 37.9% favored increasing sales tax, and 21.8% favored increasing property tax (Figure 9). In terms of their preferences for increased spending, almost 70% of those respondents wanted to increase state education funding for grades kindergarten through high school and social services. About 63% of those respondents want to increase social services spending. About forty percent of those respondents supported increasing funding for roads and highways and state colleges and universities (Figure 10).

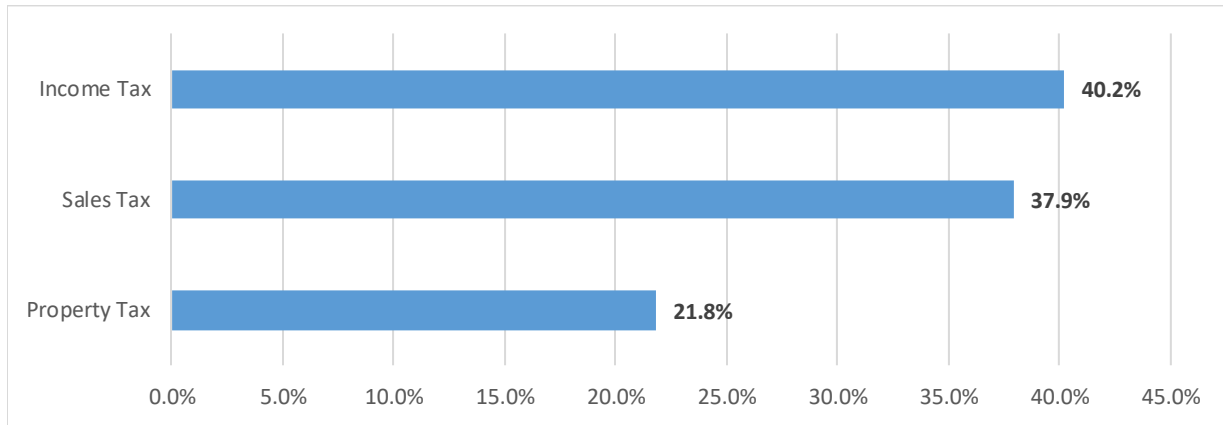
Among those who preferred lower taxes and spending, 61.8% favored decreasing property tax, 57.9% favored decreasing sales tax, and 47.8% favored decreasing income tax (Figure 11). In terms of preferences for decreased spending, 56.2% of those respondents wanted to cut state education funding for state colleges and universities, 19.1% supported cutting state funding for grades kindergarten through high school, and 18.5% supported decreased state funding for roads and highways (Figure 12).

Figure 8: Belief about Kansas Government Taxes and Spending



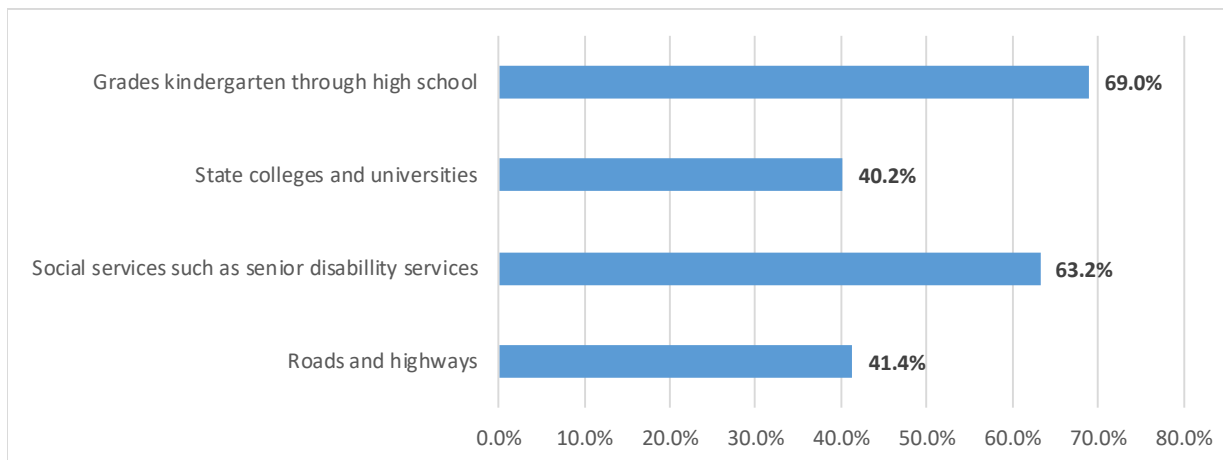
Question: *The Kansas government has to produce tax revenue for every dollar it spends. Some people would prefer the government to have lower taxes and less spending. Others favor higher taxes and more government spending. Which of the following do you favor?*

Figure 9: Taxes You Would Favor Increasing (of those favoring higher taxes and spending; n=87)



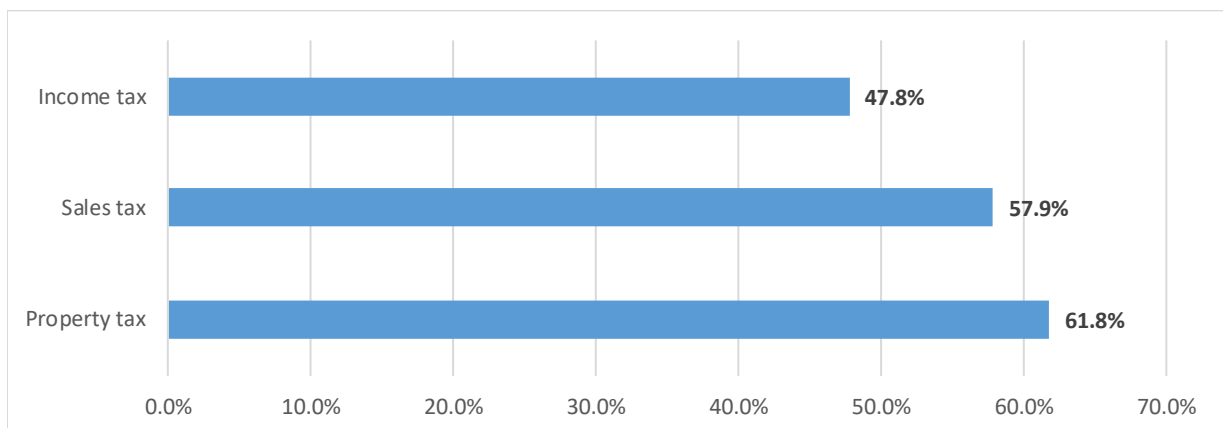
Question: *Would you increase _____?*

Figure 10: Funding You Would Favor Increasing (of those favoring higher taxes and spending; n=87)



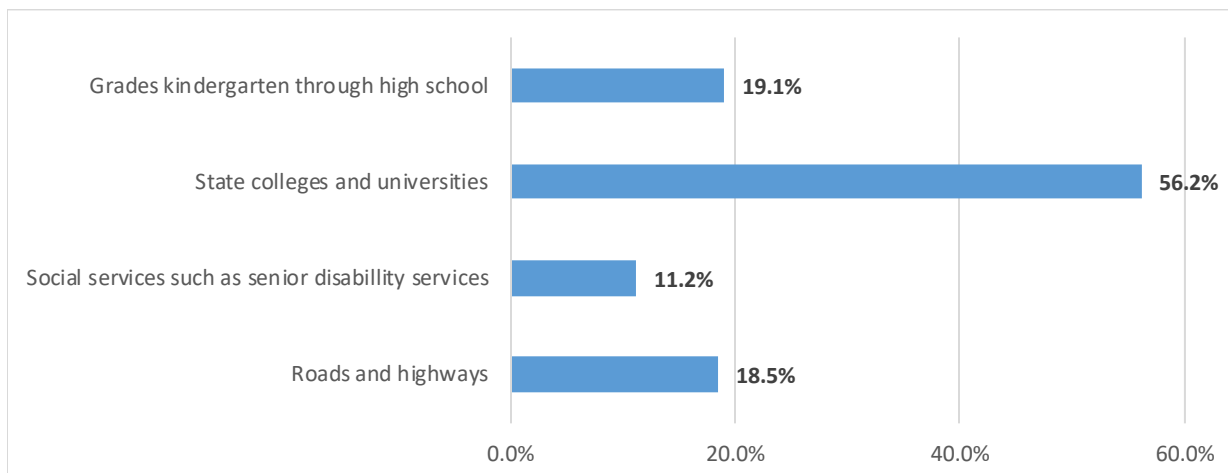
Question: *Would you increase _____?*

Figure 11: Taxes You Would Favor Decreasing (of those favoring lower taxes and spending; n=178)



Question: *Would you decrease _____?*

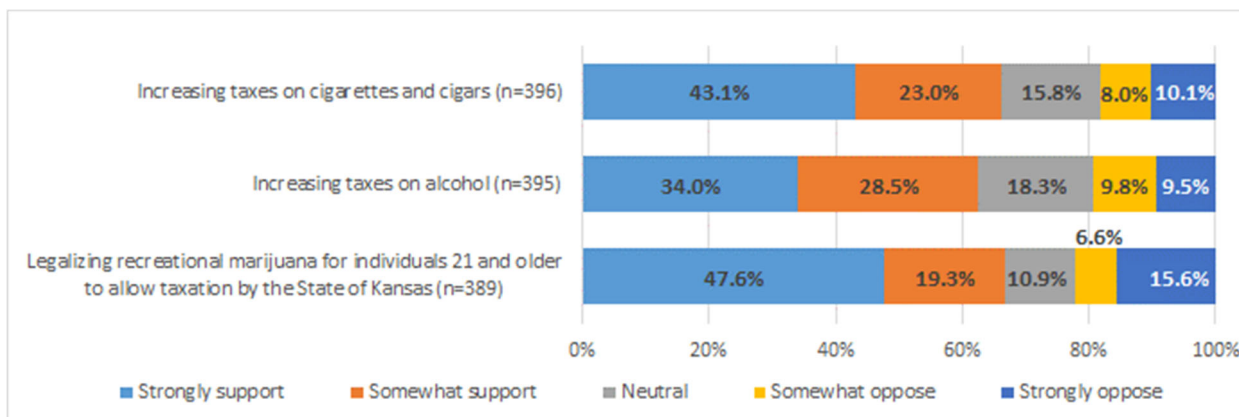
Figure 12: Funding You Would Favor Decreasing (of those favoring lower taxes and spending; n=178)



Question: *Would you decrease_____?*

Respondents were given a few alternative options that Kansas could use to increase revenue. They were asked about increasing taxes on cigarettes and cigars, alcohol, and legalizing recreational marijuana to allow state taxation. About two-thirds (66.1%) of respondents at least “somewhat supported” increasing taxes on cigarettes and cigars. More than sixty percent (62.5%) supported increasing taxes on alcohol, and 66.9% supported legalizing recreational marijuana for individuals 21 and older to allow state taxation (Figure 13).

Figure 13: Taxes on Cigarettes and Cigars, Alcohol, and Marijuana

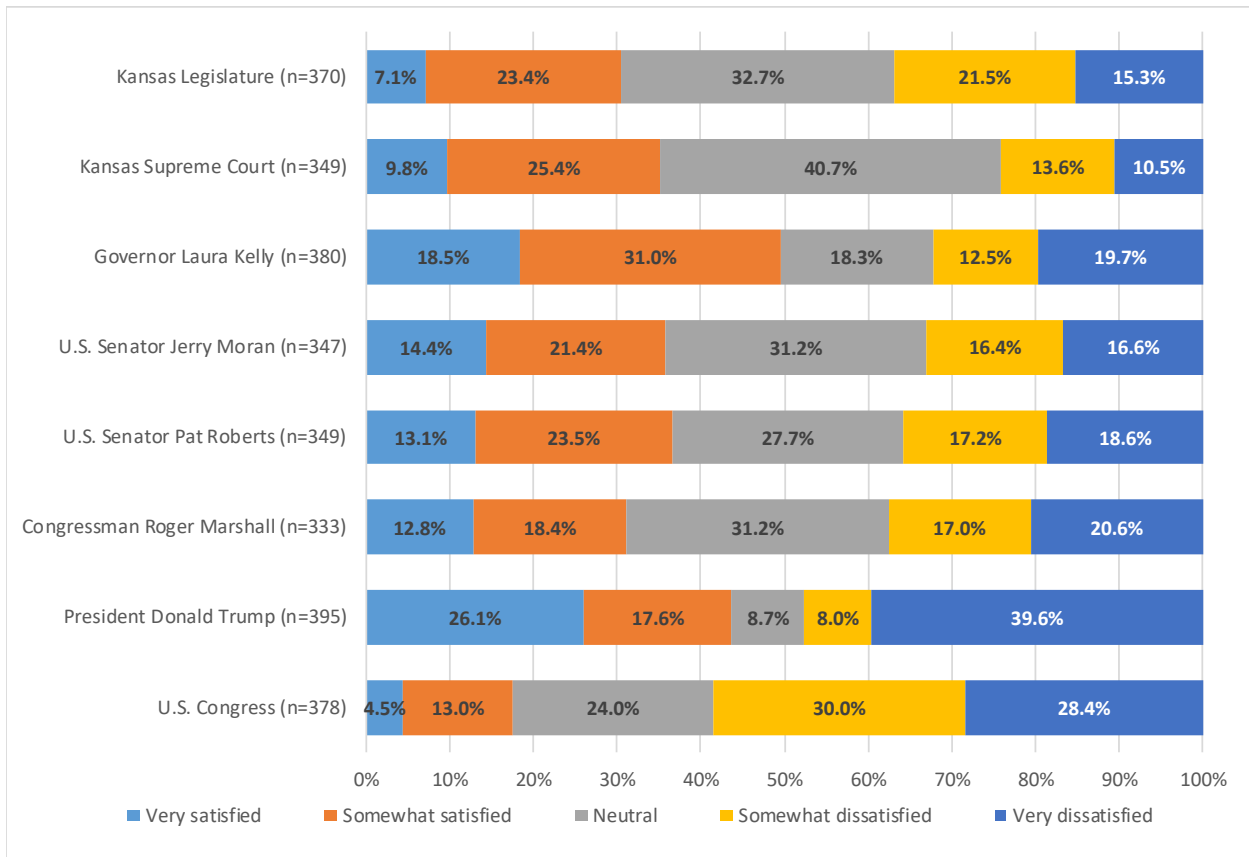


Question: *There are other ways to increase the State of Kansas’ revenue that would not include raising traditional taxes. Please tell me if you “Strongly Support”, “Somewhat Support”, “Neutral”, “Somewhat Oppose”, or “Strongly Oppose” the following alternative revenue sources: Increasing taxes on cigarettes and cigars, increasing taxes on alcohol, legalizing recreational marijuana for individuals 21 and older to allow taxation by the State of Kansas.*

Section 3: Government, Politicians & Election

Respondents were asked about their satisfaction with important political figures or institutions. Satisfaction was highest with respect to Governor Laura Kelly, as 49.5% of respondents were satisfied with Governor Kelly. The U.S. Congress received the highest level of dissatisfaction from respondents, with 17.5% being satisfied and 58.4% being dissatisfied. The satisfaction with President Trump was polarized, with 43.7% of respondents being satisfied and 47.6% being dissatisfied (Figure 14).

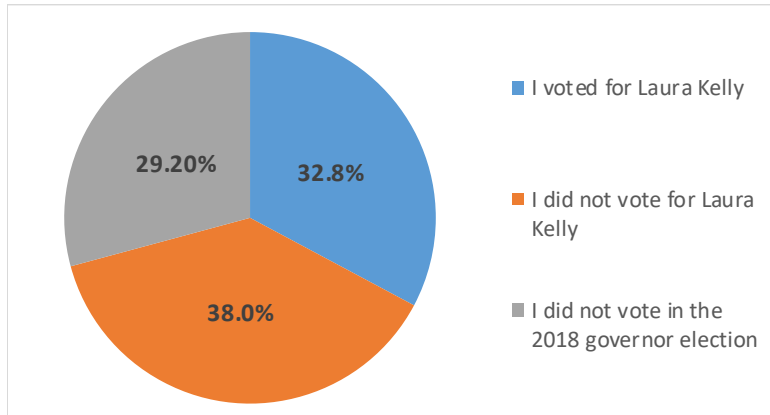
Figure 14: Satisfaction with the Overall Performance of Elected Officials



Question: *How satisfied are you with the overall performance of the United States Congress? President Donald Trump? Kansas Supreme Court? Governor Laura Kelly? Senator Pat Roberts? Senator Jerry Moran? Kansas Legislature?*

When asked whether they voted for Laura Kelly in the 2018 gubernatorial election, 32.8% of respondents said “yes,” and 38% said “No.” Almost thirty percent (29.2%) of respondents did not vote in the 2018 gubernatorial election (Figure 15). Among those who voted, 46.3% voted for Laura Kelly.

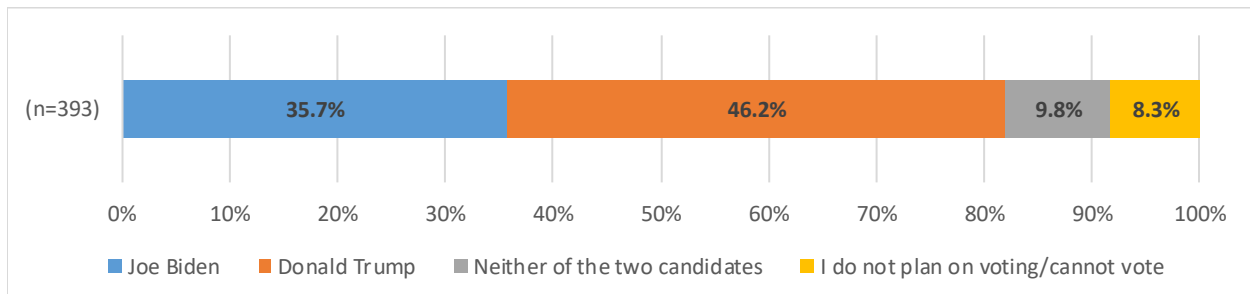
Figure 15: Voting Decision in the 2018 Governor Election (n=394)



Question: *If you voted in the 2018 election for governor, did you vote for Laura Kelly?*

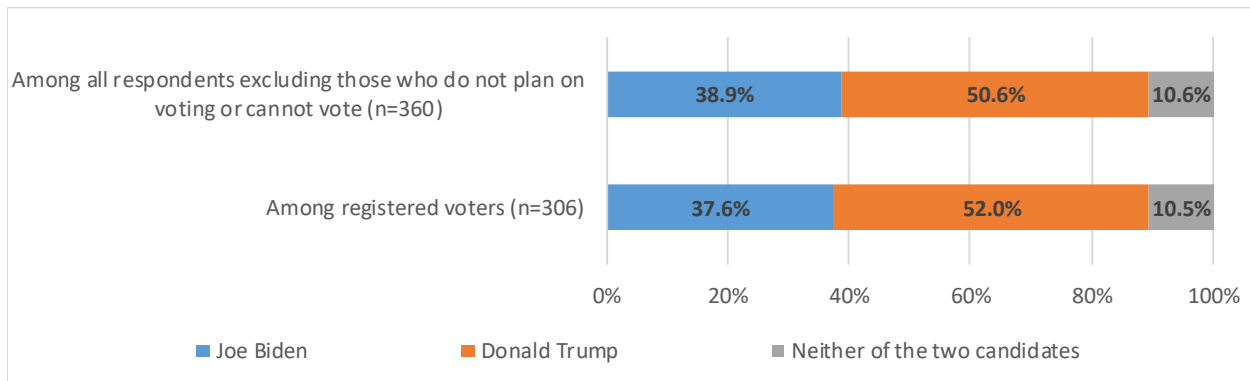
When asked about their preferences regarding the upcoming presidential election, 46.2% of respondents would vote for Donald Trump, and 35.7% would vote for Joe Biden. Another 9.8% chose neither candidate, and 8.3% did not plan to vote or cannot vote (Figure 16). After excluding those who do not plan on voting or cannot vote, 50.6% of respondents would vote for Donald Trump, and 38.9% would vote for Joe Biden. Among registered voters, the support for Donald Trump was a little higher, with 52% of respondents supporting him and 37.6% supporting Joe Biden (Figure 17).

Figure 16: Voting Preference for the 2020 Presidential Election



Question: *If the presidential election were held today, who would you vote for?*

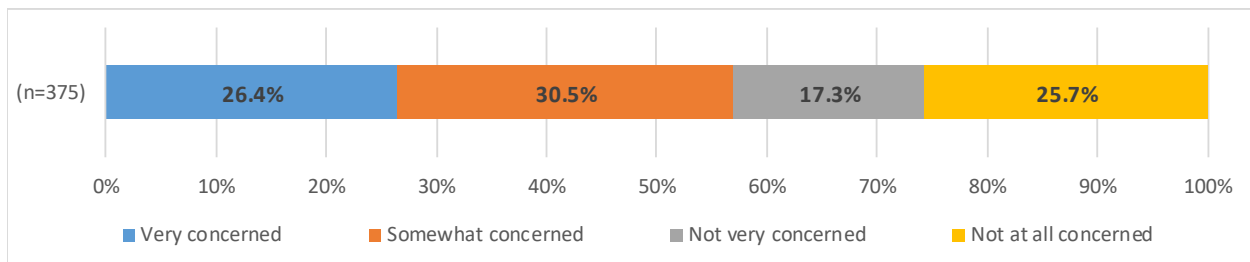
Figure 17: Voting Preference for the 2020 Presidential Election Excluding Those Who Do Not Plan to Vote or Cannot Vote



Question: *If the presidential election were held today, who would you vote for?*

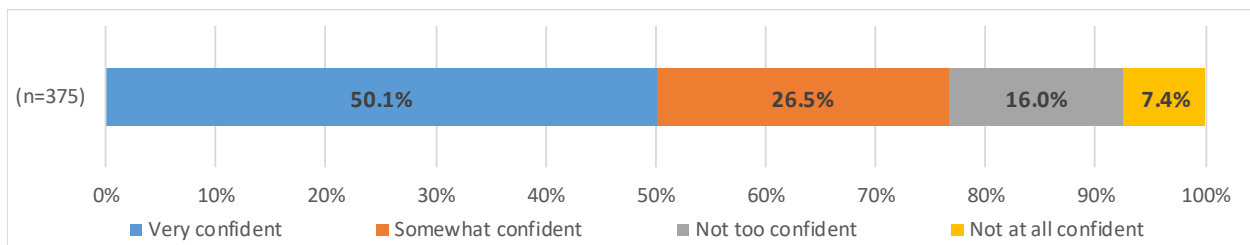
As many Americans are voting by mail this year, respondents were asked if they were concerned about voter fraud. Slightly more than a fourth (26.4%) were “very concerned,” while another 30.5% were “somewhat concerned” that widespread mail voting would lead to voter fraud; a combined 43.1% were “not very concerned” or “not at all concerned” (Figure 18). Respondents were then asked if they were confident that they understood how to request and cast a vote by mail ballot in Kansas. More than three-fourths (76.6%) said they were “very” or “somewhat confident.” Only 7.4% said they were “not at all confident” (Figure 19).

Figure 18: Concern about Voter Fraud in Mail Voting



Question: *As you may have heard, more Americans are voting by mail this year than in recent election years. How concerned are you that widespread mail voting will lead to voter fraud?*

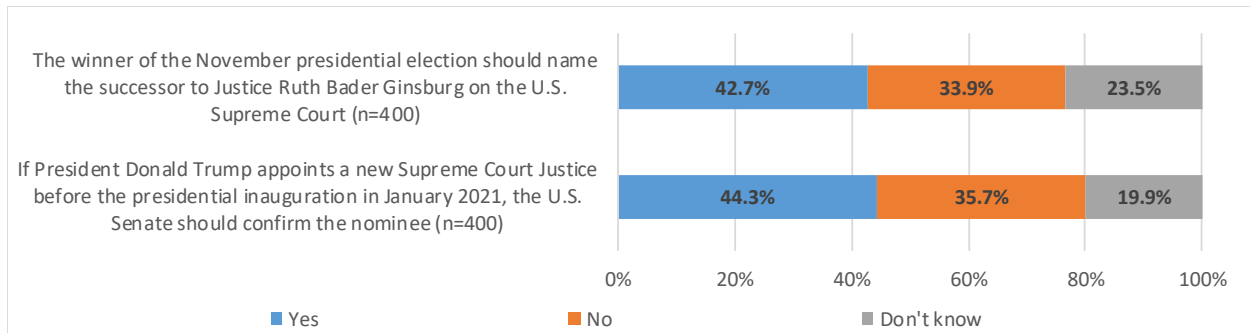
Figure 19: Confidence with Understanding of Mail Voting



Question: *How confident are you that you understand how to request and cast a vote by mail ballot in Kansas?*

Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg died on September 18. When asked if the winner of the November presidential election should name the successor, 42.7% of respondents said “yes,” 33.9% said “no,” and 23.5% said they “don’t know.” The survey continued by asking whether the U.S. Senate should confirm a nominee appointed by President Trump before the presidential inauguration in January 2021. About forty-four percent (44.3%) of respondents said “yes,” 35.7% said “no,” and 19.9% said they “don’t know” (Figure 20).

Figure 20: Successor to Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

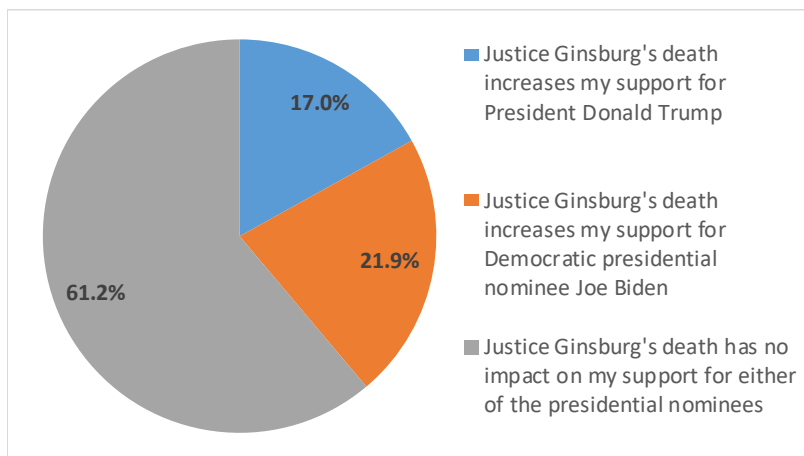


Question: *Do you think the winner of the November presidential election should name the successor to Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the U.S. Supreme Court?*

Question: *If President Donald Trump appoints a new Supreme Court Justice before the presidential inauguration in January 2021, do you think the U.S. Senate should confirm the nominee?*

When asked how Justice Ginsburg’s death affected their support for presidential nominees, a majority (61.2%) of respondents said Justice Ginsburg’s death had no impact. Less than twenty percent (17%) of respondents said Justice Ginsburg’s death increased their support for President Donald Trump, and 21.9% said Justice Ginsburg’s death increased their support for Democratic nominee Joe Biden (Figure 21).

Figure 21: Impact of Justice Ginsburg’s Death on Support for Presidential Nominees (n=319)

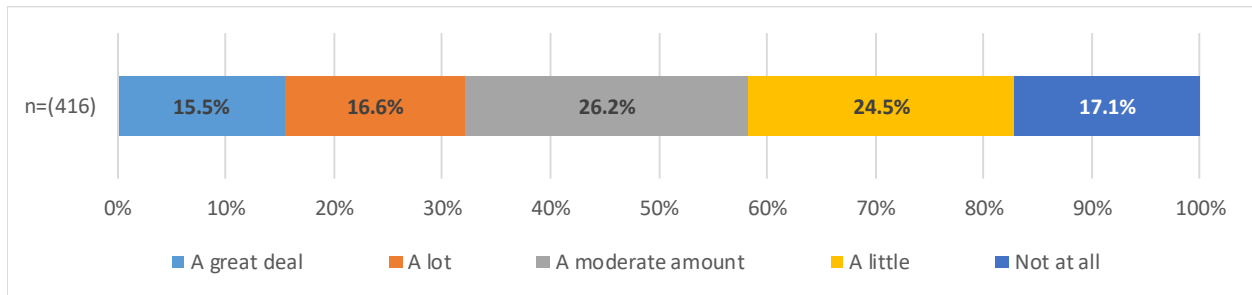


Question: *Does Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's death affect your support for either of the presidential nominees?*

Section 4: Public Policy Issues

When asked how much they think about Medicaid expansion, 32.1% of respondents think “a great deal” or “a lot” about Medicaid expansion as a current political issue with the Kansas legislature. More than forty percent (41.6%) of respondents thought “a little” or “not at all” of this issue (Figure 22).

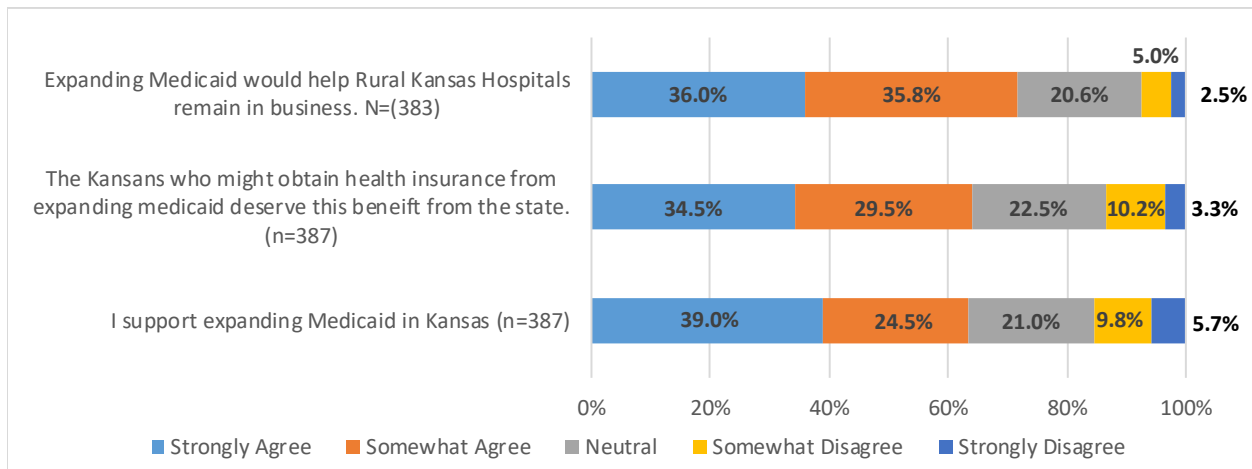
Figure 22: Thinking about Medicaid Expansion in Kansas



Question: *Medicaid expansion is a current political issue with the Kansas Legislature. How much do you think about this issue?*

Turning to opinions on expansion, 71.8% of respondents strongly or somewhat agreed that expanding Medicaid would help rural Kansas hospital remain in business, and 64% strongly or somewhat agreed that the Kansans who might obtain health insurance from expanding Medicaid deserve this benefit from the state. More than sixty percent (63.5%) of respondents supported expanding Medicaid in Kansas (Figure 23).

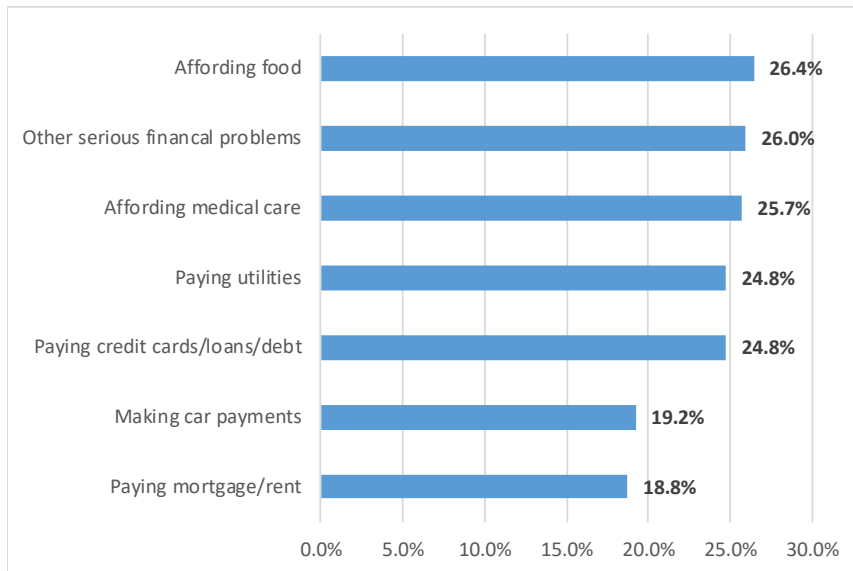
Figure 23: Opinions on Medicaid Expansion in Kansas



Question: *If Kansas expands Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, about 10% of the expansion would be paid by Kansas, and 90% by the federal government. Studies estimate that expanding Medicaid would provide health coverage to approximately 150,000 Kansans and financially benefit rural hospitals. Please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, are neutral, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following statements.*

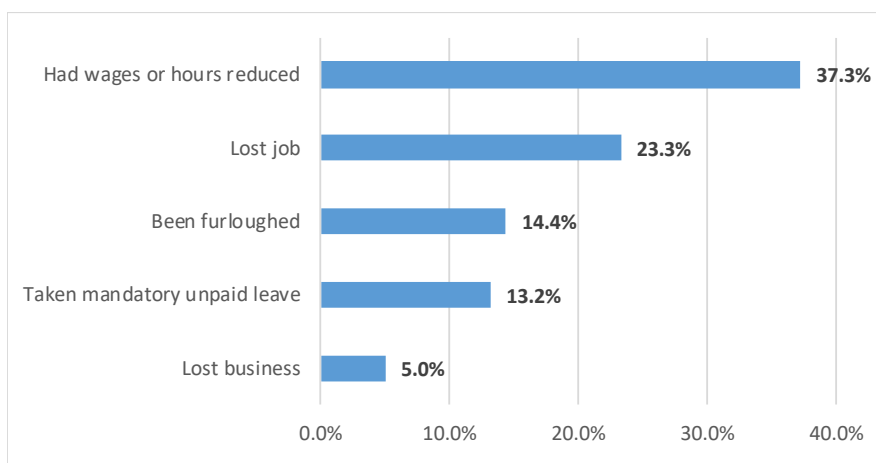
When asked about the financial impacts of the coronavirus outbreak on their households, about one fourth of respondents said since the start of the coronavirus outbreak, someone in their households had serious problems affording food or medical care, paying utilities, or paying credit cards/loans/debt (Figure 24). Regarding the impacts on employment, 37.3% of respondents said certain household members had wages or hours reduced since the start of the coronavirus outbreak, 23.3% said someone in the household lost their job, 14.4% said someone in the household had been furloughed, and 5% said someone in the household lost their business (Figure 25).¹

Figure 24: Financial Impacts of Coronavirus Outbreak (n=416)



Question: *At any point since the start of the coronavirus outbreak, has anyone living in your household had serious problems ___?*

Figure 25: Impacts of Coronavirus Outbreak on Employment (n=416)

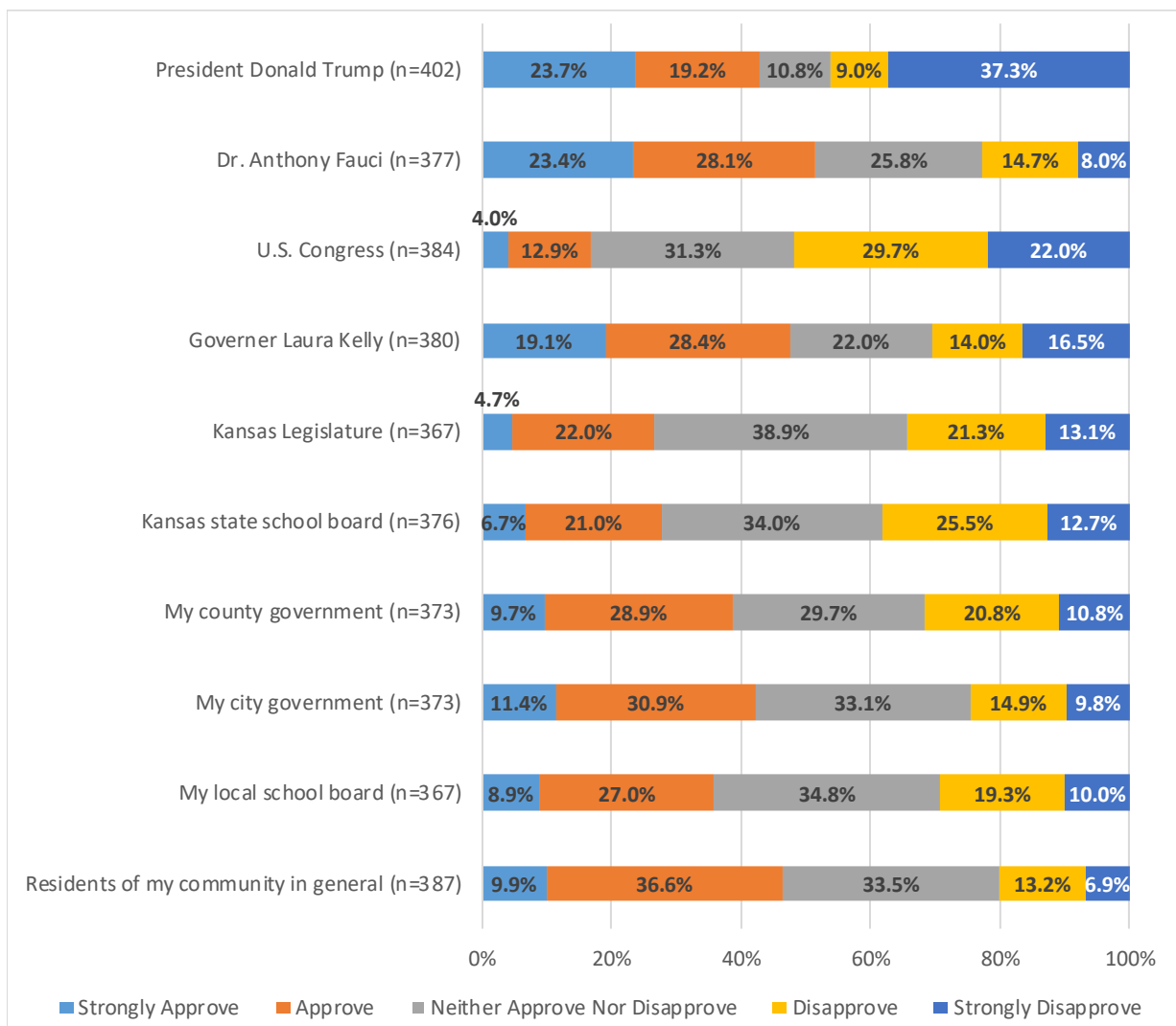


Question: *At any point since the start of the coronavirus outbreak, have any adults living in your household ___?*

¹ Source of questions in Figures 24 and 25: <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/press-releases/poll-half-of-households-in-the-four-largest-u-s-cities-new-york-city-los-angeles-chicago-and-houston-report-facing-serious-financial-problems-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/>

When asked how public officials/institutions have handled the coronavirus outbreak, respondents gave the highest approval rating to Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease, with 51.5% of respondents answering “strongly approve” or “approve.” Governor Laura Kelly received the second highest approval rating, with 47.5% of respondents strongly approving or approving her handling of the coronavirus outbreak. President Trump’s rating was polarized, with 42.9% respondents approving his handling of the outbreak and 46.3% disapproving. The U.S. Congress received the highest disapproval rating and the lowest approval rating. More than half (51.7%) of respondents disapproved the U.S. Congress’ handling of the outbreak, and only 16.9% approved (Figure 26).

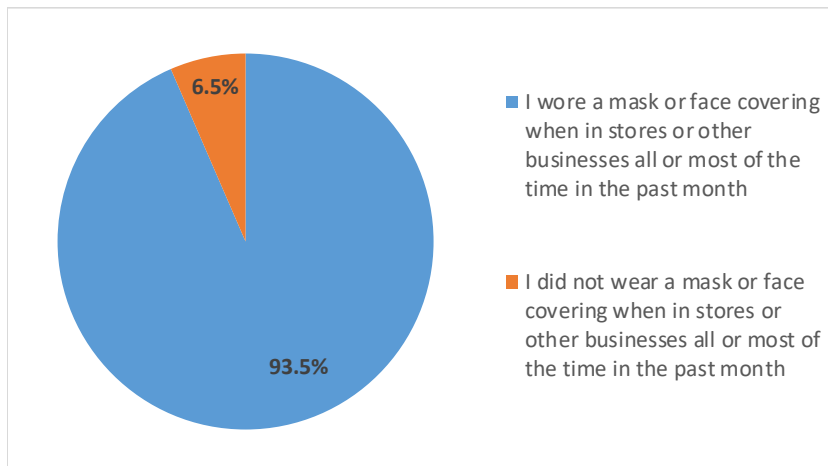
Figure 26: Rating of Public Officials/Institutions’ Handling of the Coronavirus Outbreak



Question: As you know, Kansas is struggling with the coronavirus, as are other parts of the U.S. and the world. Thinking of how the following public officials have handled the coronavirus outbreak, do you "Strongly Approve," "Approve," "Neither Approve Nor Disapprove," "Disapprove," or "Strongly Disapprove"?

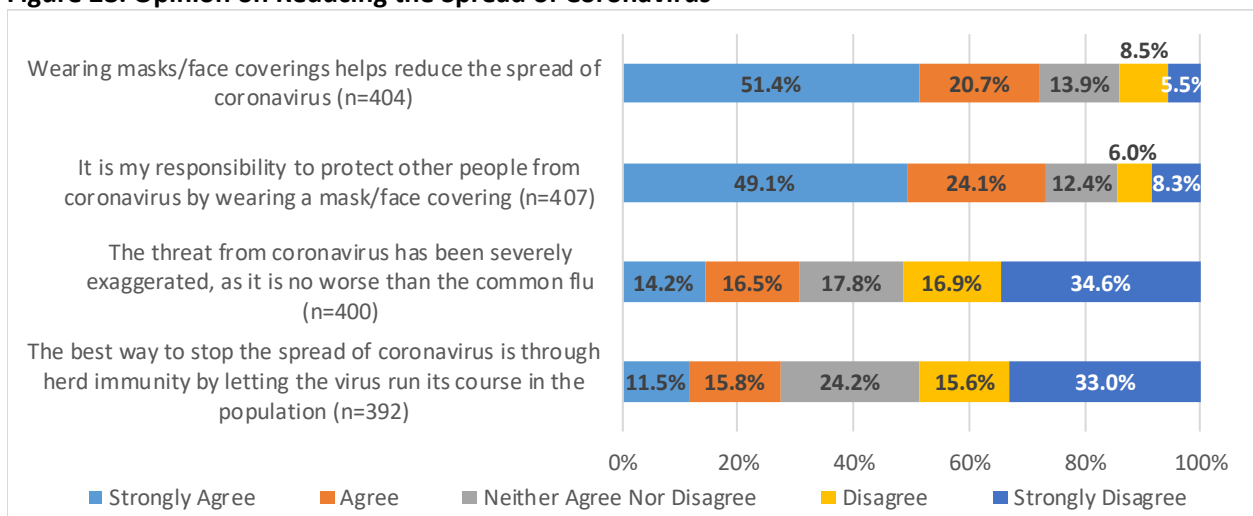
More than ninety percent (93.5%) of respondents said they wore a mask or face covering when in stores or other businesses all or most of the time in the past month (Figure 27). A majority of respondents also acknowledge the importance of masks/face covering during the coronavirus pandemic. More than seventy percent of respondents agreed that “wearing masks/face covering helps reduce the spread of coronavirus,” and that it is their “responsibility to protect other people from coronavirus by wearing a mask/face covering” (Figure 28). Less than one third (30.7%) of respondents thought the threat from coronavirus had been severely exaggerated, and less than thirty percent (27.3%) agreed that herd immunity was the best way to stop the spread of coronavirus (Figure 28).

Figure 27: Wearing a Mask/Face Covering in Stores or Businesses (n=404)



Question: *In the past month, did you wear a mask or face covering when in stores or other businesses all or most of the time?*

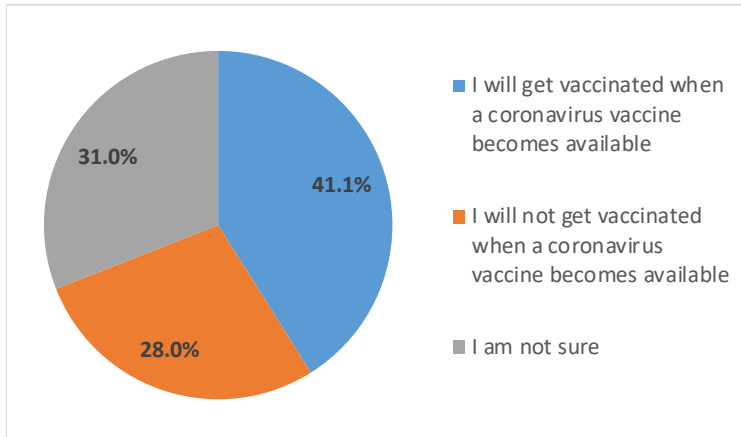
Figure 28: Opinion on Reducing the Spread of Coronavirus



Question: *Do you "Strongly Agree," "Agree," "Neither Agree Nor Disagree," "Disagree," or "Strongly Disagree" with the following statements?*

When asked if they would get vaccinated when a coronavirus vaccine became available, 41.1% of respondents said “yes,” 28% said “no,” and a large percentage, 31%, said they were not sure (Figure 29).

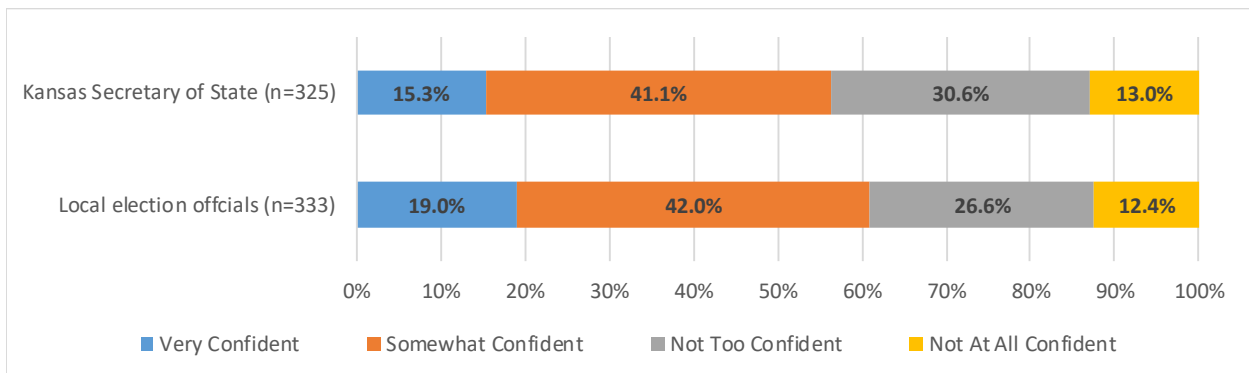
Figure 29: Coronavirus Vaccination (n=410)



Question: When a vaccine for the coronavirus becomes available, will you get vaccinated?

The survey asked if respondents were confident that Kansas Secretary of State and local election officials had done everything possible to have a safe election during the coronavirus pandemic. More than half (56.4%) of respondents were very or somewhat confident with the Kansas Secretary of State, and 61% were very or somewhat confident with local election officials (Figure 30).

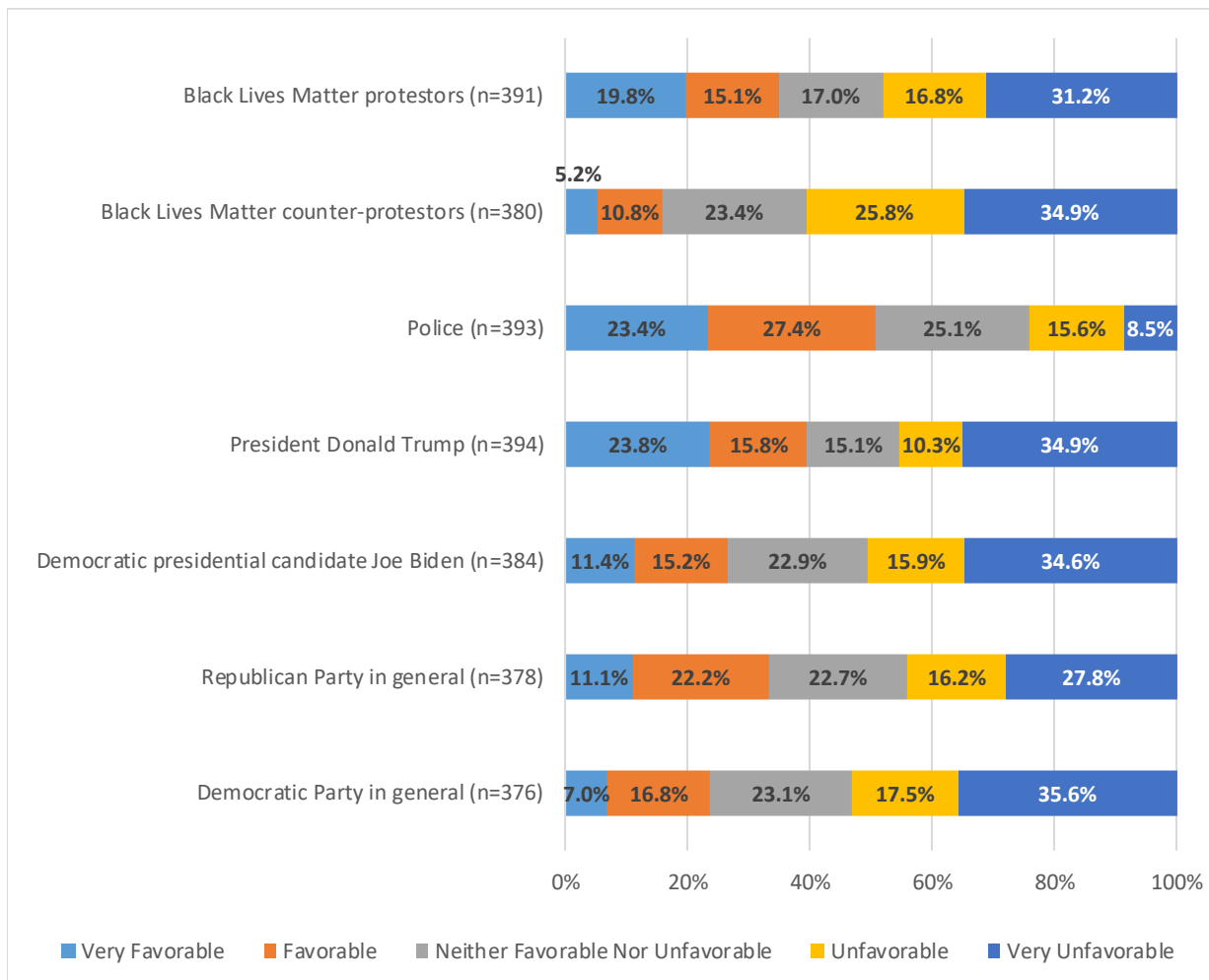
Figure 30: Confident with Public Officials to Ensure a Safe Election during the Coronavirus Pandemic



Question: How confident are you that the following public officials have done everything possible to make sure that the election this year will be safe for Kansas voters who are worried about coronavirus?

The survey asked respondents to rate how several political figures and groups handled the protests regarding police behavior. Police received the highest rating, with 50.8% of respondents selecting “very favorable” or “favorable.” About 35% were “very favorable” or “favorable” toward how Black Lives Matter protestors handled the protest. Black Lives Matter *counter-protestors* received the lowest rating, with 16% of respondents selecting favorable ratings, and 60.7% selecting unfavorable ratings. The rating on President Trump’s handling of the protests was polarized: 39.6% of respondents said President Trump’s handling of the protests were favorable, 45.2% selected unfavorable ratings, and only 15.1% were neither favorable nor unfavorable (Figure 31).

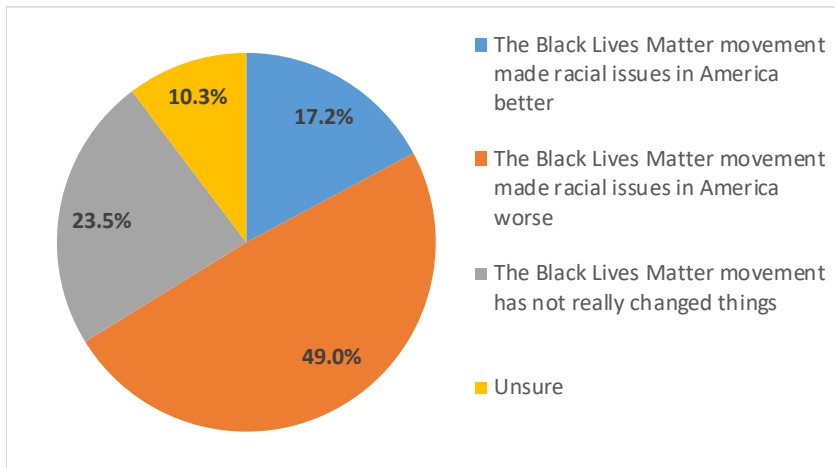
Figure 31: Rating of How Protests about Police Behavior Was Handled



Question: *This year there have been many protests around the country regarding police behavior. For each of the following people/groups, is your rating of how each has handled the protests "Very Favorable," "Favorable," "Neither Favorable Nor Unfavorable," "Unfavorable," or "Very Unfavorable"?*

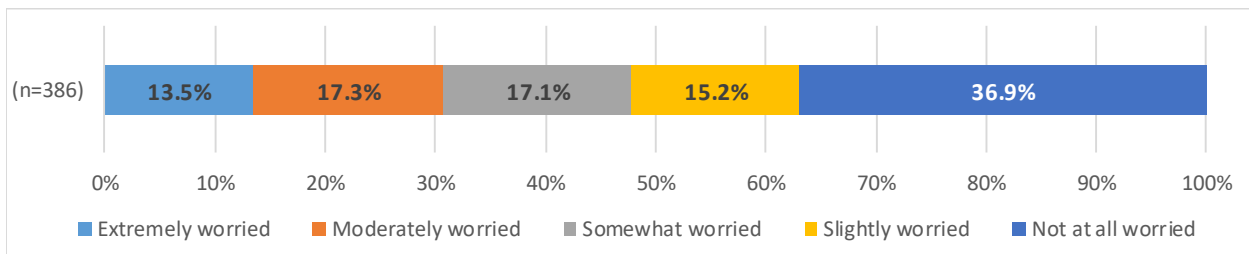
When asked about the impact of the Black Lives Matter movement on racial issues in America, 49% of respondents said the Black Lives Matter movement made racial issues worse in America, 17.2% said the movement made racial issues better, and 23.5% said the movement had not really changed things (Figure 32). The survey also asked whether respondents were worried that the protests associated with the Black Lives Matter movement would bring violence to their neighborhood. About 37% were “not at all worried,” and 15.2% were “slightly worried.” About seventeen percent were “somewhat worried” (17.1%) or “moderately worried” (17.3%), and 13.5% were “extremely worried” (Figure 33).

Figure 32: Impact of Black Lives Matter on Racial Issues (n=406)



Question: *Has the Black Lives Matter movement made racial issues in America better or worse, or has it not really changed things either way?*

Figure 33: Concern if Black Lives Matter Protests Bring Violence to Neighborhood



Question: *Some people believe that the protests associated with the Black Lives Matter movement promote violence, but other people do not believe that is the case. How worried are you that Black Lives Matter protests will bring violence to your neighborhood?*

Appendix A: Gender Distribution

Gender	Unweighted Sample (n=417)	Study Population
Male	51.3%	49.02%
Female	47.2%	50.42%
Gender-fluid/transgender/prefer not to say	1.4%	0.57%*

Source: U.S. Census 2019 Population Estimates

*Estimated based U.S. Census population estimates and an article written by Cicero, et al. in 2014

(https://journals.lww.com/nursingresearchonline/FullText/2020/07000/Application_of_Behavioral_Risk_Factor_Surveillance.10.aspx)

Appendix B: Age Distribution

Age Group	Unweighted Sample (n=417)	Study Population
18-24	13.2%	13.3%
25-34	19.2%	17.1%
35-44	17.3%	16.4%
45-54	16.8%	14.8%
55-64	16.5%	16.8%
65 and older	17.0%	21.6%

Source: U.S. Census 2019 Population Estimates

Appendix C: Weighted Demographic Characteristics of the Sample

Social Indicators		Survey Sample	Study Population*
Household Income		(n=376)	
	Less than \$10,000	9.3%	5.1%
	\$10,000-\$24,999	14.8%	12.6%
	\$25,000- \$34,999	14.2%	8.9%
	\$35,000-\$49,999	11.5%	13.3%
	\$50,000-\$74,999	17.2%	19.3%
	\$75,000-\$99,999	13.7%	13.6%
	\$100,000-\$149,000	13.7%	15.4%
\$150,000 or more	5.4%	11.7%	
Education		(n=393)	
	Less Than High School	2.1%	8.7%
	High School Diploma	21.1%	26.9%
	Some College or Associate's Degree	34.8%	33.5%
Bachelor's Degree or higher	41.9%	30.9%	
Age		(n=416)	
	18-24 Years Old	13.1%	13.3%
	25-34 Years Old	17.0%	17.0%
	35-44 Years Old	16.1%	16.1%
	45-54 Years Old	14.8%	14.8%
	55-64 Years Old	17.3%	17.3%
65 Years and Older	21.7%	21.7%	
Gender		(n=416)	
	Male	49.0%	49.30%
	Female	50.4%	50.70%
	Gender fluid/transgender/prefer not to say	0.6%	
Hispanic Origin		(n=392)	
		7.9%	12.20%
Race		(n=393)	
	White	85.8%	83.6%
	Black or African American	6.2%	5.7%
	Asian or Pacific Islander	1.4%	3.1%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	1.5%	0.8%
	Some other race alone	2.5%	3.0%
Two or more races	2.6%	3.7%	
Political Party Affiliation		(n=359)	
	Strong Republican	20.8%	/
	Moderate Republican	18%	/
	Independent Leaning Republican	9.5%	/
	Independent	19.8%	/
	Independent Leaning Democrat	10.5%	/
	Moderate Democrat	10.4%	/
Strong Democrat	11.0%	/	
Registered Voters		(n=387)	
		84.6%	81.9%

* The percentage of registered voters in Kansas is estimated using election statistics from the Kansas Secretary of State website and Kansas population estimates from the U.S. Census; all other study population information is obtained from U.S. Census 2019 American Community Survey.

Appendix D: Survey Instrument

Welcome to the 2020 Kansas Speaks survey conducted by the Docking Institute of Public Affairs at Fort Hays State University. Kansas Speaks is a statewide survey measuring Kansans' opinions on public affairs issues and their evaluations of elected officials. The survey has been conducted annually since 2009, and survey results have been reported in local, state, and national news media. Your opinions matter. By participating in this survey you will give voice to thousands of Kansans similar to you. You are assured complete confidentiality.

For more information about the Kansas Speaks survey, please visit our website: www.fhsu.edu/docking/Kansas-Speaks

Should you have concerns with the survey, please contact Dr. Jian Sun via his email address: jsun@fhsu.edu

Q0 Do you currently reside in the state of Kansas?

- Yes
- No

Q.Age Are you at least 18 years of age or older?

- Yes
- No

Q.YearBorn What year were you born?

Q.Gender What is your gender?

- Male
- Female
- Gender-fluid/transgender
- Other
- Prefer not to specify

Q.County In which Kansas county do you primarily reside?

▼ Allen ... Wyandotte

Q1 In general, how would you rate Kansas as a place to live?

- Excellent
- Very Good
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Very Poor
- Don't Know

Q2 Generally speaking, do you feel Kansas is on the right track or wrong track?

- Right Track
- Wrong Track
- Don't Know

Q3 In general, how would you rate the Kansas economy? Would you say it is...

- Excellent
- Very Good
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Very Poor
- Don't Know

Q4 Over the last 12 months, how would you say the Kansas economy has changed? Would you say it is...

- Getting Worse
- Staying the Same
- Getting Better
- Don't Know

Q5 How concerned are you that the Kansas economy will seriously threaten you or your family's well-being over the next year? Would you say...

- Very Concerned
- Moderately Concerned
- Slightly Concerned
- Not Concerned at all
- Don't Know

Q6 Please indicate if you are "Very satisfied," "Somewhat Satisfied," "Neutral," "Somewhat Dissatisfied," or "Very Dissatisfied" with the following public entities/officials.

	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Neutral	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Don't Know
The Kansas Legislature in general	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
U.S. Senator Jerry Moran	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
U.S. Senator Pat Roberts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Governor Laura Kelly	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
President Donald Trump	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The Kansas Supreme Court	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The United States Congress in general	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Congressman Roger Marshall	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q7 If the presidential election were held today, who would you vote for?

- Joe Biden
- Donald Trump
- Neither of the top two candidates
- I do not plan on voting/cannot vote
- Don't Know

Q8 Medicaid expansion is a current political issue with the Kansas Legislature. How much do you think about this issue?

- A great deal
- A lot
- A moderate amount
- A little
- None at all

Q9 If Kansas expands Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, about 10% of the expansion would be paid by Kansas, and 90% by the federal government. Studies estimate that expanding Medicaid would provide health coverage to approximately 150,000 Kansans and financially benefit rural hospitals. Do you "Strongly Agree," "Somewhat Agree," "Neutral," "Somewhat Disagree," or "Strongly Disagree" with the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neutral	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
Expanding Medicaid would help rural Kansas hospitals remain in business.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The Kansans who might obtain health insurance from expanding Medicaid deserve this benefit from the State.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I support expanding Medicaid in Kansas.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q10 Think about what you paid in sales tax, property tax, and state income tax together. Compared to two years ago, has the amount you paid in state taxes increased, remained the same, or decreased?

- Increased
- Remained the Same
- Decreased
- Don't Know

Q11 The Kansas government has to produce tax revenue for every dollar it spends. Some people would prefer the government to have lower taxes and less spending. Others favor higher taxes and more government spending. Which of the following do you favor?

- Much higher taxes and spending
- Somewhat higher taxes and spending
- Keeping the current level of taxes and spending
- Somewhat lower taxes and spending
- Much lower taxes and spending
- Don't Know

Q12a Which of the following taxes would you favor increasing? (select all that apply)

- Income Tax
- Sales Tax
- Property Tax
- Don't Know

Q12b In which of the following areas would you favor increasing state funding? (select all that apply)

- Grades kindergarten through high school
- State colleges and universities
- Social services such as senior and disability services
- Roads and highways
- Don't Know

Q13a Which of the following taxes would you favor decreasing? (select all that apply)

- Income Tax
- Sales Tax
- Property Tax
- Don't Know

Q13b In which of the following areas would you favor decreasing state funding? (select all that apply)

- Grades kindergarten through high school
- State colleges and universities
- Social services, such as senior and disability service
- Roads and highways
- Don't Know

Q14 There are other ways to increase the state of Kansas's revenue that would not include raising traditional taxes. Do you "Strongly Support", "Somewhat Support", "are Neutral", "Somewhat Oppose", or "Strongly Oppose" the following alternative revenue sources:

	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Neutral	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Don't Know
Increasing taxes on cigarettes and cigars	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increasing taxes on alcohol	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Legalizing recreational marijuana for individuals 21 and older to allow taxation by the State of Kansas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q15 If you voted in the 2018 election for governor, did you vote for Laura Kelly?

- Yes
- No
- Did not vote in the 2018 governor election
- Don't Know

Q16 At any point since the start of the coronavirus outbreak, has anyone living in your household had:

	Yes	No	Don't Know
Serious problems paying credit cards/loans/debt	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Serious problems paying mortgage/rent	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Serious problems paying utilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Serious problems affording food	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Serious problems making car payments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Serious problems affording medical care	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other serious financial problems	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q17 At any point since the start of the coronavirus outbreak, have any adults living in your household:

	Yes	No	Don't Know
Lost their job	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lost their business	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Been furloughed	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Taken mandatory unpaid leave	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Had wages or hours reduced	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q18 As you know, Kansas is struggling with the coronavirus, as are other parts of the U.S. and the world. Thinking of how the following public officials have handled the coronavirus outbreak, do you "Strongly Approve," "Approve," "Neither Approve Nor Disapprove," "Disapprove," or "Strongly Disapprove"?

	Strongly Approve	Approve	Neither Approve Nor Disapprove	Disapprove	Strongly Disapprove	Don't Know
President Donald Trump	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The United States Congress	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Kansas Governor Laura Kelly	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The Kansas Legislature	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The Kansas state school board	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your county government	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your city government	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your local school board	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Residents of your community, in general	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q19 In the past month, did you wear a mask or face covering when in stores or other businesses all or most of the time?

- Yes
- No
- Not Applicable

Q20 Do you "Strongly Agree," "Agree," "Neither Agree Nor Disagree," "Disagree," or "Strongly Disagree" with the following statements?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
Wearing masks/face coverings helps reduce the spread of coronavirus.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It is my responsibility to protect other people from coronavirus by wearing a mask/face covering.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The threat from coronavirus has been severely exaggerated, as it is no worse than the common flu.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The best way to stop the spread of coronavirus is through herd immunity by letting the virus run its course in the population.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q21 How confident are you that the following public officials have done everything possible to make sure that the election this year will be safe for Kansas voters who are worried about coronavirus?

	Very Confident	Somewhat Confident	Not Too Confident	Not At All Confident	No Opinion
Kansas Secretary of State	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your local election officials	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q22 When a vaccine for the coronavirus becomes available, will you get vaccinated?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Q23 This year there have been many protests around the country regarding police behavior.

For each of the following people/groups, is your rating of how each has handled the protests "Very Favorable," "Favorable," "Neither Favorable Nor Unfavorable," "Unfavorable," or "Very Unfavorable"?

	Very Favorable	Favorable	Neither Favorable Nor Unfavorable	Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable	Don't Know
Black Lives Matter protestors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Black Lives Matter counter-protestors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The police themselves	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
President Donald Trump	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The Republican Party in general	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The Democratic Party in general	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q24 Has the Black Lives Matter movement made racial issues in America better or worse, or has it not really changed things either way?

- Better
- Worse
- Has not really changed things
- Unsure

Q25 Some people believe that the protests associated with the Black Lives Matter movement promote violence, but other people do not believe that is the case. How worried are you that Black Lives Matter protests will bring violence to your neighborhood?

- Extremely worried
- Moderately worried
- Somewhat worried
- Slightly worried
- Not at all worried
- Don't Know

Q26a As you may have heard, more Americans are voting by mail this year than in recent election years. How concerned are you that widespread mail voting will lead to voter fraud?

- Very concerned
- Somewhat concerned
- Not very concerned
- Not at all concerned
- Don't Know

Q26b How confident are you that you understand how to request and cast a vote by mail ballot in Kansas?

- Very confident
- Somewhat confident
- Not too confident
- Not at all confident
- Don't Know

Q27a Do you think the winner of the November presidential election should name the successor to Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the U.S. Supreme Court?

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

Q27b If President Donald Trump appoints a new Supreme Court Justice before the presidential inauguration in January 2021, do you think the U.S. Senate should confirm the nominee?

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

Q27c Does Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's death affect your support for either of the presidential nominees?

- Justice Ginsburg's death increases my support for President Donald Trump
- Justice Ginsburg's death increases my support for Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden
- Justice Ginsburg's death has no impact on my support for either of the presidential nominees
- Don't Know

Q28 By your best guess, where will you be in 5 years? Are you likely to...

- Still be living in the same community you are in now
- Move to another location in Kansas
- Relocate to a state other than Kansas
- Don't Know

Q29 Do you consider yourself a...

- Strong Republican
- Moderate Republican
- Independent, Leaning Republican
- Independent
- Independent, Leaning Democrat
- Moderate Democrat
- Strong Democrat
- Don't Know

Q30 Are you currently a registered voter in Kansas?

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

Q31 What is the highest level of education you have received?

- Less than high school
- High school diploma or equivalency
- Some college
- Associates or technical degree
- Bachelors degree
- Postgraduate degree
- Don't Know

Q32 Are you Hispanic, Latino/a, or Spanish origin?

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

Q33 Which one or more of the following would you say is your race?

- White
- Black or African American
- Asian or Pacific Islander
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Other
- Don't Know

Q34 Which category includes your total annual household annual income in 2019 before taxes and withholdings (i.e., total gross income)?

- Under \$10,000
- \$10,000 to \$24,999
- \$25,000 to \$34,999
- \$35,000 to \$49,999
- \$50,000 to \$74,999
- \$75,000 to \$99,999
- \$100,000 to \$149,999
- \$150,000 or more
- Unsure
- Decline to answer

You are at the end of the survey. If you wish to submit your answers, click the right arrow below. You will not be able to change your answers or re-enter the survey once you click the right arrow. If you want to make changes to your answers, click the left arrow. Thank you for your participation in this survey! -- Docking Institute of Public Affairs, www.fhsu.edu/docking