

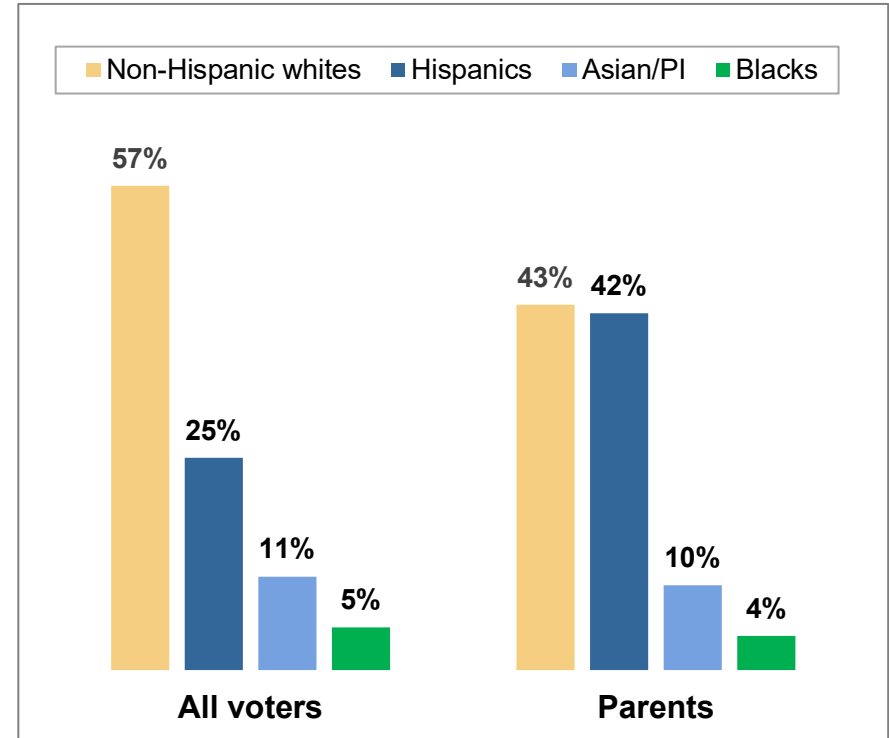


# WHERE CALIFORNIANS STAND ON GETTING BACK TO SCHOOL SAFELY

*Key findings from an online survey among  
California voters, conducted September 2020*

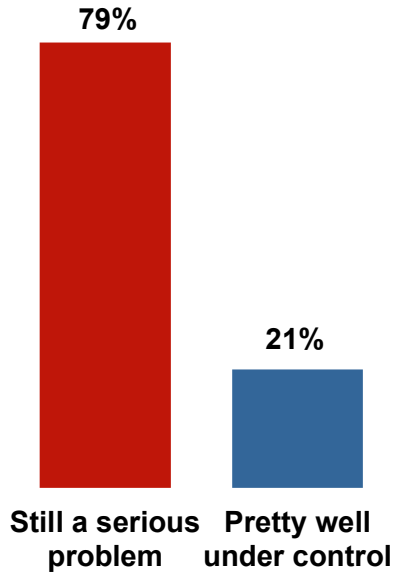
# Sample Notes

- 1,296 registered voters
- 527 public school parents (including oversample interviews)
- Public school parents are 24% of the weighted statewide sample

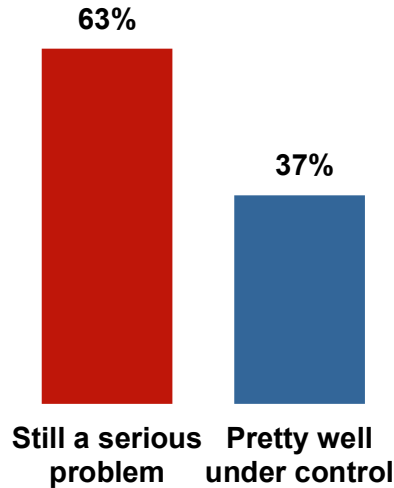


# Majorities of voters say coronavirus is still a serious problem, including locally. There is a partisan division on whether the worst is behind us.

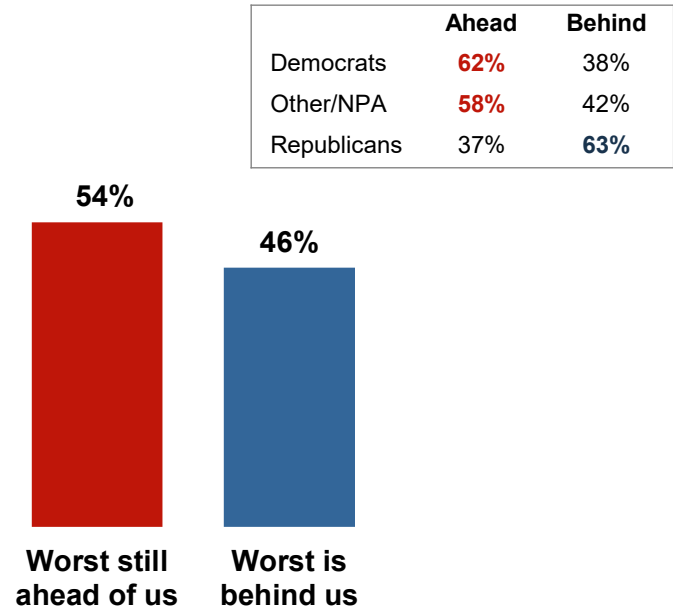
*Spread of coronavirus in California today*



*Spread of coronavirus in local area today*

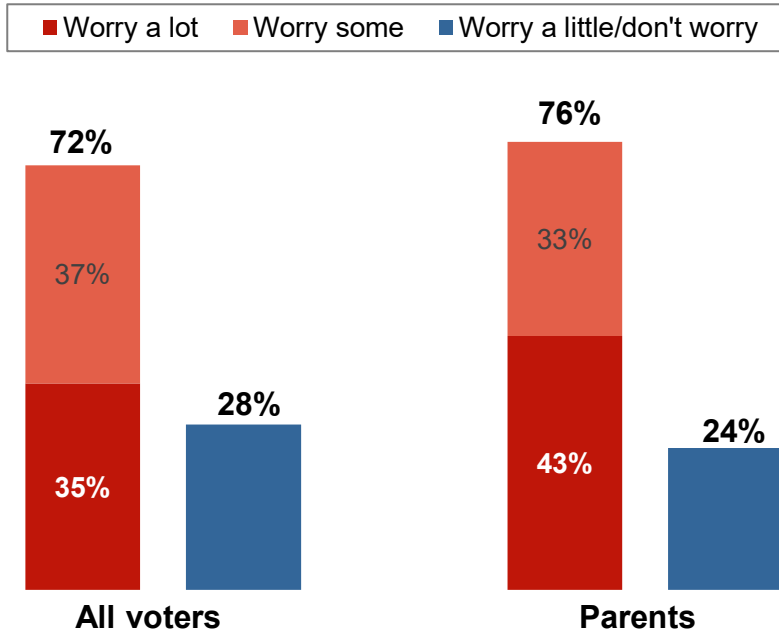


*Outlook for spread of coronavirus in California*

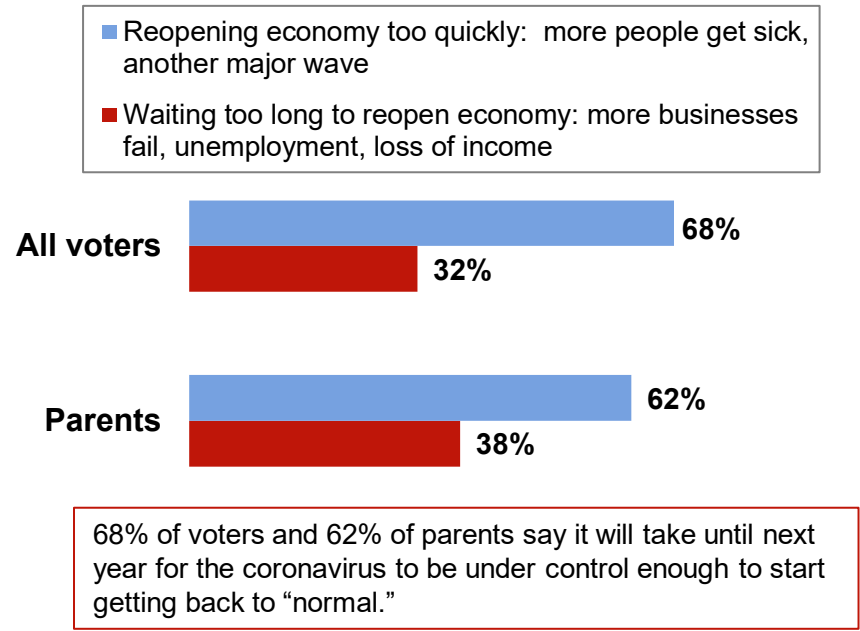


# More than 7 in 10 still worry about someone in their family getting coronavirus, and large majorities emphasize the dangers of moving too quickly to reopen the economy.

Worry about immediate family getting COVID

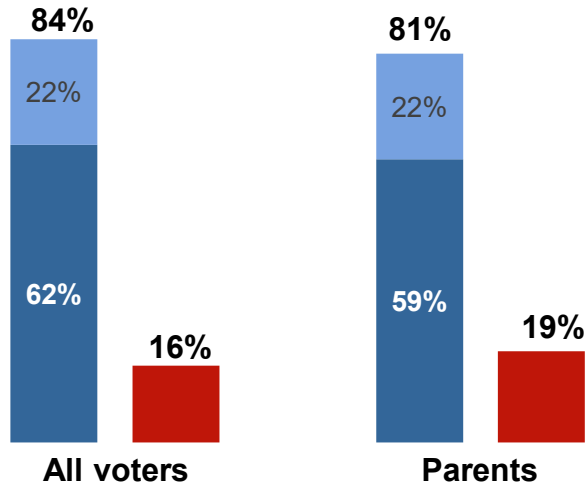


Which concerns you more?



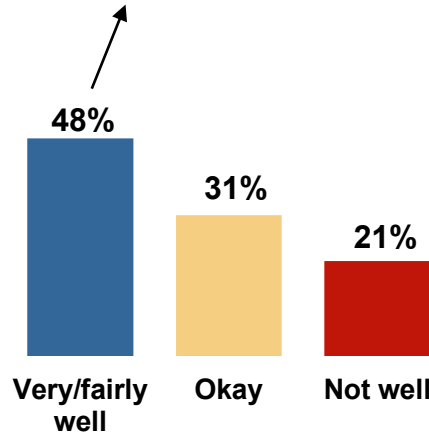
# The large majority of voters approve of the decision to close schools for in-person instruction last March, but the experience was a mixed bag for parents.

*Decision to close schools March through school year end*

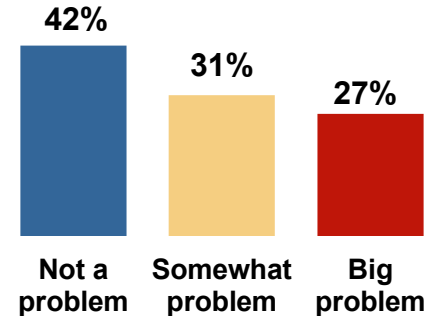


*Parents: how well did at-home instruction/home-learning programs work for you?*

Worked well	
Non-college grads	42%
College grads	54%



*Parents: how much of a problem was it to have your children home from school?*



## Top-of-mind responses for what should happen now emphasize continued online learning and need for safety.

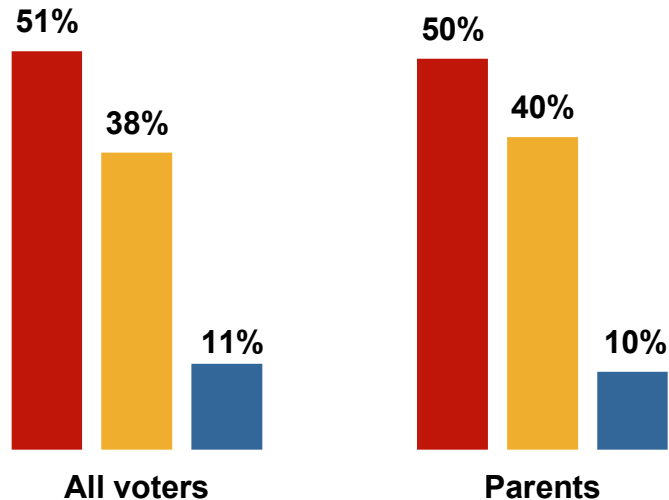
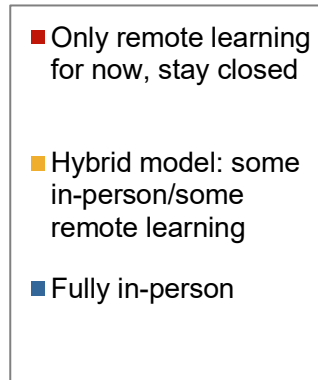
*Concerning whether, how, and when schools should provide in-school instruction for students, what considerations should be most important in making these decisions?*

(aggregated volunteered responses)

	Voters	Parents
<b>Virtual learning should continue, online classes, zoom</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>24%</b>
<b>Schools should not be open for in person instruction until we have a vaccine</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>Important to maintain 6-foot distance between students, continue social distancing</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>Not until it is safe to open, safe for students, faculty, all the staff</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>9%</b>
Alternate in-school classes with online lessons, hybrid model	9%	11%
Should have a national mask mandate, kids and teacher must wear masks	8%	7%
Kids should go back to school, schools should be open immediately	7%	8%
If kids must go to school, they should do it in small groups to minimize the virus	5%	5%
Students who have computers should stay home, schools should provide computers	4%	3%
Schools should give parents a choice, parents' input is important	4%	5%
The safety of our children is at risk, we must protect the children	4%	4%
Thorough cleaning of schools; desks, bathrooms, schools disinfected	4%	3%

# Few voters or parents think schools should be operating on a fully in-person basis; half say there should be remote learning only for the time being.

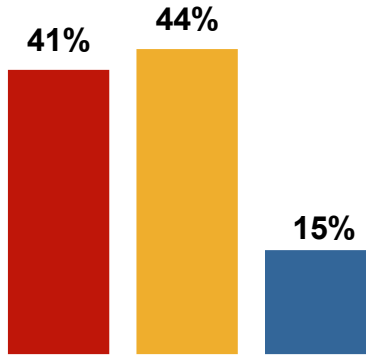
*Which one of these options should your local public schools be doing right now?*



- Support for remote only is highest in LA County (57%) and the Bay Area (60%).
- 27% of voters want some in-person learning in districts that are remote only.
- 40% of public school parents want some in-person learning in districts that are remote only.

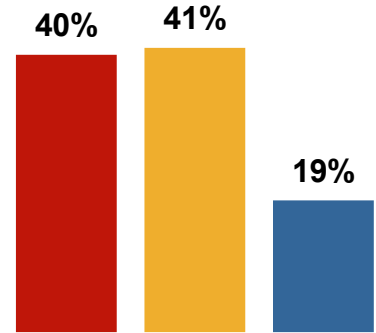
# Four in ten voters and parents say that schools should not reopen for in-school instruction until there is a vaccine.

*Thinking about the state as a whole, when should public schools open for in-school instruction?*



All voters

	Vaccine	Low infection	Open now
Democrats	51%	44%	5%
Other/NPA	37%	49%	14%
Republicans	27%	38%	35%
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COVID locally:			
Serious problem	52%	42%	6%
Under control	23%	46%	31%



Parents

**63% OF VOTERS AND 65% OF PARENTS APPROVE OF A POLICY REQUIRING LOW LOCAL INFECTION RATES BEFORE PERMITTING IN-SCHOOL INSTRUCTION.**



# Voters and parents want decisions driven first and foremost by how best to protect the health of students, staff, and their families.

*Which should be the biggest factors in whether, how, when your local public schools should reopen?*



**Protecting the health of students/staff and families**



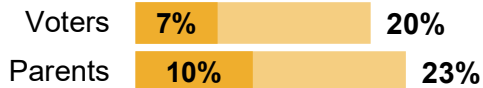
**Avoiding additional spread of coronavirus in community**



**Meeting educational/social needs of students, keeping them on track academically**

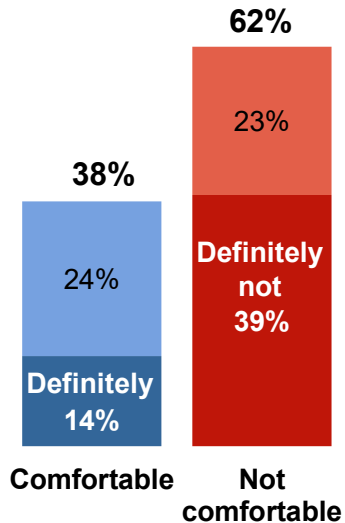


**Allowing working parents to return to jobs, so we can reopen the economy**

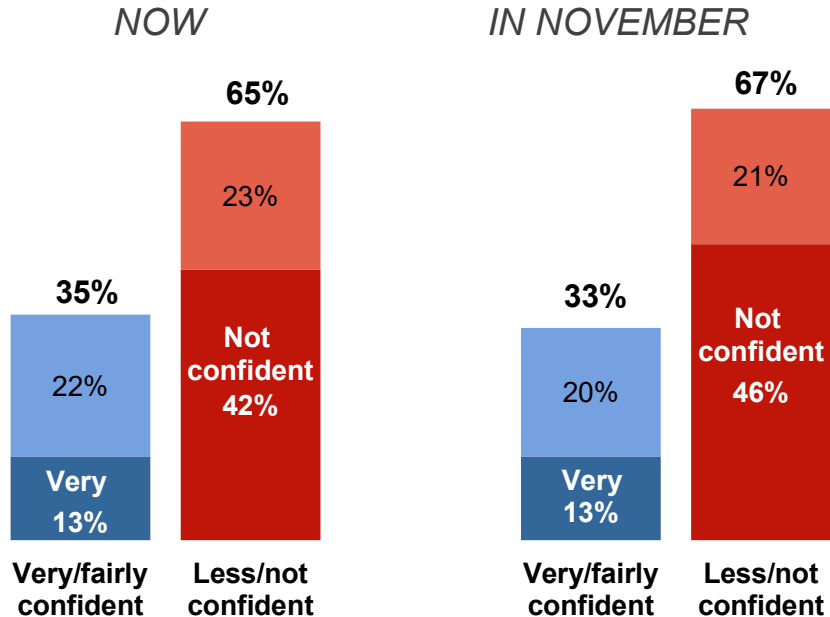


Most parents say they would not feel comfortable sending their children to school now. There is a low level of confidence that schools are safe today and slightly more pessimism in their expectations for November.

Parents' comfort with sending children to school now



Parents' confidence in local schools' safety, with low risk of infection:



By 69% to 24%, parents say they worry more about children being infected with coronavirus than about children falling behind academically with no in-person instruction.

# 85% of voters say that when schools reopen for in-person instruction, major changes will be needed. The leading top-of-mind priorities are masks and social distancing.

*What specific steps do you think schools must take to keep students and staff safe from the coronavirus and avoid the additional spread of the coronavirus in your community?*

(aggregated volunteered responses)

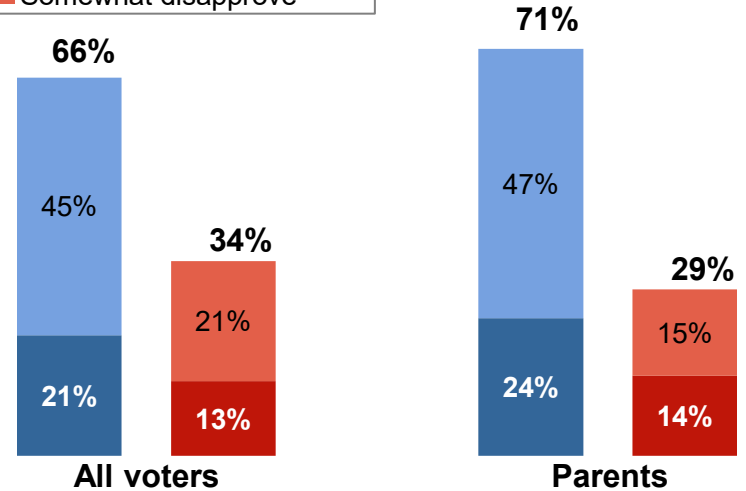
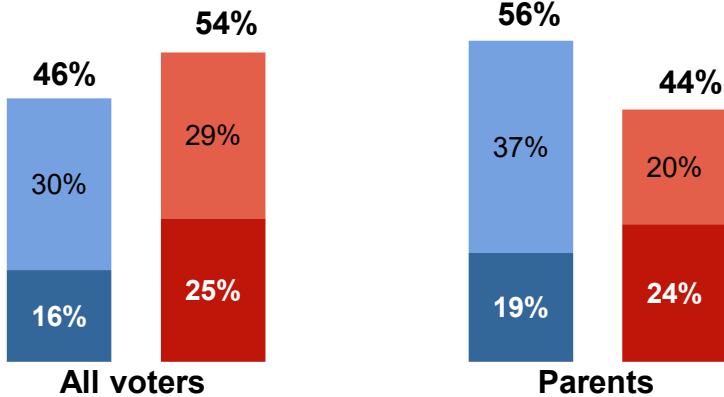
	Voters	Parents
<b>All should wear masks, face shields; protective equipment for all students, teachers, staff</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>37%</b>
<b>Keep social distance, six feet distance</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>22%</b>
Everything must be disinfected daily; all the equipment, desks should be sanitized	16%	19%
Should not open, should be closed for this year, should not rush to open schools	11%	12%
Hand sanitizers in every classroom	10%	9%
Should stay closed until there is a vaccine	10%	8%
Stay closed until it is safe	9%	8%
Temperature taking, temperature checks	9%	7%
All must wash their hands, hand washing stations	9%	13%
Until everyone gets tested, weekly testing, comprehensive testing of students and staff	7%	6%
Reduced class size, lower number of kids in classrooms	6%	5%
Classes should be online, remote learning only	5%	4%

# The public is split on waivers for elementary instruction, supportive of waivers for small group instruction for special needs children.

*Support for waivers to allow in-person instruction for school districts operating on remote-learning basis because the community infection rate is not low enough for in-school instruction*

## WAIVER FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

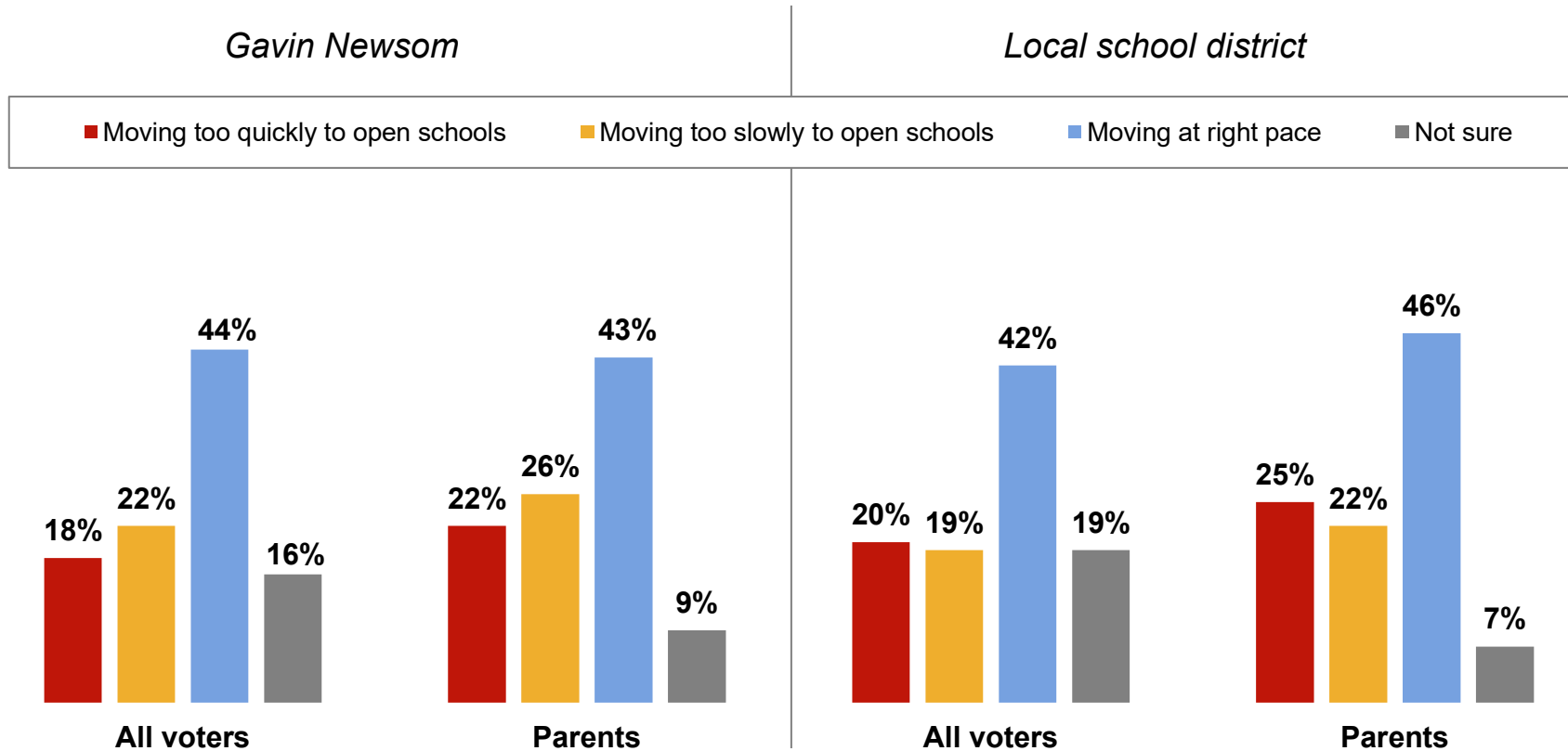
## WAIVER FOR SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS



Parents of elementary school children approve of elementary school waivers by 55% to 45%.

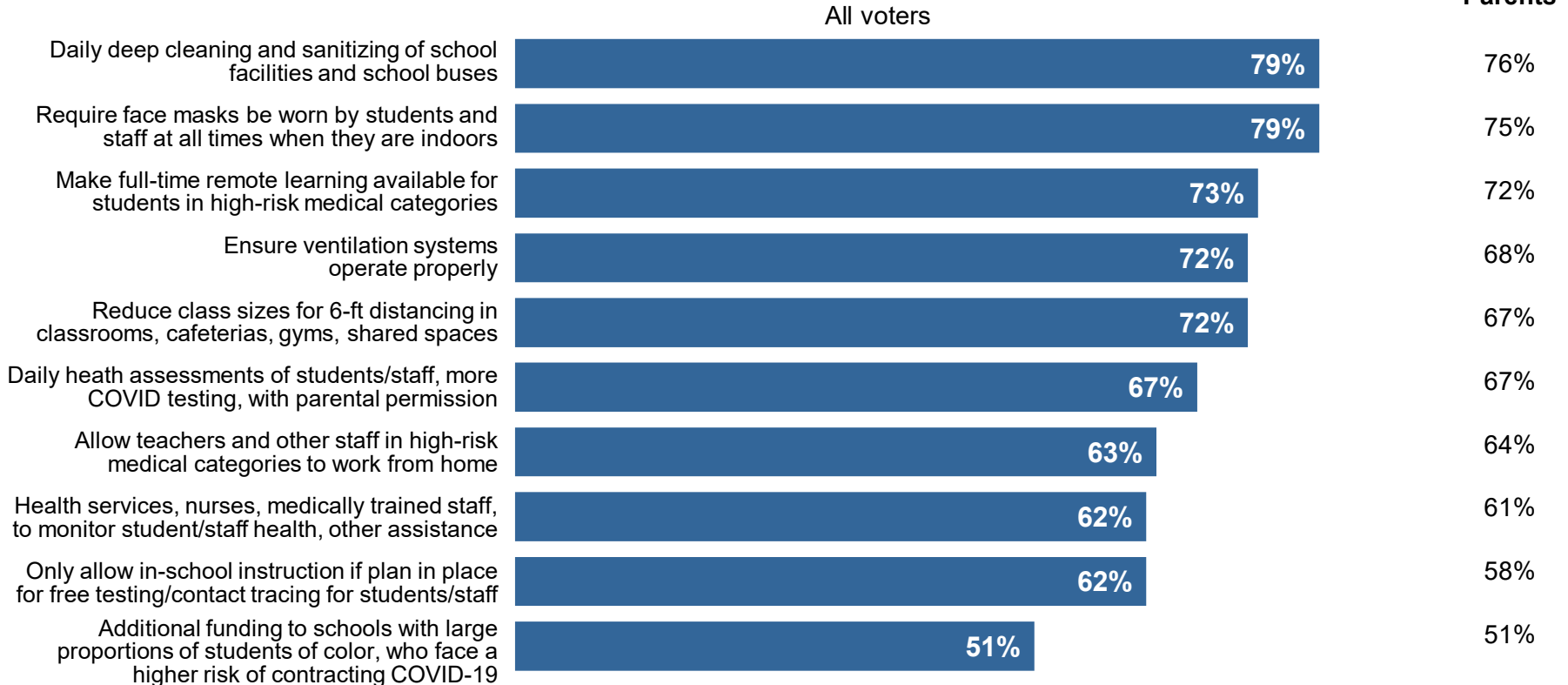
Parents of special needs children approve of special ed waivers by 71% to 29%.

# Not everyone is happy, but there is no consensus that Newsom or local districts are moving too fast or too slow in getting kids into schools.



# Significant majorities describe many steps for safe reopening as “essential” and say schools should not reopen without them.

*This is an ESSENTIAL STEP that is necessary for in-school instruction:*

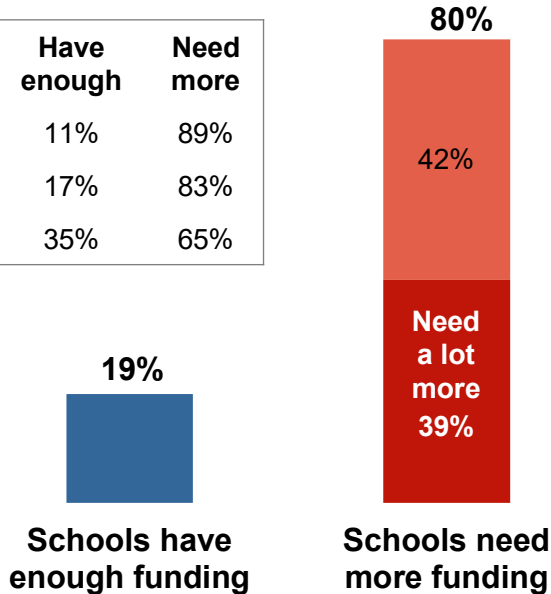


# There is broad recognition that schools need more funds to deal with the impacts of coronavirus.

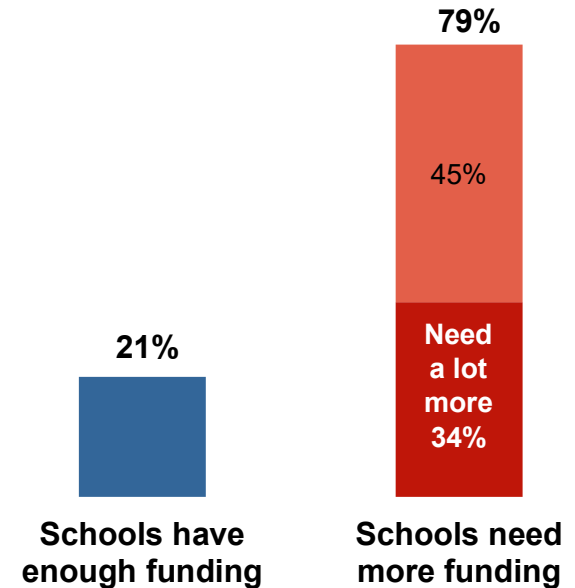
*Do the public schools in California have enough funding to deal with the impacts of the coronavirus?*

## All voters

	Have enough	Need more
Democrats	11%	89%
Other/NPA	17%	83%
Republicans	35%	65%

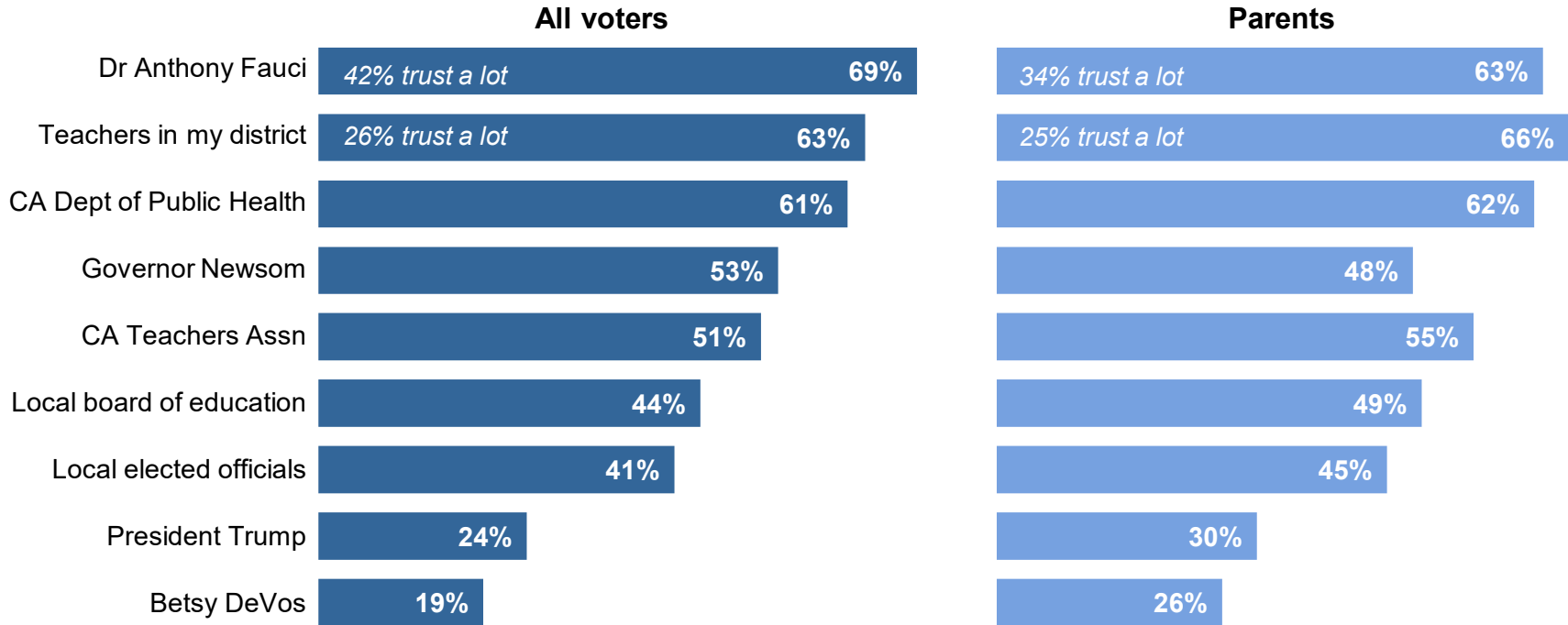


## Parents



# Public health officials and local teachers are the most trusted voices on whether, how, and when schools should reopen.

*I trust this person/group A LOT/SOMEWHAT on decisions about whether, how, when schools should reopen*





# There is solid approval for CTA's demand for testing and contact tracing.

*CTA's firm stand that in-school instruction only permitted if district has clear plans for testing/contact tracing of students and staff*

