

# The Great Work of Montana's Public Schools

Volume III October 2015

••It is the goal of the people to establish a system of education which will develop the full educational potential of each person. Equality of educational opportunity is guaranteed to each person of the state. ••

*Article X, Section 1, Montana Constitution*

A joint publication of the following education advocacy groups

MASBO

Montana Association of  
School Business Officials

MEA-MFT

Public Schools, Public Service

MQEC

Montana Quality  
Education Coalition

MREA

Montana Rural  
Education Association

MTSBA

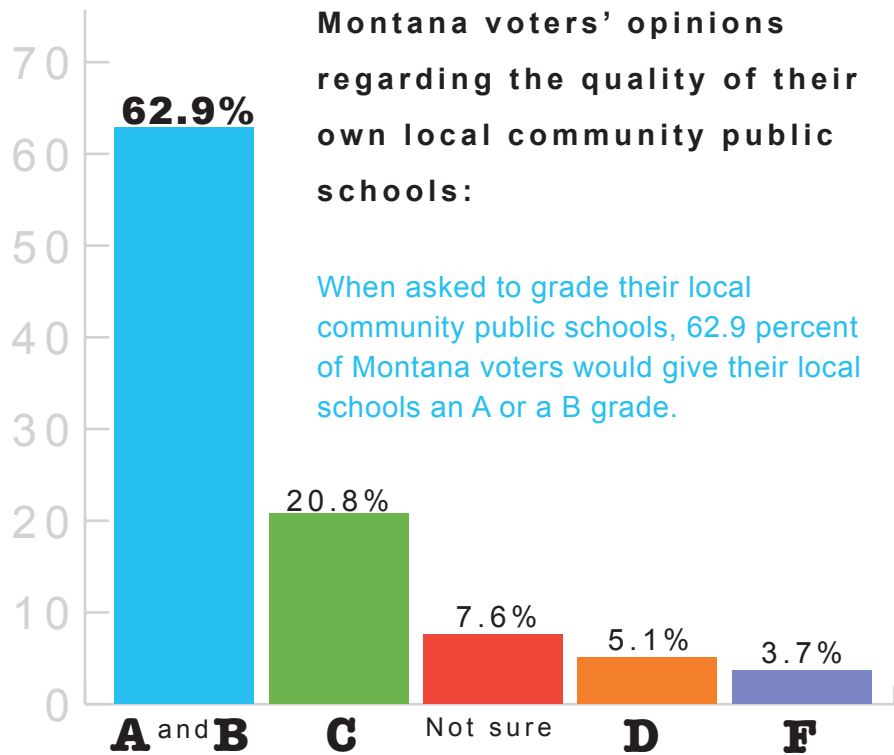
Montana School Boards  
Association

SAM

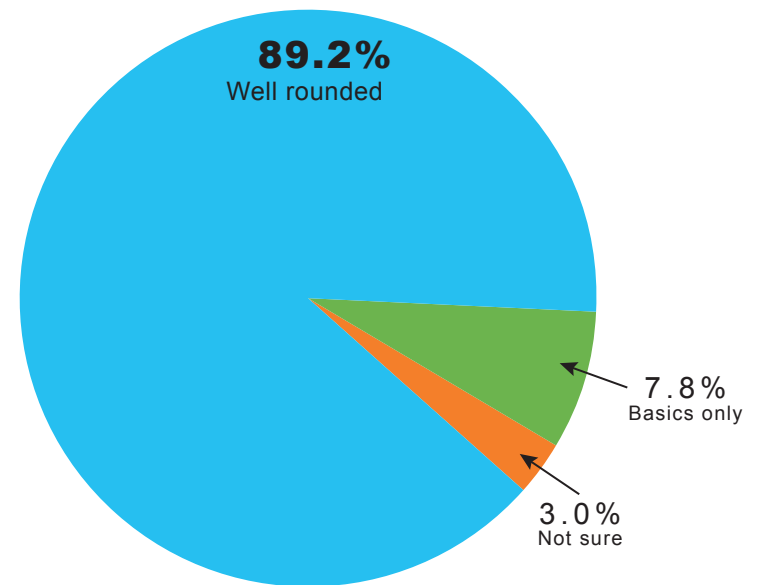
School Administrators  
of Montana

# MT-PEC/Zogby Poll Reflects Strong Support for Montana Public Schools Among Montana Voters

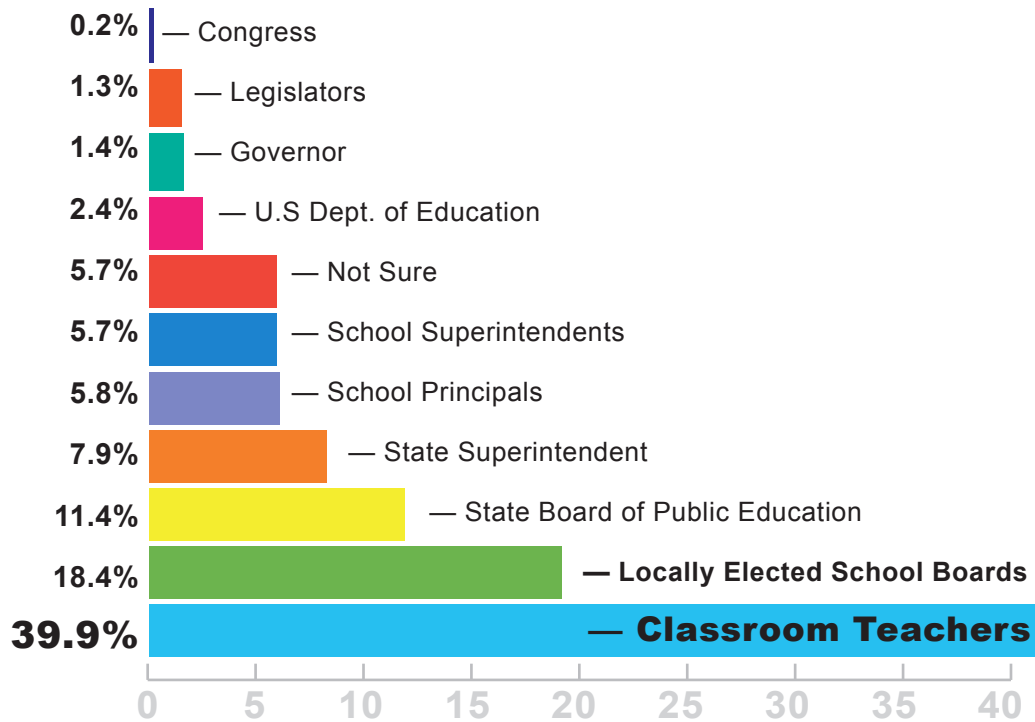
In October 2015, the Montana Public Education Center released results of a recent poll of Montana voters' opinions on K-12 public education issues. The poll was conducted by respected international polling and research company Zogby Analytics, using industry-standard methodologies with a margin of error of +/-4.5%. The poll results reveal a strong sentiment of support among Montana voters for K-12 public education on a wide range of issues.



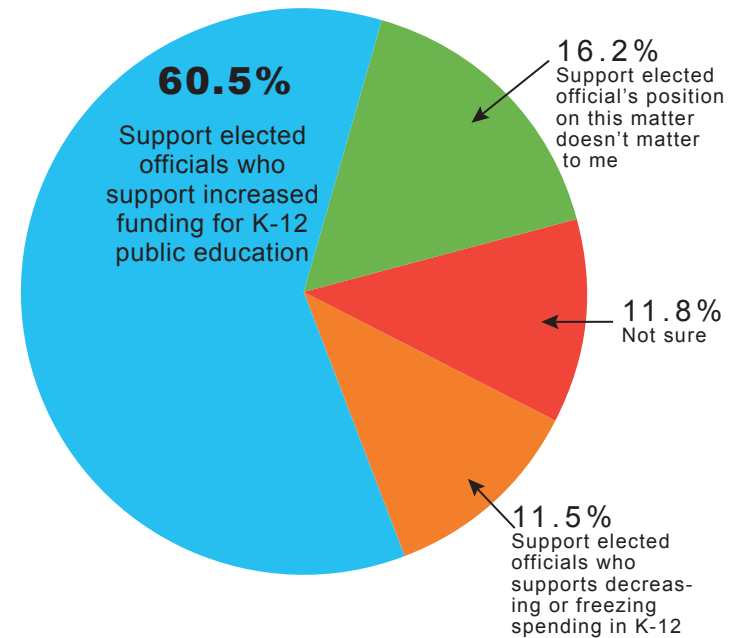
**Do Montana voters think public education should be well rounded or basic?**



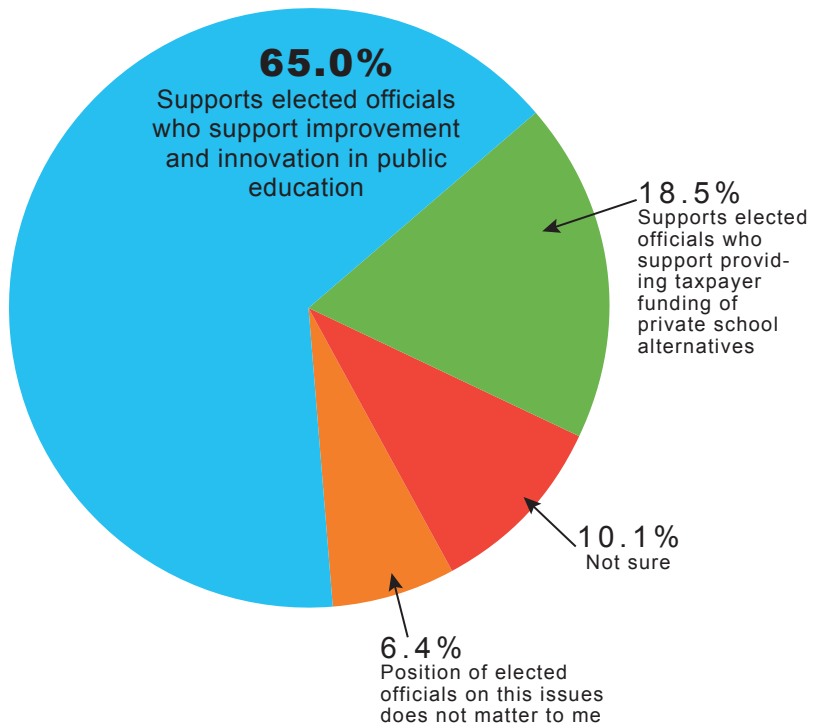
**Who do Montana voters trust to do what is best academically for students in public schools?**



**Montana voters support elected officials who support increased funding for public education over elected officials supporting a decrease or freeze in public education funding:**

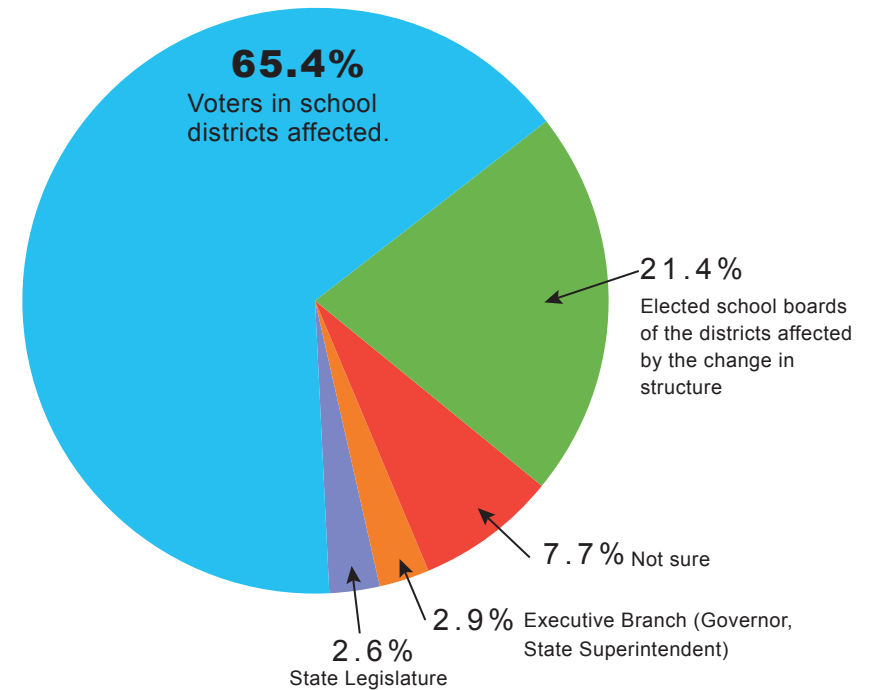


**Montana voters support elected officials who support improvement and innovation in public education over elected officials supporting public funding of private school alternatives:**

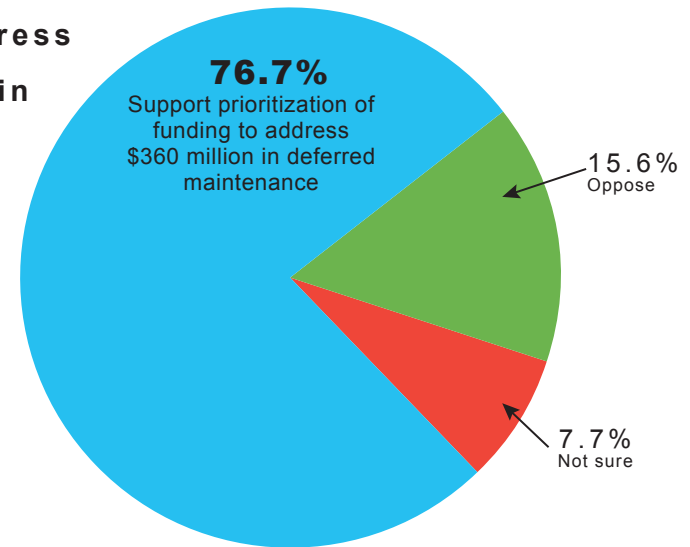


**Montana voters' opinions regarding who should decide whether two or more school districts must consolidate:**

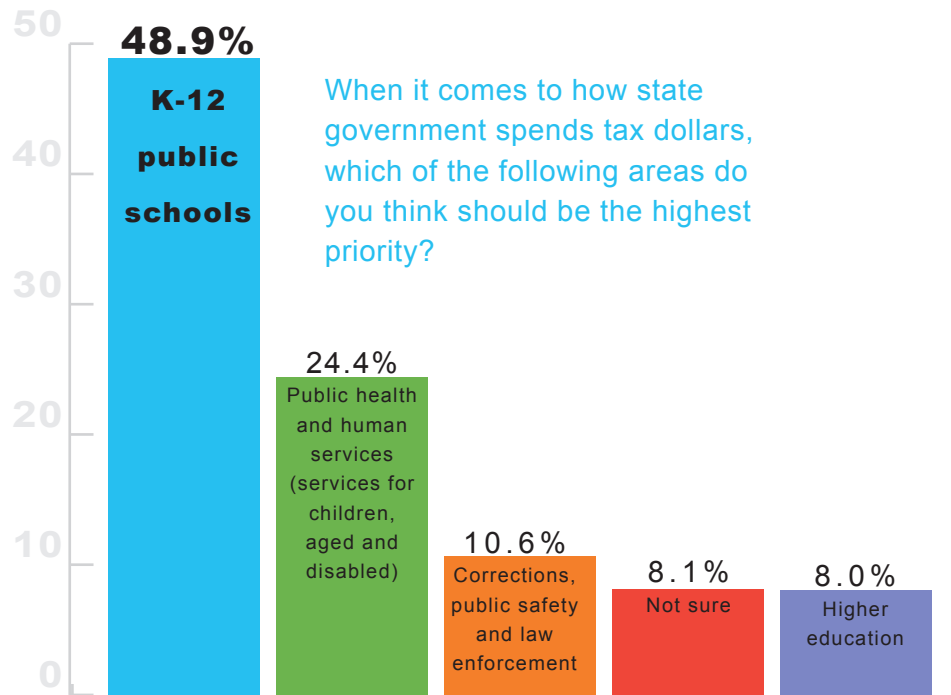
65.4% responded that it should be the voters in the school districts affected by the change in the structure.



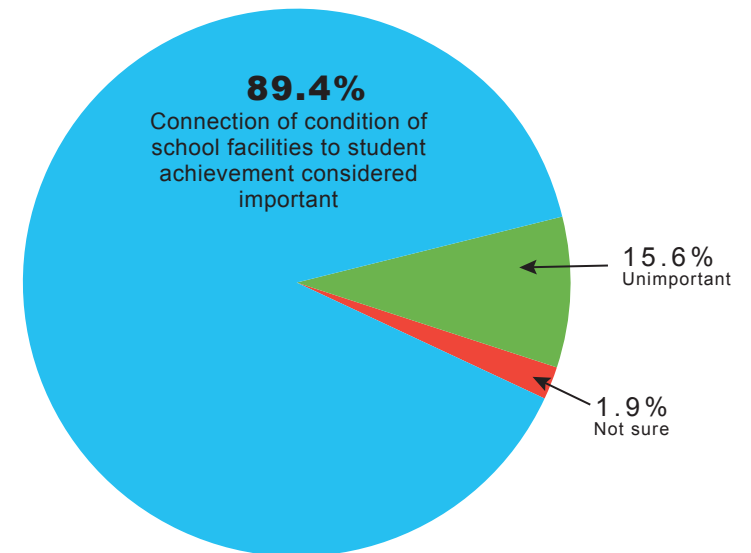
**Should the Legislature prioritize funding to address \$360 million in deferred maintenance identified in its 2008 school facilities study?**



**State budget priorities for Montana voters**

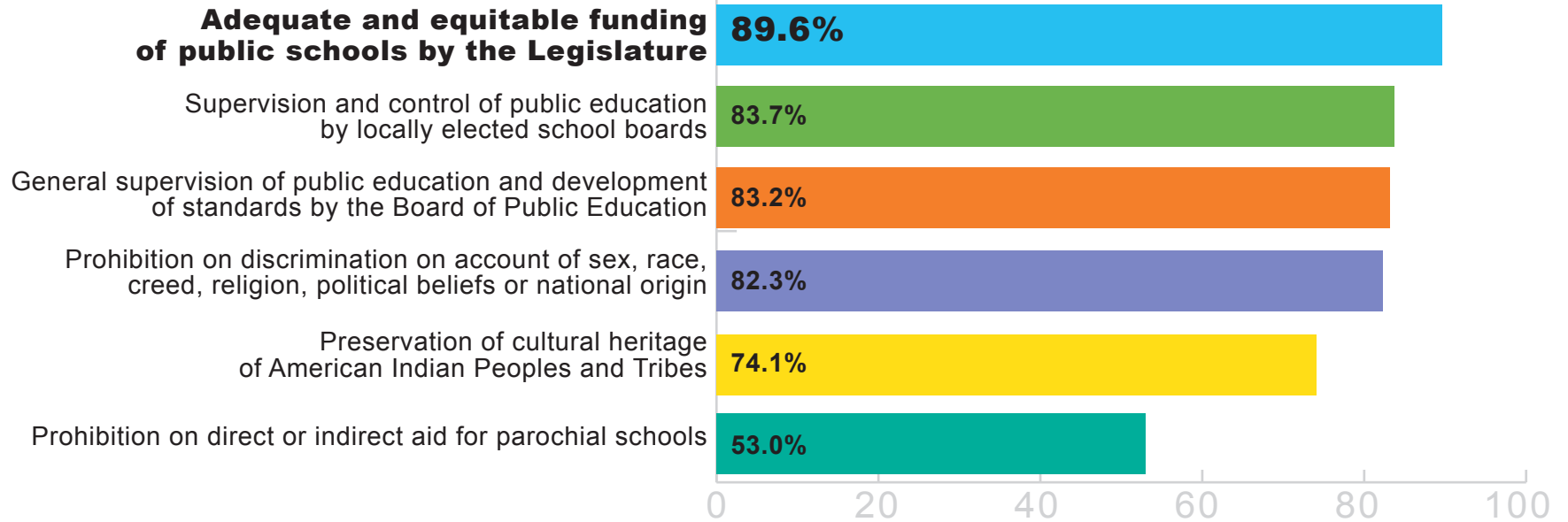


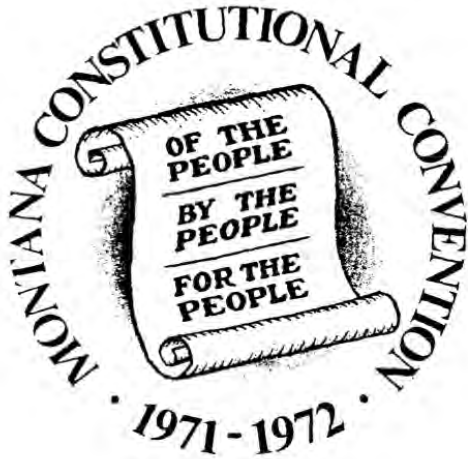
**Montana voters' opinions regarding school facilities and student achievement**



**Montana voters' cherish their constitutional guarantees.**

Percent identifying as important.





**The Montana Constitution provides that our publicly funded K-12 schools:**

Will devote themselves to developing the full educational potential of each person	Will afford citizens a right to attend and participate in decisions of the school board and access public documents	Will be adequately and equitably funded by the Legislature
Will be generally supervised by an appointed board of public education	Will be governed by local trustees, subject to popular election in each community	Will preserve the distinct and unique cultural heritage of American Indian Peoples and Tribes
Will provide equality of educational opportunity to each child	Will be nonsectarian and otherwise free from discrimination on account of sex, race, creed, religion, political beliefs, or national origin	Will protect the privacy interests of students

The Montana Constitution provides enforceable constitutional guarantees that substantially benefit all Montana citizens.

The founding of Montana’s Public Schools pre-dates Montana’s statehood by 25 years. The creation of a system of public schools was one of the first actions of the First Montana Territorial Legislative Assembly in 1864.

Since the first public school opened in Virginia City in 1865, Montana’s Public Schools have been preparing Montana children for a future of success over the last 150 years, governed by community-elected trustees all along the way.



A joint publication of the following education advocacy groups

**MASBO**  
Montana Association of School Business Officials

**MEA-MFT**  
Public Schools, Public Service

**MQEC**  
Montana Quality Education Coalition

**MREA**  
Montana Rural Education Association

**MTSBA**  
Montana School Boards Association

**SAM**  
School Administrators of Montana