

2023 Pre-Legislative Session Polling

In partnership with State Innovation Exchange
and Care in Action

Methodology

This survey was fielded by TargetSmart and reached 1,330 adults, aged 18 or older who are registered to vote in Georgia. We oversampled Black, Latino, and rural registered voters. We did take care to reflect the demographic distribution of registered voters in Georgia.

The survey was conducted December 14-20, 2022.

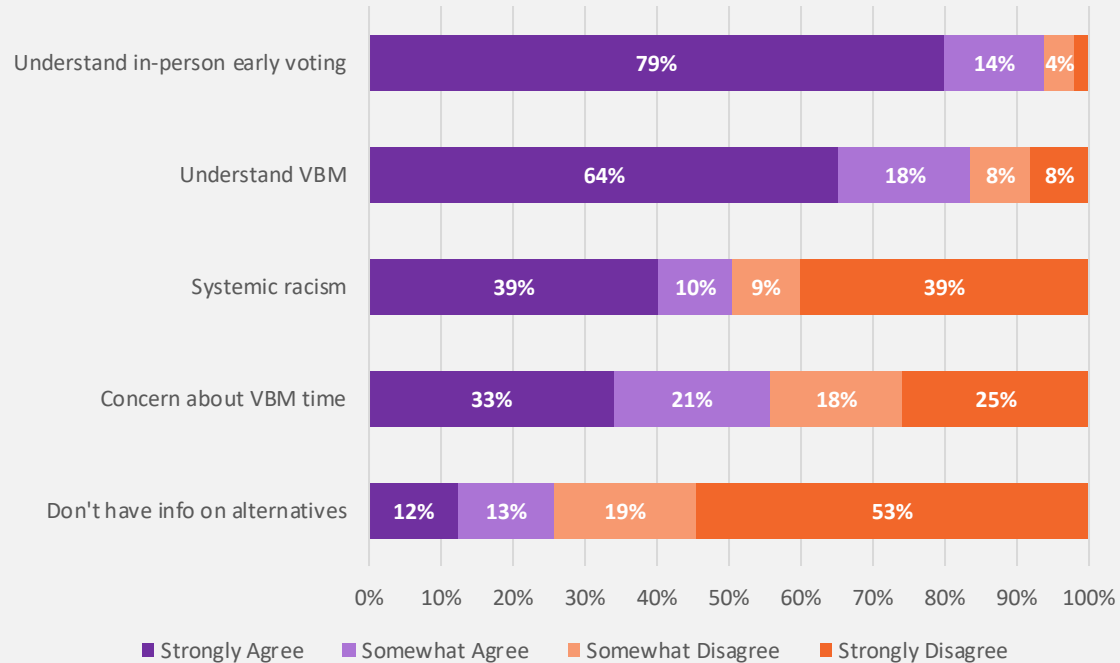
The margin of error is +/-3.1%.

Key Findings

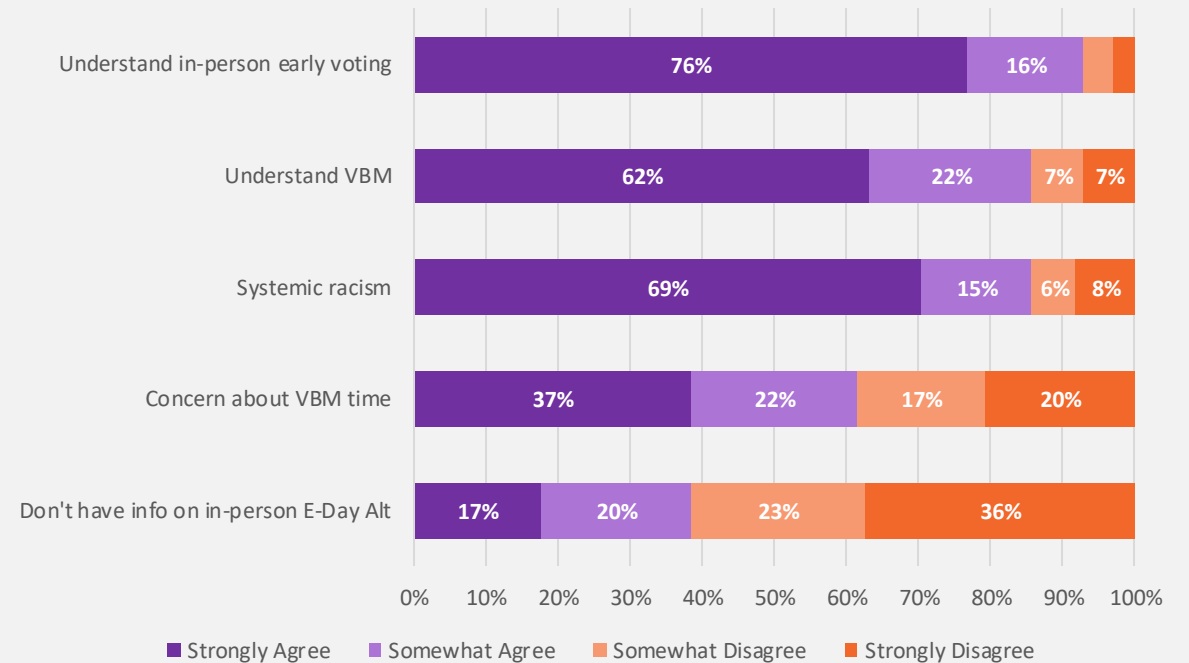
- Georgia voters across the board largely agree on several progressive policies.
- Georgia voters are more split regarding voting reforms than on economic reforms, but increasing polling locations and immediate notification of ballot issues are popular and unifying across demographics.
 - Black Georgians, unsurprisingly, are much more likely to support voting reforms than white Georgians.
- Investing in education, especially increasing public school funding and raising teacher pay, is a clear priority for Georgians.
- Georgia voters, especially Black voters, strongly support expanding Medicaid coverage, legalizing marijuana, and increasing the minimum wage.

Voting Sentiments

All Voters



Black Voters



Voting Sentiments

- Just over 90 percent of Black women agree that systemic racism prevents participation in democracy, compared to 76 percent of Black men. Nearly 22 percent of Black men disagree that systemic racism prevents participation in democracy, compared to eight percent of Black women. Across all Black voters, 14 percent disagreed.
- Nearly half of all Georgians (49 percent) see systemic racism as something which prevents democratic participation. Only 29 percent of white people say the same.
- Nearly 44 percent of Black men feel that they don't have enough information on how to take advantage of alternatives to voting in-person on Election Day (compared to 33 percent of Black women).
- All age groups, inclusive of all races, agreed that they have a clear understanding of the in-person early voting options available to them in Georgia.
- A majority of all age groups disagreed with the statement that they don't have enough information about how to take advantage of alternatives to voting in-person on Election Day. Those aged 18-34 were least likely to disagree with that statement out of any age group but were only 3 percentage points below the average.
- When looking at Black voters only, more young Black voters indicated they were concerned about lacking electoral information than older Black voters and young voters in general.

Voting – Democracy Reform

All Voters

	Support	Oppose
Ballot curing	88%	10%
Open more polling places	85%	14%
Vote at any location	75%	23%
Lengthen early voting	73%	24%
Allow any registered to VBM	68%	29%
Drop-box	66%	28%
Consolidating polling places	52%	43%
Mail everyone VBM applications	51%	45%
Eliminating runoffs	49%	45%
Ranked choice	47%	38%
Mail everyone ballots	41%	55%

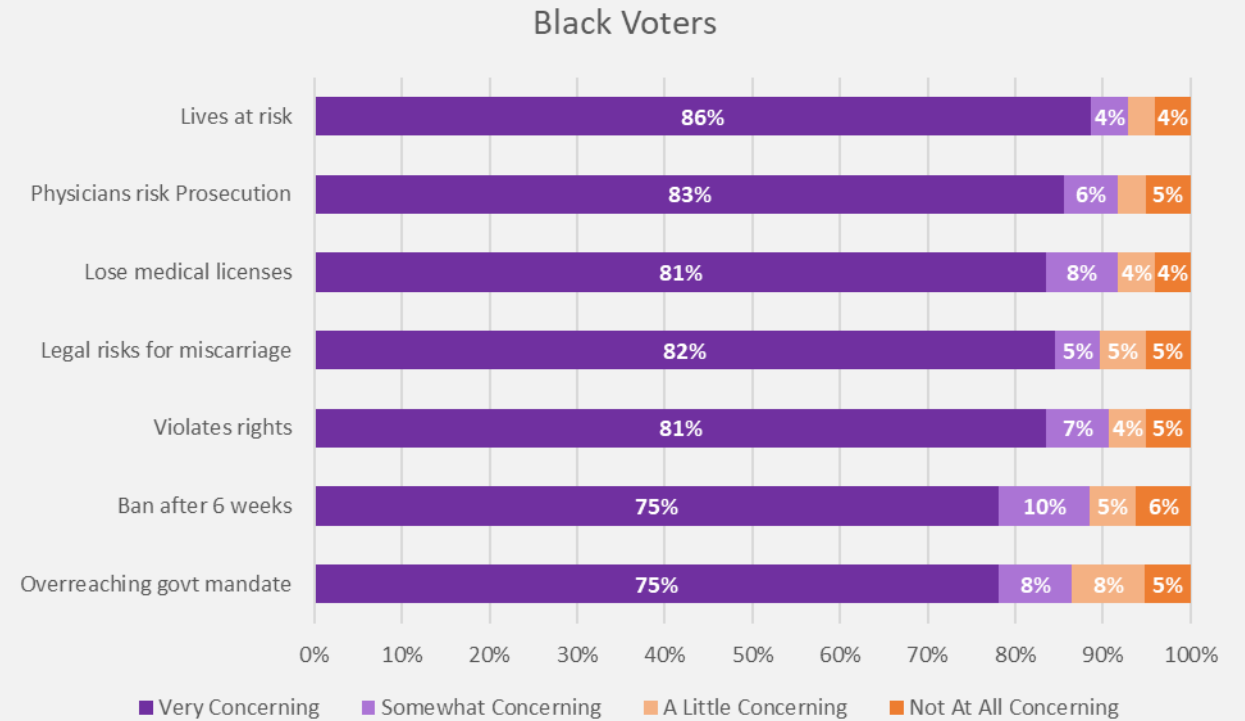
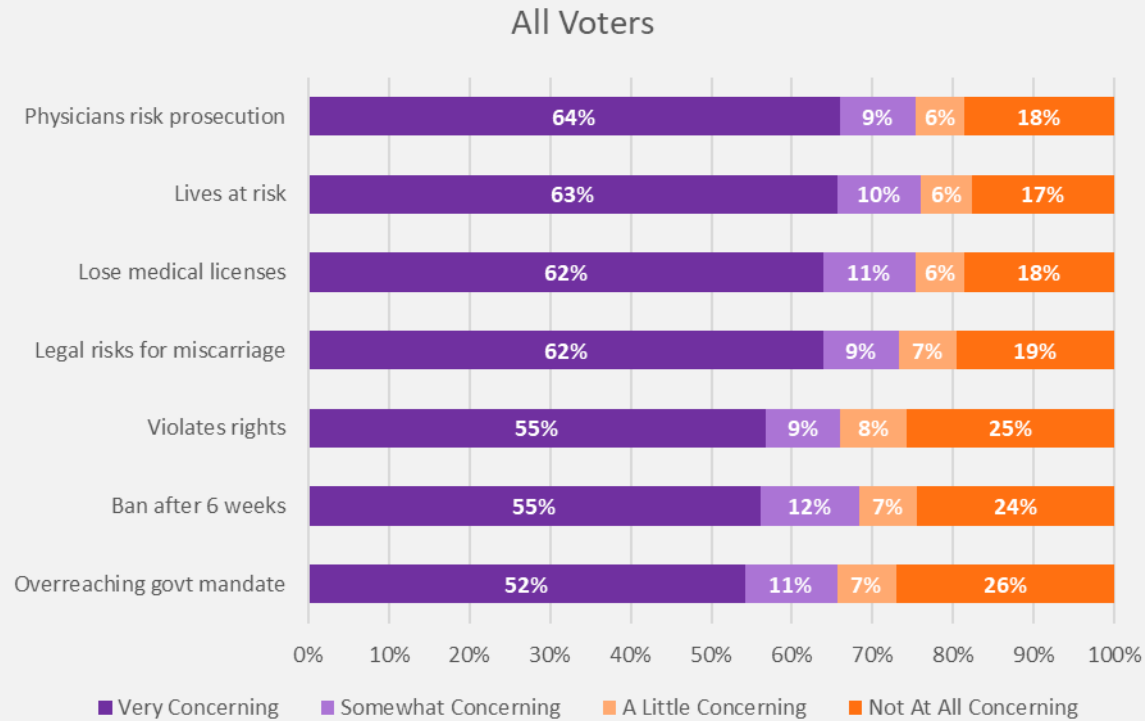
Black Voters

	Support	Oppose
Ballot curing	95%	3%
Open more polling places	94%	4%
Allow any registered to VBM	92%	5%
Vote at any location	90%	7%
Lengthen early voting	87%	9%
Drop-box	84%	10%
Mail everyone VBM applications	72%	23%
Mail everyone ballots	66%	29%
Consolidating polling places	61%	32%
Eliminating runoffs	56%	39%
Ranked choice	56%	28%

Voting – Democracy Reform

- Across all Georgia voters, reforms that are supported overwhelmingly include ballot curing, opening more polling places, voting at any location, lengthening early voting, allowing any registered voter to vote by mail, and increasing access to drop boxes.
- It is interesting, yet unsurprising, to note that Black voters supported democratic reforms expanding access to voting at a higher rate than all voters.
- Slightly more than half of Black voters (56 percent) support eliminating runoff elections, while a little over a third of Black voters oppose eliminating runoff elections (39 percent) in Georgia. Similarly, 32 percent of Black voters oppose consolidating polling locations in anticipation of poll worker shortages.
- Black men lead in support for lengthening the early voting window (93 percent), 9 percentage points higher than Black women (84 percent). In support of returning ballots received in the mail via secure, local drop box, 89 percent of Black men agree.

Issues – Abortion Concerns of All Voters & Black Voters



Issues – Abortion Concerns of All Voters & Black Voters

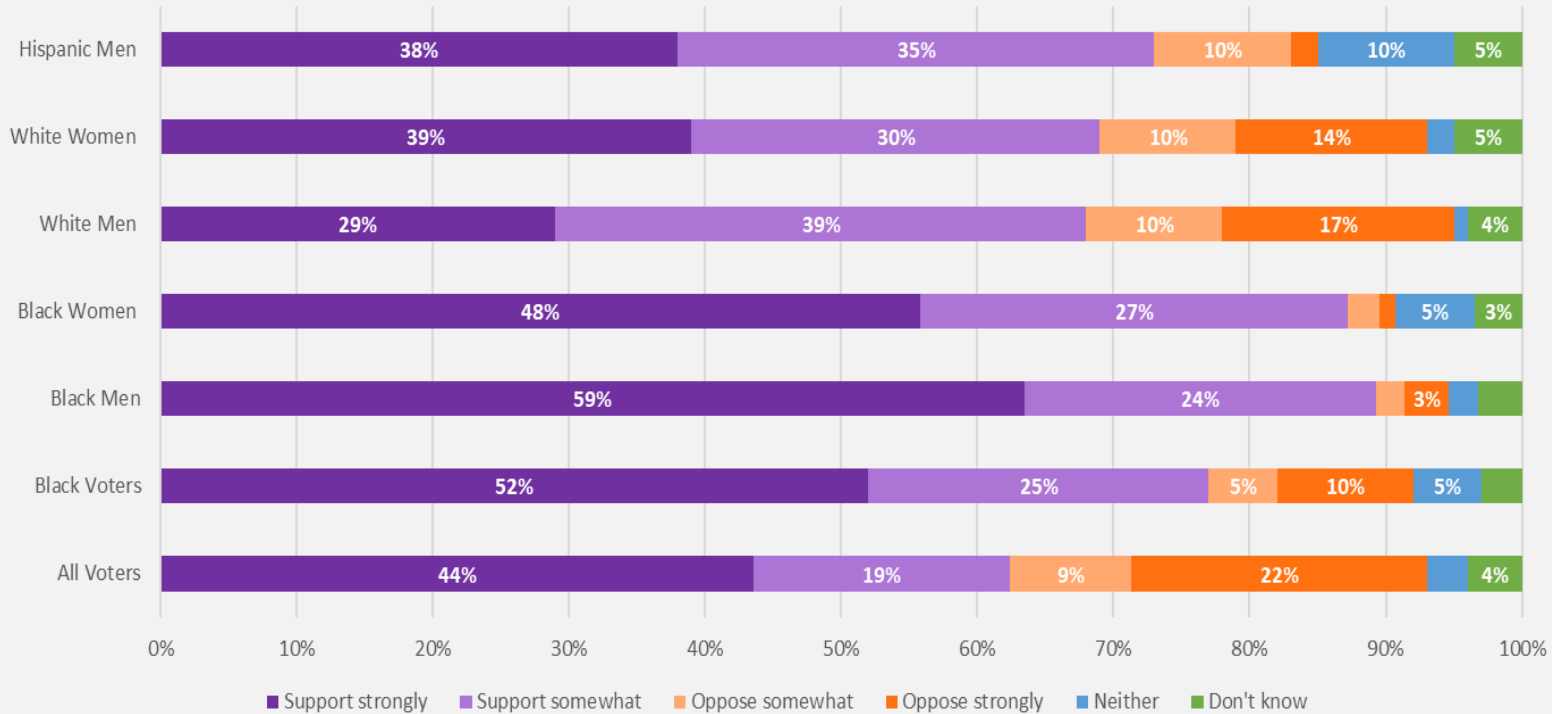
- While Black voters are, on average, more concerned about the negative impacts of an abortion ban than all voters on average, it is very important to note that over 60 percent of all Georgia voters expressed some level of concern for each of the negative impacts listed.
- The leading concern Black voters have regarding the six-week abortion ban in Georgia is that women's lives are being put at risk if doctors fear legal repercussions for administering lifesaving care to pregnant women (90 percent).
- Just over 90 percent of Black women are concerned on some level about the possibility of physicians losing their medical license for providing care to miscarriage patients, including 81 percent who are very concerned. A slightly lower percentage of Black men (86 percent) are concerned about physicians losing their license, including 79 percent who are very concerned.
- Nearly half (42 percent) of all Georgians aged over 64 were “a little/not at all concern[ed]” about the *Dobbs* decision violating rights. Those aged 35-49 and 50-64 were also least concerned about the violation of rights, but at lower rates. Those aged 18-34 and over 64 were least concerned about the overreaching government mandate.

Issues – Marijuana Legalization

Three-quarters of all Black voters (78 percent) support the legalization of marijuana and, of those, 52 percent strongly support.

Black men overwhelmingly support legalization (83 percent).

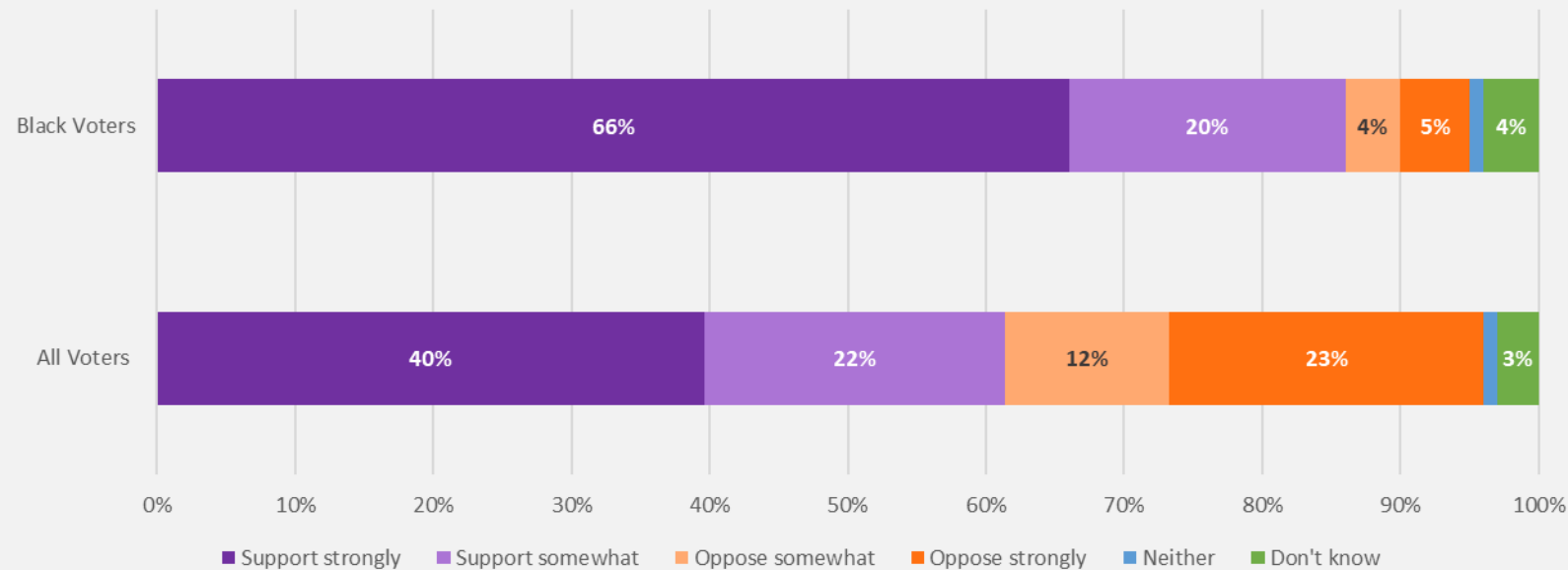
Marijuana Legalization



A majority of Georgia voters (63 percent), across race/ethnicity, age, and political leaning, support legalizing marijuana.

Issues – Voting Rights Restoration

Do you support or oppose a policy that would allow individuals the right to vote upon release from prison?

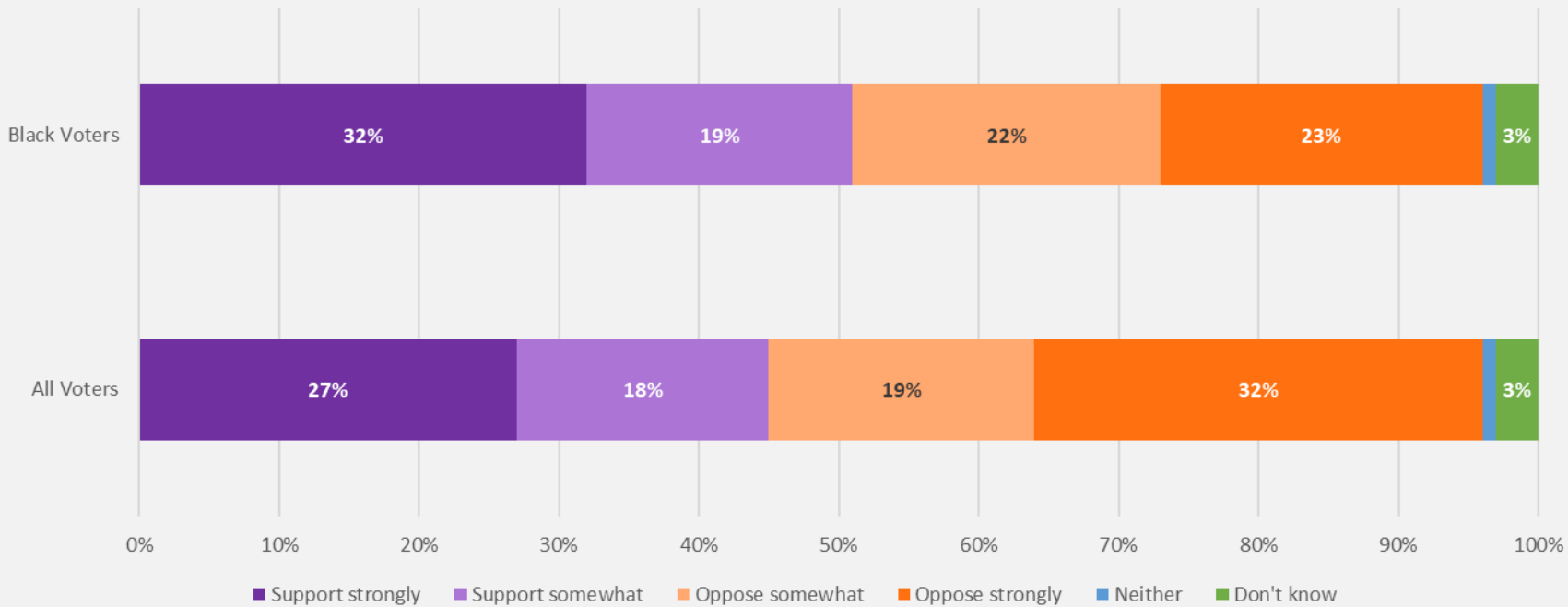


Over 60 percent of all Georgia voters across demographics support allowing returning citizens to vote.

Nearly nine of every ten Black voters (86 percent) support a policy that would allow individuals the right to vote upon release from prison.

Issues – Employment for Returning Citizens

Do you support or oppose banning employers from asking potential employees about their past history of criminal convictions and incarceration?



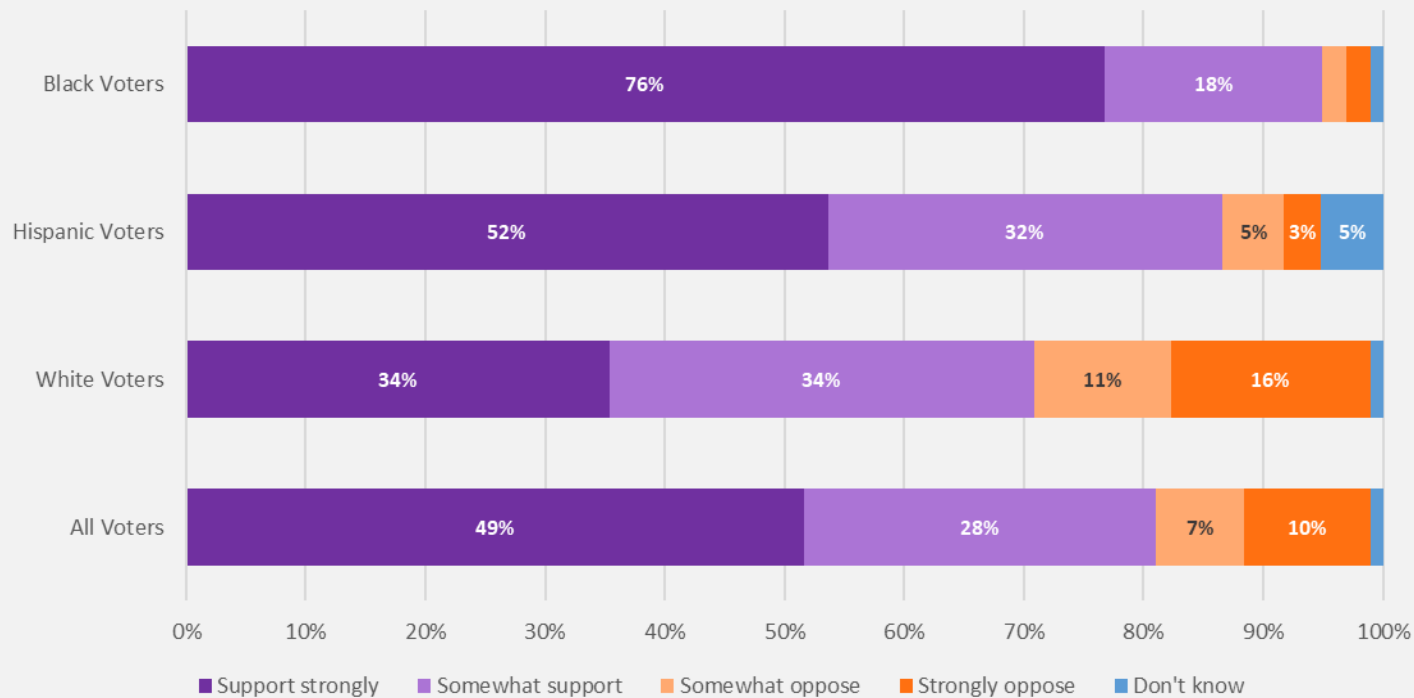
The stance of banning employers from asking potential employees about their history of criminal convictions and incarceration was almost split evenly across all Georgians. Just under half (45 percent) of all voters support this effort, and just over half (51 percent) of all voters strongly oppose this effort. Black voters are evenly split as well.

Issues – Medicaid Expansion

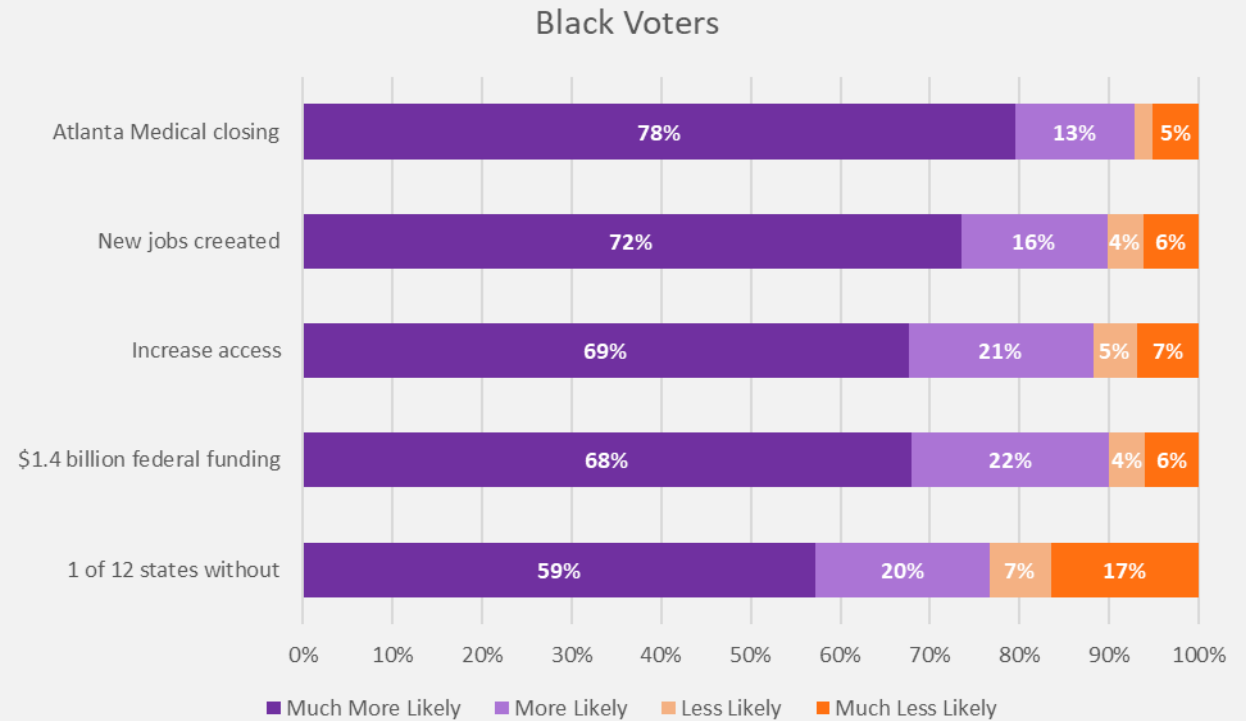
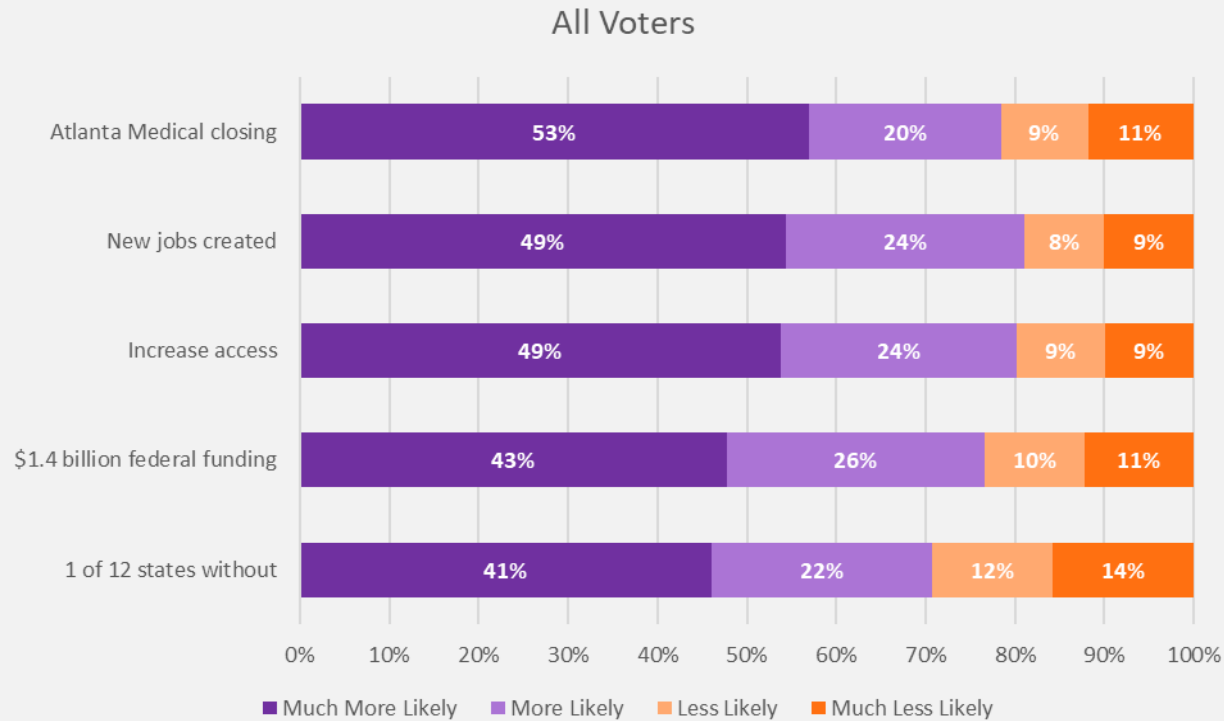
The overwhelming majority of all Georgians across demographics support expanding Medicaid, with 77 percent of all voters in favor and just under half strongly in favor.

At 94 percent, Black voters are more supportive of expanding Medicaid, 17 percentage points above the average and 26 percentage points above white voters.

Support and Opposition for Medicaid Expansion



Issues – Medicaid Expansion Arguments



Issues – Medicaid Expansion Arguments

- When asked whether arguments on Medicaid made them more or less likely to support the proposal to expand the Medicaid program in Georgia, the creation of new jobs and increasing access to healthcare were the most convincing (both 73 percent) for all Georgians regardless of race. It's important to note that all arguments were convincing to at least 60 percent of all Georgia voters.
- Of the arguments presented, the closure of the Atlanta Medical Center and the need for Georgia hospitals rendered the greatest support among Black voters (91 percent).
- Just over 92 percent of Black men are more likely to support based on the argument of hospital closures and the need for hospitals. Nearly 90 percent of Black women are more likely to support based on this argument.
- Nearly 93 percent of Black women said they were more likely to support expanding Medicaid when given the information that Georgia would receive \$1.4 billion in federal funding.
- Arguments that were less likely to see support from Black men included Georgia being 1 of 12 states that has not expanded Medicaid (19 percent), \$1.4 billion in federal funding for expansion (10 percent), and job creation (8 percent). For Black women, these percentages were 15 percent, 3 percent, and 4 percent, respectively.

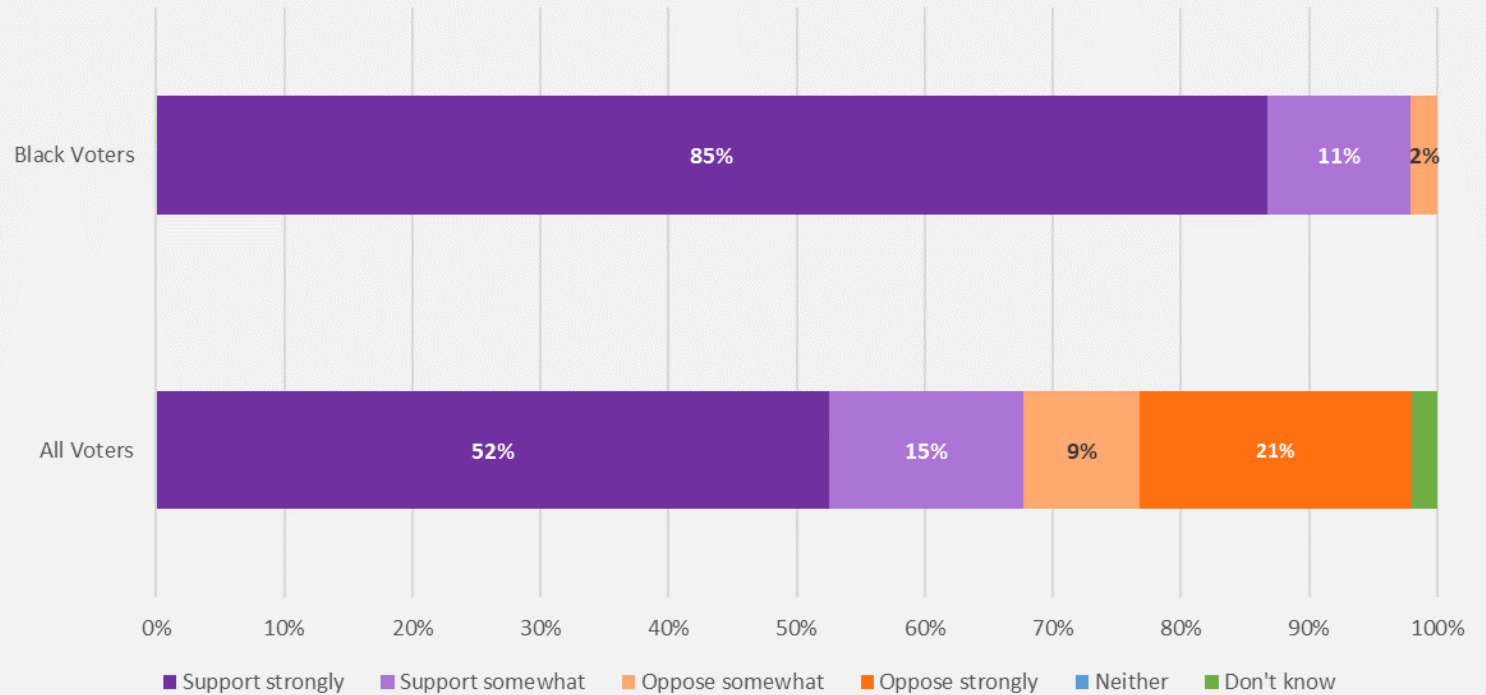
Issues – Minimum Wage

Nearly a supermajority of all voters support raising the minimum wage to \$15/hr.

Black voters overwhelmingly support increasing the minimum wage to \$15/hr. Over 97 percent of Black women and 96 percent of Black men support this increase.

Across all voters, over half of all age groups support increasing the minimum wage to \$15/hr. Those aged between 18-34 support increasing the minimum wage the most with 89 percent of the age group vocalizing support.

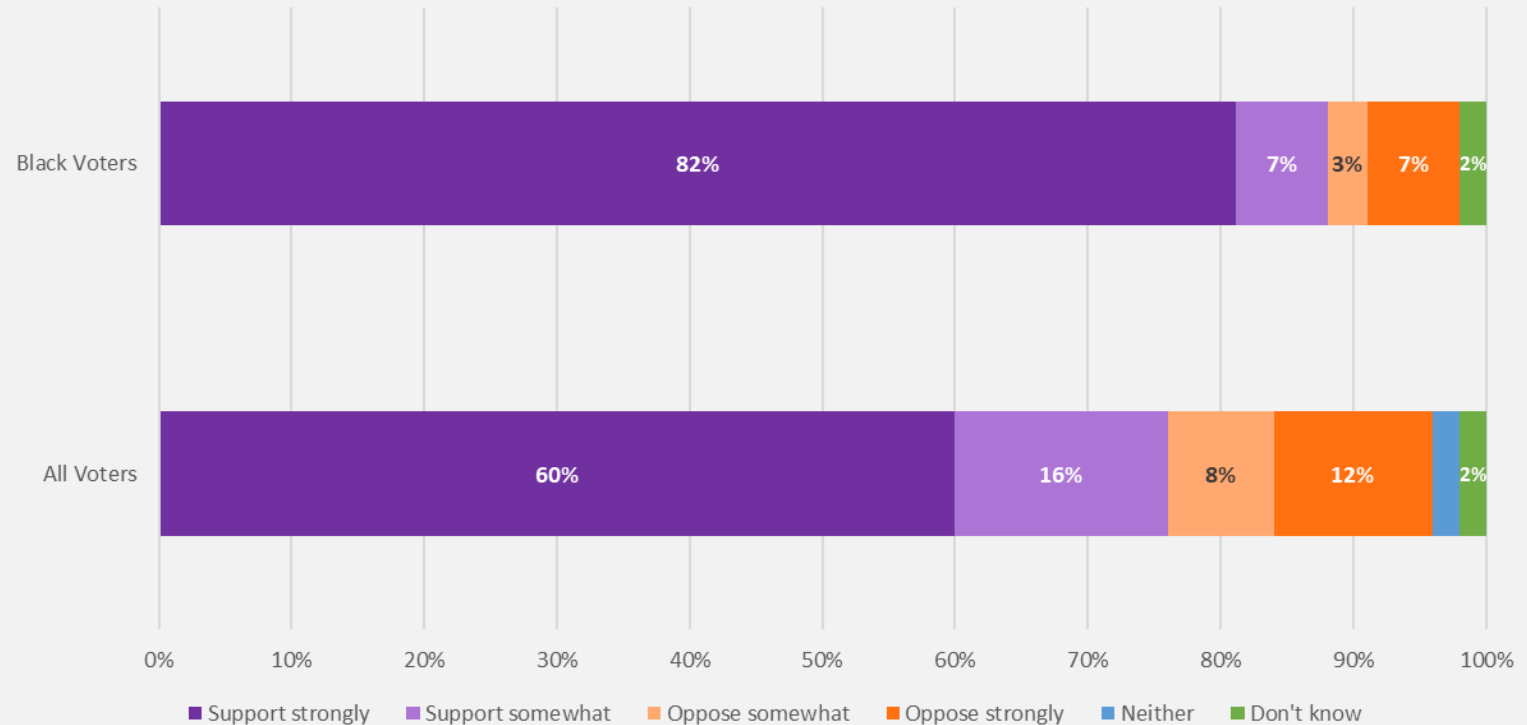
Support and Opposition for Increasing Minimum Wage to \$15



Issues – Minimum Wage

When asked whether they support an increase to Georgia's current minimum wage of \$5.15/hr, **without placing a dollar amount on the increase**, 89 percent of Black voters say they support – which is down 7 percentage points from the proposal of \$15. However, for all voters the percentage of those who would support this change increased by 9 percentage points (76 percent).

Support and Opposition for Increasing Minimum Wage, Generally



State Budget Policy Priorities

	Total	Black	White	Hispanic	Black Younger	White Younger	Black Older	White Older
Education/education funding/teacher salary..	42%	48%	38%	53%	55%	46%	36%	33%
Public health/health care/hospital access	26%	30%	23%	36%	32%	31%	29%	17%
Roads/highways/infrastructure/public transportation	18%	13%	18%	18%	16%	13%	9%	21%
Housing/affordable housing/low-income housing...	8%	12%	6%	10%	11%	9%	14%	3%
Medicaid expansion/universal health care	6%	10%	4%	3%	9%	5%	12%	4%
Don't know/refused	12%	10%	14%	7%	9%	12%	10%	17%
Retirement/aging in place/seniors/Medicare	4%	7%	3%	1%	6%	2%	8%	5%
Job creation/economic development/job training/trade schools	6%	6%	5%	5%	7%	3%	5%	6%
Crime/public safety/police/police training/emergency services	9%	5%	11%	13%	3%	11%	6%	11%

- Georgians across all demographics prioritize education, health, and infrastructure/transportation when it comes to state budget policy priorities.
- Roughly 59 percent of Black men prioritized education, funding, and teacher salaries, followed by public health and access to healthcare (32 percent), while 40 percent of Black women prioritize education, followed by 30 percent who prioritize access to healthcare. More Black women prioritized affordable housing and Medicaid expansion than any other group.
- At 14 percent, older Black Georgians were the most likely to name affordable housing as a top state budget priority when compared to voters of all ages and races. Young Black Georgians were more likely to see education as a state budget priority than young white voters and young voters in general.

State Budget Surplus Priorities

When asked what the state should do with a budget surplus, Georgians across the board said the money should go to rural health, disability support, and workforce development.

The highest priorities for funding for Black voters was disability support, workforce, and health care/drug cost.

	Total	Black	White	Hispanic	Black Younger	White Younger	Black Older	White Older
Rural health	92%	97%	89%	97%	97%	90%	98%	87%
Disability support	92%	98%	88%	96%	97%	89%	99%	88%
Workforce	90%	98%	86%	91%	98%	87%	97%	85%
At-home care	89%	96%	86%	82%	95%	86%	98%	87%
Water	88%	93%	85%	87%	94%	86%	89%	85%
Health care/drug costs	88%	97%	84%	88%	95%	84%	99%	84%
Public school infrastructure	87%	95%	82%	92%	95%	85%	94%	80%
Higher teacher pay	86%	96%	81%	86%	96%	86%	95%	76%
Affordable housing	81%	97%	72%	87%	98%	78%	96%	69%
Child care	81%	95%	74%	85%	95%	82%	94%	68%
Paid family leave	77%	93%	68%	81%	94%	78%	90%	60%
Broadband	76%	85%	69%	84%	83%	72%	88%	68%
Speed up unemployment claims	73%	88%	66%	79%	88%	70%	90%	63%
Grants for families	72%	90%	63%	76%	92%	75%	85%	52%
Small biz grants	66%	94%	52%	68%	95%	60%	92%	45%

THANK YOU!



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