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To: Colorado Education Association

From: Paul Harstad

Date: January 21, 2020

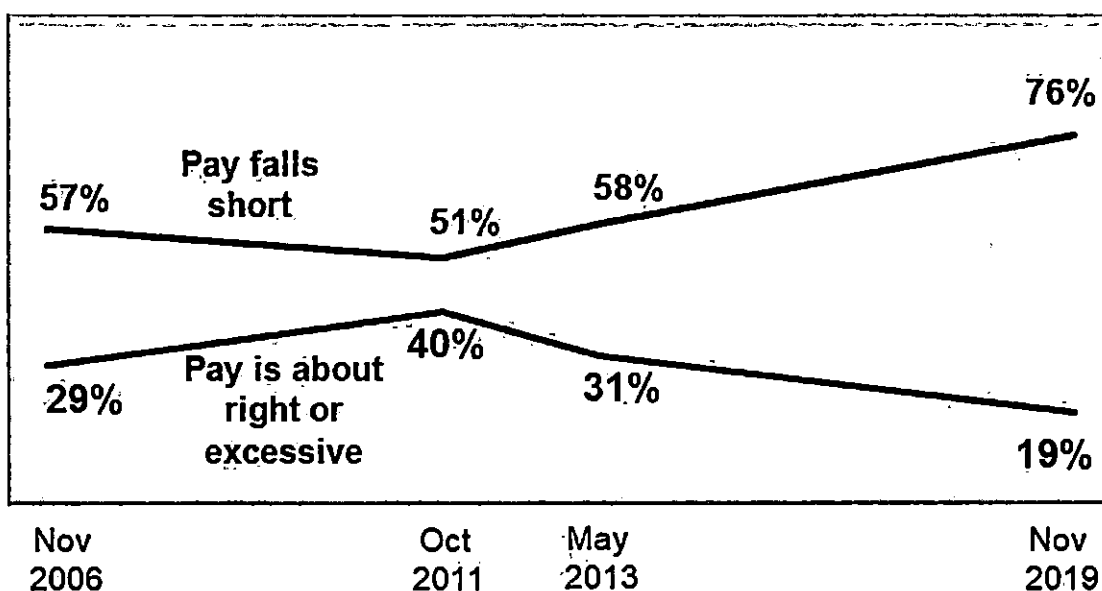
Re: Colorado Voters Overwhelmingly Support Significantly Raising Teacher Pay

More than 3/4ths of Colorado voters believe teacher pay "falls short of what it ought to be," and favor a legislative proposal to raise starting teacher pay to at least \$40,000 plus regional factors such as cost-of-living differentials. This striking consensus is according to our late-2019 Colorado statewide survey among a representative cross-section of 602 likely voters.

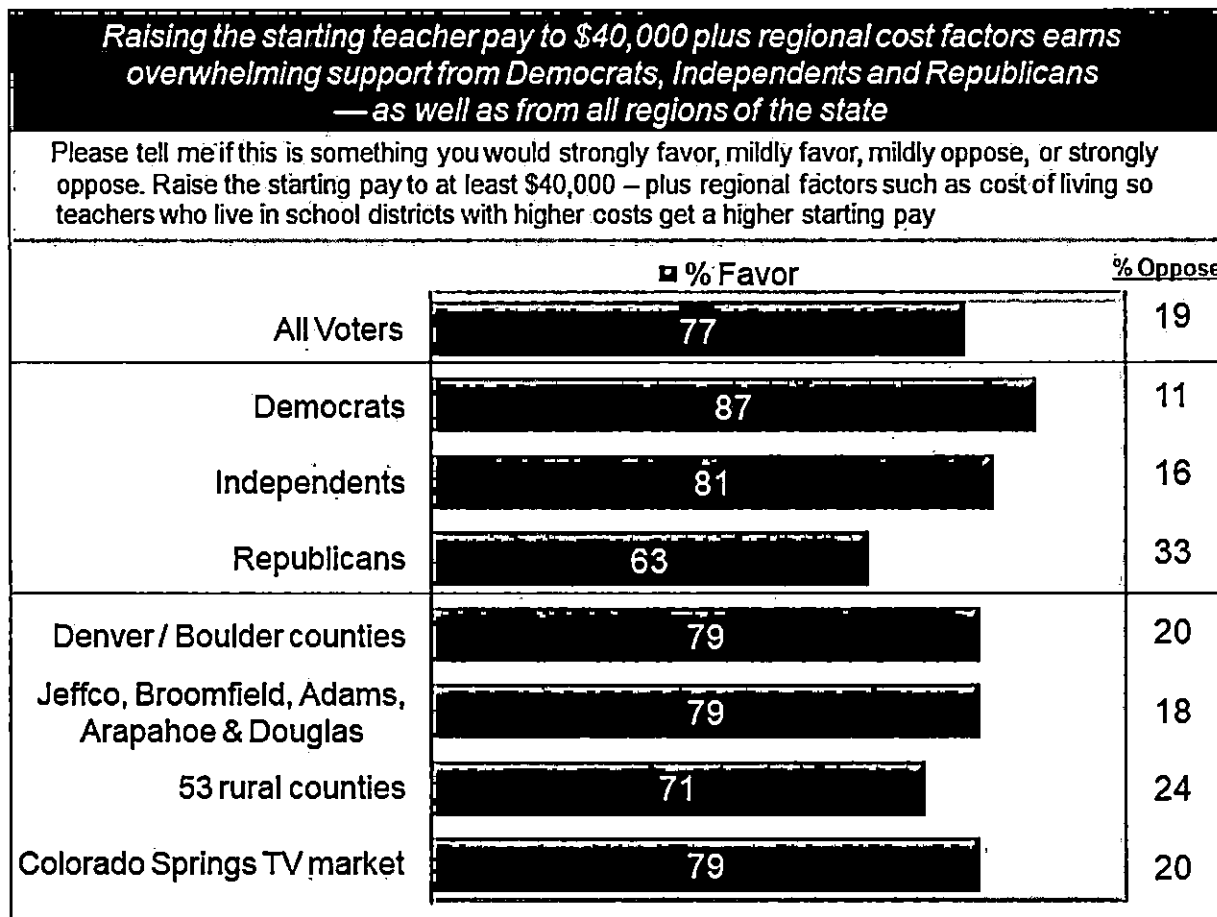
While a majority of Coloradans have long considered teacher pay to be inadequate per the following timetable, this perception has broadened lately to fully 76% of voters who say it "falls short" of what it out to be. This includes 43% who say teacher pay "falls far short." Fewer than 1/5th of voters say teacher pay is "about right" (17%) or "excessive" (2%).

Fully three-fourths of Colorado voters consider teacher pay to fall short of what it ought to be – a significant broadening of that majority viewpoint in the past decade

Based on what you've heard or read, do you think the pay for public school teachers is excessive, at about the right level, or falls short of what it ought to be?



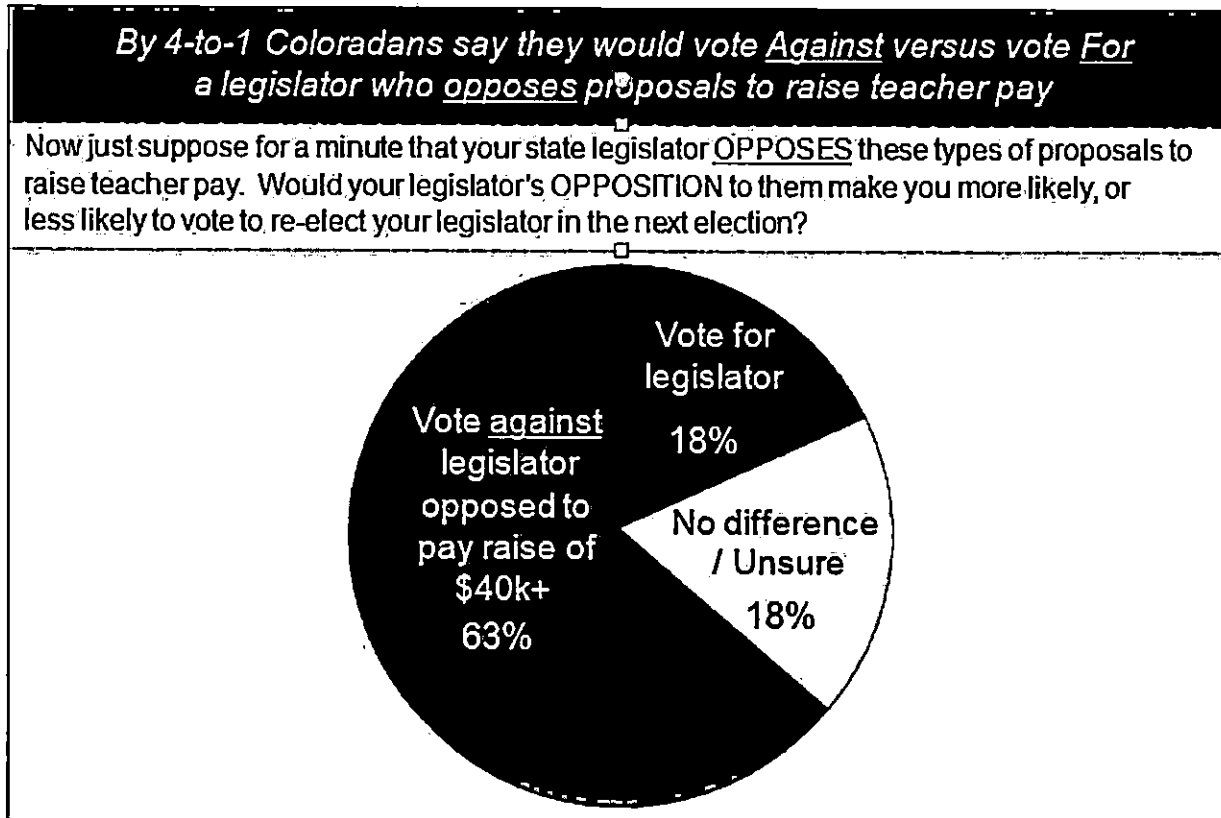
When it comes to solutions, more than 3/4ths of Coloradans favor this legislative proposal for public school teachers: *“Raise the starting pay to \$40,000 – plus regional factors such as cost-of-living so teachers who live in school districts with higher costs get a higher starting pay.”* Fully 77% favor this \$40,000-plus starting teacher pay, while just 19% oppose it. Among those who feel strongly, 48% strongly favor it versus 8% who strongly oppose it.



As the above chart depicts, this \$40,000-plus starting pay is favored by solid majorities of Democrats, Independents and Republicans. And it is supported by more than 70% of voters in all sections of Colorado – from metro Denver (79%) to the Colorado Springs TV market (79%) to our 53 rural counties (71%).

Indeed, fully four-out-of-five Coloradans with an opinion consider teacher pay inadequate and favor a minimum \$40,000 starting salary for teachers plus regional cost adjustments (if one simply factors out the 5% or 4% respectively who are not sure about these two questions).

Furthermore, by a margin of 4-to-1, voters say they would be *less* likely (63%) rather than *more* likely (18%) to vote to reelect their state legislator who *opposes* such proposals to raise teacher pay.



Those saying they would vote against an anti-pay raise for teachers include registered Democrats (by 7-to-1), Independents (by 5-to-1), and even a narrow plurality of Republicans. Regionally, Denver metro voters would oppose an anti-pay raise legislator by 4-to-1, Colorado Springs TV voters by 3-to-1, and voters in our 53 rural counties by 2-to-1.

The bottom line is that Coloradans are increasingly and overwhelmingly galvanized to support significant pay raises for public school teachers. Those who oppose significant teacher pay raises do so at their own peril.

Harstad Research conducted this Colorado statewide survey from November 3 to 6, 2019, among a representative cross-section of 602 likely voters in the November 2020 election. Respondents were reached by live interviewers on both landlines and cell phones. The results are subject to a statistical margin-of-error of plus-or-minus 4% at the 95% confidence interval.