



Afterschool Alliance

2008 Afterschool Findings from Election Eve/Election Day Omnibus Survey

December 2008

Methodology

Lake Research Partners designed and administered this election eve/night omnibus survey, which was conducted by phone using professional interviewers. The survey reached a total of 1,200 likely registered voters nationwide. The sample consisted of 1,000 interviews among voters who were reached on landline phones and an oversample of 200 interviews among voters reached on cell phones. The survey was conducted November 2nd through November 4th, 2008.

Telephone numbers for the base sample were drawn from an RDD sample. The oversample of cell phones was drawn from a listed sample. The sample was stratified geographically based on the proportion of voters in each region. Data were weighted to reflect the actual Congressional and Presidential vote, by gender, party identification, race, age, region, and probability of selection and phone usage. The margin of error for the survey is +/- 2.8%.

Key Findings: Support for Afterschool Programs

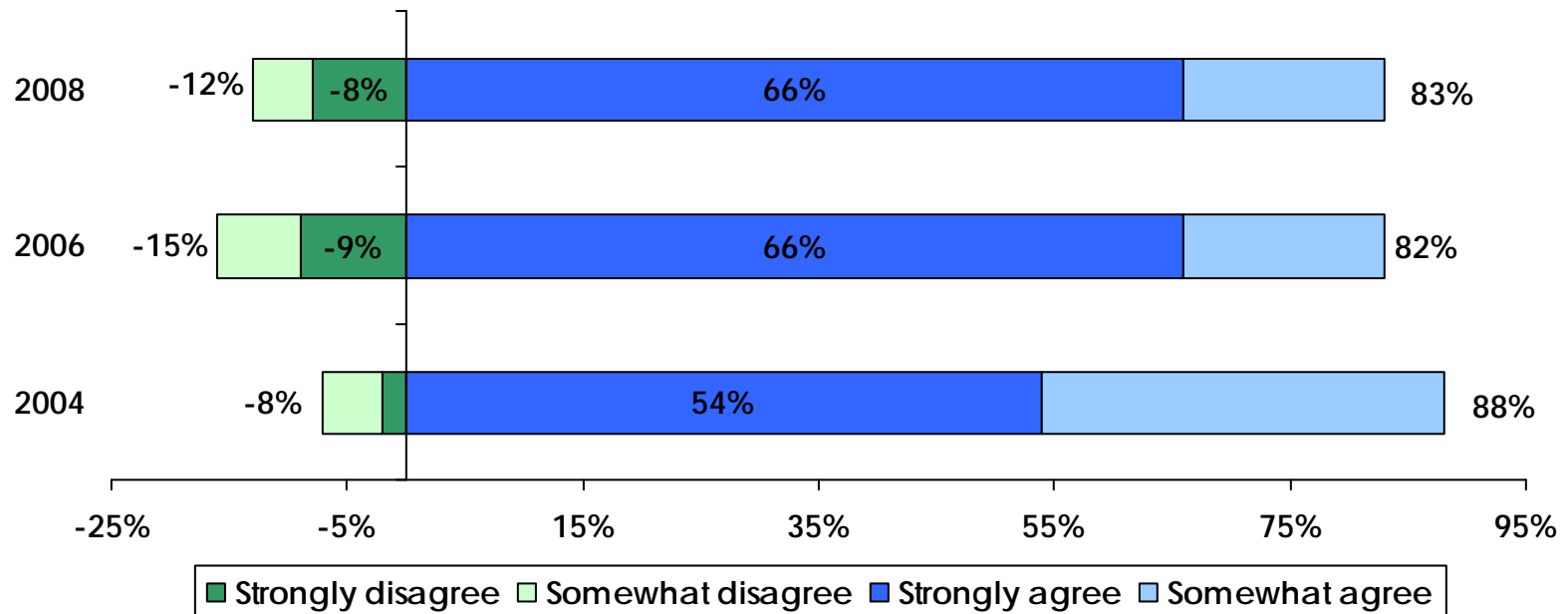
- Eighty-three percent agree there should be some type of organized activity or safe place for children/teens to go after school every day that provides opportunities to learn. Sixty-six percent strongly agree.
- This strong support for afterschool crosses all party, ideological and demographic lines. Ninety-four percent of Democrats, 83 percent of Independents and 71 percent of Republicans agree that there's a need for an organized activity or safe place for children/teens, as do 73 percent of conservatives. Majorities of voters across races, ages and regions, as well as parents and non-parents agree.
- Men are more supportive of afterschool now than in recent years. Sixty-three percent strongly agree there should be some type of organized activity or safe place for children and teens to go after school every day that provides opportunities for them to learn, compared to 53 percent in 2006.
- Three in four voters (76 percent) agree that afterschool programs are an absolute necessity for their community, and 58 percent strongly agree.

Key Findings: Importance of Afterschool Programs and Funding

- Given the dangers young people face after school, almost nine in ten voters (89 percent) say afterschool programs are important.
- Voters think that afterschool programs play an important role in keeping youth in school, helping them graduate and preparing them for the workforce. Seventy-six percent of voters agree that afterschool programs are important to preparing youth to enter the workforce of the future, and 76 percent think afterschool programs are important for helping youth stay in school and addressing the dropout crisis in America.
- Three in four voters (76 percent yes, 59 percent strong yes) say newly elected officials in Congress, as well as new state and local leaders, should increase funding for afterschool programs. Fewer than one in five voters disagree that this funding should be increased.

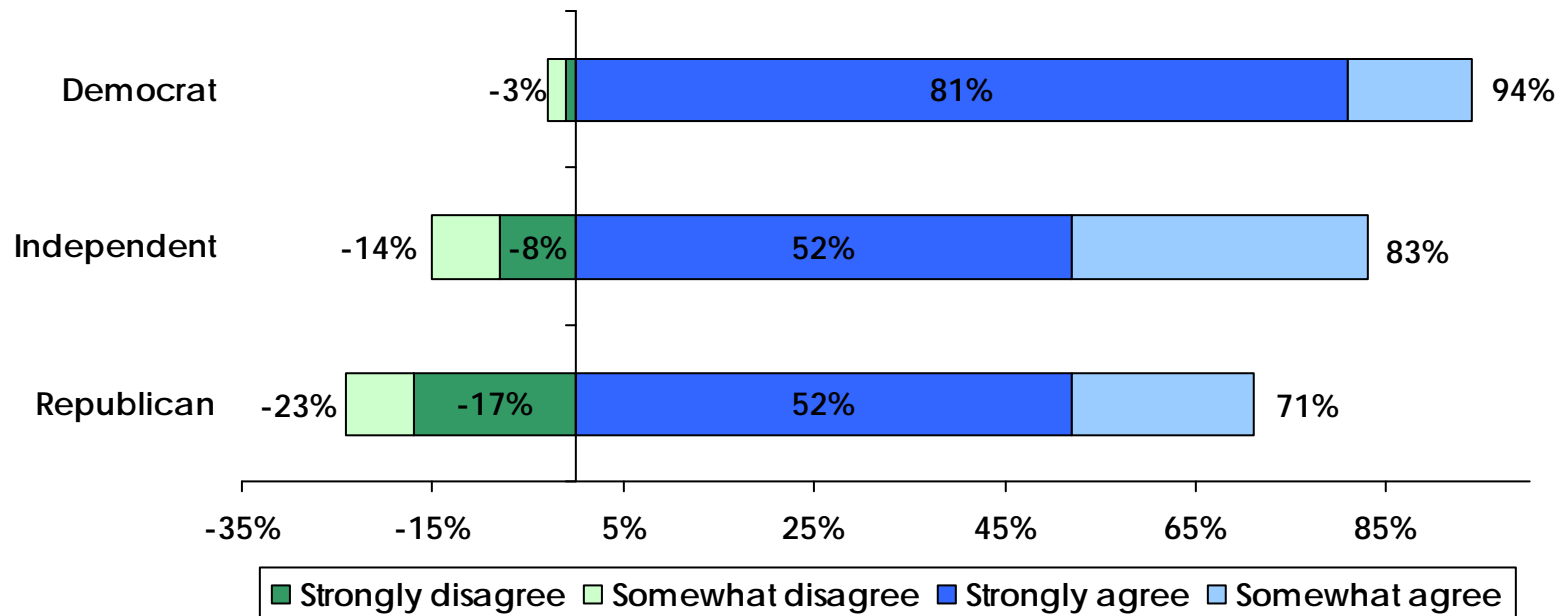
Most voters strongly agree that there should be some type of organized activity or safe place for children and teens to go after school every day.

Some people say that we should be concerned that too many children and teens are unsupervised after school and have too much unstructured time. In response, they suggest that there should be some type of organized activity or safe place for children and teens to go after school every day that provides opportunities for them to learn. Do you agree or disagree that there should be some type of organized activity or safe place for children and teens to go after school every day that provides opportunities for them to learn?



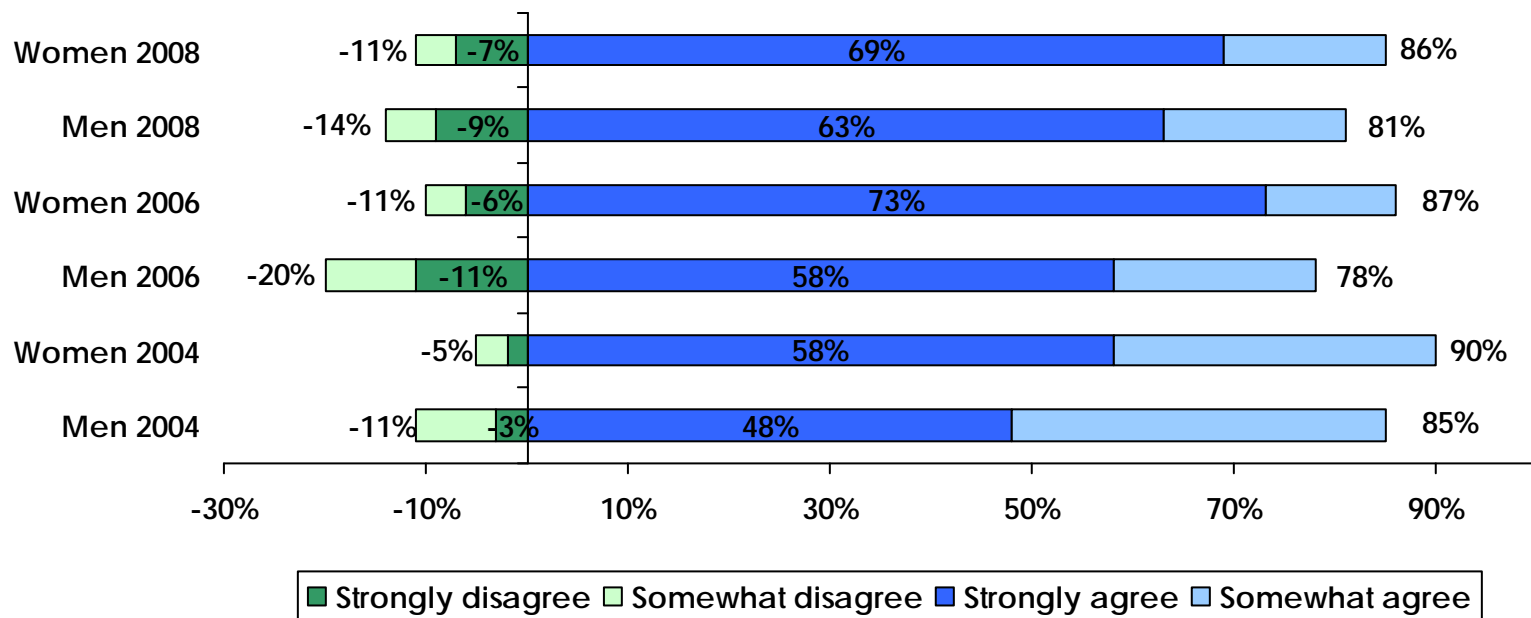
There is agreement across party lines as well.

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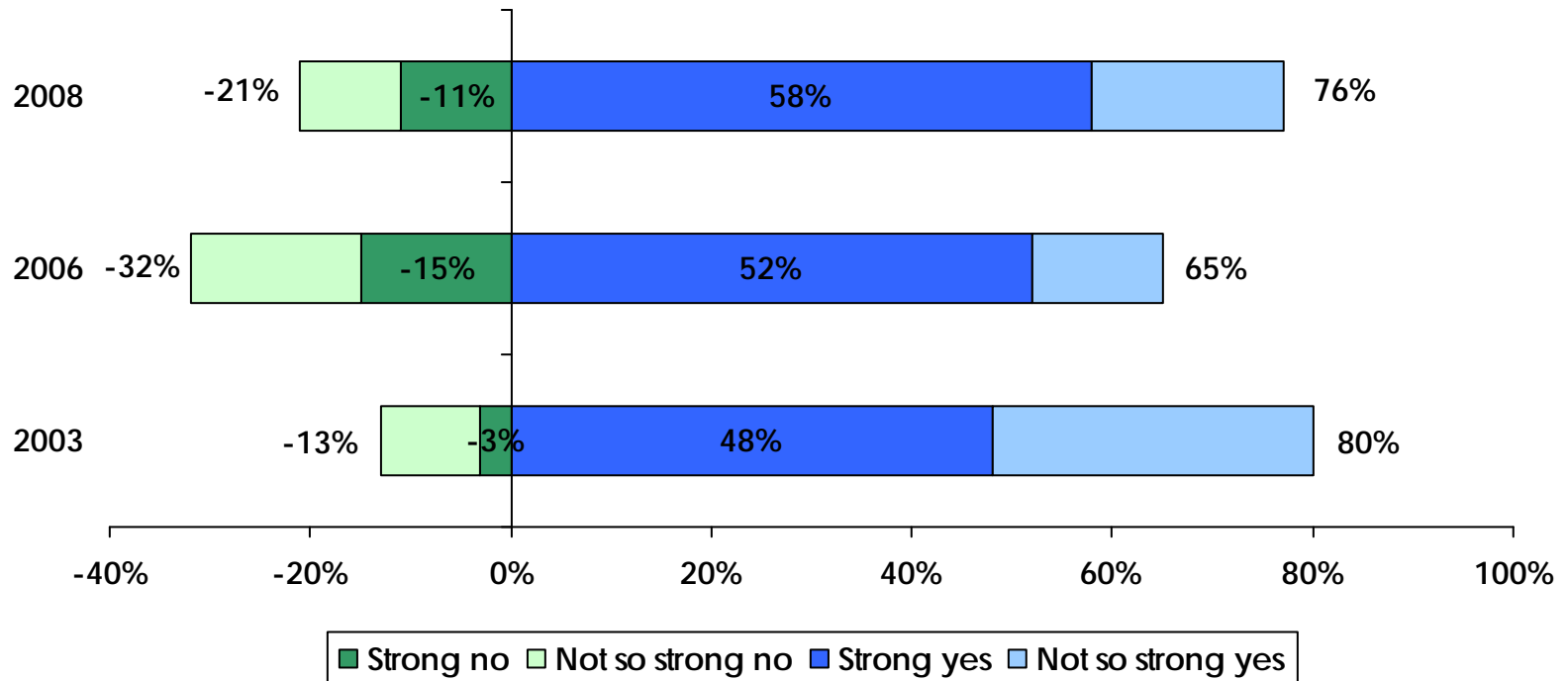
Men prove more likely to strongly agree than in 2004 and 2006. Their support this year is closer to women than in past years.

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Over three in four voters see afterschool programs as an absolute necessity in their community, and intensity has been gradually rising since 2003.

Thinking about children and the hours after school, would you say that afterschool programs are an absolute necessity for your community?



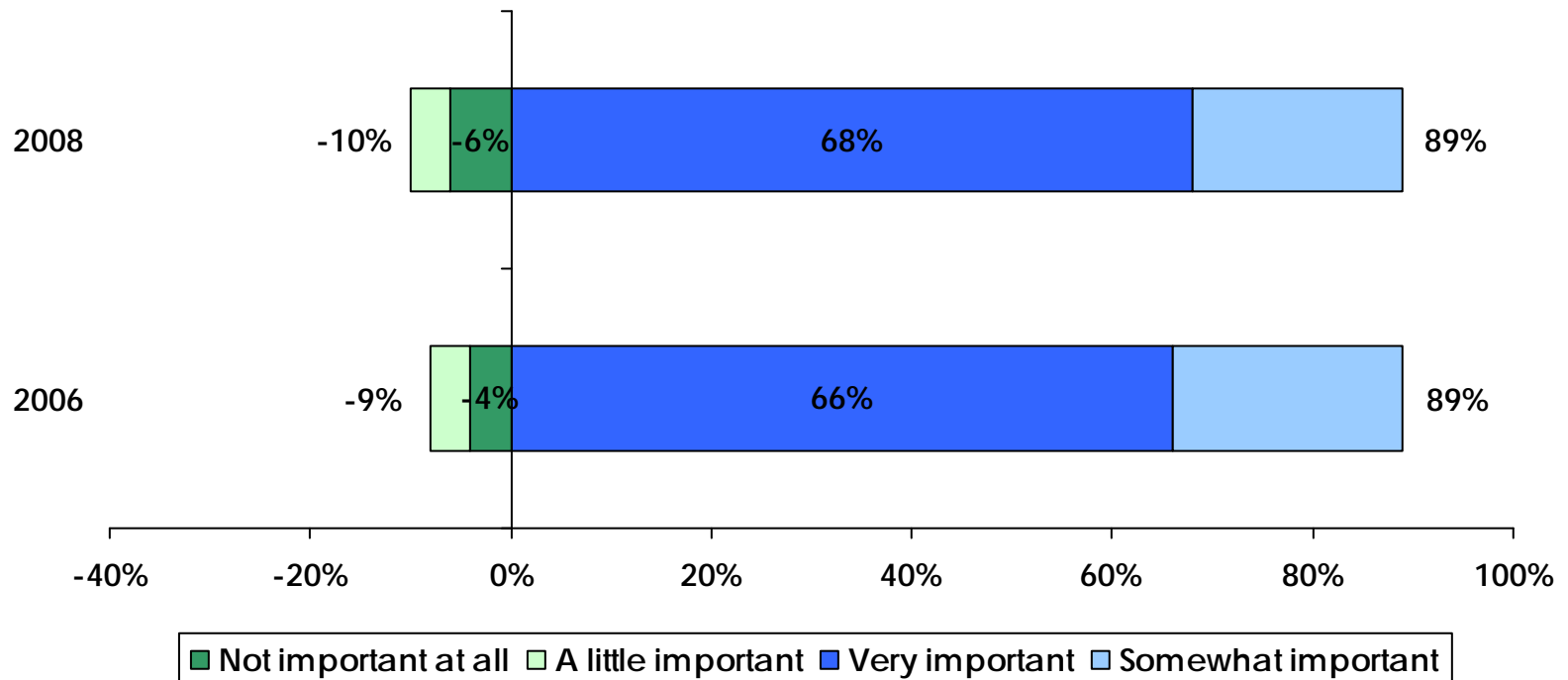
This year, men are also more likely than in past years to strongly believe that afterschool programs are an absolute necessity in their community.

- Again, there is a narrowing of the gender gap (2008: men – 73 percent yes, 53 percent strong yes, women – 79 percent, 62 percent; 2006: men – 59 percent, 45 percent, women – 72 percent, 59 percent; 2003: men – 75 percent, 41 percent, women - 84 percent, 54 percent).
- Those most likely to strongly believe that afterschool programs are a necessity include African Americans (81 percent), especially African American men* (85 percent), Hispanics (76 percent), especially Hispanic women* (82 percent), Democratic women (75 percent), strong Democrats (73 percent), those in labor union households (70 percent), voters in the East South Central region* (69 percent), working mothers (67 percent), women under 50 (65 percent), New Englanders* (65 percent), and voters with a high school diploma or less (65 percent).
- While intensity among Democrats and Republicans is up from 2006 and 2003, Independents are less likely to strongly believe that afterschool programs are a necessity than they were two years ago (2008, 2006 and 2003, respectively: Democrats – 70 percent strong yes, 63 percent, 61 percent, Republicans – 45 percent, 40 percent, 38 percent, Independents – 46 percent, 53 percent, 43 percent).

*Small n size

The vast majority of voters continue to think that afterschool programs are important.

Millions of young people are alone and unsupervised in the hours immediately after school. Studies show that kids in afterschool programs are less likely to get involved in criminal activity, to use drugs or alcohol, to become teen parents, or to drop out of school. Given this, how important are afterschool programs— very important, somewhat important, a little important, or not important at all?



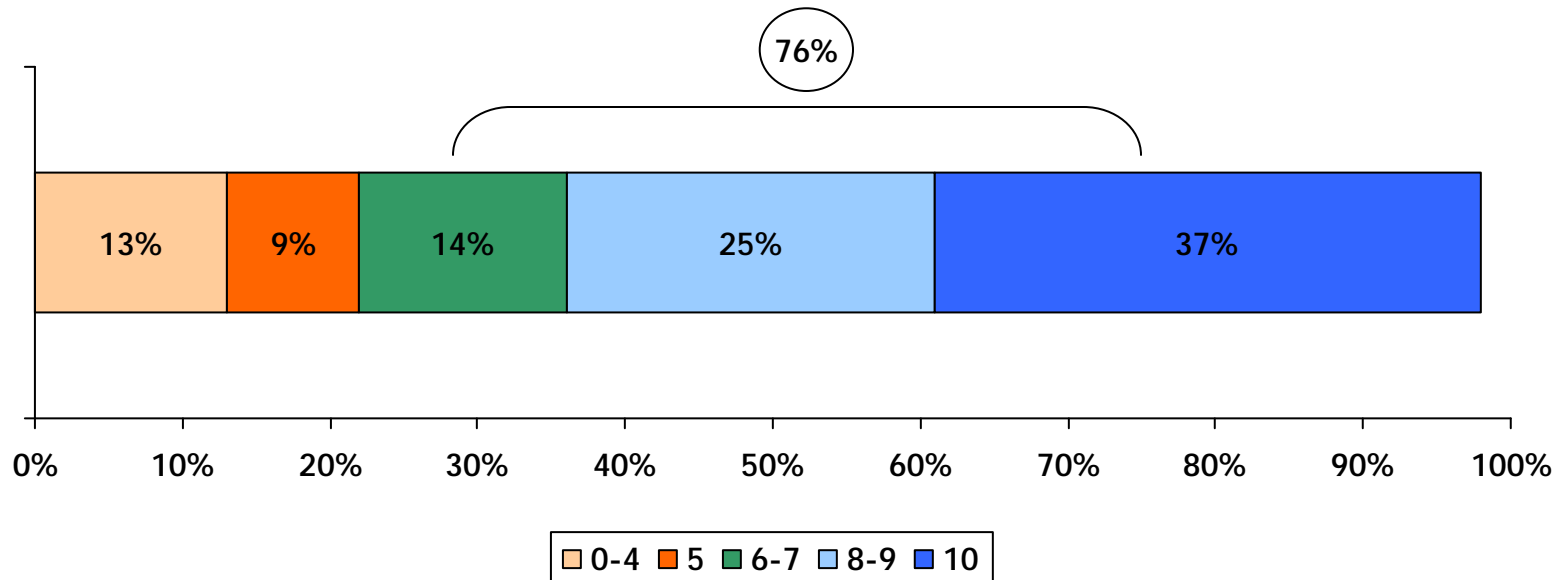
Men are more likely to say that afterschool programs are very important than in 2006.

- While women are just as likely to say that afterschool programs are important this year as they were in 2006 (73 percent and 74 percent very important, respectively), men have shifted slightly, with 62 percent saying they are very important (compared to 57 percent in 2006).
- African Americans (88 percent), Democratic women (86 percent), strong Democrats (84 percent), Hispanics (84 percent), especially Hispanic women* (89 percent), working mothers (80 percent), those in labor union households (80 percent), voters ages 40-49 (74 percent), those with a high school diploma or less (74 percent), and those who live in large metropolitan areas (74 percent) are among those most likely to say that afterschool programs are very important.
- Eighty-one percent of Obama supporters and 52 percent of those who supported McCain say afterschool programs are very important. Support is similar along party lines, with 82 percent of Democrats, 57 percent of Independents, and 53 percent of Republicans saying they are very important.

*Small n size

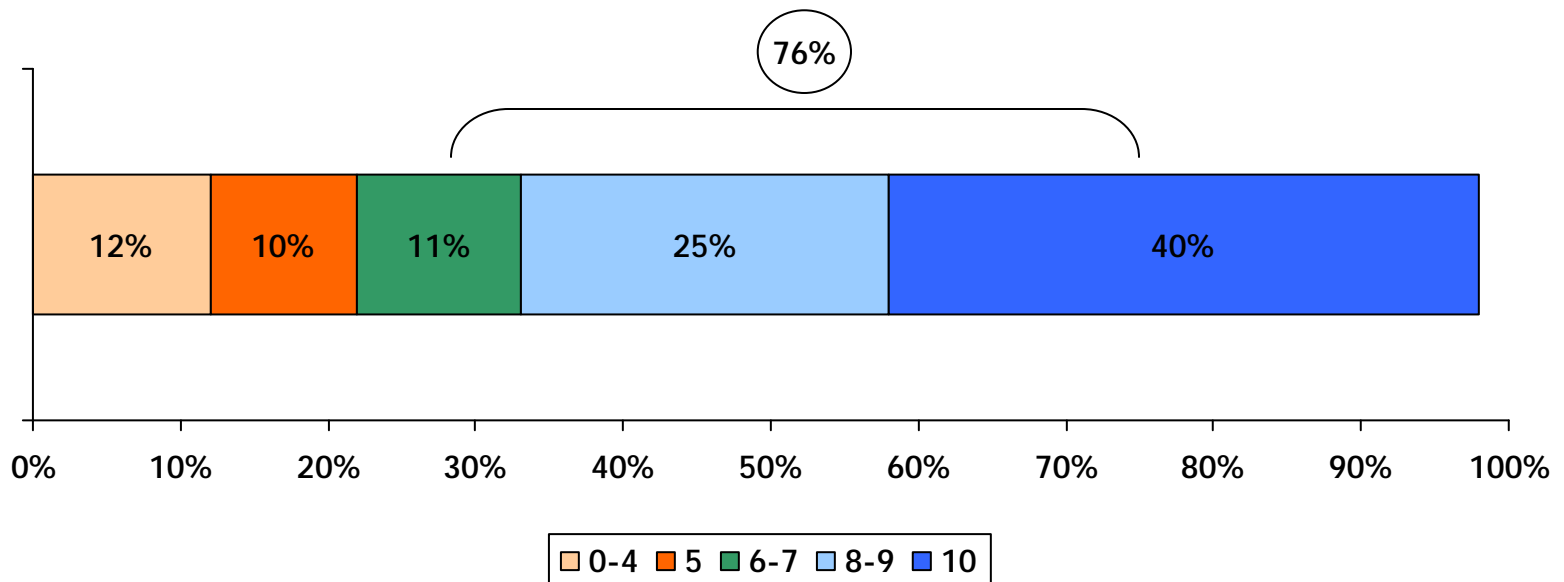
Overall, about three in four voters recognize some level of importance between afterschool programs and preparing youth to enter the workforce.

Given the economic situation, some say that we need afterschool programs more than ever, because they help youth develop the teamwork, leadership and problem solving skills that they will need to lead the workforce of the future and compete in a global economy. Afterschool programs connect youth with mentors and internships and expose them to different career paths. On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 means not important at all and 10 means very important, how important do you think afterschool programs are to preparing youth to enter the workforce of the future?



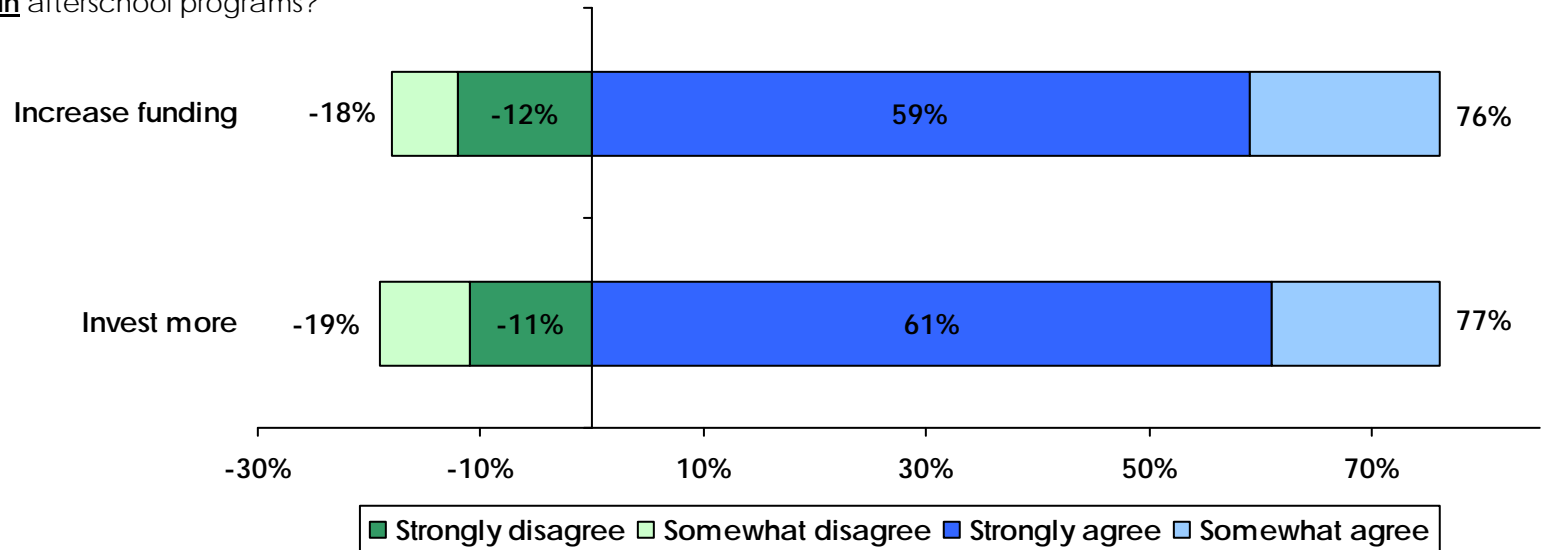
The electorate also recognizes the link between afterschool programs and helping youth stay in school.

With as many as 50 percent of youth dropping out of school in some communities, it's important to identify and support efforts proven to help them stay in school and on track. Afterschool programs have been shown to improve school attendance and grades, and prevent youth from dropping out. By providing opportunities for youth to lead, create and think critically, afterschool programs spark their interest in learning, and inspire them to achieve more. On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 means not important at all and 10 means very important, how important do you think afterschool programs are to helping youth stay in school and addressing the dropout crisis in America?



Upon hearing that federal funding for afterschool programs has not kept up with the rising costs to operate these programs, most strongly agree that the new Congress should increase funding for and invest more in afterschool programs.

Over the past five years, federal funding for afterschool programs hasn't kept up with the rising costs associated with operating a program, especially when you consider fast-rising transportation and food costs. This gap makes it more difficult to open new afterschool programs, and some existing programs will have to reduce their services or close their doors. Do you agree or disagree that our newly elected public officials in Congress should increase funding for/invest more in afterschool programs?*



*Split-sampled question

Majorities of men and women strongly agree that we should increase funding for and invest more in afterschool programs, though support is greater among women.

- Although men show greater support for afterschool programs than in the past, they are less likely than women to say that we should **increase funding** for afterschool programs (men – 72 percent agree, 55 percent strongly agree, women – 80 percent, 64 percent) or **invest more** in afterschool programs (men – 73 percent agree, 58 percent strongly agree, women – 81 percent, 64 percent), though still majorities of men strongly agree.
- Those most likely to strongly agree about the need to increase funding for and to invest more in afterschool programs prove similar, including African Americans (79 percent strongly agree increase funding, 87 percent strongly agree invest more), Hispanics (79 percent, 82 percent), Democratic women (77 percent, 78 percent), strong Democrats (74 percent, 78 percent), unmarried women (69 percent, 68 percent), mothers (69 percent, 71 percent), and women under 50 (68 percent, 70 percent).

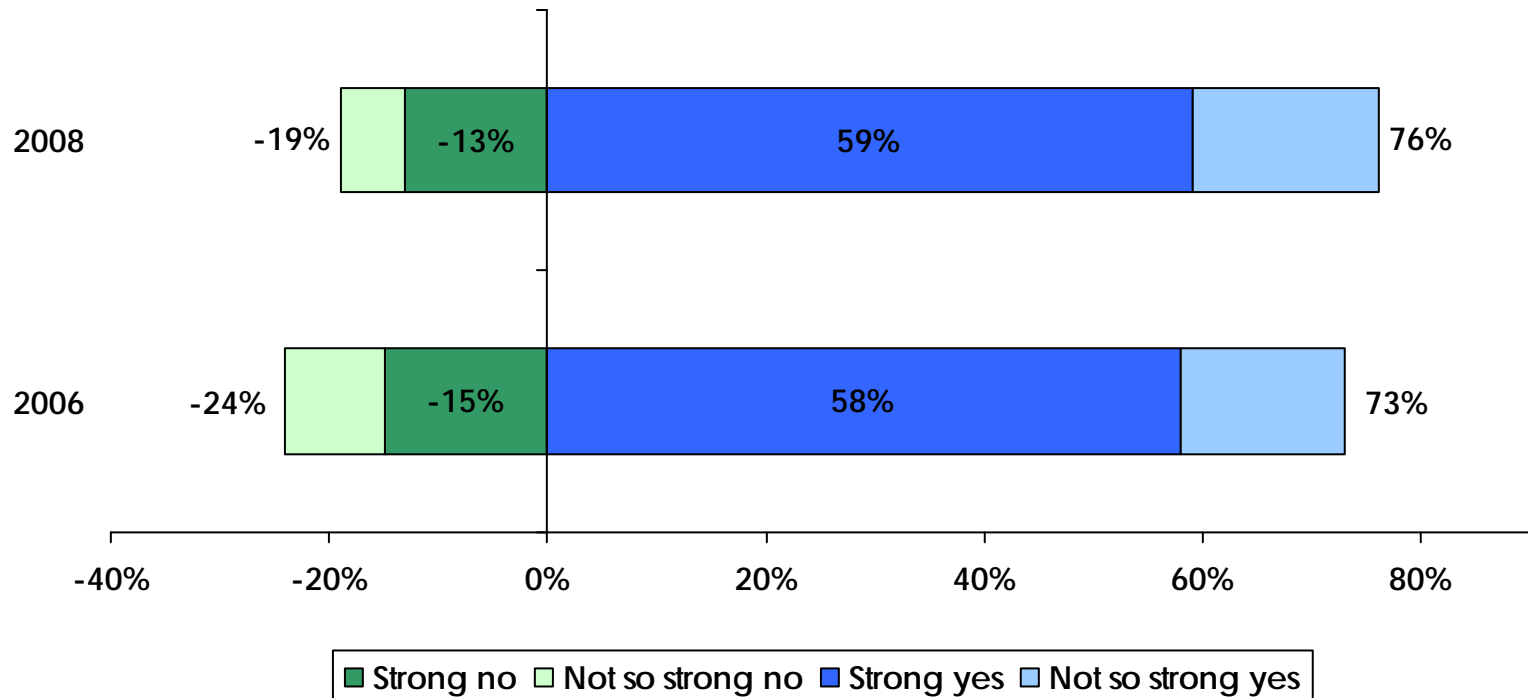


“Increase funding” proves more effective among college-educated women while “invest more” works better with non-college women.

- Interestingly, increasing funding works better with college-educated women (73 percent strongly agree increase funding to 63 percent invest more) and Western voters (65 percent to 56 percent). Framing it as investing more proves more effective among non-college educated women (66 percent strongly agree invest more to 58 percent increase funding), voters ages 65+ and voters in the Midwest (62 percent to 52 percent) and South (65 percent to 58 percent).
- Seventy-two percent of Democrats, 43 percent of Independents and 49 percent of Republicans **strongly agree** that Congress should increase funding for afterschool programs because federal funding has not kept up with rising costs to operate these programs. “Investing more” works slightly better with both Democrats and Independents (77 percent and 48 percent strongly agree, respectively), while intensity of agreement among Republicans is similar with this language (46 percent).
- Forty-five percent of McCain voters and 72 percent of Obama supporters **strongly agree** with the need for Congress to increase funding for afterschool programs. Their supporters prove similar when “invest more” is used instead (43 percent and 76 percent strongly agree, respectively).

In addition, voters say that their newly elected state and local leaders should increase funding for afterschool programs.

Do you want your newly elected state and local leaders to provide more funding for afterschool programs?



Compared to 2006, most subgroups of voters show similar levels of intensity around having state and local leaders increase funding for afterschool programs.

- Minority voters (African Americans – 82 percent strong yes, Hispanics – 80 percent), unmarried mothers* (82 percent), Democratic women (77 percent), strong Democrats (77 percent), Methodists* (69 percent), those in labor union households (68 percent), and working mothers (67 percent) are among those most likely to **strongly believe** that state and local leaders should increase funding for afterschool programs.

*Small n size.

Main Takeaways

Voters strongly support afterschool programs, and want federal, state and local lawmakers to increase funding for them.

- Nearly nine in ten voters (89 percent) say that, given the dangers young people face today, afterschool programs are important.
- Three in four voters (76 percent) agree that afterschool programs are "an absolute necessity" for their community
- Four in five voters (83 percent) agree there should be some type of organized activity or safe place for children and teens to go after school every day that provides opportunities for them to learn.
- And 76 percent want the new Congress and their newly elected state and local officials to increase funding for afterschool programs.