



Colorado

Early Childhood Poll



**Better
Beginnings**
COLORADO

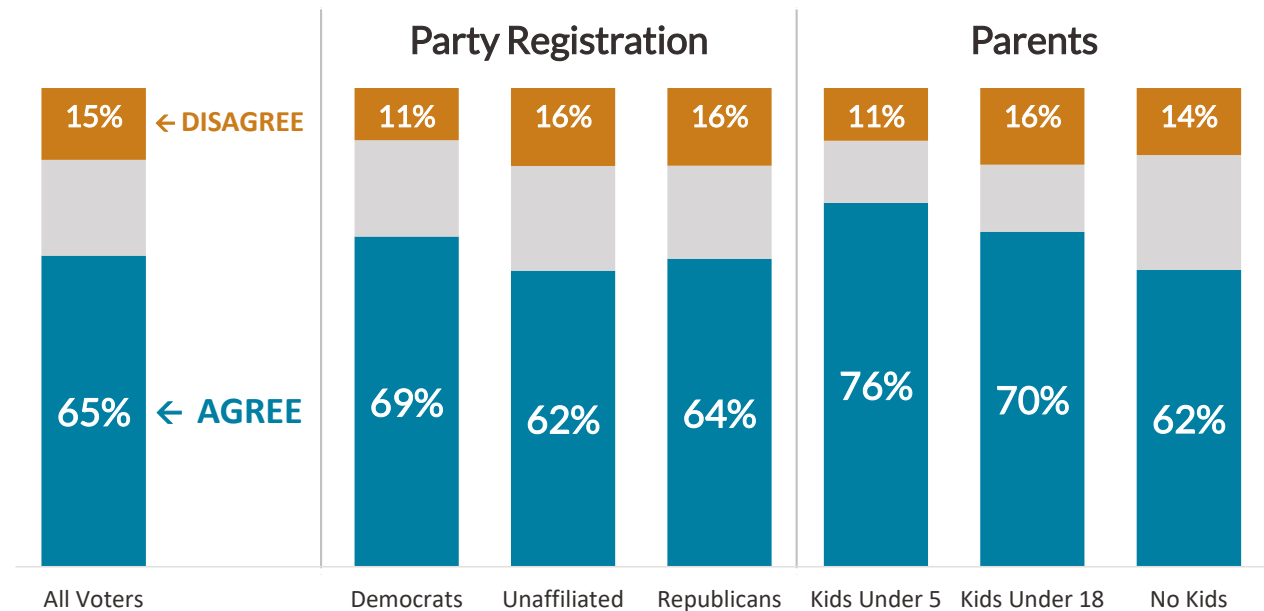
Coloradans agree now is the time to make early childhood programs more accessible to kids and families:

- Voters believe the state should lead this effort by streamlining applications, improving local coordination, and reducing existing bureaucracy within the current fragmented early childhood system.
- Coloradans, across the state and across party lines, want to see a state-led early childhood system which prioritizes local communities, organizations, and providers in its development.
- Coloradans would like local providers to receive responsive support from the state department, including funding which appropriately reflects the size of providers' programs and number of students enrolled.
- Coloradans across political parties prefer ***The Colorado Department of Early Childhood*** have one common application for the Universal Preschool Program and should work with local early childhood coordinating organizations to ensure an easy and fair enrollment process for all families, no matter where they live.

76% of voters with children under five agree the current fragmented early childhood care is bureaucratic and burdensome for them to navigate.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

Early childhood care programs exist across multiple state agencies with various eligibility requirements and funding streams. All this bureaucracy is confusing for parents and creates too many requirements for providers.



80% of Colorado voters across all political party lines agree that now is the time to make early childhood care and education easier to access by reducing government bureaucracy, simplifying regulations, and reorganizing programs that currently exist in three other state agencies.

For each of the following details, please tell me how important it is – on a scale of one to 10.

	Average Rating	Dem	Una	Rep	Dem Women	Una Women
Simplify the application and enrollment process so families can have true access to all available preschool and childcare services	8.2	8.8	8.2	7.4	8.9	8.3
Streamline and consolidate the early childhood care and education bureaucracy so that it is more efficient and easier for families and providers to navigate.	8.1	8.7	8.0	7.4	8.8	8.2
Improve coordination and support for providers in order to increase capacity so families who need early childhood care and education can get it.	8.0	8.7	7.9	7.3	8.7	8.1
Create a website that provides data to make it easier for parents to find, apply to, enroll, and pay for early childhood care and education	8.0	8.5	8.1	7.4	8.6	8.1
Make early childhood care and education easier to access by reducing government bureaucracy, simplifying regulations and reorganizing programs that currently exist in three other state agencies	8.0	8.5	7.9	7.6	8.6	8.1

Voters believe it is essential that the new Department of Early Childhood simplifies, streamlines, and improves coordination.

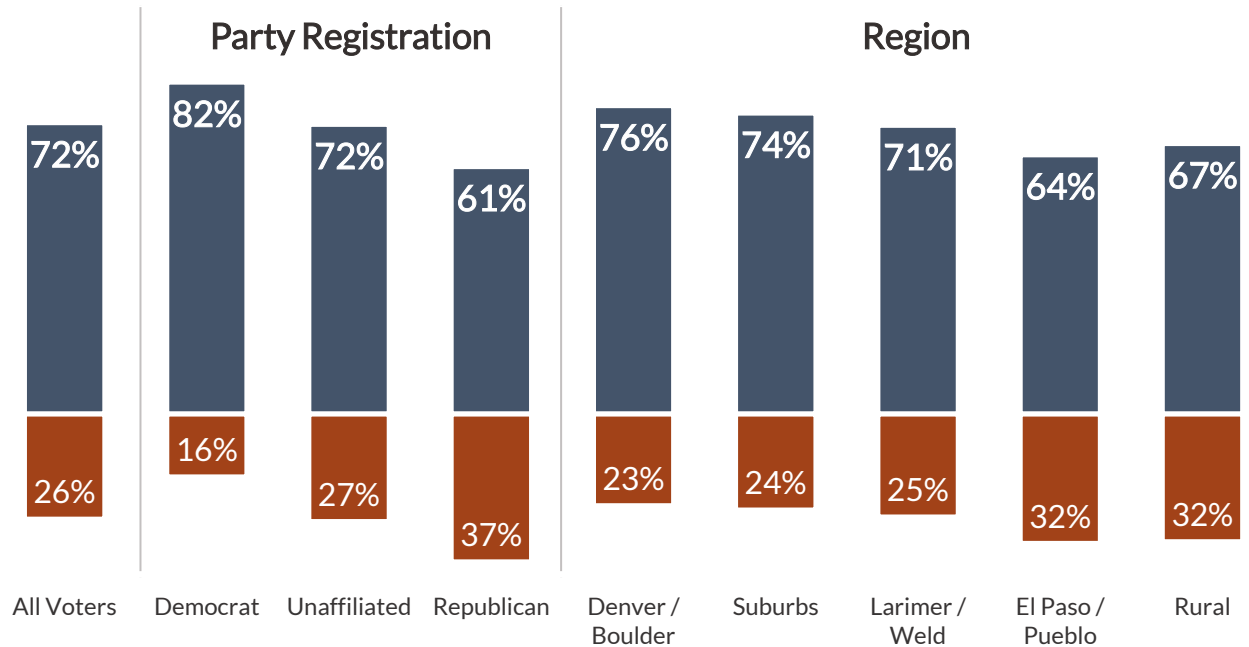
For each of the following details, please tell me how important it is – on a scale of one to 10.

	Average Rating	Den/ Bldr	Sub- urbs	Lar/ Weld	El Paso/ Pueblo	Rural Counties
Simplify the application and enrollment process so families can have true access to all available preschool and childcare services	8.2	8.6	8.1	7.9	8.2	8.2
Streamline and consolidate the early childhood care and education bureaucracy so that it is more efficient and easier for families and providers to navigate.	8.1	8.5	8.0	7.9	8.1	8.0
Improve coordination and support for providers in order to increase capacity so families who need early childhood care and education can get it.	8.0	8.4	7.8	7.8	7.9	8.0
Create a website that provides data to make it easier for parents to find, apply to, enroll, and pay for early childhood care and education	8.0	8.3	7.9	8.0	8.1	8.0
Make early childhood care and education easier to access by reducing government bureaucracy, simplifying regulations and reorganizing programs that currently exist in three other state agencies	8.0	8.4	7.8	8.0	7.9	8.1

72% of Colorado voters believe the state should be responsible for working with local communities to build out early childhood programs, services, and enrollment.

The state should work together with local communities to build systems that families and providers can use to coordinate and enroll children in early childcare and preschool.

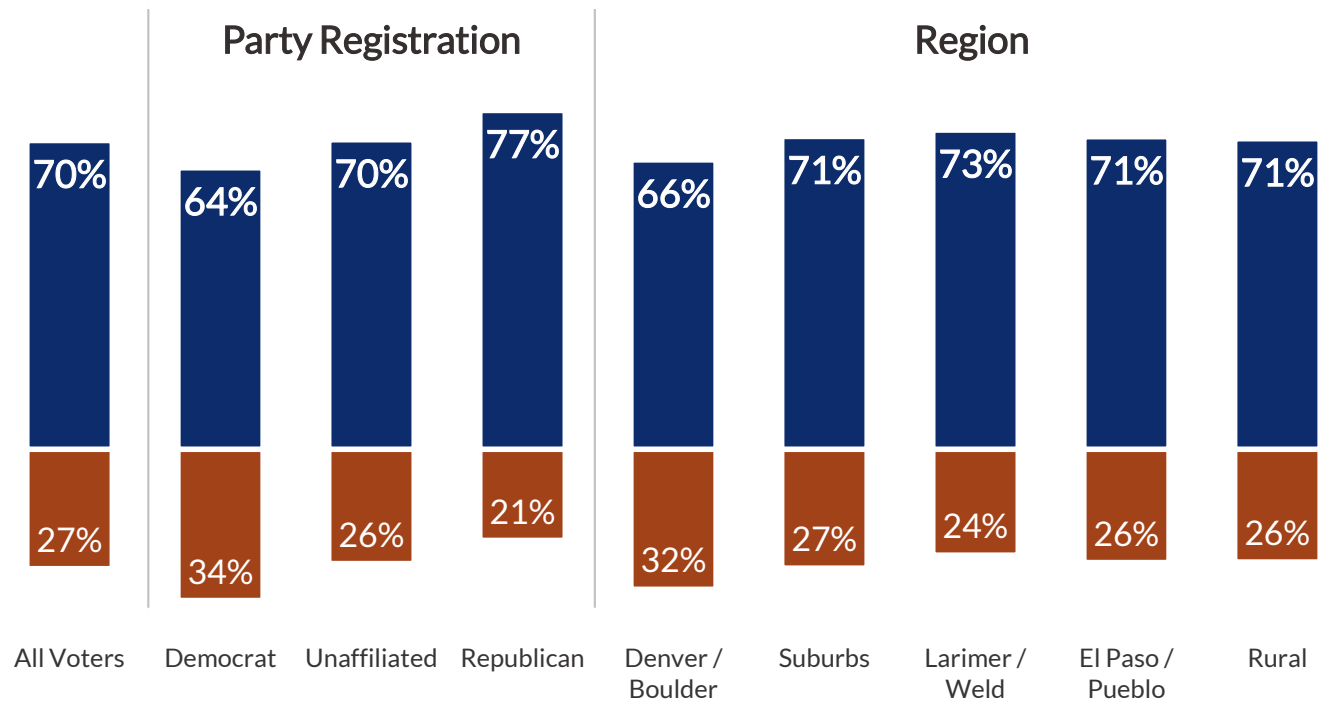
Local communities should take on the responsibility and expense of building their own systems for families to find, apply to, and enroll in early childcare and preschool.



70% of all Colorado voters believe parents should have a wide range of early childhood programs to choose from to best suit their family's needs.

In order to implement the universal preschool program, the state should give parents the choice to find a preschool provider that meets their needs, which can include programs offered by school districts, traditional preschool providers, or community and home-based providers.

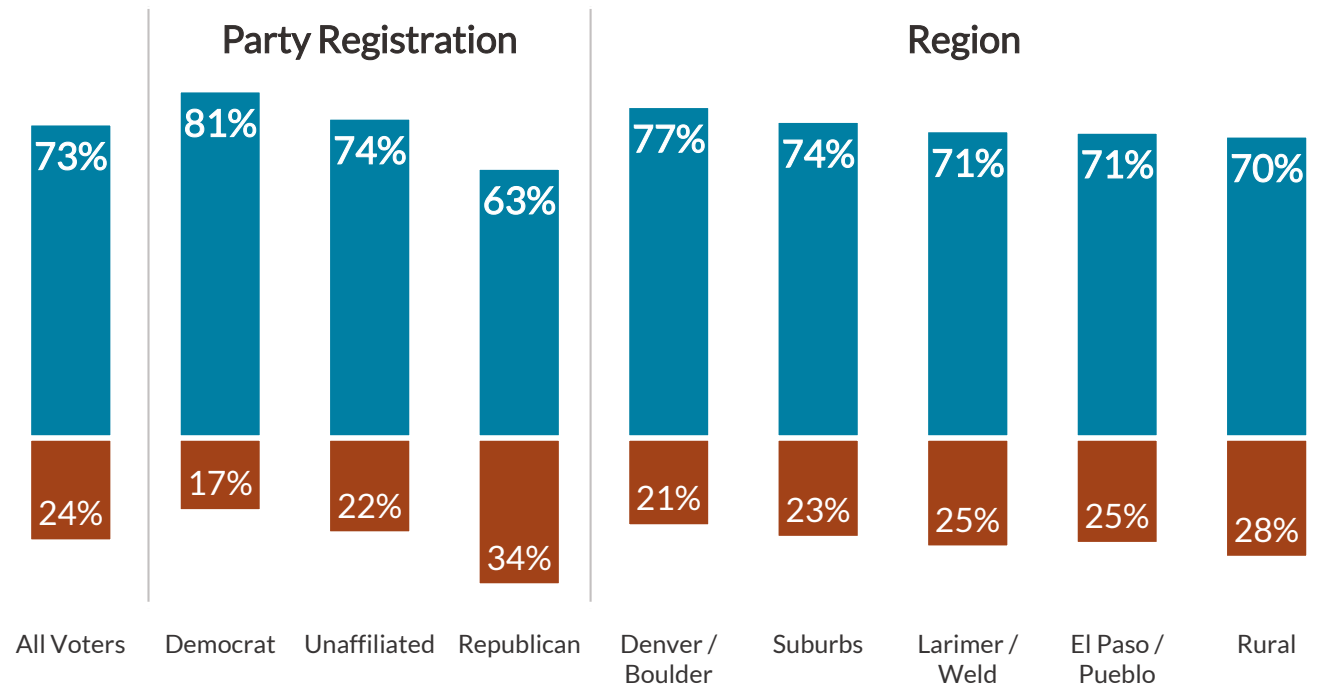
The state should prioritize school districts to implement the universal preschool program.



73% of Colorado voters prefer a common, statewide application for the Universal Preschool Program.

Percent of Colorado voters who prefer The Colorado Department of Early Childhood have one common application for the Universal Preschool Program, and should work with local early childhood coordinating organizations to ensure an easy and fair enrollment process for all families, no matter where they live.

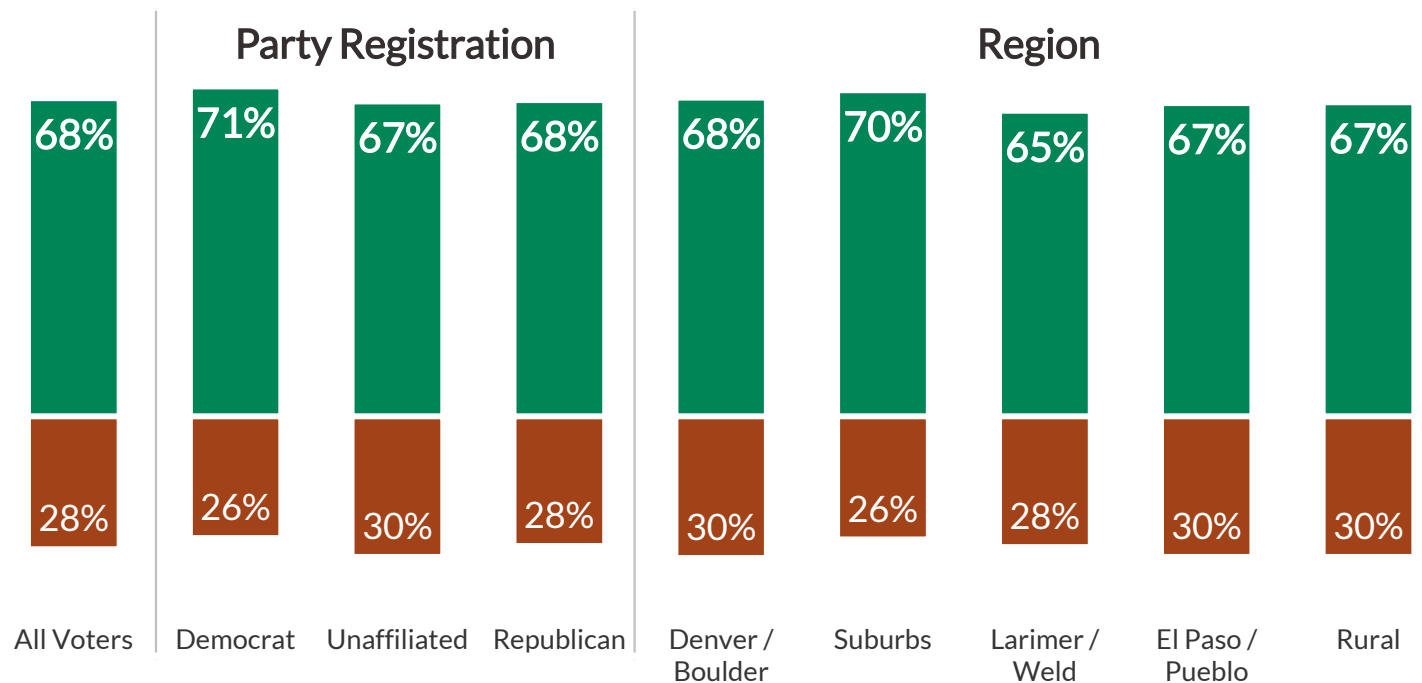
Percent of Colorado voters who prefer that there not be one common application for the Universal Preschool Program. Local early childhood coordinating organizations should have complete control to determine their own application and enrollment process.



68% of Colorado voters want to ensure preschool funding is responsive to the size of providers' programs and number of students enrolled.

Ensure funding for preschool goes to providers based on the number of students enrolled, so they have the resources they need to deliver high-quality programming.

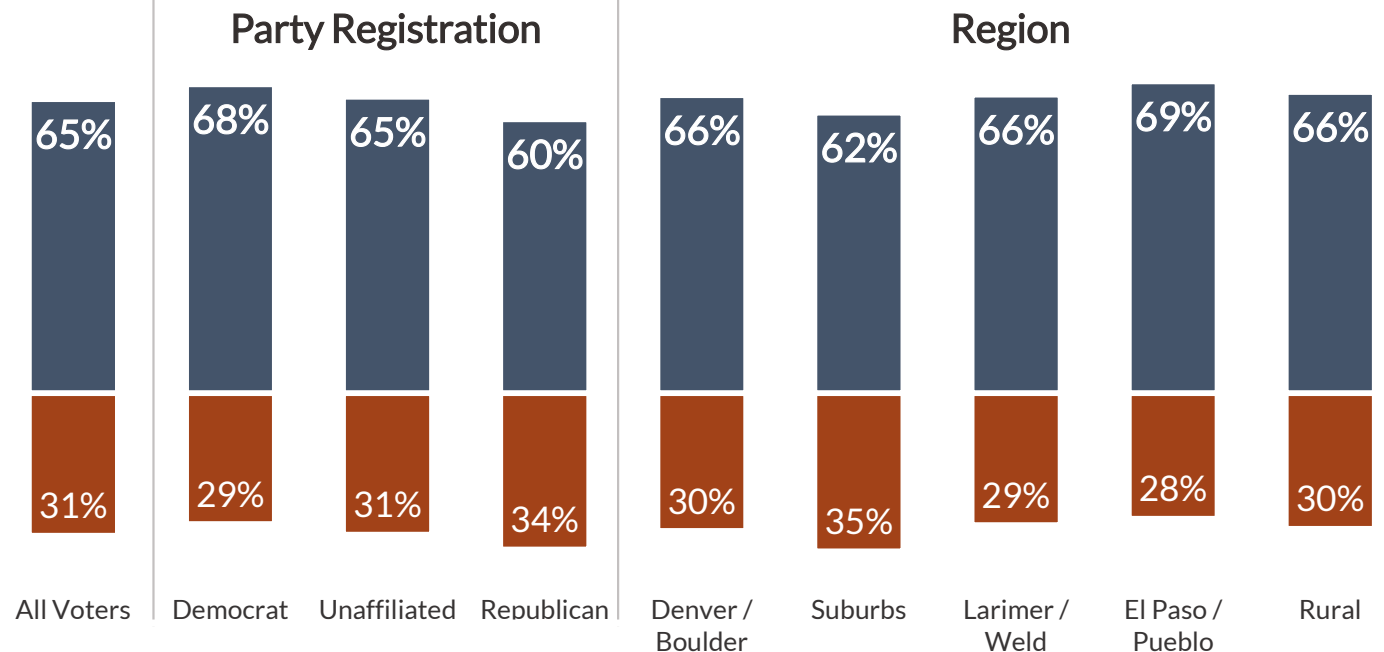
Ensure consistency of funding for school districts providing preschool programs, even if they have fewer students enrolled and it means that other preschool providers receive less funding.



A majority of Colorado voters prefer the Universal Preschool Program be implemented quickly, even if that means a governing board is not yet fully established.

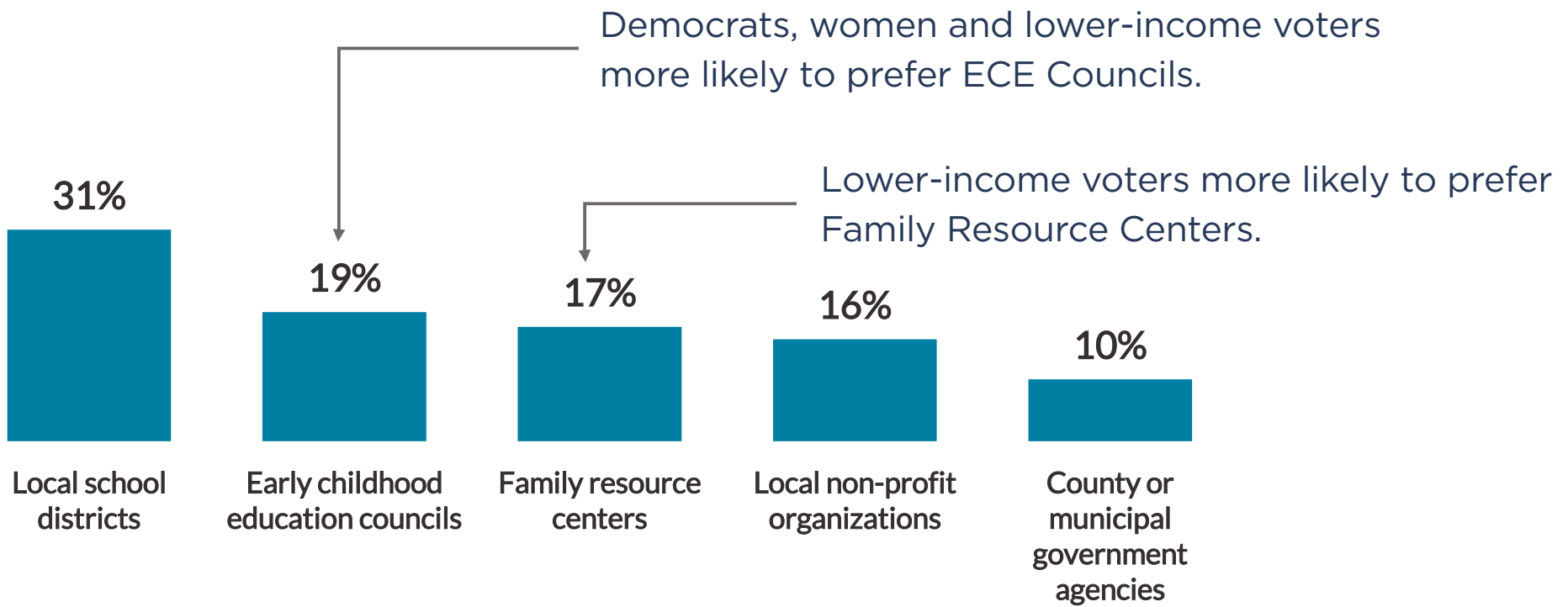
Percent of voters who believe the Department of Early Childhood should move quickly to fully implement the universal preschool program on time, with the Executive Director relying on the guidance of parents, providers and community partners.

Percent of voters who believe oversight of the new Department should be fully established with a Board of Directors, even if that means the Universal Preschool Program is not fully implemented on time.



A majority of Colorado voters want diverse local organizations to coordinate their early childhood programs.

31% believe local school districts should coordinate early childhood programming



Methodology

- Results based on a sample of 1,550 registered voters statewide in Colorado, including 850 contacted with live interviewers (739 on cell phones, and 111 on landlines) and 700 responses from an online panel.
- This sample includes an oversample to reach 226 voters in El Paso County and 201 voters in Larimer County.
- Results are weighted to accurately represent registered voters based on party, gender, age, geography, ethnicity, and education.
- Worst-case margin of error $\pm 2.5\%$, among all respondents, larger margin of error among subgroups.
- Interviews conducted from February 12-21, 2022.

This poll was conducted by Keating Research, Inc.



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