



Vermont Water Cooler – Post-COVID Survey

Updated 7/1/2020

Quick facts:

Survey date: 6/4/2020

Survey Population: 16,073

Sample size: 285

Method: IVR

Number of questions (nom): 4

Number of question (tot): 6

Weighted for: Age & Gender

Web Version: Yes

Description of purpose:

The Vermont Water Cooler post-COVID survey is intended to gather Vermonter's thoughts around the how the state should approach the recovery process from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Methodology:

The poll was conducted by IVR phone call to landline telephones on **June 4th, 2020** (see Appendix A for full list of questions). Questions were presented to respondents in a multi-choice format in order to standardize results. Instructions for entering the intended response were included with each question. For example, "Press 1 if you think that...."

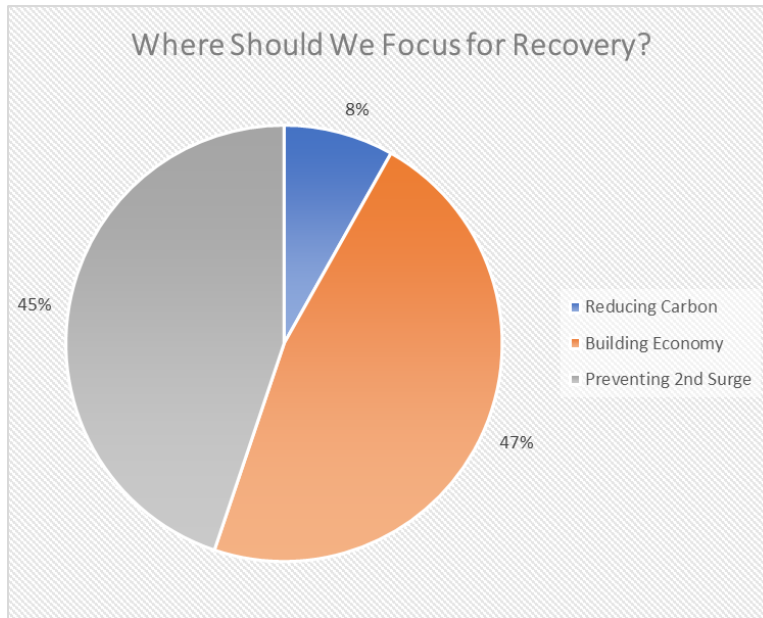
The survey population of **16,073** households was randomly selected from Vermont's registered voter list. The phone list was limited to just 802 area code numbers and deduped so individual households were not called multiple times.

The final number of respondents to the survey totaled **285**. The survey responses were then weighed for age and gender using a raking method to compensate for oversampling in either of these demographics.



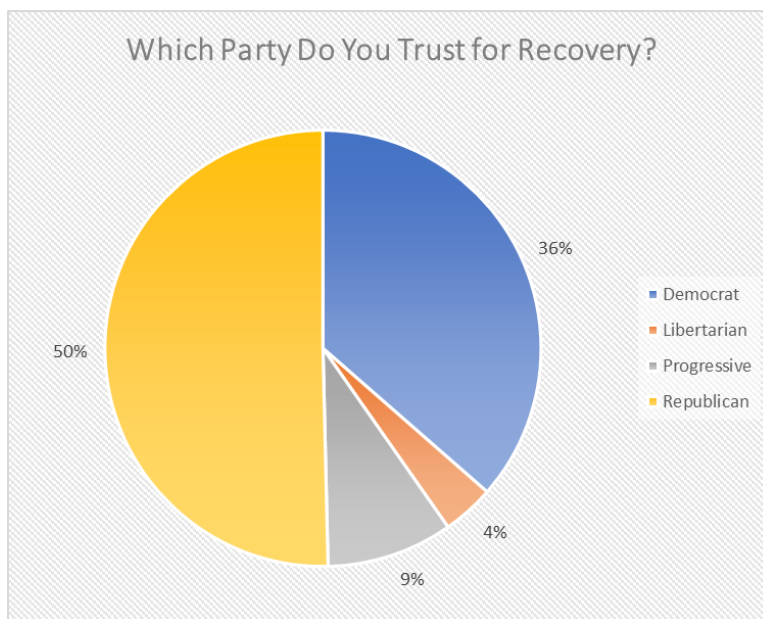
Survey Results:

Recovery Focus – When asked where state government’s priority should be coming out of the pandemic, were nearly evenly split between focusing on economic development and preventing a second surge of the COVID-19 virus.



Total Responses: 285
Margin of Error: +/- 9.4%
*90% Confidence Interval

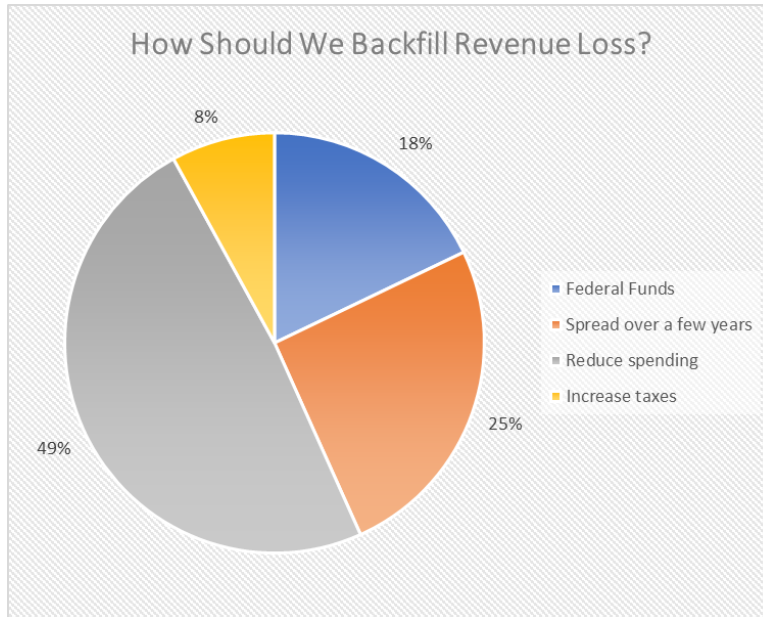
Party Trust – When asked which party respondents trusted most to handle the economic recovery, half indicated the Republican Party while about a third indicated the Democratic Party.



Total Responses: 223
Margin of Error: +/- 8.7%
*90% Confidence Interval

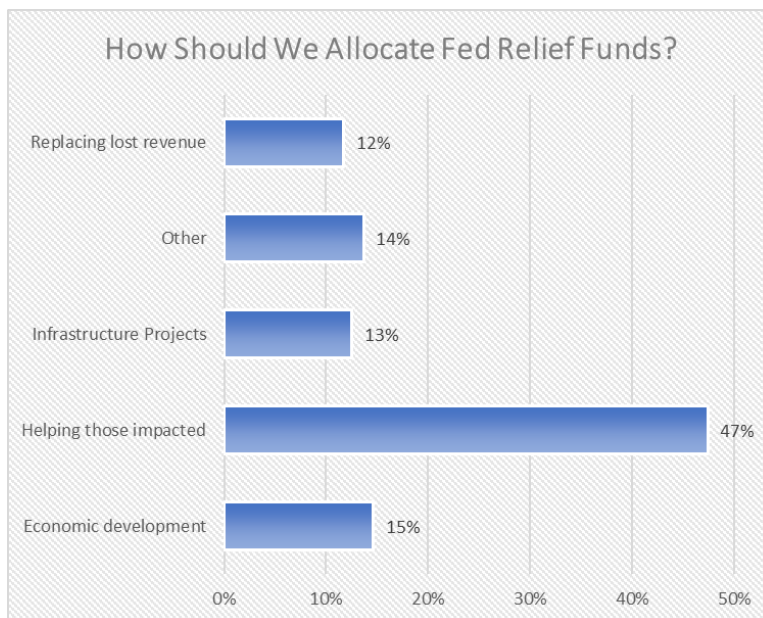


Revenue Shortfall – In regards to addressing Vermont’s estimated \$430M in revenue shortfall, most respondents preferred to reduce spending to balance with revenues. Very few respondents preferred raising taxes.



Total Responses: 206
Margin of Error: +/- 10.3%
*90% Confidence Interval

Federal Allocation – The clear preference among respondents for how to utilize federal funds is to direct them to help workers, families, and businesses financially impacted by the pandemic.



Total Responses: 176
Margin of Error: +/- 11.5%
*90% Confidence Interval



Appendix A

Survey questions and permitted responses.

- 1. What should VT state government's priority be after the COVID-19 lockdown is eased?**
 - a. Getting the economy moving again.
 - b. Preventing a second surge of the virus.
 - c. Reducing Vermont's CO2 output to combat climate change.

- 2. Which political party do you trust more to get Vermont's economy moving again?**
 - a. Republican
 - b. Democrat
 - c. Progressive
 - d. Libertarian

- 3. How should state government deal with the estimated \$430 million revenue downturn for 2021?**
 - a. Emphasize higher taxes.
 - b. Emphasize cutting and reprioritizing spending.
 - c. Emphasize replacing with federal funds.
 - d. Spread the impact out over several years.

- 4. How should federal COVID-19 relief funds be used?**
 - a. To help workers, families, and businesses who have lost income due to the shutdown.
 - b. To generate to economic opportunities.
 - c. To backfill revenue loses at the state level, if possible.
 - d. To invest in infrastructure projects.
 - e. Other