

Innovation Ohio Poll: Ohioans disagree with Kasich agenda

By: Joe Hallett

February 15, 2013

A new poll commissioned by Innovation Ohio, a Columbus-based think tank, shows that Ohio voters disagree with elements of Republican Gov. John Kasich's legislative agenda and budget priorities.

The group, comprised of staffers and allies of former Democratic Gov. Ted Strickland, paid pollster Diane Feldman to survey 800 Ohio voters about Kasich's agenda, with a polling margin of error of plus-or-minus 3.5 percentage points.

"What we saw was that Ohioans largely disagree with the governor on his budget priorities," said Janetta King, Innovation Ohio president and former policy chief for Strickland.

Rob Nichols, Kasich spokesman, rejected the poll: "We don't talk about polls, particularly ones commissioned by Ted Strickland's former staffers and funded by their secret donors," he said. "What we do know is that Ohioans overwhelmingly disagreed with the policies that the great minds at Innovation Ohio inflicted on the state that resulted in 400,000 lost jobs, an \$8 billion budget hole, a tax hike during a recession and an economy in free-fall."

Although respondents turned thumbs down on some of Kasich's policies, there was a silver lining in the poll for him: 46 percent said the state is headed in the right direction, compared to 34 percent who said it was on the wrong track -- a divergence from polling over the last few years consistently showing that most voters view the state as headed in the wrong direction.

Highlights of The Feldman Group poll:

*60 percent say Ohio's public schools need more state funding to provide a quality education and 59 percent say the state is doing too little to improve education.

"The demand for more funding across the state crosses party lines," Feldman said.

*Although Kasich has proposed a 20 percent state income tax cut in his two-year budget, the poll found that 62 percent say helping communities fund schools, fire and police is more important than reducing the income tax.

*62 percent favor raising Ohio's severance tax on oil and natural gas -- as Kasich has proposed -- but they would prefer the money be used to offset state budget cuts rather than for Kasich's income tax cut.

*57 percent oppose borrowing against future Ohio Turnpike tolls -- as Kasich has proposed -- in order to fund road, bridge and other infrastructure projects now.

Original Article:

<http://dispatchpolitics.dispatch.com/content/blogs/the-daily-briefing/2013/02/2-15-2013-innovation-ohio-poll-ohioans-disagree-with-kasich.html#comment>