

[CONFIDENTIAL] ALABAMA SURVEY MEMORANDUM

DATE: Tuesday, May 12, 2020
TO: Members of the Alabama House & Senate Republican Conferences
FROM: Brent Buchanan & Jacqueline Boggess, Cygnal
RE: Survey of Conservative Constituents

RESULTS OF THIS SURVEY ARE NOT TO BE PUBLISHED OR SHARED BEYOND REPUBLICAN MEMBERS OF THE ALABAMA LEGISLATURE

The information below was gathered by [CygnaL](#) through an advanced multi-mode (Live Calls + SMS + Email) survey of conservative constituents in Alabama, conducted May 7, 2020 – May 10, 2020. This survey has a sample size of n607 and an MoE of $\pm 3.98\%$ at a 95% confidence interval.

Summary Overview

Republicans in the Alabama State Legislature are popular with conservative constituents, who want to see Republican legislators involved in the state's response to the Coronavirus. They want things to get back to normal. In fact, more than half of these respondents will return to their normal routine as soon as the lockdown is lifted and reopening businesses is the top priority (55% want to open everything now). They're much more concerned about the economic impact than the public health impact.

By a 2-to-1 majority, these constituents want the State Legislature to have authority (2/3) - instead of the Governor (1/5) - over Alabama's \$1.8 billion piece of the CARES Act federal stimulus funds (which they overwhelmingly approve of Congress passing). Most want to see that money spent "paying back hospitals and nursing homes for losses incurred during the pandemic" and for "improved high speed internet access statewide to ensure children are able to participate in school from home."

Trump is the most popular person tested followed by Republicans in the state legislature then Governor Kay Ivey. These constituents are optimistic about where the state is as it relates to the pandemic, with half thinking the worst is over.

Trump's handling of COVID is viewed as more favorable than Ivey's.

President Trump is doing stellar with Alabama conservatives – his net fav is +78 and 84% approve of his handling of the Coronavirus (13% disapprove). Comparatively, Kay Ivey's net fav is +43 (down 15 points since December) and 66% approve of her handling of the pandemic (27% disapprove).

Republicans in the Alabama State Legislature are second only to Trump!

Republicans in the Alabama State Legislature have a strong +54 net fav. At the same time, 54% of constituents say they trust state health experts more than state politicians (9%) when it comes to the Coronavirus.

There's optimism that Alabama is on the backside of the Coronavirus curve.

Half of constituents believe the worst of the Coronavirus is over, 23% think we're in the middle of it now, and 16% think the worst is still to come. Women and younger constituents are more pessimistic about COVID-19 than constituents are overall.

It's time to get back to normal.



Even though most of these constituents have not been financially impacted by COVID-19 (64% chose “nothing has changed about my financial situation” or “I was retired or unemployed before coronavirus”), “reopening Alabama businesses” is their top priority (39%), followed by “creating jobs and rebuilding the economy” (21%). “Controlling the spread of the Coronavirus” and “cutting wasteful government spending” tied for a distant third (11%).

These constituents are significantly more concerned about the economic impact (71%) of COVID-19 than the public health impact (24%), and more than half plan on returning to their normal routines as soon as the lockdown is lifted. The next most selected option was “several weeks after the lockdown is lifted,” with 19%. Half of respondents believe “Alabama has responded correctly to the pandemic, but our leaders need to start moving forward with a plan to slowly and safely allow people to go back to work” while 29% believe “Alabama’s restrictions have gone too far and are encroaching on our personal freedoms.”

There’s even more consensus on opening businesses – 84% want to open all businesses, including 48% of people who think the worst is yet to come in regard to COVID-19 (42% keep businesses closed). When asked specifically about timing, 55% say open everything now and 22% say open in one to three more weeks.

Alabama hasn’t gone too far.

Unlike in many states, there isn’t a widespread feeling among conservatives that the State Legislature has gone too far in regards to Coronavirus measures. 34% think the Alabama State Legislature did enough, 34% think it did too little, and only 6% think it did too much. This isn’t far off from the respondents’ feelings about the U.S. Congress’s pandemic response: 36% enough, 39% too little, 12% too much. People who think the worst is yet to come are almost three times more likely to think the state legislature did too little (60% too little, 21% enough).

Alabamans aren’t planning to vote by mail en masse.

68% of constituents think things are heading in the right direction in Alabama. For the upcoming primary runoff, 70% of constituents who normally vote at the polls on Election Day are not interested in voting by mail due to the Coronavirus, though 26% are somewhat or very interested in the option. Despite COVID-19 posing more of a health risk to older people, most seniors (72%) are not interested in voting by mail. When asked specifically about voting in the July Republican primary, 82% said they’d vote on Election Day at the polls and 10% said by mail / absentee.

METHODOLOGY: This probabilistic survey was conducted May 7, 2020 – May 10, 2020, with 607 likely conservative constituents. It has a margin of error of $\pm 3.98\%$. Known registered voters were interviewed via live agents calling cell phones and landlines, and received invitations to participate in the survey via SMS and email with a secure link tied to their voter record. This survey was weighted to a conservative constituent universe.

ABOUT THE FIRM: [Cygna](#) is an award-winning national public opinion and predictive analytics firm that pioneered multi-mode polling and peer-to-peer text collection. Cygna was recently named the #1 private pollster and the #2 pollster overall by Nate Silver’s [FiveThirtyEight](#), as well as the #1 most accurate polling and research firm in the country for 2018 by [The New York Times](#). Its team members have worked in 46 states on more than 1,100 corporate, public affairs, and political campaigns.

