

FLEMING & ASSOCIATES
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Rhode Island – April, 2021

HELLO, MY NAME IS _____, I'M CALLING FROM FLEMING & ASSOCIATES, A PUBLIC OPINION POLLING FIRM. WE ARE CONDUCTING A SURVEY HERE IN RHODE ISLAND AND I WOULD LIKE TO ASK THE YOUNGEST PERSON (male\female) OF VOTING AGE WHO IS CURRENTLY AT HOME A FEW QUESTIONS. (If the youngest person at home is 85, you should still speak to that person.)

Q.1 Are you are currently registered to vote in the State of Rhode Island, or are you not registered to vote at this time?

Yes, registered...**100% (Continue)** No, not registered/state **0% (Terminate)** Not Sure **0% (Terminate)**

Record respondent's gender **(DO NOT ASK)** Male.....**47%** Female.....**53%**

Q.2 Could you tell me which age group you belong to? **(READ LIST)**

18 to 39...**26%** 40 to 59....**41%** 60 or older.....**33%** Refused....**1%**

Q.3 The State of Rhode Island, cities and towns are receiving over \$2 billion from the American Rescue Plan Act because of the pandemic. Do you trust that elected officials in Rhode Island will spend these funds wisely?

Yes.....**41%** No....**48%** Not sure...**11%**

Q.4 At the state and local level, do you think the priority should be to spend most of the federal money on one time capital improvements or daily government operations?

Capital Improvements.....**38%** Daily operations...**26%** Combination (Vol)... **10%** Not sure...**27%**

Q.5 At the state level, with the limited amount of federal money from the American Rescue Plan, how important is each of the following items to spend this money on? Rank each one on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being not important at all and 5 being very important. **(Rotate order)**

	1	2	3	4	5	Not sure
Grants and loans to help small businesses hurt by the pandemic	4%	5%	14%	20%	56%	1%
Subsidizing rent for affordable housing tenants	13%	12%	23%	18%	32%	3%
Jobs training and re-skilling programs	7%	7%	25%	23%	37%	2%
One time infrastructure projects	16%	12%	24%	21%	22%	6%
Eliminate projected budget deficits	21%	13%	27%	15%	16%	8%
Reversing student learning losses resulting from the pandemic	10%	9%	18%	21%	37%	5%

Q.6 Now of the six state issues I just mentioned which one is the most important to you?

Grants and loans to help small businesses hurt by the pandemic... **35%**
 Subsidizing rent for affordable housing tenants..... **16%** Jobs training and re-skilling programs.... **14%**
 One-time infrastructure projects.... **9%** Eliminate projected budget deficits.... **5%**
 Reversing student learning losses resulting from the pandemic.... **17%** Not sure..... **5%**

Q.7 At the city & town level, there is a limited amount of federal money from the American Rescue Plan for cities and towns. How important is each of the following items to spend this money on? Rank each one on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being not important at all and 5 being very important. **(Rotate order)**

	1	2	3	4	5	Not sure
Prevent any near-term increases to property taxes	17%	13%	21%	16%	30%	4%
Enhance public school programs	9%	12%	15%	23%	41%	1%
Buy new police and fire vehicles and equipment	25%	22%	26%	10%	16%	2%
Expand services for seniors	6%	16%	24%	24%	28%	2%
Invest in one-time local infrastructure projects, such as sewage, roads and bridges, school facility upgrades	11%	9%	25%	25%	29%	2%

Q.8 Now of the five local issues I just mentioned which one is the most important to you?

Prevent any near-term increases to property taxes.... **20%** Enhance public school programs... **42%**
 Buy new police and fire vehicles and equipment.... **8%** Expand services for seniors..... **11%**
 Invest in one-time local infrastructure projects... **16%** Not sure..... **3%**

Q.9 If the State decided to spend a majority of the American Rescue Plan money on capital improvements projects, how important is each of the following to spend the money on? Rank each one on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being not important at all and 5 being very important. **(Rotate order)**

	1	2	3	4	5	Not sure
Increasing affordable housing	12%	12%	21%	21%	32%	2%
Modernizing school facilities	7%	13%	21%	26%	33%	1%
Investing in climate resiliency and renewable energy	17%	10%	19%	23%	30%	2%
Repairing bridges and roads	7%	7%	25%	29%	32%	1%
Access to high speed internet	16%	17%	24%	19%	23%	1%
Improving state parks and beaches	12%	17%	39%	20%	13%	1%
Developing industrial sites and business parks	20%	22%	29%	16%	9%	4%

Q.10 Would you still spend the American Rescue Plan funds on operational programs, if you knew that when the federal funds are gone in three years, in order to keep the programs going, there may have to be an increase in taxes?
Yes..... **43%** No..... **50%** Not sure.... **7%**

Now I would like to ask you a few final questions for statistical purposes only.

Q.11 Have I reached you on a landline or a cell phone?

Landline.... **20%** Cell phone ... **80%**

Q.12 Would you consider yourself more of a Democrat or a Republican?

Democrat..... **42%** Republican... **14%** Independent (Vol)..... **40%** Refused... **4%**

Q.13 And finally, for statistical purposes only, would you please tell me which group your total household income for last year was in? **(READ LIST)**

Less than \$25,000..... **8%** \$25,000 to \$74,999..... **29%** \$75,000 to \$99,999..... **18%**
\$100,000 to \$199,999.... **27%** \$200,000 and greater.... **10%** Refused (don't read)..... **9%**

That's the end of our interview, Thank you very much.