

2026 Voters Support Child Care for All Families

Leading into the 2026 election, voters support bold solutions to address the child care affordability crisis. Large majorities of likely voters support universal child care and want to see thriving wages for the child care workforce.



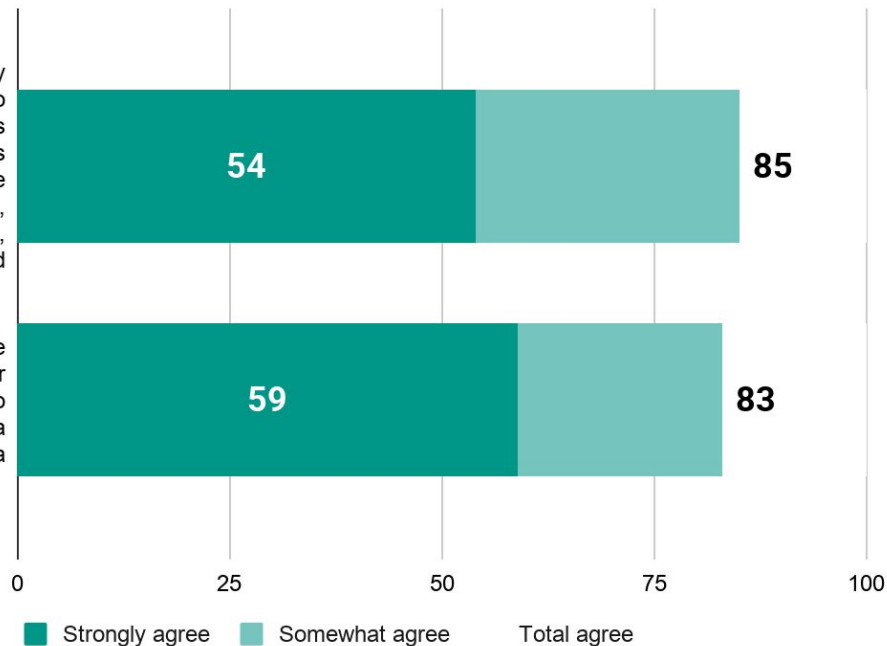
On behalf of Child Care for Every Family Network, Lake Research Partners conducted a mixed mode survey to measure support for Congressional action on universal child care among 1,212 likely voters with oversamples of Latino/a & Black voters in January 2026. Data was statistically weighted to ensure the sample's demographic and political composition reflects that of likely 2026 voters nationwide. Confidence interval for likely voters as part of the survey is +/- 2.8%.

In 2026, voters see the affordability crisis and the child care crisis as one and the same.

Over eight in 10 voters agree that:

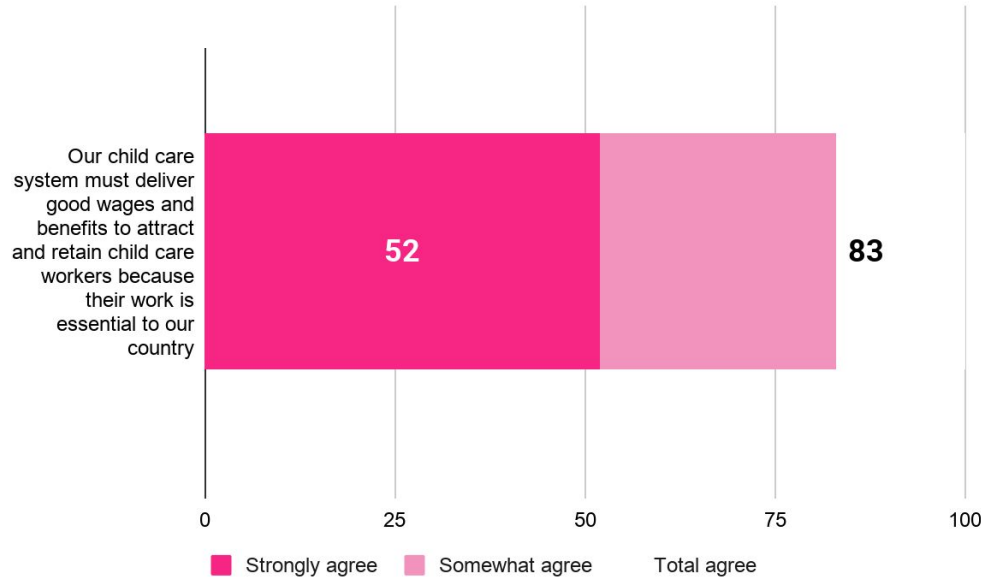
Today, too many parents are forced to make hard decisions about their family's finances due to the rising cost of living, including health care, groceries, and child

It shouldn't be impossible for working people to afford to raise a family in America



Over eight in 10 voters agree that:

Voters are fully aware that the system has failed the child care workforce, and strongly believe that a universal child care system must include better wages for providers.

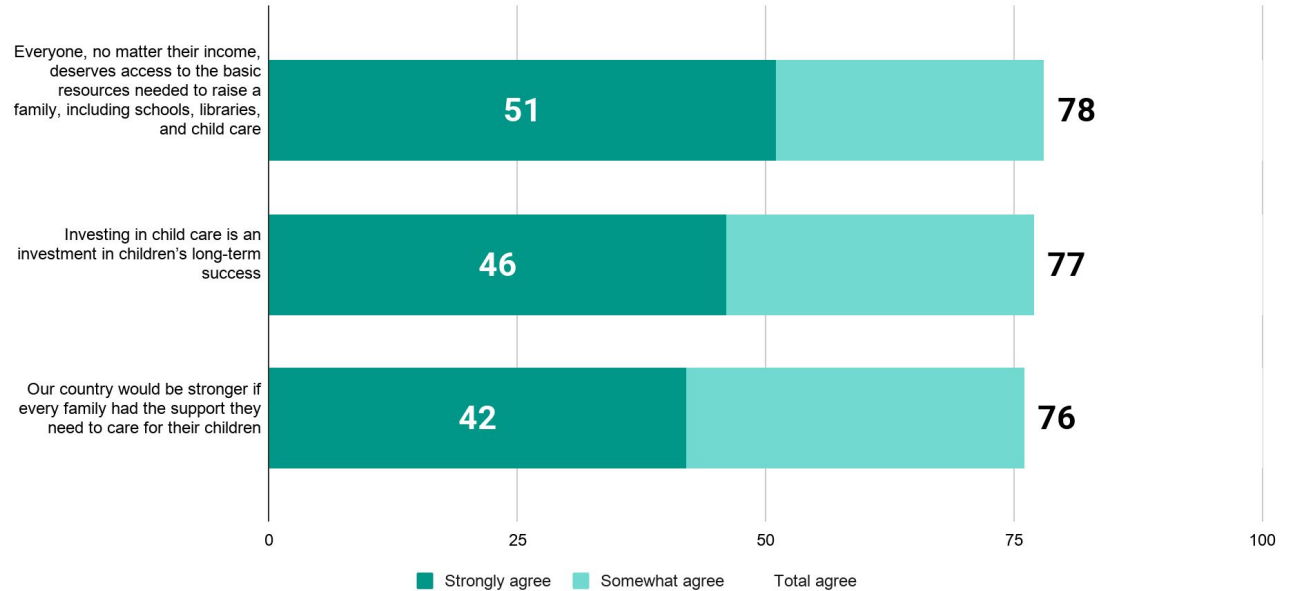


Worker-centered messages resonate strongly with voters
74% of voters find the following message convincing:

Parents trust early childhood educators with what matters most—their children—but too many of those workers are among the lowest paid workers in our country. Many skilled educators can earn more working retail than in classrooms shaping the future of our youth. The system has failed early child care educators and a universal child care plan must include good wages and benefits for educators. Their work is essential to families, the economy, and the future of our country.

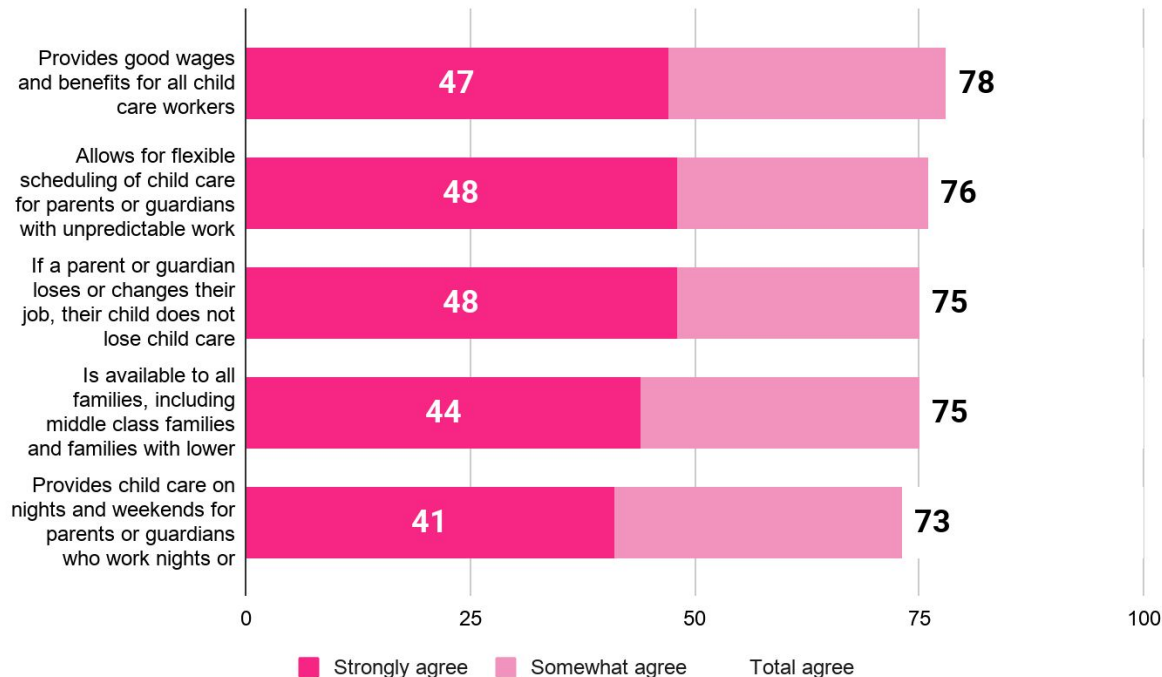
Voters see child care as a solution to a basic need. A universal child care system has broad benefits, beyond just the additional support to families.

Over three-quarters of voters agree that:



When it comes to Congress taking action on universal child care, voters are paying attention to the details.

About three-quarters of voters are more likely to support a universal child care bill that:



Voters see tangible, broad-based benefits if Congress passes universal child care.

Large majorities of likely voters believe the following outcomes are likely if Congress passes universal child care:

