



**From: Katherine Patterson, Public Policy Polling**

**To: Interested Parties**

**Subject: Support in Colorado, Florida, Kentucky, and North Carolina for Extending Federal Unemployment Insurance in Response to COVID-19**

**Date: August 4, 2020**

Four new Public Policy Polling surveys in Colorado, Florida, Kentucky, and North Carolina find strong support for Congress extending the \$600 per week unemployment benefits in response to the economic downturn related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- In Colorado, less than a quarter (23%) of voters think Congress should end the federal unemployment insurance benefits. Meanwhile, a plurality (49%) think these benefits should be either extended or increased.
- In Florida, a majority (55%) of voters think Congress should extend or increase the unemployment benefits, while just 15% think these benefits should be ended.
- In Kentucky, just 15% think Congress should end the unemployment benefits, while half (50%) think these unemployment insurance benefits should be either extended or increased.
- In North Carolina, just 14% think Congress should end the unemployment benefits. Meanwhile, half (50%) think these unemployment insurance benefits should be either extended or increased.

These voters who support extending or increasing unemployment insurance are also considerably more concerned with how their Senator votes on this issue than those who do not support extending the benefits.

## **COLORADO**

- 76% of Coloradans who think Congress should increase the extra unemployment benefits to more than \$600 per week say they would view Senator Cory Gardner less favorably if he voted against the extension. Just 21% say it wouldn't make a difference in their views of Gardner.
- 70% who think the same \$600 unemployment insurance should be extended say they would view Senator Gardner less favorably if he voted against the extension, while only 18% say it wouldn't make a difference.
- 44% of voters who think the unemployment benefits should be decreased say Senator Gardner voting against unemployment insurance extension wouldn't make a difference in their view of him.



## FLORIDA

- 70% of Floridians who think Congress should increase the extra unemployment benefits to more than \$600 per week say they would view Senator Marco Rubio less favorably if he voted against the extension. Just 19% say it wouldn't make a difference in their views of Rubio.
- Another 70% who think the same \$600 unemployment insurance should be extended say they would view Senator Rubio less favorably if he voted against the extension, while only 18% say it wouldn't make a difference.
- Over a third (35%) of voters who think the unemployment benefits should be decreased say Senator Rubio voting against unemployment insurance extension wouldn't make a difference in their view of him.
- 42% who think Congress should end the additional unemployment benefits say it wouldn't make a difference if Senator Rubio voted against the benefits extension.

## KENTUCKY

- 72% of Kentuckians who think Congress should increase the extra unemployment benefits to more than \$600 per week say they would view Senator Mitch McConnell less favorably if he voted against the extension. Just 11% say it wouldn't make a difference in their views of McConnell.
- 63% who think the same \$600 unemployment insurance should be extended say they would view Senator McConnell less favorably if he voted against the extension, while only 26% say it wouldn't make a difference.
- Over a third (35%) of voters who think the unemployment benefits should be decreased say Senator McConnell voting against unemployment insurance extension wouldn't make a difference in their view of him.

## NORTH CAROLINA

- 73% of North Carolinians who think Congress should increase the extra unemployment benefits to more than \$600 per week say they would view Senator Thom Tillis less favorably if he voted against the extension. Just 19% say it wouldn't make a difference in their views of Tillis.
- 71% who think the same \$600 unemployment insurance should be extended say they would view Senator Tillis less favorably if he voted against the extension, while only 17% say it wouldn't make a difference.
- 37% of voters who think the unemployment benefits should be decreased say Senator Tillis voting against unemployment insurance extension would cause them to view him less favorably, while nearly a third (30%) say it wouldn't make a difference in their view of him. Just 26% say they would view him more favorably.

- Another 36% who think Congress should end the additional unemployment benefits say it wouldn't make a difference if Senator McConnell voted against the benefits extension.

Other key findings from the survey include:

- A majority of voters in Colorado (56%), Florida (57%), and North Carolina (52%) think that President Trump's response to the coronavirus has made America less safe.
- President Trump is also underwater in approval by 15 points overall in Colorado (40-55), Florida (40-55), and North Carolina (45-52).
- Voters are also unsatisfied with their Senators' job performance, with each underwater in approval in their home state: Cory Gardner is underwater in Colorado by a margin of 16 points (36-52), Marco Rubio is underwater in Florida by a 20 point margin (31-51), Mitch McConnell is underwater in Kentucky by a 5 point margin (43-48), and Thom Tillis is underwater by 22 points (29-51) in North Carolina.
- A large majority of voters in each state surveyed agree that small businesses and struggling workers should be prioritized over bailouts for large corporations and other wealthy interests: 90% in Colorado, 88% each in Florida and Kentucky, and 87% in North Carolina.

Public Policy Polling surveyed 556 Colorado voters on July 31, 2020 on behalf of Accountable.US. The margin of error is +/- 4.2%. 62% of interviews for the survey were conducted by text message and 38% by telephone.

Public Policy Polling surveyed 609 Florida voters on July 31, 2020 on behalf of Accountable.US. The margin of error is +/- 4.0%. 59% of interviews for the survey were conducted by text message and 41% by telephone.

Public Policy Polling surveyed 643 Kentucky voters on July 31, 2020 on behalf of Accountable.US. The margin of error is +/- 3.9%. 51% of interviews for the survey were conducted by telephone and 49% by text message.

Public Policy Polling surveyed 641 North Carolina voters on July 31, 2020 on behalf of Accountable.US. The margin of error is +/- 3.9%. 50% of interviews for the survey were conducted by telephone and 50% by text message.