



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

**To: Interested Parties**

**Subject: Support in Colorado for Extending Federal Unemployment Insurance in Response to COVID-19**

**Date: August 4, 2020**

A new Public Policy Polling survey finds that less than a quarter (23%) of Colorado voters think Congress should end the \$600 per week unemployment benefits in response to the economic downturn related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Meanwhile, a plurality (49%) 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.

- 76% among the 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% among those 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% among 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.
- Nearly a third (29%) among the voters who think Congress should end the additional unemployment benefits say it wouldn't make a difference if Senator Gardner voted against the benefits extension.



Colorado voters show strong support for initiatives to help small businesses and struggling workers as priorities over bailouts for large corporations and other wealthy interests. A large majority (90%) agree that Congress should prioritize small businesses and struggling workers, with 77% of those saying they strongly agree.

With a debate over whether or not Congress should extend the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), just 10% of Coloradans think Congress should extend the program as-is, and only 9% think it should be allowed to expire. With concerns over the PPP prioritizing wealthy and well-connected companies over small businesses, other voters think it should be reformed. A plurality (39%) think the program should be extended but fixed to prioritize small businesses, and another 36% think Congress should start over with a new program that is more transparent.

Other key findings in the survey include:

- 56% of Coloradans think President Trump's response to the coronavirus pandemic has made America less safe, while just 39% think America is safer.
- President Trump is underwater in approval of his handling of the coronavirus pandemic and the economic downturn resulting from it: 55% disapprove of his handling of the coronavirus pandemic, while only 44% approve. Another 52% disapprove of Trump's handling of the economic downturn during the coronavirus pandemic, while 44% approve.
- President Trump is also underwater in approval by 15 points overall in Colorado (40-55).
- Senator Cory Gardner is unpopular in his home state, with a majority (52%) disapproving of his job performance and just 36% approving.

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.