



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

**To: Interested Parties**

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

**Date: August 4, 2020**

A new Public Policy Polling survey finds that just 15% of Kentucky voters think Congress should end the \$600 per week unemployment benefits in response to the economic downturn related to the COVID-19 pandemic. 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.

- 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.



- 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.

Kentucky 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 (88%) agree that Congress should prioritize small businesses and struggling workers, with 74% of those saying they strongly agree.

With a debate over whether or not Congress should extend the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), only 14% of Kentuckians think Congress should extend the program as-is, and just 5% 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 (41%) think the program should be extended but fixed to prioritize small businesses, and another 33% think Congress should start over with a new program that is more transparent.

Additionally, Senator Mitch McConnell is underwater in approval in his home state, with a plurality (48%) disapproving of his job performance and just 43% approving. Among key independent voters, this margin grows to 24 points (33-57).

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.