

2019 Legislative Priorities Poll Report

The Governor’s Council on Disability recently conducted its annual poll to determine the level of importance disability related issues have to Missourians impacted by disability through their personal and/or professional lives. The results will be shared with council members, the Governor, state legislators, and other interested groups. The poll was available to individuals via the Governor’s Council on Disability listserves, Twitter, Facebook, website, personal contacts, and other organization contacts. It was provided in PDF and Survey Monkey formats.

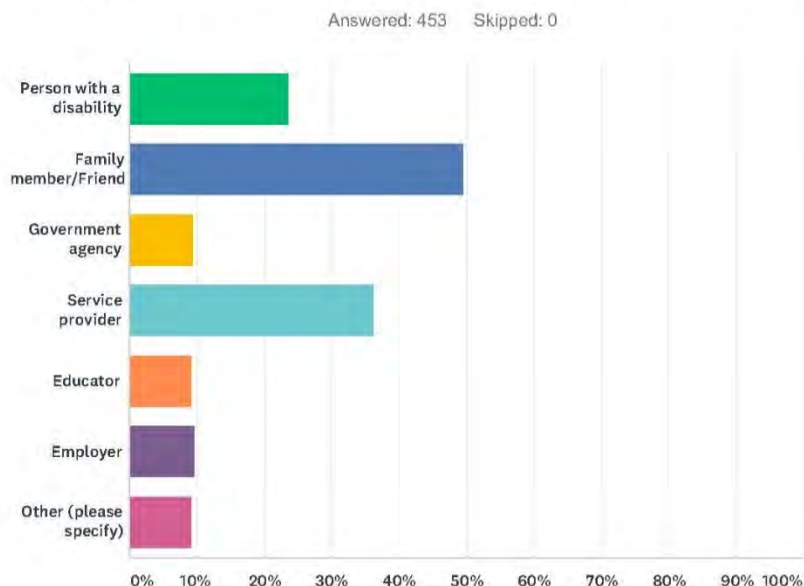
Four hundred fifty-three (453) polls were returned.

The top five priorities for the Governor’s Council on Disability for the coming year are determined by the questions which receive the highest combined percentage of strongly agree and agree responses. The 2019 priorities will be:

1. **The increasing cost of medication**
2. **All public buildings having evacuation plans for all people with disabilities**
3. **Private insurance coverage requirement for hearing aids**
4. **Health care/medical services access**
5. **Schools having a restraint and seclusion policy**

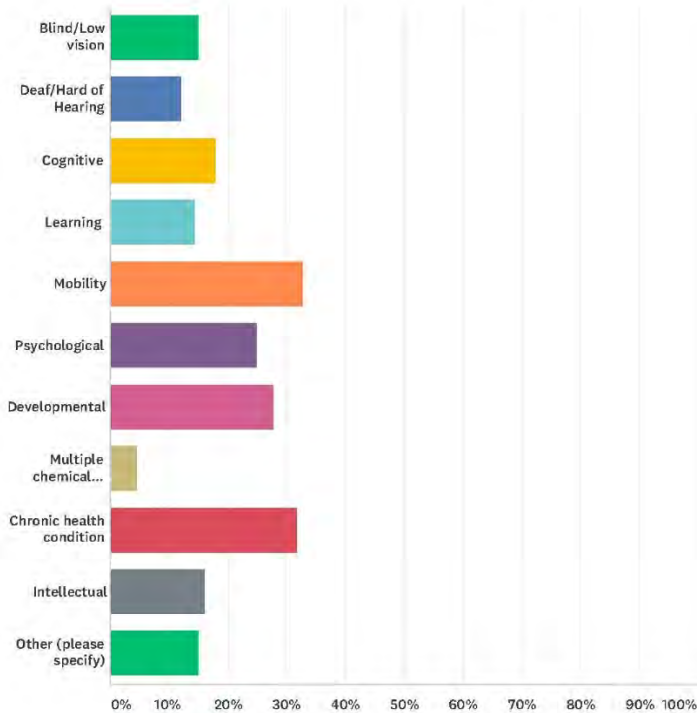
Respondents were given the opportunity to indicate the group or groups to which they belonged: person with a disability, family member/friend, government agency employee, service provider, educator, employer, other. The person with a disability category was marked 107 times. Of the other respondents, 225 were a family member/friend, 43 represented a government agency, 164 were service providers, 42 were educators, 44 were employers, and 42 marked other. Individuals with disabilities were given the option to indicate what type or types of disability they have: blind/low vision (26), chronic health condition (55), multiple chemical sensitivity (8), cognitive (31), deaf/hard of hearing (21), developmental (48), learning (25), mobility (57), psychological (43), intellectual (28) and other (26).

Q4 Please indicate whether you are a (select all that apply):



Q5 If you have a disability, please indicate which type(s) (Optional)

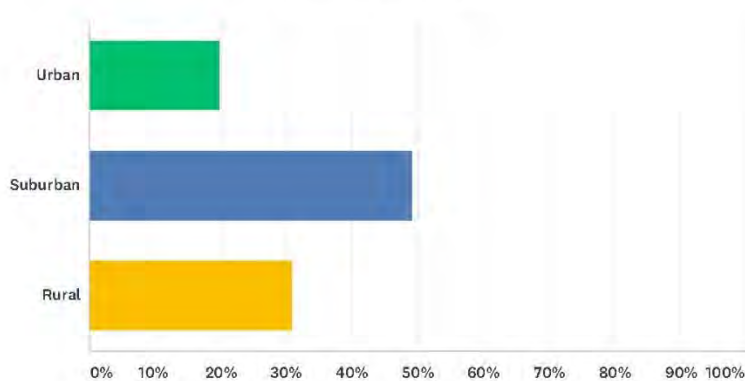
Answered: 173 Skipped: 280



Individuals were asked to indicate what county they reside in and whether they live in an urban, suburban, or rural area. For the purposes of this report, the City of St. Louis is considered a county. Of the one hundred fifteen counties, thirty-six are represented. For the number of respondents per county see Appendix A. As indicated by self-report, 90 (19.87%) live in urban areas, 223 (49.23%) live in suburban areas, and 140 (30.91%) live in rural areas.

Q3 Please indicate which describes where you live.

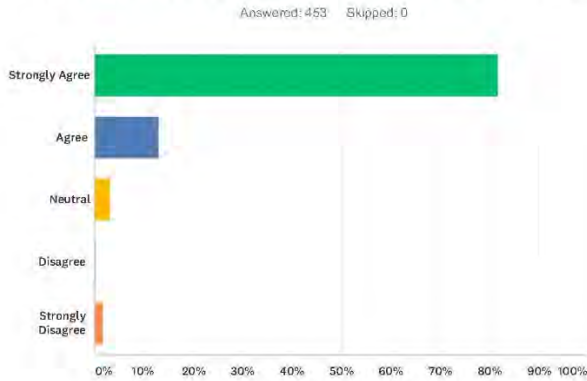
Answered: 453 Skipped: 0



The following are the individual question results.

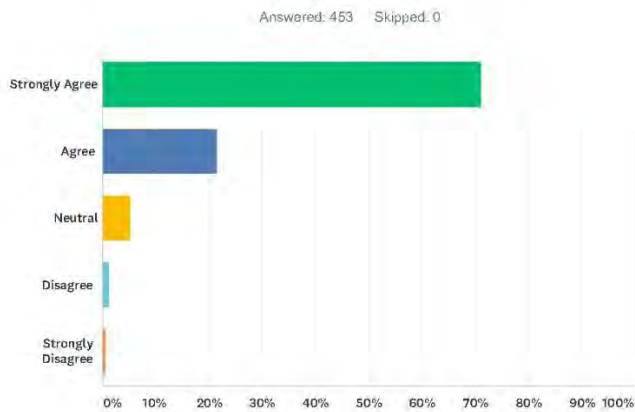
Q6. All public buildings should have emergency plans which include plans for evacuation of people with all types of disabilities. 81.90% strongly agree 13.02% agree, 3.09% are neutral, 0.22% disagree, and 1.77% strongly disagree.

Q6 All public buildings should have emergency plans which include plans for evacuation of people with all types of disabilities



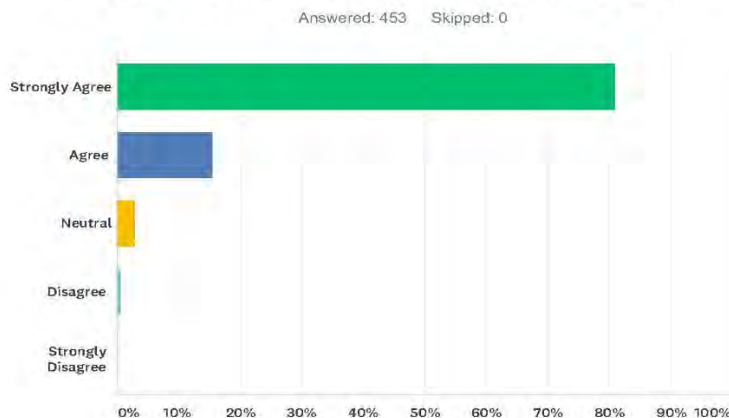
Q8. Private insurance plans in Missouri should be required to cover hearing aids. 71.08% strongly agree, 21.63% agree, 5.30% are neutral, 1.32% disagree, and 0.66% strongly disagree.

Q8 Private insurance plans in Missouri should be required to cover hearing aids



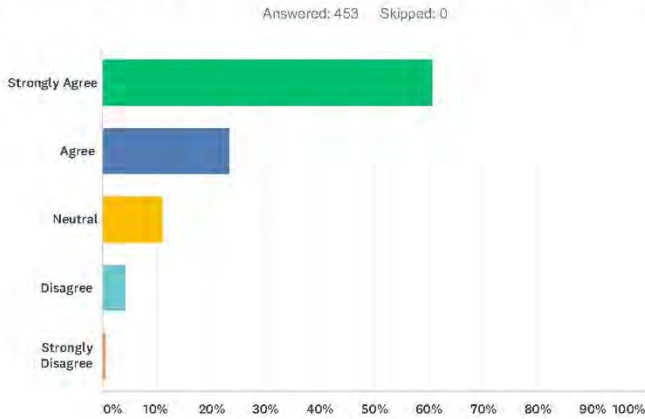
Q9. The increasing cost of medications is an issue. 81.02% strongly agree, 15.45% agree, 2.87% are neutral, 0.66% disagree, and 0% strongly disagree.

Q9 The increasing cost of medications is an issue



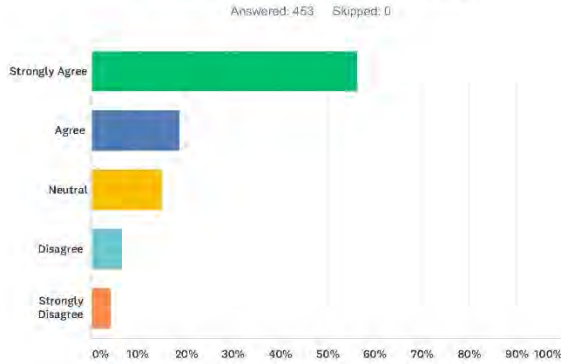
Q10. Access to health care/medical services in Missouri is an issue. 60.71% strongly agree 23.40% agree, 11.04% are neutral, 4.19% disagree, and 0.66% strongly disagree.

Q10 Access to health care/medical services in Missouri is an issue



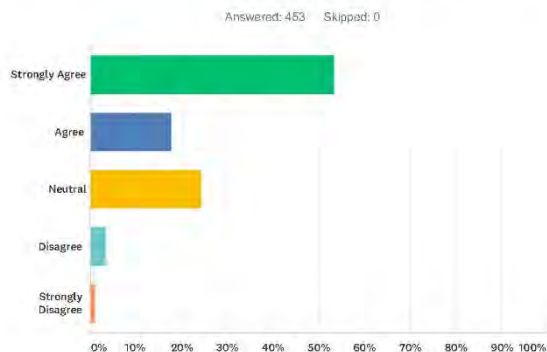
Q11. All Missouri schools should have a policy prohibiting children from being confined to rooms alone without being able to leave (seclusion) or being restrained (restricting student's ability to move head, torso, legs, or arms freely). 56.29% strongly agree, 18.54% agree, 14.79% are neutral, 6.40% disagree, and 3.97% strongly disagree.

Q11 All Missouri schools should have a policy prohibiting children from being confined to rooms alone without being able to leave (seclusion) or being restrained (restricting student's ability to move head, torso, legs, or arms freely)



Q12. Home and Community-Based Services should be restored to pre-2017 levels. 53.42% strongly agree, 17.88% agree, 24.28% are neutral, 3.31% disagree, and 1.10% strongly disagree.

Q12 Home and Community-Based Services should be restored to pre-2017 levels



There were several opportunities for individuals to share their personal thoughts regarding issues with competitive employment, housing, health care, and transportation, what they would like legislators to work on during the upcoming legislative session, and ideas to help Missouri be more disability friendly. There were several topics mentioned frequently, which included:

- Employers not being willing to hire and accommodate people with disabilities, need for higher wages/salaries, sheltered workshops
- Lack of inclusion in schools, not preparing students for adult life
- Lack of affordable housing. It costs too much.
- Lack of and cost of transportation
- The cost of health care/insurance/prescriptions, lack of dental, hearing aid, and other coverage, lack of medical and mental health providers and lack of disability related education for providers

In an effort to ensure each citizen's voice is heard in its entirety we will be sending the responses from each question via email to your offices.

Appendix A

County	Number	County	Number	County	Number
Adair	4	Harrison	1	Phelps	1
Andrew	1	Henry		Pike	2
Atchison	1	Hickory	3	Platte	10
Audrain	5	Holt		Polk	
Barry		Howard	5	Pulaski	3
Barton		Howell	3	Putnam	
Bates		Iron		Ralls	1
Benton	1	Jackson	50	Randolph	3
Bollinger		Jasper	8	Ray	4
Boone	47	Jefferson	7	Reynolds	
Buchanan	18	Johnson	4	Ripley	1
Butler	1	Knox		St. Charles	26
Caldwell		Laclede	2	St. Clair	2
Callaway	5	Lafayette		Ste. Genevieve	1
Camden	3	Lawrence		St. Francois	3
Cape Girardeau	5	Lewis		St. Louis	80
Carroll		Lincoln	7	St. Louis City	21
Carter		Linn		Saline	
Cass	2	Livingston		Schuyler	
Cedar		Macon	4	Scotland	
Chariton	1	Madison	1	Scott	
Christian	3	Maries		Shannon	1
Clark	1	Marion	2	Shelby	
Clay	16	McDonald	1	Stoddard	1
Clinton	1	Mercer		Stone	
Cole	8	Miller	8	Sullivan	
Cooper	1	Mississippi	2	Taney	4
Crawford	1	Moniteau	1	Texas	
Dade		Monroe		Vernon	6
Dallas	3	Montgomery		Warren	2
Daviess	1	Morgan	1	Washington	4
De Kalb		New Madrid		Wayne	
Dent	1	Newton	1	Webster	1
Douglas	1	Nodaway		Worth	
Dunklin	1	Oregon		Wright	
Franklin	2	Osage			
Gasconade	1	Ozark			
Gentry	1	Pemiscot	1		
Greene	23	Perry			
Grundy	1	Pettis	6		