

2020 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.

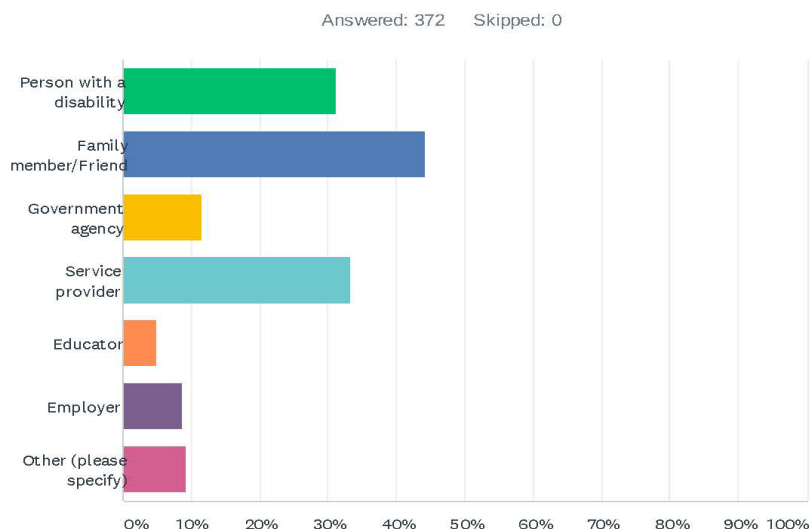
Three hundred Seventy-two (372) polls were returned.

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 2021 priorities will be:

1. **Plans for public emergencies and disasters ensuring needs of people with disabilities are met**
2. **All public buildings having evacuation plans for all people with disabilities**
3. **Accessible voting machine provided at each polling location to comply with federal law**
4. **Private insurance hearing aid coverage**
5. **The increasing cost of medications**

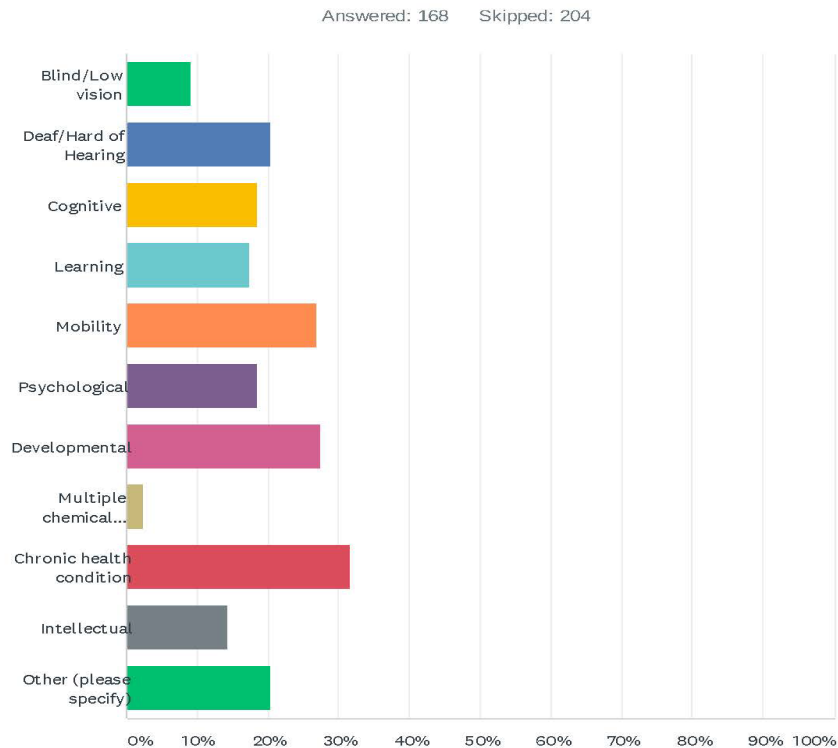
Respondents were given the opportunity to indicate the group or groups to which they belonged: person with a disability, family member/friend, government agency employee, service provider, educator, employer, other. The person with a disability category was marked 116 times. Of the other respondents, 164 were a family member/friend, 43 represented a government agency, 124 were service providers, 18 were educators, 32 were employers, and 34 marked other.

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



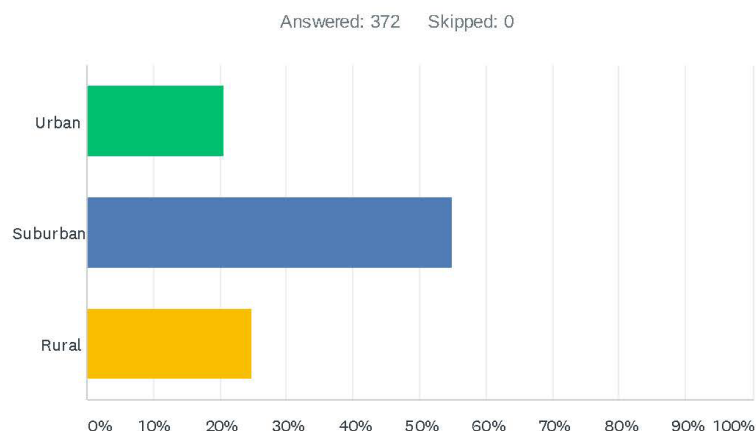
Individuals with disabilities were given the option to indicate what type or types of disability they have: blind/low vision (15), chronic health condition (53), multiple chemical sensitivity (4), cognitive (31), deaf/hard of hearing (34), developmental (46), learning (29), mobility (45), psychological (31), intellectual (24) and other (34).

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



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, fifty-four are represented. For the number of respondents per county see Appendix A. As indicated by self-report, 76 (20.43%) live in urban areas, 204 (54.84%) live in suburban areas, and 92 (24.73%) live in rural areas.

Q3 Please indicate which describes where you live

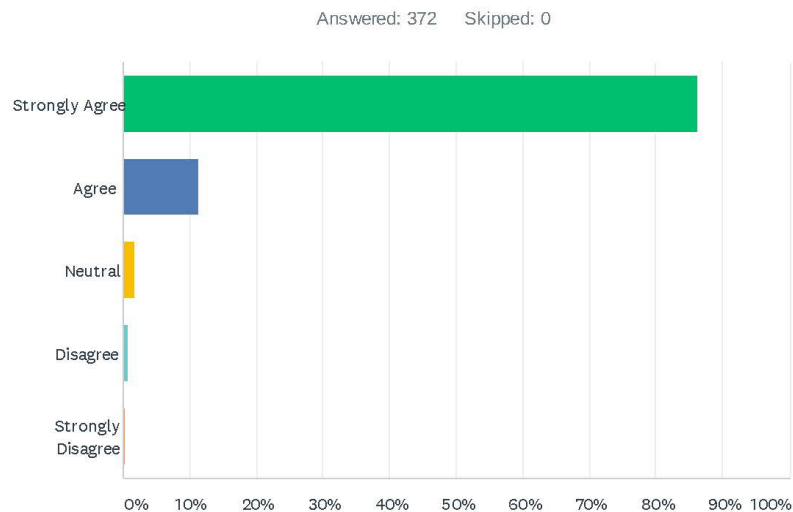


The following are the individual question results.

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

86.29% strongly agree 11.29% agree, 1.61% are neutral, 0.54% disagree, and 0.27% strongly disagree.

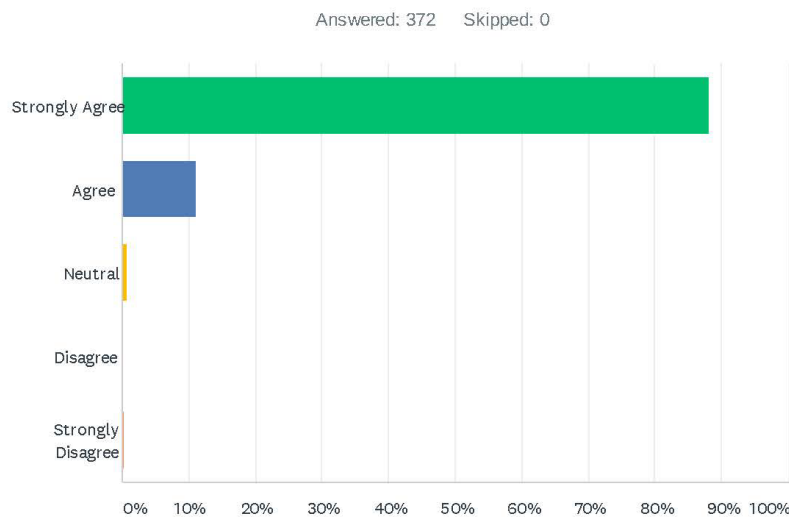
Q6 All public buildings should have emergency plans which include plans for evacuation of people with all types of disabilities



2. **All plans for public emergencies and disasters should include provisions to ensure the needs of people with disabilities are met.**

88.17% strongly agree 11.02% agree, 0.54% are neutral, 0.00% disagree, and 0.27% strongly disagree.

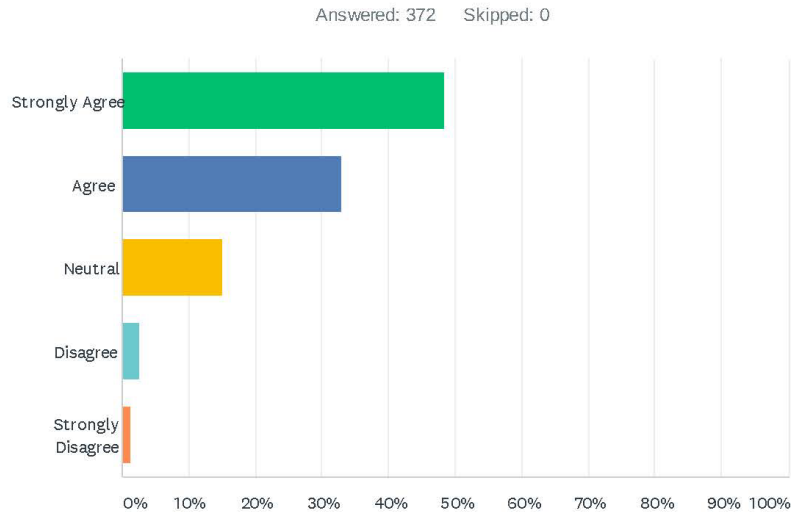
Q7 All plans for public emergencies and disasters should include provisions to ensure the needs of people with disabilities are met



3. **Low-income people with disabilities should receive a tax credit for the rent they pay.**

48.39% strongly agree, 32.80% agree, 15.05% are neutral, 2.42% disagree, and 1.34% strongly disagree.

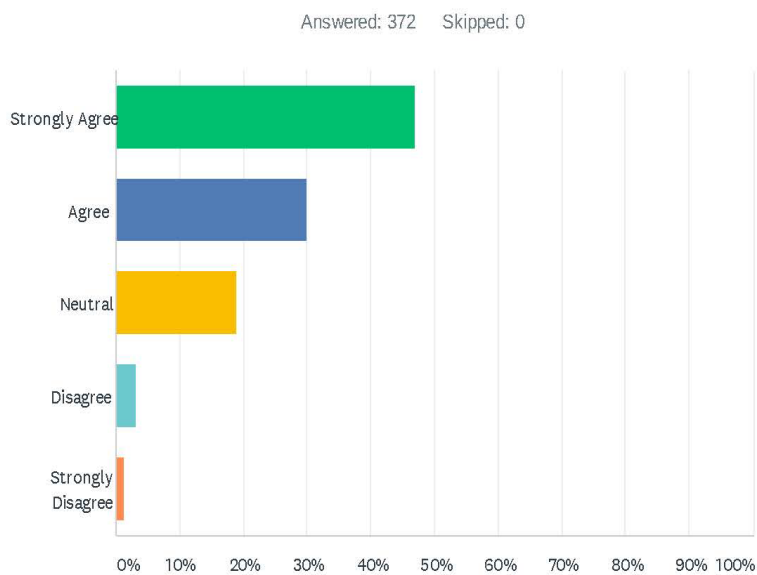
Q8 Low-income people with disabilities should receive a tax credit for the rent they pay



4. **Low-income people with disabilities should receive a tax credit for the real estate tax they pay.**

46.77% strongly agree, 29.84% agree, 18.82% are neutral, 3.23% disagree, and 1.34% strongly disagree.

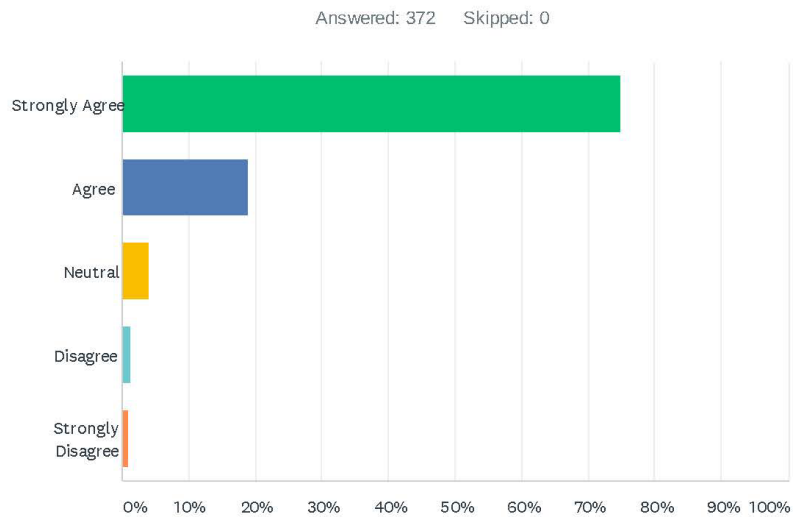
Q9 Low-income people with disabilities should receive a tax credit for the real estate tax they pay



5. **Private insurance plans in Missouri should be required to cover hearing aids.**

75.00% strongly agree, 18.82% agree, 4.03% are neutral, 1.34% disagree, and 0.81% strongly disagree.

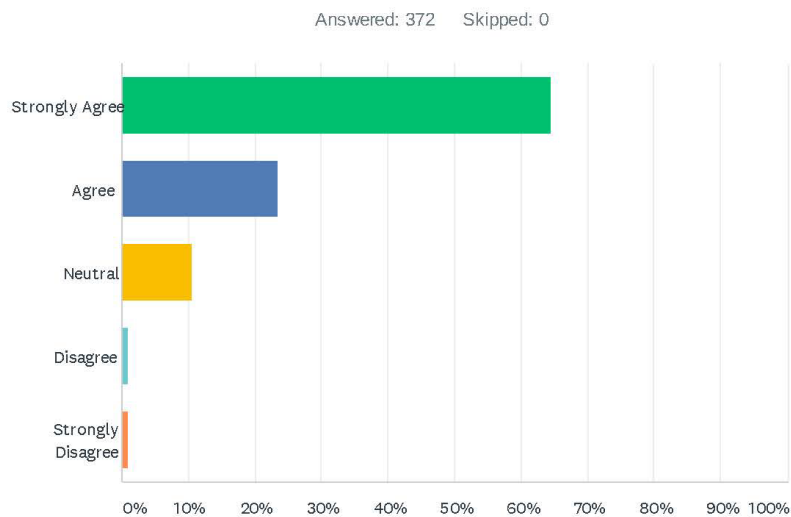
Q10 Private insurance plans in Missouri should be required to cover hearing aids



6. **The increasing cost of medications is a barrier for people with disabilities.**

64.52% strongly agree, 23.39% agree, 10.48% are neutral, 0.81% disagree, and 0.81% strongly disagree.

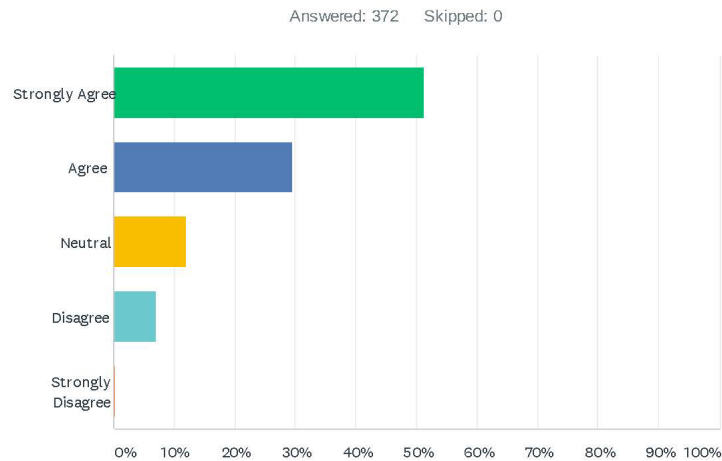
Q11 The increasing cost of medications is a barrier for people with disabilities



7. **Accessing health care is difficult for people with disabilities.**

51.34% strongly agree, 29.57% agree, 11.83% are neutral, 6.99% disagree, and 0.27% strongly disagree.

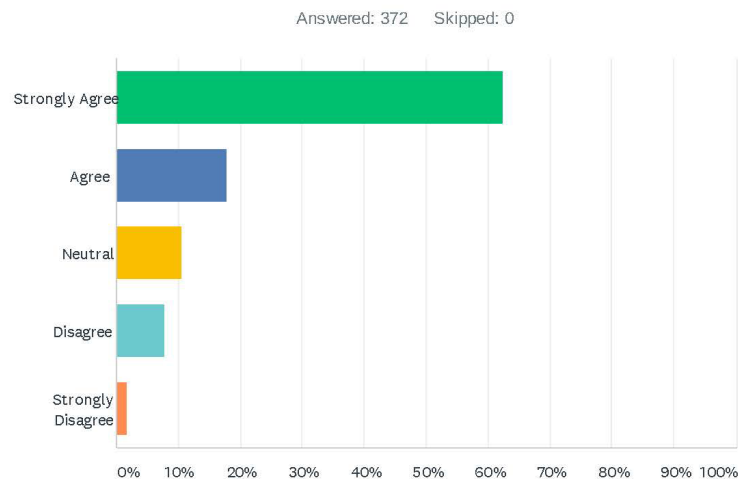
Q12 Accessing health care is difficult for people with disabilities



8. **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).**

62.37% strongly agree, 17.74% agree, 10.48% are neutral, 7.80% disagree, and 1.61% strongly disagree.

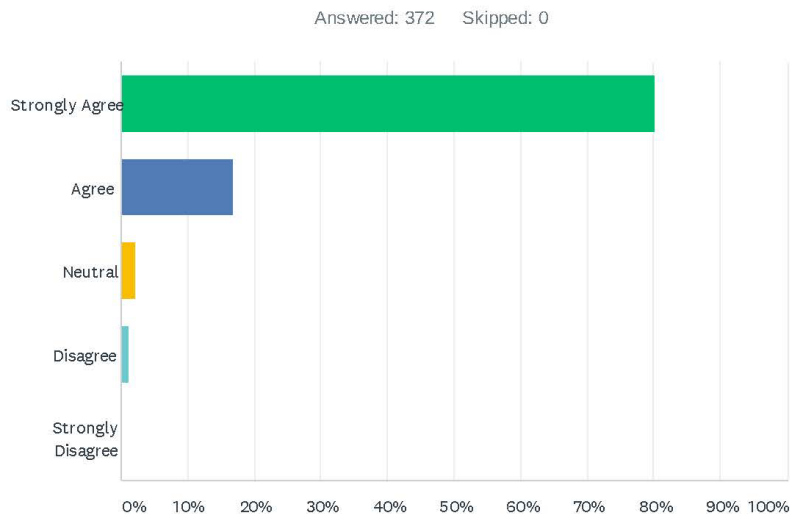
Q13 All Missouri schools should have a policy prohibiting children from being confined to rooms alone without being able to leave (seclusion) or being restrained (restricting student's ability to move head, torso, legs, or arms freely)



9. **All election authorities should make one accessible voting machine available at each polling location in compliance with federal law.**

80.11% strongly agree, 16.67% agree, 2.15% are neutral, 1.08% disagree, and 0.00% strongly disagree.

Q14 All election authorities should make one accessible voting machine available at each polling location in compliance with federal law



There were several opportunities for individuals to share their personal thoughts regarding issues with competitive employment, housing, health care, 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, employers need more training and education regarding people with disabilities, need for higher wages/salaries, sheltered workshops being an appropriate option
- Providing appropriate education during COVID-19, special education services issues
- There is not enough housing. More of it needs to be affordable, safe, and accessible
- Lack of transportation throughout the state (in rural, urban, and suburban areas)
- Health care is too expensive, Medicaid expansion, providers not accepting Medicaid
- Increase funding, provide more inclusion/disability awareness training, improve public accessibility

Respondents were given the option to share issues related to people with disabilities and the COVID-19 pandemic. 278 provided thoughts. The responses covered a variety of topics.

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

Appendix A

County	Number	County	Number	County	Number
Adair	8	Harrison		Phelps	
Andrew	1	Henry	1	Pike	
Atchison		Hickory	3	Platte	5
Audrain		Holt		Polk	
Barry		Howard	2	Pulaski	5
Barton		Howell	3	Putnam	1
Bates		Iron		Ralls	
Benton	2	Jackson	59	Randolph	1
Bollinger		Jasper	8	Ray	
Boone	15	Jefferson	9	Reynolds	
Buchanan	6	Johnson	5	Ripley	1
Butler		Knox		St. Charles	24
Caldwell		Laclede	2	St. Clair	
Callaway	4	Lafayette		Ste. Genevieve	
Camden	8	Lawrence		St. Francois	
Cape Girardeau	2	Lewis		St. Louis	95
Carroll		Lincoln	2	St. Louis City	18
Carter		Linn		Saline	
Cass	6	Livingston		Schuyler	
Cedar	1	Macon	1	Scotland	
Chariton		Madison	1	Scott	
Christian	4	Maries		Shannon	
Clark	1	Marion	2	Shelby	
Clay	8	McDonald		Stoddard	
Clinton		Mercer		Stone	2
Cole	7	Miller	2	Sullivan	
Cooper		Mississippi	1	Taney	3
Crawford	1	Moniteau		Texas	
Dade		Monroe		Vernon	4
Dallas	2	Montgomery		Warren	1
Daviess	2	Morgan		Washington	1
De Kalb		New Madrid	1	Wayne	
Dent		Newton	1	Webster	3
Douglas		Nodaway		Worth	
Dunklin	1	Oregon		Wright	2
Franklin	3	Osage			
Gasconade		Ozark			
Gentry	2	Pemiscot			
Greene	18	Perry			
Grundy		Pettis	1		