



# Kansas Statewide Survey: Attitudes Toward Vaccines

Key findings from a statewide survey of 600 registered voters  
in Kansas, conducted January 27-February 3, 2022.

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# Methodology

Public Opinion Strategies is pleased to present the key findings of a statewide survey conducted in Kansas. The survey was completed January 27-February 3, 2022, among 600 registered voters, with 312 landline respondents and 288 online respondents, and has a margin of error of +4.0%.

Glen Bolger and Jarrett Lewis were the principal researchers on this project. Torie Bolger was the project director, and Katie Connolly provided analytical support.

# DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE



Gender	% of Sample
<i>Men</i>	<b>48%</b>
<i>Women</i>	<b>52%</b>



Age	% of Sample
<i>18-34</i>	<b>18%</b>
<i>35-44</i>	<b>20%</b>
<i>45-54</i>	<b>14%</b>
<i>55-64</i>	<b>21%</b>
<i>65+</i>	<b>28%</b>



DMA	% of Sample
<i>Kansas City</i>	<b>38%</b>
<i>Topeka</i>	<b>15%</b>
<i>Wichita</i>	<b>40%</b>
<i>Balance</i>	<b>7%</b>



Party	% of Sample
<i>Republican</i>	<b>43%</b>
<i>Lean/Independent</i>	<b>25%</b>
<i>Democrat</i>	<b>28%</b>



Education	% of Sample
<i>High School or Less</i>	<b>23%</b>
<i>Some College</i>	<b>29%</b>
<i>College Graduate</i>	<b>35%</b>
<i>Graduate/Prof</i>	<b>13%</b>

# Poll Representation by Geography

- 32% of the interviews were done in urban counties
- 35% in suburban counties
- 33% in rural counties

Wellness Vaccines	Urban	Suburban	Rural
Good Thing	95%	96%	94%
Bad Thing	4%	3%	4%

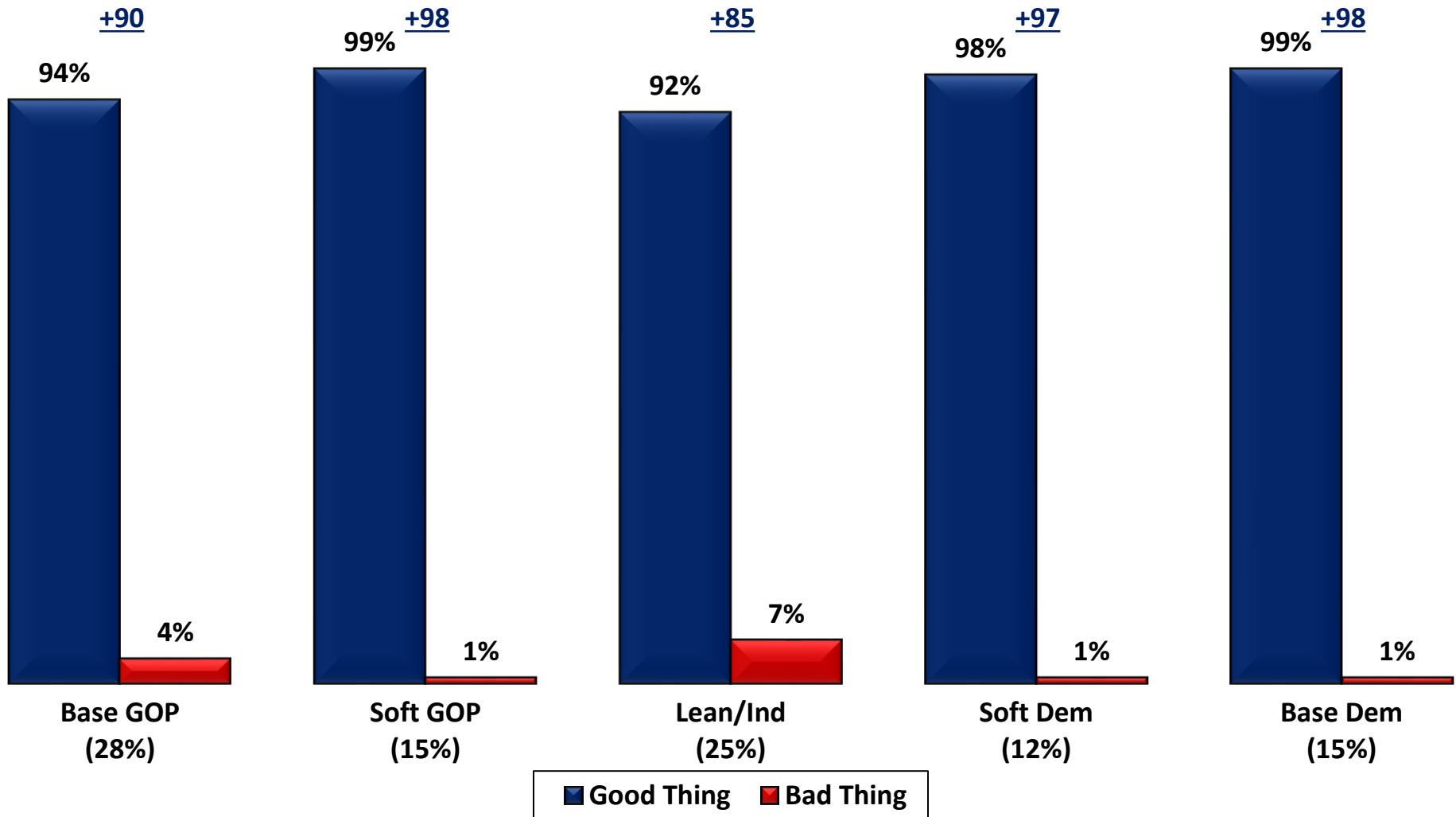
The three media markets include rural areas of the state, representing 93% of the population who voted in the 2020 presidential election.

# KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. More than 9-in-10 Kansas voters (95%) believe taking vaccines for diseases like measles, mumps and polio is extremely or very important to maintaining good health. In fact, when it comes to maintaining good health, a larger share of Kansas voters believe it is more important to get wellness vaccines than it is to get an annual checkup at the doctor (94%).
2. Fully 95% of Kansas voters believe wellness vaccines are a good thing, including 77% who say they are **a very good** thing. And voters across Kansas strongly trust the safety and efficacy of wellness vaccines. Consider:
  - More than 9-in-10 of Kansas voters believes wellness vaccines are completely/mostly safe, including strong majorities of Republicans (96%), Independents (95%) and Democrats (98%)
  - More than 9-in-10 of Kansas voters believes wellness vaccines are completely/mostly effective, including strong majorities of Republicans (97%), Independents (95%) and Democrats (100%)
3. More than 9-in-10 Kansas voters support wellness vaccine requirements for children to attend K-12 schools or childcare facilities, including 70% who **strongly** support the requirements. 67% of voters would be more supportive of a political candidate if they supported existing wellness vaccine requirements (25% say it would make no difference), including majorities of Republicans (59%), Independents (61%) and Democrats (89%).

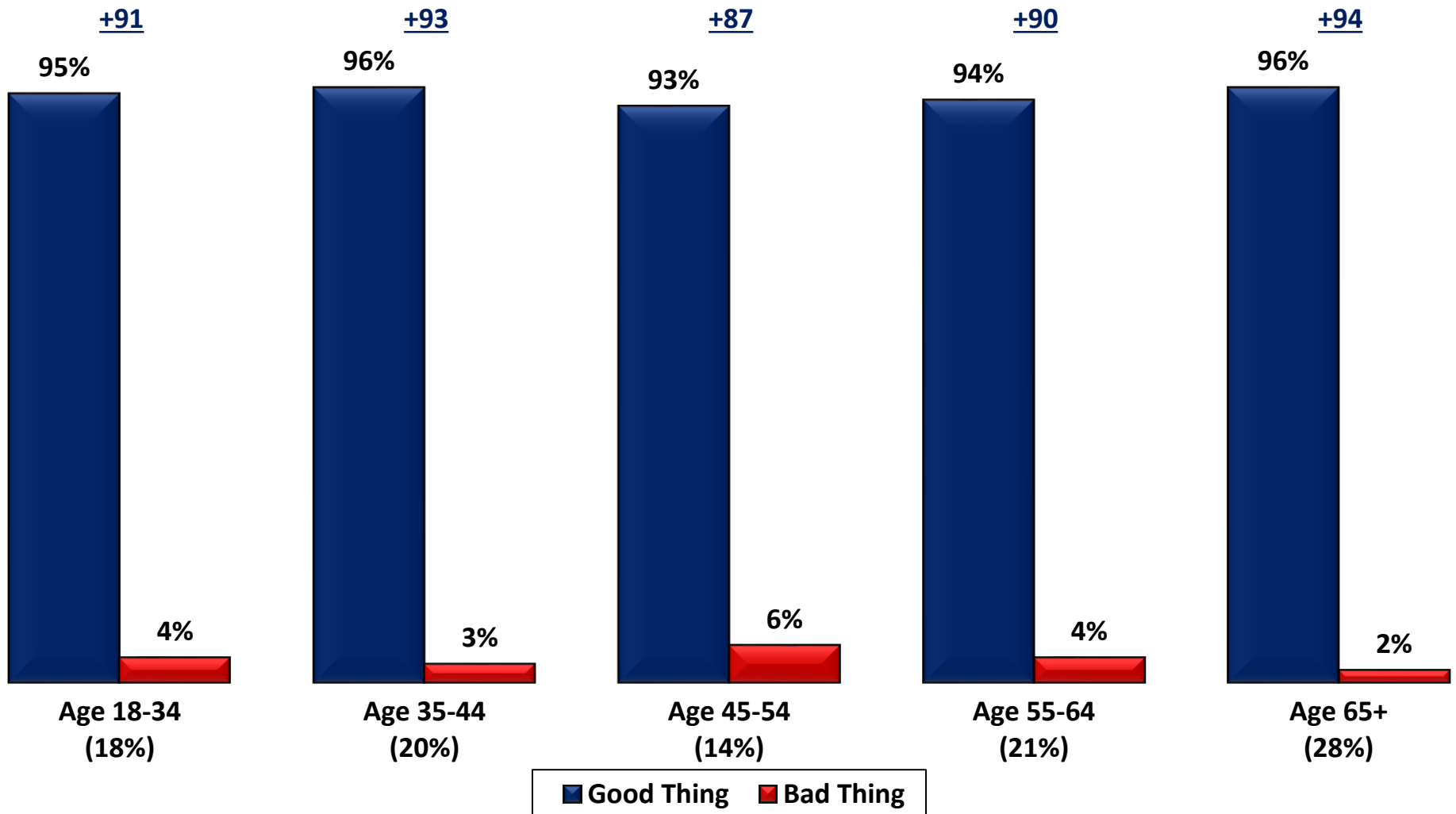
# There is strong agreement across partisan lines that wellness vaccines are a good thing.

*Wellness Vaccines Good Thing/Bad Thing by Party*

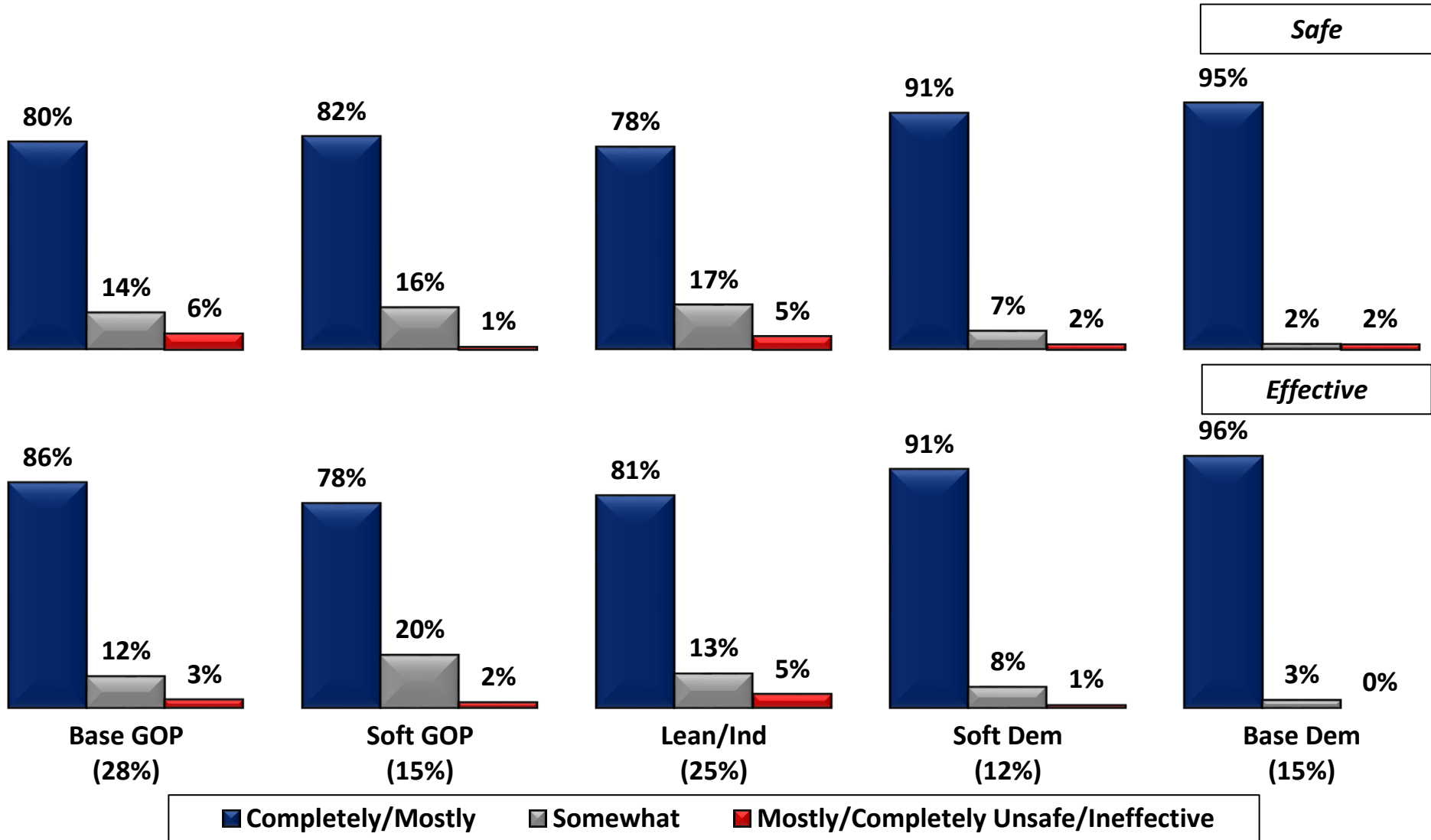


# Voters of all ages believe wellness vaccines are a good thing.

*Wellness Vaccines Good Thing/Bad Thing by Age*



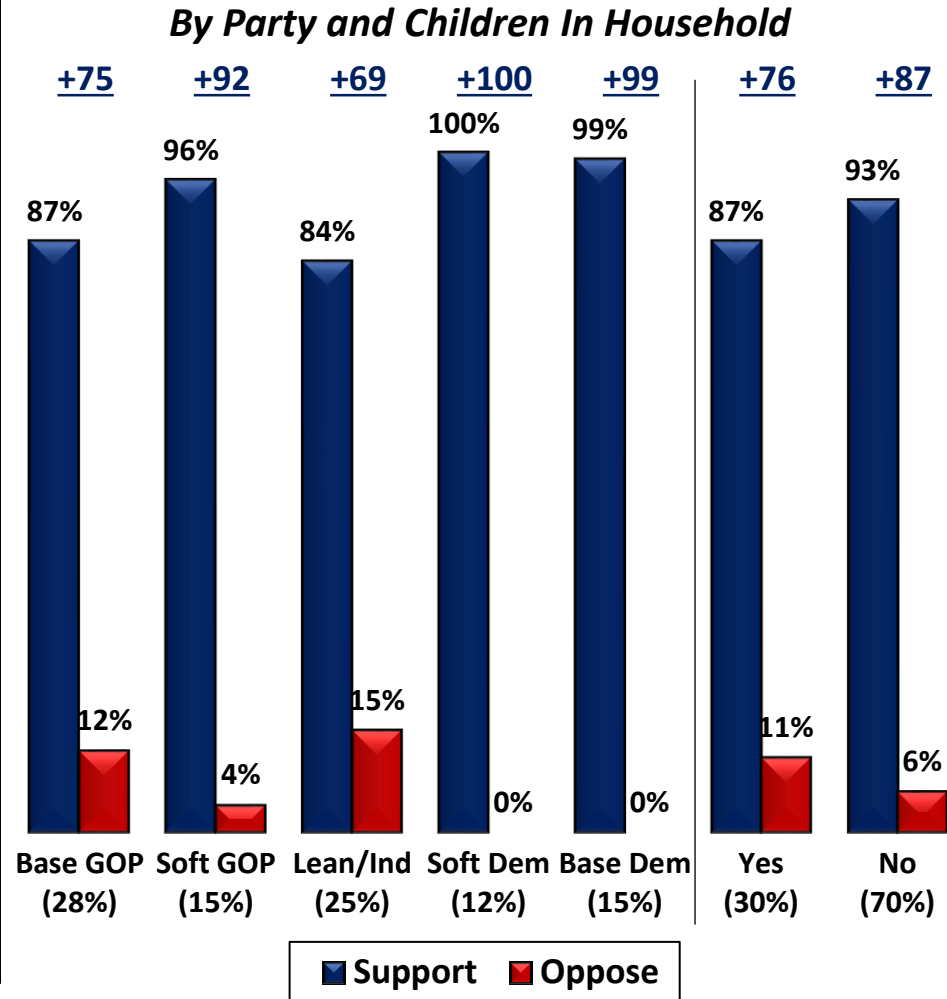
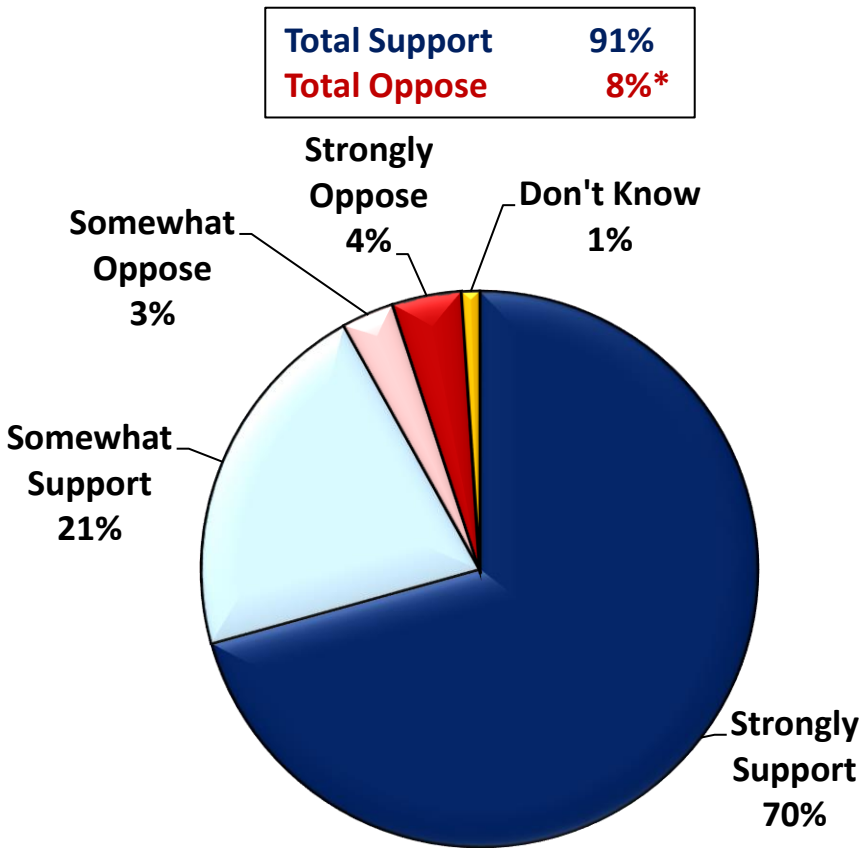
# Strong majorities of voters across party lines believe vaccines are completely/mostly safe and effective.





# There is strong support for requiring the wellness vaccines for school/childcare.

*“Current Kansas law requires children attending childcare facilities or K-12 schools to receive certain wellness vaccines for certain diseases. Do you support or oppose these existing wellness vaccine requirements for children attending childcare facilities or K-12 schools in Kansas?”*

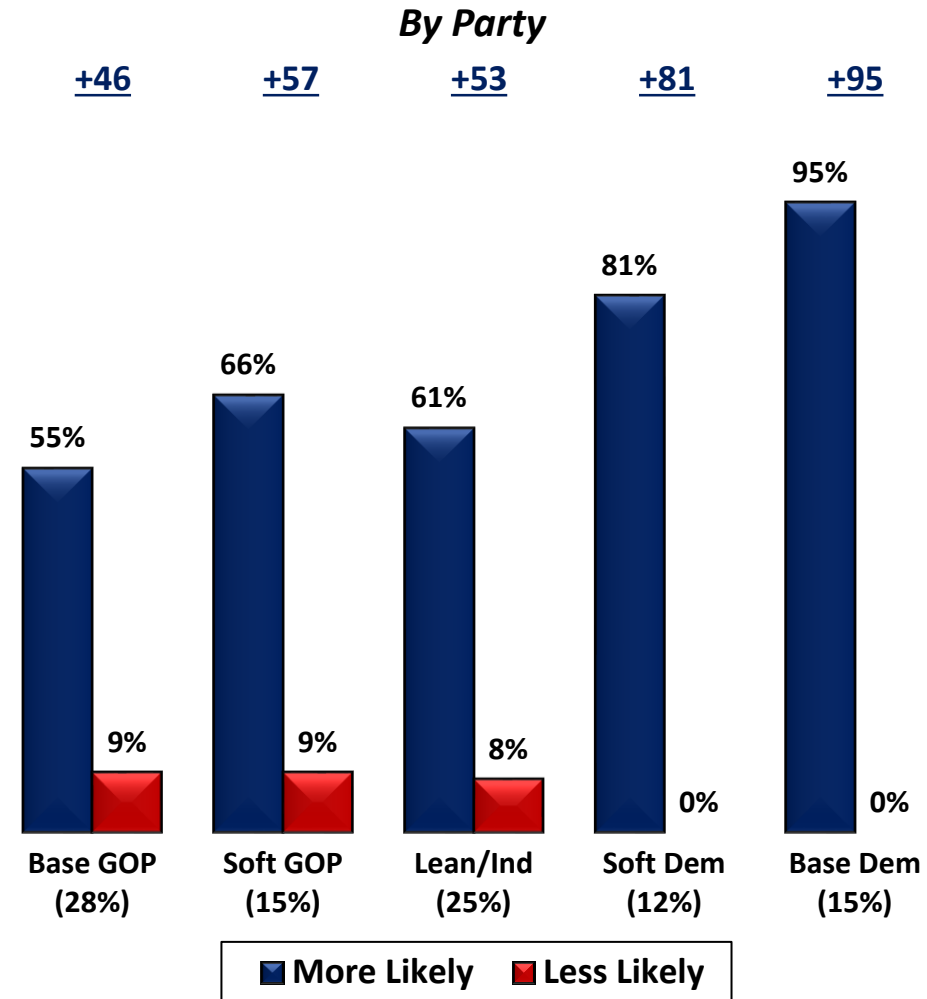
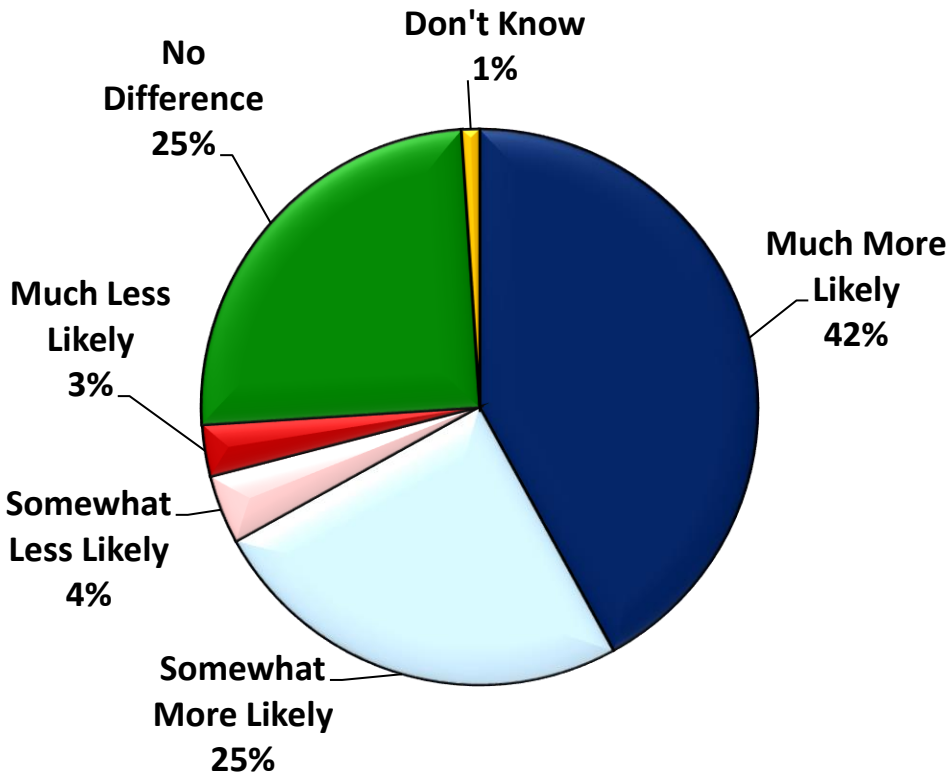


\*Denotes Rounding.

# Three-quarters of voters say they would be more likely to support a candidate who supported the existing vaccine requirements.

*“And, would you be more likely or less likely to support a candidate for public office if they support these existing wellness vaccine requirements for children attending childcare facilities or K-12 schools in Kansas, or would it make no difference to you?”*

**Total More Likely 67%**  
**Total Less Likely 6%\***



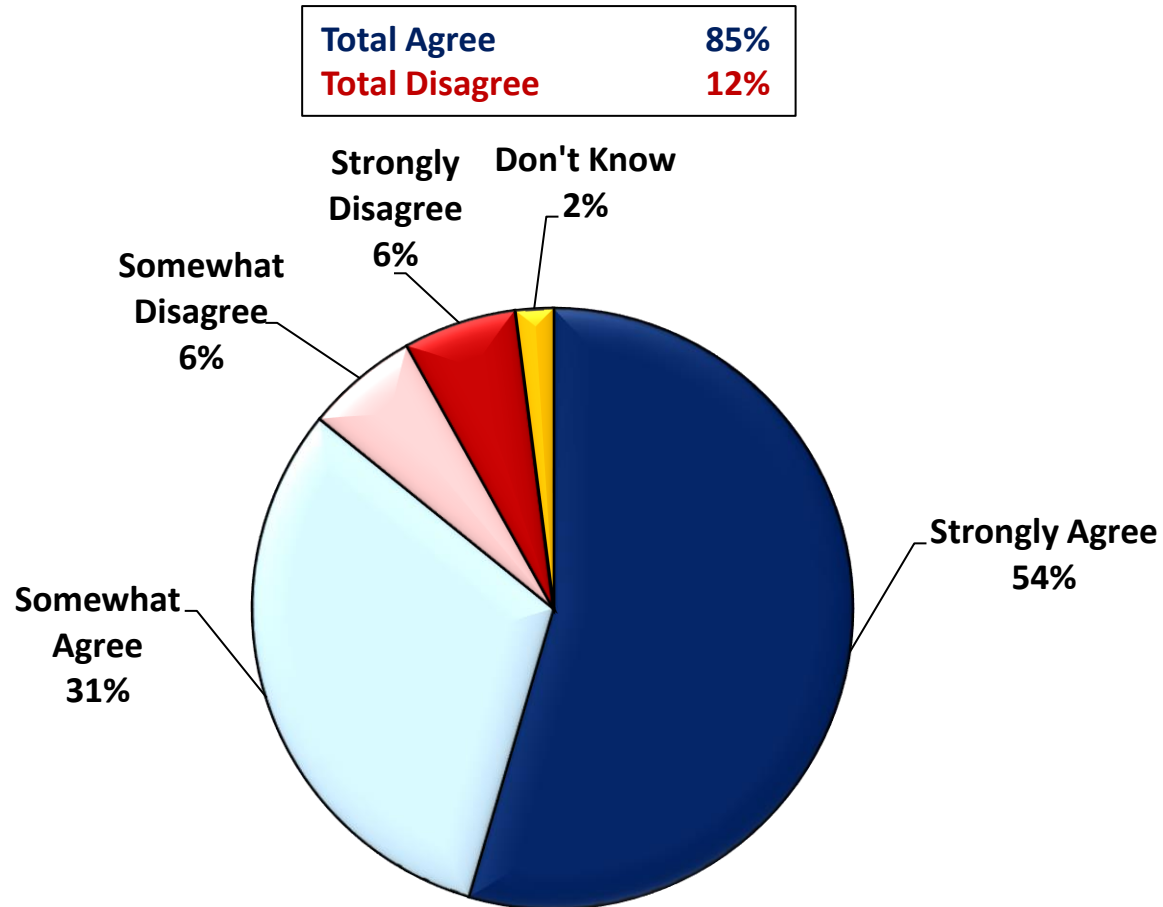
\*Denotes Rounding.

# KEY TAKEAWAYS

4. Kansas voters support religious exemptions to wellness vaccines – but they support tightening those exemptions. Consider:
  - 65% believe both parents of a child should be required to provide a statement for religious exemptions to wellness vaccines;
  - 64% believe religious exemptions to wellness vaccines should require an annual review;
  - 61% believe religious exemptions to wellness vaccines should require documentation from a religious leader.
5. A majority of Kansas voters **reject** the idea that we should add more wellness vaccine exemptions. More than 6-in-10 disagree with the idea that we should add another wellness vaccine exemption that is based on philosophical objections.
6. Fully 85% of Kansas voters believe the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) is the appropriate entity to set wellness vaccine policy for children in Kansas. And nearly three quarters (73%) oppose legislation to move KDHE’s authority over wellness vaccine policy to the Kansas legislature. Nearly two-thirds (65%) of Kansas voters **strongly** agree (85% agree overall) that moving wellness vaccine policy from KDHE to the legislature would be politicizing disease prevention.

# Kansas voters overwhelmingly agree it is appropriate for KDHE to set the wellness vaccine policies.

*“The Kansas Department of Health and Environment sets the wellness vaccine policy for Kansas children, which includes the vaccine standards and schedule. Do you agree or disagree that this is the appropriate entity to set the wellness vaccine policy for children in Kansas?”*



# THE BOTTOM LINE

Make no mistake, Kansas voters are ***strongly*** in support of wellness vaccines. Overwhelming majorities believe they are important for maintaining good health, they are safe and they are effective. More than 90% support wellness vaccine requirements for children to attend schools/childcare in the Sunflower State and a large majority would be more supportive of a political candidate who supported existing policies. And overwhelmingly, they reject the idea to move the authority of setting wellness vaccine policy from KDHE to the state legislature.

It could be easy in this moment to think divisions over COVID-19 vaccine policies may lead to divisions over wellness vaccine policies. But Kansas voters are clear – they support wellness vaccines, requirements around them to attend schools and leaving the authority of setting wellness vaccine policy to the state’s health department.