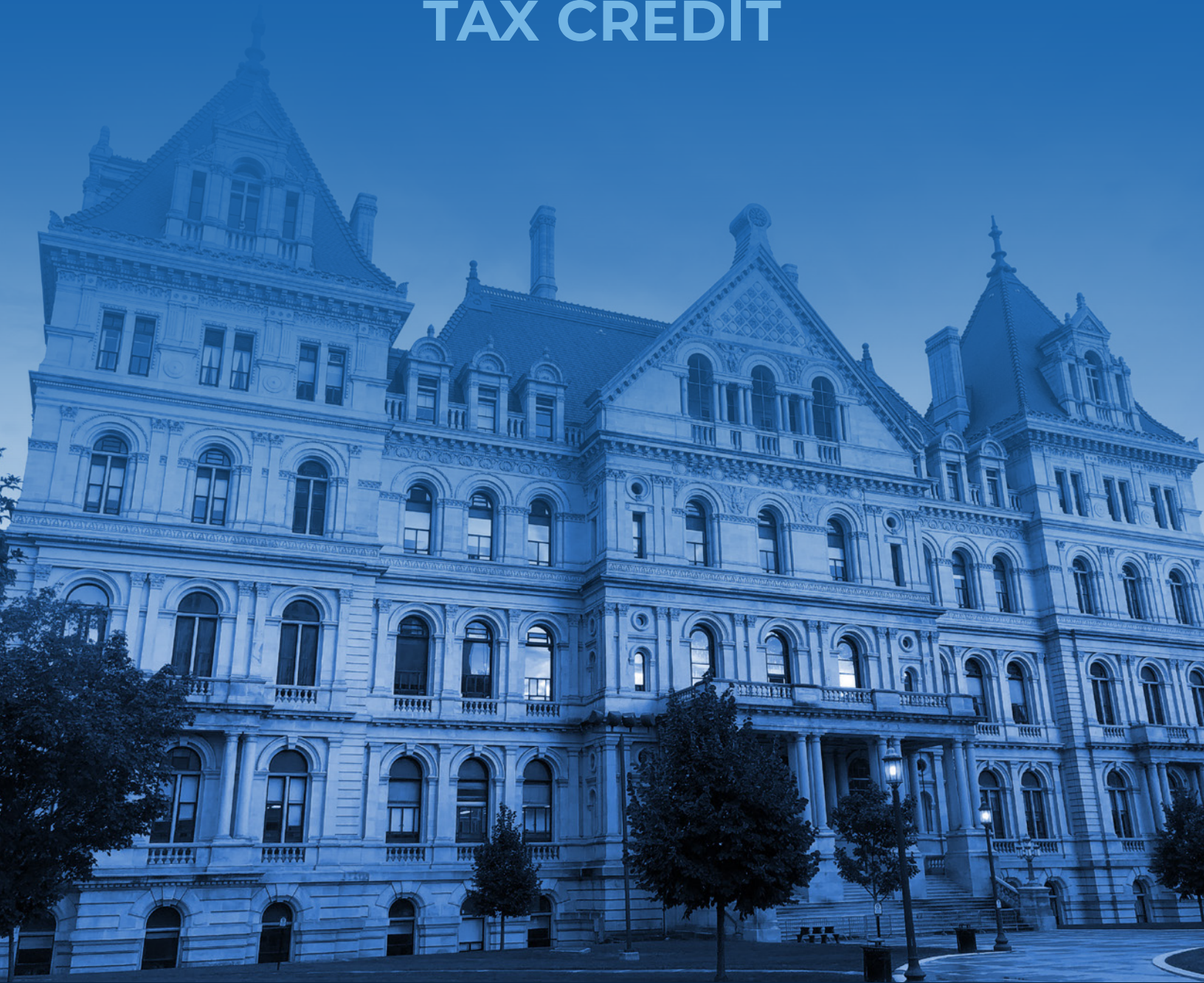




NEW YORK'S K-12 OPPORTUNITY: THE FEDERAL SCHOLARSHIP TAX CREDIT



METHODOLOGY — Statewide survey of likely 2026 general election voters conducted 8/19–8/21 by Concord Public Opinion Partners for Education Reform Now. Margin of error $\pm 4.4\%$. Weighted by Race, Age, Gender, College Attainment, Congressional District, Partisanship, and Party.

N = 505 LIKELY VOTERS
 $\pm 4.4\%$

Introduction

New York voters are anxious about the economy and doubtful that young people will do better than their parents. Against that backdrop, they are ready to act boldly on education: **71% of New York voters support the state opting into the federal scholarship tax credit (FSTC)**, a rare cross-party consensus that holds at **72% among Democrats and 73% among Republicans**. Even when the opposing argument explicitly invokes the Trump administration's agenda, voters side with the pro-FSTC leader by more than 2-to-1. New York's public schools remain well-liked, but voters want more options, more accountability, and more resources reaching students directly.

Key Findings: Governor Hochul's Strength

New York's leaders have political capital to spend, an electorate hungry for economic answers, and an education agenda sitting at 71% support waiting to be claimed. Governor Kathy Hochul leads Republican Bruce Blakeman 50% to 34%, with 11% undecided. Hochul is the only tested figure to clear double-digit net favorability, and her strength runs deep across the electorate, leading big among Black (65%) and Latino (64%) voters.

GOVERNOR BALLOT & FAVORABILITY

Hochul leads by 16 — and is the only figure to clear double-digit net favorability

50%

vs

34%

+16

NET MARGIN

KATHY HOCHUL (D)

BRUCE BLAKEMAN (R)

11% undecided · 5% someone else

51%

FAV

40%

UNFAV

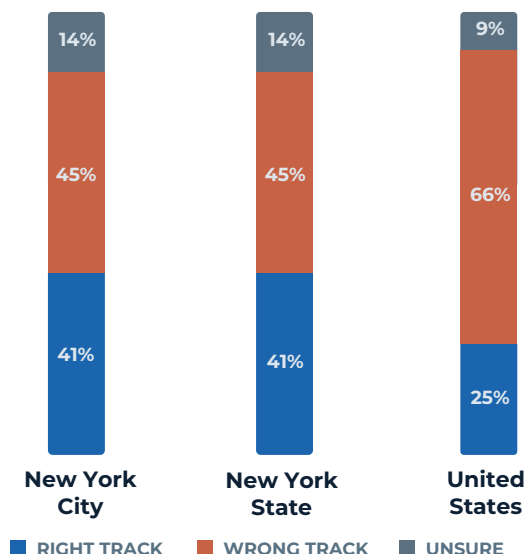
+11

NET FAV

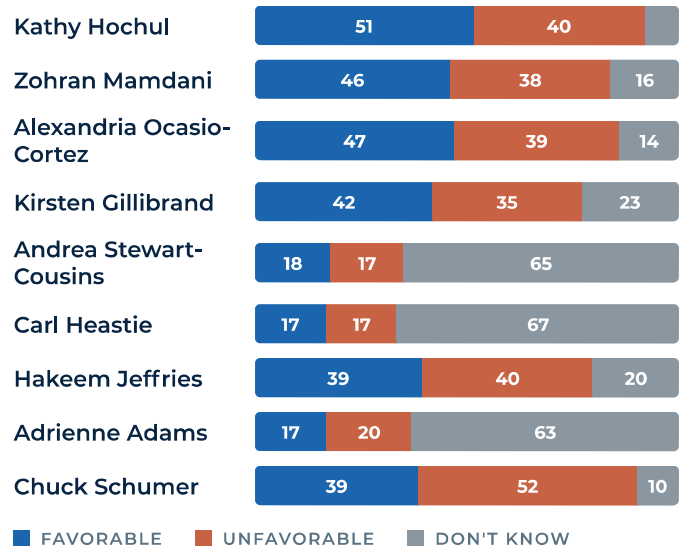
Hochul's favorability · Blakeman was not tested for favorability in this survey.

Key Findings: Right Track/Wrong Track & Favorability Ratings

Right Track/Wrong Track



FAVORABLE · UNFAVORABLE · DON'T KNOW

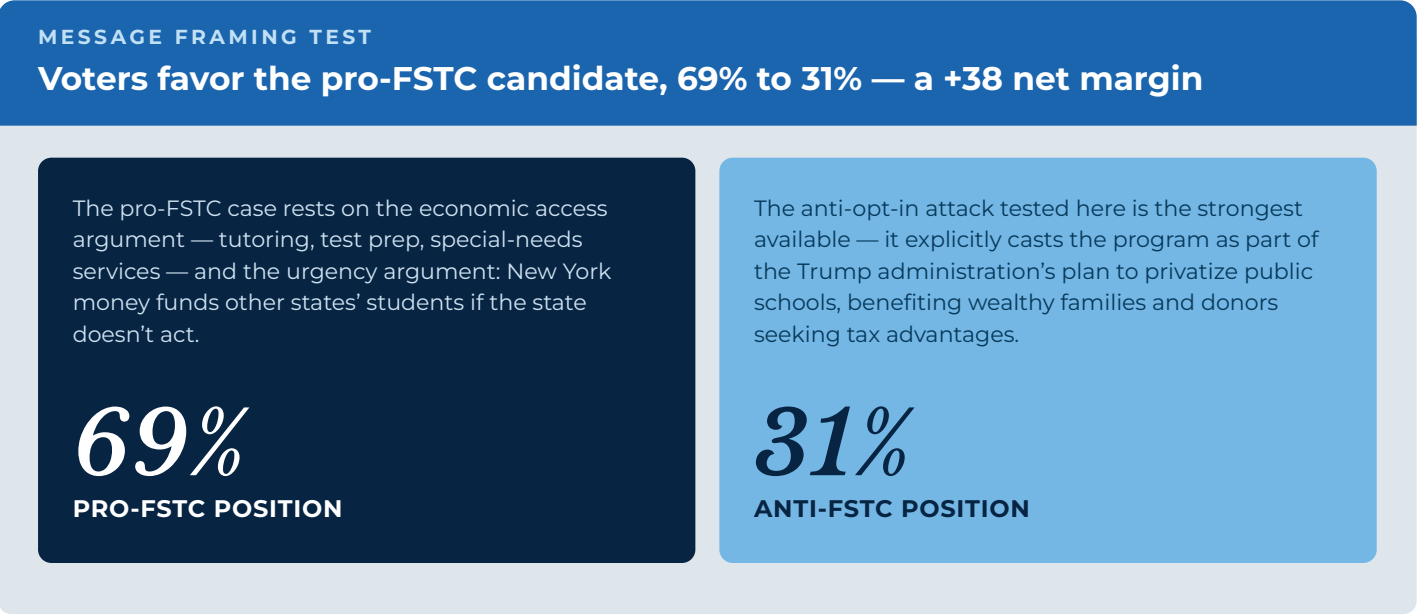
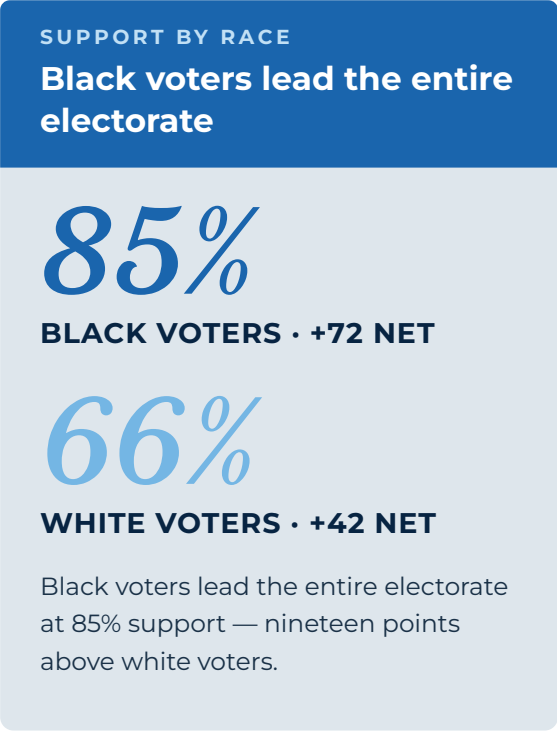
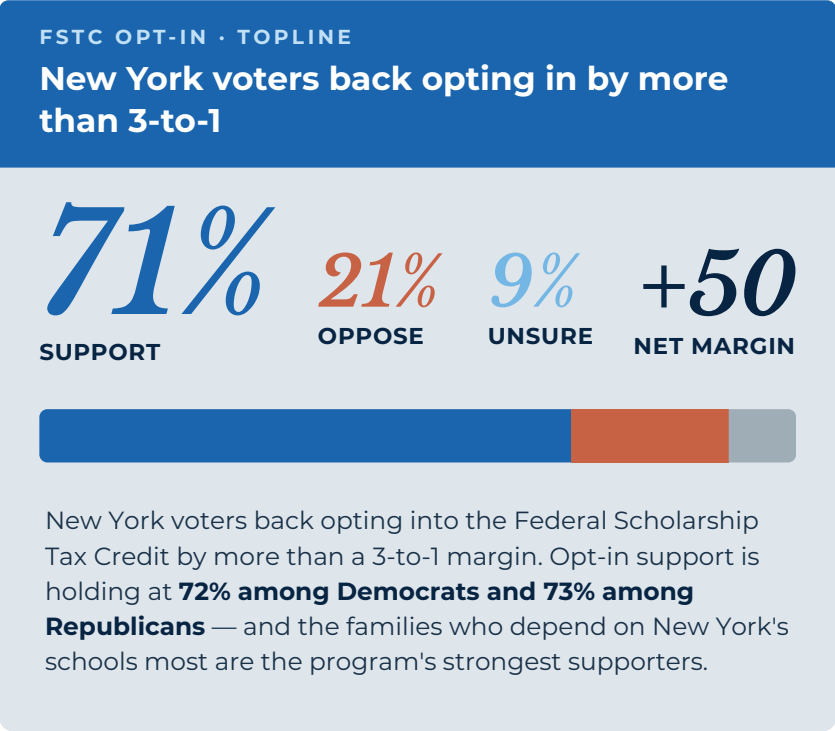


A Rare Cross-Party Consensus and a *Governing Opportunity*

WHAT IS THE FEDERAL SCHOLARSHIP TAX CREDIT?

A bipartisan federal program designed to expand K-12 educational options for working and middle class families.

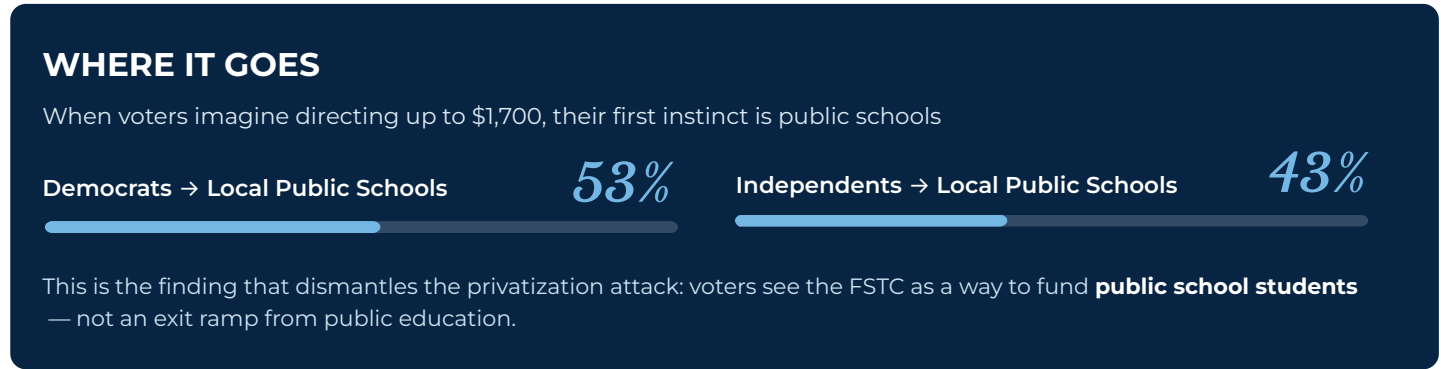
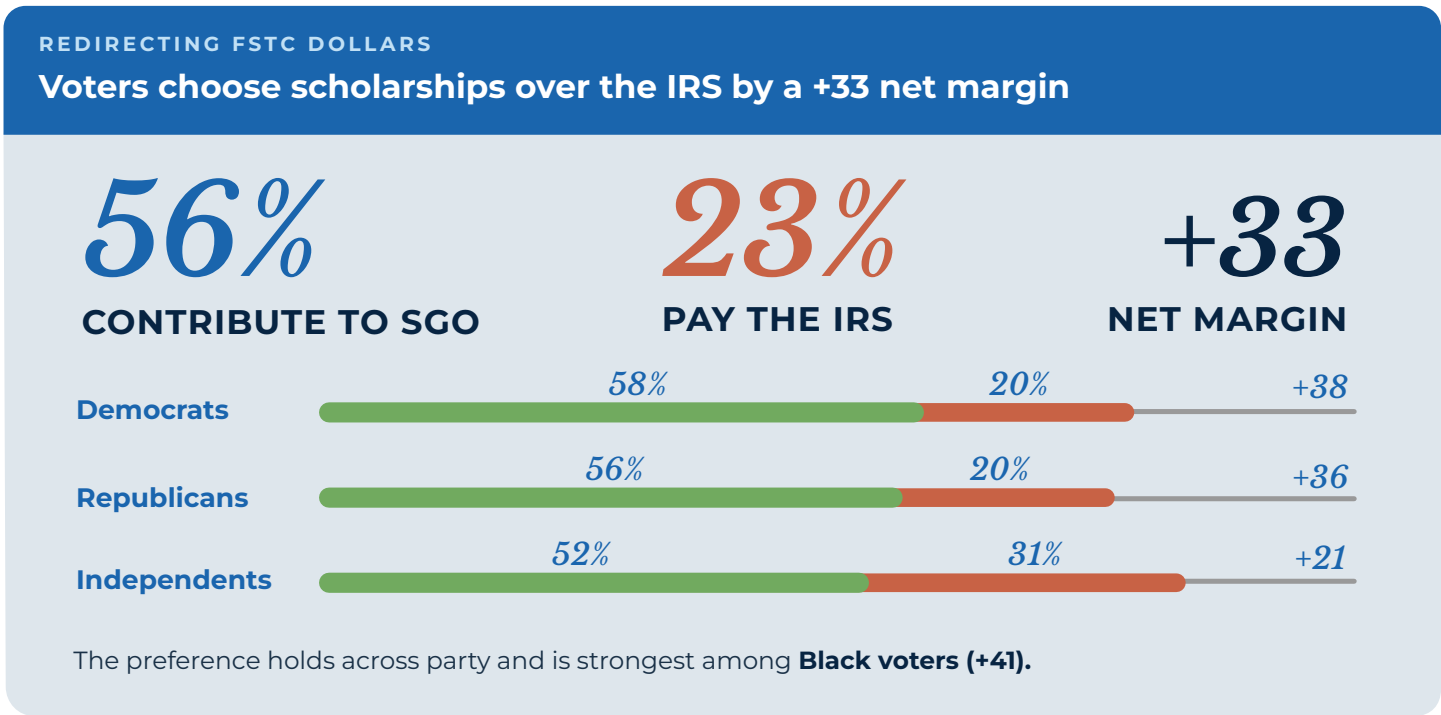
The Federal Scholarship Tax Credit (FSTC) allows families with students in public or private schools to use money raised through federal tax credits to help pay for academic tutoring, test preparation, special-needs services, tuition, and other K-12 educational expenses. If New York does not opt in, money intended for New York families will fund scholarships for students in other states.



Redirecting FSTC Dollars — *Voters Choose Scholarships Over the IRS*

Given the choice, New York voters would rather send their federal tax dollars to a scholarship granting organization than to the IRS general fund: **56% would contribute to a scholarship organization, versus 23% who would pay the IRS — a +33 net margin.** The preference holds across party (Democrats +38, Republicans +36, independents +21) and is strongest among Black voters (+41).

And when voters imagine directing up to \$1,700, their first instinct is to invest in public schools. **53% of Democrats and 43% of independents would send the money to local public schools.** This is the finding that dismantles the privatization attack: voters see the federal scholarship tax credit as a way to fund public school students—tutoring, enrichment, special-needs services—not an exit ramp from public education.



METHODOLOGY STATEMENT — This survey was conducted between 8/19–8/21 with a sample size of 505 respondents. Data was collected by contacting likely General Election voters via live calls to cell phones and landlines and text-to-web surveys. The margin of error for this survey is ±4.4%. Data was weighted by the following: Race, Age, Gender, College Attainment, Congressional District, Partisanship, and Party. Crosstabs available upon request.