

To: Interested Parties

From: GBAO

Date: February 3, 2022

Minimum Staffing Standards: Poll Analysis

Nearly three-quarters of voters support a proposal to establish minimum staffing standards that limit the number of patients any one nurse or health care worker is taking care of at any one time. Voters strongly support health care workers and are concerned about burnout among health care workers and health care worker shortages, leading to strong support of a proposal that would help health care workers do their jobs well while protecting patient safety.

The following are key findings from a survey of 800 likely 2022 general election voters in Washington. The survey was conducted October 25-28, 2021 via live calls to landlines and cell phones and an online web panel. The survey carries a +/- 3.5 percentage point margin of error at the 95 percent confidence level.

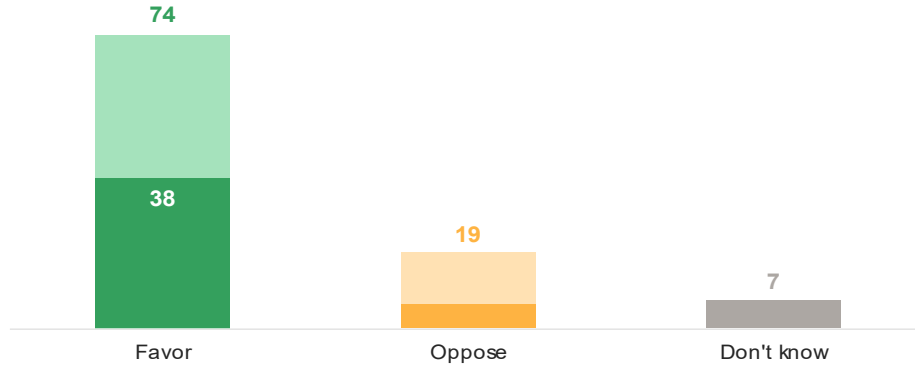
- **Washington voters nearly universally hold favorable views of health care workers.** Voters strongly support health care workers and hold widely favorable views of them (86% favorable, 6% unfavorable).
- **Voters are deeply concerned about a shortage of health care workers and burnout among health care workers.** The vast majority of voters cite a shortage of health care workers as something they are concerned about (89% concerned, 11% not concerned), and even more (91% concerned, 7% not concerned) say that they are concerned about burnout among health care workers. These concerns are even more widespread than concerns about the cost of respondents' own health care (76% concerned, 24% not concerned).
- **Washingtonians support a variety of measures to help health care workers and ensure patient safety, including minimum staffing standards.** Roughly three-quarters of voters support a proposal to establish minimum staffing standards that limit the number of patients any one nurse or health care worker is taking care of at any one time (74% favor, 19% oppose). A nearly identical 75% favor taking enforcement actions against hospitals who don't comply with existing laws around meals and rest breaks. While slightly fewer voters support prohibiting hospitals from requiring nurses and health care workers to work extensive hours of overtime, a clear majority still support this proposal (60% favor, 34% oppose).
- **Clear majorities of voters in all parties favor minimum staffing standards.** Support is strongest among Democrats (82% favor, 13% oppose), but safe staffing ratios also earn strong support from Republicans (70% favor, 23% oppose) and independents (69% favor, 22% oppose).



Minimum Staffing

Establish minimum staffing standards that limit the number of patients any one nurse or health care worker is taking care of at a time.

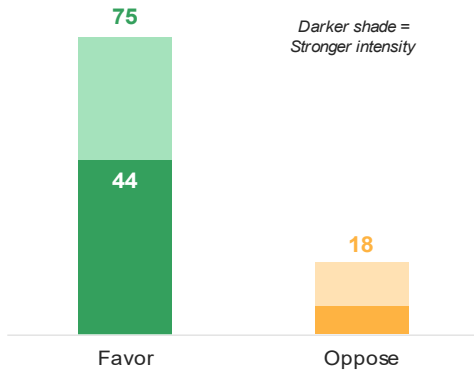
Darker shade = Stronger intensity



Enforcement Proposal

Take enforcement actions against hospitals who don't comply with existing laws around meal and rest breaks.

Darker shade = Stronger intensity



Overtime Proposal

Prohibit hospitals from requiring nurses and health care workers to work extensive hours of overtime.

Darker shade = Stronger intensity

