



Summary of Findings from the 2003 National Voters Poll

- A** **Nearly nine out of ten voters are concerned that children are unsupervised after school with too much unstructured time.** Half are very concerned. They are equally concerned about children and teens. Voters' concerns about children cluster into a supervision dimension and a safety dimension.
- A** **Nine out of ten voters agree that children need some type of organized activity or place for children and teens to go after school every day.** Voters show great concern if children have no place to go after school.
- A** **Eight out of ten voters agree that afterschool programs are an absolute necessity. Across party lines afterschool programs are seen as a necessity.**
- A** **More than half of voters say there are not enough afterschool programs available to children and teens.** Independent voters are less likely to think there has been improvement in availability.
- A** **Voters show a commitment to afterschool through good and bad economic times.** Voters say they are willing to use taxpayer money and even pay more in taxes.
- A** **Voters want to see all levels of government make a commitment to afterschool programs.** They would like the federal, state, and local levels to set aside specific funds to be used for afterschool programs.
- A** **Voters worry that if no new funds come to the programs, as a result of reduced federal funding or because of budget problems in the states, programs will have to reduce their services or close their doors.**
- A** **Voters do not want to see afterschool programs become an extension of the school day and do not believe that improving test scores should be the primary goal of the afterschool programs.** Focus group respondents also make it clear that improving test scores cannot be the purpose of programs. Voters want to see children in afterschool programs offered hands-on learning opportunities, recreation, community service, and creative activities that inspire them to learn and grow.

Methodology: Survey conducted by Lake Snell Perry & Associates and The Tarrance Group. 800 registered voters ages 18 or older nationwide were surveyed from September 9th to 14th, 2003. The margin of error for the survey is +/- 3.5%. In addition, four focus groups of registered voters were conducted.