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# THE TARRANCE GROUP

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To: National Partnership for Women & Families, National Women’s Law Center, and  
TIME’S UP Now  
Fr: Lake Research Partners and The Tarrance Group  
Re: Election Eve/Night Caregiving Survey<sup>1</sup>  
Date: November 19, 2020

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## Key Findings

- **In a highly polarized time, voters are unified in believing policies to address caregiving needs related to COVID-19 relief and economic recovery are “very important.”** The value placed on care policies as an important part for COVID-19 relief and economic recovery crosses demographic and attitudinal subgroups.
- **Solid majorities of voters reported that solutions to address child care and long term care – and the lack of access to paid family and medical leave – are “very important.”** Biden voters are particularly likely to find caregiving policies “very important” and a majority of Trump voters ranked these policies “important.”
- **Voters don’t just want relief for working families; they also recognize that care policies should include fair pay and working conditions for care workers.**
- **There is clear support from voters to make permanent the emergency paid sick days and paid family leave provisions enacted this Spring, as part of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.**

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## In the 2020 election, caregiving was a personal issue for many voters.

**A third of voters and half of parents who voted say their caregiving demands have increased since the COVID-19 pandemic began.** These increases are affecting men as well as women, including 32% of women and 31% of men, and 51% of mothers and 50% of fathers. Another 48% say they have caregiving responsibilities that have continued throughout the pandemic. “Caregiving” was defined in this survey as care for a child or children, care for an adult who is ill, older or disabled, or care for one’s self.

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<sup>1</sup> Methodology: Lake Research Partners and the Tarrance Group designed and administered this pre-election and election night omnibus survey, which was conducted by phone using professional interviewers, October 31-November 3, 2020. The questions about voting and the demographics reached a total of 2,400 registered voters nationwide who voted in the 2020 elections, including both cell phones and landlines. Issue questions reached a total of 1,200 registered voters nationwide who voted in the 2020 elections. The survey has a margin of error overall of +/-2.0% at the 95% confidence interval and +/-2.8% for the issue questions. The margin of error is higher among subgroups.

**The COVID-19 pandemic has profoundly impacted parents and younger voters, including men under age 35.** These cohorts are among those most likely to say their caregiving demands increased, that they are caring for a child and themselves or a child and another adult, or that they are struggling with child care, virtual school, and other caregiving obligations during the pandemic. They are also most likely to report reducing their hours or taking time off because of their health, because of virtual school or limited child care options, or to care for a child or loved one with a serious health issue.

**Caregiving voters are juggling multiple demanding responsibilities at once.** Many of the voters who said their caregiving has increased since the pandemic began are providing overlapping care for children *and* adults (75%), children *and* themselves (67%), or an adult *and* themselves (62%). Over one-third (35%) of voters and over 40% of parents say they are struggling with child care, virtual school, and other caregiving obligations during the pandemic.

**Pandemic-related care needs have impacted voters' employment.** During the pandemic, nearly a quarter (23%) of voters have had to leave a job (6%), reduce their hours (10%), or take time off because of their health, because of virtual school or limited child care options, or to care for a child or loved one with a serious health issue (9%). What's more, access to paid family and medical leave is far from universal, even among full-time employees, and only one-in-five part-time employees have access to any pay if they need to be away from work for care.

**Among voters who have experienced increased caregiving, COVID-19 (28%) and the economy and jobs (25%) were their most important issues in this election.** And while voters across party lines experienced increases in caregiving, 60% of those who saw their caregiving demands increase voted for Biden compared to 39% who voted for Trump.

**Voters believe *care policies* are an important part of a broad issue agenda to recover and build back from the COVID-19 crisis – more important than reducing the deficit and reducing the national debt, and more important than cutting regulations on businesses.**

**Specifically, voters agree the following care policies should be a central part of recovery:**

- Ensure aging relatives and people with disabilities have better home and community-based care options, and that home care workers and personal care assistants are paid living wages\* (80% important, 64% very important).
- Ensure parents have high-quality, affordable child care and early learning options, and that child care workers are paid living wages\* (73% important, 57% very important).
- Guarantee national paid family leave so that people can take time away from work if they are seriously ill, need to care for a new child or ill family member, or need to deal with school closures\* (70% important, 57% very important).
- Invest in modern care infrastructure, like child care, long term care, and paid family and medical leave (72% important, 56% very important).

\* Split sampled questions

**Notably, care policies are competitive with other recovery priorities that focus on manufacturing jobs and traditional infrastructure — and each care policy out-performs policies that focus on fiscal austerity and de-regulation.**

- Reduce regulations on business to keep their costs down\* (62% important, 50% very important).
- Tighten up government spending and reign in the deficit and the national debt\* (71% important, 53% very important).
- Invest in modern infrastructure, like roads, schools, and renewable energy\* (77% important, 59% very important).
- Bring manufacturing jobs back to America and build a strong industrial base (81% important, 69% very important).

\* Split sampled questions

**Voters see the value of care policies across gender, race, and party identification, regardless of their candidate for President.**

**Over two-thirds of Biden voters say every caregiving proposal is very important, ranging from 68% to 77% and a plurality of Trump voters agree, ranging from 40% to 52%.** Similarly, over two-thirds of Democrats say every caregiving proposal is very important and a plurality of Independents and Republicans who voted in this past election agree.

**Women voters are more likely than men to say these caregiving proposals are “very important,” and a majority or more of men agree.** Between 57% and 64% of women voters find every caregiving proposal to be very important and between half and two-thirds of men say the same.

**Among core constituencies of women voters who decided the election, care policies are especially popular.**

- Among Black women voters<sup>^</sup>, the importance of these policies is so high, they are core values.
- Latinas solidly find every care policy important, and a solid majority find most care policies very important. The most salient policies among Latinas are better home and community-based care options for aging relatives and people with disabilities and guaranteed national paid family leave so that people can take time away from work.
- Around two-thirds or more of white, college-educated women reported that providing access to care for loved ones with livable wages for care workers, and building a modern care infrastructure are very important.
- Suburban women solidly find every care policy surveyed very important.
- Younger women find modern care infrastructure, access to care for loved ones with livable wages for care workers, and national paid leave very important.
- Unmarried women find care policies very important across the board.

<sup>^</sup>Note small sample size

**Even before a new administration and Congress are sworn in, President Trump and Congress have clear support from voters to make permanent the emergency paid sick days and paid family leave provisions enacted this Spring, as part of the Families First**

## Coronavirus Response Act.

- Among all voters surveyed, 82% favor (and 69% strongly favor) permanent paid sick days for workers to stay home if they are sick. This includes 72% of Republicans, 79% of Independents, and 93% of Democrats.
- In addition, 79% of voters favor (61% strongly favor) permanent paid family and medical leave for people with longer illnesses or child or family care. This includes 67% of Republicans, 77% of Independents, and 93% of Democrats.
- These policies have particularly high support among constituencies who were key to Democratic turnout in swing states, including Black women (91% support for paid sick days, 94% for paid leave), Latinas (86% support for paid sick days, 83% for paid leave), Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) women^ (76% support for paid sick days, 74% for paid leave), and Native American voters (72% support for paid sick days, 86% for paid leave).

^Note small sample size

**Voters also reflected a need for stronger paid leave policies.** One-quarter (25%) of voters who are employed full-time said they would get no pay if they needed to take two weeks or more away from work to provide care for a family member or for their own serious health issue or injury. Among voters who are employed part-time, paid time off is much more rare: Over half (59%) would get no pay.