



DATA FOR *PROGRESS*

# NEW YORK POLLING MEMO

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Gov. Andrew Cuomo released his proposed \$178 billion budget this week. With a Democratic trifecta in New York State, Cuomo has a strong mandate to expand the governmental services New Yorkers depend on. In order to determine what New Yorkers would like to see coming out of Albany, Data for Progress undertook a survey of 1,890 New York likely voters. The survey was conducted from January 13 through January 19, 2020, and measured support for various progressive policies and local, state, and federal candidates for office.

## Executive Summary

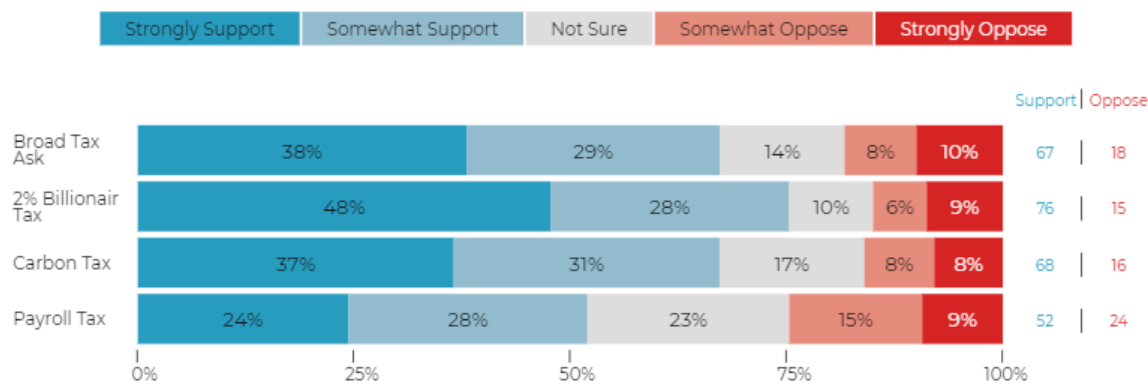
- ▶ New Yorkers support a wide range of tax increases including an ultra-millionaires tax, a wealth tax and a tax on second homes by a margin of forty-nine points, with sixty-seven percent supporting to eighteen percent opposing (fourteen percent didn't know)/
- ▶ There is overwhelming consensus among voters when asked whether they would prefer to increase taxes on those making over \$5 million per year or cutting services such as healthcare and housing - seventy-five percent would prefer to increase taxes compared to just 8 percent that favor cutting services.

- ▶ Allowing the New York Legislature to have more power in negotiating the state budget is popular among voters, with sixty-one percent in support of increased power for the Senate and the Assembly compared to sixteen percent opposed.

## New York State: Budget

Finding new ways to raise revenue was widely popular among likely voters in New York while limiting and cutting services was not. We surveyed a wide range of potential tax increases and policies regarding budget allocation and found consistent support for progressive actions.

### New York Voters Support a Wide Range of Additional Revenue Mechanisms



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When considering a 2-percent tax on billionaires, voters overwhelmingly supported the policy, 76 percent to 15 percent; the tax was supported by 83 percent of black or African American voters, 75 percent of Hispanic or Latino/a voters, and 64 percent of Republicans. A policy to levy a tax increase on those making more than \$5 million per year, rather than cutting services, was supported by 60 points (76 percent to 16 percent).

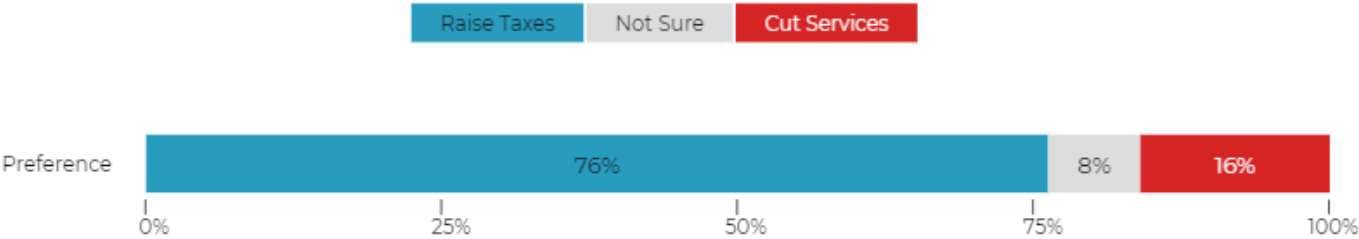
We included a question that tested broad-based support for multiple taxes (ultra-millionaire tax, a tax on second homes and apartments, and a wealth tax on billionaires), and these taxes were supported by 67 percent of likely voters in New York, including at least 30 percent support from both Republicans and independents. Finally, we asked voters about a tax on carbon that would put money into both a fund for clean jobs and infrastructure investment, and a rebate fund to reduce energy bills for low-income New Yorkers. Sixty-eight percent approved of this idea, and only 16 percent opposed.

The least-popular tax measure tested in this survey was a one-percent payroll tax on all workers to provide home care services for seniors and those with disabilities; however, this tax measure remained popular overall, with voters supporting it by 28 points (52 percent to 24 percent).

## New York State: Elected Official Favorability & Other Issues

Governor Andrew Cuomo has served as New York’s chief executive since 2011. Currently, voters favor him by 10 points (51 percent favorable to 41 percent unfavorable). This bodes well for him in our hypothetical primary matchup. Those who indicated they would vote in the gubernatorial Democratic primary were asked how they’d vote given a challenge from a more liberal Democrat. Forty-two percent said they would vote for Cuomo, compared to 30 percent who said they’d vote for the hypothetical candidate, with 28 percent unsure. Other favorability ratings for members of New York’s Congressional delegation: Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, +20 points; Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, +21 points; Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, +1 point; Congresswoman Elise Stefanik, +1 point. It should be noted that Stefanik’s numbers are fluid, since 58 percent of New York voters indicated they haven’t heard enough about her to give an opinion. This makes sense given that Stefanik, a Republican, was largely unknown before the impeachment hearings, where she made a name for herself as one of Trump’s most outspoken supporters in the House.

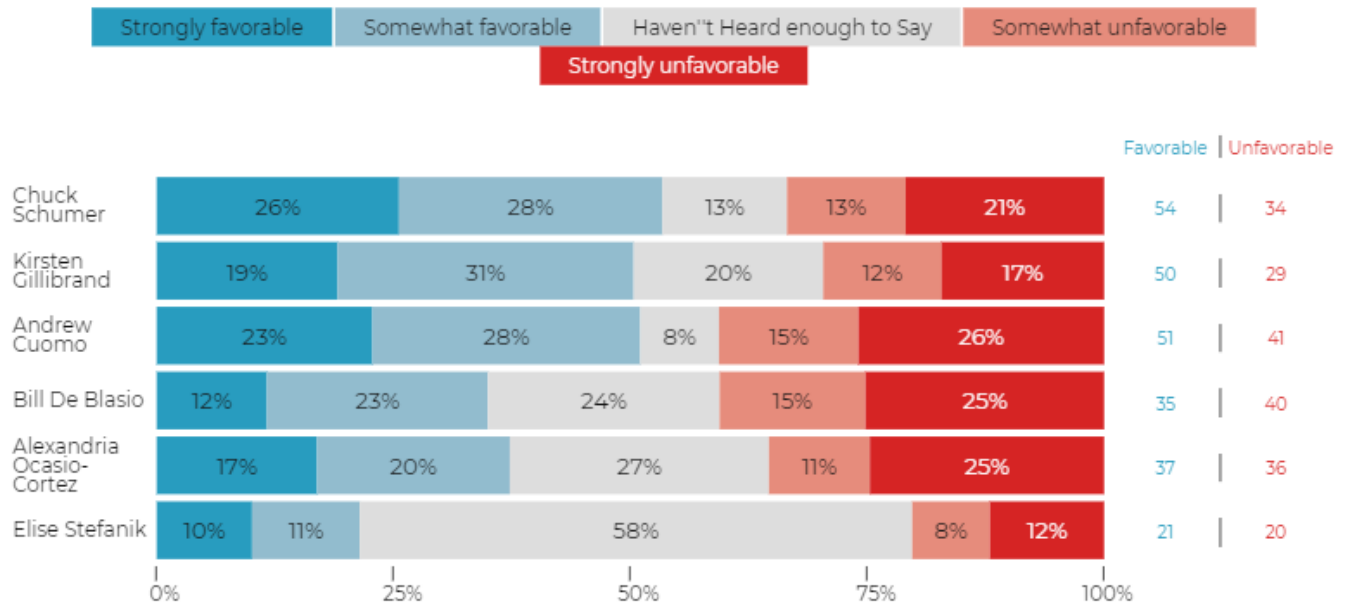
### New York Voters Would Rather Increase Taxes on the Wealthy than Cut Services



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## New York Elected Officials Favorability



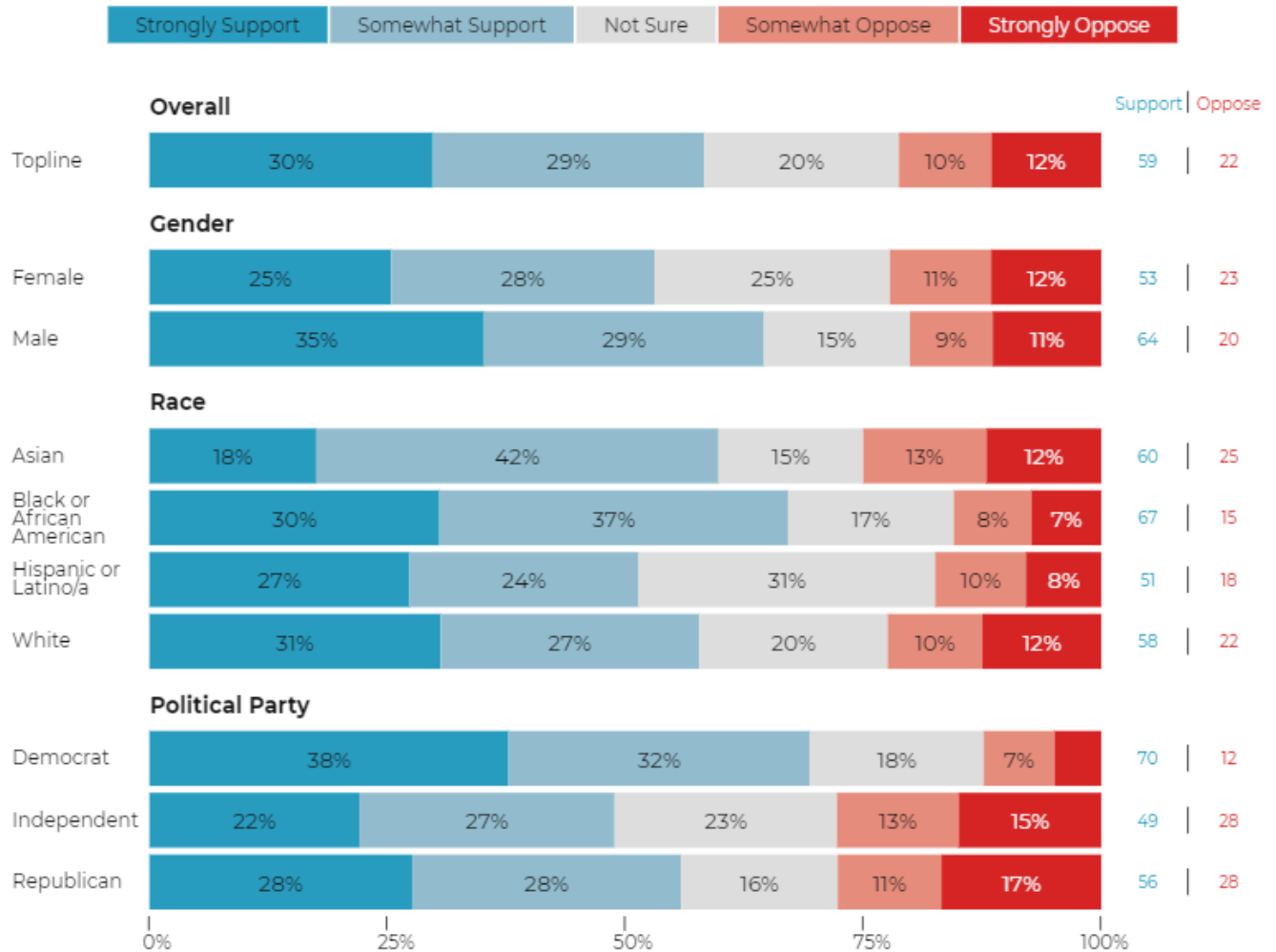
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At the end of 2019, New York nearly passed automatic voter registration. However, due to both a typo and a mandatory legislative waiting period in New York state law, the bill did not receive final passage before the end of the legislative session. The bill, which will be brought up again this year, would allow New York to automatically verify and register eligible citizens to vote when they interact with government agencies, like the DMV, unless the citizen opts out. In our survey, New York voters overwhelmingly supported automatic voter registration, 59 percent to 22 percent.

Discussions around disenfranchisement have risen as the first caucus of the Democratic presidential primary race grows closer. Sixty-two percent of likely voters in New York support allowing people who have been convicted of a felony to vote after they are released from prison, with only 25 percent of voters opposed. Those identifying as Asian, black or African American, or Hispanic or Latino/a overwhelmingly support this policy, with 57 percent, 79 percent, and 60 percent (respectively) approving of it.

# New York Voters Support Automatic Voter Registration



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In most of New York State, landlords can evict tenants for no reason. There is currently a bill proposed to require landlords to have a good reason to evict a tenant, such as a tenant not paying rent. Seventy-six percent of voters supported this bill, with just 14 percent opposing.

We also tested other standalone, state-level issues. Nationally, controversy has arisen around what role local governments should play in working with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). In New York, 44 percent of voters believe ICE should be prevented from entering

courthouses, with 31 percent opposing the policy. Forty-six percent of voters said they would prefer the MTA use money to hire additional police with the goal of stopping fare evasion; 32 percent say they would rather have that money go toward reducing train delays. Forty-four percent say we should decriminalize sex work by removing criminal penalties for adults to sell and pay for consensual sex while also maintaining laws that criminalize violence, and 36 percent oppose that change. Thirteen percent believe the use of surrogacy should be banned, while 63 percent believe New York should allow regulated, compensated surrogacy.

## Federal

Our first question involved asking voters who they would support in the 2020 presidential election: President Trump or the Democratic candidate. Thirty-three percent said they'd support the president, and 50 percent said they'd support the Democratic candidate. If the Democratic primary were held tomorrow, 30 percent of Democratic voters would support Joe Biden, 17 percent would support Bernie Sanders and Michael Bloomberg, and 14 percent would support Elizabeth Warren. No other candidate reached double digits.

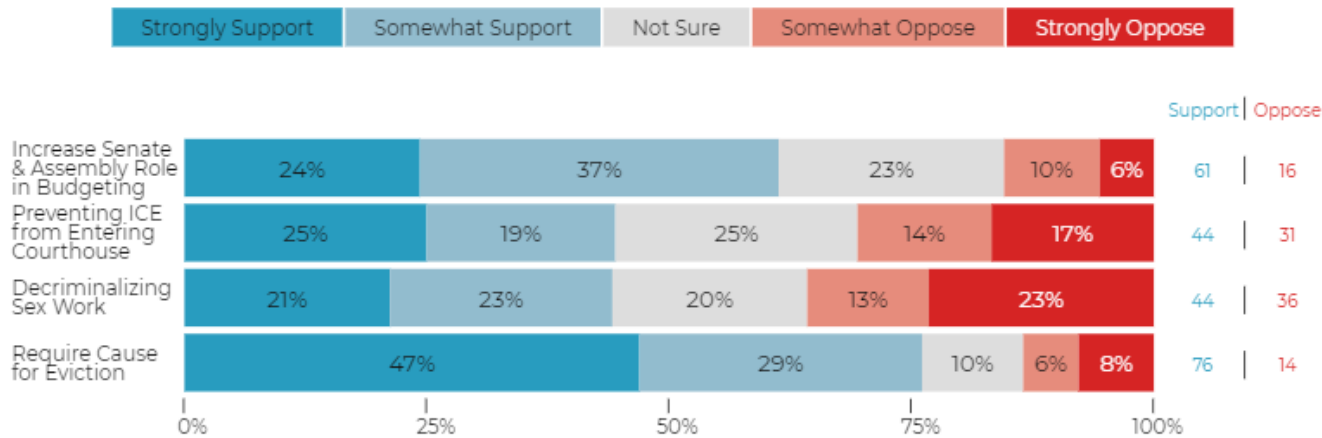
The Green New Deal (GND) would involve investing trillions of dollars in clean-energy jobs and infrastructure over the next 10 years to fight climate change. Likely voters in New York support a GND by a 44-percentage-point margin (64 percent support to 20 percent oppose). When asked whether they'd support or oppose improving and expanding Medicare so it becomes the main insurer for all Americans, support beat out opposition by 35 points (59 percent to 24 percent).

New York has been on the forefront of pushing a “Homes Guarantee,” in which federal funds are leveraged into building millions of new social housing units to ensure everyone has accessible and affordable housing. Even if the policy required tax increases, New York voters supported it by 41 points (62 percent versus 21 percent).

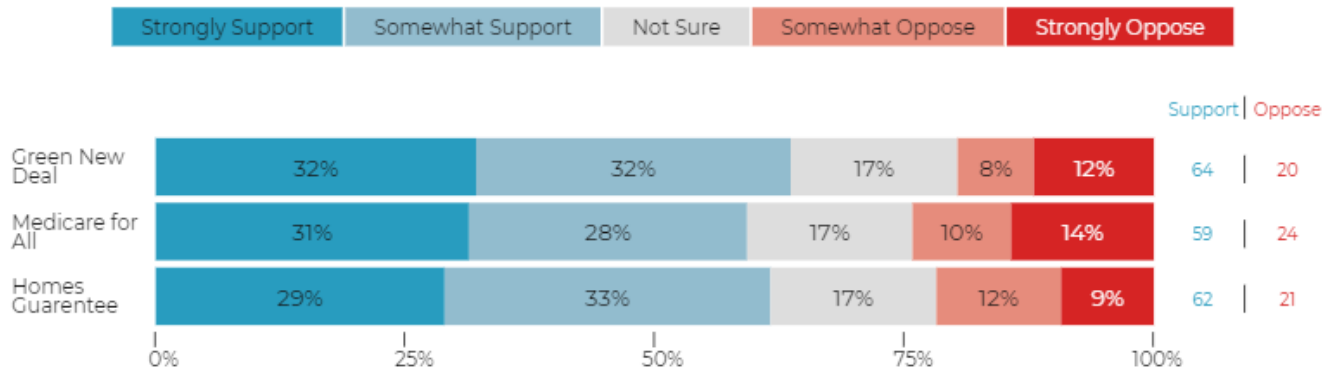
## New York City

Mayor Bill de Blasio has served as head of New York City since 2014. Due to New York City's term limits, de Blasio will not be able to run for a third consecutive term. Voters currently disapprove of him by 5 points (35 percent favorable versus 40 percent unfavorable). When looking at the 2021 mayoral race, several hypothetical candidates

## New York Voters Support for Other Issues



# New York Voters Support the Progressive Agenda



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are neck-and-neck. Corey Johnson, who currently serves as Speaker of the New York City Council, is polling at 10 percent. Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams comes in at 9 percent, followed by Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. (8 percent), State Senator John Liu (7 percent), and former New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn (6 percent). No others polled above 5 percent. Johnson showed strongly amongst black or African American voters and white voters, Diaz Jr. had strong support from black or African American and Hispanic or Latino/a voters, and Adams more than doubled his baseline support with black and African American voters.

## Conclusion

It is clear that New Yorkers are ready to improve services, healthcare, and actions to fight climate change. Whether that means implementing new taxes to cover larger portions of the population for services or changing policies, the State of New York supports progressive ideals to pursue these goals.

## Methodology:

1,890 New York likely voters fielded from 1/13/2020 through 1/19/2020. Fielded using the Lucid web panel marketplace, and weighted to represent likely New York voters, using education, race, gender, past vote history, and other relevant characteristics, by Civis Analytics, a leading data science firm.

## Question Text

- ▶ Thinking ahead to the year 2020, if the presidential election were held tomorrow and the candidates for president were Republican Donald Trump and A Democratic Candidate, who would you vote for?
- ▶ Thinking ahead, if the 2020 Democratic primary for President were held tomorrow, and the following candidates were running, who would you vote for?
- ▶ Would you support or oppose a “Green New Deal” to invest trillions of dollars in clean-energy jobs and infrastructure over the next ten years to fight climate change?

- ▶ Would you support or oppose improving and expanding Medicare so that it becomes the main insurer for all Americans?
- ▶ Would you support or oppose a policy to provide a “Homes Guarantee,” providing federal funding for millions of new social housing units to ensure everyone has accessible and affordable housing, even if it required tax increases?
- ▶ Now we are going to present you with a list of public figures. For each, please indicate if you have a favorable or unfavorable view of them. If you have heard of one, but don’t know enough to rate, please indicate that.
- ▶ If Democratic Governor Andrew Cuomo were to face a challenge from a more liberal Democrat, who would you vote for?
- ▶ Would you support or oppose a law in New York State to automatically verify and register eligible citizens to vote when they interact with government agencies (like the DMV) unless they opt out?
- ▶ Some Democrats in the State of New York have proposed a plan that would raise a 2% tax on the fortunes of billionaires in order to pay for green energy, schools, and subways. Would you support or oppose such a plan?
- ▶ Would you prefer the state to raise revenue by increasing the taxes on the wealthiest New Yorkers making more than 5 million dollars a year or cut services to healthcare and other areas like infrastructure and housing?
- ▶ Would you support or oppose enacting a suite of tax increases, including an ultra-millionaires tax, a tax on second homes and apartments (pied-a-terre tax), and a billionaire wealth tax, in order to bring more economic fairness to New York?
- ▶ Would you support or oppose a tax on carbon that would fund a clean jobs and infrastructure investment fund and a rebate fund to reduce energy bills for low-income New Yorkers?
- ▶ Currently, New York State offers public home care services for seniors and people with disabilities whose incomes are less than \$30 thousand per year. Some New York State lawmakers are considering spending \$5 billion per year to expand home care services to all New Yorkers. The program would be funded by a 1% payroll tax on all workers. Supporters of the proposal say that home care is the best and most cost-effective way to meet the needs of seniors and people with disabilities. They claim that the income limit forces many people with disabilities to curtail their work effort to avoid losing the benefits they need. Opponents say that New Yorkers already pay too much tax and cannot afford an increase. They claim that the public should not be responsible for providing home care to people with enough money to afford it on their own or to people who have relatives who can care for them. Would you support or oppose this proposal?
- ▶ Would you support or oppose a policy allowing people who have been convicted of a felony to vote after they’ve been released from prison?
- ▶ In most of New York State a landlord can evict a tenant for no reason. There is currently a bill proposed to require that landlords have a good reason to evict a tenant - such as a tenant not paying rent. Do you support or oppose this proposal?
- ▶ Thinking ahead, if the following candidates were running in the 2021 Democratic mayoral primary in New York City, who would you support?
- ▶ Both the Governor and the Legislature are responsible for the New York State budget. The Senate and Assembly can only reduce or fully eliminate the Governor’s proposed spending. While the Legislature can add proposed spending, the Governor has the power to veto those additions. Would you support or oppose having your elected representatives in the State Senate and Assembly having more power in negotiating the budget?



- ▶ Would you support or oppose legislation to prevent Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) from entering courthouses?
- ▶ Some politicians have proposed that the Metropolitan Transit Authority spend an additional \$250 million over the next five years hiring 500 new police officers to reduce fare evasion. Other propose focusing spending on improving service and reducing train delays. Would you prefer money be allocated on increase police officers or reducing train delays?
- ▶ Would you support or oppose decriminalizing sex work? This would remove criminal penalties for adults to sell and pay for consensual sex while also maintaining laws that criminalize violence?
- ▶ Surrogacy is the process in which a woman carries a pregnancy for another person or couple. Some argue that allowing women to receive compensation for serving as a surrogate is exploitative and should be banned. Others argue that, as long as there are laws in place to protect the rights and health of the surrogate, women should not be restricted from serving as a surrogate and receiving compensation. Which of those views is closest to your own?