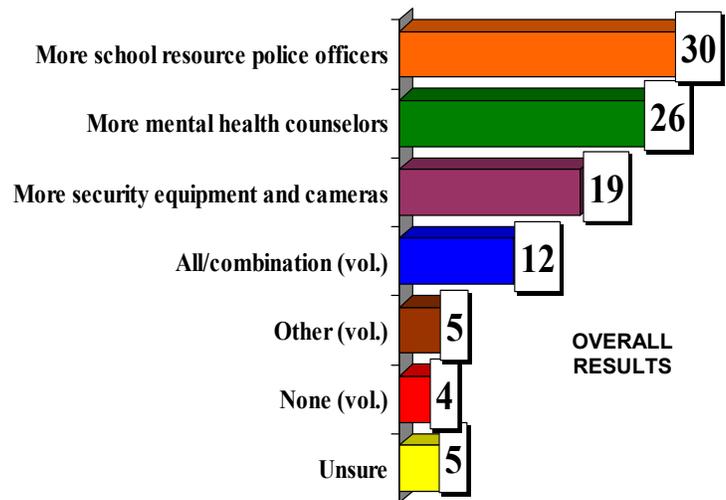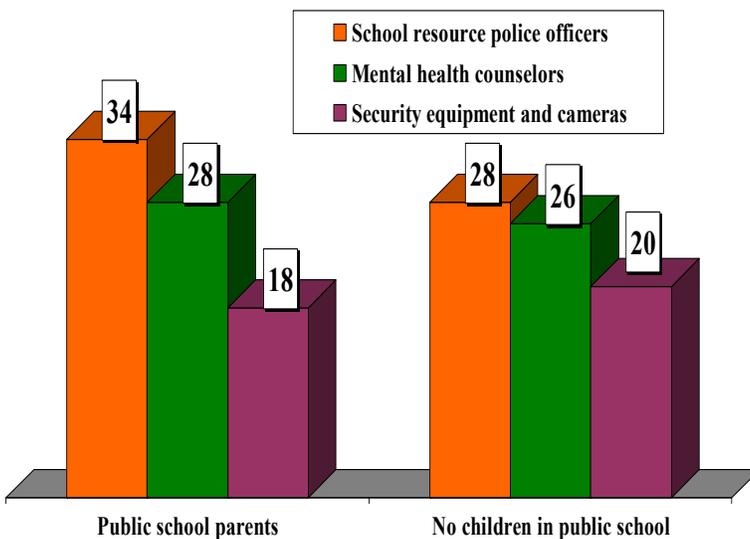# Ohio Voter Survey Results: Most voters, and school parents, are divided about the best way to bolster school security, but most opt for personnel

QUESTION WORDING:

"In general, what would you say is the most effective way to improve school safety and security? Is it by…(randomly rotated)…adding more security equipment and cameras…adding more school resource police officers…or…hiring more mental health counselors?"

OVERALL RESULTS

Category	Value
More school resource police officers	30
More mental health counselors	26
More security equipment and cameras	19
All/combination (vol.)	12
Other (vol.)	5
None (vol.)	4
Unsure	5

There was no clear consensus among the public or school parents about the best way to improve school security. While pluralities of both groups agreed that officers would be the best way, those without children in school were more ambivalent. Interestingly, in the era of technology, there seemed to be little confidence in cameras and security systems, with most preferring personnel, such as officers or counselors. **NOTE:** The title "school resource *police* officer" was used in the question wording because recent focus group testing indicated that non-parents may not be familiar enough with the title school resource officer to understand that such people are law enforcement officers. It may not yet be a common phrase for those besides educators and parents.

RESULTS AMONG SELECT KEY SUB-GROUPS

Legend:
- School resource police officers
- Mental health counselors
- Security equipment and cameras

	School resource police officers	Mental health counselors	Security equipment and cameras
Public school parents	34	28	18
No children in public school	28	26	20

METHODS: This survey research data was gathered through telephone interviews that specially-trained interviewers conducted with 800 randomly-selected Ohio voters with histories of voting in recent even-year November general elections or were recent new registrants, using a combination of valid residential, VOIP and cellular telephone listings. The interviews were performed during the period of May 21, 2018 through May 25, 2018. The overall estimated margin of sampling error is +/- 3.46%, based on a confidence level of 95%, although it varies for each individual question. This means that if this survey were repeated, 95 times out of 100 the results would be within plus or minus 3.46% of those provided herein. Adjustments were made to weight the results toward demographic and geographic characteristics of the state's electorate, in order to account for under- and over-sampling that normally occurs as a result of the random selection process, and to ensure that all major sub-groups are represented in proportion to their actual percentages. Like all polls, this survey research is subject to other possible sources of error, such as unintentional bias in the wording of questions, data-entry error and nonresponse bias. Please note that this survey question was not funded or commissioned by any organization or committee. Permission is granted for distribution to share this information with any interested parties.