



D I S C U S S I N G

Indexing Unemployment



The longer someone is unemployed, the more likely they are to fall into long-term government dependency and the harder it is for them to find work. But prolonged unemployment benefits are keeping people out of the workforce—even during times of record-low unemployment when there are millions of available jobs.

Voters support tying unemployment benefits to economic conditions, allowing benefits to last longer when unemployment rates are high than when rates are low.

What messages really move them? These messages work best.

- ▶ Tying unemployment benefits to economic conditions would help **move people from welfare to work**.
- ▶ Tying unemployment benefits to the unemployment rate would **help businesses hire more workers** and would **reduce the labor shortage**.
- ▶ If all states adopted this reform, it would **increase employment by up to 1.5 million**.
- ▶ People are **more likely to find work once their unemployment benefits expire**.

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	ALL VOTERS	GOP	DEM	IND
Would you be more or less likely to support tying time on unemployment benefits to the unemployment rate if you knew that it would help employers hire more workers?				
More likely	67%	75%	62%	65%
Less likely	14%	12%	20%	9%
Unsure	19%	13%	18%	27%

Would you be more or less likely to support tying time on unemployment benefits to the unemployment rate if you knew that it would help to move people from welfare to work?				
More likely	67%	75%	61%	65%
Less likely	18%	12%	22%	20%
Unsure	15%	13%	16%	16%

Would you be more or less likely to support tying time on unemployment benefits to the unemployment rate if you knew that it would help reduce the labor shortage?				
More likely	62%	65%	59%	62%
Less likely	19%	17%	22%	19%
Unsure	19%	18%	20%	19%

DEMOGRAPHICS	Party Affiliation			Age			Gender	
		34% R	37% D	29% I	39% 18-44	40% 45-64	21% 65+	48% MALE

Results for this poll are based on automated telephone interviews conducted among a nationwide sample of 511 likely voters. Data for this survey research was collected by Cor Strategies Inc.

Interviews were conducted via a computer-assisted telephone interviewing system utilizing techniques designed to achieve the highest possible respondent cooperation.

The surveys were conducted August 19-21, 2019. The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 4.34 percentage points. The margin of sampling error may be higher for certain subgroups. Results presented may not always appear to total 100 percent due to rounding.

Data was sampled using weighted demographic information from the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey Voting and Registration Supplement and the state election authorities. Demographic information for actual voters in past elections were used to construct sample target weights.

The Foundation for Government Accountability paid for all costs associated with this survey.

