



Date: May 8, 2002

Results from Ohio poll on Darwin’s theory of evolution, public schools

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Methodology

Zogby International conducted interviews of 702 adults in Ohio, chosen at random. All calls were made from Zogby International headquarters in Utica, N.Y., from Tuesday, May 7 to Wednesday, May 8, 2002. The survey has a margin of sampling error of +/- 3.8%. Margins of error are higher among sub-groups. Slight weights were applied to region, age, party, race, and gender to more accurately reflect the population. **Note:** Percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number and might not total 100.

Narrative Summary

The Ohio State Board of Education is currently trying to decide whether high school students should learn both the evidence for and against Darwin’s theory of evolution.

10. Regarding teaching the theory of evolution, which of the following two statements comes closer to your own opinion?

Table 1. Views on Teaching Theory of Evolution

	%
A: Biology teachers should teach only Darwin’s theory of evolution and the scientific evidence that supports it.	19
B: Biology teachers should teach Darwin’s theory of evolution, but also the scientific evidence against it.	65
Neither/Not sure	16

Two-thirds of Ohioans favor students being taught Darwin’s theory of evolution, as well as the scientific evidence against it. One-fifth favors teaching only Darwin’s theory of evolution and the scientific evidence that supports it. Approximately one in six (16%) is not sure.

A majority in every sub-group chooses Statement B. The most likely to agree both *Darwin's theory and the evidence against it should be taught* are a 74% average of 18-49 year-olds, Republicans, residents of Columbus, working women, and people with household incomes of \$25,000-\$49,999.

Those who agree with Statement A – that *biology teachers should teach only Darwin's theory of evolution and the scientific evidence that supports it* – include a 25% average of adults ages 50-64, Independent voters, residents of Cleveland and the rest of the South, and those with household incomes of \$50,000+. Men (22%) are more likely than women (16%) to agree.

Seniors 65 and older (31%), and a 22% average of African Americans, born-again Christians, and people with household income less than \$15,000 are among those not sure.

11. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statement: "When Darwin's theory of evolution is taught in school, students should also be able to learn about scientific evidence that points to an intelligent design of life."

Strongly agree	55%		
Somewhat agree	23	Agree	78%
Somewhat disagree	3		
Strongly disagree	10	Disagree	13
Not sure	9		

By a six-to-one margin, more Ohio residents agree (78%) than disagree (13%) that students should also be able to learn about scientific evidence that points to an intelligent design of life when Darwin's theory of evolution is taught in school. Nine percent are not sure.

Two-thirds or more in almost every sub-group strongly or somewhat *agree* that students should be able to learn about both design and evolution. Those who are most likely to agree include an 85% average of 18-29 year-olds, Republicans, residents of Columbus, adults without a high school education, and people with household income of \$15,000-\$24,999 and \$35,000-\$74,999. Four in five Catholics and Protestants also agree.

Respondents who strongly or somewhat *disagree* include 17% each of Independent voters, college graduates, and people with household income of less than \$15,000, \$25,000-\$34,999, and \$75,000 or more.

Those who are unsure include seniors 65 and older (20%) and Cleveland residents (16%).