

Washington State - 2021 Shared Parenting Polling Data

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		Do you describe yourself as a man, a woman, or in some other way?			Race Ethnicity Variable						Ideology			Political Party			Registered Voter		Derived: Present Religion Christian Category		
		Base	Man	Woman	In some other way	White, non-Hispanic	Black, non-Hispanic	Hispanic	Asian	Other race	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Democratic Party	Independent	Republican Party	Currently a registered voter	Not a registered voter	Born-again Christian	Other Christian	Non-Christian
Which arrangement is in the child's best interest in instances of divorce or separation when both parents are fit and willing to be parents?	It is in the child's best interest to have as much time as possible with each parent.	579	97%	96%	100%	97%	94%	95%	↓ 88%	98%	94%	97%	97%	96%	95%	98%	97%	95%	95%	97%	97%
	It is in the child's best interest to spend as much time as possible with just one parent.	22	3%	4%	0%	3%	6%	5%	↑ 12%	2%	6%	3%	3%	4%	5%	2%	3%	5%	5%	3%	3%
Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a candidate who supports children spending significant, up to equal, amounts of time with each parent following separation or divorce when both parents are fit and willing to be parents?	More likely	561	92%	94%	83%	94%	94%	90%	88%	88%	96%	91%	93%	95%	91%	94%	↑ 96%	↓ 83%	95%	↓ 90%	95%
	Less likely	40	8%	6%	17%	6%	6%	10%	12%	12%	4%	9%	7%	5%	9%	6%	↓ 4%	↑ 17%	5%	↑ 10%	5%
Which is closer to your beliefs?	Children have the right to spend equal or nearly equal time with both parents who are fit and willing to be parents following a divorce or separation.	579	95%	97%	83%	97%	97%	↓ 90%	97%	98%	97%	95%	96%	98%	96%	94%	↑ 97%	↓ 92%	94%	98%	97%
	Children do not have the right to spend equal or nearly equal time with both parents who are fit and willing to be parents following a divorce or separation.	22	5%	3%	17%	3%	3%	↑ 10%	3%	2%	3%	5%	4%	2%	4%	6%	↓ 3%	↑ 8%	6%	2%	3%
How important, if at all, is it for parents who are fit and willing to be parents to share in the responsibility of raising and providing for their children?	[Extremely + Very important]	592	98%	↑ 99%	83%	99%	100%	98%	97%	98%	99%	98%	99%	99%	↓ 96%	99%	↑ 99%	↓ 95%	99%	99%	97%
	Extremely important	482	78%	82%	67%	82%	72%	85%	↓ 61%	80%	77%	78%	↑ 85%	81%	↓ 74%	↑ 85%	↑ 82%	↓ 72%	83%	78%	80%
	Very important	110	20%	17%	17%	17%	28%	12%	↑ 36%	18%	22%	19%	14%	18%	23%	14%	17%	23%	16%	21%	18%
	Not too important	6	2%	1%	0%	1%	0%	2%	3%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	↑ 2%	0%	↓ 1%	↑ 3%	1%	0%	2%
	Not at all important	3	1%	0%	17%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	↓ <1%	↑ 2%	0%	0%	1%
	[Not too + Not at all important]	9	2%	↓ 1%	17%	1%	0%	2%	3%	2%	1%	2%	1%	1%	↑ 4%	1%	↓ 1%	↑ 5%	1%	1%	3%
In instances of divorce or separation when both parents are fit and willing to be parents, which arrangement do you think would be better for children?	It's better for children to have two homes, one with each parent.	476	↓ 72%	↑ 84%	83%	79%	83%	85%	↓ 64%	80%	81%	80%	77%	80%	83%	75%	80%	74%	75%	82%	79%
	It's better for children to have only one home with one of their parents.	125	↑ 28%	↓ 16%	17%	21%	17%	15%	↑ 36%	20%	19%	20%	23%	20%	17%	25%	20%	26%	25%	18%	21%
Would you support or oppose a change in [prior response] Law that creates a rebuttable presumption that shared parenting is in the best interest of a child after a parental separation?	Support	514	85%	86%	83%	87%	↓ 72%	90%	79%	82%	86%	87%	83%	88%	82%	85%	↑ 87%	↓ 79%	84%	↑ 89%	83%
	Oppose	87	15%	14%	17%	13%	↑ 28%	10%	21%	18%	14%	13%	17%	12%	18%	15%	↓ 13%	↑ 21%	16%	↓ 11%	17%

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How beneficial, if at all, is it for a child to have significant time with each parent assuming both parents are fit, willing to be parents, and live within a reasonable distance of each other?	[Extremely + Very beneficial]	584	98%	97%	83%	↑ 98%	↓ 92%	95%	94%	98%	97%	97%	97%	97%	96%	98%	↑ 99%	↓ 90%	97%	98%	97%
	Extremely beneficial	425	68%	73%	67%	72%	64%	68%	↓ 55%	75%	69%	70%	73%	71%	66%	75%	↑ 73%	↓ 58%	68%	74%	70%
	Very beneficial	159	30%	24%	17%	26%	28%	28%	39%	22%	28%	27%	24%	26%	30%	23%	25%	32%	29%	24%	27%
	Not too beneficial	13	2%	3%	0%	2%	↑ 8%	2%	6%	0%	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	↓ 1%	↑ 7%	3%	1%	2%
	Not at all beneficial	4	0%	1%	17%	0%	0%	2%	0%	2%	1%	1%	1%	0%	↑ 2%	0%	0%	↑ 4%	0%	1%	1%
	[Not too + Not at all beneficial]	17	2%	3%	17%	↓ 2%	↑ 8%	5%	6%	2%	3%	3%	3%	3%	4%	2%	↓ 1%	↑ 10%	3%	2%	3%
Which of the following do you most agree with?	In making custody decisions, courts treat mothers and fathers equally.	342	60%	55%	50%	59%	44%	48%	67%	50%	↓ 51%	59%	61%	57%	54%	59%	58%	52%	↑ 67%	56%	↓ 50%
	In making custody decisions, courts favor mothers.	245	37%	43%	50%	39%	50%	50%	30%	50%	46%	39%	37%	40%	44%	40%	40%	45%	↓ 31%	42%	↑ 47%
	In making custody decisions, courts favor fathers.	14	4%	1%	0%	2%	6%	2%	3%	0%	3%	2%	2%	4%	2%	1%	2%	3%	2%	2%	3%
When there is conflict between parents, do you think awarding sole custody of children to just one parent increases or decreases that conflict?	Increases conflict	472	80%	77%	83%	80%	75%	↓ 60%	76%	88%	81%	79%	76%	77%	81%	78%	79%	78%	75%	77%	82%
	Decreases conflict	67	11%	11%	0%	10%	14%	↑ 28%	9%	8%	11%	9%	14%	13%	8%	12%	11%	10%	↑ 17%	11%	↓ 8%
	Has no impact	62	8%	12%	17%	10%	11%	12%	15%	5%	9%	12%	10%	10%	12%	10%	10%	12%	8%	12%	10%
Do you believe that today's family courts treat people differently because of race?	Yes	274	64%	73%	67%	↓ 66%	86%	75%	71%	78%	↑ 87%	72%	↓ 40%	↑ 82%	72%	↓ 45%	70%	62%	↓ 55%	69%	↑ 77%
	No	124	36%	27%	33%	↑ 34%	14%	25%	29%	22%	↓ 13%	28%	↑ 60%	↓ 18%	28%	↑ 55%	30%	38%	↑ 45%	31%	↓ 23%
Of the following, which is closer to your beliefs?	Family courts are more likely to give one or the other parent less than equal parental rights.	401	70%	64%	83%	66%	64%	68%	64%	80%	65%	68%	67%	↓ 60%	71%	71%	66%	70%	63%	67%	69%
	Family courts are more likely to give both parents equal parental rights.	200	30%	36%	17%	34%	36%	32%	36%	20%	35%	32%	33%	↑ 40%	29%	29%	34%	30%	37%	33%	31%
When parents are separating, which arrangement do you think is generally more appropriate?	Children should have equal or near equal access to and time with each of their parents.	538	88%	91%	83%	↑ 91%	89%	↓ 80%	82%	90%	92%	88%	90%	91%	87%	90%	↑ 91%	↓ 82%	86%	90%	91%
	Children should spend significantly more time with just one parent by default.	63	12%	9%	17%	↓ 9%	11%	↑ 20%	18%	10%	8%	12%	10%	9%	13%	10%	↓ 9%	↑ 18%	14%	10%	9%
Which of the following do you most agree with?	Mothers should have greater parental rights and responsibilities.	45	8%	7%	0%	7%	6%	12%	↑ 18%	2%	11%	6%	7%	8%	6%	8%	↓ 6%	↑ 12%	9%	6%	7%
	Fathers should have greater parental rights and responsibilities.	16	↑ 5%	↓ 1%	0%	3%	0%	↑ 10%	0%	0%	2%	3%	3%	2%	4%	2%	↓ 2%	↑ 7%	4%	2%	2%
	Both parents should have equal parental rights and responsibilities.	540	88%	91%	100%	90%	94%	↓ 78%	82%	98%	87%	92%	90%	89%	90%	90%	↑ 92%	↓ 81%	87%	92%	90%

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When parents separate, they should strive to continue sharing responsibility for parenting their children.	Agree	589	98%	98%	83%	98%	97%	95%	100%	98%	99%	98%	96%	99%	↓ 96%	98%	↑ 99%	↓ 92%	98%	99%	97%
	Disagree	12	2%	2%	17%	2%	3%	5%	0%	2%	1%	2%	4%	1%	↑ 4%	2%	↓ 1%	↑ 8%	2%	1%	3%
Children with separated parents should have equal access to both their parents.	Agree	587	98%	97%	83%	98%	97%	98%	94%	98%	98%	98%	97%	98%	97%	97%	98%	95%	98%	98%	97%
	Disagree	14	2%	3%	17%	2%	3%	2%	6%	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%	3%	3%	2%	5%	2%	2%	3%
Children who have two significantly involved separated parents are having their best interests met.	Agree	546	↓ 88%	↑ 93%	83%	91%	92%	92%	88%	90%	93%	92%	88%	93%	92%	↓ 86%	↑ 93%	↓ 81%	93%	↓ 88%	92%
	Disagree	55	↑ 12%	↓ 7%	17%	9%	8%	8%	12%	10%	7%	8%	12%	7%	8%	↑ 14%	↓ 7%	↑ 19%	7%	↑ 12%	8%
The state of [prior response] should promote shared parenting for all children with separated parents.	Agree	530	89%	88%	67%	87%	86%	90%	97%	92%	89%	89%	86%	89%	88%	88%	↑ 89%	↓ 82%	92%	88%	85%
	Disagree	71	11%	12%	33%	13%	14%	10%	3%	8%	11%	11%	14%	11%	12%	12%	↓ 11%	↑ 18%	8%	12%	15%
It would benefit society if more children with separated parents, had both parents significantly involved.	Agree	572	94%	96%	83%	95%	97%	98%	↓ 88%	98%	95%	97%	94%	95%	95%	95%	96%	93%	96%	95%	94%
	Disagree	29	6%	4%	17%	5%	3%	2%	↑ 12%	2%	5%	3%	6%	5%	5%	5%	4%	7%	4%	5%	6%
There are cases in which some separated parents try to push the other parent out of the children's lives.	Agree	555	91%	93%	83%	93%	92%	92%	94%	88%	93%	93%	91%	94%	92%	90%	↑ 94%	↓ 87%	93%	94%	90%
	Disagree	46	9%	7%	17%	7%	8%	8%	6%	12%	7%	7%	9%	6%	8%	10%	↓ 6%	↑ 13%	7%	6%	10%
Separating and separated parents should strive to create a shared parenting experience for their children, instead of one parent being the primary parent and the other in a secondary role.	Agree	574	94%	97%	83%	96%	94%	95%	↓ 88%	98%	96%	96%	95%	97%	95%	94%	↑ 97%	↓ 89%	94%	98%	95%
	Disagree	27	6%	3%	17%	4%	6%	5%	↑ 12%	2%	4%	4%	5%	3%	5%	6%	↓ 3%	↑ 11%	6%	2%	5%
[prior response] law should be changed to make it easier for fit and willing unmarried fathers to gain parental rights and parenting time with their children.	Agree	548	90%	92%	83%	91%	97%	90%	91%	85%	93%	91%	90%	↑ 94%	↓ 87%	91%	↑ 93%	↓ 84%	90%	↑ 95%	89%
	Disagree	53	10%	8%	17%	9%	3%	10%	9%	15%	7%	9%	10%	↓ 6%	↑ 13%	9%	↓ 7%	↑ 16%	10%	↓ 5%	11%
Both parents should be given the opportunity to have parental rights and parenting time with their children regardless of marital status.	Agree	571	95%	95%	83%	95%	94%	100%	94%	95%	96%	95%	94%	96%	94%	95%	↑ 96%	↓ 91%	96%	96%	93%
	Disagree	30	5%	5%	17%	5%	6%	0%	6%	5%	4%	5%	6%	4%	6%	5%	↓ 4%	↑ 9%	4%	4%	7%