

## **Black Single Mothers Speak Out: New Poll Underscores Concern Over Direction of the Country, Struggle to Cover Basic Expenses, and Importance of Public School Choice**

- **69% of Black single mothers feel the country is headed in the wrong direction**
- **More than a third (34%) can't cover basic expenses; 32% just barely can**
- **86% say they are more likely to support political candidates who support school choice**

**February 5, 2024, New York**– [The Current Project](#), a non-profit organization that supports the well-being of Black single mothers, released a new poll today conducted by EVITARUS, a Black-owned public opinion research firm. The groundbreaking survey of Black middle-to-low-income single mothers of school-aged children assessed attitudes toward the overall direction of the country, indicators of social and economic well-being, and perspectives on education issues.

The results highlight the pressures that this community faces in the current economy and the importance of public school choice.

### **Direction of the Country**

**Key Takeaway:** Black single mothers are very concerned about the direction of this country and the majority don't have confidence that elected leaders are responding to their needs.

- **Wrong Direction:** 69% of respondents believe the country is headed in the wrong direction; only 7% say it's headed in the right direction.
- **Failing Grade:** More than half (55%) say that state and local elected officials are doing a poor job when it comes to responding to the issues that are important to Black single mothers.
- **Views of the Democratic Party:** 57% view the Democratic Party favorably while 30% view it unfavorably.

### **Social & Economic Well-Being**

**Key Takeaway:** Black single mothers are facing significant economic challenges and even basic expenses have become hard to cover. Further, many of these moms are no longer eligible for public assistance but are not well off enough to make ends meet.

- **Economic Challenges:** 66% say they barely/can't cover basic expenses; Only 8% say they can cover basic expenses every month with more than a little left over for other things.
- **Struggles Over the Past Year:** 51% have had difficulty with having enough food to eat; 66% report having difficulty getting enough sleep; 42% have found it challenging to maintain stable housing; 91% have had difficulty dealing with inflation.

- **“Middler” Moms:** 77% say they have a need for government benefits or public assistance but find that their income is too high to qualify for such benefits, but not enough to comfortably make ends meet.

“Black single mothers have compounded pressures that are often exacerbated by ill-designed policies and limited opportunities to expand their economic pathways,” **said Alisha Gordon, Founder and Executive Director of the Current Project.** “This is taking an immeasurable toll on our physical and emotional wellbeing. It is imperative that we raise the specific experiences of this community to lengthen the runway for our economic thriving. For when Black single mothers thrive, we all thrive.”

### **Education Perspectives**

**Key Takeaway:** Black single mothers are not confident that today’s education system is meeting their child’s needs, they recognize the clear value in the role public charter schools play, and they want political candidates to support school choice.

- **School System:** 87% say the one-size-fits-all school system of the past often doesn’t meet students’ needs.
- **Role of Public Charter Schools:** 64% believe charter schools help the whole public education system improve for all kids; Charter schools also have the highest net favorability (+38) compared to traditional district schools, private schools, and magnet schools.
- **Motivating Voters:** 86% are more likely to vote for candidates running for office who support giving parents more options to decide where their kids go to school.
- **Education Concerns:** 76% are concerned about their child’s learning or academic progress; Only 31% are very satisfied with the schools their children attend.
- **Searching for Options:** More than half (56%) have considered choosing a different school for their children over the past year.
- **School Leaders:** 86% say the country needs more schools led by people of color.

**Gordon continued,** “We view public school choice as an exercise in Black single mother’s agency. Being able to make informed, resourced decisions about where we send our children to school can serve as an interrupter of generational social and economic pitfalls. Our children deserve a high-quality education in a public school and we’re going to hold elected leaders and political candidates accountable to fill this unmet need.”

N=504 504 Black/African American Single Mothers of School Age Children  
Field Dates: November 18-December 12, 2023  
Margin of sampling error: ± 4.36 percentage points

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**About The Current Project**

The Current Project deliberately invests in the social, emotional, and economic well being of Black single mothers living in highly dense and underinvested communities. We anchor programs, advocacy, and practices that network and resource Black single mothers to exercise their agency in creating thriving lives.