



To: Interested Parties

From: Betsy App, Change Research

Date: March 20, 2024

Re: Oklahoma Voters Disapprove of Ryan Walters, Demand Action Toward Impeachment

Change Research, a national research firm that has conducted more than 3,000 polls of over 3 million people since 2017, conducted a survey in Oklahoma from March 15-18, 2024.<sup>1</sup>

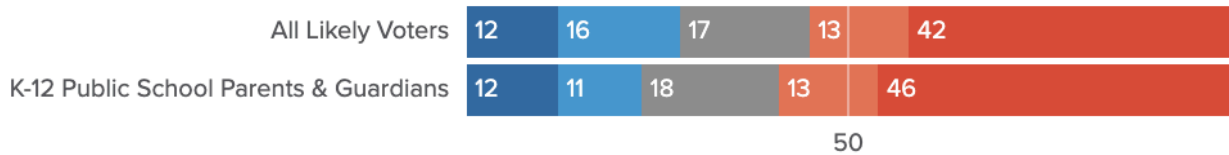
### Oklahoma voters intensely disapprove of Ryan Walters

Oklahoma’s Superintendent of Public Instruction Ryan Walters, who is under fire for his anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric leading up to and following Nex Benedict's death, is significantly underperforming in the eyes of Oklahoma voters after being elected to the position less than 18 months ago. A majority (55%) of voters disapprove of the job he is doing as Superintendent, including 42% who *strongly* disapprove, while just 28% approve. Parents and guardians of students enrolled in Oklahoma’s K-12 public schools are especially disapproving.

### Walters Job Approval Significantly Underwater CHANGE RESEARCH™

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Ryan Walters is doing as Oklahoma's Superintendent of Public Instruction?

● Strongly Approve ● Somewhat Approve ● Not sure ● Somewhat Disapprove ● Strongly Disapprove

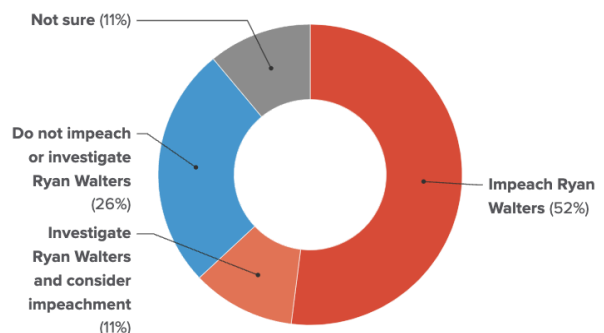


Even self-identified Republican voters hold mixed views of the Superintendent. The proportion of Republicans who hold a favorable opinion of him (33%) outweighs the proportion who hold an unfavorable opinion (25%) by just 8 points. These same voters hold an intensely positive view of Donald Trump (83% favorable, including 59% very favorable, and just 12% unfavorable).

### Nearly 2 in 3 Oklahoma voters want the state legislature to impeach or investigate Walters

Half (52%) of Oklahoma voters say that the state legislature should impeach Superintendent Ryan Walters, and another 11% want the legislature to investigate and consider whether impeachment is warranted. Just 26% say that Walters should not be investigated or impeached.

### Public Demand for Impeachment CHANGE RESEARCH™



## Voters' concerns about Walters span a variety of issues, from promoting a culture of dangerous intolerance to his failure to distribute millions of dollars to schools

Oklahoma voters disagree with Superintendent Walters on a variety of issues, and they don't just disagree with his positions and actions since taking office; they actively like him less as a result.

	Agree with Walters, makes me like him more	Agree with Walters, doesn't impact my view of him	Disagree with Walters, doesn't impact my view of him	Disagree with Walters, makes me like him less
Ryan Walters isn't doing the job Oklahomans hired him to do. Oklahoma ranks 48th in the country in education, according to US News and World Report. One survey found that 72% of Oklahoma school districts hadn't received requested funding administered by his office, leaving schools short millions of dollars.	9	16	15	61
Ryan Walters appointed Chaya Raichik, a former New York City real estate agent who grew up in Los Angeles, to Oklahoma's state library panel. Raichik is the creator behind the controversial social media account Libs of TikTok whose anti-LGBTQ content inspired more than 20 school bomb threats, including threats to schools in Oklahoma. Raichik had visited Oklahoma only one time prior to her appointment.	13	12	18	57
As Schools Superintendent, Ryan Walters has used his platform to target individual educators who don't share his political ideology. In one case, Walters tried to revoke a teacher's license and accused her of sexualizing her classroom after she gave students a link to a public library.	18	13	17	53
Critics say that Ryan Walters has created an atmosphere of dangerous intolerance within public schools. Students report that the anti-LGBTQ rhetoric from officials like Superintendent Walters has been seen as permission to harass and bully gay and transgender kids at school.	15	24	14	47
In the wake of the death of Owasso High School student Nex Benedict, Ryan Walters doubled down on his anti-LGBTQ beliefs with divisive partisan rhetoric so insensitive to the tragedy and at odds with statements from other Republican leaders that Oklahoma's biggest newspaper said it only "causes more pain for Oklahoma's LGBTQ+ families."	17	24	13	46

Voters are especially concerned that Walters failed to distribute millions of dollars in funding to Oklahoma schools, and that he appointed Chaya Raichik, a notably unqualified candidate, to Oklahoma's state library panel.

## Oklahomans believe that Ryan Walters is a poor role model for students

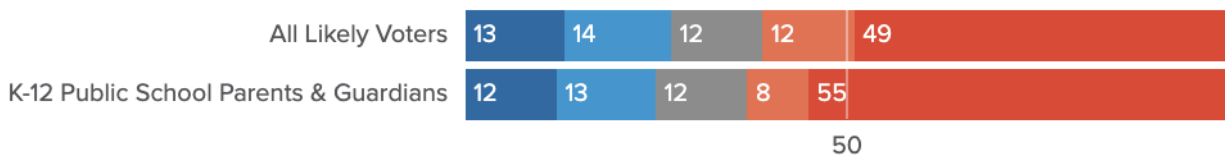
61% believe Ryan Walters is not a good role model for Oklahoma's students. A majority (55%) of parents and guardians of K-12 students in Oklahoma's public schools say Walters is *definitely* not a good role model for their children.

## Walters Is Not A Good Role Model

CHANGE RESEARCH™

Do you believe Ryan Walters is a good role model for Oklahoma's students?

● Yes, definitely ● Yes, probably ● Not sure ● No, probably not ● No, definitely not



<sup>1</sup>A total of 665 likely general election voters were interviewed online, and the survey has a modeled margin of error of 4.3 percentage points. Post-stratification weighting was performed on age, race/ethnicity, gender, education, region, and 2020 presidential vote. Weighting parameters were based on voter file data. See full methodological details [here](#).

## REPORTED QUESTIONS

There is a general election on November 5, 2024, for the President, Congress, Oklahoma state legislature and other offices. How motivated are you to vote in the November 5, 2024 election on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means you are not motivated at all and 10 means you are extremely motivated?

74%	10 - Extremely motivated
3	9
5	8
2	7
2	6
4	5
1	4
1	3
0	2
1	1
5	0 - Not motivated at all

**82** Total 8-10  
**7** Total 0-2

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Ryan Walters is doing as Oklahoma’s Superintendent of Public Instruction?

12%	Strongly approve
16	Somewhat approve
12	Somewhat disapprove
42	Strongly disapprove
16	Not sure

**29** Total approve  
**55** Total disapprove

[DATA REPORTED FOR REPUBLICAN VOTERS ONLY] How favorable are your feelings about each of the following public officials and organizations? If you haven’t heard of them, please indicate that.

	<u>Favorable</u>		Neu	<u>Unfavorable</u>		Never Heard of	Total Fav	Total Unfav
	Very	Smwt		Smwt	Very			
Donald Trump	59	23	5	2	10	0	<b>83</b>	<b>12</b>
Ryan Walters	17	16	23	5	19	20	<b>33</b>	<b>25</b>

**The following statements are things people are saying about Superintendent Ryan Walters. Some people agree with the things he has done, and others don't. For each one, please indicate whether it impacts how you view him. [RANDOMIZE STATEMENTS]**

**In the wake of the death of Owasso High School student Nex Benedict, Ryan Walters doubled down on his anti-LGBTQ beliefs with divisive partisan rhetoric so insensitive to the tragedy and at odds with statements from other Republican leaders that Oklahoma's biggest newspaper said it only "causes more pain for Oklahoma's LGTBQ+ families."**

- 17% Agree with Walters, makes me like him more
- 24 Agree with Walters, doesn't impact my view of him
- 13 Disagree with Walters, doesn't impact my view of him
- 46 Disagree with Walters, makes me like him less

**Ryan Walters appointed Chaya Raichik, a former New York City real estate agent who grew up in Los Angeles, to Oklahoma's state library panel. Raichik is the creator behind the controversial social media account Libs of TikTok whose anti-LGBTQ content inspired more than 20 school bomb threats, including threats to schools in Oklahoma. Raichik had visited Oklahoma only one time prior to her appointment.**

- 13% Agree with Walters, makes me like him more
- 12 Agree with Walters, doesn't impact my view of him
- 18 Disagree with Walters, doesn't impact my view of him
- 57 Disagree with Walters, makes me like him less

**As Schools Superintendent, Ryan Walters has used his platform to target individual educators who don't share his political ideology. In one case, Walters tried to revoke a teacher's license and accused her of sexualizing her classroom after she gave students a link to a public library.**

- 18% Agree with Walters, makes me like him more
- 13 Agree with Walters, doesn't impact my view of him
- 17 Disagree with Walters, doesn't impact my view of him
- 53 Disagree with Walters, makes me like him less

**Ryan Walters isn't doing the job Oklahomans hired him to do. Oklahoma ranks 48th in the country in education, according to US News and World Report. One survey found that 72% of Oklahoma school districts hadn't received requested funding administered by his office, leaving schools short millions of dollars.**

- 9% Agree with Walters, makes me like him more
- 16 Agree with Walters, doesn't impact my view of him
- 15 Disagree with Walters, doesn't impact my view of him
- 61 Disagree with Walters, makes me like him less

**Critics say that Ryan Walters has created an atmosphere of dangerous intolerance within public schools. Students report that the anti-LGBTQ rhetoric from officials like Superintendent Walters has been seen as permission to harass and bully gay and transgender kids at school.**

- 15% Agree with Walters, makes me like him more
- 24 Agree with Walters, doesn't impact my view of him
- 14 Disagree with Walters, doesn't impact my view of him
- 47 Disagree with Walters, makes me like him less



**Should the Oklahoma legislature impeach Oklahoma Superintendent of Public Instruction Ryan Walters and remove him from office?**

- 52% Yes, impeach Ryan Walters
- 31 No, do not impeach Ryan Walters
- 17 Not sure

**[IF NO OR NOT SURE] Should the Oklahoma legislature investigate Ryan Walters and consider whether impeachment is warranted?**

- 23% Yes, investigate Ryan Walters
- 55 No, do not investigate Ryan Walters
- 22 Not sure

**TOTAL IMPEACH/INVESTIGATE**

- 52% Yes, impeach Ryan Walters
- 11 Investigate Ryan Walters
- 26 Do not impeach or investigate Ryan Walters
- 11 Not sure

**Do you believe Ryan Walters is a good role model for Oklahoma's students?**

- 13% Yes, definitely
- 14 Yes, probably
- 12 No, probably not
- 49 No, definitely not
- 12 Not sure

**How did you vote in the 2020 election for President, or for some reason were you unable to vote?**

- 29% Joe Biden, the Democrat
- 57 Donald Trump, the Republican
- 5 Jo Jorgensen, the Libertarian
- 2 Not registered/Too young/Ineligible
- 7 Did not vote

**Are you the parent, guardian, or caregiver of a student in grades K-12?**

- 23% Yes, my student attends public school
- 3 Yes, my student attends private school
- 74 No

**Are you:**

- 45% A man
- 53 A woman
- 2 Something else

**Age**

- 21% 18 to 34
- 23 35 to 49
- 29 50 to 64
- 27 65+

**What is your race?**

- 72% White / Caucasian
- 12 American Indian or Alaska Native
- 7 Hispanic or Latino/a
- 5 Black or African American
- 1 Asian / Pacific Islander
- 2 Other

**What is the highest level of education you have completed?**

- 17% High school diploma or less
- 31 Some college, but no degree
- 16 Associate's degree, or two-year college degree
- 24 Bachelor's degree, or four-year college degree
- 12 Graduate degree

**Party Identification**

- 16% Strong Democrats
  - 6 Weak Democrats
  - 6 Independent lean Democrats
  - 13 Pure independents
  - 8 Independent lean Republicans
  - 12 Weak Republicans
  - 38 Strong Republicans
- 
- 22% Base Democrats
  - 27 Independents + Leaners
  - 51 Base Republicans
- 
- 28% Democrats
  - 13 Pure independents
  - 58 Republicans

**Oklahoma Congressional Districts**

- 20% CD-1
- 21 CD-2
- 17 CD-3
- 20 CD-4
- 22 CD-5