

Polling - SA Political Issues

July 2021

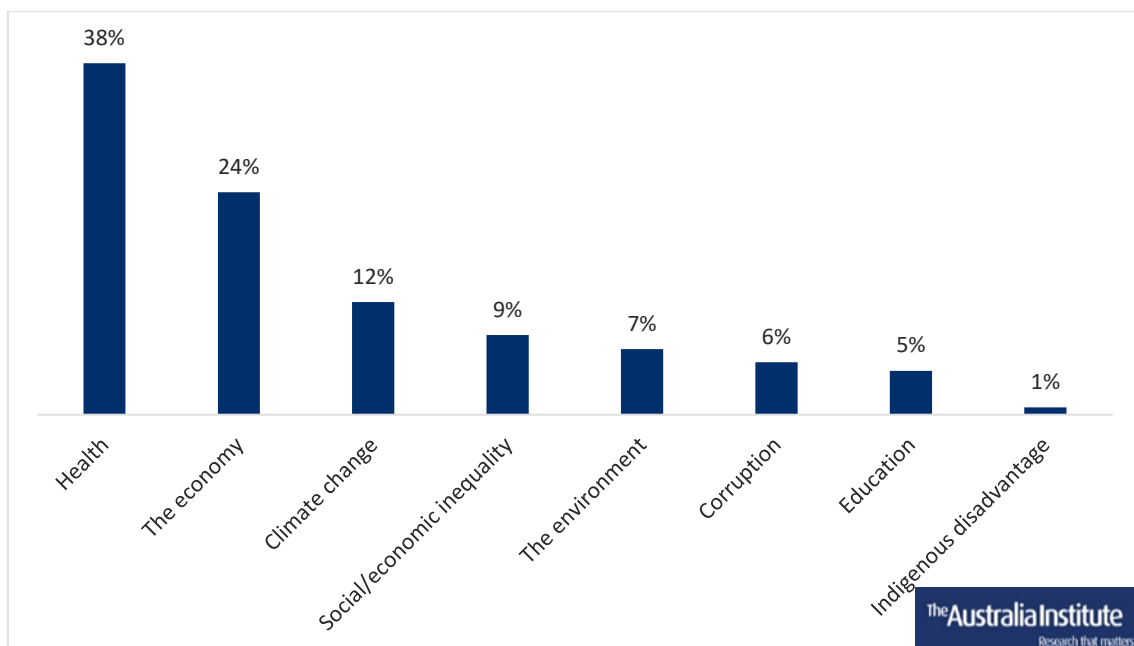
Key results

In July 2021 The Australia Institute surveyed a representative sample of 599 South Australians. Respondents were asked which issue they considered to be the most important in state politics right now and a series of questions on a range of political issues.

Results show that the three issues most likely to be deemed important by voters are health, the economy and climate change.

- Four in 10 voters (38%) say health is the most important political issue right now.
 - A plurality of voters for each political party rate health as their most important issue.
- One in four voters (24%) rate the economy and 12% rate climate change as the most important issue.

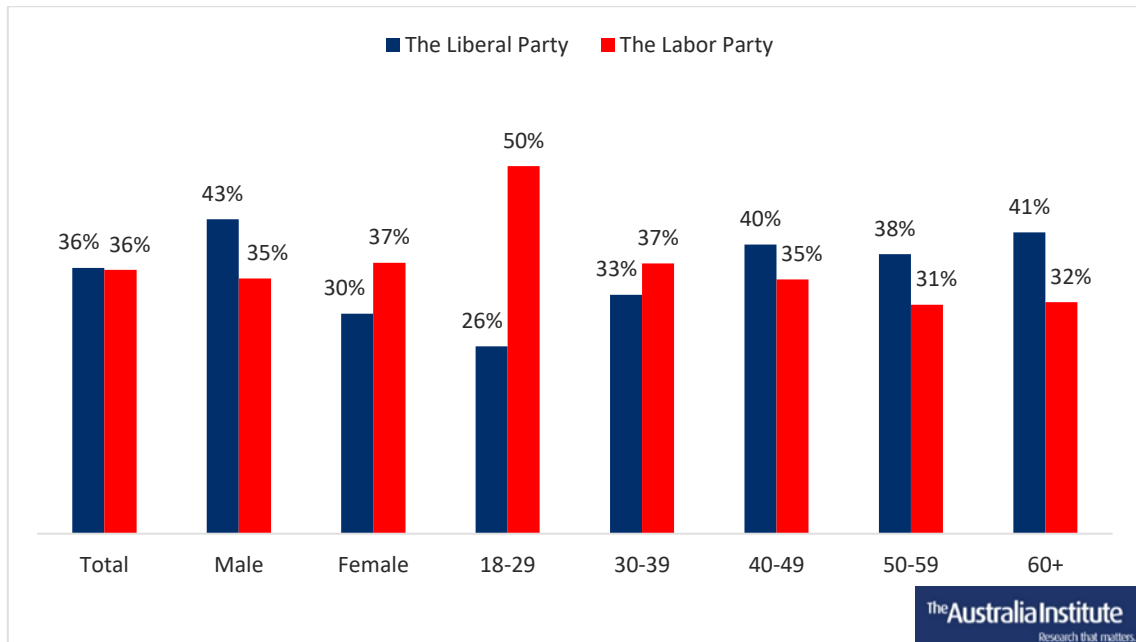
Figure 1: Most important state political issue right now



Voters were then asked which of the two major political parties they trusted more to manage the state’s health systems.

- Voters were evenly split. One in three (36%) respondents trust the Liberal Party to manage the health system more, while the same proportion trust the Labor Party more.
 - The greatest difference was amongst 18-29 year olds, where one in two (50%) trust the Labor Party while one in four (26%) trust the Liberal Party.
 - Voters aged 40 and over are more likely to trust the Liberal Party when it comes to the health system.

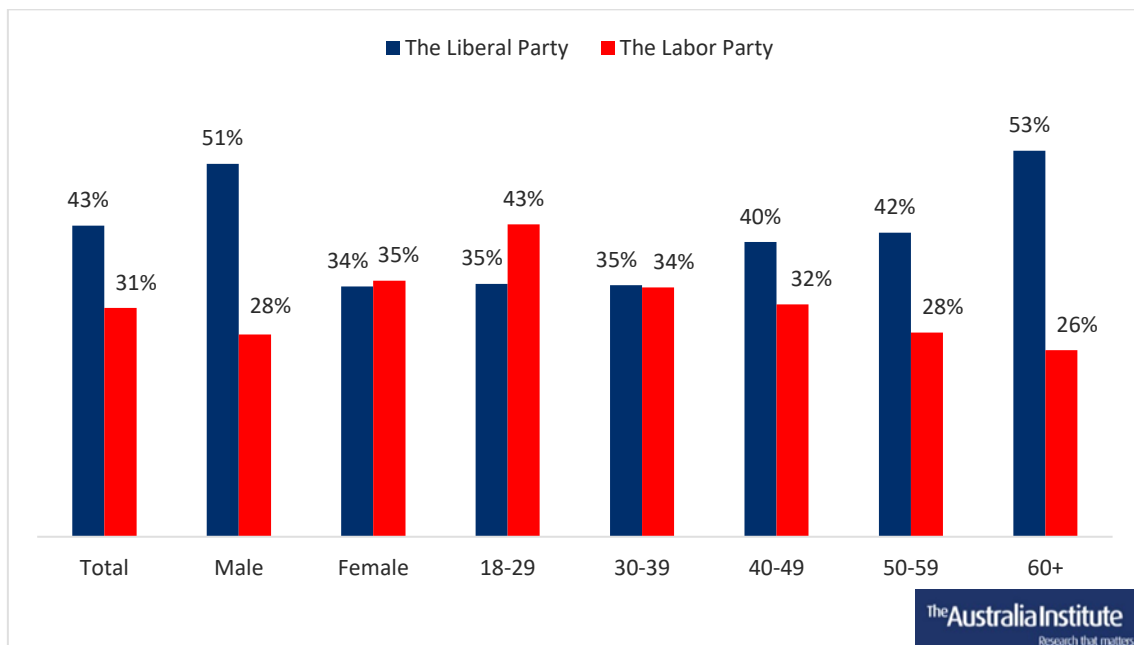
Figure 2: Which political party do you trust more to manage SA’s health system?



Voters were then asked which of the two major political parties they trusted more to manage the state’s economy.

- Four in 10 voters (43%) trust the Liberal Party more, while three in 10 (31%) trust the Labor Party more.
 - Women are evenly split on which party they trust more to manage the economy while men are more likely to trust the Liberal Party.
 - Voters aged 30-39 are equally likely to support either party while younger voters are more likely to trust the Labor Party and older voters are more likely to trust the Liberal Party.

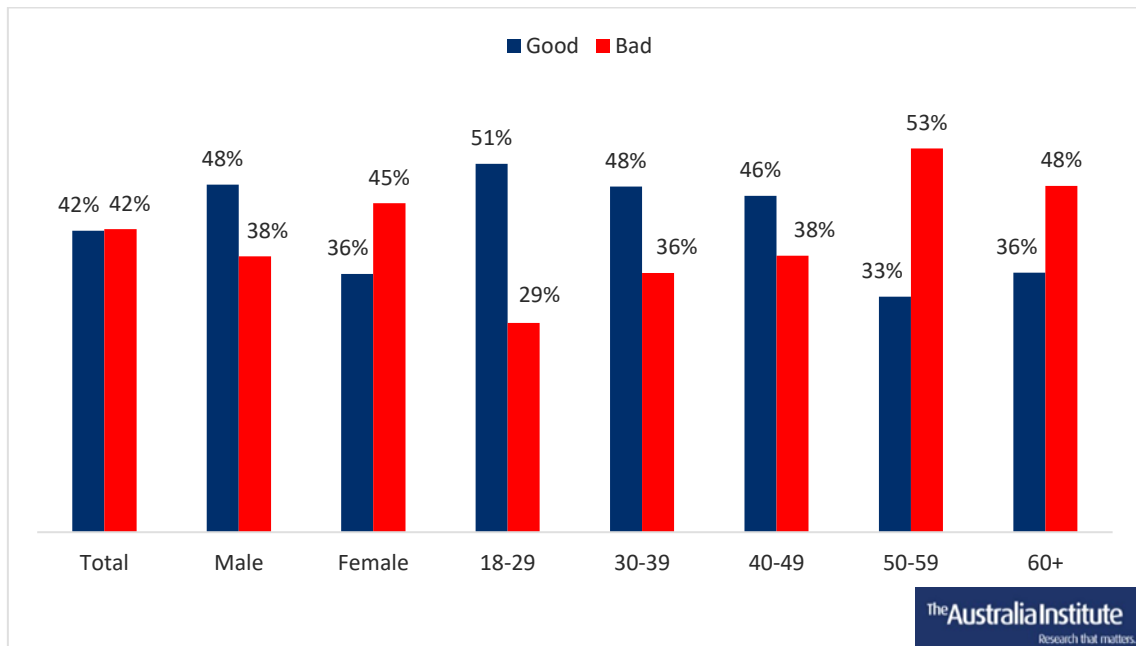
Figure 3: Which political party do you trust more to manage SA’s economy



When asked about the current government’s performance on health, including hospitals and the ambulance service, voters are evenly split between those who say the government is doing a good job (42%) and those who say the government is doing a bad job (42%).

- Half of voters aged 18-29 (51%) approve of the government’s handling of the health system while voters aged 50 and over are more likely to disapprove of the government’s handling of the health system.

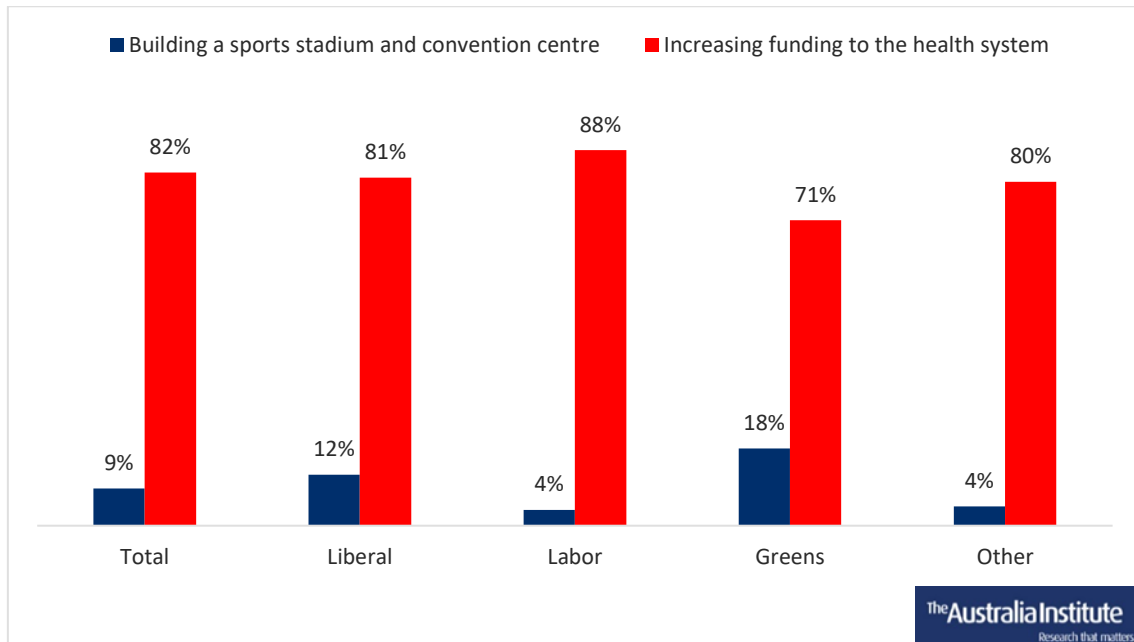
Figure 4: How do you rate the government’s handling of the health system?



Voters were then told the Government and the Opposition have different views on how to spend \$667 million of public money, with one wanting to build a sports stadium and convention centre while the other will instead put the funding into the health system. Voters were then asked to choose which proposal they prefer.

- Eight in 10 voters (82%) prefer the option of increasing funding to the health system over building a sports and convention centre.
 - More than seven in 10 voters for every political party prefer health spending to the sports and convention centre proposal.
 - Greens voters are the most likely to support the sports and convention centre (18%), while Labor and Other voters are the least likely (4%).

Figure 5: Sports and convention centre vs public health spending



Method

The Australia Institute conducted a survey of 599 South Australians between 15 and 29 July 2021, online through Dynata, post-weighted to reflect social demographics by age and gender in South Australia.

Voting crosstabs show voting intentions for the lower house. Those who were undecided were asked which way they were leaning; these leanings are included in voting intention crosstabs, but results are also shown separately for undecideds. “Other” includes SA Best and Independent/Other.

Detailed results

Thinking about state politics, what is the most important issue to you right now?

	<i>Total</i>	Male	Female	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+
Health	38%	35%	40%	15%	31%	33%	40%	53%
The economy	24%	26%	22%	24%	29%	29%	24%	18%
Climate change	12%	13%	11%	10%	9%	13%	12%	14%
Social/economic inequality	9%	8%	9%	14%	13%	11%	5%	4%
The environment	7%	6%	8%	14%	9%	5%	6%	4%
Corruption	6%	9%	2%	7%	2%	3%	9%	6%
Education	5%	3%	6%	12%	6%	6%	4%	0%
Indigenous disadvantage	1%	0%	2%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%

	<i>Total</i>	Liberal	Labor	Greens	Other
Health	38%	41%	42%	19%	28%
The economy	24%	32%	22%	12%	21%
Climate change	12%	9%	14%	18%	9%
Social/economic inequality	9%	6%	6%	17%	10%
The environment	7%	4%	8%	15%	8%
Corruption	6%	3%	5%	3%	19%
Education	5%	4%	3%	8%	6%
Indigenous disadvantage	1%	0%	0%	7%	0%

Which political party do you trust more to manage South Australia's health system?

	<i>Total</i>	Male	Female	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+
The Liberal Party	36%	43%	30%	26%	33%	40%	38%	41%
The Labor Party	36%	35%	37%	50%	37%	35%	31%	32%
Don't know / Not sure	27%	22%	33%	24%	30%	25%	30%	27%

	<i>Total</i>	Liberal	Labor	Greens	Other
The Liberal Party	36%	78%	3%	25%	12%
The Labor Party	36%	6%	74%	45%	15%
Don't know / Not sure	27%	16%	23%	29%	74%

Which political party do you trust more to manage South Australia's economy?

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>18-29</i>	<i>30-39</i>	<i>40-49</i>	<i>50-59</i>	<i>60+</i>
The Liberal Party	43%	51%	34%	35%	35%	40%	42%	53%
The Labor Party	31%	28%	35%	43%	34%	32%	28%	26%
Don't know / Not sure	26%	21%	30%	22%	31%	28%	30%	21%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Liberal</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>Other</i>
The Liberal Party	43%	82%	11%	24%	18%
The Labor Party	31%	6%	63%	52%	10%
Don't know / Not sure	26%	12%	26%	25%	72%

How do you rate the current South Australian Government's handling of the health system, including hospitals and the ambulance service?

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>18-29</i>	<i>30-39</i>	<i>40-49</i>	<i>50-59</i>	<i>60+</i>
Very good	11%	14%	9%	15%	15%	19%	5%	6%
Good	31%	34%	27%	35%	32%	28%	28%	30%
Bad	20%	19%	21%	15%	16%	19%	20%	24%
Very bad	22%	19%	25%	14%	20%	19%	33%	24%
Neither good nor bad	12%	11%	12%	10%	7%	11%	12%	15%
Don't know / Not sure	5%	3%	7%	10%	9%	4%	2%	2%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Liberal</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>Other</i>
Very good	11%	16%	9%	11%	1%
Good	31%	44%	22%	23%	19%
Bad	20%	17%	20%	20%	23%
Very bad	22%	8%	32%	31%	35%
Neither good nor bad	12%	13%	11%	11%	12%
Don't know / Not sure	5%	2%	7%	5%	10%

In South Australia, the Government and the Opposition have different views on how to spend \$667 million of public money. One will build a sports stadium and convention centre while the other will instead put the funding into the health system. Which proposal do you prefer?

	<i>Total</i>	Male	Female	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+
Building a sports stadium and convention centre	9%	11%	6%	11%	13%	6%	8%	6%
Increasing funding to the health system	82%	81%	84%	72%	77%	85%	81%	90%
Don't know / Not sure	9%	8%	10%	17%	10%	9%	11%	4%

	<i>Total</i>	Liberal	Labor	Greens	Other
Building a sports stadium and convention centre	9%	12%	4%	18%	4%
Increasing funding to the health system	82%	81%	88%	71%	80%
Don't know / Not sure	9%	7%	9%	11%	15%