



For Immediate Release

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City, County Voters Strongly Oppose Stadium; Say Project Should be Put on Hold

Voters in Hamilton County strongly oppose using taxpayers dollars to build a new baseball stadium for the Lookouts and overwhelmingly agree that decisions on the stadium should be put on hold until a new mayor and commission are in place Sept. 1, according to a poll by Spry Strategies.

The research was commissioned by the Weston Wamp campaign, which is releasing the questionnaire and crosstabs today.

"I have run hundreds of polls on issues that centered around building pro stadiums funded, at least in part, by taxpayer funds, from a new baseball stadium for the Florida Marlins in Miami, the Braves moving the stadium from Fulton County to Cobb County and most recently the new stadium for Knoxville Smokies," said Ryan Burrell, president and founder of Spry Strategies. "The proposition of a new stadium for the Chattanooga Lookouts funded by taxpayer dollars is overwhelmingly opposed by both city and county voters. The opposition crossed important demographics including gender, ethnicity, and party affiliation

"Anyone who would say this is anything less than a scientific survey and remotely suggesting this was a push poll is simply wrong."

Key takeaways from the poll are:

- 65% of voters believe the decision should be put on hold until after Sept. 1 while 18% say the project should not be put on hold.
- 34.7% of voters strongly oppose the project versus 14.7% who strongly support it. Overall, 58% oppose the stadium while 31% support it. 11% have no opinion.
- 90% of voters believe Chattanooga has a gang problem, including 62% who strongly believe there is a gang problem. Only 5% do not believe there is a gang problem.

“As for the stadium, I will continue to stand with the taxpayers of Hamilton County,” said Wamp. “We commissioned a true, scientific poll using the most reputable polling firm in Tennessee to demonstrate to elected officials that the public is far from on board with this massive stadium proposal.”

Burrell and the team at Spry Strategies have conducted polls in 39 states in 2022 for clients including Florida Gov. Ron Desantis and Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp.

The Hamilton County General and Policy Survey conducted 406 interviews with a survey design of 300 Live Caller / IVR Landline and 100 Online Mobile Interviews from July 5-7. The scientific random poll sampled 22,000 likely county mayor general election voters who voted in at least one of the last three contested county mayor general elections elections. The survey has a margin of error of +/- 4.1 percentage points. Results are weighted. Some percentages in crosstab reports for this poll may not add to 100% due to rounding.

If you wish to interview Ryan Burrell, please call Davis Lundy at 423-240-5759.

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