

# Nuclear Issues: A Rhode Island Perspective

Here is where your  
presentation begins



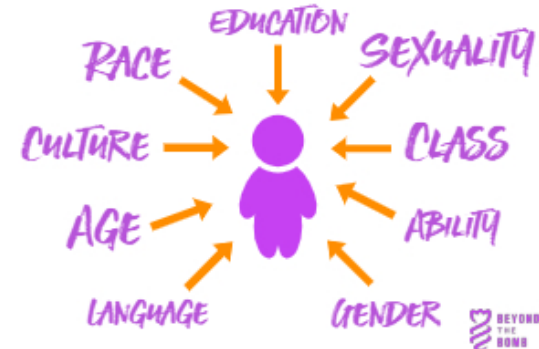
# Background & Beyond the Bomb

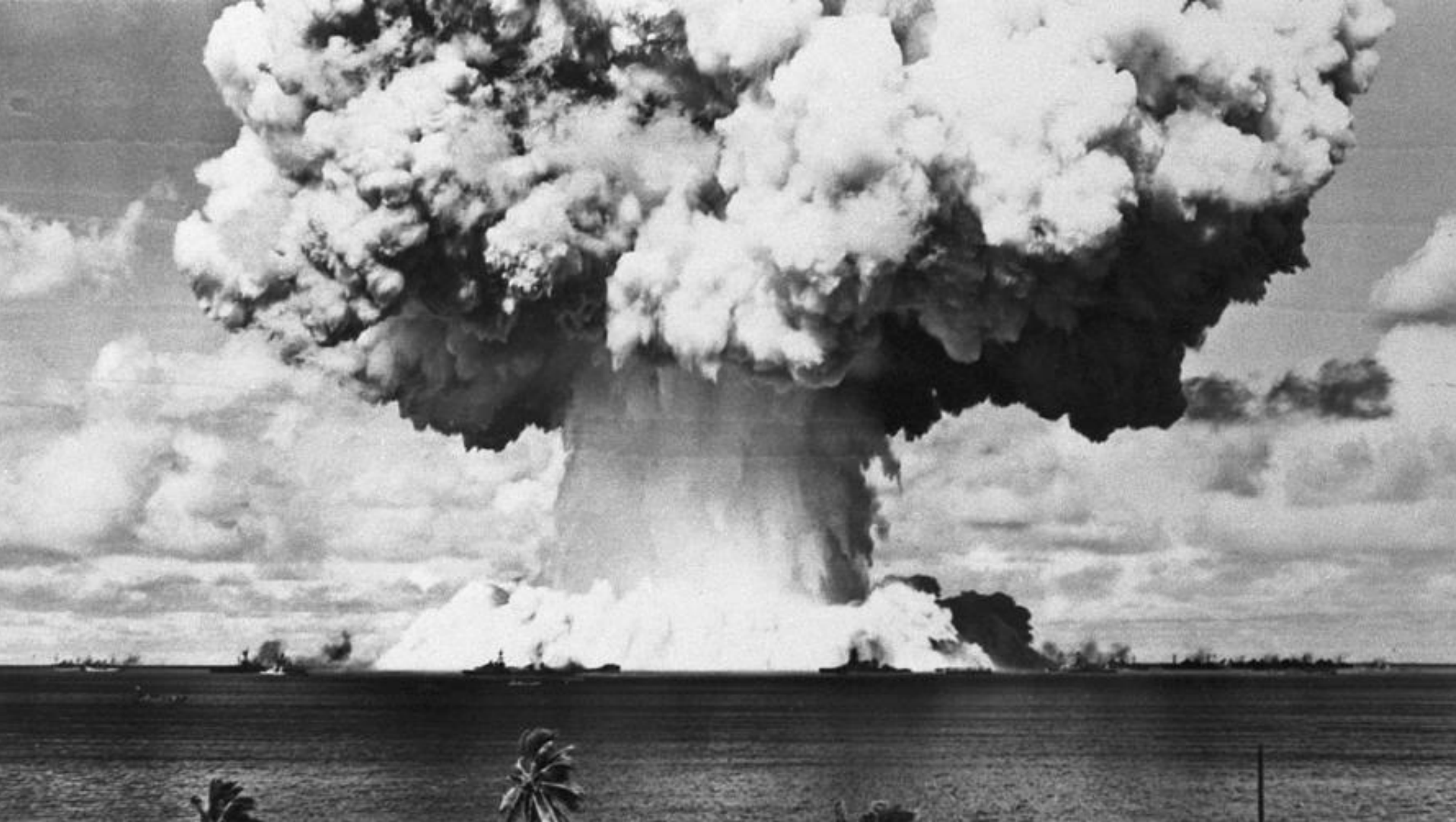
**Beyond the Bomb** is focused on preventing nuclear war and mitigating the harm already caused by the system that supports nuclear weapons.

## Key issues include:

- No first use
- Radiation exposure compensation
- Stopping missile modernization

One of the keys to their approach is **intersectionality**.





# Research Questions

## 1 Awareness

How aware are Rhode Islanders (ages 15-35) about nuclear weapons?  
What knowledge do they have about nuclear issues?

## 2 Interest

How interested are Rhode Island residents in nuclear weapons?  
What areas of justice are they most interested in?

## 3 Engagement

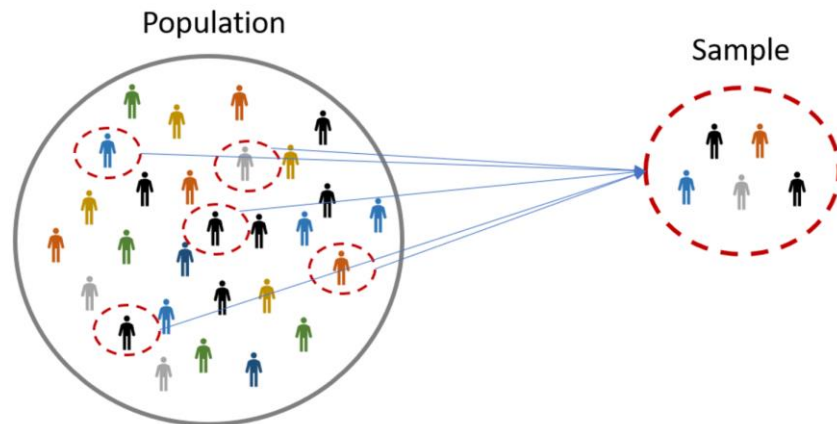
What are the most effective mediums and messages for increasing engagement with nuclear weapons issues in Rhode Island?

# Limitations

---

The biggest limitation in this study was **sample size**.

- Focus group consisted of 5 people found directly from Sarah and Gabe's networks.
- Survey has <30 responses (so far!).
- **Demographics:** population is mostly white, female, and liberal.



1

# Focus Group

---

Held hour-long focus group  
via Zoom with 5 participants  
from Rhode Island.



# Key Findings

1

## Sole Authority

Distrust in certain leaders being primarily responsible for launching a nuclear attack

2

## RECA Understanding

A lack of understanding about the purpose of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act.

3

## Financial Angle

Most of the social justice interests stated by participants surrounded money.

# Sole Authority Concerns Trump No First Use

---

“Whose hands is it going to end up in? Like Obama? Yeah. I hope that he probably knew when to use it and when not to. But if Trump has the button, I'm like, mm, I'm going to go hide out in a bunker.”





# Key Findings

1

## Sole Authority

Distrust in certain leaders being primarily responsible for launching a nuclear attack

2

## RECA Understanding

A lack of understanding about the purpose of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act.

3

## Financial Angle

Most of the social justice interests stated by participants surrounded money.

# RECA\*: Just Throwing Money at a Larger Issue?

---

“It's like just sort of throwing money at a problem that it's not really going to solve. I mean, maybe it would help, I don't know, but it doesn't feel like that would be as effective.”

**\*Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, set to expire in July 2022**

What's your Love Language?

## restorative justice

[re·stor·a·tive jus·tice]  
a system of justice which focuses on repairing harm caused by criminal behavior.



# Key Findings

1

## Sole Authority

Distrust in certain leaders being primarily responsible for launching a nuclear attack

2

## RECA Understanding

A lack of understanding about the purpose of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act.

3

## Financial Angle

Most of the social justice interests stated by participants surrounded money.

# Intersectionality: All About the Money

---

“I'm totally transparent.”

“I think like the housing crisis and homelessness. It's like really, really bad.”

“I think funding for programs for children with disabilities and stuff.”

<b>FEDERAL TAXES:</b>	<b>\$8,367</b>
NIH .....	\$91.89
CHIP .....	\$47.81
VETERAN SERVICES .....	\$492.36
MILITARY.....	\$2,006.66
— LOCKHEED MARTIN:	\$133.26
— BOEING:	\$59.82
— <b>NUCLEAR WEAPONS:</b>	<b>\$57.88</b>
PUBLIC HOUSING.....	\$5.68



# Distribution

## Networking

Leveraged Sarah and Gabe's social networks.

## Cold Emailing

Emailed RI organizations and nonprofits.

## Sticker Campaign

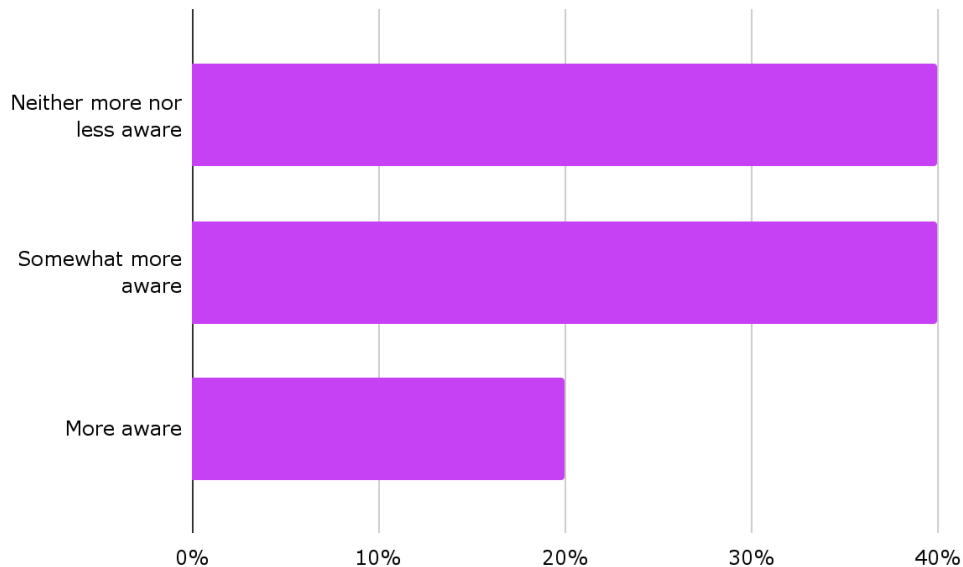
Posted stickers in highly trafficked areas of RI.



# Key Finding #1: Ukraine

Has the war in Ukraine changed your level of awareness of nuclear weapons?

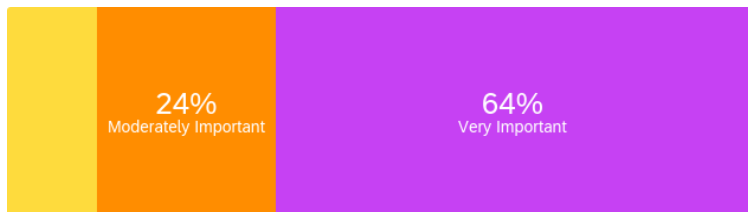
**60%** of people said the war in Ukraine has made them at least **somewhat more aware** of nuclear weapons.



# Key Finding #2: Personal Agency

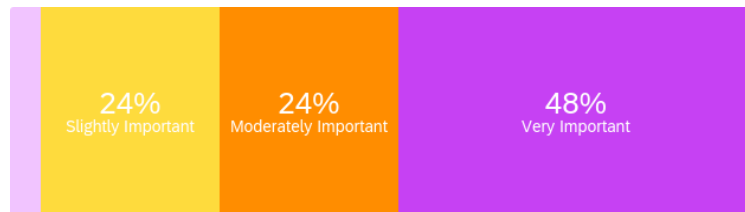
Please indicate how important the following issues are to you.

## Nuclear war



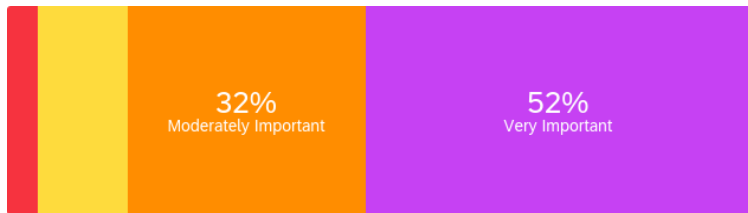
■ Slightly Important ■ Moderately Important ■ Very Important

## Nuclear terrorism



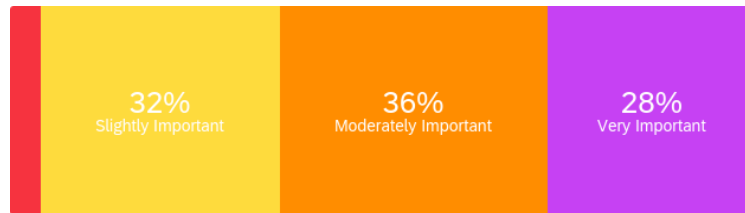
■ I do not know what this is ■ Not at all important ■ Slightly Important  
■ Moderately Important ■ Very Important

## Radiation exposure



■ Not at all important ■ Slightly Important ■ Moderately Important ■ Very Important

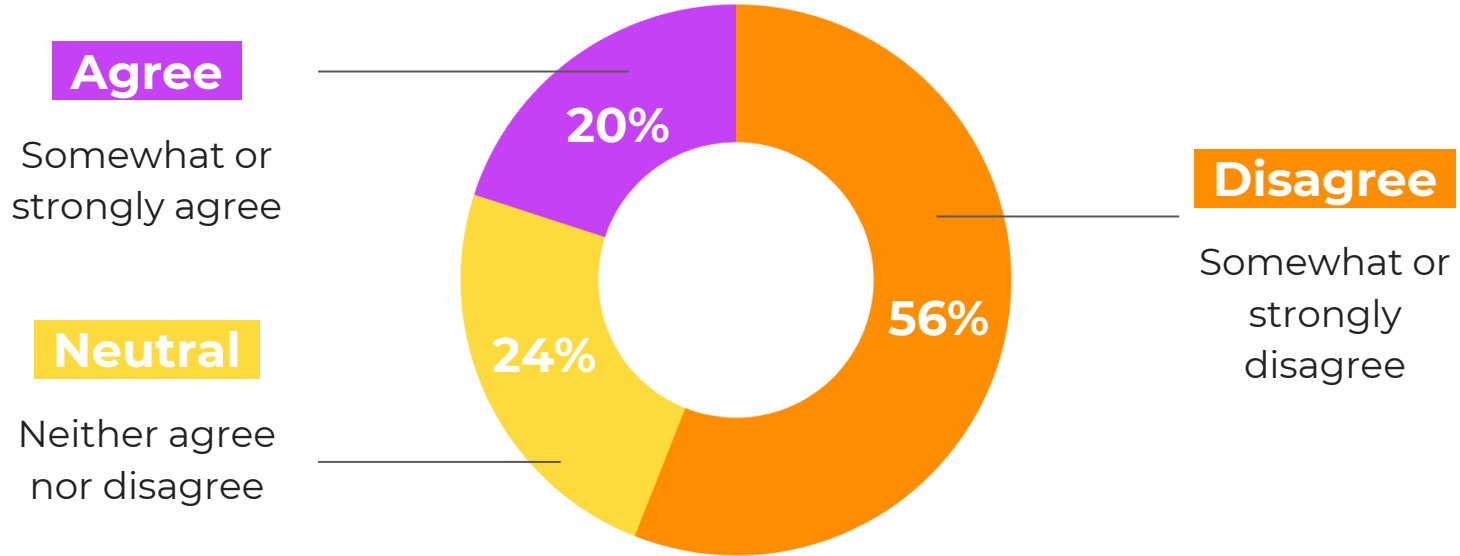
## Nuclear weapons spending



■ Not at all important ■ Slightly Important ■ Moderately Important ■ Very Important

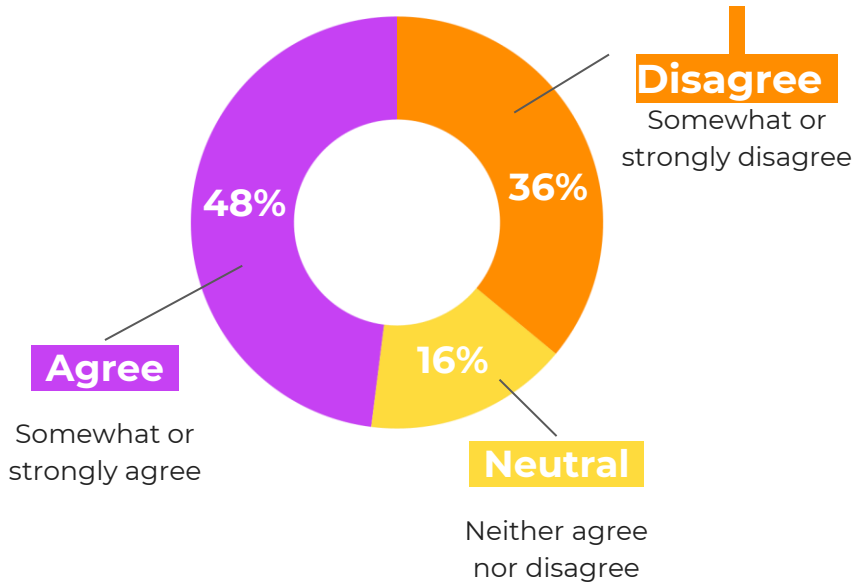


## I can do something to get us closer to a world without nuclear weapons.

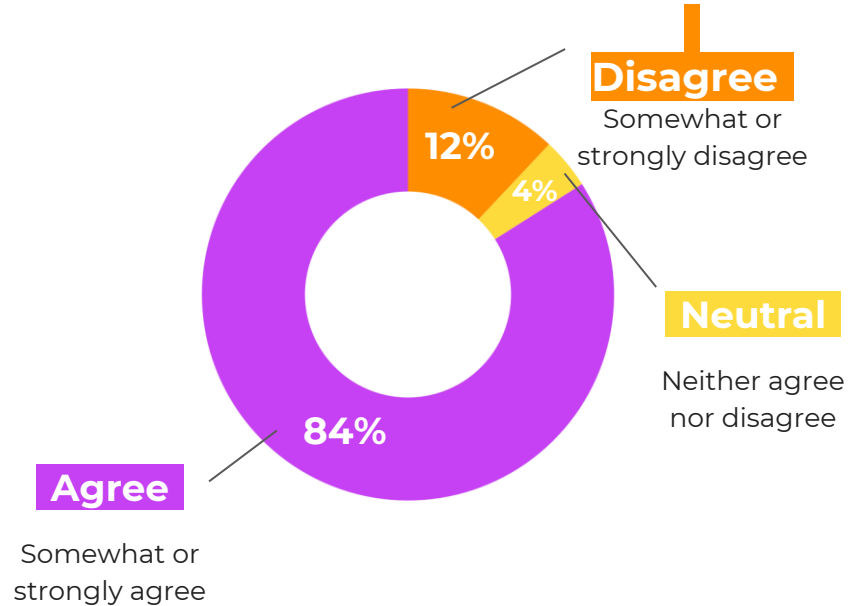


Although they find nuclear issues important, most people feel they have no agency.

**My state's political representatives  
can do something to get us closer to  
a world without nuclear weapons.**



**The President can do something  
to get us closer to a world without  
nuclear weapons.**



**Rhode Islanders don't connect their representatives to nuclear issues even though...**

# ...RI representatives are influential in nuclear legislation.



**Senator  
Jack Reed**

**Chairman**, Senate  
Armed Services  
Committee



**Representative  
James Langevin**

**Senior member**,  
House Armed Services  
and Homeland  
Security Committees  
*\*(not seeking another term)*



**Senator Sheldon  
Whitehouse**

Introduced the  
**American Nuclear  
Infrastructure Act**  
in 2020

3

## Takeaways

---

Trust in authority

Interest in social issues



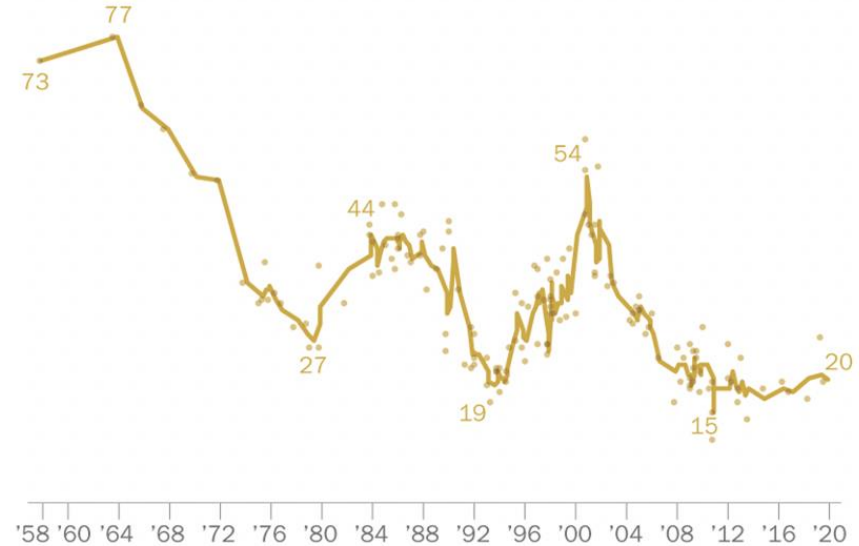
# Trust in Authority

---

Public trust in the government is at an all time low, so many people are more concerned with the President's power over nuclear weapons.

## Public trust in the federal government has been low for more than a decade

*% who say they trust the federal government to do what is right just about always/most of the time*



Note: From 1976-2020 the trend line represents a three-survey moving average.

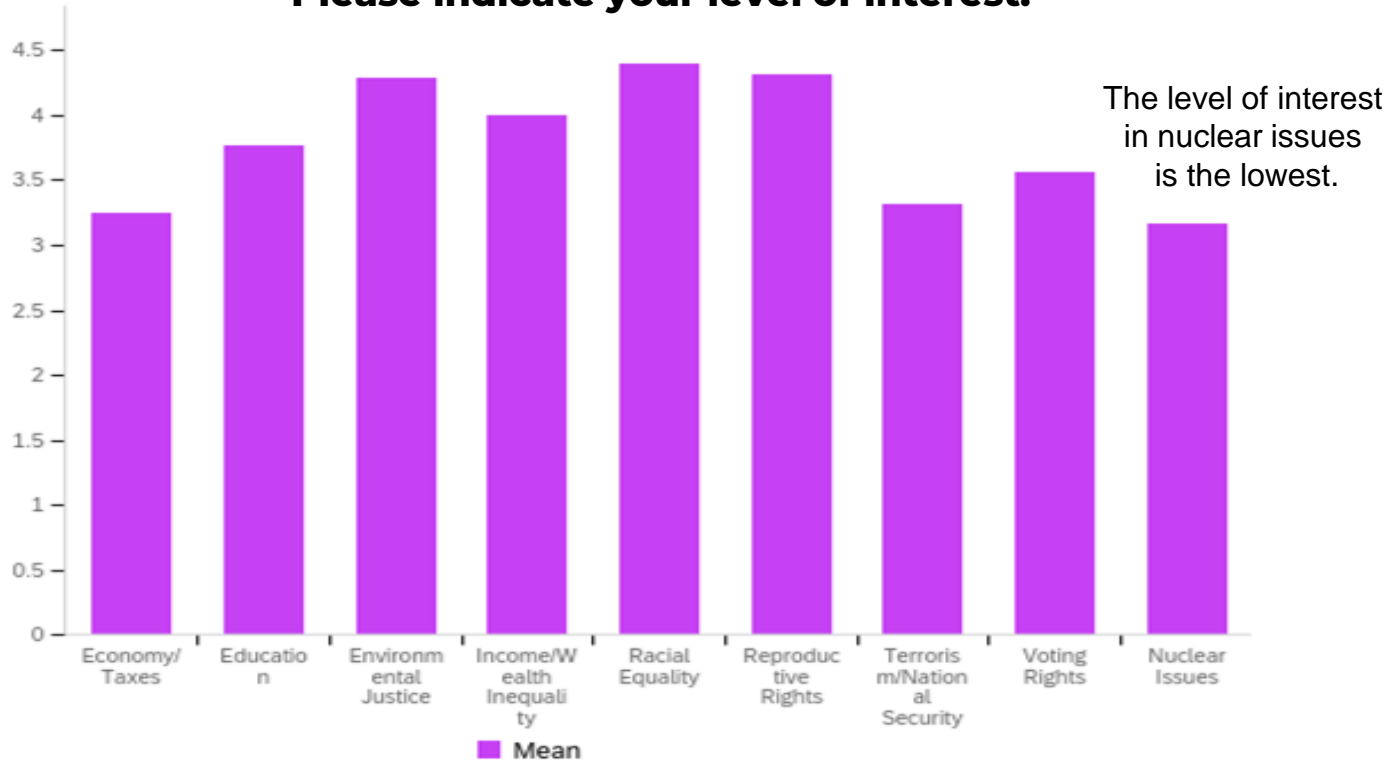
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 27-Aug. 2, 2020.

Trend sources: Pew Research Center's American Trends Panel (2020), Pew Research Center phone surveys (2019 and earlier), National Election Studies, Gallup, ABC/Washington Post, CBS/New York Times, and CNN polls. See appendix for details.

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER**

# Social Issues in Rhode Island:

**Please indicate your level of interest:**



# Questions?

Thank you Raeghn and BTB!

