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Two-Person Crew Level Support Kentucky, PA-9, IA-3, KS-1, KS-2 and CO-4



DFM Research

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Executive Summary:

The combined data from four recent surveys (five congressional districts and the state of Kentucky) clearly indicate a strong level of support for a federal law requiring freight trains to operate with a crew of two -- 78 percent of all respondents support federal legislation, whereas only 15 percent disapprove. Demographic crosstab highlights from the survey show:

- Women are more likely than men to support two-person crew legislation: 81 percent of women support federal legislation, compared to 75 percent for men.
- There is no discernible difference between age groups for support of federal legislation: 79 percent of respondent between ages 18-39 and over age 65, and 78 percent of those between ages 40-64 are in support of federal legislation.
- The combined data shows that 74 percent of self-identified Republican support federal legislation, with only 19 percent opposed; a gap of 55 percentage points in favor of federal legislation. Self-identified Independents register a 59 percentage point gap (76/17), while Democrats have the largest gap at 78 percentage points (86/8).

Two-person train crew is a current safety issue concern in the transportation world, following the deadly train accidents this summer in Quebec and Spain. To measure the potential impact of the accidents on the public view towards safety, half of the Colorado and Kansas survey sample was asked (prior to the question pertaining to federal legislation) how familiar they are with the recent accidents (this is question 23); the other half of the sample moved directly to question 24 (skipped question 23). The research shows:

- In the CO/KS survey, the prompting to recall familiarity of the accidents slightly increased the approval rating of the federal legislation, but within the margin-of-error (MoE $\pm 4.9\%$ pts). Seventy-eight (78) percent of those asked question 23 support federal legislation, compared to 74 percent who were not asked question 23. The gap between approval and disapproval is 61 percentage points for those asked question 23, compared to 55 percent.
- The Kentucky, PA-9, and IA-3 survey respondents, who indicated that they were familiar with the two accidents, are more supportive of legislation than those who indicated not much or no familiarity of the accidents.

Based on the analysis of the four most recent surveys (the four congressional districts of the first two surveys show a good cross section of America, ranging from mid-size cities and suburbs of Des Moines, Iowa and Topeka, Kansas, as well as traditional rural communities), the research data indicates widespread support for passing federal legislation for two-person train crews. This conclusion is strengthened by looking at only self-identified Republicans, where the research data shows support levels for federal legislation at nearly a four-to-one margin; a strong indicator that two-person train crew federal legislation is not a wedge issue we often see between constituents of differing political opinions.

Survey Methodology:

Interviews: September 3-10 800 respondents from CO-4, KS-1 and KS-2
 September 23-26 400 respondents from IA-3 congressional district
 October 21-27 600 respondents from the state of Kentucky
 November 7-11 400 respondents from PA-9 congressional district

Margin of Error: ± 3.5 percentage points for KS/CO combined survey
 ± 4.9 percentage points for IA-3 and PA-9 surveys
 ± 4.0 percentage points for KY survey

Sample: Stratified Sample. Random digit numbers for the three congressional districts provided by Survey Sample International (SSI) of Fairfield, CT. SSI provided Stone Research with residential random phone numbers for each district from a pool of listed and unlisted numbers in the boundary area.

Survey Sponsor: SMART Transportation Division, National Legislative Office

Project Management: Project management and data analysis was completed by Dean Mitchell of DFM Research in St. Paul, Minnesota. In addition to 22 years of political experience, including working with polling data, Dean is a graduate of the University of Minnesota’s Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, and has completed course work in survey techniques and statistics as part of his Master in Public Policy (MPP) degree. Dean has worked on a variety of rail projects at the state level since 1997 and the national level since 2010.

Reading the Survey Results:

When reading the results, it should be noted that the survey have been weighted to reflect the current demographics of each district. Weighting is a standard technique in survey analysis to best reflect the total population being surveyed without contacting all residents.

In addition, the reader should take into account the margin of error (MoE) when analyzing the data. To put in practice, if a particular question result shows 50 percent, with the MoE at ±4.9 percentage points, the true response range (95 percent of the time) would be from 45.1 percent to 54.9 percent; the MoE decreases the closer any particular result is to either zero percent or 100 percent. The MoE for crosstabs range from six to nine percentage points.

The attached report provides the topline number for each selected question, followed by key demographic cross tabulation (crosstabs) results. The results are one question per page. Crosstabs results are for key demographic groups: based on gender, age, district geographic region, and political self-identification.

In questions where (VOL) is before the answer category, this means the respondent volunteered that response (it was not read to the respondent). Due to rounding, numbers in the topline and crosstabs may not equal 100 percent.

Support Levels for Federal Law for Two-Person Crew

Combined Data (State of Kentucky, PA-9, IA-3, KS-1, KS-2, and CO-4)

Q: Some in Congress want to enact a law which would require that freight trains could not operate unless it has a crew of two individuals. Generally speaking, do you approve or disapprove of a federal law requiring freight trains to operate with a two-person crew?

Approve **78%**
Disapprove **15**
(VOL) Unsure **7**

<u>Gender</u>	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Unsure</u>	<u>GAP*</u>
Men	75%	19	6	+56%pts
Women	81	12	7	+69
<u>Age</u>	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Unsure</u>	<u>GAP*</u>
18-39	79	15	6	+64
40-64	78	15	7	+63
65+	79	14	8	+65
<u>Region</u>	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Unsure</u>	<u>GAP*</u>
Pennsylvania 9 th	84	11	4	+73
Kentucky	81	12	7	+69
Iowa 3 rd	74	16	10	+58
Colorado 4 th	71	22	7	+49
Kansas 1 st	79	14	6	+65
Kansas 2 nd	79	15	6	+64
<u>Party Identification</u>	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Unsure</u>	<u>GAP*</u>
Democrat	86	8	6	+78
Independent	76	17	7	+59
Republican	74	19	7	+55

* Refers to the numerical gap between approve and disapprove.

Note – The data for the compilation result is from four different surveys: the combined Kansas and Colorado survey in early September 2013, the late September survey in the Third District of Iowa, the late October survey in the state of Kentucky, and the early November survey in the Ninth District of Pennsylvania. The numbers presented are amalgamated from 2,200 respondents. The data has not been weighted, but instead is designed to produce a raw number for support levels from each major demographic group. Each individual survey results can be found following.

Pennsylvania 9th District

Partisan Voting Index Rating: R+14

Interviews: 400 respondents by live caller from Stone Research Services of Indianapolis, Indiana
Population: Residents of PA-9 over the age of 18
Margin of Error: ±4.9 percentage points with a 95 percent confidence level
Interview Dates: November 7-11, 2013
Sample: Stratified Random Sample. Random digit numbers provided by Survey Sample International (SSI) of Fairfield, CT. SSI provided Stone Research with 5,000 residential random phone numbers from a pool of listed and unlisted numbers in the boundary area, which then were stratified into separate Congressional districts.
Survey Sponsor: SMART Transportation Division, Pennsylvania State Legislative Board

Q18: I now want to ask you about two major train accidents that happened over the summer, one in Canada, the other in Spain. How familiar would you say you are with the causes or circumstances of the accidents?

Very familiar **4%**
 Somewhat familiar..... **25**
 Not very familiar, but have heard **28**
 Not familiar, have not heard..... **41**
 (VOL) Unsure **2**

<u>Gender</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Somewhat</u>	<u>Not Very</u>	<u>Not</u>
Men	4%	25	26	44
Women	4	25	30	39
<u>Age</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Somewhat</u>	<u>Not Very</u>	<u>Not</u>
18-39	5	23	28	43
40-64	4	29	31	37
65+	4	20	24	46
<u>Region</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Somewhat</u>	<u>Not Very</u>	<u>Not</u>
East Counties	2	20	27	49
Northwest Counties	6	29	30	35
Southwest Counties	4	27	27	38
<u>Party Identification</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Somewhat</u>	<u>Not Very</u>	<u>Not</u>
Democrat	5	25	27	41
Independent	7	25	28	39
Republican	2	25	28	43

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Q19: And generally speaking, when it comes to railroad safety and operations, do you think a train with a crew of one individual can be as safe as a train with a crew of two individuals?

Yes, one operator can be as safe as two **9%**
No, one operator cannot be not as safe **83**
(VOL) Unsure **8**

<u>Gender</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Men	11%	80	8
Women	7	85	8

<u>Age</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
18-39	15	78	7
40-64	6	86	7
65+	6	84	10

<u>Region</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
East Counties	11	79	10
Northwest Counties	11	83	6
Southwest Counties	5	88	8

<u>Party Identification</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Democrat	13	79	8
Independent	8	82	9
Republican	7	86	7

<u>Familiar with Accidents</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Familiar	6	88	6
Not Familiar	10	81	9

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Q20: Some in Congress want to enact a law which would require that freight trains could not operate unless it has a crew of two individuals. Generally speaking, do you approve or disapprove of a federal law requiring freight trains to operate with a two-person crew?

Approve **84%**
Disapprove **11**
(VOL) Unsure **4**

<u>Gender</u>	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Men	78%	17	5
Women	91	6	3

<u>Age</u>	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
18-39	86	11	3
40-64	85	11	4
65+	81	12	7

<u>Region</u>	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
East Counties	78	17	5
Northwest Counties	89	10	2
Southwest Counties	87	6	6

<u>Party Identification</u>	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Democrat	86	8	6
Independent	80	14	6
Republican	86	12	2

<u>Familiar with Accidents</u>	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Familiar	88	12	0
Not Familiar	83	10	6

Kentucky Survey

Partisan Voting Index Rating: R+13

Interviews: 600 respondents by live caller from Stone Research Services of Indianapolis, Indiana
Population: Residents of Kentucky over the age of 18
Margin of Error: ±4.0 percentage points with a 95 percent confidence level
Interview Dates: October 21-27, 2013
Sample: Stratified Random Sample. Random digit numbers provided by Survey Sample International (SSI) of Fairfield, CT. SSI provided Stone Research with 6,000 residential random phone numbers from a pool of listed and unlisted numbers in the boundary area, which then were stratified into separate Congressional districts.
Survey Sponsor: SMART Transportation Division, Kentucky State Legislative Board

Q12: I now want to ask you about two major train accidents happened over the summer, one in Canada, the other in Spain. How familiar would you say you are with the causes or circumstances of the accidents?

Very familiar **6%**
 Somewhat familiar..... **28**
 Not very familiar, but have heard **28**
 Not familiar, have not heard..... **36**
 (VOL) Unsure **2**

<u>Gender</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Somewhat</u>	<u>Not Very</u>	<u>Not</u>
Men	7%	27	31	32
Women	6	29	25	39

<u>Age</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Somewhat</u>	<u>Not Very</u>	<u>Not</u>
18-39	7	29	26	36
40-64	7	29	27	34
65 plus	2	23	32	38

<u>Region</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Somewhat</u>	<u>Not Very</u>	<u>Not</u>
Western Kentucky	3	28	34	35
Greater Louisville	12	30	20	35
Eastern Kentucky	6	27	27	37

<u>Party Identification</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Somewhat</u>	<u>Not Very</u>	<u>Not</u>
Democrat	7	31	26	34
Independent	8	29	26	35
Republican	3	24	32	39

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Q13: Generally speaking, when it comes to railroad safety and operations, do you think a train with a crew of one individual is as safe as a train with a crew of two individuals?

Yes, one operator is as safe as two **7%**
No, one operator is not as safe **87**
(VOL) Unsure **6**

<u>Gender</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Men	9%	85	6
Women	5	89	6

<u>Age</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
18-39	10	86	3
40-64	4	89	7
65 plus	7	87	6

<u>Region</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Western Kentucky	4	90	6
Greater Louisville	6	85	9
Eastern Kentucky	9	86	5

<u>Party Identification</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Democrat	6	89	5
Independent	8	89	4
Republican	7	84	9

<u>Familiar with Accidents</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Familiar	6	90	3
Not Familiar	7	88	7

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Q14: Some in Congress want to enact a law which would require that freight trains could not operate unless it has a crew of two individuals. Generally speaking, do you approve or disapprove of a federal law requiring freight trains to operate with a two-person crew?

Approve **81%**
Disapprove **12**
(VOL) Unsure **7**

<u>Gender</u>	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Men	79%	16	5
Women	83	9	9

<u>Age</u>	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
18-39	80	15	5
40-64	82	10	8
65 plus	81	12	7

<u>Region</u>	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Western Kentucky	83	11	7
Greater Louisville	81	17	2
Eastern Kentucky	80	11	9

<u>Party Identification</u>	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Democrat	87	8	5
Independent	80	15	5
Republican	75	15	10

<u>Familiar with Accidents</u>	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Familiar	83	11	6
Not Familiar	81	12	7

Iowa 3rd District Survey

Partisan Voting Index Rating: Even

- Interviews: 400 respondents by live caller from Stone Research Services of Indianapolis, Indiana.
Population: Residents of Iowa’s 3rd District.
Margin of Error: ±4.9 percentage points with a 95 percent confidence interval
Interview Dates: September 23-26, 2013.
Sample: Stratified Random Sample. Random digit numbers provided by Survey Sample International (SSI) of Fairfield, CT. SSI provided Stone Research with 3,000 residential random phone numbers from a pool of listed and unlisted numbers in the boundary area, which then were stratified into separate Congressional districts.
Survey Sponsor: SMART Transportation, Iowa State Legislative Boards.

Q17: I now want to ask you about two major train accidents that have happened in the past few months, one in Canada, and the other in Spain. How familiar would you say you with the causes or circumstance of the accidents:

Very familiar	7%
Somewhat familiar.....	35
Not very familiar, but have heard	23
Not familiar, have not heard.....	34
(VOL) Unsure	1

<u>Gender</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Somewhat</u>	<u>Not Very</u>	<u>Not</u>
Men	9%	36	23	33
Women	6	35	24	36
<u>Age</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Somewhat</u>	<u>Not Very</u>	<u>Not</u>
18-39	7	34	25	33
40-64	6	33	23	38
65 plus	8	39	23	29
<u>Region</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Somewhat</u>	<u>Not Very</u>	<u>Not</u>
Des Moines	9	32	26	33
Polk County	8	34	21	38
East District	4	43	18	34
West District	6	34	26	34
<u>Party Identification</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Somewhat</u>	<u>Not Very</u>	<u>Not</u>
Democrat	5	41	24	31
Independent	7	31	21	39
Republican	9	33	24	35

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Q18: And generally speaking, when it comes to railroad safety and operations, do you think a train with a crew of one individual, would be as safe as a train with a crew of two individuals?

Yes, one operator would be as safe as two **7%**
 No, one operator would not be as safe **85**
 (VOL) Unsure **8**

<u>Gender</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Men	9%	84	7
Women	6	86	9

<u>Age</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
18-39	9	85	6
40-64	7	85	8
65 plus	3	84	13

<u>Region</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Des Moines	5	85	11
Polk County	13	85	2
East District	8	82	9
West District	7	87	7

<u>Party Identification</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Democrat	5	86	9
Independent	12	81	7
Republican	6	86	8

<u>Familiar with Accidents</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Familiar	5	90	5
Not Familiar	9	81	10

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Q19: Some in Congress want to enact a law which would require that freight trains could not operate unless it has a crew of two individuals. Generally speaking, do you approve or disapprove of a federal law requiring freight trains to operate with a two-person crew?

Approve **74%**
Disapprove **16**
(VOL) Unsure **10**

<u>Gender</u>	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Men	70%	19	11
Women	78	13	9

<u>Age</u>	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
18-39	78	16	6
40-64	71	16	12
65 plus	74	14	11

<u>Region</u>	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Des Moines	71	14	14
Polk County	76	16	8
East District	74	19	7
West District	76	19	6

<u>Party Identification</u>	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Democrat	83	6	11
Independent	71	17	13
Republican	69	25	6

<u>Familiar with Accidents</u>	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Familiar	78	17	4
Not Familiar	72	14	13

Kansas 1st & 2nd and Colorado 4th District Survey

Partisan Voting Index Rating: R+14 Combined Districts

- Interviews: 800 respondents by live caller from Stone Research Services of Indianapolis, Indiana.
- Population: Residents of Colorado’s 4th District, Kansas 1st District, and Kansas 2nd District.
- Margin of Error: ±3.5 percentage points with a 95 percent confidence interval
- Interview Dates: September 3-10, 2013.
- Sample: Stratified Random Sample. Random digit numbers provided by Survey Sample International (SSI) of Fairfield, CT. SSI provided Stone Research with 6,000 residential random phone numbers from a pool of listed and unlisted numbers in the boundary area, which then were stratified into separate Congressional districts.
- Survey Sponsor: SMART Transportation, Colorado and Kansas State Legislative Boards.

Q23: I now want to ask you about two major train accidents that have happened in the past few months, one in Canada, and the other in Spain. How familiar would you say you with the causes or circumstance of the accidents:

Very familiar	7%
Somewhat familiar.....	36
Not very familiar, but have heard	22
Not familiar, have not heard.....	33
(VOL) Unsure	1

<u>Gender</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Somewhat</u>	<u>Not Very</u>	<u>Not</u>
Men	9%	39	16	33
Women	5	32	28	33
<u>Age</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Somewhat</u>	<u>Not Very</u>	<u>Not</u>
18-39	6	38	17	38
40-64	8	37	25	29
65 plus	8	30	25	35
<u>Region</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Somewhat</u>	<u>Not Very</u>	<u>Not</u>
KS-1	6	31	26	34
KS-2	6	35	22	34
CO-4 South	6	40	9	45
CO-4 North	10	41	21	28
<u>Party Identification</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Somewhat</u>	<u>Not Very</u>	<u>Not</u>
Democrat	9	38	21	30
Independent	5	37	23	35
Republican	7	36	24	33
Tea Party	5	24	18	48

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Q24: And generally speaking, when it comes to railroad safety and operations, do you think a train with a crew of one individual, would be as safe as a train with a crew of two individuals?

Yes, one operator would be as safe as two **7%**
 No, one operator would not be as safe **87**
 (VOL) Unsure **6**

<u>Gender</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Men	8%	85	7
Women	5	90	5

<u>Age</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
18-39	7	85	9
40-64	7	91	4
65 plus	9	86	6

<u>Region</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
KS-1	6	88	6
KS-2	8	89	4
CO-4 South	9	87	4
CO-4 North	8	85	7

<u>Party Identification</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Democrat	6	92	2
Independent	6	87	8
Republican	10	83	7
Tea Party	9	89	3

<u>Asked Q23</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Asked Q23	6	90	4
Familiar	6	92	2
Not Familiar	7	88	5
Not Asked	9	84	8

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Q25: Some in Congress want to enact a law which would require that freight trains could not operate unless it has a crew of two individuals. Generally speaking, do you approve or disapprove of a federal law requiring freight trains to operate with a two-person crew?

Approve **76%**
Disapprove **18**
(VOL) Unsure **6**

<u>Gender</u>	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Men	74%	22	5
Women	78	15	8

<u>Age</u>	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
18-39	76	18	6
40-64	76	19	5
65 plus	78	16	6

<u>Region</u>	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
KS-1	79	14	6
KS-2	79	15	6
CO-4 South	73	19	8
CO-4 North	70	22	7

<u>Party Identification</u>	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Democrat	88	9	4
Independent	74	19	7
Republican	68	23	8
Tea Party	73	23	3

<u>Asked Q23</u>	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Asked Q23	78	17	5
Familiar	77	20	3
Not Familiar	79	15	6
Not Asked	74	19	7