A notable 92% of jobs today require digital skills, but one-third of workers don’t have the foundational digital skills necessary to enter and thrive in today's jobs. Closing this digital skill divide leads to higher pay, better business outcomes, and benefits to local economies.1 America needs a comprehensive policy strategy to close the digital skill divide. NSC’s Digital Equity @Work campaign calls on state and federal policymakers to guarantee foundational digital skills for all, lifelong upskilling for current workers, and rapid re-skilling for those who’ve lost their job. The American public strongly supports these principles.

PUBLIC PERSPECTIVES ON DIGITAL UPSKILLING

Given the economic payoff of building digital skills, it’s not surprising that nearly two-thirds of voters (63%) would take advantage of an opportunity to build their digital skills to get a better job or advance in their career if offered to them.

PUBLIC PERSPECTIVES ON BARRIERS TO DIGITAL UPSKILLING

Amidst high demand for digital upskilling, 64% of voters believe that a serious problem facing America’s workers is lack of access to training programs that allow them to upgrade their skills to keep up with changing technologies in the workplace.

PUBLIC PERSPECTIVES ON DIGITAL SKILLS AND CRITICAL INDUSTRIES

Some of our nation’s most critical industries have a high demand for digital skills. At the same time, many workers in these industries have limited or no digital skills. It’s no surprise then that over 70% of voters think that access to skills training is critical for each of these industries.

* Figure is inclusive of construction, transportation, and warehousing
** Voters were asked specifically about home healthcare jobs

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The American public sees an essential role for policymakers in addressing the digital skill divide.

An astonishing 90% of voters support policies that provide access to digital skills training for workers throughout their careers so they can adapt to new technologies in the workplace.

To learn more about NSC’s Digital Equity @ Work Campaign and our Public Perspective Series, please visit www.nationalskillscoalition.org.

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