



Uber Drivers Overwhelmingly Want to Stay Independent Contractors

DATE: Tuesday, June 14, 2022
TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Brent Buchanan, President/Founder & Wil Lemon, Research Analyst
RE: Quantitative Survey of Drivers on the Uber Platform in Pennsylvania

Support for a proposal like SB 949 is strong; supporting re-classification into employees will lose votes from all parties

- There's **strong support for a proposal like SB 949** (80%) among drivers who use the Uber platform in Pennsylvania – it's **popular across all political stripes** (77% Republican, 83% Democratic, 91% Independent drivers) **and geographic areas** (76% – 81% support across each geographical area in the state). It will win votes from drivers for legislative candidates (**67% more likely to vote for a supportive candidate**). Drivers especially like that the legislation will provide a **safety net** (68%), while allowing them to maintain the schedule control of being their own boss.
- Conversely, **55% are less likely to vote for a candidate who supports re-classification of drivers as employees, including 61% of Democrats and 63% of Independents.**

Drivers want to remain as independent contractors; not interested in unionization

- **Drivers want to remain independent contractors** (64%) and they're **opposed** to legislation that would **re-classify** them as employees (67%). **There is no sub-group of drivers who would prefer to be classified as employees**, even if it means getting employee benefits.
- **Drivers don't care about joining a union** (30% important, 42% unimportant), not even Democrats.
- When thinking about qualities they want in how they earn a living, Republican drivers care most about being their own boss, while Democrats care most about being able to turn work off, and Independents are split between turning work off and controlling their number of hours.

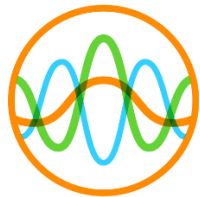
Flexibility is the reason drivers choose to drive; most very happy with their arrangement

- A whopping **86%** are simply **happy with their current arrangement**. More than **2/3 value flexibility over benefits**. The main reasons they want to remain independent contractors are:
 - "A flexible schedule where I can **turn off work** whenever I need to take care of my family or other responsibilities" – 84% important, 78% very important
 - "Allows me to **schedule my work** around family, health, education, and/or other work" – 76% important, 69% very important
 - "Allows me to **choose when, where, and how I work**" – 77% important, 68% very important
 - "Allows me to **work as many or as few hours as I want**" – 78% important, 67% very important
 - "It provides me with flexibility to choose when, where, and how I work, which I **can't get from a traditional job.**" – 60% strongly agree.
 - "It is something I wouldn't be able to do anymore **if it did not offer a flexible schedule.**" – 60% strongly agree.

This survey was conducted May 31 - June 5, 2022, with 312 rideshare drivers on the Uber platform. This survey was conducted using an online survey platform whereby drivers were only able to participate by unique, secure email invitations. Only one response was allowed per driver. Drivers were assured of confidentiality and that their data would only be reported in the aggregate.

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CYGNAL

Survey of Uber Drivers

Pennsylvania Statewide

Conducted May 31 – June 5, 2022

n=312



Driving Length Screener

1. About how long have you been driving with an app-based rideshare company, such as Uber or Lyft?

	Freq.	%
<u>Less than 1 year</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>18.5%</u>
<u>1 - 5 years</u>	<u>180</u>	<u>57.8%</u>
1 – 3 years	94	30.2%
3 – 5 years	86	27.6%
<u>5+ years</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>23.6%</u>
5 – 7 years	65	20.8%
More than 7 years	9	2.8%
Total	312	100.0%

Companies

2. With which app-based rideshare companies do you drive? Please select all that apply.

	Freq.	%
Uber	311	99.6%
Lyft	146	46.6%
Another company	3	0.9%
Unsure / refused	1	0.2%
Total	312	100.0%

3 – 8. The following is a list of qualities people may consider when deciding how they would like to earn a living. For each one, please indicate whether it is important or unimportant to you when it comes to how you earn a living.

	Important	Very important	Unimportant	Very unimportant	Unsure	Total
Allows me to schedule my work around family, health, education, and/or other work.	<u>75.9%</u> <u>237</u>	68.5% 214	<u>23.5%</u> <u>73</u>	20.9% 65	0.7% 2	100.0% 312
Allows me a flexible schedule where I can turn off work whenever I need to take care of my family or other responsibilities.	<u>83.5%</u> <u>260</u>	77.7% 242	<u>16.5%</u> <u>52</u>	15.2% 47	0.0% 0	100.0% 312
Allows me to choose when, where, and how I work.	<u>77.4%</u> <u>241</u>	67.8% 211	<u>21.2%</u> <u>66</u>	14.3% 45	1.4% 4	100.0% 312
Allows me to work as many or as few hours as I want.	<u>77.6%</u> <u>242</u>	66.6% 208	<u>21.7%</u> <u>68</u>	16.7% 52	0.7% 2	100.0% 312
Allows me to be my own boss.	<u>76.1%</u> <u>237</u>	61.6% 192	<u>21.6%</u> <u>67</u>	15.9% 49	2.3% 7	100.0% 312
Allows me to join a union.	<u>30.0%</u> <u>94</u>	15.8% 49	<u>42.2%</u> <u>132</u>	31.1% 97	27.8% 87	100.0% 312



9 – 14. Thinking specifically about your experience as an app-based rideshare driver, please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

	Agree	Strongly agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure	Total
It is important that any changes to app-based driving and delivery protect the flexibility of drivers' schedules.	<u>84.7%</u> <u>264</u>	69.2% 216	<u>11.9%</u> <u>37</u>	7.7% 24	3.4% 11	100.0% 312
It provides me with flexibility to choose when, where, and how I work, which I can't get from a traditional job.	<u>86.7%</u> <u>270</u>	68.9% 215	<u>11.4%</u> <u>36</u>	8.5% 27	1.9% 6	100.0% 312
It is a good option for people who want to earn money on the side.	<u>87.2%</u> <u>272</u>	67.2% 210	<u>11.2%</u> <u>35</u>	6.7% 21	1.6% 5	100.0% 312
It works well as an option for me.	<u>84.1%</u> <u>262</u>	60.9% 190	<u>13.9%</u> <u>43</u>	10.4% 32	2.0% 6	100.0% 312
It is something I wouldn't be able to do anymore if it did not offer a flexible schedule.	<u>79.1%</u> <u>247</u>	60.0% 187	<u>14.4%</u> <u>45</u>	6.6% 21	6.5% 20	100.0% 312
It provides me with extra income that I need to provide for myself and my family.	<u>83.2%</u> <u>259</u>	63.3% 198	<u>15.2%</u> <u>48</u>	10.8% 34	1.6% 5	100.0% 312

Classification Preference

15. Thinking about your work driving for app-based rideshare companies, would you prefer to be classified as an independent contractor or as an employee?

	Freq.	%
<u>Independent contractor</u>	<u>199</u>	<u>63.8%</u>
I strongly prefer to be classified as an independent contractor	143	45.8%
I somewhat prefer to be classified as an independent contractor	56	18.0%
<u>Employee</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>25.7%</u>
I somewhat prefer to be classified as an employee	37	11.9%
I strongly prefer to be classified as an employee	43	13.8%
Unsure	33	10.5%
Total	312	100.0%

Forced Classification Preference

16. And if you truly had to choose, would you prefer to be classified as an independent contractor or as an employee?

	Freq.	%
I prefer to be classified as an independent contractor	8	24.4%
I prefer to be classified as an employee	4	13.5%
Unsure	20	62.1%
Total	33	100.0%



Good/Bad Arrangement

17. Thinking about your experience as an independent contractor for an app-based rideshare company, is it a good or bad arrangement for you and your lifestyle?

	Freq.	%
<u>Good</u>	<u>269</u>	<u>86.4%</u>
Very good	166	53.3%
Somewhat good	103	33.1%
<u>Bad</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>9.9%</u>
Somewhat bad	24	7.5%
Very bad	7	2.4%
Unsure	12	3.7%
Total	312	100.0%

Benefits or Flexibility

18. Which of the following is more important for you as a driver: receiving benefits that employees typically receive like health insurance, workers' compensation, and unemployment benefits, or being able to maintain schedule flexibility like being able to drive when and where you want?

	Freq.	%
<u>Receiving benefits that employees typically receive</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>25.7%</u>
Definitely receiving benefits that employees typically receive	53	16.9%
Probably receiving benefits that employees typically receive	27	8.8%
<u>Maintaining schedule flexibility</u>	<u>214</u>	<u>68.6%</u>
Probably maintaining schedule flexibility	68	21.8%
Definitely maintaining schedule flexibility	146	46.8%
Unsure	18	5.7%
Total	312	100.0%

S/O SB 949

19. The Pennsylvania General Assembly is considering legislation to keep drivers classified as independent contractors, maintain the current flexibility they enjoy, and require app-based rideshare companies to give them some, but not all, of the benefits that employees receive. Do you support or oppose this legislation?

	Freq.	%
<u>Support</u>	<u>249</u>	<u>79.7%</u>
Strongly support	173	55.4%
Somewhat support	76	24.3%
<u>Oppose</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>8.1%</u>
Somewhat oppose	9	2.9%
Strongly oppose	16	5.2%
Unsure	38	12.2%
Total	312	100.0%



SB 949 Candidate Impact

20. Are you more or less likely to vote for a state legislative candidate who supports this legislation to keep drivers classified as independent contractors and require app-based rideshare companies to give them some of the benefits that employees receive?

	Freq.	%
<u>More likely</u>	<u>207</u>	<u>66.5%</u>
Much more likely	142	45.6%
Somewhat more likely	65	20.9%
<u>Less likely</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>14.0%</u>
Somewhat less likely	22	7.1%
Much less likely	21	6.8%
Unsure	61	19.6%
Total	312	100.0%

- 21 – 25. Based on the information you just received about the legislation to keep drivers classified as independent contractors and require app-based rideshare companies to give them some of the benefits that employees receive, to what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

	Agree	Strongly agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure	Total
The legislation would benefit drivers.	<u>61.7%</u> <u>193</u>	33.2% 104	<u>16.7%</u> <u>52</u>	10.1% 32	21.5% 67	100.0% 312
The legislation is a win-win for both drivers and the companies who currently contract drivers.	<u>58.3%</u> <u>182</u>	27.9% 87	<u>17.1%</u> <u>53</u>	10.8% 34	24.7% 77	100.0% 312
The legislation would give drivers a safety net when times are tough.	<u>68.1%</u> <u>212</u>	41.7% 130	<u>12.9%</u> <u>40</u>	6.2% 19	19.0% 59	100.0% 312
The legislation's plan is better than becoming an employee.	<u>64.6%</u> <u>202</u>	37.0% 116	<u>15.2%</u> <u>47</u>	5.0% 16	20.2% 63	100.0% 312
The legislation's plan is better than remaining an independent contractor with no benefits.	<u>51.6%</u> <u>161</u>	26.0% 81	<u>27.1%</u> <u>85</u>	17.4% 54	21.3% 67	100.0% 312

S/O Employee Classification

26. If the Pennsylvania General Assembly considered legislation that would re-classify app-based rideshare drivers as employees instead of independent contractors, would you support or oppose this legislation? If drivers are classified as employees, they would receive all the benefits and protections employees receive, but they would have to apply for the job, work a set schedule, and report to a boss.

	Freq.	%
<u>Support</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>17.9%</u>
Strongly support	34	10.8%
Somewhat support	22	7.1%
<u>Oppose</u>	<u>208</u>	<u>66.6%</u>
Somewhat oppose	49	15.6%



Strongly oppose	159	51.0%
Unsure	48	15.5%
Total	312	100.0%

Employee Classification Candidate Impact

27. If the Pennsylvania General Assembly considers legislation that would re-classify app-based rideshare drivers as employees, would you be more or less likely to vote for a candidate who supports this re-classification legislation?

	Freq.	%
More likely	62	19.7%
Much more likely	27	8.8%
Somewhat more likely	34	10.9%
Less likely	170	54.5%
Somewhat less likely	42	13.3%
Much less likely	129	41.2%
Unsure	80	25.7%
Total	312	100.0%

Specific Classification Preference

28. Thinking about your work classification, which statement below best reflects your opinion? Please read all response options before replying.

	Freq.	%
I prefer to be classified as an independent contractor, even if it means I don't receive employee benefits	77	24.8%
I prefer to be classified as an employee and receive employee benefits, even if it means reporting to a boss and giving up the flexibility to work whenever I want	23	7.5%
I prefer to be classified as a new type of independent contractor, maintaining the flexibility to work when I want, while receiving some, but not all, the benefits an employee would receive	177	56.6%
Unsure	35	11.1%
Total	312	100.0%

Other Jobs/Roles

29. In addition to working with rideshare platforms, you are...(please select all that apply):

	Freq.	%
Working as a full-time employee	106	34.0%
Doing other gig or freelance work besides rideshare	61	19.4%
Running your own business	42	13.6%
A student	33	10.4%
Working as a part-time employee	36	11.7%
A stay-at-home parent or caregiver	25	8.2%
Unemployed and looking for another job	34	11.0%
Retired	27	8.7%
Unemployed due to a disability	12	4.0%



Rideshare driving on platforms is your only line of work	85	27.2%
Unsure	19	6.2%
Total	312	100.0%

FT/PT

30. Which of the following best describes your work as an app-based rideshare driver?

	Freq.	%
Full-time	134	42.9%
Part-time	134	43.1%
Occasional	37	12.0%
Unsure	7	2.1%
Total	312	100.0%

Hours

31. How many hours do you work as a rideshare driver with an app-based platform in a typical week?

	Freq.	%
0-5	7	2.3%
6-9	14	4.5%
10-14	28	8.9%
15-19	37	11.7%
20-29	78	24.9%
30-39	46	14.6%
40+	91	29.2%
Unsure	12	3.8%
Total	312	100.0%

Health Insurance

32. Which of the following best describes your health insurance situation? Please select all that apply.

	Freq.	%
Covered through my employer	57	18.4%
Covered by a government program like Medicaid, Medicare, or the VA	90	28.9%
Pay for coverage myself	59	19.0%
Covered through my spouse	23	7.3%
Covered by my parent's plan	8	2.6%
Don't have health insurance	65	20.9%
Something else	15	4.9%
Unsure	19	6.0%
Total	312	100.0%

33. Which best describes you?

	Freq.	%
Female	55	17.7%
Male	256	82.2%
Something else	0	0.1%
Total	312	100.0%



34. What age range do you fall within?

	Freq.	%
21 - 29	47	15.0%
30 - 39	94	30.0%
40 - 49	78	25.0%
50 or older	94	30.0%
Total	312	100.0%

35. How are you registered to vote in Pennsylvania? You may consider yourself of a different party, but what does your voter registration card show?

	Freq.	%
Republican	65	20.8%
Democrat	114	36.4%
Independent/Other	47	15.2%
I'm not registered to vote in Pennsylvania	37	11.8%
Unsure	49	15.8%
Total	312	100.0%

36. How often do you vote in November general elections for the Pennsylvania General Assembly out of the following options?

	Freq.	%
Always	110	48.9%
Most of the time	52	23.2%
Sometimes	24	10.7%
Rarely or never	23	10.1%
Unsure	16	7.1%
Total	226	100.0%

37. And thinking about your views toward politics and government, would you say you are...

	Freq.	%
<u>Conservative</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>22.7%</u>
Very conservative	28	9.0%
Somewhat conservative	43	13.7%
<u>Moderate</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>24.8%</u>
<u>Liberal</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>26.2%</u>
Somewhat liberal	50	16.0%
Very liberal	32	10.2%
Unsure	82	26.3%
Total	312	100.0%

38. What annual household income range do you fall within out of the following options?

	Freq.	%
Less than \$30,000	51	16.4%
\$30,000 - \$50,000	91	29.1%



\$50,000 - \$70,000	62	19.8%
\$70,000 - \$90,000	35	11.3%
More than \$90,000	35	11.1%
Unsure	38	12.3%
Total	312	100.0%

39. Which of the following best describes your race or ethnicity?

	Freq.	%
White or Caucasian	128	41.0%
Asian or Pacific Islander	25	8.0%
Black or African American	92	29.4%
Hispanic or Latino	30	9.5%
Other	19	6.0%
Unsure	19	6.1%
Total	312	100.0%

40. What's the highest level of education you have completed?

	Freq.	%
<u>No degree</u>	198	63.6%
Some high school	17	5.6%
High school diploma/GED	77	24.6%
Technical Certification	19	6.2%
Some college or Associate's Degree	85	27.2%
<u>At least College</u>	98	31.5%
Four-year undergraduate or Bachelor's Degree	70	22.5%
Graduate degree or further	28	9.0%
Unsure	15	4.9%
Total	312	100.0%

41. City

	Freq.	%
<u>Philadelphia</u>	206	66.0%
<u>Pittsburgh</u>	41	13.0%
<u>Other Areas</u>	66	21.0%
Erie	5	1.8%
Greater Williamsport	4	1.2%
Harrisburg	7	2.2%
Johnstown-Altoona	3	1.1%
Lehigh Valley	18	5.7%
Reading, PA	3	1.0%
State College	9	3.0%
Wilkes-Barre Scranton	9	3.0%
York-Gettysburg	1	0.5%
Lancaster, PA	5	1.6%
Total	312	100.0%



42. Trips taken in the past 28 days

	Freq.	%
<10	119	38.0%
10 - 24	109	35.0%
25 - 49	59	19.0%
50+	25	8.0%
Total	312	100.0%

43. Tenure

	Freq.	%
0 - 49	78	25.0%
50 - 99	31	10.0%
100 - 199	78	25.0%
200 - 299	75	24.0%
300+	50	16.0%
Total	312	100.0%

44. Lifetime Activity Level

	Freq.	%
<1000	81	26.0%
1000 - 2999	81	26.0%
3000 - 9999	106	34.0%
10000+	44	14.0%
Total	312	100.0%

METHODOLOGY

This survey was conducted May 31 – June 5, 2022, with 312 Uber drivers. The survey was conducted using an online survey platform whereby members were only able to participate by unique, secure email invitations. Only one response was allowed per member.

ABOUT THE FIRM

[Cygna1](#) is an award-winning international polling, public opinion, and predictive analytics firm that pioneered multi-mode polling, text-to-web collection, and emotive analysis. Cygna1 consistently ranks as the most accurate firm, and clients rely on Cygna1's ability to create intelligence for action. Its team members have worked in 48 states and multiple countries on more than 2,700 corporate, public affairs, and political campaigns

