



AEI Public Opinion Studies

Public Opinion on Taxes: 1937 to Today

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TAX BURDEN: In nearly eighty years of surveys, we can find no instance in which more than a tiny percentage of Americans said the amount they paid in taxes was too low. In most polls, pluralities or majorities say the amount is too high. In a handful of questions in recent years, however, a plurality has said the amount they paid in federal income tax was “about right.” In a February 2015 Pew Research Center poll, for example, 53 percent said they paid about the right amount in taxes “considering what you get from the government,” compared to 40 percent who said they paid more than their fair share. But in Gallup’s 2017 question, 51 percent said what they paid was too high, 42 percent about right, and 4 percent too low. Sixty-one percent in another 2017 Gallup question said what they paid was fair, 35 percent said it was not.

Although the question has not been asked recently, surveys suggest that the local property tax is seen as more onerous than the federal income tax. Thirty-six percent in February-March 2003 told Kaiser/NPR/Harvard that local property tax was the tax they disliked the most, followed by 29 percent who chose the income tax. Gallup shows a substantial jump since the late 1980s in the proportion of people mentioning the local property tax as the worst or least fair tax. In their April 2005 poll, 42 percent gave that response. Twenty percent said the federal income tax was the worst tax. In a March 2015 Fox News poll of registered voters, nearly equal percentages said the federal income tax and, separately, the local property tax were the least fair, 26 percent and 25 percent, respectively (see “Tax Fairness” section).

- You pay a part of your income in taxes, either directly or as part of the cost of what you buy. Do you think that you and other taxpayers are paying too much, too little, or about the right amount for what the government provides out of tax money?

		Given what govt. provides from taxes -----Amount you pay-----		
		Too much	About right	Too little
Nov. 1938	Roper/Fortune	49%	42%	2%

- Do you consider the amount of federal income tax you have to pay as too high, about right, or too low?

		-----Amount of fed. income taxes you pay-----		
		Too high	About right	Too low
Mar. 1947*	Gallup	54%	40%	0%
Nov. 1947*	Gallup	63	32	0
Mar. 1948*	Gallup	57	38	1
Mar. 1949*	Gallup	43	53	1
Feb. 1950*	Gallup	57	40	0
Feb. 1951*	Gallup	52	43	1
Feb. 1952*	Gallup	71	26	*
Feb. 1953*	Gallup	59	37	*
Feb. 1956	Gallup	55	35	1
Apr. 1957	Gallup	61	31	*
Mar. 1959	Gallup	51	40	2
Feb. 1961	Gallup	46	45	1
Feb. 1962	Gallup	48	45	0
Jun. 1962	Gallup	63	32	1
Jan. 1963	Gallup	52	38	1
Feb. 1964	Gallup	56	35	1
Feb. 1966	Gallup	52	39	0
Mar. 1967	Gallup	58	38	1
Mar. 1969	Gallup	69	25	*
Feb. 1973	Gallup	65	28	1

Feb. 1976	NORC	58	33	1
Feb. 1977	NORC	65	28	1
Feb. 1980	NORC	68	27	*
Feb. 1982	NORC	69	26	*
May 1982	Gallup	60	32	*
Feb. 1984	NORC	63	33	1
Feb. 1985	NORC	60	32	*
Jun. 1985	Gallup	63	32	1
Feb. 1987	NORC	59	35	1
Feb. 1988	NORC	55	39	1
Feb. 1989	NORC	56	37	1
Feb. 1990	NORC	59	37	*
Mar. 1990	Gallup	63	31	2
Feb. 1991	NORC	55	39	1
Mar. 1991	Gallup	55	37	2
Mar. 1992	Gallup	56	39	2
Feb.-Apr. 1993	NORC	55	41	1
Mar. 1993	Gallup	55	41	2
Jan.-May. 1994	NORC	63	33	1
Apr. 1994	Gallup	56	42	*
Dec. 1994	Gallup	66	30	1
Feb.-May 1996	NORC	65	31	1
Apr. 1996	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	64	33	1
Mar. 1997	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	58	38	1
Feb.-Jun. 1998	NORC	63	31	1
Apr. 1998	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	66	31	1
Apr. 1999	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	65	29	2
Jul. 1999	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	60	37	*
Sep. 1999	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	68	28	1
Feb.-Jun. 2000	NORC	64	31	1
Apr. 2000	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	63	33	1
Apr. 2001	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	65	31	1
Feb.-Jun. 2002	NORC	59	37	1
Jan. 2003	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	47	50	1
Feb.-Mar. 2003	Kaiser/NPR/Harvard	51	43	3
Apr. 2003	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	50	46	2
Apr. 2004	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	50	43	3
2004	NORC	60	38	1
Apr. 2005	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	51	44	2
Oct. 2005	The Hotline/Diageo	43	48	3
Apr. 2006	Gallup	48	44	2
2006	NORC	57	40	1
Apr. 2007	Gallup	53	41	2
Apr. 2008	Gallup	52	42	2
Apr. 2008	NORC	55	41	1
Apr. 2009	Gallup	46	48	3
Apr. 2010	Gallup	48	45	3
2010	NORC	51	45	2
Apr. 2011	Gallup	50	43	4
Apr. 2012	Gallup	46	47	3
Apr. 2012	CNN/ORC	45	50	3
2012	NORC	51	44	2
Apr. 2013	Gallup	50	45	2
2014	NORC	57	39	2
Apr. 2014	Gallup	52	42	3
Apr. 2015	Gallup	51	42	3
Apr. 2016	Gallup	57	37	3
Apr. 2017	Gallup	51	42	4

Responses by party identification

Republicans				
Apr. 2016	Gallup	73%	25%	1%
Apr. 2017	Gallup	62	36	1
Democrats				
Apr. 2016	Gallup	44%	45%	8%
Apr. 2017	Gallup	39	51	5
Independents				
Apr. 2016	Gallup	57%	38%	2%
Apr. 2017	Gallup	52	41	4

Note: *From 1947 to 1953, the question was asked of taxpayers. In April 2003, the Associated Press asked, "How do you feel about the income taxes you currently pay? Do you think your taxes are too high, too low, or about right?" Fifty-one percent said "too high," 43 percent said "about right," and 1 percent said "too low." In December 2002, *TIPP/Investor's Business Daily/Christian Science Monitor* asked, "Now moving on to the topic of taxes. When it comes to your federal income tax, do you think that the amount you currently pay is too little, too much, or just about right?" Forty-nine percent said "too much," 44 percent said "just about right," and 4 percent said "too little."

- Do you regard the income tax which you will have to pay this year as fair? (Gallup)
- Do you regard the income tax which you will have to pay this year as fair, or not? (CBS/*NYT*)

		-----Income tax fair-----	
		Yes	No
Feb. 1943	Gallup	85%	15%
Feb. 1944	Gallup	90	10
Mar. 1944	Gallup	87	13
Mar. 1945	Gallup	85	15
Feb. 1946	Gallup	62	38
Nov. 1946	Gallup	60	34
Mar. 1997	Gallup/CNN/ <i>USA Today</i>	51	43
Apr. 1999	Gallup/CNN/ <i>USA Today</i>	45	49
Apr. 2001	Gallup/CNN/ <i>USA Today</i>	51	46
Apr. 2002	Gallup/CNN/ <i>USA Today</i>	58	37
Apr. 2003	Gallup/CNN/ <i>USA Today</i>	64	33
Apr. 2004	Gallup/CNN/ <i>USA Today</i>	62	33
Apr. 2005	Gallup/CNN/ <i>USA Today</i>	61	34
Apr. 2006	Gallup	60	34
Apr. 2007	Gallup	60	37
Apr. 2008	Gallup	60	35
Apr. 2009	Gallup	61	35
Apr. 2010	Gallup	59	36
Apr. 2010	CBS/ <i>NYT</i>	62	30
Apr. 2011	Gallup	57	40
Apr. 2012	Gallup	59	37
Apr. 2013	Gallup	55	42
Apr. 2014	Gallup	54	41
Apr. 2015	Gallup	56	40
Apr. 2016	Gallup	50	47
Apr. 2017	Gallup	61	35

Responses by party identification

Republicans			
Apr. 2016	Gallup	39%	N/A
Apr. 2017	Gallup	56	N/A
Democrats			
Apr. 2016	Gallup	64%	N/A
Apr. 2017	Gallup	69	N/A
Independents			
Apr. 2016	Gallup	47%	N/A
Apr. 2017	Gallup	60	N/A

- As I read a series of statements, please tell me which you think is more likely to be true of [coming year]? A year when taxes will rise or a year when taxes will fall?

		Taxes will rise	Taxes will fall
Dec. 1959	Gallup	76%	10%
Dec. 1965	Gallup	83	7
Dec. 1966	Gallup	91	4
Dec. 1967	Gallup	94	3
Dec. 1968	Gallup	78	12
Nov. 1977	Gallup	74	10
Dec. 1978	Gallup	63	25
Nov. 1979	Gallup	67	19
Jan. 1998	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	62	32
Dec. 1998	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	64	27
Dec. 2012	Gallup/USA Today	82	13

- Do you consider the amount of federal income taxes that you have to pay as...?

		Too high	About right	Too low
Mar. -Apr. 2005	Harris/Tax Foundation	55%	33%	2%
Mar. 2006	Harris/Tax Foundation	59	30	1
Mar. 2007	Harris/Tax Foundation	58	31	2
Feb. 2009	Harris/Tax Foundation	56	33	2

Note: Online poll.

- Turning to taxes, do you consider the amount of federal income taxes that you pay now as too high, about right, or too low?

		Too high	About right	Too low
Sep. 2004	SRB/Time	49%	45%	3%

- In general, do you think the taxes you pay are too high, too low, or about right?

		Too high	About right	Too low
Apr. 2004	Fox News	51%	44%	1%
Mar. 2005*	Fox News	54	40	3
Apr. 2010	Fox News	53	42	2
Apr. 2012	Fox News	54	43	3
Mar. 2015	Fox News	63	34	2
Mar. 2017	Fox News	55	40	2

Note: Asked of registered voters. *Wording was "And thinking about your personal situation, do you . . ."

- Next, I'm going to read some aspects of life in America today. For each one, please say whether you are – very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied. How about the amount Americans pay in federal taxes?

		Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
Jan. 2001	Gallup	4%	22%	35%	36%
Jan. 2002	Gallup	6	32	32	28
Jan. 2003	Gallup	5	28	31	32
Jan. 2004	Gallup	4	30	34	30
Jan. 2005	Gallup	6	32	31	29
Jan. 2006	Gallup	6	32	30	31
Jan. 2007	Gallup	7	33	28	29
Jan. 2008	Gallup	5	29	32	30
Jan. 2012	Gallup	5	28	28	33
Jan. 2013	Gallup	6	30	27	33
Jan. 2014	Gallup	5	33	28	32
Jan. 2015	Gallup	7	25	32	31
Jan. 2016	Gallup	6	30	27	34
Jan. 2017	Gallup	6	33	28	30

- Would you like to see the amount Americans pay in federal income taxes increased, decreased, or remain about the same?

		Increase taxes	Decrease	Remain the same
Jan. 2003	Gallup	4%	63%	32%
Jan. 2004	Gallup	9	55	35
Jan. 2005	Gallup	9	55	34
Jan. 2006	Gallup	7	55	35
Jan. 2007	Gallup	7	54	36
Jan. 2008	Gallup	9	55	34
Jan. 2012	Gallup	13	61	26
Jan. 2014	Gallup	10	67	23
Jan. 2015	Gallup	6	73	21

Note: Asked of those who said they were somewhat/very dissatisfied with the amount Americans pay in federal taxes. Recalculated by Roper Center to total 100 percent.

- During the next twelve months, do you think the taxes you pay will be changed so that they are higher, or lower, or won't there be any change?

		Higher	Lower	No change
Mar.-Apr. 1978	Gallup	60%	7%	26%
Dec. 1994	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	35	20	41
Apr. 2010	Gallup	63	4	30
Apr. 2012	Gallup	53	3	41
Apr. 2013	Gallup	64	3	31

- Now, we'd like to get your predictions for next year. Please say whether you think each of the following will or will not happen in 2007. How about Congress will increase federal income taxes?

		Will happen	Will not
Dec. 2006	Gallup	62%	37%

- As far as you and your family are concerned, do you feel you have reached the breaking point on the amount of taxes you pay or not?

		-----Amount of taxes you pay-----	
		Reached breaking point	Not reached breaking point
Feb. 1970	Harris	60%	29%
Mar. 1971	Harris	64	25
Oct. 1971	Harris/Virginia Slims	58	32
Mar. 1977	Harris	66	26
Jun. 1978	Harris	66	30
Oct. 1993	Harris	67	28
Jun. 2003	Harris	52	41

- As far as you and your family are concerned, do you feel you have reached the breaking point on the amount of federal taxes you pay or not?

		-----Amount of federal taxes you pay-----	
		Reached breaking point	Not reached breaking point
Jun. 2003	Harris	51%	40%

- As far as you and your family are concerned, do you feel you have reached the breaking point on the amount of state or property taxes you pay or not?

		-----Amount of state/property taxes you pay-----	
		Reached breaking point	Not reached breaking point
Jun. 2003	Harris	56%	35%

- Thinking back over the past year, would you say that each of the following has gone up a lot, gone up a little, remained about the same, gone down a little, or gone down a lot? (Gallup)

	-----% Has gone up "a lot" or "a little"-----	
	May 2006	Mar. 2008
The price you pay for a gallon of gasoline	96%	97%
The amount you pay for home utilities such as heating/electricity/water	78	75
The price you pay for food and other groceries	72	90
The value of your home (asked of home owners)	71	N/A
Your local property taxes	60	49
The amount of money you pay out-of-pocket for healthcare/Rx drugs	58	47
The amount you pay for health insurance coverage	57	48
Your state taxes	41	34
Your federal income taxes	37	32
Your rent (asked of renters)	36	43
Your take home pay after taxes and deductions	32	N/A
The amount of money you are able to put away in savings each month	18	N/A

- What is the most important financial problem facing your family today?

Gallup

	Taxes	-----Top response-----
Nov. 1991	6%	Not enough money (17%)
Feb. 2005	4	Healthcare costs (14%)
Mar. 2005	4	Healthcare costs (14%)
Apr. 2005	3	Lack of money/low wages (15%)
May 2005	3	Healthcare costs (18%)
Jul. 2005	4	Healthcare costs (12%)
Aug. 2005	3	Energy costs/oil and gas process (20%)
Sept. 2005	4	Energy costs/oil and gas process (17%)
Oct. 2005	4	Energy costs/oil and gas process (17%)
Nov. 2005	4	Healthcare costs (16%)
Dec. 2005	4	Healthcare costs (15%)
Feb. 2006	5	Healthcare costs (17%)
Apr. 2006	4	Healthcare costs (18%)
May 2006	5	Energy costs/oil and gas process (20%)
Jun. 2006	5	Healthcare costs (16%)
Jul. 2006	4	Healthcare costs (15%)
Aug. 2006	3	Energy costs/oil and gas prices (16%)
Sept. 2006	5	Healthcare costs (14%)
Oct. 2006	5	Healthcare costs (14%)
Nov. 2006	4	Healthcare costs (17%)
Dec. 2006	4	Lack of money/low wages (17%)
Jan. 2007	5	Healthcare costs (17%)
Apr. 2007	5	Healthcare costs (16%)
Jun. 2007	6	Healthcare costs (16%)
Jul. 2007	4	Healthcare costs (19%)
Oct. 2007	4	Healthcare costs (17%)
Feb. 2008	5	Healthcare costs (13%)
Apr. 2008	3	Energy costs/oil/gas prices (14%)
Jul. 2008	2	Energy costs/oil/gas prices (29%)
Oct. 2008	3	Energy costs/oil/gas prices (12%)
Feb. 2009	3	Lack of money/low wages (16%)
Apr. 2009	3	Lack of money/low wages (15%)
Jun. 2009	3	Lack of money/low wages (17%)
Nov. 2009	5	Lack of money/low wages (17%)
Apr. 2010	4	Lack of money/low wages & health care costs (15%)
Jul. 2010	4	Lack of money/low wages (13%)

Jan. 2011	4	Lack of money/low wages (16%)
Jul. 2011	4	Lack of money/low wages (17%)
Oct. 2011	3	Lack of money/low wages (14%)
Apr. 2012	5	Lack of money/low wages (18%)
Apr. 2014	3	Lack of money/low wages (13%)
Jan. 2015	4	Lack of money/low wages & health care costs (14%)
Apr. 2016	5	Healthcare costs (15%)

- Are you very angry about the amount of federal income taxes you and your family paid last year, or fairly angry, or fairly satisfied, or very satisfied – or don't you have any feeling one way or the other about the amount of federal income taxes you or your family paid last year?

		-----Feelings about federal income taxes -----				
		Very angry	Fairly angry	No feeling	Fairly satisfied	Very satisfied
Jan. 1985	<i>LAT</i>	6%	21%	23%	40%	7%
Feb. 1986	<i>LAT</i>	11	23	19	38	5
Apr. 2010	CNN/ORC	15	25	24	29	7
Apr. 2011	CNN/ORC	17	23	21	31	7

Note: Asked of those who filed a federal income tax return last year.

- Are you very angry about the amount of federal income taxes you or your family paid last year, or fairly angry, or fairly satisfied, or very satisfied?

		-----Feelings about federal income taxes -----			
		Very angry	Fairly angry	Fairly satisfied	Very satisfied
Apr. 1991	<i>LAT</i>	11%	28%	52%	8%
Apr. 1994	<i>LAT</i>	14	29	44	9

Note: Asked of those who filed a federal income tax return last year.

REFORMING THE TAX SYSTEM: *Very few people think that the federal tax system is fine the way it is. In a February 2015 Pew poll, 59 percent said there was so much wrong with the federal tax system that Congress should completely change it. This result is in line with a 2011 iteration of the question. Seventy-three percent of registered voters in a March 2017 Fox News poll said they thought the country's tax system should be reformed this year. However, tax reform does not rank as a top priority, and most Americans say the amount they pay in taxes is fair (see "Most Important Problem" and "Tax Fairness" sections).*

- Finally, all things considered, do you think our federal tax system as it stands today has a lot of serious problems in it and needs a major overhaul, or has some problems that can be fixed with some relatively minor changes, or that, everything considered, the system is pretty much all right as it is now?

		-----Feelings about tax system-----		
		Serious problems/ Major overhaul	Some problems/ Minor changes	All right as is
Apr. 1986	Roper GfK-NOP	43%	49%	6%

- And, which political party – the Republicans or the Democrats – do you think is doing a better job reforming the nation's federal income tax system?

		Best party on -----reforming tax system-----	
		Democratic Party	Republican Party
Feb. 1985*	NBC	37%	40%
Oct. 1985	NBC/WSJ	30	42
Jun. 1986	NBC/WSJ	24	42
Aug. 1986	NBC/WSJ	25	44

Note: *Question wording was "...better able to deal more fairly with this country's income tax system?"

- There is much discussion about whether or not it is necessary to make major changes in America's institutions and systems. In each of the following areas, do you believe that major changes, minor changes, or no real changes are necessary?

		-----System needs-----		
		Major changes	Minor changes	No real changes
Our health care system		75%	18%	5%
Our welfare system		73	18	5
Our prison system		66	22	6
Our tax system		64	27	6
Our public education system		62	29	5
Our legal system		58	29	9
Our social security system		40	35	18
The way we elect our nation's leaders		35	31	30

- Do you feel that the current income tax system is basically fair, or basically unfair? (If Unfair) Do you think the system could be made fair with some minor adjustments, or does it need a complete overhaul?

		-----Feelings about tax system-----			
		Fair	Unfair/ Needs minor adjustments	Unfair/ Needs major overhaul	Unfair/ Not sure (vol.)
Jul. 1994	NBC/WSJ	38%	19%	37%	3%
Apr. 1995	NBC/WSJ	28	15	51	2
Mar. 1996	NBC/WSJ	30	16	47	3

Note: In Jan. 1994, NBC/WSJ asked, "Which of the following statements comes closer to your point of view? Statement A: It will be possible to control health care costs and cover all Americans by making changes in the current health care system. Statement B: It will not be possible to control health care costs and cover all Americans without a complete overhaul of our current health care system?" Twenty-seven percent chose Statement A and 68 percent chose Statement B. When NBC/WSJ asked the question in Mar. 1993, 22 percent chose Statement A and 74 percent chose Statement B.

- Which of the following statements best represents what you feel about the federal tax system: It needs to be completely overhauled, it needs major changes, it needs minor changes, or it is basically fine the way it is?

		-----Feelings about tax system-----			
		Completely overhauled	Major changes	Minor changes	Basically fine
Nov. 1997	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	38%	35%	21%	5%
Jan. 2000	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	26	35	28	9
Dec. 2004	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	24	35	29	11

Note: In Sep. 1993, Gallup asked, "Which of the following statements best describes your opinion of the nation's health care system: The health care system is fundamentally sound, or the health care system is fundamentally unsound? (If Sound) Do you think the system requires some minor changes or not? (If Unsound) Do you think the system needs to be completely rebuilt from scratch, or do we just need to make major changes in the system we now have?" Twenty-one percent said "unsound, start from scratch," 52 percent said "unsound, major changes," 18 percent said "sound, minor changes," and 3 percent said "sound, no changes."

- As you may know, President Bush has said that reforming the tax code will be one of his top priorities during his second term. Do you think Bush should reform the tax code, or not?

		-----Bush should reform tax code-----	
		Yes	No
Jan. 2005	LAT	59%	24%

- How much do you approve or disapprove of President Bush's positions on the following issues...simplifying the tax code?

		Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove
Mar. 2005	Harris	34%	25%	11%	16%

- Regardless of whether you think Bush should reform the tax code, which of the following should be Bush's top priority in reforming the tax code: Maintaining the principle that wealthier families should pay a higher percentage of their income on taxes than middle or lower income families, or insuring that all taxpayers pay the same flat tax rate on their incomes, or eliminating the income tax and using just a sales and consumption tax or eliminating loopholes to insure that businesses pay all taxes they owe or cutting taxes on savings and investments such as capital gains from stocks?

Jan. 2005	LAT	
Wealthier families pay more		33%
Eliminating loopholes for businesses		33
All taxpayers pay the same flat tax rate		27
Eliminating income tax with sales tax		8
Cutting taxes on savings/investments		6

- When you hear people talk about federal tax reform or about reforming the federal tax system, what do you think that really means?

Jan. 2005 Fox News

Simplifying tax rules/tax forms	14%
Making the system more fair	13
Changing the way taxes are calculated	12
Lowering taxes	10
Raising taxes	8
Helping the rich/skeptical	6
Ending double taxation of savings/investments	2
Changing to flat tax	1
Not sure	31

Note: Asked of registered voters.

- Which of the following statements best describes your opinion of the federal tax system: it is fine the way it is, it needs minor changes, it needs major changes, it should be completely overhauled?

		Fine	Minor changes	Major changes	Overhaul
Mar-Apr. 2005	Harris/Tax Foundation	2%	16%	42%	35%
Mar. 2006	Harris/Tax Foundation	2	14	40	40
Mar. 2007	Harris/Tax Foundation	3	15	39	38
Feb. 2009	Harris/Tax Foundation	2	12	40	42

- Which of the following statements comes closest to expressing your overall view of the federal tax system in this country? (1) On the whole, the federal tax system works pretty well and Congress should make only minor changes to make it work better. (2) There is so much wrong with the federal tax system that Congress should completely change it?

		-----Congress should-----	
		Completely change it	Make minor changes
Feb.-Mar. 2003	Kaiser/NPR/Harvard	52%	44%
Dec. 2011	Pew	59	34
Feb. 2015	Pew	59	38

- Do you think the country's tax system should be reformed this year?

		Yes	No
Mar. 2017	Fox News	73%	21%

Note: Asked of registered voters.

- Do you think the federal tax system is too complicated, or not?

		Too complicated	Not too complicated
Mar. 1999	AP	66%	28%
Apr. 2005	AP/Ipsos	70	28
Apr. 2013*	Quinnipiac	64	31

Note: *Asked of registered voters.

- How complex do you think the current federal income tax system is? Do you think it is very complex, somewhat complex, not too complex or not complex at all?

		Very complex	Somewhat complex	Not too complex	Not at all complex
Feb.-Mar. 2003	Kaiser/NPR/Harvard	50%	36%	8%	3%
Mar.-Apr. 2005	Harris/Tax Foundation	46	35	9	2
Mar. 2006	Harris/Tax Foundation	48	32	9	1
Mar. 2007	Harris/Tax Foundation	50	33	10	2
Feb. 2009	Harris/Tax Foundation	52	32	8	1

(Asked of those who think the current system is complex) Do you think it is complex because...?

Feb.-Mar. 2003	Kaiser/NPR/Harvard	Yes	No
There are so many different kinds of deductions and tax credits, and so many rules about how to take them		95%	3%
It requires too much record-keeping		63	36
There are too many different tax rates, such as 15%, 25%, and 35%		61	34
The forms are too hard to fill out		59	39

- Would you be willing to give up some deductions and credits to make the tax simpler, or not?

		Yes	No
Apr. 2005	AP/Ipsos	45%	51%
Mar.-Apr. 2006	Harris/Tax Foundation	54	21
Mar. 2006	Harris/Tax Foundation	52	22

Note: Harris wording does not include "and credits"

- Would you be willing to give up some federal tax deductions – such as the home mortgage interest deduction, the deduction for state-local taxes paid, or the deduction for education expenses – in exchange for an across-the-board cut in your federal tax rates?

		Yes	No	Not sure
Mar. 2007	Harris/Tax Foundation	48%	22%	31%
Feb. 2009	Harris/Tax Foundation	44	22	34

- If you could choose one plan to collect all federal taxes, of these listed, which federal tax plan would you prefer: a flat-rate income tax with no deductions, the current graduated income tax with deductions, a national sales tax?

		Flat tax	Graduated	National sales
Mar.-Apr. 2005	Harris/Tax Foundation	37%	19%	19%
Mar. 2006	Harris/Tax Foundation	33	21	20

- The current income tax system taxes high income people at higher rates and lower income people at lower rates. Some people have proposed replacing that system with a flat tax, which would tax people at all income levels at one, flat tax rate. Would you favor or oppose replacing the current income tax system with one flat tax rate, or don't you know enough about it yet to say?

		Favor	Oppose	Don't know enough
Jan. 2005	CBS/NYT	29%	33%	36%

- Would you favor or oppose a flat tax whereby everybody, whatever they earned, would pay income taxes on the same percentage of their income over some minimum level?

		Favor	Oppose
Mar-Apr. 2005	Harris/Tax Foundation	54%	21%

- Which tax system would you prefer?

Apr. 2005	Blum & Weprin/NBC	
A system like the one we now have, with higher rates for people with higher incomes		55%
A flat tax with the same rate for everyone and no deductions allowed		39%

- Proposals to change the income tax system would reduce the overall rate you pay in exchange for also reducing or eliminating some tax deductions and credits. For each, please tell me if you would favor or oppose eliminating or reducing the deduction.

Jun. 2011	Bloomberg	Favor	Oppose
	The deduction for mortgage interest	49%	45%
	The benefits for education expenses	49	48
	The deduction for charitable contributions	48	47
	The benefits for child care expenses	46	50
	The exclusion of employer-paid health insurance premiums from your taxable income	39	54

- Do you support or oppose tax reforms that would eliminate the homeowners' mortgage interest reduction if it meant that overall income tax rates could be lowered?

Mar. 2012	Ipsos/Reuters	Support	Oppose
		57%	30%
	<i>Demographic breakdown</i>		
	Republican	52%	36%
	Democrat	63	24
	Independent	50	27

MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEM: Taxes or the deficit are rarely named as the single most important problem facing the nation, though economic concerns are frequently the number one issue. In Gallup's April 2017 poll, 2 percent mentioned taxes and 3 percent the federal budget deficit/federal debt. The top problem, "dissatisfaction with government/poor leadership," was mentioned by 21 percent.

- What do you think is the most important problem facing this country today? (Gallup)
- What do you think are the two most important issues for the government to address? (Harris Interactive)

-----Gallup-----							
	Percentage who say		Top response				
	"Taxes"	"Deficit"					
Jul. 1983	*	5%	Unemployment (48%)				
Jan. 1984	*	14	Unemployment (24)				
Jun. 1984	*	11	Unemployment (25)				
Jan. 1985	11%	18	Fear of war (27)				
May 1985	11	10	Fear of war (23)				
Jan. 1986	8	11	Fear of war (30)				
Jul. 1986	4	13	Unemployment (23)				
Jan. 1987	2	10	Unemployment (16)				
May 1987	*	12	Unemployment (13)				
Sep. 1988	*	12	Deficit (12)				
May 1989	*	7	Drug abuse (27)				
Jun 1989	*	6	Drug abuse (27)				
Apr. 1990	*	6	Drug abuse (30)				
Jul. 1990	1	21	Deficit (21)				
Jan. 1991	2	4	Gulf crisis (25)				
Jul. 1991	2	6	Economy (16)				
Mar. 1992	6	8	Economy (42)				
May 1992	1	4	Economy (20)				
Jan. 1993	1	10	Economy (29)				
Jun. 1993	--	--	--				
Sep. 1993	6	15	Health care (28)				
Jan. 1994	2	8	Crime (49)				
Feb. 1994	--	--	--				
May 1994	--	--	--				
Jul. 1994	1	3	Crime (21)				
Jan. 1995	3	12	Crime (19)				
Feb. 1995	--	--	--				
Jun. 1995	--	--	--				
Jul. 1995	2	7	Crime (15)				
Jan. 1996	2	19	Deficit (19)				
Apr. 1996	--	--	--				
Jul. 1996	5	8	Crime (16)				
Jan. 1997	3	6	Crime (15)				
Jun. 1997	--	--	--				
Aug. 1997	4	5	Crime (20)				
Jan. 1998	--	--	--				
Apr. 1998	6	5	Crime (20)				
Sep. 1998	4	2	Morality (15)				
Jan. 1999	4	2	Morality (13)				
May 1999	3	1	Morality (18)				
Jun. 1999	--	--	--				
Jan. 2000	--	--	--				
Mar. 2000	11	4	Education (16)				
Jun. 2000	3	2	Morality (14)				
Jan. 2001	5	1	Morality (13)				
Feb. 2001	--	--	--				
Jun. 2001	4	1	Education (12)				
Jan. 2002	2	*	Terrorism (23)				

-----Harris-----			
	Percentage who say		Top response
	"Taxes"	"Budget"	
Jan. 1993	7%	19%	Health care (31%)
Jun. 1993	13	24	Health care (29)
Sep. 1993	--	--	--
Jan. 1994	--	--	--
Feb. 1994	6	8	Health care (45)
May 1994	5	10	Health care (42)
Jul. 1994	--	--	--
Jan. 1995	--	--	--
Feb. 1995	12	22	Health care (25)
Jun. 1995	10	18	Crime (22)
Jul. 1995	--	--	--
Jan. 1996	--	--	--
Apr. 1996	11	22	Deficit (22)
Jul. 1996	--	--	--
Jan. 1997	12	15	Crime (16)
Jun. 1997	11	19	Deficit (19)
Aug. 1997	--	--	--
Jan. 1998	16	12	Taxes (16)
Apr. 1998	17	8	Education (20)
Sep. 1998	--	--	--
Jan. 1999	9	3	Impeachment (30)
May 1999	--	--	--
Jun. 1999	10	3	Education (17)
Jan. 2000	12	3	Education (20)
Mar. 2000	--	--	--
Jun. 2000	14	3	Health care (18)
Jan. 2001	--	--	--
Feb. 2001	23	4	Education (30)
Jun. 2001	19	3	Education (20)
Jan. 2002	9	1	Economy (32)

Jun. 2002	1	1	Terrorism (33)	8	1	Terrorism (31)
Jan. 2003	2	1	Fear of war (31)	--	--	--
Feb. 2003	--	--	--	4	3	The war (38)
Jun. 2003	2	3	Economy (30)	11	4	Economy (25)
Jan. 2004	2	4	Economy (16)	--	--	--
Feb. 2004	3	5	Economy (21)	5	5	Economy (31)
Mar. 2004	1	5	Economy (21)	--	--	--
Apr. 2004	2	2	War in Iraq (26)	--	--	--
May 2004	2	2	War in Iraq (26)	--	--	--
Jun. 2004	1	3	War in Iraq (27)	--	--	--
Jul. 2004	1	1	War in Iraq (26)	--	--	--
Aug. 2004	2	2	War in Iraq/Eco. (21)	4	2	Economy (32)
Sept. 2004	1	3	War in Iraq (23)	5	1	Economy (30)
Oct. 2004	2	3	War in Iraq (23)	8	2	The war (35)
Nov. 2004	2	4	War in Iraq (26)	--	--	--
Dec. 2004	2	3	War in Iraq (23)	--	--	--
Jan. 2005	2	3	War in Iraq (25)	--	--	--
Feb. 2005	2	5	War in Iraq (24)	5	10	Social Security (37)
Mar. 2005	2	3	War in Iraq (25)	--	--	--
Apr. 2005	1	3	War in Iraq (18)	6	6	Social Security (31)
May 2005	1	3	War in Iraq (21)	--	--	--
Jun. 2005	1	3	War in Iraq (22)	5	4	The war (24)
Jul. 2005	1	1	War in Iraq (25)	--	--	--
Aug. 2005	1	2	War in Iraq (27)	5	2	The war (41)
Sept. 2005	1	2	War in Iraq (16)	--	--	--
Oct. 2005	1	3	War in Iraq (21)	--	--	--
Nov. 2005	1	*	War in Iraq (23)	9	7	The war (34)
Dec. 2005	2	*	War in Iraq (22)	--	--	--
Jan. 2006	1	*	War in Iraq (23)	7	4	The war (26)
Feb. 2006	1	1	War in Iraq (22)	6	2	The war (27)
Mar. 2006	2	4	War in Iraq (20)	5	3	The war (21)
Apr. 2006	1	3	War in Iraq (25)	5	3	The war (23)
May 2006	2	3	War in Iraq (29)	5	--	The war (28)
Jun. 2006	2	4	War in Iraq (27)	4	--	The war (27)
Jul. 2006	1	1	War in Iraq (25)	4	--	The war (32)
Aug. 2006	3	3	War in Iraq (26)	4	--	The war (28)
Sep. 2006	1	2	War in Iraq (24)	4	--	The war (22)
Oct. 2006	1	1	War in Iraq (28)	5	--	The war (29)
Nov. 2006	3	2	War in Iraq (36)	5	--	The war (33)
Dec. 2006	2	1	War in Iraq (29)	--	--	--
Jan. 2007	1	2	War in Iraq (36)	--	--	--
Feb. 2007	1	2	War in Iraq (38)	7	--	The war (29)
Mar. 2007	1	2	War in Iraq (35)	--	--	--
Apr. 2007	2	2	War in Iraq (33)	5	--	The war (30)
May 2007	*	2	War in Iraq (33)	--	--	--
Jun. 2007	1	2	War in Iraq (34)	--	--	--
Jul. 2007	1	1	War in Iraq (35)	1	1	The war (27)
Aug. 2007	1	2	War in Iraq (32)	--	--	--
Sep. 2007	1	2	War in Iraq (30)	3	3	The war (29)
Oct. 2007	1	3	War in Iraq (33)	3	6	Health care (25)
Nov. 2007	1	2	War in Iraq (24)	--	--	--
Dec. 2007	2	1	War in Iraq (29)	6	--	The war (30)
Jan. 2008	2	2	War in Iraq (25)	--	--	--
Feb. 2008	1	3	Economy (34)	6	5	Economy (41)
Mar. 2008	1	2	Economy (35)	--	--	--
Apr. 2008	1	2	Economy (41)	4	2	Economy (47)
May 2008	1	2	Economy (35)	--	--	--
Jun. 2008	1	1	Economy (36)	4	2	Economy (38)
Jul. 2008	1	2	Economy (35)	--	--	--
Aug. 2008	*	2	Economy (38)	--	--	--
Sep. 2008	1	2	Economy (41)	6	3	Economy (54)
Oct. 2008	1	3	Economy (47)	6	2	Economy (64)

Nov. 2008	*	1	Economy (58)	--	--	--
Dec. 2008	1	2	Economy (55)	--	--	--
Jan. 2009	1	2	Economy (57)	5	6	Economy (59)
Feb. 2009	2	3	Economy (57)	--	--	--
Mar. 2009	1	5	Economy (51)	4	6	Economy (50)
Apr. 2009	1	4	Economy (48)	--	--	--
May 2009	2	5	Economy (47)	5	11	Economy (45)
Jun. 2009	*	5	Economy (41)	--	--	--
Jul. 2009	1	4	Economy (38)	--	--	--
Aug. 2009	1	7	Economy (33)	--	--	--
Aug.-Sep. 2009	1	9	Economy (29)	--	--	--
Sep. 2009	--	--	--	5	12	Health care (55)
Oct. 2009	1	5	Economy (26)	--	--	--
Nov. 2009	1	6	Economy (31)	4	11	Health care (47)
Dec. 2009	1	8	Economy (26)	--	--	--
Jan. 2010	1	6	Economy (25)	4	7	Health care (45)
Feb. 2010	1	11	Economy/jobs (31)**	--	--	--
Mar. 2010	1	8	Unemployment/jobs (31)	--	--	--
Apr. 2010	2	10	Unemployment/jobs (30)	7	8	Health care (34)/ Employment (34)
May 2010	1	9	Economy (26)	--	--	--
Jun. 2010	1	7	Economy (28)	4	8	Employment (28)/ Economy (28)
Jul. 2010	2	6	Economy (31)	--	--	--
Aug. 2010	2	7	Economy (30)	--	--	--
Sep. 2010	1	7	Economy (33)	7	6	Employment (37)
Oct. 2010	2	5	Economy (35)	--	--	--
Nov. 2010	2	9	Unemployment/jobs (33)	7	8	Employment (36)
Dec. 2010	4	10	Economy (30)	--	--	--
Jan. 2011	2	12	Unemployment/jobs (29)	6	12	Health care (35)
Feb. 2011	2	11	Unemployment/jobs (35)	--	--	--
Mar. 2011	1	13	Economy (28)	--	--	--
Apr. 2011	1	17	Economy (26)	--	--	--
May. 2011	2	12	Economy (35)	4	17	Employment (33)
Jun. 2011	1	11	Economy (36)	--	--	--
Jul. 2011	3	16	Economy (31)	--	--	--
Aug. 2011	2	17	Economy (31)	--	--	--
Sep. 2011	2	12	Unemployment (39)	7	13	Employment (50)
Oct. 2011	1	9	Unemployment/jobs (32)	--	--	--
Nov. 2011	2	6	Unemployment/jobs (36)	--	--	--
Dec. 2011	1	12	Economy (26)	--	--	--
Jan. 2012	1	8	Economy (31)	10	9	Employment (42)
Feb. 2012	2	8	Economy (31)	--	--	--
Mar. 2012	1	9	Economy (31)	7	7	Employment (36)
Apr. 2012	2	11	Economy (32)	--	--	--
May 2012	1	8	Economy (28)	--	--	--
Jun. 2012	1	11	Economy (31)	--	--	--
Jul. 2012	1	7	Economy (29)	--	--	--
Aug. 2012	1	7	Economy (31)	--	--	--
Sep. 2012	1	9	Economy/jobs (26)***	--	--	--
Oct. 2012	2	12	Economy (37)	--	--	--
Nov. 2012	1	11	Economy (30)	--	--	--
Dec. 2012	2	13	Economy (23)	--	--	--
Jan. 2013	4	20	Economy (21)	--	--	--
Feb. 2013	2	13	Economy (25)	--	--	--
Mar. 2013	2	13	Economy (24)	9	20	Economy (27)
Apr. 2013	2	11	Economy (24)	--	--	--
Jun. 2013	1	6	Economy (22)	--	--	--
Jul. 2013	1	8	Economy (23)	--	--	--
Aug. 2013	1	6	Economy (25)	--	--	--
Sept. 2013	1	5	Economy (21)	5	10	Health care (33)

Oct. 2013	*	10	Government-President- Congress Politicians (20)	--	--	--
Oct. 2013	2	12	Dissatisfaction with government/Congress/ politicians;Poor leadership/ Corruption/ Abuse of power (33)	--	--	--
Nov. 2013	1	12	Dissatisfaction with government/Congress/ politicians;Poor leadership/ Corruption/ Abuse of power (26)	--	--	--
Dec. 2013	1	9	Dissatisfaction with government/Congress/ politicians;Poor leadership/ Corruption/ Abuse of power (21)	6	14	Health care (42)
Mar. 2014	1	8	Unemployment/jobs (19)	8	9	Health care (29); Employment (29)
Apr. 2014	1	7	Economy (13)	--	--	--
May 2014	1	8	Unemployment/jobs (20)	--	--	--
Jun. 2014	1	5	Economy (20)	6	7	Economy (27)
Jul. 2014	2	6	Immigration/ Illegal aliens (17)	--	--	--
Aug. 2014	1	3	Dissatisfaction with government/Congress/ politicians;Poor leadership/ Corruption/ Abuse of power (18)	--	--	--
Nov. 2014	1	5	Economy (20)	5	5	Health care (26)
Dec. 2014	1	5	Dissatisfaction with government/Congress/ politicians;Poor leadership/ Corruption/ Abuse of power (15)	--	--	--
Jan. 2015	1	7	Dissatisfaction with government/Congress/ politicians;Poor leadership/ Corruption/ Abuse of power (17)	--	--	--
Feb. 2015	1	5	Dissatisfaction with government/Congress/ politicians;Poor leadership/ Corruption/ Abuse of power (17)	--	--	--
Mar. 2015	1	5	Dissatisfaction with government/Congress/ politicians;Poor leadership/ Corruption/ Abuse of power (18)	--	--	--
Nov. 2015	1	5	Economy (17)	--	--	--
Dec. 2015	1	2	Terrorism (16)	3	5	Terrorism (24)
Jan. 2016	1	5	Dissatisfaction with government (16)	--	--	--
Feb. 2016	1	6	Economy (17)	--	--	--
Mar. 2016	1	5	Economy (17)	--	--	--
May 2016	1	5	Economy (18)	--	--	--
Jun. 2016	1	5	Economy (18)	--	--	--
Jul. 2016	*	4	Race relations/Racism (18)	--	--	--
Aug. 2016	1	5	Economy (17)	--	--	--
Sep. 2016	*	3	Economy (14)	--	--	--
Nov. 2016	1	3	Economy (14)	--	--	--

Dec. 2016	1	4	Economy; Race relations racism (12)	--	--	--
Jan. 2017	1	4	Economy; Dissatisfaction with government/Poor leadership (11)	--	--	--
Feb. 2017	*	2	Dissatisfaction with government/Poor leadership (19)	--	--	--
Mar. 2017	1	4	Dissatisfaction with Government/Poor Leadership (18)	--	--	--
Apr. 2017	2	3	Dissatisfaction with Government/Poor Leadership (21)	--	--	--

Note: This is not a full chart of “most important problem” results. Gallup began asking respondents to identify the nation’s most important problem in 1939. “Taxes” and “Deficit” were first coded as separate responses in 1983. **The economy and unemployment/jobs were tied with 31 percent. ***The economy and unemployment/jobs were tied with 26 percent.

- What do you think are the two most important issues for the government to address?

		-----Issues mentioned among respondents’ top two issues-----				
		Healthcare	Economy	Taxes	Employment/Jobs	Social Security
May 1997	Harris	10%	8%	14%	5%	6%
Jan. 1998	Harris	11	9	16	3	6
Feb. 1999	Harris	12	7	12	4	24
Aug. 2000	Harris	15	5	13	4	16
Dec. 2001	Harris	5	32	6	7	3
Dec. 2002	Harris	10	34	5	8	2
June 2003	Harris	14	25	11	8	4
Oct. 2004	Harris	18	28	8	10	4
Aug. 2005	Harris	11	19	5	3	10
June 2006	Harris	12	14	4	7	5
Oct. 2007	Harris	25	13	3	5	3
Oct. 2008	Harris	22	64	6	5	3
Jan. 2009	Harris	16	59	5	20	1
Mar. 2009	Harris	25	50	4	21	1
May 2009	Harris	31	45	5	19	3
Sept. 2009	Harris	55	36	5	21	2
Nov. 2009	Harris	47	34	4	24	2
Jan. 2010	Harris	45	32	1	31	1
Apr. 2010	Harris	34	27	2	34	2
June 2010	Harris	23	28	5	28	2
Sep. 2010	Harris	24	34	7	37	2
Nov. 2010	Harris	30	33	7	36	4
Jan. 2011	Harris	35	24	6	33	3
May 2011	Harris	18	29	4	33	3
Sep. 2011	Harris	17	27	7	50	7
Jan. 2012	Harris	21	31	10	42	3
Mar. 2012	Harris	21	30	7	36	3
Mar. 2013	Harris	23	27	9	26	3
Sep. 2013	Harris	33	26	5	27	4
Dec. 2013	Harris	42	24	6	27	3
Mar. 2014	Harris	29	25	8	29	2
Jun. 2014	Harris	22	27	3	23	3
Nov. 2014	Harris	26	25	5	20	3
Dec. 2015	Harris	14	23	3	10	3

Note: The trend above this one presents this Harris data in a different way.

- And, thinking specifically about the economy, which of the following is the most important economic issue facing the country today?

		Taxes	Top response
Jan. 2009	CNN/ORC	7%	Unemployment (52%)
Jan. 2010	CNN/ORC	6	Unemployment (56%)
Sep. 2010	CNN/ORC	8	Unemployment (57%)
Oct. 2010	CNN/ORC	8	Unemployment (58%)
Mar. 2011	CNN/ORC	6	Unemployment (38%)
Apr. 2011	CNN/ORC	4	Unemployment (38%)
Aug. 2011	CNN/ORC	5	Unemployment (49%)
Dec. 2011	CNN/ORC	7	Unemployment (51%)
Mar. 2012	CNN/ORC	6	Unemployment (37%)
Sep. 2012	CNN/ORC	8	Unemployment (44%)

- How important are the following issues to you personally? Taxes.

		Extremely/Very important	Moderately important	Slightly/Not at all important
Oct. 2009	AP-GfK/Roper	66%	23%	10%
Nov. 2009	AP-GfK/Roper	72	18	11
Dec. 2009	AP-GfK/Roper	71	20	9
Jan. 2010	AP-GfK/Roper	74	19	8
Mar. 2010	AP-GfK/Roper	72	19	9
Apr. 2010	AP-GfK/Roper	67	24	9
May 2010	AP-GfK/Roper	69	21	10
Jun. 2010	AP-GfK/Roper	68	20	11
Aug. 2010	AP-GfK/Roper	69	20	11
Sept. 2010	AP-GfK/Roper	71	20	9
Oct. 2010	AP-GfK/Roper	69	21	10
Nov. 2010	AP-GfK/Roper	70	21	9
Jan. 2011	AP-GfK/Roper	71	19	9
Mar. 2011	AP-GfK/Roper	68	22	10
May 2011	AP-GfK/Roper	69	22	9
Jun. 2011	AP-GfK/Roper	73	18	9
Aug. 2011	AP-GfK/Roper	72	18	9
Oct. 2011	AP-GfK/Roper	73	21	6
Dec. 2011	AP-GfK/Roper	69	22	10
Feb. 2012	AP-GfK/Roper	72	21	9
Aug. 2012	AP-GfK/Roper	74	16	8
Sep. 2016	AP-NORC	70	23	6

- What do you think is the most important problem facing this country today? (Yearly compilations from Gallup)

Year	Top response	1952	Korean war
1935	Unemployment	1953	Keeping peace
1936	Unemployment	1954	Keeping peace
1937	Unemployment	1955	Keeping peace
1938	Keeping out of war	1956	Keeping peace
1939	Keeping out of war	1957	Race relations, keeping peace
1940	Keeping out of war	1958	Unemployment, keeping peace
1941	Keeping out of war, winning war	1959	Keeping peace
1942	Winning war	1960	Keeping peace
1943	Winning war	1961	Keeping peace
1944	Winning war	1962	Keeping peace
1945	Winning war	1963	Keeping peace, race relations
1946	High cost of living	1964	Vietnam, race relations
1947	High cost of living, labor unrest	1965	Vietnam, race relations
1948	Keeping peace	1966	Vietnam
1949	Labor unrest	1967	Vietnam, high cost of living
1950	Labor unrest	1968	Vietnam
1951	Korean war	1969	Vietnam

1970	Vietnam	1994	Crime
1971	Vietnam, high cost of living	1995	Crime
1972	Vietnam	1996	Crime, federal budget
1973	High cost of living, Watergate	1997	Crime
1974	High cost of living, Watergate, energy	1998	Ethics/moral decline, crime
1975	High cost of living, unemployment	1999	Crime, ethics/moral decline
1976	High cost of living, unemployment	2000	Education, ethics/moral decline
1977	High cost of living, unemployment	2001	Economy, terrorism
1978	High cost of living, energy problems	2002	Terrorism, economy
1979	High cost of living, unemployment	2003	Economy
1980	High cost of living, unemployment	2004	Not Available
1981	High cost of living, unemployment	2005	War in Iraq
1982	Unemployment, high cost of living	2006	War in Iraq
1983	Unemployment, high cost of living	2007	War in Iraq
1984	Fear of war, unemployment	2008	The economy
1985	Unemployment, recession, fear of war	2009	The economy
1986	Unemployment, fear of war	2010	The economy
1987	Fear of war, unemployment	2011	The economy
1988	Budget deficit, drug abuse	2012	The economy
1989	Drugs, poverty and homelessness	2013	The economy
1990	Budget deficit, drugs	2014	Government
1991	Economy	2015	Government/Congress/Politician
1992	Economy	2016	The economy
1993	Economy, health care		

- What do you think is the most important economic issue facing the country?

Nov. 2015 Fox News

Government spending and the deficit	36%
Jobs and employment	28
Income inequality	16
Taxes	6

Note: Asked of registered voters.

- As I read you some things the new Congress might do over the next two years, please tell me if you think each should be one of their top priorities, a lower priority, or shouldn't be done at all. What about...major reform of the federal income tax system?

		-----Reforming tax system-----		
		Top priority for Congress	Lower priority for Congress	Not done
Nov. 2002	PSRA/Newsweek	65%	21%	7%

Note: When ranked according to top priority, "major reform of the federal income tax system" ranked second out of eleven categories. The other items were "helping seniors pay for prescription drugs" (80 percent), "creating the new Homeland Security department that President Bush wants, with a reduced role for federal employee unions" (43 percent), "making President Bush's 10-year, \$1.3 trillion dollar tax cut program permanent" (42 percent), "approval of conservative judges President Bush has nominated for the federal courts" (30 percent), "new tax cuts for investors, such as increasing deductions for investment losses or removing double taxation on stock dividends" (29 percent), "limiting or eliminating affirmative action preferences for minorities and women" (28 percent), "giving religious charities a bigger role in providing government social services" (26 percent), "relaxing environmental regulations to allow oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge" (26 percent), "Social Security reform to allow some of the tax money collected to be invested in the stock market" (24 percent), and "new laws to restrict abortion" (24 percent).

- For each issue I named, please tell me what kind of priority you think Bush and the Congress should give it – the highest priority, a high priority but not the highest, a middle priority, or a lower priority... Taxes?

		-----Reforming tax system-----			
		Highest priority	High priority	Middle priority	Lower priority
Dec. 2002	ABC/Wash Post	19%	36%	35%	10%

Note: When ranked according to highest priority, “taxes” ranked ninth out of ten categories. The other items were “homeland security” (49 percent), “the U.S. campaign against terrorism” (48 percent), “the economy” (41 percent), “the situation with Iraq and Saddam Hussein” (39 percent), “education” (34 percent), “the cost, availability, and coverage of health insurance” (28 percent), “Social Security” (26 percent), “the cost of prescription drugs” (21 percent), and “the environment” (18 percent).

- To begin with, how important are each of the following issues for President Bush to deal with in his second term... Tax reform?

		-----Tax reform-----			
		Extremely critical	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important
Jan. 2005	SRB/Time	17%	44%	25%	8%

Note: When ranked according to extremely critical, “taxes” ranked ninth out of nine categories. The other items were “war in Iraq” (45 percent), “jobs and the economy” (37 percent), “homeland security” (36 percent), “education” (35 percent), “Social Security reform” (30 percent), “the environment” (24 percent), “moral values issues, such as abortion and gay marriage” (19 percent), and “attempting to bring peace between the Israelis and Palestinians” (18 percent).

- For each issue I name, please tell me what kind of priority you think (Bush/Obama) and Congress should give it – the highest priority, a high priority but not the highest, or a lower priority than that.... Taxes?

		-----Reforming tax system-----		
		Highest priority	High priority	Lower priority
Apr. 2003	ABC/Wash Post	30%	51%	17%
Jan. 2005	ABC/Wash Post	19	60	19
Feb. 2005	Wash Post	27	54	17
Jan. 2006	ABC/Wash Post	27	54	17
Jan. 2009	ABC/Wash Post	23	58	17
Jan. 2011	ABC/Wash Post	31	56	12

Note: In the January 2011 survey, when ranked according to highest priority, “taxes” was tied for sixth out of eight categories.

- What would you say is the one most important problem you would like to see (George W.) Bush and the Congress deal with this year (2007)?

		Percentage who say taxes
Jan. 2007	ABC/Wash Post	1%

- I'd like to ask you about priorities for President _____ and Congress this year. As I read from a list, tell me if you think each should be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important or should it not be done.

Changing the federal income tax system to make it simpler

		Top priority	Important but low priority	Not too important	Should not be done
Jan. 2011	Pew	37%	37%	17%	5%

Changing the federal income tax system to make it more fair

		Top priority	Important but low priority	Not too important	Should not be done
Jan. 2012	Pew	61%	29%	5%	2%

Reforming the nation's tax system

		Top priority	Important but low priority	Not too important	Should not be done
Jan. 2013	Pew	52%	32%	7%	3%
Jan. 2014	Pew	55	33	6	2
Jan. 2015*	Pew	48	37	9	3
Jan. 2016	Pew	45	39	10	2
Jan. 2017*	Pew	44	37	12	3

Note: *Asked of half sample. In January 2017, "reforming the nation's tax system" ranked 14 of 21 issues as a top priority.

- I'd like to ask you about priorities for President _____ and Congress this year. As I read from a list, tell me if you think each should be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important or should it not be done. Should reducing federal income taxes for the middle class be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important, or should it not be done?

Reducing federal income taxes for the middle class

		Top priority	Important but low priority	Not too important	Should not be done
Jan. 1998	Pew	54%	33%	8%	3%
Jan. 1999	Pew	52	33	8	3
Jul. 1999	Pew	57	30	8	4
Jan. 2000	Pew	54	34	7	3
Jan. 2001	Pew	66	26	4	3
Jan. 2002	Pew	43	37	11	6
Jan. 2004	Pew	44	37	12	6
Jan. 2005	Pew	48	35	8	6
Jan. 2006	Pew	51	32	8	5
Jan. 2007	Pew	48	35	10	4
Jan. 2008	Pew	46	40	8	3
Jan. 2009	Pew	43	39	10	4
Jan. 2010	Pew	42	40	9	5

- Now, in the next four years, which of the following alternatives should be greater priority for the President-elect (Donald Trump) and Congress? Increasing federal taxes for wealthy families, cutting federal taxes for everyone?

Nov. 2016 Allstate/Atlantic Media

Increasing federal taxes for wealthy families	48%
Cutting federal taxes for everyone	47

- In the next four years, do you believe the President-Elect Donald Trump and Congress should make the following policies a high priority, a low priority, or not at all a priority? Cutting taxes for business and individuals.

		High priority	Low priority	Not at all
Nov. 2016	Allstate/Atlantic Media	52%	34%	10%

VALUE FOR YOUR MONEY: Solid majorities say government wastes a lot of the money we pay in taxes. People believed that 51 cents of every dollar the federal government collects in taxes is wasted, according to a 2014 Gallup survey. In March 2014, 35 percent of registered voters told Fox News interviewers that the way the government spends taxes was what bothered them most about paying taxes. By comparison, only nine percent said that the amount of taxes they paid bothered them the most.

- Do you think that people in government waste a lot of money we pay in taxes, waste some of it, or don't waste very much of it?

		How much does govt. waste -----of money we pay in taxes-----		
		A lot	Some	Not much
1958	U. of Mich.	43%	42%	10%
1964	U. of Mich.	47	44	7
1968	U. of Mich.	59	34	4
1970	U. of Mich.	69	26	4
1972	U. of Mich.	66	30	2
1974	U. of Mich.	74	22	1
1976	U. of Mich.	74	20	3
1978	U. of Mich.	77	19	2
1980	U. of Mich.	78	18	2
1982	U. of Mich.	66	29	2
1984	U. of Mich.	65	29	4
1988	U. of Mich.	63	33	2
1990	U. of Mich.	67	30	2
1992	U. of Mich.	67	30	2
1994	U. of Mich.	70	27	2
1996	U. of Mich.	60	38	1
1998	U. of Mich.	61	34	4
2000	U. of Mich.	59	38	3
2002	U. of Mich.	48	49	3
2004	U. of Mich.	61	37	2
2008	U. of Mich.	72	26	1
2012	U. of Mich./Stanford	71	26	3
Jun. 1978	CBS/NYT	78	17	2
Sep. 1978	Wash Post	73	23	2
Jun. 1983	NYT	69	26	3
Nov. 1983	NYT	74	21	2
Nov. 1984	CBS/NYT	67	27	3
Feb. 1985	CBS/NYT	69	25	3
Dec. 1985	NYT	75	21	3
Nov. 1988	CBS/NYT	71	24	3
Oct. 1991	ABC/Wash Post	75	23	2
Oct. 1992	CBS/NYT	76	20	1
Jun. 1993	CBS/NYT	86	12	1
Sep. 1993	Gallup	86	12	1
Oct. 2001	CBS/NYT	52	43	4
Apr. 2010	CNN/ORC	74	23	3
Apr. 2011	CNN	73	23	4

- Out of every dollar the federal government collects in taxes, how many cents do you think are wasted?

		Of every dollar, how ----many cents are wasted?----	
		Mean	Median
Oct. 1979	Gallup	40	40
Jan. 1981	Gallup	42	48
Mar. 1981	Gallup	41	40
Sep. 1981	Gallup	41	--
May 1984	Gallup	44	45
Mar. 1986	Gallup	38	--
Feb. 1989	Gallup	--	50
Sep. 2001	Gallup	46	50
Aug.-Sep. 2009	Gallup	50	50
Sep. 2011	Gallup	51	50
Sep. 2014	Gallup	51	50

Jul. 1985	ABC/Wash Post	43	45
May 1990	ABC/Wash Post	46	50
Sep. 1990	ABC	44	50
Sep. 1990	Wash Post	48	50
Oct. 1991	ABC/Wash Post	49	41
Feb. 1993	ABC/Wash Post	46	39
Aug. 1993	ABC/Wash Post	47	40
Jan. 1995	ABC/Wash Post	51	50
Jan. 1998	ABC	56	--
Apr. 2000	ABC	46	--
Apr. 2002	ABC	47	--
Apr. 2006	ABC/Wash Post	51	--
Feb. 2010	ABC/Wash Post	53	--

Nov. 1996	Tarrance(R)/Lake(D)	49	--
Mar. 2012	Reason-Rupe	56	--
Jan. 2013	Reason-Rupe	47	--
Sep. 2013	Reason-Rupe	60	--
Mar. 2014	Reason-Rupe	54	--

Note: The Mar. 2012 *Reason-Rupe* poll wording was “For every dollar you pay in federal taxes, about how much of it do you think the government wastes?” The Jan. 2013 *Reason-Rupe* poll wording was “For every dollar you pay in federal taxes, about how many cents do you think are wasted by the government?”

- Do you believe your tax money is spent more carefully today than it was five years ago, less carefully, or is it being spent with about the same amount of care as before?

		More carefully	Less carefully	Same as before
Apr. 2011	Fox News	14%	49%	34%
Apr. 2012	Fox News	15	53	29

Note: Asked of registered voters.

- How would you rate the value you personally get from the taxes you pay to the federal government...excellent, pretty good, only fair, or poor?

		-----Value you get from taxes-----			
		Excellent value	Good value	Fair value	Poor value
Oct. 1993	Harris Interactive/ <i>Business Week</i>	1%	17%	46%	34%
Mar.-Apr. 2005	Harris Interactive/ Tax Foundation	3	23	39	27
Mar. 2006	Harris Interactive/ Tax Foundation	2	24	40	25

Note: In 2005 and 2006, the category “good” changed to “pretty good.”

- What bothers you more – how much you pay in taxes or how your taxes are spent?

		-----What bothers you more?-----	
		How taxes are spent	How much you pay
Dec. 2002	Fox News	75%	8%
Mar. 2005	Fox News	71	12
Note: Asked of registered voters.			

- Thinking about paying taxes, which one of the following bothers you the most?

		Amount you pay	Complexity of system and forms	Feeling that some don't pay enough	Way the government spends taxes
Mar. 2013	Fox News	8%	10%	38%	43%
Note: Asked of registered voters.					

- Thinking about paying federal income taxes, which of the following bothers you the most?

		Amount you pay	Complexity of system and forms	Rich people not paying enough	Too many people not paying	Way the government spends taxes
Mar. 2014	Fox News	9%	11%	28%	14%	35%
Note: Asked of registered voters.						

- Which of the following bothers you most about taxes: the large amount you pay in taxes, the complexity of the tax system, or the feeling that some wealthy people get away not paying their fair share?

		-----Bothers you most-----		
		Large amount you pay	System's complexity	Wealthy don't pay fair share
Mar. 1999*	Fox News	21%	26%	46%
Feb.-Mar. 2003	Kaiser/NPR/Harvard	14	32	51
Dec. 2011	Pew	11	28	57
Note: *Asked of registered voters. Question wording was, "the feeling that some rich people get away..."				

- Thinking about all the things the government does and all the services you use that are paid for with your taxpayer dollars, do you feel like you personally are getting a good or bad deal for the taxes you pay?

		Good deal	Bad deal	Fair deal (vol.)
Apr. 2011	Fox News	29%	60%	6%
Note: Asked of registered voters.				

- Please tell me how much, if at all, each of the following bothers you about the federal tax system?

		A lot	Some	Not too much	Not at all
Feb. 2015	Pew				
The feeling that some corporations don't pay their fair share					
		64%	18%	9%	8%
The feeling that some wealthy people don't pay their fair share					
		61	18	10	10
The complexity of the tax system					
		44	28	17	8
The amount you pay in taxes					
		27	26	27	19
The feeling that some poor people don't pay their fair share					
		20	22	22	34

- Do you think it is ever necessary to raise taxes?

		Yes, it is sometimes necessary	No, it is never necessary
Mar. 2015	YouGov	57%	31%
Note: Online panel survey.			

Higher Taxes, More Government Services

- Would you rather have more government services if it meant more taxes, less government services in order to reduce taxes, or services and taxes about as we have them now?

		More taxes/ More services	Same as now	Less taxes/ Less services
Dec. 1978*	<i>LAT</i>	5%	21%	67%
Apr. 1991	<i>LAT</i>	12	45	40
Mar. 1993	Gallup	20	35	40
Aug. 1994	Roper Center/ <i>Reader's Digest</i>	14	52	28
Sep. 2011	Gallup	16	56	26
Sep. 2013^	Gallup	20	29	47

Note: *Asked of registered voters. ^Asked of a half sample.

- Which would be preferable – a place with less public services and lower taxes or more public services and higher taxes?

		Higher taxes/ More services	Lower taxes/ Less services
May 2015	<i>Allstate/National Journal</i>	35%	61%

- Would you rather have more government involvement in addressing the nation's problems if that meant more taxes, less government involvement in addressing the nation's problems in order to reduce taxes, or government involvement and taxes about as we have them now?

		More involved/taxes	Less involved/taxes	Stay the same
Sep. 2013	Pew	13%	53%	31%

- Which statement comes closer to your views, even if neither is exactly right?

		Most Americans demand more from the government than they are willing to pay taxes for	Most Americans are willing to pay taxes needed to fund services they expect government to provide
Sep. 2010	Gallup	56%	41%
Sep. 2015	Pew	52	44

- Think about all the taxes you pay to the federal government, and think about the benefits you receive now, in the past, and in the future. Would you say that altogether, you will get more benefits from the federal government than you pay in taxes, or will you pay more in taxes than you get back from the federal government, or will it be about equal?

		Will get more	Will pay more	Will be equal	Depends
Dec. 2011	<i>NYT</i>	12%	55%	28%	1%

- Which of the following statements do you agree with more...I'd rather pay higher taxes to support a larger government that provides more services, or I'd rather pay lower taxes and have a smaller government that provides fewer services?

		----- I'd Rather Pay -----	
		Higher Taxes/ Larger Govt.	Lower Taxes/ Smaller Govt.
Jun. 1997	Fox News	31%	58%
Apr. 1998	Fox News	30	58
Oct. 2000	Fox News	32	52
May 2003	Fox News	34	50
Jan. 2004	Fox News	38	45
Jan. 2006	Fox News	34	52
Mar. 2009	Fox News	35	55

Note: Asked of registered voters.

- Considering all government services on the one hand and taxes on the other, which of the following statements, comes closest to your view?

		Keep taxes and services about where they are	Decrease services, lower taxes	Increase services, raise taxes
Mar. 2007	Harris/Tax Foundation	41%	32%	8%
Feb. 2009	Harris/Tax Foundation	36	34	10

- In general, would you be willing or not willing to have many of your local government services reduced if it meant you would pay significantly less in taxes?

		Willing	Not willing
Jul. 2012	CBS/NTT	45%	46%

- Which of the following comes closest to your opinion about how revenue gained by the federal government when it institutes new taxes should be used?

Jan.-Feb. 2015	AP-GfK	
	It should mostly be used to pay down the national debt	51%
	It should mostly be used to cut other taxes	23
	It should mostly be used to fund government programs	23

- Do you think the amount of money you personally paid in income taxes in 2013 improved society more, less, or about the same than if you had instead given that amount of money to charity?

		More	Less	About the same
Mar. 2014	Reason-Rupe	17%	35%	41%

- Do you think the amount of money you paid in income taxes in 2013 improved society more, less, or about the same than if you had invested that amount of money in private businesses?

		More	Less	About the same
Mar. 2014	Reason-Rupe	17%	35%	41%

TAX FAIRNESS: In questions asked by Gallup during World War II, large majorities described the income tax they paid as fair. In April 2017, 61 percent regarded the income tax they paid as fair, and 35 percent said it was not.

Other organizations that ask more detailed questions find that only a small number say that the federal tax system is “very fair.” On the other end of the spectrum, 24 percent in a February 2015 Pew poll said the federal tax system is “not fair at all.” In a March 2017 CBS News poll, 7 percent said the income tax system was “quite fair to people like yourself,” 30 percent “reasonably fair,” 26 percent “somewhat unfair,” and 30 percent “quite unfair.”

In polls, Democrats usually have the edge when it comes to fairness issues, including tax fairness (see “Party Best Able to Handle Taxes” section).

Fairness of the system

- Which of the following taxes is the most unjust?

Jan. 1938	Roper/Fortune	
		Most unjust
General sales tax		33%
Tax on real estate		16
Taxes on gasoline		13
Social Security and unemployment tax		11
Income taxes		8
Taxes on cigarettes		4
Tax on beer and liquor		2
Tax on such items as jewelry, perfume, and theaters		2

- Which do you think is the worst tax – that is, the least fair?

		-----Least fair tax-----				
		Federal income	State income	State sales	Local property	Fed. Soc. Security tax
Mar. 1972	ORC	19%	13%	13%	45%	--
May 1973	ORC	30	10	20	31	--
Apr. 1974	ORC	30	10	20	28	--
May 1975	ORC	28	11	23	29	--
May 1977	ORC	28	11	17	33	--
May 1978	ORC	30	11	18	32	--
May 1979	ORC	37	8	15	27	--
May 1980	ORC	36	10	19	25	--
Sep. 1981	ORC	36	9	14	33	--
Jun. 1982	ORC	36	11	14	30	--
May 1983	Gallup/ACIR	35	11	13	26	--
May 1984	Gallup/ACIR	36	10	15	29	--
May 1985	Gallup/ACIR	38	10	16	24	--
May 1986	Gallup/ACIR	37	8	17	28	--
Jun. 1987	Gallup/ACIR	30	12	21	24	--
Jun. 1988	Gallup/ACIR	33	10	18	28	--
Jun. 1989	Gallup/ACIR	27	10	18	32	--
Jul. 1991	Gallup/ACIR	26	12	19	30	--
Jun. 1993	Gallup/ACIR	36	10	16	26	--
Jun. 1994	Gallup/ACIR	27	7	14	28	12%
Apr. 2003	Gallup	21	11	13	38	11
Apr. 2005*	Gallup	20	7	17	42	10
Apr. 2005*	Gallup	20	14	14	35	12

Note: *Asked of a half sample.

- Now, let me ask you the same question again. This time I will add a tax to the list. Which tax do you think is the worst tax – that is, the least fair?

		-----The worst tax, that is least fair-----				
		Federal income	Social Security	State income	State sales	Local property
Jun. 1988	Gallup/ACIR	26%	17%	9%	15%	24%
Jun. 1989	Gallup/ACIR	21	18	9	14	28
May 1990	Gallup/ACIR	26	15	10	12	28
Jun. 1992	Gallup/ACIR	25	10	9	16	25
Jun. 1994	Gallup/ACIR	27	12	7	14	28
Apr. 2003	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	21	11	11	13	38
Apr. 2005*	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	20	10	7	17	42

Note: *Asked of a half sample.

- Which one of the following taxes do you think is the least fair?

Mar. 2015	Fox News
Federal income tax	26%
Local property tax	25
Federal Social Security tax	14
State sales tax	13
State income tax	11
Don't know	11

Note: Asked of registered voters.

- Some of the biggest taxes that individuals have to pay are income taxes, Social Security taxes, sales taxes, and property taxes. No one likes to pay taxes, but thinking about these four taxes, I'd like you to rank them, starting with the one you dislike the most. Again, the four kinds of taxes are income tax, Social Security tax, sales tax, and property tax. Which of these do you dislike the most? And of the ones that you haven't mentioned, which do you dislike most?

		-----Most disliked tax-----			
		Federal income	Social Security	State sales	Local property
Feb.-Mar. 2003	Kaiser/NPR/Harvard	29%	9%	23%	36%

- Some taxes are paid to the federal government in Washington and some are paid to state and local governments. Of the following federal taxes, which do you think is the worst tax – that is, the least fair?

		-----Least fair federal tax-----			
		Federal estate	Federal income	Social Security	Federal corporate
Mar.-Apr. 2005	Harris/Tax Foundation	30%	26%	15%	8%
Mar. 2006	Harris/Tax Foundation	31	25	14	7

- Of the following state and local taxes, which do you think is the worst tax – that is, the least fair?

		-----Least fair state/local tax-----			
		Local property	State income	Sales tax	State corporate
Mar.-Apr. 2005	Harris/Tax Foundation	38%	19%	18%	7%
Mar. 2006	Harris/Tax Foundation	39	20	18	7

- Some taxes are paid to the federal government in Washington and some are paid to state and local governments. Using a scale of 1 to 5, where one means “very fair” and five means “not at all fair,” please indicate what you think of these federal taxes in terms of fairness.

Mar. 2007	Harris/Tax Foundation				
	-----Federal taxes-----				
	Very fair		Fair		Not at all fair
	1	2	3	4	5
Cigarette, beer, and wine taxes	29%	12%	24%	15%	21%
Corporate income taxes	16	10	32	17	25
Social security payroll taxes	8	9	42	21	19
Gas taxes	6	7	24	28	35
Estate taxes	5	6	23	25	42
Federal income taxes	4	9	39	31	17

Mar. 2009	Harris/Tax Foundation				
	-----Federal taxes-----				
	Very fair		Fair		Not at all fair
	1	2	3	4	5
Cigarette, beer, and wine taxes	28%	11%	27%	15%	20%
Corporate income taxes	15	9	28	20	29
Social security payroll taxes	10	9	43	20	18
Gas taxes	7	6	31	26	29
Estate taxes	4	5	26	27	38
Federal income taxes	6	8	39	29	18

- Using a scale of 1 to 5, where one means “very fair” and five means “not at all fair,” please indicate what you think of these state and local taxes in terms of fairness.

Mar. 2007	Harris/Tax Foundation				
	-----State & local taxes-----				
	Very fair		Fair		Not at all fair
	1	2	3	4	5
Cigarette, beer and wine taxes	27%	13%	22%	14%	24%
State income taxes	7	10	38	24	20
Retail sales taxes	6	11	46	23	14
Motor vehicle taxes	5	10	37	27	20
Gas taxes	5	8	25	26	36
Local property taxes	4	8	38	27	23

Mar. 2009	Harris/Tax Foundation				
	-----State & local taxes-----				
	Very fair		Fair		Not at all fair
	1	2	3	4	5
Cigarette, beer and wine taxes	27%	9%	27%	16%	21%
State income taxes	8	7	41	25	19
Retail sales taxes	7	10	46	21	15
Motor vehicle taxes	5	9	40	26	21
Gas taxes	7	6	29	28	30
Local property taxes	5	6	33	30	25

- How fair do you think our present federal tax system is? Overall, would you say that our tax system is very fair, moderately fair, not too fair or not fair at all?

		Very fair	Moderately fair	Not too fair	Not fair at all
May 1985	CNN/Time	2%	41%	31%	24%
Mar. 1997	CNN/Time	3	42	31	23
Feb.-Mar. 2003	Kaiser/NPR/Harvard	4	47	32	16
Apr. 2011	CNN/ORC	4	45	30	20
Dec. 2011	Pew	3	40	31	24
Feb. 2015	Pew	4	46	24	24

- We'd like to talk to you about the income tax system. How do you feel about the present federal income tax system – do you feel it is quite fair to most people, or reasonably fair, or somewhat unfair, or quite unfair to most people?

		-----Income tax fairness-----			
		Quite fair	Reasonably fair	Somewhat unfair	Quite unfair
May 1977	Roper GfK-NOP	3%	27%	34%	30%
Apr. 1978	Roper GfK-NOP	4	25	34	33
May 1979	Roper GfK-NOP	4	28	36	29
Jan. 1985	Roper GfK-NOP	3	32	31	29
Apr. 1986	Roper GfK-NOP	3	33	38	23
Apr. 1988	Roper GfK-NOP	5	35	29	24
Aug. 1989	Roper GfK-NOP	5	27	32	30
Dec. 1990	Roper GfK-NOP	4	26	32	30
Mar. 1993	Roper GfK-NOP	4	32	33	22
Jul. 1996	Roper GfK-NOP	4	39	29	24

- We'd like to know about the federal taxes you or your family paid last year and whether you think everyone in the United States pays his or her fair share. Do you think our system of federal taxes is basically fair, or not? (If fair) Would you say it's essentially fair, or would you say it needs some improvement? (If not fair) Would you say it needs many improvements, or would you say it's essentially unfair and needs a fundamental overhaul?

		-----Feelings about tax system-----			
		Fair	Fair/Some improvements	Unfair/Many improvements	Unfair/Needs overhaul
Jan. 1985	LAT	12%	27%	16%	40%
Apr. 1991	LAT	12	28	18	40

- When it comes to who pays what in taxes, do you think the federal income tax system is...?

		Basically fair	Basically unfair
Mar-Apr. 2005	Blum & Weprin/NBC News	40%	54%

- In 2006, 45.6 million Americans – that's one-third of all taxpayers – paid no federal income tax after deductions and credits. Thinking about your own tax burden, do you think this is fair, or do you feel everyone should be required to pay some minimum amount of tax to help fund government?*

		Should be a minimum amount	Current system is fair	Not sure
Mar.-Apr. 2005	Harris/Tax Foundation	59%	21%	20%
Mar. 2006	Harris/Tax Foundation	63	21	16
Mar. 2007	Harris/Tax Foundation	61	24	15
Feb. 2009	Harris/Tax Foundation	66	19	15

Note: The first sentence of the question varied by year to reflect recent statistics.

- Do you think people who are poor, and earn below a certain income, should be required to pay taxes on what they earn or should they be exempt from paying income taxes?

Nov. 2011	McClatchy/Marist Poll	Be required to pay	Be exempt
		taxes on what they earn	paying taxes
	Note: Asked of registered voters.	60%	37%

- Many people who don't pay income taxes are senior citizens on Social security, people on disability, or students, the unemployed, and the working poor who do not earn enough to owe taxes on their income. Do you think such people should pay at least some income taxes or is it fair that they do not pay income taxes? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

Sep. 2012	ABC/Wash Post	Should pay some		Fair not to pay	
		Strongly	Somewhat	Somewhat	Strongly
		21%	18%	18%	39%

- When two families have the same income, do you think it is fair or unfair that one family pays less tax because they . . . ?

Feb.-Mar. 2003	Kaiser/NPR/Harvard		Fair	Unfair
		Have more dependent children than the other family	76%	23%
		Have more medical expenses than the other family	71	27
		Give more to charity than the other family	62	36
		Have a home mortgage, while the other family does not	55	41
		Receive more of their income from investments than the other family	42	52

- Do you think raising taxes on income over \$250,000 would make the tax system more fair make the tax system less fair, or not make a difference?

Jul. 2012	Pew	More fair	Less fair	No difference
		44%	21%	25%

- Would you say each of the following groups pays too much, too little, or about the right amount in federal taxes?

Jan. 2015	AP-GfK		
	Too much	Too little	About the right amount
You and your household	56%	4%	37%
Middle class households	60	7	31
Low income households	41	19	38
Wealthy households	11	68	18

Fairness to you

- Which type of tax on this list would you say is most fair for you?

Jun. 1978	CBS/NYT	-----Most fair tax-----				
		Federal income	Social Security	State income	State sales	Local property
		13%	24%	17%	19%	10%

- Do you regard the income tax which you will have to pay this year as fair? (Gallup)
- Do you regard the income tax which you will have to pay this year as fair, or not? (CBS/NTT)

		Income tax you pay is fair	
		Yes	No
Feb. 1943	Gallup	85%	15%
Feb. 1944	Gallup	90	10
Mar. 1944	Gallup	87	13
Mar. 1945	Gallup	85	15
Feb. 1946	Gallup	62	38
Nov. 1946	Gallup	60	34
Mar. 1997	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	51	43
Apr. 1999	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	45	49
Apr. 2001	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	51	46
Apr. 2002	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	58	37
Apr. 2003	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	64	33
Apr. 2004	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	62	33
Apr. 2005	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	61	34
Apr. 2006	Gallup	60	34
Apr. 2007	Gallup	60	37
Apr. 2008	Gallup	60	35
Apr. 2009	Gallup	61	35
Apr. 2010	Gallup	59	36
Apr. 2010	CBS/NTT	62	30
Apr. 2011	Gallup	57	40
Apr. 2012	Gallup	59	37
Apr. 2013	Gallup	55	42
Apr. 2014	Gallup	54	41
Apr. 2015	Gallup	56	40
Apr. 2016	Gallup	50	47
Apr. 2017	Gallup	61	35

Responses by party identification

Republicans			
Apr. 2016	Gallup	39%	N/A
Apr. 2017	Gallup	56	N/A
Democrats			
Apr. 2016	Gallup	64%	N/A
Apr. 2017	Gallup	69	N/A
Independents			
Apr. 2016	Gallup	47%	N/A
Apr. 2017	Gallup	60	N/A

- For each statement, please tell me if you completely agree with it, mostly agree with it, mostly disagree with it, or completely disagree with it. The tax system is unfair to people like me.

		Completely agree	Mostly agree	Mostly disagree	Completely disagree
Aug. 2002	Pew	24%	29%	34%	9%
Aug. 2003	Pew	22	28	35	10
Dec. 2006-Jan. 2007	Pew	19	29	37	10

- Do you think the amount of taxes you pay is fair or unfair?

		Very fair	Somewhat fair	Somewhat unfair	Very unfair
Apr. 2007	AP/Ipsos/AOL	16%	37%	20%	25%
Mar. 2011	AP/GfK	15	38	24	22

- Compared with other taxpayers, is it your impression that you pay more taxes than you probably should, or about the right amount, or that you pay less than you probably should?

		-----Compared to other taxpayers -----		
		More taxes than you should	Less taxes than you should	About the right amount
		35%	4%	57%
Jan. 1985	LAT			

- How do you feel about the present income tax system – do you feel that it is quite fair to people like yourself, reasonably fair, somewhat unfair, or quite unfair to people like yourself

		----- Income tax fairness to people like yourself -----			
		Quite fair	Reasonably fair	Somewhat unfair	Quite unfair
Apr. 1978	CBS/NYT	5%	30%	29%	29%
Apr. 1980	CBS/NYT	7	31	29	30
Apr. 1983	CBS/NYT	7	34	26	30
May 1988	CBS/NYT	7	32	27	27
Mar. 1992	CBS/NYT	6	33	31	28
Feb. 1995	CBS/NYT	6	40	29	22
Oct. 1996	CBS	5	35	30	28
Apr. 1997	CBS	8	36	26	27
Oct. 2000*	CBS	6	38	27	24
Mar. 2017	CBS	7	30	26	30

Note: *Asked of registered voters.

- Do you feel you pay more than your fair share in federal income taxes, less than your fair share, or is the amount you pay about right?

		More than fair share	Less than fair share	About right	Don't file
Apr. 1997	CBS	49%	2%	47%	1%
Apr. 2006	CBS	34	1	58	4
Apr. 2007	CBS	37	1	55	5
Mar.-Apr. 2010	CBS	43	1	50	4
Feb. 2011	CBS	30	3	62	3
Mar. 2011	CBS	41	2	51	4
Jan. 2012	CBS	40	2	52	--
Apr. 2012	CBS/NYT	36	2	58	--
May 2012	CBS/NYT	34	3	59	--
Mar. 2013	CBS	34	2	60	2
Jan. 2014	CBS	42	3	50	--
Jan. 2015	CBS	37	2	58	--

- Considering what you get from the federal government, do you think you pay more than your fair share of taxes, less than your fair share, or about the right amount?

		More than fair share	Less than fair share	About the right amount
Oct. 1997	Pew	52%	2%	45%
Feb. 2000	Pew	55	1	41
May 2000	NPR/Kaiser/Harvard	55	2	42
Mar. 2010	Pew	43	3	50
Dec. 2011	Pew	38	5	52
Feb. 2015	Pew	40	4	53
Oct. 2015	Pew	40	4	54

- Do you think you pay more than your fair share, less than your fair share, or just about your fair share in federal income taxes?

		More than fair share	Less than fair share	Just about your fair share
Apr. 2005	Blum & Weprin/NBC News	35%	2%	61%

- Do you feel like you pay more than your fair share in taxes, less than your fair share, or do you feel the amount of taxes you pay is pretty close to your fair share?

		More than fair share	Less than fair share	About the fair share
Apr. 2011	Fox News	43%	3%	52%
Note: Asked of registered voters.				

- Do you think you get more than your fair share of tax deductions and credits, less than your fair share, or about your fair share of tax deductions and credits?

		-----Tax deductions-----		
		More than fair share	About fair share	Less than fair share
Feb.-Mar. 2003	Kaiser/NPR/Harvard	4%	57%	35%

DOES THE TAX SYSTEM FAVOR THE RICH?: Since the questions were first asked more than forty years ago, people have told pollsters that the tax system helps the rich. Over that time, Republicans have been saddled with the image that their policies benefit upper-income people. Initially, George W. Bush did better on this score than his father did. Around 60 percent in a Gallup/CNN/USA Today survey thought the senior Bush's policies benefited the rich; a majority in 2003 said the son's plans did, but around 40 percent said they benefited all people equally.

Support for raising taxes on the rich remains high, but one surprising finding from Gallup shows that the proportion that believes upper-income people pay too little has dropped from 77 percent in 1992 to 61 percent in 2016. Another is that 20 percent of Americans believe lower-income people pay too little in taxes, according to a 2016 Gallup question. This is up from eight percent in March 1992.

- Now I want to read you some things some people have told us they have felt from time to time. Do you feel or not feel the rich get richer and the poor get poorer?

-----Rich get richer/Poor get poorer-----					
		Yes			Yes
1972	Harris Interactive	67%	2001	Harris Interactive	69
1977	Harris Interactive	77	2002	Harris Interactive	72
1985	Harris Interactive	79	2003	Harris Interactive	69
1990	Harris Interactive	82	2004	Harris Interactive	68
1991	Harris Interactive	83	2005	Harris Interactive	75
1992	Harris Interactive	83	2006	Harris Interactive	72
1993	Harris Interactive	81	2007	Harris Interactive	73
1994	Harris Interactive	78	2008	Harris Interactive	71
1995	Harris Interactive	79	2009	Harris Interactive	66
1996	Harris Interactive	76	2010	Harris Interactive	68
1997	Harris Interactive	78	2011	Harris Interactive	74
1998	Harris Interactive	72	2013	Harris Interactive	80
1999	Harris Interactive	74	2014	Harris Interactive	81
2000	Harris Interactive	69			

- I want to read off to you a number of things some people have told us they have felt from time to time. Do you tend to feel the tax laws are written to help the rich and not the average man, or not?

		Tax laws help rich	Tax laws do not help rich
1972	Harris	68%	25%
1973	Harris	74	21
1974	Harris	75	19
1978	Harris	74	18

- I'd like to know whether the following statement describes or does not describe the way you feel: the present tax system benefits the rich and is unfair to the ordinary working man or woman.

		Tax system helps rich	Tax system does not benefit rich
Mar. 1983	Yankelovich/Time	75%	20%
Mar. 1995	Yankelovich/CNN/Time	74	21
Mar. 1997	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	69	26
Apr. 2012	CNN/ORC	68	29

- Do you think the current U.S. tax system favors the middle class, favors the wealthy, or treats both groups about equally?

		Favors middle class	Favors wealthy	Both equally
Feb. 2012	ABC/Wash Post	9%	68%	19%

- For each one would you tell me whether you think they have to pay too much in taxes, or too little in taxes or about the right amount...High-income families?

		-----High-income families pay-----		
		Too much in taxes	About right	Too little in taxes
May 1977	Roper GfK-NOP	8%	10%	75%
May 1978	Roper GfK-NOP	7	9	76
Jul. 1978	Roper GfK-NOP	8	9	76
May 1979	Roper GfK-NOP	8	9	75
Jan. 1985	Roper GfK-NOP	5	10	80
Apr. 1986	Roper GfK-NOP	7	10	77
Jan. 1992	Roper GfK-NOP	9	10	72

- For each one would you tell me whether you think they have to pay too much in taxes, or too little in taxes or about the right amount...Middle-income families?

		-----Middle-income families pay-----		
		Too much in taxes	About right	Too little in taxes
May 1977	Roper GfK-NOP	69%	25%	2%
May 1978	Roper GfK-NOP	74	20	2
Jul. 1978	Roper GfK-NOP	77	17	2
May 1979	Roper GfK-NOP	72	22	2
Jan. 1985	Roper GfK-NOP	69	26	2
Apr. 1986	Roper GfK-NOP	62	29	4
Jan. 1992	Roper GfK-NOP	69	20	4

- For each one would you tell me whether you think they have to pay too much in taxes, or too little in taxes or about the right amount...Low-income families?

		-----Low-income families pay-----		
		Too much in taxes	About right	Too little in taxes
May 1977	Roper GfK-NOP	54%	32%	5%
May 1978	Roper GfK-NOP	47	37	4
Jul. 1978	Roper GfK-NOP	54	31	4
May 1979	Roper GfK-NOP	45	39	5
Jan. 1985	Roper GfK-NOP	57	34	4
Apr. 1986	Roper GfK-NOP	53	31	4
Jan. 1992	Roper GfK-NOP	54	30	5

- As I read off some different groups, please tell me if you think they are paying their fair share in federal taxes, paying too much or paying too little...Upper-income people?

		-----Upper-income people pay-----		
		Too much in taxes	Fair share	Too little in taxes
Mar. 1992	Gallup	4%	16%	77%
Mar. 1993	Gallup	5	16	75
Apr. 1994	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	10	20	68
Apr. 1996	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	9	20	68
Apr. 1999	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	10	19	66
Apr. 2003	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	10	24	63
Apr. 2004	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	9	24	63
Apr. 2005	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	7	22	68
Apr. 2006	Gallup/USA Today	8	21	67
Apr. 2007	Gallup	9	21	66
Apr. 2008	Gallup	9	24	63
Apr. 2009	Gallup	13	23	60
Apr. 2010	Gallup	15	26	55
Apr. 2011	Gallup	13	25	59
Apr. 2012	Gallup	10	25	62
Apr. 2013	Gallup	11	26	61
Apr. 2014	Gallup	13	24	61
Apr. 2015	Gallup	11	25	62
Apr. 2016	Gallup	15	21	61

- As I read off some different groups, please tell me if you think they are paying their fair share in federal taxes, paying too much or paying too little...Middle-income people?

		-----Middle-income people pay-----		
		Too much in taxes	Fair share	Too little in taxes
Mar. 1992	Gallup	57%	36%	5%
Mar. 1993	Gallup	54	39	5
Apr. 1994	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	57	39	3
Apr. 1996	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	58	34	5
Apr. 1999	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	59	35	4
Apr. 2003	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	40	51	7
Apr. 2004	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	46	47	4
Apr. 2005	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	41	52	4
Apr. 2006	Gallup/USA Today	43	50	5
Apr. 2007	Gallup	47	44	7
Apr. 2008	Gallup	43	50	4
Apr. 2009	Gallup	43	50	5
Apr. 2010	Gallup	43	49	6
Apr. 2011	Gallup	44	50	5
Apr. 2012	Gallup	36	56	6
Apr. 2013	Gallup	42	53	3
Apr. 2014	Gallup	49	42	7
Apr. 2015	Gallup	46	44	6
Apr. 2016	Gallup	53	39	6

- As I read off some different groups, please tell me if you think they are paying their fair share in federal taxes, paying too much or paying too little...Lower-income people?

		-----Lower-income people pay-----		
		Too much in taxes	Fair share	Too little in taxes
Mar. 1992	Gallup	57%	32%	8%
Mar. 1993	Gallup	51	37	9
Apr. 1994	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	42	43	13
Apr. 1996	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	48	40	9
Apr. 1999	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	51	34	11
Apr. 2003	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	49	36	12
Apr. 2004	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	49	35	12
Apr. 2005	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	51	36	10
Apr. 2006	Gallup/USA Today	46	36	12
Apr. 2007	Gallup	45	34	17
Apr. 2008	Gallup	51	32	13
Apr. 2009	Gallup	39	41	16
Apr. 2010	Gallup	39	35	22
Apr. 2011	Gallup	40	37	21
Apr. 2012	Gallup	40	33	24
Apr. 2013	Gallup	40	37	19
Apr. 2014	Gallup	41	33	23
Apr. 2015	Gallup	45	30	21
Apr. 2016	Gallup	46	31	20

- As I read off some different groups, please tell me if you think they are paying their fair share in federal taxes, paying too much or paying too little...Corporations?

		-----Corporations-----		
		Too much in taxes	Fair share	Too little in taxes
Apr. 2004	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	5%	19%	69%
Apr. 2005	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	4	21	69
Apr. 2006	Gallup/USA Today	5	18	70
Apr. 2007	Gallup	5	19	71
Apr. 2008	Gallup	6	15	73
Apr. 2009	Gallup	8	18	67
Apr. 2010	Gallup	9	22	62

Apr. 2011	Gallup	9	20	67
Apr. 2012	Gallup	11	21	64
Apr. 2013	Gallup	8	21	66
Apr. 2014	Gallup	8	20	66
Apr. 2015	Gallup	9	16	69
Apr. 2016	Gallup	12	16	67

- Do you think American corporations pay more than their fair share in federal income taxes, less than their fair share, or is the amount American corporations pay about right?

		More than their fair share	About right amount	Less than their fair share
Jan. 2015	CBS News	13%	24%	55%

- What about upper-income Americans? Do you feel upper-income people pay more than their fair share in federal income taxes, less than their fair share, or is the amount they pay about right?

		More than their fair share	About right amount	Less than their fair share
Jan. 2012	CBS/NTT	11%	24%	55%
Apr. 2012	CBS/NTT	11	24	57
Jan. 2014	CBS	14	23	57

- I'm going to read you a list of groups. Please tell me if you think they pay more than their fair share, less than their fair share, or about their fair share in federal taxes . . . ?

Jun. 2003 Public Interest Project/Greenberg Quinlan Rosner (D)

-----High-income families pay-----			-----Middle-income families pay-----		
More than fair share	About fair share	Less than fair share	More than fair share	About fair share	Less than fair share
15%	25%	57%	59%	34%	3%
-----Low-income families pay-----			-----You & your family pay -----		
More than fair share	About fair share	Less than fair share	More than fair share	About fair share	Less than fair share
36%	40%	20 %	45%	48%	3%

- Do you think that the income tax structure in your country correctly taxes those who earn the highest incomes?

		Yes	No, they should be taxed more	No, they should be taxed less	Not sure
Jul. 2007	Financial Times/Harris	12%	61%	10%	17%

- Do you think that the income tax structure in your country correctly taxes those who earn the lowest incomes?

		Yes	No, they should be taxed more	No, they should be taxed less	Not sure
Jul. 2007	Financial Times/Harris	19%	6%	59%	17%

- Generally speaking, in your opinion are the rich paying their fair share of taxes or not?

		Paying	Not paying	Not sure
Feb. 2012	IBD	28%	64%	7%

- Do you think it is morally acceptable for the middle class to try to reduce the amount they have to pay in taxes, even if it means bending the rules?

		Yes, morally acceptable	No, not morally acceptable
Mar. 2014	Reason-Rupe	21%	77%

- Do you think it is morally acceptable for the wealthy to try to reduce the amount they have to pay in taxes, even if it means bending the rules?

		Yes, morally acceptable	No, not morally acceptable
Mar. 2014	Reason-Rupe	15%	77%

THE TAX DEBATE IN 2012: RAISING TAXES ON THE RICH: Throughout the 2012 presidential campaign, talk about taxes revolved around the proposal to raise taxes on households with income greater than \$250,000 per year. A clear majority supported such a proposal in most polls. An April 2016 Public Religion Research Institute poll shows this is still the case, with 59 percent in favor, including 27 percent strongly in favor.

- If Congress decided to raise taxes for those with the highest household income, should it be for those who earn more than \$250,000, more than \$500,000 or more than \$1 million?

		\$250,000	\$500,000	\$1 million
Dec. 2010	Bloomberg	43%	28%	23%

- If taxes need to be raised to reduce the deficit, do you think enough revenue can be raised by taxing only those with household incomes of \$250,000 a year or more, or do you think all taxpayers will have to pay more?

		Just those with \$250,000 a year or more	All taxpayers
Mar. 2011	Bloomberg	34%	61%

- Now I'm going to read you some of the specific proposals for cutting government spending and increasing taxes that have been suggested as part of the discussions on the debt ceiling. For each one, please tell me whether you favor or oppose that proposal as a way to reduce the amount that the government owes. Increasing the taxes paid by people who make more than \$250,000 thousand dollars a year.

		Favor	Oppose
Jul. 2011	CNN/ORC	73%	26%

Demographic breakdowns

Income

<\$35k	80%	20%
\$35k-\$49k	77	23
\$50k – \$74k	75	25
\$75k	68	32

Party ID

Republican	51%	49%
Democrat	92	7
Independent	71	29

Note: Other response categories not shown.

- Do you support or oppose reducing taxes across the board, even if it means increasing the deficit?

		Support	Oppose
Nov. 2016	Quinnipiac	32%	60%

Note: Asked of registered voters.

- Do you support or oppose reducing taxes across the board?

		Support	Oppose
Mar. 2017	Quinnipiac	58%	37%
Apr. 2017	Quinnipiac	58	34

Note: Asked of registered voters.

- Please tell me whether you favor or oppose the following. Raising taxes on higher income people.

		Favor strongly	Favor somewhat	Oppose somewhat	Oppose strongly
Sep. 2011	Time/Abt SRBI	52%	18%	12%	16%

Note: Asked of a half sample.

- Please tell me whether you favor or oppose each of the following proposals President Barack Obama has made to pay for the cost of the jobs bill. How about increasing income taxes on individuals earning at least \$200,000 and families earning at least \$250,000?

Sep. 2011	Gallup/USA Today	Favor 66%	Oppose 32%
-----------	------------------	--------------	---------------

- Should taxes on millionaires be increased in order to lower the deficit?

Oct. 2011	CBS News	Yes 64%	No 30%
<i>Party breakdowns</i>			
	Republican	40%	54%
	Democrat	83	13
	Independents	65	28

- Please tell me whether you favor or oppose the following. Increasing the taxes paid by people who make more than one million dollars a year.

Oct. 2011	CNN/ORC	Favor 76%	Oppose 24%
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- Please tell me whether you favor or oppose the following. Increasing the taxes paid by people who make more than 250 thousand dollars a year.

Oct. 2011	CNN/ORC	Favor 63%	Oppose 37%
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- In order to pay for government efforts to promote job creation, would you favor, oppose or neither favor nor oppose a five-point-six percent tax surcharge on income over 1 million dollars?

Oct. 2011	AP-GfK/Roper	Strongly favor 46%	Somewhat favor 16%	Neither favor nor oppose 10%	Somewhat oppose 11%	Strongly oppose 16%
Note: Asked of a half sample.						

- In order to pay for government efforts to promote job creation, would you favor, oppose or neither favor nor oppose limiting income tax deductions for individuals making more than \$200,000 and families over \$250,000 each year?

Oct. 2011	AP-GfK/Roper	Strongly favor 28%	Somewhat favor 18%	Neither favor nor oppose 11%	Somewhat oppose 15%	Strongly oppose 24%
Note: Asked of a half sample.						

- Please tell me if you would support or oppose each of the following to help reduce the nation's budget deficit . . . Raising taxes on households with incomes of \$250,000 per year and higher.

Oct. 2011	Bloomberg/Wash Post	Support 68%	Oppose 27%
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- Would you favor or oppose raising taxes on people with annual incomes of a million dollars or more to help cut the federal deficit?

Oct. 2011	Time/Abt SRBI	Favor 73%	Oppose 23%
-----------	---------------	--------------	---------------

- Do you support or oppose a federal surcharge on income of 200 thousand dollars or more for individuals and \$250,000 or more for married couples, referred to as the millionaire's tax?

Nov. 2011	McClatchy/Marist	Support 49%	Oppose 43%
Note: Asked of registered voters.			

- How about a federal surcharge on income of \$1 million or more. Do you support or oppose a federal surcharge on income of \$1 million or more, referred to as the millionaire's tax?

		Support	Oppose
Nov. 2011	McClatchy/Marist	61%	31%
Note: Asked of registered voters.			

- The President Barack Obama says he is proposing a 30 percent tax on millionaires because many wealthy Americans pay a 15 percent tax on their investment income, such as capital gains and dividends. Do you think investment income should be taxed at a lower rate than wages or should it be taxed at the same rate as wages?

		Lower rate	Same rate	Higher rate
Jan. 2012	UT/NJ/PSRA	27%	56%	6%

- I'm going to read you some proposals that Barack Obama made in his State of the Union address earlier this week. As I read each one, please tell me if you generally agree or disagree with the idea. Establish a new rule that anyone who earns at least \$1 million annually must pay at least 30 percent of their income in taxes.

		Agree	Disagree	Don't know
Jan. 2012	UT/NJ/PSRA	65%	31%	5%

- Do you support or oppose raising taxes on Americans with incomes over one million dollars a year? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

		Support	Oppose
Oct. 2011	ABC/Wash Post	75%	23%
Feb. 2012	ABC/Wash Post	72	24

- Please tell me if you would favor, oppose, or neither favor nor oppose a law requiring that all Americans with incomes of one million dollars or more pay at least 30 percent of their income in taxes.

		Favor	Oppose	Neither
Feb. 2012	AP-GfK/Roper	65%	26%	7%

- Do you support or oppose establishing a minimum tax rate of 30 percent on Americans making 1 million dollars a year or more -- also called the Buffett Rule?

		Support	Oppose	Neither
Mar. 2012	Reuters/Ipsos Poll	64%	30%	2%
<i>Party breakdowns</i>				
	Republican	49%	43%	2%
	Democrat	76	18	2
	Independent	59	33	1

- Would you favor or oppose Congress passing a new law that would require households earning \$1 million a year or more to pay a minimum of 30% of their income in taxes?

		Favor	Oppose
Apr. 2012	Gallup	60%	37%
<i>Party breakdowns</i>			
	Republican	43%	54%
	Independent	63	34
	Democrat	74	24

- Do you think raising taxes on income over \$250,000 would make the tax system more fair make the tax system less fair, or not make a difference?

		More fair	Less fair	No difference
Jul. 2012	Pew	44%	21%	25%

- Do you favor or oppose raising taxes on households over \$250,000 a year?

		Favor	Oppose
Sep. 2012	Reason/Rupe	57%	39%

- Do you think raising taxes on households making more than \$250,000 a year would make the tax system more fair, less fair, or not make much of a difference?

		More fair	Less fair	Not make much difference
Sep. 2012	Reason/Rupe	43%	21%	32%

- Do you believe that all Americans should be required to pay some amount of federal income taxes, even if it is as little as one percent of their income?

		Yes	No
Sep. 2012	Fox News	79%	19%
Note: Asked of registered voters.			

- Overall, do you support or oppose raising taxes on incomes over 250 thousand dollars a year?

		Support	Oppose
Nov. 2012	ABC/Wash Post	60%	37%

- Now, we would like to get your views on some issues that are being discussed in the country today. Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose increasing the tax rate on Americans earning more than \$250,000 a year?

		Strongly favor	Favor	Oppose	Strongly oppose
Sep. 2012	PRRI	33%	28%	19%	17%
Jun. 2013	PRRI	29	34	22	12
Aug. 2014	PRRI	26	31	24	13
Apr. 2016	PRRI	27	32	21	14

PROGRESSIVITY: *More than fifty years ago, two University of Chicago law school professors, Walter Blum and Harry Kalven, began a project to explore “how deeply the public was committed to progressive taxation and on what basis.” At the time, a constitutional amendment was proposed that would limit income tax rates to a maximum of 25 percent, except in times of war. Their large-scale public opinion survey was never completed, but pilot studies were done. The professors found that among tax questions, “the issue of distributing the tax burden ranked near the bottom.” They found that people could understand “the concept of the wealthy paying more in tax than the less wealthy, but they did not comprehend the idea of the wealthy paying more than a proportionately greater tax than the less wealthy. Proportionate and progressive rate schedules simply were not seen as involving a choice of principles.”*

In 1996, a Roper survey asked Americans about a handful of words and phrases people in government and the media use to talk about the economy. Thirty-two percent thought they had a pretty good idea what the person was talking about when he used the words “progressive tax,” 26 percent said they had some idea, and 34 percent said “not much of an idea.” More than 70 percent said they had a pretty good idea of what the words “depression,” and separately, “inflation” and “recession” meant. In the February-March 2003 Kaiser Family Foundation/NPR/Harvard poll, 56 percent said they had not heard the term “progressive taxes.” Of the remainder, 21 percent said they had heard it and knew what it meant, and 22 percent had heard it but did not know what it meant.

*We have not been able to find copies of the Blum and Kalven pilot studies, only their commentary about them (see *The Uneasy Case for Progressive Taxation*, University of Chicago Press, 4th edition, 1963, introduction).*

In this section we present questions about government’s role in redistributing wealth and a handful of questions asked over sixty years that explore Americans’ ideas in this area. We include two questions asked over many years by the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago about what the government’s role should be in reducing income differences between the rich and the poor. In 1952, in a Gallup question, people were divided about a law that would prohibit the government from taking more than a quarter of a person’s earnings; in the mid-1990s, people seemed comfortable with a limit of around 25 percent for top earners. In the 2009 Harris Interactive/Tax Foundation online poll, people said that 15.6 percent (mean response) was the maximum percentage people should have to pay in all taxes.

- The President has stated that one-third of the population of the U.S. has less than a minimum of the necessities for a decent life. Do you agree with him?

		Yes	No
Oct. 1937	Roper/Fortune	71%	17%

- Do you think the federal government should follow a policy of taking money from those who have much and giving money to those who have little?

		Yes	No
Oct. 1937	Roper/Fortune	54%	41%

- For the past 68 years, the federal income tax has been based on the principle that higher-income people not only have to pay more in taxes but must pay a greater percentage of their income in taxes. Do you feel that principle is fair and equitable or not?

		-----Tax progressivity-----	
		Fair principle	Not fair principle
Aug. 1981	Harris	58%	38%

- Do you feel that the distribution of money and wealth in this country today is fair, or do you feel that the money and wealth in this country should be more evenly distributed among a larger percentage of the people?

		Distribution is fair	Should be more evenly distributed
1984	Gallup	31%	60%
1985	<i>LAT</i>	28	61
1987	Gallup	27	66
1990	Gallup	28	66
1996	Gallup	33	62
1998	Gallup	31	63
2000	Gallup	38	56
2003	Gallup	31	63
2007	Gallup	29	66
Apr. 2008	Gallup	27	68
Oct. 2008	Gallup	37	58
Mar. 2009	Gallup	35	59
Apr. 2011	Gallup	35	57
Apr. 2013	Gallup	33	59
Apr. 2015	Gallup	31	63
Apr. 2016	Gallup	34	59

- Do you feel that the distribution of money and wealth in this country is fair, or do you feel that the money and wealth in this country should be more evenly distributed among more people?

		Distribution is fair	Should be more evenly distributed
Oct. 2000	<i>Wash Post/Kaiser/Harvard</i>	32%	63%
Oct. 2011	<i>CBS/NYT</i>	26	66
Jan. 2012	<i>CBS/NYT</i>	31	64
Jul. 2012	<i>CBS/NYT</i>	32	60
Jan. 2014	<i>CBS/NYT</i>	31	62
Feb. 2014	<i>CBS/NYT</i>	31	63
May 2015	<i>CBS/NYT</i>	27	66
Aug. 2015	<i>CBS</i>	30	63
Oct. 2015	<i>CBS/NYT</i>	28	65
Jun. 2016	<i>AP-NORC</i>	25	74

- Do you think that our government should or should not redistribute wealth by heavy taxes on the rich?

		Redistribute wealth by ----heavy taxes on rich?----	
		Should	Should not
Jun. 1939	<i>Roper/Fortune</i>	35%	54%
	<i>Prosperous</i>	17	76
	<i>Upper middle class</i>	28	64
	<i>Lower middle class</i>	34	57
	<i>Poor</i>	46	40
Apr.-May 1998	Gallup	45	51
Apr. 2007	Gallup	49	47
Apr. 2008	Gallup	51	43
Oct. 2008	Gallup	46	50
Mar. 2009	Gallup	50	46
Apr. 2011	Gallup	47	49
Apr. 2013	Gallup	52	45
Apr. 2015	Gallup	52	45
Apr. 2016	Gallup	52	46

Note: *Fortune* divided its sample into these four economic groups based on its own criteria. In October 2008, 17 percent of Republicans said yes, 47 percent of independents and 75 percent of Democrats said wealth should be redistributed via heavy taxes on the rich.

- Some people think that the government in Washington ought to reduce the income differences between the rich and the poor, perhaps by raising the taxes of wealthy families or by giving income assistance to the poor. Here is a card with a scale from 1 to 7. Think of a score of 1 as meaning that the government ought to reduce the income differences between rich and poor, and a score of 7 meaning that the government should not concern itself with reducing income differences. What score between 1 and 7 comes closest to the way you feel?

		Govt. should reduce income differences				Govt. shouldn't reduce income differences		
		-----Points-----						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1973	NORC	36%	12%	10%	11%	6%	7%	15%
1978	NORC	19	11	17	21	11	8	12
1980	NORC	17	9	16	20	12	7	16
1983	NORC	20	11	16	17	11	8	14
1984	NORC	21	12	15	17	13	8	12
1986	NORC	23	9	17	21	11	6	12
1987	NORC	19	9	17	21	13	6	14
1988	NORC	20	10	18	20	12	8	11
1989	NORC	18	13	19	20	11	7	10
1990	NORC	21	12	18	21	9	6	10
1991	NORC	20	12	17	20	12	7	9
1993	NORC	17	12	19	18	12	8	12
1994	NORC	14	9	16	21	15	8	15
1996	NORC	17	10	16	21	12	8	12
1998	NORC	15	10	17	21	11	8	16
2000	NORC	16	12	16	20	14	9	13
2004	NORC	20	8	18	19	13	8	14
2006	NORC	20	9	17	22	13	7	11
2008	NORC	24	8	17	19	13	7	12
2010	NORC	18	8	16	18	16	7	17
2012	NORC	24	10	15	18	11	6	15
2014	NORC	22	10	15	17	14	7	15

- What is your opinion of the following statement? It is the responsibility of the government to reduce the differences in income between people with high incomes and those with low incomes?

		-----Govt. should reduce income differences-----		
		Strongly agree/ Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree strongly/ Disagree
1985	NORC	30%	20%	50%
1990	NORC	33	27	39
1993	NORC	31	21	46
1994	NORC	27	18	51
1996	NORC	32	24	42
2000	NORC	33	25	40
2008	NORC	37	20	43

- In thinking about the gap between the rich and everyone else, do you think it would be better for the government to implement policies designed to shrink the gap or better for the government to stand aside and let the market operate freely even if the gap gets wider?

		Government should . . .	
		Shrink the gap	Stand aside
Apr. 2013	Selzer & Company/Bloomberg	46%	47%
Jun. 2014	Selzer & Company/Bloomberg	44	47
Mar. 2014	Selzer & Company/Bloomberg	45	43
Dec. 2015	Selzer & Company/Bloomberg	45	46

- Do you think the government should do more to reduce the gap between the rich and the poor in this country or should not be doing this?

		Should do more	Should not
Jan. 2014	CBS	49%	45%
Jan. 2015	CBS	55	39

- Do you agree or disagree with the following: It is the responsibility of government to reduce the differences in income between high-income people and middle-income people? Is that strongly or somewhat agree/disagree?

		-----Govt. should reduce income differences-----			
		-----between people with high & middle incomes-----			
		Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Feb.-Mar. 2003	Kaiser/NPR/Harvard	35%	21%	16%	24%

- Do you agree or disagree with the following: It is the responsibility of government to reduce the differences in income between people with high incomes and people with low incomes? Is that strongly or somewhat agree/disagree?

		-----Govt. should reduce income differences-----			
		-----between people with high & low incomes-----			
		Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Feb.-Mar. 2003	Kaiser/NPR/Harvard	27%	22%	18%	29%

- In general, would you favor or oppose increasing taxes on wealthy Americans and large corporations in order to help reduce income inequality in the US?

		Favor	Oppose
Nov. 2015	CBS/NTT	63%	31%

- Do you support or oppose increasing taxes on higher income earners to reduce the amount of taxes paid by the middle class?

		Support	Oppose
Jul. 2015	Quinnipiac	60%	36%

Note: Asked of registered voters.

- Do you think that people with high incomes should pay a larger share of their income in taxes than those with low incomes, the same share, or a smaller share . . . ?

		Much larger	Larger	Same	Smaller share	Much lower
1987	NORC	23%	45%	30%	2%	*
2000	NORC	20	43	34	1	1
2008	NORC	19	41	38	1	1

- Which comes closest to your view?

Apr. 2005 AP/Ipsos

People should pay the same rate of tax on their incomes, regardless of how much money they make	40%
People who earn more money should pay a higher tax rate on their incomes than people who earn less	57

- Would you support or oppose the government redistributing wealth by a much higher income tax on high income earners?

		Support	Oppose	Neither support or oppose
Feb. 2009	Harris/Tax Foundation	31%	52%	10%

- Do you think the new tax code should be changed so that middle and lower income people pay less than they do now and upper income people pay more in taxes than they do now, or don't you think the tax code should be changed?

		Should be changed so upper income people pay more		Should not
Apr. 2009	CBS/NTT	65%		29%

- Do you think the federal government should increase taxes on the wealthiest individuals so that nobody gets to be too rich?

		Yes, increase taxes so nobody gets too rich	No
Mar.-Apr. 2009	Fox News	40%	55%
Note: Asked of registered voters.			

- People in government and the media use a lot of words and phrases when they talk about the economy. I'm going to read you some of them. For each one, would you tell me when you hear that word or phrase used, whether you have a pretty good idea of what the person is talking about, some idea, or not much of an idea of what that person is talking about?

Mar.-Apr. 1996 Roper GfK-NOP

	-----Know words & phrases-----		
	Good idea	Some idea	Not much of an idea
Depression	76%	19%	4%
Inflation	76	18	5
Recession	72	21	5
Depreciation	55	26	15
Downsizing	55	23	16
Flat tax	46	28	22
Federal Reserve Bank	42	31	24
Deregulation	41	30	23
Balance of payments	40	30	25
Capital gains tax	39	27	28
Investment capital	38	32	24
Progressive tax	32	26	34
Tight monetary policies	26	27	37
Supply-side economics	22	23	43
Sustainable development	15	21	48

- And now I want to read a brief list of terms that are related to taxes and the federal tax system. For each, please tell me if you have heard the term and know what it means, have heard the term but don't know what it means, or have not heard the term.

Feb.-Mar. 2003 Kaiser/NPR/Harvard

	Heard term/ Knows what it means	Heard term/ Don't know what it means	Have not heard term
Payroll taxes	74%	17%	9%
Earned Income Tax Credit	61	28	11
Progressive taxes	21	23	56
Value Added Tax	20	20	59

- Generally speaking, how does the federal income tax system work? Are people with higher incomes taxed at a higher percentage of their income than people who make less money? Or does everyone pay the same percentage of their income in income taxes? Or don't you know enough to say?

	-----High-income people pay-----		
	Higher percentage	Same percentage	Don't know
Feb.-Mar. 2003	60%	11%	28%
Kaiser/NPR/Harvard			

- In the United States, which group do you think pays the highest percentage of their income in total federal taxes: high-income people, middle-income people, or lower-income people, or don't you know enough to say?

	-----Highest percentage, total federal taxes-----		
	High-income people	Middle-income people	Lower-income people
Feb.-Mar. 2003	24%	52%	11%
Kaiser/NPR/Harvard			
Note: Asked of a half sample.			

- In the United States, which group do you think pays the highest percentage of their income in federal income taxes: high-income people, middle-income people, or lower-income people, or don't you know enough to say? (Asked of half sample)

		-----Highest percentage, federal income taxes-----		
		High-income people 26%	Middle-income people 51%	Lower-income people 11%
Feb.-Mar. 2003	Kaiser/NPR/Harvard			

- In reality, what percentage of income do you think the typical American actually pays in taxes – that is, all taxes, state, federal and local?

Mar.-Apr. 2005	Harris/Tax Foundation
Mean	29%

- What is the maximum percentage of a person's income that should go to taxes – that is, all taxes, state, federal, and local?

		Mean
Mar.-Apr. 2005	Harris/Tax Foundation	16%
Mar. 2006	Harris/Tax Foundation	15
Mar. 2007	Harris/Tax Foundation	14.7
Feb. 2009	Harris/Tax Foundation	15.6

- What is the maximum percentage of a person's income that should go to taxes -- that's all taxes -- state, federal and local? Out of every dollar, what's the highest percentage anybody should have to pay?

		<20%	21-30%	31-40%	41-50%	51-60%	<60%	Mean	Medium
Mar. 1999	Fox News	65	24	3	1	-	-	15%	10%
Mar. 2001	Fox News	52	27	7	1	-	-	17	10
Jan. 2003	Fox News	53	25	6	1	-	-	17	10
Apr. 2009	Fox News	51	27	6	2	1	1	NA	NA

Note: Asked of registered voters.

- On average, about what percentage of their household incomes would you guess most Americans pay in federal income taxes each year – less than 10 percent, between 10 and 20 percent, between 20 and 30 percent, between 30 and 40 percent, between 40 and 50 percent, or more than 50 percent, or don't you know enough to say?

CBS/NYT

		Less than 10%	10-20%	20-30%	30-40%	40-50%	More than 50%	DK
Apr. 2010		5%	26%	25%	10%	2%	1%	26%

- Now thinking about the wealthiest one percent of Americans, what percentage of their income do you think they should pay to the federal government in income taxes each year?

		0-10%	11-20%	21-30%	31-40%	>40%	No opinion
Oct. 2011	Gallup/USA Today	21%	14%	18%	11%	7%	28%

- How much do you think this family of four, with a total income of \$100,000 a year – that is \$2,000 a week – should pay in personal income tax next year?

		Family of four, income of \$100,000, -----how much in taxes should they pay-----	
		Avg. percent	
Mar. 1941	Gallup	10%	

- Many wealthy persons in the U.S. now pay as high as 90 percent of their income in Federal income taxes. Would you favor or oppose Congress passing a law so the Federal government could not take more than 25 percent, or one-fourth, of any person's income in taxes except in war-time?

		Law setting maximum -----rate of 25%-----	
		Favor	Oppose
May 1952	Gallup	47%	45%

- I'd like to ask you some general questions about the amount of taxes people pay each year, and what would be fair. By taxes I mean not just federal income taxes, but all the taxes you pay to the federal, state, and local governments, including Social Security taxes, state income and sales taxes, and local property taxes. What's the highest amount, the highest percentage, of your income that you think would be fair to pay in all these taxes combined? Just your best guess is fine.

		----What you should pay in all taxes----	
		Mean	Median
Oct. 1995	Roper Center/Reader's Digest	19%	19%

- I'd like to ask you some general questions about the amount of taxes people pay each year, and what would be fair. By taxes I mean not just federal income taxes, but all the taxes you pay to the federal, state, and local governments, including Social Security taxes, state income and sales taxes, and local property taxes. What's the highest percentage you think would be fair for a family of four making \$25,000 a year to pay when you add their taxes together? Just your best guess is fine.

		Family of four making \$25,000 ----- should pay in all taxes-----	
		Mean	Median
Oct. 1995	Roper Center/Reader's Digest	13%	10%

- I'd like to ask you some general questions about the amount of taxes people pay each year, and what would be fair. By taxes I mean not just federal income taxes, but all the taxes you pay to the federal, state, and local governments, including Social Security taxes, state income and sales taxes, and local property taxes. What's the highest percentage you think would be fair for a family of four making \$50,000 a year to pay when you add their taxes together? Just your best guess is fine.

		Family of four making \$50,000 ----- should pay in all taxes-----	
		Mean	Median
Oct. 1995	Roper Center/Reader's Digest	18%	17%

- I'd like to ask you some general questions about the amount of taxes people pay each year, and what would be fair. By taxes I mean not just federal income taxes, but all the taxes you pay to the federal, state, and local governments, including Social Security taxes, state income and sales taxes, and local property taxes. What's the highest percentage you think would be fair for a family making \$100,000 a year to pay when you add their taxes together? Just your best guess is fine.

		Family making \$100,000 ----- should pay in all taxes-----	
		Mean	Median
Oct. 1995	Roper Center/Reader's Digest	23%	20%

- I'd like to ask you some general questions about the amount of taxes people pay each year, and what would be fair. By taxes I mean not just federal income taxes, but all the taxes you pay to the federal, state, and local governments, including Social Security taxes, state income and sales taxes, and local property taxes. Let's talk now about a family of four – a husband, wife, and two children – that makes a high income. What's the highest amount, highest percentage you think would be fair for any family of four to pay in all their taxes combined, no matter how high their income? Just your best guess is fine.

		Family of four with high income ----- should pay in all taxes-----	
		Mean	Median
Oct. 1995	Roper Center/Reader's Digest	23%	20%

- I'd like to ask you some general questions about the amount of taxes people pay each year, and what would be fair. By taxes I mean not just federal income taxes, but all the taxes you pay to the federal, state, and local governments, including Social Security taxes, state income and sales taxes, and local property taxes. What's the highest percentage you think would be fair for a family making \$200,000 a year to pay when you add their taxes together? Just your best guess is fine.

		Family of four making \$200,000 ----- should pay in all taxes-----	
		Mean	Median
Oct. 1995	Roper Center/Reader's Digest	27%	25%

A FLAT TAX: We also take a look at attitudes towards a flat tax in four areas: whether it is a good idea or bad idea; if people prefer a graduated income tax or a flat tax; how the flat tax would affect different economic groups; and, whether a flat tax would be more fair or simple. In a March 2014 Reason-Rupe poll, 62 percent of Americans said they would favor changing the federal tax system to a flat tax. When asked what percentage of income everyone should pay under a flat tax, the mean response was 18 percent. Opinions are divided roughly evenly in CBS/New York Times's questions on the flat tax system, although a very substantial number say they don't know enough to have an opinion. In a softer 2011 ABC/Washington Post question that asked for "impressions" of a flat tax, opinions were divided, too. Results vary when people are asked if they prefer a graduated income tax, a flat tax, or other national tax system. A Fox News poll of registered voters from November 2015 shows a flat tax as the most preferred plan to collect all federal taxes, with 37 percent giving that response. Most people feel that they would pay about the same under a flat tax system. They also feel poor people would pay more taxes under a flat tax than under the current structure and that the rich would benefit more than other groups from such a system. A majority continue to believe that a flat tax system would be simpler than the current system.

Good idea, bad idea?

- Do you favor or oppose replacing the current graduated income tax in which people who make more money pay at a higher tax rate, with a flat-tax system that would do away with almost all deductions and tax everyone's income at the same rate?

		Favor	Oppose	Not sure
Apr. 1992	NBC/WSJ	49%	44%	7%

- Democratic presidential candidate Jerry Brown has proposed replacing current federal income and business taxes with a flat 13 percent income tax and a 13 percent business tax. Do you support or oppose this flat-tax plan, or don't you know enough about it to say?

		Support	Oppose	Don't know
Apr. 1992	ABC/Money	27%	44%	29%

- The current income tax system taxes people at high income levels at high rates than lower income people. The flat tax proposal would replace the current income tax system and would tax people at all income levels at one, flat tax rate. Do you think replacing the current income tax system with one flat tax rate sounds like a good idea, or a bad idea, or don't you know enough to say?

		Good idea	Bad idea	Don't know enough to say
Feb. 1995	CBS/NYT	26%	38%	35%

- The current income tax system taxes higher income people at higher rates and lower income people at lower rates. Some people have proposed replacing that system with a flat tax which would tax people at all income levels at one, flat tax rate. Would you favor or oppose replacing the current income tax system with one flat tax rate or don't you know enough about it yet to say?

		Favor	Oppose	Don't know enough about it
Jan. 1996	CBS/NYT	27%	33%	38%
Nov. 2004	CBS/NYT	26	34	37
Nov. 2011	CBS	32	36	28

- What if the flat tax eliminated the home mortgage deduction, then would you favor or oppose replacing the current income tax system with one flat tax rate, or don't you know enough about it yet to say?

		Favor	Oppose	Don't know enough about it
Jan. 1996	CBS/NTT	17%	29%	49%
Nov. 2004*	CBS/NTT	31	15	50

Note: This question was asked of those who said they favored a flat tax income tax (26 percent).

- Do you personally favor or oppose a flat tax--with a single low rate for federal income taxes and all or most deductions removed?

		Favor	Oppose	Don't know
Jan. 1995	PSRA/Newsweek	59%	29%	12%
Jan. 1996	PSRA/Newsweek	50%	32%	18%

Note: Asked of registered voters.

- Do you favor or oppose an overhaul in the federal income-tax system, so that most taxpayers would pay a flat tax of 10 to 11 percent?

		Favor	Oppose	Not sure
Jan. 1995	Time/CNN/Yankelovich	62%	28%	10%

- As you may know, under the current income tax system, high-income people are taxed at a greater rate than low-income people. There is a proposal to replace that system with a 'flat tax,' under which everyone, rich and poor, would pay 17% of their income in taxes. Under this plan, income from capital gains and interest on savings would be tax exempt, but the current deduction for interest paid on home mortgages would be abolished. Do you favor or oppose this proposal for a flat tax?

		Favor	Oppose	Don't know
Jan. 1995	LAT	40%	48%	12%

- In your opinion, is a flat income tax system, in which everyone would pay taxes at a 17% tax rate after personal and child deductions, a good idea or a bad idea?

		Good idea	Bad idea
Feb. 1995	Americans & Their Money	58%	42%

- Do you favor or oppose a flat tax system in which all but low-income Americans pay the same percentage of their income in taxes if the new system: Taxed wages and salaries but not profits from the sale of stocks and bonds and real estate?

		Favor	Oppose	Not sure
Jan. 1996	Time/CNN/Yankelovich	34%	57%	9%

- Do you favor or oppose a flat tax system in which all but low-income Americans pay the same percentage of their income in taxes if the new system: Eliminated all tax deductions for state and local taxes, including property tax?

		Favor	Oppose	Not sure
Jan. 1996	Time/CNN/Yankelovich	35%	55%	10%

- Do you favor or oppose a flat tax system in which all but low-income Americans pay the same percentage of their income in taxes if the new system: Taxed all Americans at a flat rate of 17%?

		Favor	Oppose	Not sure
Jan. 1996	Time/CNN/Yankelovich	41%	48%	11%

- There has been a proposal for a flat tax that would take away all or most deductions, including the home mortgage interest deduction, to provide one low tax rate for all taxpayers. Do you support or oppose replacing the current tax system with this flat tax plan?

		Support	Oppose	Don't know
Feb. 1996	AP	32%	50%	17%

- I am going to read a few statements. Please tell me if you support or oppose each item I name. Do you support or oppose: A flat-tax system, where everyone pays the same tax rate no matter what their income?

		Support	Oppose	No opinion
Aug. 1996	ABC/ <i>Wash Post</i>	48%	48%	4%

Note: Asked of a half sample. In August 1996, ABC and the *Post* asked a different question about a flat tax and opinion split 48 to 48 percent.

- Do you favor or oppose a single flat rate federal income tax?

		Favor	Oppose	Not sure
Jun. 1997	Fox News	57%	27%	16%

Note: Asked of registered voters.

- A tax system in which all Americans pay the same percentage of their income in taxes is often referred to as a flat tax. In order to have a flat tax system, would you favor or oppose eliminating each of the following deductions from the federal tax code? The deduction on interest for home mortgages

		Favor	Oppose	No opinion
Nov. 1997	Gallup/CNN/ <i>USA Today</i>	42%	54%	4%

- A tax system in which all Americans pay the same percentage of their income in taxes is often referred to as a flat tax. In order to have a flat tax system, would you favor or oppose eliminating each of the following deductions from the federal tax code? The deduction for contributions to charities and religious institutions

		Favor	Oppose	No opinion
Nov. 1997	Gallup/CNN/ <i>USA Today</i>	43%	53%	4%

- I am going to read you some proposals to reform the current tax system, which supporters say will simplify the tax system, although, as proposed, would increase the federal deficit. For each one I read, please tell me whether you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose that proposal. One tax reform proposal would eliminate the current income tax system, replace it with a flat tax of seventeen percent on all income, and eliminate all tax deductions, including those for home mortgages and charitable contributions. A family of four would be exempt from taxes on their first thirty-three thousand dollars of income.

		Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Not sure
Oct. 1997	NBC/ <i>WSJ</i>	23%	38%	14%	18%	7%

Note: Asked of a half sample.

- How important do you think each of the following goals is for the federal government to work on this year--is it vital, extremely important, quite important, not that important, or not important at all? Eliminate the current income tax system by 2001 and replace it with a flat tax or a national sales tax.

		Vital	Extremely important	Quite important	Not that important	Not important at all	Not sure
Apr. 1998	NBC/ <i>WSJ</i>	27%	17%	23%	13%	10%	10%

Note: Asked of a half sample.

- Would you favor or oppose a flat tax whereby everybody, whatever they earned, would pay income taxes on the same percentage of their income over some minimum level?

		Favor	Oppose	Don't know/Refused
Mar. 1999	Harris	60%	35%	5%

- In the United States, as you know, we have what is called a graduated federal income tax system. That is, people with higher incomes are taxed at a higher percentage than people with lower incomes. Some people would like to change the current tax system so that everyone would pay the same income tax rate, for example, 10 percent or 20 percent. Generally, would you be in favor of such a flat-rate system for federal income taxes, would you prefer keeping the system we have now, or don't you know enough to say?

		Favor such a flat rate system	Prefer keeping the system we have now	Don't know enough to say
Feb. 2003	<i>Wash Post</i> /Kaiser/Harvard	36%	32%	31%

- Overall, do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of a flat tax system that removes most income tax deductions, and charges everyone the same tax rate, instead of charging higher rates on higher incomes? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

		Favorable strongly	Favorable somewhat	Unfavorable somewhat	Unfavorable strongly
Oct. 2011	ABC/Wash Post	26%	22%	18%	29%

- Overall, do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of the idea to set the federal income tax rate at 9 percent, corporate taxes at 9 percent, and create a national sales tax, also of 9 percent? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

		Favorable strongly	Favorable somewhat	Unfavorable somewhat	Unfavorable strongly
Oct. 2011	ABC/Wash Post	12%	24%	21%	35%

- Herman Cain is proposing to change the current tax system. His 9-9-9 plan would eliminate all current federal taxes and replace them with a 9 percent personal income tax, a 9 percent corporate income tax and a 9 percent federal sales tax. Do you think Cain's 9-9-9 plan is a good idea or a bad idea?

		Good idea	Bad idea	Don't know
Oct. 2011	Quinnipiac	32%	47%	22%
Note: Asked of registered voters.				

- Do you think getting rid of tax deductions is the same as increasing taxes?

		Yes it is	No it isn't	Don't know
Jul. 2011	Fox News	42%	47%	11%
Note: Asked of registered voters.				

- Would you favor or oppose replacing the current federal income tax system with a flat tax that eliminates all federal tax deductions and instead charges everyone the same tax rate? Is that strongly or somewhat?

		Favor Strongly	Favor Somewhat	Oppose Somewhat	Oppose Strongly
Mar. 2012	Reason-Rupe	35%	15%	10%	31%

- Would you favor or oppose changing the federal tax system to a flat tax, where everyone pays the same percentage of his or her income?

		Favor	Oppose
Mar. 2014	Reason-Rupe	62%	33%
<i>Party Breakdowns</i>			
	Democrat	52%	43%
	Independent	66	28
	Republican	66	29

- If a flat tax were implemented, what percentage of income, from zero to 100, do you think Americans should pay in federal taxes?

		Mean
Mar. 2014	Reason-Rupe	18%

Prefer current/graduated/partially graduated system

- Would you prefer a graduated income tax system, in which people with higher incomes pay a higher tax rate, or a flat tax system, in which everyone pays the same tax rate regardless of income?

		Graduated income tax system	Flat tax system	Both equal
Apr. 1995	NBC/WSJ	56%	40%	1%
Sept. 1995	NBC/WSJ	57	38	1
Jan. 1996	NBC/WSJ	54	41	1
Mar. 1996*	NBC/WSJ	54	39	1
Nov. 2011	NBC/WSJ	56	40	1

Note: *Asked of a half sample.

- If you could choose one plan to collect all federal taxes, which federal tax plan would you prefer: a national sales tax, a flat-rate income tax with no deductions, or the current graduated income tax with deductions?

		National sales	Flat-rate no deductions	Current, graduated with deductions	Not sure
Oct. 1997	Fox News	16%	46%	25%	13%
Mar. 1999	Fox News	20	43	27	10
May 2003	Fox News	16	38	35	11

Note: Asked of registered voters.

- If you could choose one plan to collect all federal taxes, which federal tax plan would you prefer: a national sales tax, a flat-rate income tax with no deductions, a graduated income tax with no deductions, or the current graduated income tax with deductions?

		Sales tax	Flat tax	Graduated no deductions	Current graduated w/ deductions	Not sure
Jan. 2005	Fox News	17%	29%	12%	25%	17%
Oct. 2011	Fox News	12	35	13	26	14
Nov. 2015	Fox News	13	37	14	23	13

Note: Asked of registered voters.

- Thinking more generally about the federal tax system--which of the following would you prefer? The current system in which people with large incomes pay higher tax rates than people with smaller incomes and taxpayers can take deductions for charitable contributions, interest paid on home mortgages, and other items. A different system in which all people would pay a flat tax rate of 17% regardless of income and no deductions would be allowed. Families with four or more people and incomes of less than \$36,000 per year would pay no income tax.

Gallup/CNN/USA Today

	Dec. 1995	Apr. 1999
The current system in which people with large incomes pay higher tax rates than people with smaller incomes and taxpayers can take deductions for charitable contributions, interest paid on home mortgages, and other items	46%	31%
A different system in which all people would pay a flat tax rate of 17% regardless of income and no deductions would be allowed. Families with four or more people and incomes of less than \$36,000 per year would pay no income tax	50	58
No opinion	4	11

Note: Asked of a half sample.

- Here are two different federal income tax policies. Which of these do you think would be better for the country: The current system in which someone with more money pays a higher percentage of their income in taxes than someone with less money or, a flat tax system in which all Americans would pay the same percentage of their income in taxes, regardless of how much money they make?

		Current system	Flat tax system	Neither/Other (vol.)
Nov. 1997	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	51%	45%	2%

Note: Asked of a half sample.

- Thinking more generally about the federal tax system--which of the following would you prefer? The current system in which wealthier people pay a higher tax rate. A system in which all people would pay a flat tax of 17% and no deductions would be allowed.

Apr. 1999 Gallup/CNN/USA Today

The current system in which wealthier people pay a higher tax rate	41%
A system in which all people would pay a flat tax of seventeen percent and no deductions would be allowed	48
No opinion	11

Note: Asked of a half sample.

- Which one of the following three tax systems do you most prefer A) the current system – with tax rates from 15 to 39 percent and all existing deductions, credits, and exemptions, or B) a flat tax system where every person and corporation pays the same flat rate – about 20 percent – with only deductions for home mortgages and charitable contribution, or C) a flat tax system where every person and corporation pays a flat rate of 17 percent – with no deductions, credits or exemptions at all?

		Current system	Flat tax, 20%	Flat tax, 17%	Don't know
Apr. 1995	PSRA/Newsweek	27%	32%	29%	12%

- Please tell me which kind of income tax system you would prefer. Would you prefer a graduated income tax system, in which people with higher incomes pay a higher tax rate, or a flat tax system, in which everyone pays the same rate regardless of income?

		Graduated	Flat	Don't know
Sep. 1995	Pew	55%	41%	4%

- Which of these two tax systems do you prefer: a graduated income tax, where people with higher incomes pay a higher tax rate, or a flat income tax, where everyone pays the same rate no matter what their income? Neither system would tax poor people.

		Graduated income tax	Flat income tax	No opinion
Jan. 1996	ABC/Wash Post	49%	45%	6%
Mar. 1996	ABC/Wash Post	54	45	2

- Which of these federal tax systems do you prefer? The current graduated income tax, where people with higher incomes pay a higher tax rate. A flat income tax, where everyone would pay the same rate no matter what their income. A national sales tax based on purchases of goods and services rather than on income?

		Current graduated income tax	Flat income tax	National sales tax
Aug. 1998	Wash Post/Kaiser/Harvard	38%	28%	29%

- Please tell me which of the following two statements comes closest to your opinion about income taxes. I prefer a flat tax where everyone would pay the same tax rate. This would be a fairer and simpler system. I prefer the traditional progressive tax system in which people with higher incomes pay at a higher rate. This helps insure that those best able to pay will pay more.

		Flat tax	Progressive tax	Neither (vol.)
Feb. 1998	Zogby	43%	47%	7%

Note: Asked of likely sample.

How would a flat tax affect different groups?

- Who do you think would benefit most from this (proposal by Jerry Brown changing the income tax system by having everyone pay a 13% flat rate on all income, with deductions only allowed for rent, mortgage interest, and charitable contributions. In addition, there will be a 13% tax on all businesses for all sales of their goods) – rich people, poor people, or middle income people?

		Rich people	Poor people	Middle income people	All equal
Mar. 1992	CBS/NTT	49%	7%	30%	2%

- Who do you think would benefit most from a flat tax system--rich people, poor people, or middle income people?

		Rich people	Poor people	Middle income people	All equal
Jan. 1996	CBS/NTT	59%	7%	21%	3%
Nov. 2004	CBS/NTT	54	6	26	4
Jan. 2005	CBS/NTT	53	6	25	6

- A flat rate tax system applies one tax rate to all income. Under a flat rate tax system, do you think each of the following would pay higher taxes, lower taxes, or about the same amount of taxes as they pay now?

		-----The wealthy-----		
		Higher taxes	Lower taxes	Same amount of taxes
Nov. 2011	McClatchy/Marist	36%	38%	21%

		-----The middle class-----		
		Higher taxes	Lower taxes	Same amount of taxes
Nov. 2011	McClatchy/Marist	37%	14%	43%

		-----The poor-----		
		Higher taxes	Lower taxes	Same amount of taxes
Nov. 2011	McClatchy/Marist	52%	18%	25%

Note: Asked of registered voters.

- Under a proposed flat tax system, do you think you personally would pay more in taxes, less in taxes, or about the same amount in taxes?

		Pay more	Pay less	Pay the same	Don't know
Jan. 1996	CBS News	28%	17%	43%	12%
Nov. 2011	CBS News	27	15	43	15

- Do you think that your own taxes would be higher, lower, or about the same under a flat tax system?

		Taxes would be higher	Taxes would be lower	Taxes about be about the same	Depends
Jan. 1996	NBC/WSJ	22%	20%	43%	3%
Nov. 2011	NBC/WSJ	29	19	43	1

- Assuming the government collected the same total amount of money under such a flat-rate federal income tax system, do you think you personally would pay more income tax, less income tax, or about the same about of income tax as you pay now?

		More	Less	About the same amount	Don't know
Feb. 2003	Wash Post/Kaiser/Harvard	23%	23%	44%	10%

- And do you think people with high incomes would generally pay more federal income tax, less income tax, or about the same amount of income tax as they pay now with a flat-rate tax?

		More	Less	About the same amount	Don't know
Feb. 2003	Wash Post/Kaiser/Harvard	41%	35%	18%	7%

Would a flat tax be fairer or simpler than a graduated income tax?

- Which of these three tax systems do you think is the fairest: a graduated income tax, with higher tax rates for people with higher incomes, a flat tax, with the same tax rate for everyone, or a national retail sales tax, with taxes based on people's spending rather than income?

		Graduated income tax	Flat tax	National retail sales tax	Don't know
Feb. 1996	AP	38%	29%	25%	7%

- Which tax system do you think is fairer: the system we have now, with higher tax rates for people with higher incomes, or a flat tax with the same rate for everyone?

		Present system	Flat tax	Don't know
Mar. 1999	AP	39%	51%	9%

- Do you think a flat-rate federal income tax would be simpler than the current system, more complex than the current system, or wouldn't it make a difference, or don't you know enough to say?

		Simpler than the current system	More complex than the current system	No difference	Don't know enough to say
Mar. 2003	Wash Post/Kaiser/Harvard	58%	7%	10%	24%

- Compared with the current graduated (federal) income tax system, do you think a tax system where everyone, regardless of how much they earn, is taxed at the same flat rate would be more fair or less fair, or wouldn't it make a difference, or don't you know enough to say?

		More fair	Less fair	No difference	Don't know enough to say
Mar. 2003	Wash Post/Kaiser/Harvard	32%	33%	7%	28%

THE ESTATE AND PAYROLL TAXES: In November 2002, CBS News/New York Times pollsters asked two questions about the estate tax, telling people that the tax would apply only to estates worth \$3.5 million in a few years and would be eliminated altogether in 2010. They then asked whether the estate tax should be eliminated altogether or whether it should only be applied to the very largest estates. In the first question, 41 percent said it should be eliminated altogether, and 54 percent wanted it applied only to the very largest estates. The results were 44-47 percent when the pollsters associated the proposal with George W. Bush. In the 2005 and 2006 Harris Interactive/Tax Foundation online polls, people thought the federal estate tax was the worst federal tax, ahead of the federal income tax. Although the estate tax has never been an issue that people volunteer spontaneously as a critical issue, it appears to be another tax that many people just don't like with two-thirds in the 2009 Harris Interactive/Tax Foundation online survey favoring its elimination. Fifty-two percent told ABC/Washington Post pollsters in December of 2010 that they would support "increasing the exemption on inheritance taxes so that only estates worth more than five million dollars are taxed." Forty-one percent were opposed.

The Estate Tax

- How much do you think one person should be allowed to inherit – none, \$100,000 or less, \$100,000 to \$1 million, \$1 million to \$10 million, or no limit?

		-----How much should a person be allowed to inherit?-----				
		None	\$100,000 or less	\$100,000- \$1 million	\$1 million- \$10 million	No limit
Jul. 1935	Roper/Fortune					
	Total	1%	14%	16%	2%	52%
	Prosperous	1	8	16	2	59
	Upper middle	1	13	16	3	51
	Lower middle	1	16	16	2	51
	Poor	1	17	15	2	47

- Some taxes are paid to the federal government in Washington and some are paid to state and local governments. Using a scale of 1 to 5, where one means "very fair" and five means "not at all fair," please indicate what you think of these federal taxes in terms of fairness.

Mar. 2009	Harris/Tax Foundation				
	Very fair		Fair		Not at all fair
	1	2	3	4	5
Cigarette, beer, and wine taxes	28%	11 %	27%	15%	20%
Corporate income taxes	15	9	28	20	29
Social security payroll taxes	10	9	43	20	18
Gas taxes	7	6	31	26	29
Estate taxes	4	5	26	27	38
Federal income taxes	6	8	39	29	18

Mar. 2007	Harris/Tax Foundation				
	Very fair		Fair		Not at all fair
	1	2	3	4	5
Cigarette, beer, and wine taxes	29%	12 %	24%	15%	21%
Corporate income taxes	16	10	32	17	25
Social security payroll taxes	8	9	42	21	19
Gas taxes	6	7	24	28	35
Estate taxes	5	6	23	25	42
Federal income taxes	4	9	39	31	17

- If taxes had to be raised in order to increase revenues, how would you feel about raising the following types of federal taxes?

Mar. 2007	Harris	-----Should-----		-----Should not-----	
		Definitely	Probably	Probably	Definitely
Cigarette taxes		52%	21%	8%	16%
Beer and alcohol taxes		42	31	9	15
Estate taxes		11	19	25	39
Gas taxes		4	11	22	60
Income taxes		3	12	26	55
Social security taxes		2	10	22	61
Medicare taxes		1	7	24	63

- I'm going to read you some positions that someone running for Congress could take. For each, please tell me whether you would be more likely to vote for a candidate for Congress who takes this position, less likely to vote for this candidate, or would it not make a difference to you either way? Favors repealing the estate tax.

Jun. 9-12, 2006	NBC/WSJ	More likely	Less likely	No difference
		48%	18%	27%

- Here are some tax reductions that will be considered by Congress. For each one I mention, please tell me whether you think it will help you and your family a lot, help some, help very little, or not help at all. If you are not sure, please do not hesitate to say so...A reduction in the inheritance tax?

Apr. 1997	NBC/WSJ	Inheritance tax cut			
		-----help you and your family-----			
		A lot	Some	Very little	None
		20%	22%	16%	37%

- Please indicate whether you would generally favor or oppose each of the following proposals which might be included in the plan to balance the budget by the year 2002...Reducing the taxes people must pay when they inherit money or property?

May 1997	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	----Cut inheritance tax----	
		Favor	Oppose
		61%	37%

- Do you think the inheritance tax on estates worth more than six hundred thousand dollars should be reduced, or not?

Jun. 1997	NBC/WSJ	----Reduce inheritance tax----	
		Should	Should not
		43%	44%

- Thinking about the federal inheritance tax, do you consider this tax too high, about right, too low, or don't you know enough to say?

Jan. 2000	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	-----Inheritance tax is-----			
		Too high	About right	Too low	Don't know
		41%	5%	1%	53%

- Now, I would like to ask you a question about taxes that are paid on money or assets which are inherited when someone dies. As you may know, federal inheritance taxes currently apply to estates valued at more than \$1 million. A new proposal would eliminate all inheritance taxes on estates over \$1 million as well. Would you favor or oppose that proposal?

Jun. 2000	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	----Inheritance tax cut----	
		Favor	Oppose
		60%	35%

- If such a proposal (that would eliminate all inheritance taxes on estates valued at more than \$1 million) were passed into law, do you think you would or would not personally benefit from such a law in the future, or don't you know enough about it to say?

		-----Inheritance tax cut-----		
		Personally benefit	Not personally benefit	Don't know
Jun. 2000	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	17%	43%	39%

- Candidate A believes that a large estate left to heirs should be taxed at a rate of 50 percent for anything over \$1.2 million. Candidate B believes that the estate tax is unfair to heirs and should be eliminated. Who do you support?

		Candidate A/ Keep tax as is	Candidate B/ Eliminate estate tax
Jul. 2000	Zogby International	15%	75%

- I would like to ask you a couple of questions about taxes that are paid on money or assets which are inherited when someone dies. As you may know, federal inheritance taxes currently apply only to estates valued at more than \$1 million. Which of the following would you prefer to see Congress do this year – change the laws to eliminate all inheritance taxes on all estates, eliminate inheritance taxes on small businesses and family farms but otherwise leave the taxes unchanged, or leave inheritance tax laws unchanged?

		-----Changes to inheritance tax-----		
		Eliminate it	Elim. for small biz/farms	Leave unchanged
Feb. 2001	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	39%	30%	25%

- Now, I would like to ask you a question about taxes that are paid on money or assets which are inherited when someone dies. As you may know, federal inheritance taxes currently apply only to estates valued at more than \$1 million. Which of the following would you prefer to see Congress do: Change the laws to eliminate all inheritance taxes on all estates, or leave inheritance tax laws unchanged?

		-----Changes to inheritance tax-----	
		Eliminate tax	Leave unchanged
Nov. 2002	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	50%	46%

- Currently the federal government taxes the estates – that is, the property and money – people leave when they die. In a few years, that tax will only apply to estates worth more than \$3.5 million, and by 2010 there would be no tax on any estate, no matter what it is worth. Which comes closer to your view? 1. There should be no tax on any estate or 2. The estate tax should be eliminated for most people, but kept in place for the very largest estates?

		No estate tax	Tax only large estates
Nov. 2002	CBS/NYT	41%	54%
Mar.-Apr. 2008	CBS/NYT	44	47

- Currently the federal government taxes the estates – that is, the property and money people leave when they die. In a few years, that tax will only apply to estates worth more than \$3.5 million, and by 2010 there would be no tax on any estate, no matter what it is worth. Which comes closer to your view? 1. There should be no tax on any estate as George W. Bush proposes or 2. The estate tax should be eliminated for most people, but kept in place for the very largest estates as the Democrats propose?

		No estate tax	Tax only large estates
Nov. 2002	CBS/NYT	44%	47%

- Do you favor or oppose each of the following economic proposals...eliminating the tax on estates, sometimes also called the “death tax?”

		----Eliminate estate tax----	
		Favor	Oppose
Jan. 2003	Fox News	67%	21%
Note: Asked of registered voters.			

- There is a federal estate tax – that is, a tax on the money people leave when they die. Do you favor or oppose eliminating this tax, or don't you know enough to say? (Asked of half sample)

		-----Eliminate estate tax-----		
		Favor	Oppose	Don't know
Feb.-Mar. 2003	Kaiser/NPR/Harvard	54%	16%	29%

- There is a federal estate tax that some people call the death tax. This is a tax on the money people leave when they die. Do you favor or oppose eliminating this tax, or don't you know enough to say? (Asked of half sample)

		-----Eliminate death tax-----		
		Favor	Oppose	Don't know
Feb.-Mar. 2003	Kaiser/NPR/Harvard	60%	15%	26%

Note to questions above: When those who favored eliminating the estate tax in both samples were asked, "Why do you favor eliminating the estate tax as it is now? Is this a reason or not...?" 92 percent agreed that "the money was already taxed once and shouldn't be taxed again," was a reason. Seventy-four percent agreed that "it might force the sale of small businesses and family farms" was a reason. Sixty-nine percent agreed that, "it might affect YOU someday" was a reason. Sixty-two percent agreed that "it affects too many people" was a reason. When those who opposed eliminating the estate tax in both samples were asked, "Why do you oppose eliminating the estate tax as it is now? Is this a reason or not...?" 63 percent agreed that, "it is a good way for the government to raise revenues" was a reason. Fifty-eight percent agreed that, "it affects only the wealthiest Americans, who can afford to pay taxes the most," was a reason. Fifty-three percent agreed that, "it limits the power and influence of wealth," was a reason. Forty-six percent agreed that, "wealthy people should give something back to the country when they die," was a reason.

- Do you personally favor or oppose completely eliminating the estate tax – that is, the tax on property left by people who die?

		Favor	Oppose
Mar-Apr. 2005	Harris/Tax Foundation	68%	17%
Mar. 2006	Harris/Tax Foundation	68	19
Mar. 2007	Harris/Tax Foundation	66	19
Feb. 2009	Harris/Tax Foundation	67	17

- Some taxes are paid to the federal government in Washington and some are paid to state and local governments. Of the following federal taxes, which do you think is the worst tax – that is, the least fair?

		-----Least fair tax-----			
		Federal estate	Federal income	Social Security	Federal corporate
Mar.-Apr. 2005	Harris/Tax Foundation	30%	26%	15%	8%
Mar. 2006	Harris/Tax Foundation	31	25	14	7

- Currently the federal government taxes the assets—that is, the property and money—someone leaves when they die if the assets are worth more than a certain amount of money. Do you favor or oppose placing this tax on assets when someone dies?

		Favor	Oppose
Mar. 2005	NYT	17%	76%

(Asked of those who opposed) What if the tax was only collected on estates worth more than \$1.5 million? Then would you favor or oppose placing this tax on assets when someone dies?

		Favor	Oppose
Mar. 2005	NYT	27%	46%

- Under the current law, the federal tax on estates will be phased out between now and 2010, when there will be no tax on estates at all. Unless Congress acts, the tax cut will then expire and the tax will again be collected on estates worth more than \$1 million. Which comes closest to your opinion: 1. The federal government should tax estates worth more than \$1 million, or 2. It should only tax estates worth more than \$3.5 million, or 3. The federal tax on all inheritances should be permanently eliminated?

		More than \$1M	More than \$3.5M	Eliminate all estate tax
Mar. 2005	NYT	23%	20%	50%

- For each item I name, please tell me if it's something you support strongly, support somewhat, oppose somewhat or oppose strongly. . . Increasing the exemption on inheritance taxes so that only estates worth more than five million dollars are taxed?

Dec. 2010	ABC/Wash Post	Support 52%	Oppose 41%
Note: Not all response categories shown.			

- Do you think inheritance taxes are fair or unfair?

Mar. 2015	Fox News	Fair 22%	Unfair 71%
Note: Asked of registered voters.			

The Payroll Tax

- Please tell me whether you favor or oppose cutting the payroll tax for all American workers?

Sep. 2011	CNN/ORC	Favor 65%	Oppose 33%	No opinion 2%
Oct. 2011	CNN/ORC	59	38	3
Feb. 2012	CNN/ORC	54	42	4

- I'm going to read some different proposals that could be considered by the president Barack Obama and Congress. For each one please tell me if you think this proposal is a good idea, a bad idea, or do you not know enough about it to have an opinion. Extending the cut in the payroll tax until the end of this year.

Jan. 2012	NBC/WSJ	Good idea 55%	Bad idea 17%	Don't know enough 26%	Not sure 1%
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- Now, thinking some more about the proposal to extend the cut in the payroll tax until the end of this year. Which of the following statements do you agree with more? Supporters of this proposal say it means workers could pay almost one thousand dollars less in taxes this year, meaning it could help improve the economy by giving people more money to spend. Opponents of this proposal say it means the taxes will not be put in the Social Security trust fund and the government will have to spend over one hundred billion dollars to cover the shortfall this year.

Jan. 2012	NBC/WSJ	Supporters 58%	Opponents 26%	Mixed 3%	Not sure 13%
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- As you may know, last week, the President and Congress passed a two-month extension on the payroll tax cuts and unemployment benefits. Looking ahead to the debate on what the government should do as these extensions expire at the end of February, do you have more confidence in President Obama and the Democrats in Congress or the Republicans in Congress?

Dec. 2011	Gallup	Obama/Democrats 41%	Republicans 34%	Neither/Other 15%	Unsure 10%
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- As you may know, last year, the federal government passed a law temporarily reducing Social Security payroll taxes. Congress is currently considering renewing this tax reduction. Should Congress vote to continue this payroll tax reduction even though it may increase the federal budget deficit, or allow this payroll tax reduction to expire even though it would cause most workers to take home less money in their paychecks?"

Dec. 2011	AP-GfK/Roper	Continue reduction 58%	Allow to expire 35%	Unsure 7%
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- Last year, Congress provided a temporary reduction in the payroll tax paid by workers on their wages. Unless Congress extends this tax cut soon, it will expire. Supporters say this tax cut gives people more money to spend and helps the economy. Opponents say it increases the federal debt without doing much to help the economy. Do you think Congress should or should not extend the payroll tax cut?

Dec. 2011	UT/National Journal	Should 58%	Should not 32%	Unsure 10%
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- In order to try to create jobs, do you think it is probably a good idea or a bad idea to significantly cut payroll taxes for working Americans?

		Good idea	Bad idea	Unsure
Sep. 2011	CBS/NYT	56%	30%	14%
Oct. 2011	CBS/NYT	51	37	12

- People have suggested various ways that the government could act to try to create jobs. How much do you think each of the following would do to create jobs: a great deal, quite a bit, a moderate amount, only a little, or nothing at all?

	AP-GfK/Roper	Oct. 2011				
			A great deal	Quite a bit	A moderate amount	Nothing at all
Increasing government spending on roads, schools and other infrastructure projects			23%	13%	30%	21%
Reducing Social Security payroll taxes for individual workers			12	6	28	25
Reducing Social Security payroll taxes for employers			9	8	31	27
Providing tax credits to companies that hire those who have been unemployed for six months or more			24	12	30	20
Reducing environmental and other regulations on businesses			16	11	27	22

- Now I am going to tell you more about President Obama's proposed jobs bill and please tell me whether you would favor or oppose it. The jobs bill would cut the payroll tax rate, fund new road construction, continue to extend unemployment benefits, and give tax credits to companies who hire and train long-term unemployed workers. The plan would be paid for by increasing taxes on the wealthy and increasing taxes on businesses by closing some corporate tax loopholes. Do you favor or oppose this plan?

		Favor	Oppose
Oct. 2011	NBC/WSJ	63%	32%

- President Barack Obama is expected to outline a jobs plan in the coming weeks. I'm going to read some different proposals that could be considered by the president. For each one please tell me if you think this proposal is a good idea, a bad idea, or do you not know enough about it to have an opinion. Continuing to cut the payroll tax rate.

		Good idea	Bad idea	Don't know enough	Not sure
Aug. 2011	NBC/WSJ	40%	20%	38%	2%

- Which of the following actions, if any, do you think the government should undertake to stimulate the national economy? Multiple responses accepted

Aug. 2011	Reuters/Ipsos	
Cut government spending		49%
Raise taxes on wealthy individuals		46
Invest in new infrastructure projects		34
Cut taxes for everyone		27
Extend financial aid to states		25
Extend unemployment benefits		25
Extend the payroll tax cut		20

Note: Multiple responses accepted.

- As you may know, recently President Barack Obama announced an agreement with the Republican leadership in Congress to accept a continuation for two years of the George W. Bush tax cuts for all taxpayers, including those with incomes over two hundred and fifty thousand dollars. In exchange, the Republican leadership in Congress is accepting an extension on unemployment benefits for another year and a two percent reduction of Social Security payroll taxes for all taxpayers for one year. Do you approve or disapprove of this agreement?

		Approve	Disapprove	Not sure
Dec. 2010	NBC/WSJ	59%	36%	5%

TAXES AND DEFICITS: In April 2017, 2 percent volunteered that taxes were the most important problem facing the nation. In the same Gallup question, 3 percent said the deficit was the most important problem (see earlier section). When it comes to solutions, Americans generally prefer spending cuts over tax increases, although taxing the wealthy enjoys broad support. Reducing the rate of growth of Medicare or Social Security does not.

Pollsters don't ask about the partisan balance on the deficit very often, but the questions we have suggest a GOP edge. In a July 2015 Pew poll, 37 percent said the Democrats would do a better job reducing the federal budget deficit and 41 percent the GOP. The ABC/Washington Post results from October 2014 were similar. In NBC/Wall Street Journal's question with different wording, which was last updated in September 2014, the Republicans had an 18-point advantage over the Democrats on handling the deficit, 39 to 21 percent.

Levels of concern

- Next, as I read you some problem areas, please tell me how you think each is affecting this country today. First, do you think the problem of the federal budget deficit is about the same as it has been, that the country is making progress in this area, or that the country is losing ground?

		Making progress	About the same	Losing ground
Mar. 1989	Pew	16%	27%	56%
Mar. 1994	Pew	11	21	60
Apr. 1995	Pew	15	21	60
Dec. 1996	Pew	23	24	48
Nov. 1997	Pew	32	30	29
May 2005	Pew	6	19	65
Feb. 2007	Pew	8	20	64
Dec. 2008	Pew	3	15	79
Dec. 2010	Pew	8	20	67

- I'd like to ask you about priorities for President _____ and Congress this year. As I read from a list, tell me if you think each should be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important or should it not be done.

Reducing the budget deficit

		Top priority	Important but low priority	Not too important	Should not be done
Dec. 1994	Pew	65%	26%	5%	1%
Jan. 1997	Pew	60	30	5	2
Jan. 2002	Pew	35	44	13	3
Jan. 2003	Pew	40	44	11	2
Jan. 2004	Pew	51	38	6	3
Jan. 2005	Pew	56	34	5	2
Jan. 2006	Pew	55	35	5	1
Jan. 2007	Pew	53	34	7	2
Jan. 2008	Pew	58	33	5	1
Jan. 2009	Pew	53	33	7	2
Jan. 2010	Pew	60	29	5	2
Jan. 2011	Pew	64	27	3	2
Jan. 2012*	Pew	69	21	5	2
Jan. 2013*	Pew	72	20	3	2
Jan. 2014*	Pew	63	27	5	1
Jan. 2015	Pew	64	28	4	1
Jan. 2016	Pew	56	33	6	2
Jan. 2017	Pew	52	33	8	3

Note: *Asked of a half sample. In Jan. 2017, reducing the budget deficit ranked out 12th of 21 in the public's policy priorities.

- How concerned, if at all, are you about the size of the federal budget deficit - very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned or not concerned at all?

		Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not too concerned	Not concerned
Dec. 2008	ABC/Wash Post	49%	37%	9%	5%
Feb. 2009	ABC/Wash Post	59	28	9	3
Apr. 2009	ABC/Wash Post	59	27	9	4
Jun. 2009	ABC/Wash Post	56	31	9	4

- How worried are you that increasing federal debt will harm the financial future of your children and grandchildren?

		Very worried	Somewhat worried	Not Too worried	Not at all worried
Sep. 2008	AP/Roper GfK-NOP	42%	37%	11%	8%
Jan. 2009	AP/Roper GfK-NOP	45	34	13	7
Apr. 2009	AP/Roper GfK-NOP	49	30	12	9
Jul. 2009	AP/Roper GfK-NOP	46	34	11	8
Sept. 2009	AP/Roper GfK-NOP	47	33	11	9
Jan. 2010	AP/Roper GfK-NOP	50	31	11	8
Aug. 2010	AP/Roper GfK-NOP	54	26	10	9
Oct. 2010	AP/Roper GfK-NOP	48	32	10	10
Nov. 2010	AP/Roper GfK-NOP	56	29	10	4
Mar. 2011	AP/Roper GfK-NOP	58	27	9	5
Jun. 2011	AP/Roper GfK-NOP	55	26	10	8

- Which one of these economic issues should be the higher priority for the nation right now – the federal budget deficit, unemployment, or taxes.

		Federal budget deficit	Unemployment	Taxes
Dec. 2011	CBS	29%	55%	12%

- The national debt is the total amount of money the government owes individuals, banks, and other countries. How concerned are you that increasing the national debt will create hardships for future generations of Americans -- very concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned, or not concerned at all?

		Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned
Mar. 2009	CBS	65%	26%	7%	2%
Apr. 2009	CBS/NYT	63	28	4	4

- If you were setting government priorities these days, would you place a higher priority on _____ or reducing the budget deficit?

Pew	Spending more	Reducing the budget deficit
Spending more to make health care more accessible and affordable		
Apr. 2009	59%	35%
Jul. 2009	55	40
Spending more to improve the education System		
Apr. 2009	58	38
Jul. 2009	57	38
Spending more to develop new energy technology		
Apr. 2009	49	45
Jul. 2009	41	52

Spending more to help the economy
recover

Apr. 2009	48	46
Jul. 2009	53	38
Feb. 2010	47	47
Jul. 2010	40	51
Nov. 2010	43	50
Feb. 2011	46	49
Jun. 2011	42	52
Aug. 2011	47	46
Sept. 2011	47	48
Jun. 2012	48	47
Dec. 2012	45	49
Dec. 2013	44	49

- Which of these do you think is more important right now—increasing federal spending to try to improve the economy, even if it sharply increases the federal budget deficit, or avoiding a big increase in the federal budget deficit, even if it means not increasing federal spending to try to improve the economy?

		Increasing spending	Deficit
Jan. 2009	ABC/Wash Post	51%	44%
Mar. 2009	ABC/Wash Post	49	47
Jul. 2009	ABC/Wash Post	40	55
Oct. 2009	ABC/Wash Post	38	57

- As you may know, it is estimated that the federal budget deficit now exceeds one trillion dollars. If you had to choose, what do you think should be the higher priority?

AP-GfK

	Apr. 2009	Jul. 2009	Sep. 2009	Oct. 2010	Nov. 2010
Increasing government spending on education, health care reform, and the development of alternative energy sources, even if that means the federal budget deficit will increase even more	49%	47%	46%	45%	46%
Reducing the federal budget deficit by cutting spending, even if that means the government could not enact new programs on education, health care reform, and the development of alternative energy sources	43	47	50	50	47

- And if you had to choose, which of the following two things do you think is more important?

		Lower taxes for all Americans	Reducing the budget deficit
Aug. 2010	Reuters/Ipsos	43%	54%

- Do you think the size of the national debt is so large it is hurting the future of the country?

		Yes, it is	No, it isn't
Sep. 2009	Fox News	78%	17%
Note: Asked of registered voters.			

- When thinking about the national debt, which of the following would you rather do? Would you rather... ?

Sep. 2009	Fox News	
Cut spending now so future generations don't have to pay	77%	
Keep spending at current levels and let future generations pay	14	
Note: Asked of registered voters.		

- Which of the following best describes your attitude toward the federal budget deficit?

		It is dangerously out of control and threatens our economic future	It is a manageable burden that will require some sacrifice down the road	It will cause no lasting harm
Jul. 2010	Bloomberg	52%	43%	4%
Oct. 2010	Bloomberg	53	40	4
Dec. 2010	Bloomberg	48	43	5

- Do you think now is the time for bold and fast change to bring down the federal budget deficit, even if it means more sacrifices for more people, or is it more important to minimize sacrifices for the American people?

		Bold and fast change	More important to minimize sacrifice	Note sure
Dec. 2010	Bloomberg	40%	51%	9%

- If you were setting priorities for the federal government these days, would you place a higher priority on spending to help the economy recover, or a higher priority on reducing the budget deficit?

		Spending on recovery	Reducing the deficit
Feb. 2011	Pew	46%	49%
Jun. 2011	Pew	42	52
Aug. 2011	Pew	47	46
Oct. 2011	Pew	47	48
Jun. 2012	Pew	48	47
Dec. 2012	Pew	45	48
Dec. 2013	Pew	44	49

- Which of the following comes closer to your point of view about reducing the federal deficit? This is something that needs to be solved now. This is something that needs to be worked on and that we need to continue to address. This is something that we can address in the future.

		Needs to be solved now	Need to continue to address	Can address in the future
Dec. 2012	NBC/WSJ	58%	37%	4%

- Let's turn to the federal budget deficit. This is the amount the government spends that is more than the amount it takes in from taxes and other revenue. Is it your sense that this year the deficit is getting bigger or getting smaller, or is it staying about the same as last year?

		Getting bigger	Getting smaller	Staying about the same
Feb. 2013	Bloomberg	62%	6%	28%

- A quick question about the deficit- which is the difference between what the federal government spends and what it takes in taxes and other revenue each year. Over the last six years, do you think the deficit has been getting bigger or smaller?

		Bigger	Smaller
Dec. 2014	Bloomberg	73%	21%

- Which one of the following best describes the national debt? An immediate problem. A problem that can be handled several years down the road. Not a problem at all.

		Immediate problem	A problem down the road	Not a problem
Mar. 2013	Fox News	68%	27%	4%
Note: Asked of registered voters.				

- Do you think reducing the federal budget deficit is a worthy goal in and of itself, or not?

		A worthy goal	Not a worthy goal
Mar. 2013	Fox News	85%	11%
Note: Asked of registered voters.			

The deficit and me

- In your opinion, does the federal budget deficit affect your own family's financial situation, or not?

		Yes	No
Apr. 2003	CBS	43%	53%
Jul. 2009	CBS	67	31
Mar. 2013	CBS	61	36

- Would you be willing to pay more in taxes to reduce the federal deficit or are you not willing to pay more, even if the deficit grows?

		Willing to pay more	Not willing
Jun. 2011	Bloomberg	36%	61%

What to do

- What is more important: taking steps to reduce the budget deficit or keeping Social Security and Medicare benefits as they are?

		Reduce deficit	Keep Soc. Sec. and Medicare	Both equally
Feb. 1995	Pew	24%	70%	2%
Jun. 2011	Pew	32	60	4
Oct. 2011	Pew	35	58	2
Aug. 2012	Pew	33	51	11
Mar. 2013*	Pew	32	57	8
Dec. 2013*	Pew	33	59	4

Note: *Asked of a half sample.

- To reduce the federal budget deficit do you think there should be a combination of tax increases and spending cuts, or that only taxes should be raised, or only that spending should be cut?

		Combination	Only tax increases	Only spending cuts
Mar. 2010	Quinnipiac	42%	4%	49%

Note: Asked of registered voters.

- Do you think asking the wealthiest Americans to pay more in taxes is a good idea because it will help grow the economy and reduce the deficit, or a bad idea because it reduces the incentive for people to invest and punishes hard work and success?

		Good idea	Bad idea
Mar. 2009*	Fox News	55%	39%
Sep. 2011	Fox News	57	40
<i>Sep. 2011 party breakdowns</i>			
	Democrat	82%	16%
	Republican	28	69
	Independent	56	36

Note: *In 2009 question wording was "Do you think asking the wealthiest Americans to pay more in taxes is a good idea because it levels the economic and social playing field, or a bad idea because it punishes hard work and success?"

- Which of the following comes closer to your view? The president and the Congress should worry more about boosting the economy even though it may mean larger budget deficits now and in the future. The president and the Congress should worry more about keeping the budget deficit down, even though it may mean it will take longer for the economy to recover.

		Worry about boosting the economy	Keep the deficit down
Jul. 2009	NBC/WSJ	36%	59%
Jun. 2009	NBC/WSJ	35	58
Sept. 2009	NBC/WSJ	30	62
Oct. 2009	NBC/WSJ	31	62
Dec. 2009	CNBC	33	56
Jun. 2010	NBC/WSJ	34	63
Jun. 2011*	NBC/WSJ	31	63
Aug. 2011*	NBC/WSJ	38	56

Note: *Asked of a half sample.

- Thinking about your own situation, would you be willing to pay an additional \$8,798 in federal taxes to eliminate the deficit and balance the budget?

		Yes, willing to pay \$8,798 to balance the budget	Would not	Not sure
Feb. 2009	Harris/Tax Foundation	6%	81%	12%

- Would you find it acceptable or not acceptable to raise the deficit in the short term to try to create jobs and stimulate growth?

		Acceptable	Not acceptable	Not necessary
Jan. 1993*	CBS/NYT	43%	47%	1%
Feb. 1993*	CBS/NYT	45	46	1
Jul. 2009	CBS	63	31	1

Note: *Question was worded "in the near term" rather than "in the short term".

- Do you believe middle-class Americans will or will not have to make financial sacrifices to decrease the federal budget deficit?

		Will	Will not
Mar. 2010	Quinnipiac	84%	11%
Feb. 2011	Quinnipiac	90	6
Oct. 2011	Quinnipiac	81	11

- Do you think _____ should or should not be a main part of any government approach to the deficit?

Quinnipiac	Should	Should not be
Raising income taxes on households making more than \$250,000		
Mar. 2010	60%	38%
Feb. 2011	64	32
Raising income taxes on households making more than 1 million dollars		
Mar. 2010	72	26
Raising income taxes on the middle-class		
Mar. 2010	17	80
Cutting the growth of spending on Social Security benefits		
Mar. 2010	19	77
Feb. 2011	25	70
Cutting the growth of spending on Medicare benefits		
Mar. 2010	21	76
Feb. 2011	25	72
Cutting defense		
Feb. 2011	46	48
Cutting the growth of spending on Medicaid benefits		
Feb. 2011	37	59

- Which statement comes closest to your view?

Feb. 2010	Zogby International	-----Responses of-----			
		National	Dems	Reps	Inds
Federal income taxes should be cut for everyone, regardless of income		38%	6%	76%	44%
Federal income taxes should be cut for all except families earning more than \$250,000 per year		25	41	12	19
Given the federal deficit and the cost of military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, the federal government can't afford any income tax cuts		30	47	9	30

- I'm going to mention some general approaches that could be considered to help decrease the deficit— some of which may mean a sacrifice for you and your household. For each, please tell me if you think this approach should be strongly considered, just considered, or taken off the table.

Mar. 2010	Bloomberg	Strongly considered	Considered	Taken off the table
Remove the cap on the Social Security tax so that wage earners who make more than \$107,000 a year continue to pay into Social Security		36%	42%	18%
Continue to provide basic coverage for people on Medicare, but require them to pay more for health services beyond basic care		12	35	52
Raise the age at which people become eligible for Medicare from 65 to 67		14	32	53
Allow the tax rate for the highest income earners to go back up to where it was 10 years ago		36	32	26
Raise the income tax rate on middle-class Americans by 2%		9	25	65
Eliminate the income tax deduction for home mortgages		13	30	55
Cut federal spending on roads, bridges and public transportation		16	38	45
Reduce annual cost of living increases for Social Security participants		17	35	47
Add a penny-an-ounce tax on sugar-sweetened drinks, meaning 12 cents for a 12-ounce can of soda		29	28	42

- I'm going to mention some areas of government spending where some groups are seeking dramatic changes or complete elimination. Please tell me whether you think the action would result in savings to the federal deficit that would be very large, fairly large, fairly small, or would make little difference at all.

Mar. 2011	Bloomberg	Very large	Fairly large	Fairly small	Little difference	Not sure
Significantly cut aid to foreign countries		42%	30%	14%	10%	4%
Significantly cut federal funding for community renewal programs that serve lower-income Americans		14	20	35	27	4
Reduce benefits for Medicare		19	25	27	24	5
Pull all troops out of Iraq and Afghanistan		47	28	12	11	2
Repeal the health care law passed last year		28	21	18	24	9
Significantly cut federal funding for medical and scientific research		14	21	33	28	4
Gradually raise the age of eligibility for Social Security to 69		19	28	24	24	5
Significantly cut education programs, including No Child Left Behind, Head Start, and subsidies for college loans		16	18	31	31	4
Significantly cut federal funding for public television and public radio		12	13	34	37	4
Significantly cut the Environmental Protection Agency		17	20	31	28	4
Repeal the tax cuts for households earning more than \$250,000 per year		25	29	20	20	6
Replace Medicare with a system in which government vouchers would help participants pay for their own health insurance		19	24	23	27	7

- I'm going to mention these areas again. This time, please tell me if you would favor or oppose substantial changes to the program.

Mar. 2011 Bloomberg

	Favor	Oppose	Not sure
Significantly cut aid to foreign countries	72%	26%	2%
Significantly cut federal funding for community renewal programs that serve lower-income Americans	31	66	3
Reduce benefits for Medicare	22	76	2
Pull all troops out of Iraq and Afghanistan	66	30	4
Repeal the health care law passed last year	52	42	6
Significantly cut federal funding for medical and scientific research	26	72	2
Gradually raise the age of eligibility for Social Security to 69	44	54	2
Significantly cut education programs, including No Child Left Behind, Head Start, and subsidies for college loans	21	77	2
Significantly cut federal funding for public television and public radio	46	50	4
Significantly cut the Environmental Protection Agency	35	62	3
Repeal the tax cuts for households earning more than \$250,000 per year	59	37	4
Replace Medicare with a system in which government vouchers would help participants pay for their own health insurance	40	54	6

- I'm going to mention some of the ideas for reducing the deficit. For each, please tell me if this is something you favor or oppose. Do you favor or oppose strongly or just favor or oppose?

Dec. 2010 Bloomberg

	Strongly favor	Favor	Oppose	Strongly oppose	Not sure
Freeze non-defense discretionary spending for programs such as education and medical research, which is almost 20% of the budget, at current levels for a few years	14%	29%	32%	21%	4%
Cut defense spending, which accounts for 20% of the federal budget	17	28	33	18	4
Reduce benefits for Medicare	4	11	46	36	3
Reduce benefits for Medicaid, which is government help for medical care for low-income people	10	16	42	30	2
Raise the amount of salary subject to Social Security tax beyond the current limit of about \$107,000	15	36	29	9	11
Reduce cost-of-living increases to Social Security	10	21	38	27	4
Create a national 6.5% sales tax with revenues specifically going to deficit reduction	13	33	32	17	5
Decrease the amount paid to hospitals and doctors who provide Medicare services	9	20	44	23	4
Gradually raise the age of eligibility for Social Security to 69	10	27	34	26	3
Add a 15-cents-a-gallon federal gasoline tax	7	18	32	42	1
Eliminate all tax deductions, including the home mortgage deduction, in return for lower tax rates	12	29	33	18	8

Replace Medicare with a system in which government vouchers would help participants pay for their own health insurance	8	27	33	25	7
Cut subsidies to farmers	10	23	39	22	6
Eliminate tax cuts the wealthiest Americans have received in recent years	33	26	20	18	3
Begin means testing for Social Security and Medicare and reduce benefits for the wealthy	24	43	19	8	6
Impose a tax on Wall Street profits	34	36	17	7	6

- Do you think it is or is not possible to bring down the deficit substantially without raising taxes?

		Is possible	Is not possible	Not sure
Mar. 2011	Bloomberg	61%	37%	2%

- Please tell me if you would support or oppose each of the following to help reduce the nation's budget deficit?

Oct. 2011	Wash Post/Bloomberg	Support	Oppose
	Raising taxes on households with incomes of 250 thousand dollars per year and higher	68%	27%
	Raising taxes on the middle class	18	79
	Reducing Social Security benefits	13	83
	Reducing Medicare benefits	14	82
	Reducing military spending	51	42

- Do you believe middle-class Americans will or will not have to make financial sacrifices to decrease the federal budget deficit?

Oct. 2011	Wash Post/Bloomberg	Will	Will not
		81%	11%

- Which of the following comes closest to your view about how to reduce the federal budget deficit? Mostly cut government spending including entitlement programs like Medicare and Medicaid, mostly increase revenues such as limiting tax deductions on higher income, do both, cut spending including entitlement programs and increase revenues by limiting tax deductions on higher income.

Dec. 2013	McClatchy/Marist	Cut government spending	Increase revenues	Do both
		16%	37%	38%

- Which of the following comes closer to your view of the budget deficit – the government should run a deficit if necessary when the country is in a recession and is at war, or the government should balance the budget even when the country is in a recession and is at war?

		Run a deficit	Balance the budget
Jan. 2002	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	51%	46%
Jan. 2009	CNN/ORC	33	65
Nov. 2009	CNN/ORC	30	67

- In order to reduce the budget deficit, would you be willing or not willing to pay more in taxes?

		Willing	Not willing
Mar. 2004	CBS/NYT	34%	61%
Jul. 2009	CBS/NYT	41	56
Jan. 2011	CBS/NYT	33	65
Mar. 2011	CBS	33	65

- Would you favor or oppose raising taxes as a way to reduce the budget deficit?

		Favor	Oppose
Mar. 2011	Pew	30%	67%

- Do you think it is or is not possible to bring down the federal budget deficit substantially without raising taxes?

		Is possible	Is not possible
Mar. 2011	Bloomberg	61%	37%

- Overall, what do you think is the best way to reduce the federal budget deficit – by cutting federal spending, by increasing taxes, or by a combination of both?

		Cutting federal spending	Increasing taxes	Both
Dec. 2010	ABC/Wash Post	36%	2%	60%
Mar. 2011	ABC/Wash Post	31	3	64
Apr. 2011	ABC/Wash Post	36	3	59
Jun. 2011	ABC/Wash Post	37	4	57
Jul. 2011	ABC/Wash Post	32	4	62
Dec. 2012	ABC/Wash Post	29	4	65
Jan. 2013	CBS/NYT	33	3	61
Sep. 2013	CBS/NYT	33	4	60
Apr. 2015*	CBS/NYT	39	6	51
Oct. 2015**^	CBS/NYT	27	4	63

Note: *Question wording changed to “What do you think is the best approach to managing the federal budget deficit: mostly by cutting federal spending, mostly by increasing taxes, or by a fairly even combination of both spending cuts and tax increases?” **Question wording change to “Do you think any plan to reduce the federal budget deficit should include only tax increases, or only spending cuts, or a combination of both tax increases and spending cuts?” ^Asked of half sample.

- As you may know, Congress can reduce the federal budget deficit by cutting spending, raising taxes, or a combination of the two. Ideally, how would you prefer to see Congress attempt to reduce the federal budget deficit: only with spending cuts, mostly with spending cuts, equally with spending cuts and tax increases, mostly with tax increases, or only with tax increases?

		Only spending cuts	Mostly spending cuts	Spending cuts, tax increases equally	Mostly tax increases	Only tax increases
Apr. 2011	Gallup/USA Today	20%	28%	37%	9%	2%
Jul. 2011	Gallup/USA Today	20	30	32	7	4
Nov. 2012	Gallup/USA Today	10	30	45	8	3

- Regardless of whether you are willing or unwilling to pay higher taxes, do you think it is or is not inevitable that taxes will go up for all Americans as part of a plan to bring down the deficit?

		Is inevitable	Is not inevitable
Jun. 2011	Bloomberg	77%	19%

- If you had to choose, which of the following measures would you prefer in order to balance the federal budget deficit?

		Increase taxes	Decrease government spending	Both
Jul. 2011	Economist/YouGov	10%	53%	29%

- If taxes are raised, should they be raised on everyone or just some groups?

		Raised for everyone	Raised only for the wealthy
Jul. 2011	Economist/YouGov	34%	54%

- Do you think it is possible for the federal government to balance its budget without increasing taxes, or do you think some taxes will have to be increased?

		Possible to balance w/o increasing taxes	Some taxes will have to be increased
Aug. 2011	AP-GfK/Roper	29%	69%

- Please tell me whether you favor or oppose each of the following as a way to reduce the federal debt. How about increasing tax revenues by making major changes to the current federal tax code?

Aug. 2011	Gallup	Favor 60%	Oppose 33%
<i>Demographic results</i>			
	<i>Income</i>		
	<\$30k	56%	36%
	\$30k – \$49k	60	30
	\$50k-\$74k	56	36
	>\$75k	68	28
	<i>Party ID</i>		
	Republican	51%	39%
	Democrat	67	25
	Independent	60	36

- Please tell me whether you favor or oppose each of the following as a way to reduce the federal debt. How about increasing income tax rates for upper income Americans?

Aug. 2011	Gallup	Favor 66%	Oppose 33%
<i>Demographic results</i>			
	<i>Income</i>		
	<\$30k	70%	29%
	\$30k – \$49k	75	23
	\$50k-\$74k	61	38
	>\$75k	61	39
	<i>Party ID</i>		
	Republican	45%	52%
	Democrat	83	16
	Independent	63	35

- Which of the following would be the more effective approach to reduce the federal budget deficit and national debt?

Sep. 2011	Bloomberg	
	Cut spending especially on entitlements with no tax increase	38%
	Raise taxes and don't touch entitlements	31
	Cut spending – especially on entitlements such as Social Security and Medicare – and increase some taxes	17
	Not sure	14

- I am going to mention some changes that could be made to decrease the deficit. For each, please tell me if you favor or oppose the change?

Sep. 2011	Bloomberg	Favor	Oppose	Not sure
Reduce Social Security benefits for high-income earners		64%	32%	4%
Repeal the tax cuts for households earning more than \$250,000 a year		54	40	6
Raise the amount of salary subject to Social Security tax beyond the current limit of about \$107,000		52	35	13
Gradually increase the Social Security retirement age to 69		49	48	3
Eliminate all tax deductions, including the home mortgage deduction, in return for lower tax rates for every tax bracket		48	45	7
Let tax cuts for all taxpayers expire as scheduled and return rates to previous levels		48	42	10

Cut defense weapons systems and reduce the number of armored forces personnel	41	56	3
Replace Medicare with a system in which government vouchers would help participants pay for their own health insurance	37	57	6
Increase co-pays for Medicare recipients	33	62	5
Decrease the amount paid to hospitals and doctors who provide Medicare services	30	66	4
Cut benefits by slowing the rate of automatic cost-of-living increases for Social Security payments	29	63	8
Cut Medicaid, which is government help for medical care for low-income people	21	76	3

- In order to balance the federal budget, which should be the main focus of lawmakers: increasing taxes or cutting government services?

		Increasing taxes	Cutting services	Both equally	Neither
Nov. 2010	AP-GfK/Roper	30%	59%	4%	5%
Mar. 2011	AP-GfK/Roper	29	62	4	3
Aug. 2011	AP-GfK/Roper	34	53	6	6
Oct. 2011	AP-GfK/Roper	34	55	4	4
Dec. 2011	AP-GfK/Roper	31	60	4	3
Feb. 2012	AP-GfK/Roper	31	56	5	5
Dec. 2012	AP-GfK/Roper	30	46	13	8
Jan. 2013	AP-GfK/Roper	30	49	11	6

- In your view, what is the best way to reduce the federal budget deficit? Should we mostly focus on cutting major programs, mostly focus on increasing taxes, or should we do a combination of both?

		Cutting programs	Increasing taxes	Combination
Dec. 2010	Pew	16%	4%	65%
Apr. 2011	Pew	20	6	64
Jul. 2011	Pew	19	8	60
Nov. 2011	Pew	17	8	62
Sep. 2012	Pew	16	6	69
Dec. 2012	Pew	11	7	74
Dec. 2013	Pew	20	7	63

- Congress has considered many proposals for reducing the deficit. As I read a list of ideas, please tell me if you think each one should be part of the final package that Congress considers to reduce the deficit, or not. First, how about _____? Do you think this should be part of the package to reduce the deficit, or not?

		Yes	No
Letting the Bush tax cuts expire for families earning at least \$250,000 a year			
Nov. 2011	UT/National Journal	53%	36%
Oct. 2012	UT/National Journal	55	36

Reducing the value of itemized deductions for families earning at least \$250,000 a year			
Nov. 2011	UT/National Journal	55	32
Oct. 2012	UT/National Journal	58	33

Raising the eligibility age for Medicare from 65 to 67			
Nov. 2011	UT/National Journal	35	62
Oct. 2012	UT/National Journal	39	57

Placing strict limits on how much Washington will spend on Medicaid and Medicare			
Nov. 2011	UT/National Journal	45	47
Oct. 2012	UT/National Journal	43	49

Freezing spending through the year 2019 on non-defense domestic programs such as education, parks and housing"

Nov. 2011	UT/National Journal	32	62
Oct. 2012	UT/National Journal	35	57

Note: November 2011 wording began "The supper committee has considered . . ."

- As you may know, both Democrats and Republicans are talking about raising more tax revenue from families earning at least \$250,000 per year as part of a long-term plan to reduce the federal deficit. Which one of the following three options would you most prefer to raise additional tax revenue from high income families? Reduce their ability to benefit from tax deductions like those for mortgage payments and state and local taxes but do not increase their tax rates. Or, Increase their tax rates but do not change their ability to benefit from tax deductions. Or, both increase their tax rates and reduce their ability to benefit from tax deductions.

		Reduce deductions only	Increase tax rates only	Reduce deductions and increase tax rates
Dec. 2012	UT/ <i>National Journal</i>	21%	29%	39%

- I am going to mention some changes that could be made to decrease the deficit. For each, please tell me if you favor or oppose the change. . . .

Dec. 2012	Bloomberg	Favor	Oppose	Unsure
Limit the amount that can be deducted for home mortgages		38%	49%	13%
Limit the amount that can be deducted for charitable gifts		41	51	8
Let tax cuts for all taxpayers expire as scheduled and return rates to previous levels		38	50	12
Repeal the tax cuts for households earning more than \$250,000 a year		52	42	6
Repeal the tax cuts for households earning more than \$1 million a year		60	32	8
Reduce Social Security benefits for high-income earners		52	43	5
Gradually increase the Social Security retirement age to 69		36	61	3
Cut Medicaid, which is government help for medical care for low-income people		22	74	4
Gradually increase the age of eligibility for Medicare from 65 to 67		42	55	3
Reduce Medicare benefits for high-income earners		60	35	5

- Thinking about ways to reduce the deficit and size of the national debt, please tell me if you would approve or disapprove of each of the following. First, _____. Would you approve or disapprove of this as a way to reduce the size of the national debt?

Pew Research Center	Approve	Disapprove
Reduce military defense spending		
Dec. 2012	43%	55%
Oct. 2012	40	56
Raise the income tax rate on incomes over \$250,000 a year		
Dec. 2012	69	28
Oct. 2012	64	29
Limit the amount of deductions a taxpayer can claim		
Dec. 2012	54	40
Gradually raising the age at which people can begin receiving Medicare benefits		
Dec. 2012	41	56
Reduce Medicare benefits for seniors with higher incomes		
Dec. 2012	51	46
Reduce federal funding for programs that help lower-income Americans		
Dec. 2012	38	58
Reduce federal funding for roads and transportation		
Dec. 2012	30	67
Gradually raise the age at which people can begin receiving Social Security benefits		
Dec. 2012	42	56

Reduce Social Security benefits for seniors with higher incomes					
Dec. 2012		51		46	
Raise the tax rate on investment income					
Dec. 2012		52		43	
Reduce federal funding for education					
Dec. 2012		21		77	
Limit tax deductions for interest paid on home mortgages					
Dec. 2012		41		52	
• Please tell me whether you support or oppose each of the following to reduce the federal budget deficit. . . .					
Dec. 2012	McClatchy-Marist				
		Support	Oppose	Unsure	
Let the Bush tax cuts expire and raise taxes on individual income above \$200,000 or family income above \$250K		57%	40%	3%	
Let the Obama payroll tax cut expire		33	50	17	
Cut spending for Medicare		23	74	3	
Cut spending for Medicaid		26	70	4	
Eliminate the tax deduction for home mortgage interest		29	67	4	
Eliminate the tax deduction for charitable contributions		28	69	3	
Let the Bush tax cuts expire and raise taxes for everyone		24	74	2	
Raise the age to receive Medicare from 65 to 67		40	59	1	
• The following are ways that some people have proposed making cuts in government spending to reduce the federal budget deficit. For each one, please tell me if you favor, oppose or neither favor nor oppose it as a way of reducing the federal budget deficit. . . ."					
		Favor	Oppose	Neither	Unsure
Reducing federal government spending on defense					
Dec. 2012	AP-GfK/Roper	40%	44%	12%	4%
Jan. 2013	AP-GfK/Roper	41	40	16	3
Gradually raising the age at which people become eligible for Medicare benefits					
Dec. 2012	AP-GfK/Roper	40%	48%	9%	3%
Jan. 2013	AP-GfK/Roper	35	53	10	2
Apr. 2013	AP-GfK/Roper	30	59	10	1
Changing the way Social Security benefits are calculated so that annual increases are smaller					
Jan. 2013	AP-GfK/Roper	30%	49%	16%	5%
Dec. 2012	AP-GfK/Roper	30	49	15	6
Apr. 2013	AP-GfK/Roper	26	54	15	4
Raising Medicare premiums for high-income recipients					
Jan. 2013	AP-GfK/Roper	60%	25%	12%	3%
Apr. 2013	AP-GfK/Roper	51	30	15	2
Reducing Medicare benefits for seniors with higher incomes					
Nov. 2010	AP-GfK/Roper	45%	43%	11%	2%
Apr. 2013	AP-GfK/Roper	36	45	13	4
Limiting itemized tax deductions for people with incomes in the top 2 percent, that is individuals earning \$183,000 or more and married couples making \$223,000 or more					
Apr. 2013	AP-GfK/Roper	45%	33%	14%	6%
Requiring all Americans with incomes of one million dollars or more to pay at least 30 percent of their income in taxes					
Feb. 2012*	AP-GfK	65%	26%	7%	1%
Apr. 2013	AP-GfK/Roper	59	29	8	2
Note: *Question wording was "Please tell me if you favor, oppose, or neither favor nor oppose a law requiring that all Americans with incomes of one million dollars or more pay at least 30 percent of their income in taxes? Do you favor/oppose that strongly/somewhat?"					

- Overall, what do you think is the best way to reduce the federal budget deficit – by cutting federal spending, by increasing taxes, or by a combination of both?

		Cutting spending	Increasing taxes	Combination of both
Jan. 2013	CBS	33%	2%	61%
Feb. 2013	CBS	32	3	59
Mar. 2013 (early)	CBS	35	5	56
Mar. 2013 (late)	CBS	34	2	58
Apr. 2013	CBS/ <i>NYT</i>	36	3	57
Sep. 2013	CBS/ <i>NYT</i>	33	4	60

- I'm going to read you some suggestions that have been made to reduce the size of the federal budget deficit. Please tell me whether you would favor or oppose each of the following.

In order to reduce the budget deficit, would you favor or oppose reducing defense spending?"

		Favor	Oppose	Unsure
Dec. 2012	CBS	42%	54%	4%
Mar. 2013	CBS	38	58	3

In order to reduce the budget deficit, would you favor or oppose reducing spending on Social Security?

		Favor	Oppose	Unsure
Mar. 2013	CBS	18%	79%	2%

In order to reduce the budget deficit, would you favor or oppose reducing spending on Medicare, the government health insurance program for seniors?

		Favor	Oppose	Unsure
Mar. 2013	CBS	18%	80%	2%

In order to reduce the budget deficit, would you favor or oppose reducing some government programs and services that benefit people like you?

		Favor	Oppose	Unsure
Dec. 2012	CBS	45%	48%	7%
Jan. 2013	CBS	56	37	8
Mar. 2013	CBS	47	45	8

In order to reduce the budget deficit, would you favor or oppose increasing the capital gains tax rate on income from investments?

		Favor	Oppose	Unsure
Mar. 2013	CBS	52%	36%	11%

In order to reduce the budget deficit, would you favor or oppose personally paying more in taxes?

		Favor	Oppose	Unsure
Dec. 2012	CBS	29%	68%	3%
Mar. 2013	CBS	31	66	3

- Thinking about the budget deficit overall, do you think the better way to reduce it is to focus exclusively on cutting spending, or do you think the better way is to cut spending combined with increasing revenue by raising taxes on companies and high-income earners?

		Just cut spending	Cut spending & raise taxes
Feb. 2013	Bloomberg	35%	59%

- Would you favor, oppose, or neither favor nor oppose each of the following proposals as a way to pay for tax cuts or additional government spending?

Jan. 2015	AP-GfK	Strongly/Somewhat favor	Neither favor nor oppose	Strongly/Somewhat oppose
	Increasing the capital gains tax on the stocks held by people in households making more than \$500,000 a year	56%	25%	16%
	Increasing the capital gains taxes that must be paid when stocks are inherited	27	34	36
	Instituting a fee on debts of banks and other financial institutions with more than \$50 billion in assets	47	36	13
	Eliminating tax breaks on withdrawals from college education savings plans	19	35	43

Democrats versus Republicans on the deficit

- Which party do you think can do a better job of handling the budget deficit? (LAT)
- Which party could do a better job of reducing the federal budget deficit? (Pew)

		Democrats	Republicans	Both	Neither
Apr. 8-11, 2006	LAT/Bloomberg	46%	20%	5%	17 %
Sep. 16-19, 2006	LAT/Bloomberg	50	28	4	12
Dec. 1993	Pew	36	31	-	18
Jul. 1994	Pew	36	42	2	13
Jun. 1999	Pew	41	37	5	8
Oct. 2005	Pew	47	29	6	10
Feb. 2006	Pew	45	33	6	9
Sept. 2006	Pew	47	27	4	8
Aug. 2009	Pew	36	35	6	13
Feb. 2010	Pew	36	42	6	8
Apr. 2010	Pew	35	38	6	11
May 2010	Pew	33	30	8	16
Aug.-Sep. 2010	Pew	36	43	5	9
Oct. 2010	Pew	28	35	7	16
Apr. 2011	Pew	34	46	8	6
May 2011	Pew	38	41	4	9
Jul. 2011	Pew	33	43	6	9
Sep. 2011	Pew	37	46	4	6
Dec. 2012	Pew	38	43	4	7
Jan. 2013	Pew	39	40	7	8
Sep. 2013	Pew	35	43	7	9
Jan. 2014	Pew	35	45	6	6
Oct. 2014	Pew	36	42	4	10
Jul. 2015	Pew	37	41	--	--

- Which political party, the Democrats or the Republicans, do you trust to do a better job handling the federal budget deficit?

		Democrats	Republicans
Nov. 2005	ABC/Wash Post	48%	34%
May 2006	ABC/Wash Post	54	34
Sep. 2007	ABC/Wash Post	52	29
Feb. 2008	ABC/Wash Post	52	31
Mar. 2010	ABC/Wash Post	43	35
Aug.-Sep. 2010	ABC/Wash Post	38	44
Sep.-Oct. 2010	ABC/Wash Post	39	40
Feb. 2014	ABC/Wash Post	37	39
Apr. 2014	ABC/Wash Post	35	44
Oct. 2014	ABC/Wash Post	34	43

Do you think the Republicans in Congress or the Democrats in Congress would do a better job of dealing with each of the following issues and problems?

The federal budget deficit

		Republicans -----in Congress-----	Democrats
Aug. 2009	CNN/ORC	46%	46%
Mar. 2010	CNN/ORC	46	44
Sep. 2010	CNN/ORC	46	40

- Who do you trust more to make the right decisions about reducing the federal budget deficit – the Republicans in Congress or Barack Obama?

		Republicans in Congress	Obama	Neither
Jan. 2011	CBS/ <i>NYT</i>	44%	42%	8%
Feb. 2011	CBS/ <i>NYT</i>	42	42	9
Jan. 2012	CBS/ <i>NYT</i>	42	43	9
Jan. 2013	CBS/ <i>NYT</i>	37	50	8
Mar. 2013	CBS/ <i>NYT</i>	35	42	15
Apr. 2013	CBS/ <i>NYT</i>	42	41	10
Sep. 2013	CBS/ <i>NYT</i>	38	44	14

- When it comes to reducing the federal deficit which party do you think would do a better job – the Democratic Party, the Republican Party, or both about the same? If you think that neither would do a good job, please just say so.

		Democratic Party	Republican Party	Both about the same	Neither
Oct. 1990*	NBC/ <i>WSJ</i>	25%	27%	19%	23%
Oct. 1991*	NBC/ <i>WSJ</i>	24	29	16	24
Apr. 1992*	NBC/ <i>WSJ</i>	20	19	18	37
Mar. 1993	NBC/ <i>WSJ</i>	39	16	23	18
Oct. 1993	NBC/ <i>WSJ</i>	27	23	27	18
Jun. 1995	NBC/ <i>WSJ</i>	16	37	17	26
Oct. 1996	NBC/ <i>WSJ</i>	29	32	11	19
Sep. 1997	NBC/ <i>WSJ</i>	23	31	22	18
Dec. 2003	NBC/ <i>WSJ</i>	38	25	12	16
Jan. 2004	NBC/ <i>WSJ</i>	37	26	18	15
Nov. 2005	NBC/ <i>WSJ</i>	38	19	15	22
Jul. 2007	NBC/ <i>WSJ</i>	43	18	14	21
Jan. 2008	NBC/ <i>WSJ</i>	42	20	17	15
Jul. 2009	NBC/ <i>WSJ</i>	25	31	18	22
Mar. 2010	NBC/ <i>WSJ</i>	24	30	18	25
Aug. 2010*	NBC/ <i>WSJ</i>	24	33	15	25
Oct. 2010*	NBC/ <i>WSJ</i>	28	34	13	21
Apr. 2011	NBC/ <i>WSJ</i>	21	33	19	25
Dec. 2011	NBC/ <i>WSJ</i>	23	34	18	22
Jun. 2012^	NBC/ <i>WSJ</i>	25	37	13	23
Feb. 2013^	NBC/ <i>WSJ</i>	25	31	16	26
Sep. 2013	NBC/ <i>WSJ</i>	22	35	18	22
Sep. 2014^	NBC/ <i>WSJ</i>	21	39	13	22

Note: *Asked of registered voters. ^Asked of a half sample.

PARTY BEST ABLE TO HANDLE TAXES: *In the bipartisan Battleground/George Washington University polls of likely voters in 2016, Republicans had the edge on dealing with taxes. Some earlier surveys suggest that the Republicans' advantage is on "holding taxes down" or "holding the line on taxes" (see the bipartisan Tarrance/Lake Battleground surveys below).*

- In your view, would the Republican Party or the Democratic Party do a better job of dealing with each of the following issues and problems...Taxes?

		-----Party best on taxes-----	
		Democratic	Republican
		Party	Party
Sep. 1978*	Gallup	31%	25%
Jan. 1992	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	44	40
Dec. 1992	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	45	37
Dec. 1993	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	37	46
Feb. 1994	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	40	45
Mar. 1994	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	41	41
Aug. 1994	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	36	44
Oct. 1994	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	38	48
Nov. 1994	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	30	57
Oct. 1996	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	41	45
Oct. 1997	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	43	42
Oct. 1998	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	46	41
Jan. 2002	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	40	52
Jan. 2003	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	40	46
Jan. 2004	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	48	44
Oct. 2005	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	49	41
June 2006	Gallup/USA Today	50	36
Nov.-Dec. 2007	Gallup/USA Today	44	42
Apr. 2014	Gallup	44	46
Sep. 2014	Gallup	41	47
Aug. 2009	CNN/ORC	47	47
Mar. 2010	CNN/ORC	45	48
Sep. 2010	CNN/ORC	43	46

Note: *Question wording was, "Which political party – the Republican Party or the Democratic Party – do you think can do a better job of holding taxes down?" -

- Which political party, the Democrats or the Republicans, do you trust to do a better job handling taxes?

		Dems.	Reps.	Both	Neither
Jan. 1990	ABC/Wash Post	37%	47%	2%	10%
Mar. 1991	ABC/Wash Post	35	44	5	13
Dec. 1991	ABC/Wash Post	40	38	3	14
Feb. 1992	ABC/Wash Post	41	45	3	8
Feb. 1994	ABC/Wash Post	35	41	4	18
Sep. 1994	ABC/Wash Post	36	47	2	11
Oct. 1994	ABC/Wash Post	37	42	2	17
Oct. 1995	ABC/Wash Post	45	40	10	3
Jul. 1997	ABC/Wash Post	41	38	3	15
Jan. 1998	ABC/Wash Post	45	44	2	6
Jul. 1998	ABC/Wash Post	42	39	3	8
Sep. 1998	ABC/Wash Post	47	44	NA	NA
Mar. 1999	ABC/Wash Post	43	41	2	10
Sep. 1999	ABC/Wash Post	40	49	2	6
Apr. 2001	ABC/Wash Post	38	52	2	6
Sep. 2002	ABC/Wash Post	44	44	3	6
Dec. 2002	ABC/Wash Post	46	44	2	6
Nov. 2005	ABC/Wash Post	48	38	1	11
May 2006	ABC/Wash Post	52	38	1	5
Nov. 2007	ABC/Wash Post	46	40	2	8

Feb. 2008	ABC/Wash Post	48	40	1	8
Mar. 2010	ABC/Wash Post	41	39	4	14
Aug.-Sep. 2010	ABC/Wash Post	39	45	2	12
Oct. 2010	ABC/Wash Post	40	43	3	13
Mar. 2014	ABC/Wash Post	42	41	1	11

Note: *In the October 1995, September 1999, and April 2001 askings, the question asked about “cutting taxes.” In all other askings prior to 2001, the questions asked about “holding taxes down.”

- Let me read you some specific issues. When it comes to dealing with taxes, which party do you think would do a better job – the Democratic Party, the Republican Party, both about the same, or neither? (NBC/WSJ)
- Please tell me if you think the Republican Party or the Democratic Party could do a better job in each of the following areas. Which party could do a better job of dealing with taxes? (Pew)
- I am going to read you a list of issues. Please listen as I read the list and tell me, for each one, whether you have more confidence in the Republican Party, or the Democratic Party to deal with this issue. Taxes. (George Washington University)

		-----Party best on taxes-----			
		Democratic Party	Republican Party	Both/ Same	Neither
Nov. 1989*	NBC/WSJ	29%	36%	16%	12%
Jul. 1990*	NBC/WSJ	25	34	11	14
Oct. 1990*	NBC/WSJ	38	25	17	14
Mar. 1991*	NBC/WSJ	30	32	16	13
Oct. 1991*	NBC/WSJ	26	31	18	18
Mar. 1992*	NBC/WSJ	35	26	17	17
Apr. 1992*	NBC/WSJ	30	24	18	23
May 1992*	NBC/WSJ	29	24	17	22
Jul. 1992*	NBC/WSJ	29	20	20	25
Oct. 1993	NBC/WSJ	23	34	16	23
Oct. 1994	NBC/WSJ	23	38	17	18
Nov. 1994	NBC/WSJ	23	36	16	17
Jun. 1995	NBC/WSJ	22	35	15	22
Dec. 1995	NBC/WSJ	26	34	14	20
May 1996*	NBC/WSJ	25	34	17	19
Oct. 1996	NBC/WSJ	30	35	15	13
Sep. 1997	NBC/WSJ	26	31	20	16
Sep. 1998	NBC/WSJ	29	35	22	11
Oct. 1998*	NBC/WSJ	32	32	21	10
Mar. 1999	NBC/WSJ	29	35	20	12
Dec. 1999	NBC/WSJ	30	33	19	13
Mar. 2000	NBC/WSJ	29	34	19	13
Jun. 2001	NBC/WSJ	28	36	20	11
Jun. 2002	NBC/WSJ	27	33	20	15
Oct. 2002*	NBC/WSJ	31	36	17	11
Dec. 2003	NBC/WSJ	34	37	12	9
Jan. 2004	NBC/WSJ	35	37	16	10
Nov. 2005	NBC/WSJ	40	30	14	12
Mar. 2006	NBC/WSJ	35	26	21	15
Jun. 2006	NBC/WSJ	35	29	18	16
Jan. 2007	NBC/WSJ	38	30	18	12
Jul. 2007	NBC/WSJ	36	27	14	18
Jan. 2008	NBC/WSJ	36	31	17	12
Jul. 2008*	NBC/WSJ	37	36	8	15
Jul. 2009	NBC/WSJ	28	35	17	16
Mar. 2010	NBC/WSJ	25	36	19	18
Aug. 2010*	NBC/WSJ	28	35	16	18
Oct. 2010*	NBC/WSJ	31	37	13	15
Mar.-Apr. 2011	NBC/WSJ	30	32	17	20
Dec. 2011	NBC/WSJ	31	33	16	17
Jun. 2012	NBC/WSJ	32	34	12	18
Feb. 2013	NBC/WSJ	35	32	13	17
Sep. 2014*^	NBC/WSJ	29	33	17	17
Oct. 1994	PSRA/Times Mirror	34	43	5	9
Mar. 1998	Pew	40	39	6	7

Sep. 1998	Pew	37	41	7	5
Jun. 1999	Pew	38	38	5	7
May 2001	Pew	40	37	8	6
Feb. 2006	Pew	46	35	5	6
Sep. 2006	Pew	45	30	4	9
Oct. 2006	Pew	40	32	5	7
Feb. 2008	Pew	49	37	2	5
Aug. 2009	Pew	37	38	4	11
Sep. 2010	Pew	34	40	8	8
Oct. 2010	Pew	35	36	7	9
Jul. 2011	Pew	40	43	4	6
Dec. 2012^	Pew	45	37	6	4
Jan. 2013^	Pew	44	38	5	6
Jan. 2014^	Pew	41	41	4	6
Feb. 2015	Pew^	36	47	6	6
Jul. 2015	Pew	42	41	4	8

Note: *Registered voters. ^Asked of half sample.

Apr. 2016*	GWU	51%	42%	2%	3%
Aug. 2016*	GWU	49	45	-	4
Oct. 2016*	GWU	52	42	1	4

Note: Sample: National likely voters. *Asked of half sample.

- Which political party, the Democrats or the Republicans, do you trust to do a better job on holding taxes down?

		Best party on -----holding taxes down-----	
		Democratic Party	Republican Party
Nov. 1981	ABC/Wash Post	31%	53%
Sep. 1982	ABC/Wash Post	38	41
Feb. 1985	ABC/Wash Post	34	55
Jan. 1990	ABC/Wash Post	37	47
May 1990	ABC/Wash Post	35	53
Jul. 1990	ABC/Wash Post	37	44
Mar. 1991	ABC/Wash Post	35	44
Dec. 1991	ABC/Wash Post	40	38
Jan. 1992	ABC/Wash Post	41	45
Feb. 1994	ABC/Wash Post	35	41
Sep. 1994	ABC/Wash Post	36	47
Oct. 1994	ABC/Wash Post	37	42
Jan. 1998	ABC/Wash Post	45	44
Jul. 1998	ABC/Wash Post	42	39
Sep. 1998	ABC/Wash Post	47	44
Mar. 1999	ABC/Wash Post	43	41
Aug. 1999*	ABC/Wash Post	40	49
Apr. 2001*	ABC/Wash Post	38	52
Sep. 2002*	ABC/Wash Post	44	44
Dec. 2002*	ABC/Wash Post	46	44
Aug. 2003**	Wash Post	43	40
May 2006**	ABC/Wash Post	52	38
Oct.-Nov. 2007**	ABC/Wash Post	46	40
Jan-Feb. 2008**	ABC/Wash Post	48	40
Mar. 2010**	ABC/Wash Post	41	39
Sep. 2010**	ABC/Wash Post	39	45
Oct. 2010**	ABC/Wash Post	40	43
Feb. 2014**	ABC/Wash Post	42	41

Note: *Question wording was "cutting taxes." **Question wording was "handling taxes."

- Which political party – the Republicans or the Democrats – do you think would do a better job on each of the following issues...Taxes?

		-----Best party on taxes-----	
		Democratic	Republican
		Party	Party
Mar. 2001	Fox News	35%	47%
Feb. 2002	Fox News	37	40
Aug. 2002	Fox News	41	40
Oct. 2002*	Fox News	37	45
May 2003	Fox News	38	40
Feb. 2004	Fox News	41	42
Feb. 2006	Fox News	43	38
Oct. 2006	Fox News	42	40
May 2010	Fox News	40	46
Jul. 2010	Fox News	38	46
May 2014	Fox News	41	42

Note: Asked of registered voters except in October 2002 (*) when the survey was of likely voters.

- Regardless of how you usually vote, do you think the Republican Party or the Democratic Party is more likely to make sure the tax system is fair?

		More likely to make ----- tax system fair-----	
		Democratic	Republican
		Party	Party
Aug. 1996	CBS/ <i>NYT</i>	49%	33%
Aug. 1996	CBS	40	38
Aug. 1996	CBS/ <i>NYT</i>	45	38
Aug. 1996	CBS	46	36
Sep. 1998	CBS/ <i>NYT</i>	43	31
Nov. 1999	CBS/ <i>NYT</i>	46	37
Jul. 2000	CBS/ <i>NYT</i>	42	33
Jan. 2002	CBS/ <i>NYT</i>	49	36
Oct. 2002	CBS/ <i>NYT</i>	47	34
May 2003	CBS/ <i>NYT</i>	46	36
May 2006	CBS/ <i>NYT</i>	55	27

- Who do you have more confidence in when it comes to handling the following issues – President Clinton or the Republicans in Congress...Taxes?

		More confidence -----on taxes-----	
		Clinton	Republicans
Dec. 1994	Gallup/CNN/ <i>USA Today</i>	33%	55%
Dec. 1994	Gallup/CNN/ <i>USA Today</i>	36	52
Feb. 1995	Gallup/CNN/ <i>USA Today</i>	37	50
Mar. 1995	Gallup/CNN/ <i>USA Today</i>	39	48
May 1995	Gallup/CNN/ <i>USA Today</i>	42	45
Aug. 1995	Gallup/CNN/ <i>USA Today</i>	39	45
Mar. 1996	Gallup/CNN/ <i>USA Today</i>	43	45
Apr. 1996	Gallup/CNN/ <i>USA Today</i>	44	41
Nov. 1996	Gallup/CNN/ <i>USA Today</i>	42	44
Feb. 1997	Gallup/CNN/ <i>USA Today</i>	44	46
Jun. 1997	Gallup/CNN/ <i>USA Today</i>	43	40
Mar. 1998	Gallup/CNN/ <i>USA Today</i>	50	38
Feb. 1999	Gallup/CNN/ <i>USA Today</i>	51	40
Aug. 1999	Gallup/CNN/ <i>USA Today</i>	48	42

- Who do you trust to do a better job handling taxes?

		Democrats	Republicans
Oct. 2006	AP/Ipsos	49%	37%
Jan. 2007	AP/Ipsos	51	39
Sep. 2010	AP-GfK/Roper	42	48
Oct. 2010	AP-GfK/Roper	44	47
Jan. 2011	AP-GfK/Roper	45	42

Mar. 2011	AP-GfK/Roper	48	40
May 2011	AP-GfK/Roper	48	39
Jun. 2011	AP-GfK/Roper	43	44
Aug. 2011	AP-GfK/Roper	46	40
Dec. 2011	AP-GfK/Roper	41	45
Feb. 2012	AP-GfK/Roper	43	44
Nov. 2012	AP-GfK/Roper	43	39

- Which political party do you think can do a better job of handling – taxes, the Democratic party or the Republican party?

Apr. 2013	Quinnipiac				
		Democratic Party	Republican Party	No difference (vol.)	DK/NA
Total		41%	41%	8%	9%
<i>Party ID</i>					
Republican		5%	86%	6%	4%
Democrat		78	8	6	8
Independent		35	40	13	12

- As you feel today, which political party, the Democratic or Republican, do you feel can handle each of these problems better...keeping taxes from getting too high?

		Party best on -----keeping taxes from getting too high-----		
		Democratic Party	Republican Party	No difference (vol.)
Sep. 1945*	Gallup	37%	26%	23%
Jan. 1946	Gallup	31	36	21
Jun. 1946	Gallup	31	36	20
Oct. 1946	Gallup	24	42	22
May 1947	Gallup	22	46	20
Note: *Question wording was, “As you feel today, which political party, the Democratic or Republican, do you feel can handle each of these different problems...Seeing that taxes don’t get too heavy?”				

- As you feel today, which political party, the Democratic or Republican can handle each of these problems best?
Reducing federal income taxes.

		Party best on -----reducing income taxes-----		
		Democratic Party	Republican Party	No difference (vol.)
Jul. 1952	Gallup	23%	44%	22%
Apr. 1954*	Gallup	33	39	21
Sep. 1956+	Gallup	30	28	26
May 1957+	Gallup	35	24	25
Sep. 1957+	Gallup	34	26	24
Note: *Question wording was, “Which party do you feel is more interested in lowering income taxes for people like yourself...the Republican Party or the Democratic Party?” +Question wording was, “Which political party – the Democratic or Republican Party – do you think would do the best job of reducing taxes during the next four years?”				

- Which political party – the Democrats or the Republicans – do you feel can do a better job of keeping taxes down?

		Party best on -----keeping taxes down-----		
		Democrats	Republicans	Neither (vol.)
Jun. 1978	NBC/AP	31%	29%	26%
Oct. 1978	NBC/AP	33	31	21
Nov. 1978	NBC/AP	36	33	18

- With Republicans in control of Congress, do you think your taxes will increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

		-----With Republicans in control-----		
		Taxes will increase	Stay same	Taxes will decrease
Nov. 2002	CBS/ <i>NYT</i>	40%	40%	14%
Jan. 2003	CBS	38	43	14

- Which party do you think would do the best when it comes to dealing with the federal tax system, the Republicans or the Democrats, or don't you think there is a difference between them when it comes to taxes?

		-----Party best on taxes-----		
		Republicans	Democrats	No difference
Feb.-Mar. 2003	Kaiser/NPR/Harvard	25%	28%	39%

- Who do you trust more to handle the issue of taxes, Democrats or Republicans?

		Democrats	Republicans
Mar. 2004	AP/Ipsos	44%	42%

- Which party do you think can do a better job of handling taxes?

		Democrats	Republicans	Both	Neither
Apr. 2006	<i>LAT</i> /Bloomberg	41%	29%	4%	14%
Sep. 2006	<i>LAT</i> /Bloomberg	44	36	4	10

- Do you think the Republicans in Congress or the Democrats in Congress would do a better job of dealing with each of the following issues and problems? How about...taxes?

		Republicans in Congress	Democrats in Congress
Jun. 2006	Gallup/ <i>USA Today</i>	36%	50%

- Which party would do a better job of managing tax policy?

		Republicans	Democrats
Mar. 2006	<i>Time</i> /SRBI	38%	45%

- Which political party – the Republicans or the Democrats – do you think would do the best job on each of the following issues...Keeping taxes down?

		Best party on -----keeping taxes down-----	
		Democrats	Republicans
Feb. 1999	Fox News	33%	44%
Jun. 1999	Fox News	32	45

Note: Asked of registered voters.

- Concerning taxes, do you generally agree more with the Democrats or more with the Republicans?

		-----Agree more on taxes-----	
		Democratic Party	Republican Party
Nov. 1996	Fox News	38%	41%
May 2003	Fox News	36	42

Note: Asked of registered voters.

- If a _____ gets elected president in 2008, do you think your taxes will go up, down or stay about the same?

Feb. 2007	Fox News			
		Up	Down	Stay the Same
A Democrat		46%	9%	38%
A Republican		44	5	45

Note: Asked of registered voters.

- Which political party do you think...would work harder to reduce taxes...the Democratic Party or the Republican Party?

Jun. 2014	Fox News	35%	46%
Oct. 2014	Fox News	38	47

Note: Asked of registered voters.

- Who do you have more confidence in when it comes to handling the following issues – President Bush or the Democrats in Congress? ...Taxes?

		More confidence -----on taxes-----	
		Democrats in Congress	Bush
Jan. 2002	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	34%	58%

- Just your best guess, do you think the [Republican/Democratic] leaders in Congress want to raise taxes, keep taxes as they are now, or lower taxes?

		-----Republican leaders-----		
		Raise taxes	Keep as now	Lower taxes
Jan. 2002	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	24%	33%	38%
		-----Democratic leaders-----		
		Raise taxes	Keep as now	Lower taxes
		40%	34%	20%

- I would like to read you a list of issues that some people from this part of the country have said are important for government to deal with. Please listen as I read the list and tell me, for each one, whether you have more confidence in – the Democratic Party, or the Republican Party – to deal with this issue...Holding the line on taxes?

		Confidence on -----holding line on taxes-----	
		Democratic Party	Republican Party
Apr. 1993	Tarrance(R)/Lake(D)	30%	52%
Jun. 1993	Tarrance(R)/Lake(D)	24	50
Aug. 1994	Tarrance(R)/Lake(D)	27	48
Apr. 1995	Tarrance(R)/Lake(D)	26	47
Jan. 1996	Tarrance(R)/Lake(D)	32	46
Apr. 2001	Tarrance(R)/Lake(D)	36	45
Jan. 2002	Tarrance(R)/Lake(D)	28	57
Jun. 2002	Tarrance(R)/Lake(D)	29	54
Sep. 2003	Tarrance(R)/Lake(D)	34	53

Note: Asked of likely voters only.

- Now, I would like to read you a list of issues that some people from this part of the country have said are important for the President and Congress to deal with. Please listen as I read the list and tell me, for each one, who would do a better job of handling this issue or better represents this quality – the Republicans in Congress or the Democrats in Congress....holding the line on taxes?

		Democrats in Congress	Republicans in Congress
Mar. 2004	Tarrance(R)/Lake(D)	40%	52%
Jun. 2004	Tarrance(R)/Lake(D)	38	53
Mar. 2005	Tarrance(R)/Lake(D)	36	49
Oct. 2005	Tarrance(R)/Lake(D)	40	49
Feb. 2006	Tarrance(R)/Lake(D)	36	52
Jul. 2009*	Tarrance(R)/Lake(D)	29	53
Dec. 2009*	Tarrance(R)/Lake(D)	28	55
Apr. 2010*	Tarrance(R)/Lake(D)	28	56
Sep. 2010*	Tarrance(R)/Lake(D)	26	53

Note: *Question reading read “holding down taxes” as opposed to “holding the line on taxes.”

- Now, I would like to read you a list of issues that some people have said are important to them. Please listen as I read the list and tell me, for each one, who will better handle this issue – Republicans in Congress or Democrats in Congress.

		Democrats in Congress	Republicans in Congress
Apr. 2012	Tarrance(R)/Lake(D)	46%	47%
Aug. 2012	Tarrance(R)/Lake(D)	44	48
Oct. 2013	Tarrance(R)/Lake(D)	40	49

Note: Asked of a half sample.

- I am going to read you a list of issues. Please listen as I read the list and tell me, for each one, whether you have more confidence in the Republican Party or Democratic Party to deal with this issue...taxes?

		Democrats in Congress	Republicans in Congress
Mar. 2014	Tarrance(R)/Lake(D)	44%	47%

- Now, I would like to read you a list of issues that some people from this part of the country have said are important for the President and Congress to deal with. Please listen as I read the list and tell me, for each one, who will better handle this issue—Republicans in Congress or President (Barack) Obama...holding down taxes?

		Republicans in Congress	President Obama
Jul. 2009	Tarrance(R)/Lake(D)	48%	36%
Dec. 2009	Tarrance(R)/Lake(D)	52	34
Apr. 2010	Tarrance(R)/Lake(D)	53	31

- Do you think Republicans in Congress or the Democrats in Congress would do a better job of dealing with each of the following issues and problems? How about taxes?

		Better job dealing -----with taxes-----	
		Congressional Democrats	Congressional Republicans
May 2002	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	36%	43%
Sep. 2002	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	50	38
Jan. 2003	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	40	46
Oct. 2005	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	49	41
Jun. 2006	Gallup/USA Today	50	36
Aug. 2009	CNN/ORC	47	47
Mar. 2010	CNN/ORC	45	48
Sep. 2010	CNN/ORC	43	46
Apr. 2014	Gallup	44	46
Sep. 2014	Gallup	41	47

- Now, I would like to read you a list of issues that some people from this part of the country have said are important for the President and Congress to deal with. Please listen as I read the list and tell me, for each one, who would do a better job of handling this issue or better represents this quality – President George W. Bush or the Democrats in Congress....holding the line on taxes?

		President Bush	Democrats in Congress
Mar. 2005	Tarrance(R)/Lake(D)	53%	34%
Oct. 2005	Tarrance(R)/Lake(D)	47	39
Feb. 2006	Tarrance(R)/Lake(D)	46	44

- Who do you trust to do a better job of handling taxes: George W. Bush or the Democrats in Congress?

		Bush	Democrats
Jan. 2004	ABC/Wash Post	43%	46%
Jan. 2006	LAT/Bloomberg	34	43
Dec. 2006	LAT/Bloomberg	38	47

- Now I would like to mention a number of policy issues facing the country, and for each one, please tell me who you would prefer to have set the country's policy in that particular area – President Bush and the Republicans or the Democrats in Congress?

		Bush/ Republicans	Democrats in Congress
Jan. 2003	NBC/WSJ	46%	44%
Apr. 2003	NBC/WSJ	52	38
Jul. 2003	NBC/WSJ	46	45

- When it comes to the current debate about federal tax cuts, whose views do you more closely share – President Bush's views, or the Democrats' views?

		Bush	Democrats
Feb.-Mar. 2003	Kaiser/NPR/Harvard	38%	40%

- Who do you think will have the better approach to taxes – President Obama or the Republicans in Congress, or do you there won't be much difference?

		Obama	Republicans	Not much difference
Nov. 2014	Pew	25%	34%	37%

TAXES AS A VOTING ISSUE: *Voters who tell exit pollsters that taxes are the most important issue to them in casting their ballots, vote in overwhelming proportions for Republican presidential candidates. In presidential elections since 1984, the group that has selected taxes as most important to their vote (or one of the two issues in the Los Angeles Times national exit poll formulation) has ranged from a low of 5 percent in 2004 to a high of 17 percent (in 1984 and 2000) of the electorate. In 2008, the exit pollsters did not include a question like the ones below. They did ask voters if their taxes would go up under an Obama and McCain presidency. Majorities of voters thought their taxes would go up under both. In the 2010 midterm elections, only 18 percent of national exit poll respondents said cutting taxes should be the highest priority for Congress. Forty-percent said reducing the deficit and 37 percent said spending to create jobs should be the highest priority. Those who said cutting taxes should be a priority voted overwhelmingly Republican. In 2012, 14 percent said that taxes were the biggest economic problem facing people like them, and Romney won these voters by a 66-32 percent edge over President Obama. Unemployment and rising prices were thought to be bigger problems. At the end of this section, we have included polls on how important people say taxes are to their vote in the 2016 election. Taxes are not a top concern.*

- Which issues – if any – were most important to you in deciding whom to vote for? No issues really, civil rights, the federal budget deficit, foreign relations, government spending, environmental protection, farm problems, inflation, nuclear arms control, taxes, or unemployment? [accepted up to two responses] (LAT, Nov. 1984)
- Which issues mattered most in deciding how you voted? Punishing criminals, helping the middle class, environment and pollution, economic prosperity and jobs, the federal budget deficit, not raising taxes, defense spending, U.S.-Soviet relations, or abortion? [accepted up to two responses] (CBS/NYT, Nov. 1988)
- Which one or two issues mattered most in deciding how you voted for president? Health care, federal budget deficit, abortion, education, economy/jobs, environment, taxes, foreign policy, or family values? [accepted up to two responses] (VNS, Nov. 1992)
- Which issues – if any – were most important to you when deciding how you would vote for president today – moral values, education, jobs/the economy, the environment, taxes, abortion, health care, poverty, federal budget deficit, crime/drugs, foreign affairs or none of the above? [accepted up to two responses] (LAT, Nov. 1992)
- Which one issue mattered most in deciding how you voted for president? Foreign policy, Medicare/Social Security, taxes, crime/drugs, economy/jobs, education, or the federal budget deficit? [accept only one response] (VNS, Nov. 1996)
- Which issues, if any, were most important to you in deciding how you would vote for president today? Moral/ethical values, education, jobs/the economy, the environment, taxes, abortion, health care, poverty, federal budget deficit, crime/drugs, foreign affairs, or none of the above? [accepted up to two responses] (LAT, Nov. 1996)
- Which one issue mattered most in deciding how you voted for president? World affairs, Medicare/Prescription drugs, health care, economy/jobs, taxes, education, Social Security? [accept only one response] (VNS, Nov. 2000)
- Which issues, if any, were most important to you in deciding how you would vote for president today? Moral/ethical values, education, jobs/the economy, the environment, taxes, abortion, health care, Social Security, budget surplus, Medicare/prescription drugs, foreign affairs, or none of the above? [accepted up to two responses] (LAT, Nov. 2000)
- Which one issue mattered most in deciding how you voted for president? Taxes, education, Iraq, terrorism, economy/jobs, moral values, health care? [accept only one] (NEP, Nov. 2004)
- Which issues, if any, were most important to you in deciding how you would vote for president today? Moral/ethical values, jobs/economy, terrorism/homeland security, situation in Iraq, social issues such as abortion and gay marriage, education, taxes, health care, foreign affairs, Social Security, Medicare/prescription drugs, or none of the above? [accepted up to two responses] (LAT, Nov. 2004)

Year	National exit pollster	Top issue (compared with taxes)	-----How voters who selected taxes----- -----as their top issue voted-----				
1984	<i>LAT</i>	Govt. spending Taxes	22% 17	Reagan	80%	Mondale	20%
1988	<i>CBS/NYT</i>	Helping the middle class Taxes	25 14	Bush	68	Dukakis	30
1992	<i>VNS</i>	Economy/Jobs Taxes	42 14	Bush	56	Clinton	25
1992	<i>LAT</i>	Economy/Jobs Taxes	56 13	Bush	61	Clinton	24
1996	<i>VNS</i>	Economy/Jobs Taxes	26 14	Dole	73	Clinton	19
1996	<i>LAT</i>	Morals/ Ethical values Taxes	40 16	Dole	64	Clinton	25
2000	<i>VNS</i>	Economy/Jobs Taxes	18 14	Bush	80	Gore	17
2000	<i>LAT</i>	Morals/ Ethical values Taxes	35 17	Bush	71	Gore	27
2004	<i>NEP</i>	Moral values Taxes	22 5	Bush	57	Kerry	43
2004	<i>LAT</i>	Morals/ Ethical values Taxes	40 9	Bush	61	Kerry	38

- Will your taxes go up if Obama wins? Will your taxes go up if McCain wins? (NEP, Nov. 2008)

2008 NEP survey of voters leaving the polls

-----If Obama wins-----		-----If McCain wins-----	
Taxes will go up:	71%	Taxes will go up:	61%
No	27	No	36

- Which should be the highest priority for the next Congress?

2010 NEP survey of voters in House contests leaving the polls

National response		-----Partisan responses-----	
		Democrat	Republican
Cutting taxes	18%	26%	71%
Reducing deficit	40	32	65
Spending to create jobs	37	68	30

- Which ONE of these four is the biggest economic problem facing people like you?

2012 NEP survey of voters leaving the polls

	Total	Voted for Obama	Voted for Romney
The housing market	8%	63%	32%
Unemployment	38	54	44
Taxes	14	32	66
Rising prices	37	49	49

- How important will each of the following issues be to your vote for President next year – will it be extremely important, very important, moderately important, or not that important? Taxes

		Extremely important	Very important	Moderately important	Not that important
May 2007	CNN/ORC	30%	40%	23%	6%
Nov. 2007	CNN/ORC	24	39	29	7
Jan. 2008	CNN/ORC	30	38	27	5
Jun. 2008	CNN/ORC	40	34	22	5
Oct. 2008	CNN/ORC	42	39	16	3
Jun. 2011	CNN/ORC	37	40	18	5
Oct. 2011	CNN/ORC	34	37	23	6
Jul. 2012	CNN/ORC	38	38	18	6
Sep. 2015	CNN/ORC	36	34	23	6
Oct. 2016*	CNN/ORC	41	34	21	4

Note: *Question wording changed to “How important will each of the following issues be to your (2016) vote for President . . .”

- I’d like to ask you about how important some issues are to you. In making your decision about who to vote for this fall, will the issue of taxes be very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

		Very important	Somewhat important	Not too important	Not at all important
Oct. 2004	Pew	59%	31%	7%	2%
Jun. 2007	Pew	62	29	7	2
Oct. 2007	Pew	63	28	6	1
May 2008	Pew	68	24	5	2
Oct. 2008	Pew	71	24	3	1
Jul.–Aug. 2010	Pew	68	24	6	2
Apr. 2012	Pew	61	28	8	2

- Are you more or less likely to vote for a candidate who has signed a pledge promising no new taxes and to oppose any and all tax increases?

		More likely	Less likely	Makes no difference
Mar. 2015	YouGov	37%	16%	33%

Note: Online survey.

- All else equal, would you like the next president to be someone who pledges never to raise taxes, or someone who does not make such a pledge?

		Pledges never to raise taxes	Never makes a pledge
Mar. 2015	ABC/Wash Post	23%	72%
<i>Party breakdowns</i>			
	Republicans	26%	69%
	Democrats	19	77
	Independents	26	69

- Now how important is each of those issues to you? First is electing someone who _____. Would you say that’s extremely important, very important, somewhat important, or not so important to you?

		Very important	Somewhat important	Somewhat less important	Not so important
Mar. 2015	ABC/Wash Post				
	Pledges never to raise taxes	34%	40%	20%	6%
	Does not make a pledge never to raise taxes	17	23	35	24

2016

- Here is a list of economic issues that some people have mentioned as ones that will be important for the next president of the United States. How important to you are each of the following?

Jan. 2016

AP-NORC

	Extremely/Very important	Somewhat important	Not very/Not important at all
Protecting the future of social security	85%	12%	2%
Reducing unemployment	81	15	3
Reducing the federal budget deficit	70	24	5
Reducing poverty	72	23	5
Increasing wages to keep up with the cost of living	69	22	9
Reforming welfare	62	30	7
Reducing the gap between rich and poor	57	26	16
Cutting tax rates	55	33	12
Regulating financial institutions and markets	54	34	12
Increasing the minimum wage	50	28	22
Reducing government regulation	48	35	16

- Thinking ahead to the November elections for president, how important will each of the following issues be to your vote for president this year?

Jan. 2016

Kaiser Family Foundation

	Extremely/Very important	Somewhat important	Not too important
The economy and jobs	83%	15%	2%
Terrorism	77	16	7
The cost of your health care and health insurance	71	20	8
The situation in Iraq and Syria	68	23	7
Dissatisfaction with government	67	21	10
The federal budget deficit	66	23	10
Taxes	64	28	8
Gun control	63	18	18
The 2010 health care law, also known as the Affordable Care Act and sometimes referred to as Obamacare	60	22	15
Immigration	59	32	9
Race relations	51	28	19
Climate change	43	23	33

Note: Asked of registered voters. Three percent of respondents said taxes would be the most important to their vote. The economy and jobs ranked highest, with 12 percent giving that response.

- Now I am going to read a list of some of the issues that will probably be discussed in this year's presidential election campaign. As I read each one, please tell me how important the candidates' positions on that issue will be in influencing your vote for president—extremely important, very important, somewhat important, or not important.

Jan. 2016

Gallup

	Extremely/Very important	Somewhat important	Not too important
The economy	87%	11%	2%
Terrorism and national security	85	11	4
Healthcare and the Affordable Care Act	79	15	6
Education	79	17	3
Employment and jobs	84	14	1
The federal budget deficit	71	22	5
Taxes	69	26	4

Foreign affairs	68	26	5
Immigration	66	28	5
Gun policy	66	22	12
The distribution of income and wealth in the United States	63	22	14
The size and efficiency of the federal government	61	31	8
Government regulation of Wall Street and banks	58	32	9
Climate change	45	27	28
Social issues such as gay marriage and abortion	40	29	31

- Which of these is the most important issue to you in deciding who to support for the [Democratic/Republican] nomination for president?

Feb. 2016

Quinnipiac

	Responses of . . .	
	Democratic registered voters	Republican registered voters
Economy and jobs	45%	36%
Terrorism	5	18
Immigration	3	7
Federal deficit	2	7
Health care	13	3
Foreign policy	7	10
Climate change	8	--
Race relations	4	1
Abortion	2	4
Gun policy	3	6
Taxes	3	2

Note: Democratic and Republican leaners included.

- As of right now, what issue will be the most important to you in the 2016 presidential election?

Mar. 2016

CNBC All-American Economic Survey

The economy and unemployment	25%
Foreign policy, world leadership, and combating terrorism	19
Taxes and government spending	14
Healthcare	9
Political gridlock	9
Immigration reform	7
The environment and climate change	6
Trade with other countries	2

- Thinking specifically about economic issues, which of the following would you say is most important to your vote for president this year (2016)—the job situation, income inequality, the federal budget deficit, tax reform, rising prices, or global trade?

Sep. 2016

Pew

Job situation	44%
Income inequality	38
Federal budget deficit	35
Tax reform	34
Rising prices	26
Global trade	16

Note: Adds to more than 100 due to multiple responses.

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES AND TAXES, 1960-2016: In 1988, George H.W. Bush had a clear advantage over Michael Dukakis on taxes, but during the 1992 campaign, he lost to Bill Clinton on the issue. In some polls in 1992, Ross Perot led both Clinton and Bush as the candidate who could best handle taxes. In 1996, Bob Dole was trusted more than Bill Clinton on taxes, but another poll showed that people thought Clinton would do a better job on them. George W. Bush had a big lead over Al Gore on “holding taxes down.” In another poll that asked about “dealing with taxes,” the margin was much closer. In some early 2004 polls about which candidate would do the best job “handling taxes,” the margin between George W. Bush and John Kerry in some polls was close. Bush ended up doing better on the issue. In its last pre-election October 2008 poll, Gallup/USA Today found that Barack Obama led John McCain on the issue of who would do the best job on taxes, by 50-44 percent. During the 2012 campaign, Americans were evenly divided between President Obama and Mitt Romney on which would be better at handling taxes. In questions asked in the fall of 2016 that used words such as “trust” or “confidence” on taxes, Hillary Clinton bested Donald Trump. In questions that asked about who would better handle the issue, people were generally split.

1960

- Which of these two men, Nixon or Kennedy, if elected President, do you think would do the most effective job of handling these problems...preventing tax increases?

		Best candidate on -----preventing tax increases-----		
		Richard Nixon	John Kennedy	No difference (vol.)
Apr.-May 1960	Gallup	30%	36%	18%
Jun.-Jul. 1960	Gallup	36	30	21
Oct. 1960	Gallup	36	30	22

1964

- If you had to choose, which man running for President, Barry Goldwater or Lyndon Johnson, do you feel would do a better job...cutting federal taxes?

		Best candidate on -----cutting taxes -----	
		Barry Goldwater	Lyndon Johnson
Oct. 1964	Harris	52%	48%

1976

- Both presidential candidates have been talking about taxes. Whose policy do you prefer – Ford’s or Carter’s?

		---Best candidate on taxes--	
		Gerald Ford	Jimmy Carter
Sep. 1976	CBS/NYT	40%	40%
Oct. 1976	CBS/NYT	35	38

Note: Asked of registered voters.

1980

- In your opinion, which candidate – John Anderson, Jimmy Carter, or Ronald Reagan – has the best policy on cutting taxes?

		Best candidate on -----cutting taxes -----		
		Ronald Reagan	Jimmy Carter	John Anderson
Jul. 1980	LAT	44%	23%	7%

1984

- Regardless of which candidates for president and vice president you happen to prefer right now – Walter Mondale and Geraldine Ferraro, the Democrats, or Ronald Reagan and George Bush, the Republicans – which ticket do you think would do the best job of handling taxes – or don't you think there would be any difference between them?

		Best candidate on -----handling taxes-----		
		Ronald Reagan	Walter Mondale	No difference (vol.)
Feb. 1984	<i>LAT</i>	44%	30%	12%
May 1984	<i>LAT</i>	34	21	35
Oct. 1984	<i>LAT</i>	43	23	27

Note: Question wording varied slightly. Asked of registered voters.

1988

- Which presidential candidate do you think would do the best job of holding down taxes: Michael Dukakis or George Bush – or haven't you heard enough about that yet to say?

		Best candidate on -----handling taxes-----		
		George H.W. Bush	Michael Dukakis	Haven't heard
Jul. 1988	<i>LAT</i>	39%	28%	16%
Sep. 1988	<i>LAT</i>	43	26	15
Sep. 1988*	<i>LAT</i>	46	23	14
Sep. 1988*	<i>LAT</i>	59	18	10
Sep. 1988*	<i>LAT</i>	53	21	7
Oct. 1988*	<i>LAT</i>	48	23	11
Oct. 1988*	<i>LAT</i>	56	24	5

Note: Question wording varied slightly. *Asked of registered voters who said they planned to or did watch the presidential debate.

- If George Bush were elected president, do you think it is likely that your federal income taxes would go up, go down, or stay about the same?

		-----Under Bush, taxes will-----		
		Go up	Stay the same	Go down
Aug. 1988	NBC/WSJ	43%	47%	4%

- If Michael Dukakis were elected president, do you think it is likely that your federal income taxes would go up, go down, or stay about the same?

		-----Under Dukakis, taxes will-----		
		Go up	Stay the same	Go down
Aug. 1988	NBC/WSJ	54%	33%	5%

1992

- Regardless of which presidential candidate you support, please tell me whether you think George Bush or Bill Clinton would better handle each of the following issues... Taxes?

		Best candidate on -----taxes-----	
		George H.W. Bush	Bill Clinton
Mar. 1992	Gallup/CNN/ <i>USA Today</i>	38%	47%
Jul. 1992	Gallup/CNN/ <i>USA Today</i>	30	49
Aug. 1992	Gallup/ <i>Newsweek</i>	40	48
Aug. 1992	Gallup/CNN/ <i>USA Today</i>	43	46
Sep. 1992	Gallup/CNN/ <i>USA Today</i>	39	50

- Regardless of which presidential candidate you support, please tell me whether you think George Bush, Bill Clinton, or Ross Perot would better handle each of the following issues...Taxes?

		-----Best candidate on taxes-----		
		George H.W. Bush	Bill Clinton	Ross Perot
Oct. 1992	Gallup/CNN/ <i>USA Today</i>	34%	39%	13%
Oct. 1992	Gallup/ <i>Newsweek</i>	29	39	18
Oct. 1992*	Gallup/CNN/ <i>USA Today</i>	34	34	30
Oct. 1992	Gallup/CNN/ <i>USA Today</i>	31	32	29
Oct. 1992	Gallup/ <i>Newsweek</i>	27	28	33

Note: * Asked of registered voters.

- Who do you think would do the better job holding down taxes: Bill Clinton or George Bush?

		-----Best candidate on -----holding down taxes -----		
		George H.W. Bush	Bill Clinton	Neither (vol.)
Mar. 1992	<i>LAT</i>	39%	25%	11%
Aug. 1992	<i>LAT</i>	34	36	14
Aug. 1992	<i>LAT</i>	44	31	12

- Who do you think would do the better job holding down taxes: George Bush, Bill Clinton, or Ross Perot?

		-----Best candidate on -----holding down taxes -----		
		George H.W. Bush	Bill Clinton	Ross Perot
Jul. 1992	<i>LAT</i>	23%	21%	26%
Aug. 1992	<i>LAT</i>	39	26	10
Oct. 1992	<i>LAT</i>	41	25	15

- Do you think George Bush's policies favor the rich, favor the poor, favor the middle class, or are generally fair to all groups?

		-----George H.W. Bush's policies favor-----			
		Rich	Middle class	Poor	All equally
Jan. 1992	Gallup/CNN/ <i>USA Today</i>	63%	6%	*	27%
Sep. 1992	Gallup/CNN/ <i>USA Today</i>	61	6	1%	27

- If George Bush is re-elected, do you think your taxes will go up, go down or stay about the same?

		-----Under Bush, taxes will-----		
		Go up	Stay the same	Go down
Oct. 1992	Harris/ <i>Business Week</i>	61%	37%	1%

- If Bill Clinton is elected, do you think your taxes will go up, go down or stay about the same?

		-----Under Clinton, taxes will-----		
		Go up	Stay the same	Go down
Oct. 1992	Harris/ <i>Business Week</i>	64%	29%	6%

1996

- For each specific item I name, please tell me who you trust to do a better job handling that issue – Bill Clinton or Bob Dole. Cutting taxes...who do you trust to do a better job handling that issue – Clinton or Dole?

		-----Trust to handle taxes-----	
		Bob Dole	Bill Clinton
Mar. 1996	ABC/ <i>Wash Post</i>	49%	38%
Aug. 1996	ABC/ <i>Wash Post</i>	45	38
Sep. 1996	ABC/ <i>Wash Post</i>	48	35

- Who do you think would do a better job on each of the following issues – Bill Clinton or Bob Dole – if he was elected President for the next four years...Taxes?

		Best candidate on -----taxes-----	
		Bob Dole	Bill Clinton
May 1996	Harris	40%	51%
Jul. 1996	Harris	41	48
Sep. 1996*	Harris	44	50
Oct. 1996*	Harris	46	46
Nov. 1996*	Harris	46	47

Note: *Asked of likely voters.

- If Bill Clinton is re-elected president in November, do you think your taxes would increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

		-----If Clinton is elected-----		
		Taxes will increase	Stay same	Taxes will decrease
Oct. 1996	CBS/NYT	44%	47%	3%

- If Bob Dole is elected president in November, do you think your taxes would increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

		-----If Dole is elected-----		
		Taxes will increase	Stay same	Taxes will decrease
Oct. 1996	CBS/NYT	40%	34%	19%

2000

- Which presidential candidate, Al Gore or George W. Bush, do you trust to do a better job on each of these issues...Holding taxes down?

		Trust to -----hold taxes down-----	
		George W. Bush	Al Gore
Oct. 1999	ABC	53%	34%
Mar. 2000	ABC/Wash Post	41	41
Apr. 2000	ABC/Wash Post	51	35
Jul. 2000	ABC/Wash Post	49	36
Aug. 2000*	ABC/Wash Post	47	42
Sep. 2000	ABC/Wash Post	47	41
Sep. 2000	ABC/Wash Post	45	43
Oct. 2000*	ABC/Wash Post	49	39
Oct. 2000*	ABC/Wash Post	47	39
Oct. 2000+	ABC	50	37

Note: *Asked of registered voters. +Asked of likely voters.

- Regardless of who you support, which one of the presidential candidates Al Gore or George W. Bush do you think would do the best job of dealing with taxes?

		Best candidate on -----taxes-----	
		George W. Bush	Al Gore
Mar. 2000	Pew	40%	42%
Jun. 2000	Pew	38	34
Aug. 2000	Pew	41	41
Oct. 2000	Pew	39	42
Oct. 2000	Pew	41	42
Oct. 2000	Pew	45	41

- From what you know or have read, whose proposals would cut taxes more: Al Gore's or George W. Bush's?

		George W. Bush	Al Gore
Aug. 2000	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	42%	30%
Sep. 2000	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	44	32

- From what you know or have read, whose plan to cut to cut taxes would you favor more: Al Gore's or George W. Bush's?

		George W. Bush	Al Gore
Aug. 2000	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	36%	45%
Sep. 2000	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	37	45

2004

- Which candidate, Bush or Kerry, do you trust more to handle tax policy?

		Bush	Kerry
Aug. 2004	SRB/Time	43%	47%
Aug. 2004	SRB/Time	44	45
Aug. Sep. 2004	SRB/Time	49	40
Sep. 2004	SRB/Time	50	41
Sep. 2004	SRB/Time	46	40
Oct. 2004	SRB/Time	43	45
Oct. 2004	SRB/Time	46	45
Oct. 2004	SRB/Time	48	41

- Regardless of how you intend to vote, who do you think would do a better job on taxes – George W. Bush or John Kerry?

		George W. Bush	John Kerry
Mar. 2004	Quinnipiac	46%	42%
Note: Asked of registered voters.			

- Next, regardless of which presidential candidate you support, please tell me if you think John Kerry or George W. Bush would do a better job handling each of the following issues. How about taxes?

		George W. Bush	John Kerry
Mar. 2004	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	45%	45%
Jul. 2004	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	46	48
Aug. 2004 (early)	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	46	48
Aug. 2004 (late)*	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	44	47
Oct. 2004(early)*	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	51	44
Oct. 2004(mid)*	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	51	45
Note: *Asked of a half sample.			

- Who do you trust to do a better job handling taxes–Bush or Kerry?

		George W. Bush	John Kerry
Mar. 2004	ABC/Wash Post	43%	51%
Apr. 2004	ABC/Wash Post	49	43
Jun. 2004	ABC/Wash Post	40	53
Jun. 2004	ABC/Wash Post	41	53
Jul. 2004	ABC/Wash Post	49	43
Aug. 2004	ABC/Wash Post	43	49
Aug. 2004	ABC/Wash Post	48	46
Sep. 2004	ABC/Wash Post	50	40

- Regardless of which presidential candidate you support, please tell me if you trust George W. Bush or John Kerry to do a better job handling each of the following issues. First, what about taxes? Which do you trust to do a better job handling this issue, Bush or Kerry?

		George W. Bush	John Kerry
Mar. 2004	PSRA/Newsweek	45%	44%
Jul. 2004	PSRA/Newsweek	42	48
Sep. 2004	PSRA/Newsweek	52	38
Sep. 2004	PSRA/Newsweek	47	42
Oct. 2004	PSRA/Newsweek	49	42
Oct. 2004	PSRA/Newsweek	47	45
Oct. 2004	PSRA/Newsweek	49	43

- Now, I would like to read you a list of issues that some people from this part of the country have said are important for the next President to deal with. Who would do a better job of handling the issue – President George W. Bush or John Kerry?

		George W. Bush	John Kerry
Holding the line on taxes			
Mar. 2004	Battleground	52%	39%
Taxes			
Mar. 2004	Battleground	49	45

- Which presidential candidate, Bush or Kerry, do you think is more likely to raise your taxes?

		George W. Bush	John Kerry
Apr. 2004	Fox News	31%	46%
Note: Asked of registered voters.			

- Now I'd like you to compare George W. Bush and John Kerry on a few issues. For each one, please tell me whether you think that George W. Bush or John Kerry would be better on that issue. If you think that both would be equally good or that neither would be good on a particular issue, just say so... Taxes?

		George W. Bush better	John Kerry better	Both would be equally good	Neither would be good
May 2004	NBC/WSJ	40%	35%	10%	6%
Sep. 2004*	NBC/WSJ	45	37	7	6
Oct. 2004*	NBC/WSJ	43	37	8	8
Note: *Asked of registered voters.					

- Who do you think would do the best job handling taxes: George W. Bush or John Kerry?

		George W. Bush	John Kerry
Sep. 2004	LAT	47%	42%
Oct. 2004	LAT	45	47

- If John Kerry were to win the election in November, do you think your federal income taxes would go up, or not?

		-----If Kerry wins, taxes will-----	
		Go up	Not go up
Mar. 2004	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	58%	27%

2008

- If a _____ gets elected president in 2008, do you think your taxes will go up, down or stay about the same?

		Up	Down	Stay the same
Feb. 2007	Fox News			
A Democrat		46%	9%	38%
A Republican		44	5	45
Note: Asked of registered voters.				

- Please tell me if you think Barack Obama or John McCain would better handle that issue if they were elected President. Taxes

		Obama	McCain
Apr. 2008	CNN/ORC	48%	46%
Jul. 2008	CNN/ORC	51	45
Aug. 2008	CNN/ORC	48	47
Aug. 2008	CNN/ORC	50	46
Sep. 2008	CNN/ORC	46	49
Oct. 2008	CNN/ORC	54	40

- For each one, please tell me whether you tend to agree or disagree with the statement. Barack Obama will raise taxes on middle-income people if he becomes president.

		Agree	Disagree
Sep. 2008	NBC/WSJ	45%	47%
Oct. 2008	NBC/WSJ	40	56

- Now I'd like to compare Barack Obama and John McCain on a few issues. For each one, please tell me whether you think Barack Obama or John McCain would do better on that issue. Taxes.

		Obama	McCain
Sep. 2008	NBC/WSJ	38%	39%
Sep. 2008	NBC/WSJ	37	41
Oct. 2008	NBC/WSJ	40	40
Oct. 2008	NBC/WSJ	48	34

- Regardless of who you may support, who do you trust more to handle taxes?

		Obama	McCain
Jun. 2008	ABC/Wash Post	48%	40%
Aug. 2008	ABC/Wash Post	44	45
Sep. 2008	ABC/Wash Post	45	44
Oct. 2008	ABC/Wash Post	52	41

- If you had to choose, who do you think would do a better job on taxes -- Barack Obama or John McCain?

		Obama	McCain
Jun. 2008	Gallup/USA Today	44%	35%
Aug. 2008	Gallup/USA Today	48	43
Sep. 2008	Gallup/USA Today	43	49
Oct. 2008	Gallup/USA Today	52	40
Oct. 2008	Gallup/USA Today	50	44

- If _____ is elected president, do you think your federal income taxes would increase, decrease, or remain the same?

			John McCain	
		Increase	decrease	Remain the same
Aug. 2008	Gallup/USA Today	34%	9%	54%
Sep. 2008	Gallup/USA Today	32	13	50
Oct. 2008	Gallup/USA Today	36	8	52

			Barack Obama	
		Increase	decrease	Remain the same
Aug. 2008	Gallup/USA Today	53%	12%	32%
Sep. 2008	Gallup/USA Today	54	13	27
Oct. 2008	Gallup/USA Today	49	19	29

- Regardless of how you might vote, which candidate do you trust more to handle the following issues – Obama or McCain? Taxes.

		Obama	McCain
Sep. 2008	Fox News	46%	39%
Oct. 2008	Fox News	46	41
Oct. 2008	Fox News	50	43
Nov. 2008	Fox News	50	42

Note: Asked of registered voters.

- Regardless of who you support, which one of the presidential candidates – John McCain or Barack Obama – do you think would do the best job of dealing with taxes?

		Obama	McCain
May 2008	Pew	39%	44%
Jun. 2008	Pew	47	36
Mid Sep. 2008	Pew	44	39
Late Sep. 2008	Pew	49	36
Oct. 2008	Pew	50	35

2012

- Regardless of who you support, which candidate do you trust to do a better job: Obama or Romney?

		Obama	Romney
Handling taxes			
Feb. 2012	ABC/Wash Post	49%	45%
Apr. 2012	ABC/Wash Post	45	42
Jul. 2012	ABC/Wash Post	46	45
Aug. 2012	ABC/Wash Post	46	44
Sep. 2012 (early)*	ABC/Wash Post	50	43
Sep. 2012 (late)*	ABC/Wash Post	49	44
Oct. 2012 (early)*	ABC/Wash Post	49	48
Oct. 2012 (late)^	ABC/Wash Post	46	48

Handling the federal budget deficit			
Feb. 2012	ABC/Wash Post	39%	52%
Apr. 2012	ABC/Wash Post	38	51
Jul. 2012	ABC/Wash Post	42	52
Aug. 2012	ABC/Wash Post	39	48
Sep. 2012 (early)*	ABC/Wash Post	44	47
Sep. 2012 (late)*	ABC/Wash Post	45	48
Oct. 2012 (early)*	ABC/Wash Post	44	47
Oct. 2012 (late)^	ABC/Wash Post	45	49

Note: *Asked of registered voters. ^Asked of likely voters.

- Thinking about issues in a different way, now I would like to read you a list of issues that some people have said are important to them. Please listen as I read the list and tell me, for each one, who will better handle this issue – Mitt Romney or Barack Obama. Taxes.

		Obama	Romney
Aug. 2012	GW/Politico	47%	47%

Note: Asked of a half sample.

- Now I'm going to mention a few issues and for each one, please tell me if you think Barack Obama or Mitt Romney would better handle that issue if they were elected President. Taxes.

		Obama	Romney
Aug. 2012	CNN/ORC	52%	42%
Sep. 2012 (early)	CNN/ORC	50	46
Sep. 2012 (late)	CNN/ORC	51	45

Note: Asked of registered voters.

- Regardless of how you might vote, which presidential candidate do you trust to do a better job on each of the following issues – Barack Obama or Mitt Romney? Handling taxes.

		Obama	Romney
Jun. 2012	Fox News	40%	44%
Aug. 2012	Fox News	46	43
Sep. 2012	Fox News	47	45

Note: Asked of registered voters.

- Regardless of how you might vote, which presidential candidate do you trust to do a better job on each of the following issues – Barack Obama or Mitt Romney? Managing your tax dollars.

		Obama	Romney
Sep. 2012	Fox News	46%	44%
Oct. 2012 (early)	Fox News	42	48
Oct. 2012 (late)	Fox News	43	49

Note: Asked of registered voters.

- Regardless of who you support, which one of the presidential candidates, Mitt Romney or Barack Obama, do you think would do a better job of dealing with taxes?

		Obama	Romney
Jun.–Jul. 2012	Pew	48%	40%
Sep. 2012	Pew	48	42
Oct. 2012	Pew	43	47
Oct. 2012 (late)	Pew	46	44

Note: Asked of registered voters.

2016

- Who do you trust more to handle taxes—Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump?

		Clinton	Trump
May 2016	ABC/Washington Post	42%	47%
Jul. 2016	ABC/Washington Post	46	43
Aug. 2016	ABC/Washington Post	51	41
Sep. 2016	ABC/Washington Post	54	39

- Regardless of which 2016 presidential candidate you support, please tell me if you think Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump would better handle taxes?

		Clinton	Trump
May 2016	Gallup	44%	52%
Sep. 2016	Gallup	47	49

- I am going to read you a list of issues. Please listen as I read the list and tell me, for each one, whether you have more confidence in Donald Trump or Hillary Clinton- to deal with issues. Taxes.

		Clinton	Trump
Apr. 2016	GWU	46%	47%
Aug. 2016*	GWU	49	47
Oct. 2016	GWU	53	41

Note: Asked of likely voters. *Asked of half sample.

- Now I'm going to mention a few issues and for each one, please tell me if you think Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump would better handle that issue if they were elected President in 2016? Taxes

		Clinton	Trump
Jul. 2016	CNN/ORC	44%	51%
Sep. 2016	CNN/ORC	48	46

- Regardless of how you might vote, who do you trust to do a better job on each of the following if they were elected president in 2016—Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump. Managing your tax dollars

		Clinton	Trump
May 2016	Fox	38	52
Oct. 2016	Fox	44	48
Note: Asked of registered voters.			

- If Donald Trump is elected president in 2016, do you think your federal income taxes would increase, stay about the same, or decrease?

		Increase	Same	Decrease
Oct. 2016	CNBC	29%	42%	19%

- If Hillary Clinton is elected president in 2016, do you think your federal income taxes would increase, stay about the same, or decrease?

		Increase	Same	Decrease
Oct. 2016	CNBC	43%	42%	6%

POLITICIANS' CREDIBILITY ON TAX ISSUES: *We have examined scores of questions on tax promises and find very few instances when people believed them. Hardly anyone believes their taxes will go down as a result of presidential or congressional actions on taxes.*

- What's your best guess – do you think Congress this year will increase taxes or decrease them?

		-----Congress will-----		
		Increase taxes	Stay the same (vol.)	Decrease taxes
Jan. 1958	Gallup	57%	29%	6%

- How about taxes – do you expect the next president to increase or decrease the taxes we pay, or will there be no change in your opinion?

		-----Next president will -----		
		Increase taxes	Stay the same (vol.)	Decrease taxes
Nov. 1960	U. Mich.	44%	38%	5%

- Let me read you some statements about taxes. For each, tell me if you tend to agree or disagree...Politicians promise tax relief before an election and then do nothing about it when elected?

		Politicians violate -----tax promises-----	
		Agree	Disagree
1969	Harris	86%	7%
Mar. 1971	Harris	85	10
Mar. 1977	Harris	85	7
Jun. 1978	Harris	87	10

- If Congress does pass a tax reform bill this year do you think it will cause your own personal taxes to increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

		-----Congress will-----		
		Increase taxes	Same	Decrease taxes
Jan. 1978	Cambridge Reports	33%	33%	11%

- Of these groups, low-income people, high-income people, middle-income people, businesses and people like yourself, which do you feel would benefit the most (from the President's proposed tax cut?)

		-----Who benefits from Carter tax cut?-----				
		High income	Low income	Middle income	Business	People like me
Jan. 1978	Gallup	32%	28%	17%	17%	3%

- If Reagan's proposed tax cut is adopted, do you think it will or will not make a significant difference in the amount of money you have after taxes?

		-----Reagan's tax cut-----	
		Will make a difference	Will not make a difference
Apr. 1981	CBS/NYT	35%	52%
Jun. 1981	CBS/NYT	41	47
Sep. 1981*	CBS/NYT	30	59
Jan. 1982*	CBS/NYT	29	62
May 1982+	CBS/NYT	27	63

Note: *Question wording was, "Do you think that Ronald Reagan's tax cut will...?" + Question wording was, "Do you think that the federal tax cut in July will...?"

- If the Congress and President Reagan finally pass a personal income tax cut this year, what impact do you think it will have on you? Will the percentage of your income you pay next year as federal income taxes be higher, lower, or about the same as it is today?

		Reagan's tax cut -----will make my taxes-----		
		Higher	Same	Lower
Apr. 1981	Cambridge Reports	11%	43%	31%

- As you probably know, on July 1 of this year the second stage of President Reagan's 3-year tax cut program will go into effect. How will this second stage of the 3-year tax cut program affect your income? When federal income taxes are deducted after July 1, will your income go up, go down, or will it stay about the same?

		Reagan's tax cut -----will make my taxes-----		
		Go up	Same	Go down
Apr. 1982	Cambridge Reports	25%	50%	8%
Jul. 1982*	Cambridge Reports	24	49	10
Apr. 1983+	Cambridge Reports	22	44	12
Jul. 1983^	Cambridge Reports	24	52	7

Note: *Question wording was, "how did this stage of the 3-year tax cut...?" + Question wording was, "the third stage of President Reagan's 3-year tax cut program will go into effect. How will this third stage...?" ^ Question wording was, "the third stage of President Reagan's 3-year tax cut program went into effect. How did the third stage...?"

- During his second term as President, do you think Ronald Reagan will, or will not, be able to make major cuts in taxes?

		----Reagan's second term----	
		Will cut taxes	Will not cut taxes
Jan. 1985	LAT	32%	58%

- If Congress passes President Reagan's tax reform proposal, do you think the amount of personal income taxes you pay the federal government will increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

		Reagan's tax proposal -----will make my taxes-----		
		Increase	Stay the same	Decrease
Oct. 1985	Cambridge Reports	39%	36%	13%
Jul. 1986*	Cambridge Reports	32	38	16
Oct. 1986+	Cambridge Reports	36	32	18
Jul. 1987+	Cambridge Reports	44	35	9
Apr. 1988+	Cambridge Reports	49	31	11
Apr. 1989+	Cambridge Reports	50	29	7

Note: *Question wording was, "If the tax reform proposals now being considered by Congress became law, do you think the amount...?" +Question wording was, "When the tax reform bill is fully implemented in a few years, do you think the amount...?"

- When a presidential candidate says he will never raise taxes, do you believe he will try not to raise them, but might change his mind later, or don't you believe him at all, or do you believe he will never raise taxes?

		----When candidate says he won't raise taxes----		
		Believe, never raise taxes	Will try not to raise taxes	Don't believe
Jul. 1988	CBS/NYT	3%	60%	32%

- If George Bush were elected president, do you think it is likely that your federal income taxes would go up, go down, or stay about the same?

		-----Under Bush, taxes will-----		
		Go up	Stay the same	Go down
Aug. 1988	NBC/WSJ	43%	47%	4%

- If Michael Dukakis were elected president, do you think it is likely that your federal income taxes would go up, go down, or stay about the same?

		-----Under Dukakis, taxes will-----		
		Go up	Stay the same	Go down
		54%	33%	5%
Aug. 1988	NBC/WSJ			

- George Bush has said that if he is elected president, he will not permit any new taxes. Do you believe what he says, or do you think he might accept new taxes?

		----Believe Bush's tax promise?----	
		Believe him	Might accept new taxes
		21%	71%
Oct. 1988	NBC/WSJ		

- Here are some questions about the administration of George Bush, which will take office in January 1989. Regardless of which presidential candidate you preferred in the 1988 election, do you think the Bush administration will or will not be able to . . . avoid raising taxes?

		Yes	No
Nov.-Dec. 1988*	Gallup	24%	68%
Jan. 1989*	Gallup	29	64

Note: *Asked of a half sample.

- Now let me read you those issues again. This time, please tell me whether you feel that, in the next twelve months...federal taxes...will increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

		-----In next 12 months, taxes will-----		
		Increase	Stay the same	Decrease
Nov. 1978*	NBC/AP	41%	46%	10%
Mar. 1991+	NBC/WSJ	59	30	7
Jun. 1991+	NBC/WSJ	62	33	3
Jan. 1992+	NBC/WSJ	47	37	12
Feb. 1992+	NBC/WSJ	50	40	7

Note: *Question wording was, "Do you expect your federal taxes to increase next year, decrease next year, or remain about the same?" +Asked of registered voters.

- If a presidential candidate took a pledge not to raise taxes if elected, would you or would you not believe him?

		Candidate who says he -----won't raise taxes-----	
		Believe him	Not believe him
		8%	86%
Feb. 1992	NBC/WSJ		

- In his convention speech, President Bush said he made a mistake by agreeing to tax increases in his first term – and said that he will not do it again. Do you believe Bush will not raise taxes if he is elected to a second term, or do you believe that he will raise taxes?

		Bush says he -----won't raise taxes-----	
		Believe him	Not believe him
		32%	61%
Aug. 1992	Gallup/CNN/USA Today		

- Bill Clinton says he's less likely than past Democratic candidates to raise taxes and increase government spending. Do you believe this, or not?

		Clinton says he -----won't raise taxes-----	
		Believe him	Not believe him
		26%	63%
Sep. 1992	CBS/NYT		

- If George Bush is re-elected, do you think your taxes will go up, go down or stay about the same?

		-----Under Bush, taxes will-----		
		Go up	Stay the same	Go down
Oct. 1992	Harris/ <i>Business Week</i>	61%	37%	1%

- If Bill Clinton is elected, do you think your taxes will go up, go down or stay about the same?

		-----Under Clinton, taxes will-----		
		Go up	Stay the same	Go down
Oct. 1992	Harris/ <i>Business Week</i>	64%	29%	6%

- I have some questions about the Clinton Administration, which will take office in January 1993. Regardless of which presidential candidate you preferred, do you think the Clinton administration will or will not be able to do each of the following . . . avoid raising your taxes?

		Yes	No	
Nov. 1992*	Gallup	20%	74%	
Feb. 1993*	Gallup	15	82	

Note: *Asked of a half sample.

- By the end of President Bill Clinton's term in office, do you expect taxes on the middle class to have been reduced, or not?

		-----At end of Clinton's term-----	
		Expect taxes on the middle class to be reduced	Do not expect that
Jan. 1994	CBS/ <i>NYT</i>	15%	80%

- Did President Clinton's economic plan increase your taxes, decrease your taxes, or didn't it affect your taxes at all?

		-----Clinton's plan-----		
		Increased my taxes	Didn't affect my taxes	Decreased my taxes
Sep. 1994	CBS/ <i>NYT</i>	46%	45%	3%

- With the Republicans in control of both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, do you think your taxes will go up, stay about the same, or go down?

		-----With Republicans in control-----		
		Taxes will go up	Stay same	Taxes will go down
Nov. 1994	CBS	42%	46%	9%

- If your federal income tax was cut by \$500 dollars per year, how much of a difference would that make to you financially...a big difference, somewhat of a difference, not much of a difference, or no difference?

		-----\$500 tax cut-----			
		Big difference	Somewhat difference	Not Much difference	No difference
Dec. 1994	Gallup/CNN/ <i>USA Today</i>	20%	35%	32%	13%
Mar. 1999	Gallup/CNN/ <i>USA Today</i>	29	29	28	14

- Do you think your family's taxes will go up, go down or stay about the same next year as a result of the decisions made in Washington?

		-----Next year-----		
		Taxes will go up	Stay same	Taxes will go down
Oct. 1995	AP	55%	33%	6%

- If Bill Clinton is re-elected president in November, do you think your taxes would increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

		-----If Clinton is elected-----		
		Taxes will increase	Stay same	Taxes will decrease
Oct. 1996	CBS/NTT	44%	47%	3%

- If Bob Dole is elected president in November, do you think your taxes would increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

		-----If Dole is elected-----		
		Taxes will increase	Stay same	Taxes will decrease
Oct. 1996	CBS/NTT	40%	34%	19%

- As a result of the budget agreement between Bill Clinton and Republicans in Congress which they say will balance the federal budget by the year 2002 and cut taxes for many Americans do you think the taxes you personally pay will go up, go down, or stay about the same?

		-----1997 budget plan-----		
		Taxes will go up	Stay same	Taxes will go down
Jul. 1997	Yankelovich/CNN/Time	42%	43%	10%

- Do you believe politicians when they promise to lower taxes?

		Yes	No
Mar. 1999	Fox News	9%	87%
Note: Asked of registered voters.			

- When President Clinton talks about “targeted tax cuts,” do you think he means you will get a tax cut or is he talking about giving somebody else a tax cut?

		Talking about me	Someone else
Mar. 1999	Fox News	18%	62%
Note: Asked of registered voters.			

- I have some questions about the Bush Administration which will take office later this month (January, 2001). Regardless of which 2000 presidential candidate you preferred, do you think the Bush Administration will or will not be able to do each of the following? How about . . . cut your taxes?

		Yes	No
Jan. 2001	Gallup	49%	46%

- If George W. Bush’s proposed tax cut is adopted, do you think it will or will not make a significant difference in the amount of money you have after taxes?

		-----Bush’s tax cut-----	
		Will make difference	Will not make difference
Feb. 2001	CBS/NTT	39%	52%
Mar. 2001	CBS/NTT	39	54
Apr. 2001	CBS/NTT	36	58
Apr. 2001	CBS/NTT	36	59

- Have those tax cuts (enacted in 2001) made a significant difference in the amount of money you have after taxes, or not?

		-----Bush’s tax cuts-----	
		Significant difference	Not significant difference
Nov. 2002	CBS/NTT	17%	74%
Jan. 2003	CBS/NTT	20	76

- Looking ahead, how much of a difference would this tax cut make for you and your family – a big difference, some difference, only a little difference, or no difference at all?

		-----Bush's tax cut-----			
		Big difference	Some difference	Only a little	No difference
Feb. 2001	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	18%	26%	33%	20%

- Thinking about the federal income tax cuts President George W. Bush has proposed, do you expect your taxes to go down a lot, go down a little, or not go down at all?

		-----Under Bush plan, taxes will-----		
		Go down a lot	Go down a little	Not at all
Feb. 2001*	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	13%	69%	15%
Apr. 2001	AP	6	50	36
Mar. 2002+	AP	4	36	54

Note: *Asked of those who said they had watched Bush's Feb. 27, 2001 speech before a joint session of Congress. +Question wording was, "Thinking about the federal income tax cuts Congress passed last year, do you expect...?"

- In the next several days, Congress may pass a plan that would cut taxes more than \$1 trillion over the next ten years. If the tax cut is enacted, do you think it will mostly help you and your family, hurt you and your family, or do you think it will not make much difference?

		-----Bush's tax cut-----		
		Help family	No difference	Hurt family
May 2001	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	37%	34%	11%

- As you may know, Congress passed and President Bush signed a law that would cut tax rates over the next 10 years. As part of the law, most taxpayers will receive a rebate check of \$300 to \$600 from the federal government in the next few months. How much of a difference will this tax rebate check make to you and your family – a big difference, some difference, only a little difference, or no difference at all?

		-----Bush's tax rebates-----			
		Big difference	Some difference	Only a little	No difference
Jul. 2001	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	11%	21%	30%	33%

- When you hear the President talk about income tax cuts, do you think you and your family will benefit financially from those cuts, or not?

		-----Benefit from Bush tax cuts-----	
		Yes	No
Feb.-Mar. 2003	Kaiser/NPR/Harvard	42%	50%

- Do you think the new tax law will – or will not – help your family's financial situation?

		-----Benefit from Bush tax cuts-----	
		Yes	No
May-Jun. 2003	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	35%	56%
Jun. 2003	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	34	56

- Next I have some questions about the George W. Bush administration. Whether or not you support George W. Bush, do you think the Bush administration will or will not be able to do each of the following in its second term in office? How about . . . improve the federal tax system?

		Yes	No
Jan. 2005	Gallup	49%	47%

Note: Asked of a half sample.

- After federal taxes are collected from the American public, do you think Congress thinks of the money more as taxpayer money to spend carefully or as their money to spend as they wish?

		Taxpayer money	Their money
May 2003	Fox News	14%	79%
Apr. 2006	Fox News	10	80
Note: Asked of registered voters.			

- How likely is it that Barack Obama will be able to accomplish each of the following . . . Cut taxes for most Americans who make less than \$250,000 a year?

		Very likely to accomplish	Somewhat likely	Not very likely	Not likely at all
Nov. 2008	CNN/ORC	38%	29%	19%	15%

- Barack Obama has said that he will cut taxes for 95 percent of Americans, do you think he will be able to do this or not?

		Yes	No
Nov. 2008	Quinnipiac	34%	54%

- Do you think that during Barack Obama's presidency the taxes that you pay will most likely go up, go down, or stay about the same?

		Go up	Go down	Stay about the same
Nov. 2008	Quinnipiac	45%	15%	35%
Note: Asked of registered voters.				

- Regardless of which 2008 presidential election candidate you preferred, do you think the Obama administration will or will not be able to do each of the following? How about . . . avoid raising your taxes?

		Yes	No
Nov. 2008	Gallup	36%	61%

- Just your best guess, do you think Barack Obama will or will not accomplish each of the following as president? How about cut federal income taxes for 95 percent of working families?

		Yes	No
Jan. 2009	Gallup/USA Today	53%	44%

- During the presidential election, then-candidate Obama said that if he were elected ninety-five percent of Americans "will not see their taxes increase by a single dime." Do you think Obama is going to keep that campaign promise or not?

		Yes	No
Aug. 2009	Fox News	26%	69%
Note: Asked of registered voters.			

- As you may know, one of Barack Obama's (Presidential election) campaign promises last year (2008) was that he would not raise taxes on household earning less than \$250,000 a year. Do you think he will be able to keep that campaign promise, or not?

		Will keep campaign promise	Will not
Sep. 2009	CBS/NYT	35%	56%

- Do you think your taxes will go up or down under the Obama administration?

		Up	Down
Jan. 2009	Fox News	60%	28%
Aug. 2009	Fox News	75	16
Note: Asked of registered voters.			

- By the year 2012, when President Obama's first term as president ends, do you think your federal income taxes will be a lot higher, the same, a little lower, or a lot lower than they were when President Obama took office?

		A lot higher	A little higher	The same	A little lower	A lot lower
Aug. 2009	Gallup	35%	33%	20%	7%	2%

- Under the Obama administration do you think your taxes will go up or down, or do you think they will stay about the same?

		Taxes will go up	Go down	Stay about the same
Jan. 2009	AP-GfK	35%	13%	50%
Jan. 2010	AP-GfK	59	5	35

- So far, do you think the Obama administration has increased taxes for most Americans, decreased taxes for most Americans, or have they kept taxes the same for most Americans?

		Increased	Decreased	Stayed about the same
Feb. 2010	CBS/ <i>NYT</i>	24%	12%	53%
Apr. 2010	CBS/ <i>NYT</i>	34	10	48
Sep. 2010	CBS/ <i>NYT</i>	33	8	50

- Regardless of which 2012 presidential election candidate you preferred, do you think the Obama administration will or will not be able to do each of the following? How about . . . avoid raising your taxes?

		Yes	No
Nov. 2012	Gallup	38%	60%

- Regardless of which 2016 presidential election candidate you preferred, do you think the Trump administration will or will not be able to do each of the following . . . cut your taxes?

		Yes	No
Nov. 2016	Gallup	51%	46%

- Please tell me how confident you are that President Donald Trump will fulfill the promise. How about . . . lower taxes and simplify the tax code?

		Very confident	Somewhat confident	Not very confident	Not at all confident
Jan.-Feb. 2017	TIPP/IBD	27%	27%	20%	24%

- How likely is it that Donald Trump will accomplish each of the following . . . Rewrite the tax code to be less complicated.

		Very likely to accomplish	Somewhat likely	Not very likely	Not likely at all
Jan. 2017	CNN/ORC	23%	27%	27%	23%
Note: Asked of a half sample.					

- How likely is Donald Trump to do the following things as president?

		Will happen	Will not happen
Cut taxes for the middle class 18-30 year olds		39%	60%
Cut taxes for the rich 18-30 year olds		69%	30%
Note: Will happen combines definitely and probably will happen. Will not happen combines definitely and probably will not happen. Sample: National adult age 18-30.			

- Do you think your taxes will go up or down under the Trump administration?

		Taxes will go up	Taxes will go down
Mar. 2017	Fox News	49%	36%
Note: Asked of registered voters.			

APPROVAL TRENDS OF RECENT PRESIDENTS ON TAXES: Perhaps surprisingly, trends on presidents' handling of taxes don't go back very far in the polling literature. In January 1999, for the first time in his presidency, Bill Clinton had solid majority support on handling taxes. In March 2007, 42 percent of those surveyed by CBS News/New York Times pollsters said that they were satisfied with how Bush was handling taxes. Forty-nine percent were not satisfied.

In a December 2014 Pew poll, 34 percent approved of the job President Obama was doing handling tax policy. His overall approval rating in the same poll was 42 percent. Only polls that asked about presidential approval and presidential approval on taxes in the same survey are shown in this section. In a March 2017 CNN/ORC poll, 43 percent approved of the way Donald Trump is handling taxes; 48 percent disapproved.

Donald Trump

- Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling taxes?
- Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president?

CNN/ORC

	----Handling taxes----		--For comparison-- ----Handling his job as president----	
	Approve	Disapprove	Approve	Disapprove
Mar. 2017	43%	48%	45%	52%

Barack Obama

- Do you approve or disapprove of the way Obama is handling taxes?
- Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president?

ABC/Wash Post

	----Handling taxes----		--For comparison-- ----Handling his job as president----	
	Approve	Disapprove	Approve	Disapprove
Apr. 2009*	56%	38 %	69%	26%
Aug. 2009	51	40	56	40
Jan. 2011	50	44	54	43
Jul. 2011	45	47	47	48
Oct. 2011	42	51	42	54
Nov. 2011	41	53	44	53
Jan. 2012	45	47	48	48
Feb. 2012	47	47	51	47
Dec. 2012	48	45	54	41

Note: *Asked of half-sample.

- Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling taxes?
- Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?

Gallup/USA Today

	----Handling taxes----		--For comparison-- ----Handling his job as President----	
	Approve	Disapprove	Approve	Disapprove
Jul. 2009	45%	48%	55%	41%
Aug. 2010	41	54	45	48
Nov. 2010	38	57	45	47
Feb. 2011	42	54	48	43
Feb. 2012	45	51	50	46
Feb. 2013	41	57	51	47
Jun. 2013	41	57	47	47
Aug. 2013	36	58	44	50

- And please tell me if you approve, disapprove or neither approve nor disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling taxes?
- Overall, please tell me whether you approve, disapprove, or neither approve nor disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president.

		---Handling taxes---		--For comparison-- ---Handling his job as president---	
		Approve	Disapprove	Approve	Disapprove
Apr. 2009	AP-GfK	54%	35%	64%	30%
Jul. 2009	AP-GfK	46	44	55	42
Sep. 2009	AP-GfK	38	50	50	49
Oct. 2009	AP-GfK	47	41	56	39
Nov. 2009	AP-GfK	42	46	54	43
Dec. 2009	AP-GfK	45	43	56	42
Jan. 2010	AP-GfK	43	47	56	42
Mar. 2010	AP-GfK	44	43	53	46
Apr. 2010	AP-GfK	41	51	49	50
May 2010	AP-GfK	42	49	49	50
June 2010	AP-GfK	44	45	50	49
Aug. 2010	AP-GfK	42	50	49	50
Sep. 2010	AP-GfK	47	52	49	50
Oct. 2010	AP-GfK	46	52	49	50
Nov. 2010	AP-GfK	46	53	47	51
Jan. 2011	AP-GfK	48	52	53	46
Mar. 2011	AP-GfK	47	52	53	45
May 2011	AP-GfK	48	50	60	39
Jun. 2011	AP-GfK	45	53	52	47
Aug. 2011	AP-GfK	40	59	46	52
Oct. 2011	AP-GfK	44	55	45	52
Dec. 2011	AP-GfK	46	52	45	54
Feb. 2012	AP-GfK	49	48	49	49
Aug. 2012*	AP-GfK	30	44	34	37

Note: *Twenty-three percent said they neither approved nor disapproved Obama's handling of taxes. Twenty-seven percent said they had mixed feelings about the way he was handling his job as President.

- Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling taxes?
- Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president?

CNN/ORC

		---Handling taxes---		--For comparison-- ---Handling his job as president---	
		Approve	Disapprove	Approve	Disapprove
Mar. 2009		62%	37%	64%	34%
Aug. 2009		45	52	53	45
Sep. 2009		52	43	58	40
Oct.-Nov. 2009		49	50	54	45
Jan. 2010		44	53	51	48
Nov. 2010		43	53	48	50
Jan. 2011		46	52	55	44
May 2011		46	53	54	45
Jan. 2013*		50	47	55	43
Apr. 2013		46	52	51	47

Note: *Asked of a half sample.

- Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is doing on the following issues? Taxes
- Do you approve or disapprove of the job Barack Obama is doing as president?

Fox News

		----Doing on taxes----		--For comparison-- ----Handling his job as president----	
		Approve	Disapprove	Approve	Disapprove
Jul. 2010		41%	51%	43	48%
Aug. 2011		38	54	44	47
Feb. 2013		41	54	49	45

Note: Asked of registered voters.

- Now thinking about how Barack Obama is handling some issues, do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling . . . tax policy.
- Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president?

Pew Research Center

	-----Handling tax policy-----		--For comparison-- -----Handling his job as president-----	
	Approve	Disapprove	Approve	Disapprove
Apr. 2009	50%	33%	61%	26%
Jul. 2009	39	42	54	34
Jan. 2011	42	46	46	44
Dec. 2014	34	52	42	51

- Thinking again about President Obama . . . I am going to read you several uses. For each one, please tell me if you approve or disapprove of the job that President Obama is going on this issue. Taxes.

		Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove
Aug. 2012	GW/ <i>Politico</i>	27%	19%	12	38%

George W. Bush

- Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling taxes? (*Gallup/CNN/USA Today*)
- Next, please tell me whether you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling each of the following aspects of his job. Do you approve or disapprove of the way he is handling taxes? (*PSRA/Newsweek*)
- Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling taxes? (*ABC/Wash Post*)

		-----Bush's handling of taxes-----	
		Approve	Disapprove
Mar. 2001	<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today</i>	56%	35%
Apr. 2001	<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today</i>	54	39
Jul. 2001	<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today</i>	60	33
Mar. 2002	<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today</i>	64	29
Jan. 2003	<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today</i>	49	45
Feb. 2003	<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today</i>	52	42
Mar. 2003	<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today</i>	52	41
Aug. 2003	<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today</i>	52	44
Jan. 2004	<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today</i>	57	38
Jan. 2005	<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today</i>	49	47
Jan. 2006	<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today</i>	49	47

		-----Bush's handling of taxes-----	
		Approve	Disapprove
Apr. 2001	<i>PSRA/Newsweek</i>	48%	40%
May 2001	<i>PSRA/Newsweek</i>	54	27
Aug. 2002	<i>PSRA/Newsweek</i>	49	42
Sep. 2002	<i>PSRA/Newsweek</i>	49	38
Apr. 2003	<i>PSRA/Newsweek</i>	47	44
May 2003	<i>PSRA/Newsweek</i>	47	43
May 2003	<i>PSRA/Newsweek</i>	51	41
Jul. 2003	<i>PSRA/Newsweek</i>	48	45
Sep. 2003	<i>PSRA/Newsweek</i>	43	46
Sep. 2003	<i>PSRA/Newsweek</i>	42	50\
Sep. 2003	<i>PSRA/Newsweek</i>	40	50
Oct. 2003	<i>PSRA/Newsweek</i>	43	47
Nov. 2003	<i>PSRA/Newsweek</i>	45	46
Dec. 2003	<i>PSRA/Newsweek</i>	46	45
Dec. 2003	<i>PSRA/Newsweek</i>	43	47
Jan. 2004	<i>PSRA/Newsweek</i>	45	47
Feb. 2004	<i>PSRA/Newsweek</i>	45	44
Mar. 2004	<i>PSRA/Newsweek</i>	43	49
May 2006	<i>PSRA/Newsweek</i>	39	56

-----Bush's handling of taxes-----

		Approve	Disapprove
Dec. 2002	ABC/Wash Post	51%	44%
Jan. 2003	ABC/Wash Post	50	45
Feb. 2003	ABC/Wash Post	51	43
Apr. 2003	ABC/Wash Post	50	46
Aug. 2003	Wash Post	49	46
Sep. 2003	ABC	48	48
Oct. 2003	ABC/Wash Post	41	53
Jan. 2004	ABC/Wash Post	45	51
Mar. 2004	ABC	50	47
Apr. 2004	ABC/Wash Post	48	49
Jun. 2004	ABC/Wash Post	42	54
Jul. 2004	ABC/Wash Post	49	46
Aug. 2004^	ABC/Wash Post	49	48
Jan. 2005	ABC/Wash Post	49	46
Jan. 2006	ABC/Wash Post	45	52
May 2006	ABC/Wash Post	42	54

Note: ^Asked of registered voters.

- Do you approve or disapprove of the job President George W. Bush is doing on the following issues... Setting tax policy? (Fox)
- Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling... Tax policy? (Pew)

		-----Bush's setting tax policy-----	
		Approve	Disapprove
Mar. 2001	Fox News	54%	31%
Jun. 2001	Fox News	59	29
Jan. 2002	Fox News	58	28
Jan. 2003*	Fox News	49	39

Note: Asked of registered voters. *Question wording was, "Do you approve or disapprove of the job President George W. Bush is doing on the following issues... Taxes?"

		-----Bush's handling of taxes-----	
		Approve	Disapprove
Jun. 2002	Pew	45%	39%
Feb. 2003	Pew	42	44
Dec. 2005	Pew	37	52
Feb. 2006	Pew	37	52

- Under the Bush administration would you say your federal income taxes have gone up, gone down, or not really changed?

		Taxes gone up	Taxes gone down	Taxes not changed
Mar. 2004	AP/Ipsos	22%	26%	48%

- In the last three years would you say your federal income taxes have gone up, gone down, or not really changed?

		Taxes gone up	Taxes gone down	Taxes not changed
Mar. 2004	AP/Ipsos	25%	28%	43%

- Now, thinking about all kinds of federal, state and local taxes, in the last three years would you say the amount of taxes you pay overall has gone up, gone down, or not really changed?

		Taxes gone up	Taxes gone down	Taxes not changed
Mar. 2004	AP/Ipsos	49%	13%	36%

- As you may already know, last year the United States Congress enacted several federal tax cuts that had been proposed by President Bush. In thinking about your federal taxes do you now pay more in taxes or less in taxes? And, do you feel strongly about that?

		Pay more, feel strongly	Pay more	Pay less	Pay less, feel strongly
Mar. 2004	Battleground	24%	7%	11%	32%

- In thinking about your taxes, do you think you now pay more in federal taxes or less in federal taxes? And, do you feel strongly about that?

		Pay more, feel strongly	Pay more	Pay less	Pay less, feel strongly
Mar. 2004	Battleground	30%	12%	10%	27%

- If George W. Bush is re-elected President in November, do you think your taxes will go up, go down, or stay about the same?

		---If Bush is re-elected, my taxes will---		
		Go up	Go down	Stay about the same
Aug. 2004	CBS/NYT	36%	5%	55%
Sep. 2004	CBS/NYT	36	5	55
Oct. 2004	CBS/NYT	31	5	61

- Do you think the Bush administration tax cuts have helped the nation's economy, hurt the economy, or have the tax cuts had no effect on the economy?

		Helped	Hurt	No effect
Sep. 2004	Fox News	35%	32%	25%

Note: Asked of likely voters.

- From what you've heard so far, who do you think would benefit most from George W. Bush's tax cut plan – rich people, poor people, or middle income people?

		George W. Bush's tax cuts: -----Who benefits?-----		
		Rich	Middle income	Poor
Oct. 2000	CBS	53%	26%	3%
Feb. 2001	CBS	57	25	3
Mar. 2001	CBS/NYT	58	24	5
Apr. 2001	CBS	55	26	4

- From what you have heard so far, who do you think has benefited the most from the tax cuts – rich people, poor people, or middle income people?

		Bush's tax cuts -----Who benefitted?-----		
		Rich	Middle income	Poor
Nov. 2002	CBS/NYT	57%	26%	4%

- Do you think Bush's proposals on cutting taxes favor the rich, favor the middle class, favor the poor, or treat all people about equally?

		-----George W. Bush's tax cuts favor-----			
		Rich	Middle class	Poor	All equally
Jan. 2003	ABC/Wash Post	61%	7%	2%	23%
Feb. 2003	ABC/Wash Post	56	10	2	26
Apr. 2003	ABC/Wash Post	57	11	2	26

- Do you think the tax cuts first enacted by the Bush Administration mostly benefit the rich, most benefited the middle class, most benefited the poor, or did the tax cuts benefit all groups equally?

		George W. Bush's tax cuts -----mostly benefited-----			
		Rich	Middle income	Poor	Everyone equally
Oct. 2004	CBS/NYT	60%	8%	2%	24%

- Generally speaking, who do you think has been helped more by the (Bush) tax cut: rich people, middle income people, or poor people?

		Bush's tax cuts -----helped more-----		
		Rich	Middle class	Poor
Jan. 2005	LAT	58%	25%	5%

- Have the tax cuts of the last few years benefited you personally, or not? If yes, have you benefited a lot or only a little?

		Benefited a lot	Benefited a little	Haven't benefited
Jun. 2006	<i>LAT/Bloomberg</i>	9%	25%	61%
Oct. 2007	<i>LAT/Bloomberg</i>	10	19	65

- Are you generally satisfied or dissatisfied with how George W. Bush is handling taxes?

		Satisfied	Dissatisfied
Mar. 2007	<i>CBS/NYT</i>	42%	49%
Note: Responses combined.			

Bill Clinton

- Now thinking about some issues, do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Clinton is handling...taxes?

		-----Clinton's handling of taxes-----	
		Approve	Disapprove
Apr. 1993	<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today</i>	34%	59%
Aug. 1993	<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today</i>	35	61
Nov. 1993	<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today</i>	29	64
Jan. 1994	<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today</i>	37	54
Jan. 1994	<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today</i>	42	50
Apr. 1994	<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today</i>	33	61
Jul. 1994	<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today</i>	31	61
Dec. 1994	<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today</i>	31	59
Jun. 1995	<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today</i>	36	56
Jan. 1996	<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today</i>	41	51
Mar. 1996	<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today</i>	35	58
Aug. 1996	<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today</i>	45	48
Feb. 1997	<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today</i>	39	48
May 1997	<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today</i>	41	48
Jan. 1999	<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today</i>	58	37

George H. W. Bush

- Please tell me whether you approve or disapprove of the way George Bush is handling... taxes?

		-----Bush's handling of taxes-----	
		Approve	Disapprove
Jan. 1992	<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today</i>	32%	63%
Jan. 1992	<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today</i>	36	61
Apr. 1992	<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today</i>	27	67

Ronald Reagan

- Do you approve or disapprove of the way President Reagan is handling taxes?

		-----Reagan's handling of taxes-----	
		Approve	Disapprove
Jan. 1985	<i>LAT</i>	54%	37%
Sep. 1985	<i>LAT</i>	39	37
Feb. 1986	<i>LAT</i>	49	30

- Do you feel that President Reagan's economic policies such as his budget and tax cuts will be fair and equitable for people like you and your family, will be unfair and cause hardship to you, or will go too easy on you?

		Reagan's budget & tax cuts		
		-----fair to you-----		
		Fair	Unfair	Too easy
Feb. 1981	Harris	70%	25%	1%
May 1981	Harris	56	38	2
Jun. 1981	Harris	54	39	3
Aug. 1981	Harris	52	40	2

- Do you feel that President Reagan's economic policies such as his budget and tax cuts will be fair and equitable for high-income people, will be unfair and cause hardship to them, or will go too easy on them?

		Reagan's budget & tax cuts		
		-----fair to high-income people-----		
		Fair	Unfair	Too easy
Feb. 1981	Harris	38%	5%	52%
May 1981	Harris	32	5	55
Aug. 1981	Harris	38	6	50

MAKING GEORGE W. BUSH'S TAX CUTS PERMANENT: *The Bush tax cuts were passed in 2001 and 2003. Polling during the Bush years showed general approval of the cuts. Pollsters turned back to the issue in 2010 when Congress faced the decision to either extend the cuts or let them expire. When respondents were asked either to support or oppose extending the Bush tax cuts, polls showed support. But when asked if they would like to extend the tax cuts to for the wealthy or everyone, the results were more mixed. In most polls throughout 2010, extending the Bush tax cuts for those making less than \$250,000 was popular. Between 15 to 20 percent in some polls wanted to let them all expire. Depending on question wording, people generally preferred letting the cuts expire for those who made more than \$200,000.*

The public supported the agreement President and Congress reached in December 2010 to keep all the tax cuts and extend unemployment benefits. In a January 2011 CBS poll, a plurality of the public felt that the tax cut extension would be good for the economy and would not affect the federal budget deficit. As of December 2012, around half of Americans support keeping the tax cuts in place for those making less than \$250,000 per year.

- Many of the tax cuts passed in 2001 were temporary and are set to expire in _____. Should those tax cuts be made permanent or should they be allowed to expire?

		-----Bush's tax cuts-----	
		Make permanent	Allow to expire
Jan. 2004*	CBS	50%	41%
Mar. 2004*	CBS/NYT	39	44
Nov. 2004*	CBS/NYT	41	45
Jan. 2005^	CBS/NYT	47	40
Feb. 2005*^	CBS/NYT	43	40
Jan. 2007**	CBS	39	39
Mar. 2007**	CBS/NYT	43	40
Sep. 2008**	CBS/NYT	42	36
Oct. 2008**	CBS/NYT	41	39

Note: *Question wording read, "... are set to expire in 2005." ^Question wording read "... are set to expire this year". *^Question wording read "... are set to expire this year. Should those tax cuts be made more permanent or should they be allowed to expire?" **Question wording read "... are set to expire in a few years."

- The tax cuts passed in 2001 are set to expire this year (2010) for households earning about \$250,000 a year or more. This would increase federal income taxes for those people. Should those tax cuts be made permanent or should they be allowed to expire?

		Made permanent	Allowed to expire
Aug. 2010	CBS	36%	56%

- Which comes closer to your view about the tax cuts passed under President Bush over the past few years: all of the tax cuts should be made permanent, tax cuts for the wealthy should be repealed while others stay in place, all of the tax cuts should be repealed?

		Made permanent	Repeal for wealthy only	Repeal all
Sep. 2004	Pew	27%	31%	27%
Dec. 2004	Pew	28	35	25
Apr. 2006	Pew	25	36	28
Oct. 2006	Pew	26	36	26
Oct. 2007	Pew	24	31	30
Nov. 2007	Pew	30	38	22
Oct. 2008	Pew	25	37	25
Late Oct. 2008	SRBI Abt/Pew	23	34	27

- Which comes closer to your view about the tax cuts passed when George W. Bush was president: all of the tax cuts should remain in place, tax cuts for the wealthy should be repealed, while others stay in place, or all of the tax cuts should be repealed?

		Remain in place	Repeal for wealthy only	All repeal
July 2010	Pew	30%	27%	31%
Sep. 2010	Pew/NJ	29	29	28
Nov. 2010	Pew	34	30	28

- As you may know, the federal income tax cuts passed into law last year are set to expire in 2011. Would you favor or oppose making those tax cuts permanent?

		----Bush tax cuts permanent----	
		Favor	Oppose
Nov. 2002	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	64%	29%
Dec. 2004*	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	52	40
May 2007*	CNN/ORC	57	37
Mar. 2008*	CNN/ORC	54	40
Apr. 2010+	CNN/ORC	60	33

Note: * Question wording was "...tax cuts passed into law since George W. Bush became president are set to expire in several years." + Question wording was "...tax cuts passed into law in 2001 are set to expire next year."

- As I read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past week, please tell me if you happened to follow each news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely.

Pew Research Center

	Very closely	Fairly closely	Not too closely	Not at all closely
The agreement reached between Barack Obama and Congressional Republicans to extend tax cuts and unemployment benefits				
Dec. 2010	37%	29%	15%	17%
The debate in Washington over the federal income tax cuts passed when George W. Bush was president				
Dec. (early) 2010	39	26	17	17
The debate in Washington over competing Democratic and Republican tax plans				
Sep. (mid) 2010	21	24	21	34
Sep. (early) 2010	16	19	22	42
The debate in Washington over the federal budget				
May 2009	22	28	19	31

During the Bush administration

- Would you favor new federal income tax cuts in addition to those passed last year, or do you think the tax cuts passed last year are sufficient?

		-----Bush's tax cuts-----	
		Favor more cuts	Cuts are sufficient
Nov. 2002	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	40%	52%

- Do you think the tax cuts being proposed by George W. Bush would mostly help the U.S. economy, will have no effect, or mostly hurt the U.S. economy?

		-----Bush tax cuts on economy-----		
		Mostly help	No effect	Mostly hurt
Apr. 2003	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	36%	31%	26%
May 2003	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	47	19	31
May 2003	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	36	23	30
Jan. 2004*	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	41	35	20

Note: *Question wording was, "...which passed and George W. Bush signed into law have mostly helped the U.S. economy, have had no effect, or have mostly hurt the U.S. economy in the past year?"

- Do you think the tax cuts being proposed by George W. Bush are a good idea or a bad idea at this time?

		-----Bush tax cuts-----	
		Good idea	Bad idea
Apr. 2003	Gallup/CNN/ <i>USA Today</i>	42%	47%
May 2003	Gallup/CNN/ <i>USA Today</i>	52	41
May 2003	Gallup/CNN/ <i>USA Today</i>	45	46
Jun. 2003*	Gallup/CNN/ <i>USA Today</i>	47	43
Sep. 2003*	Gallup/CNN/ <i>USA Today</i>	49	46
Note: *Question wording was "...tax cuts recently signed into law by George W. Bush..."			

- In recent years, President Bush and Congress have made major cuts in federal income tax rates. Do you approve or disapprove of these tax cuts?

		Approve	Disapprove
Aug. 2003	Pew	54%	37%
Mar. 2004	Pew	53	38
Jan. 2005	Pew	51	41
Jan. 2006	Pew	50	38

- Should recent tax cuts be eliminated for people who earn more than \$200,000 a year or should recent tax cuts remain in place for people who earn more than \$200,000 a year?

		Tax cuts eliminated for incomes over \$200,000	Tax cuts kept for incomes over \$200,000
Mar. 2004	AP/Ipsos	53%	45%

- Do you think additional reductions in federal taxes now would be good for the economy, bad for the economy, or wouldn't they make much difference?

		-----Additional tax cuts-----		
		Good	Bad	No difference
Nov. 2004	CBS/ <i>NYT</i>	31%	25%	37%
Jan. 2005	CBS/ <i>NYT</i>	27	24	46

- As you may know, President Bush has passed income tax cuts totaling more than one trillion dollars over the last four years. These tax cuts will expire unless extended by Congress. Do you think Congress should make the tax cuts permanent, or should Congress allow the tax cuts to expire?

		-----Bush's tax cuts-----	
		Make permanent	Allow to expire
Jan. 2005	<i>LAT</i>	54%	35%

- Would you support making the tax cuts permanent if it means the federal budget would remain in deficit, or would you not support making the tax cuts permanent if it means the federal budget would remain in deficit?

		Making tax cuts permanent even if it means budget deficit	
		Still support	Not support
Jan. 2005	<i>LAT</i>	64%	29%

- How much do you approve or disapprove of President Bush's positions on the following issues...making the cuts permanent?

		Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove
Mar. 2005	Harris	30%	21%	14%	25%

- Now let me read you a number of proposals that are before the Congress. For each one, please tell me whether you feel that Congress should enact this proposal now, that Congress should enact this proposal but it is not a good time to do so now, or whether you feel that Congress should not enact this proposal...making permanent the tax cuts of the past few years, which are currently set to expire in twenty-ten?

		Congress should enact now	Congress should enact but now is not good time	Congress should not enact
Nov. 2005	NBC/WSJ	37%	22%	30%

- As you may know, the federal tax cuts enacted in 2001 are currently scheduled to expire in 2010. In 2011, tax rates would return to the level they were in 2000. With this in mind, would you favor or oppose making these tax cuts permanent?

		Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose
Oct. 2005	Battleground	34%	18%	13%	26%

- As you may know, in 2001 President Bush and Congress significantly reduced taxes on investment income such as capital gains and profits from stock dividends. In your view, should these tax cuts be extended into the future, or not?

		Should	Should not
Jan. 2006	Pew	50%	35%

- Do you think Congress should repeal George W. Bush's tax cuts for the wealthy and investors, or not?

		Should	Should not
Dec. 2006	LAT/Bloomberg	56%	35%

- As you may know, President Bush's tax cuts are scheduled to expire in 2010. Those who want to make the tax cuts permanent say they stimulate the economy and provide more long term growth. Those who oppose making the tax cuts permanent say they increase the budget deficit at a time when billions of dollars are being spent on the war in Iraq. Are you in favor of, or opposed to, making Bush's tax cuts permanent?

		Favor	Oppose
Apr. 2007	LAT/Bloomberg	44%	41%

During the Obama administration

- The Obama administration has proposed letting the tax cuts passed in 2001 expire for households earning about \$250,000 a year or more. This would increase federal income taxes for those people. Do you think this proposal is a good idea or a bad idea?

		Good idea	Bad idea
Feb. 2010	CBS/NYT	62%	31%
Sep. 2010	CBS/NYT	53	38
Oct. 2010	CBS/NYT	48	43
Nov. 2010	CBS/NYT	49	44

- The Bush tax cuts that were passed at the beginning of his term are set to expire in 2010. Do you think these tax cuts should be eliminated immediately, allowed to expire in 2010, or should they be continued going forward?

		Eliminate now	Allow to expire	Continue
Jan. 2009	Fox News	23%	28%	37%

Note: Asked of registered voters.

- Do you favor or oppose allowing the tax cuts for Americans with annual incomes of \$250,000 to expire at the end of next year?

		Favor expiration	Oppose
Mar. 2009	PSRA/Newsweek	49%	42%

- Do you support or oppose raising taxes on households earning over \$250,000 a year and, at the same time, lowering taxes for most other households?

		Support	Oppose
Mar. 2009	Fox News	66%	30%

Note: Asked of registered voters.

- In order to help pay for these programs and to help cut the federal deficit in half by the end of his first term, President Obama also proposed increasing taxes starting in 2010 on individuals who make \$200,000 or more a year and families who make \$250,000 or more a year.

		Support	Oppose
Feb. -Mar. 2009	FD/Diageo/Hotline	67%	29%

- The Obama administration has proposed increasing federal income taxes for households making more than \$250,000 a year. Some of the money raised by these new taxes would be used to help improve the access to healthcare and provide tax cuts for households making less money. Do you think this proposal is a good idea or a bad idea?

		Good idea	Bad idea
Apr. 2009	CBS/NYT	74%	23%

(Of those who responded “good idea” or “don’t know/no answer”): What if raising taxes on upper income people hurts the economy? Then, would you favor or oppose raising income taxes on households and businesses that make more than \$250,000

---Of those who responded “Good idea” or “Don’t know/No answer”---

Favor	Oppose
51%	34%

- As you may know, a series of tax cuts that were passed at the beginning of former President George W. Bush’s term are set to expire this year. If you were president, would you: continue the tax cuts for everyone, continue the tax cuts for everyone except families earning more than \$250,000 dollars a year, or allow the tax cuts to expire and let the taxes go back up to their previous level.

		Cont. tax cuts for everyone	Cont. tax cuts for <\$250,000	Allow tax cuts to expire
Jul. 2010	Fox News	44%	36%	14%
Note: Asked of registered voters.				

- As you may know, Congress will soon decide whether to keep in place the existing tax cuts enacted during President Bush’s time in office, or allow them to expire. Which comes closest to your view about the tax cuts passed when George W. Bush was president? Keep all the tax cuts in place. Allow only the tax cuts for families making over \$250,000 to expire, and keep the others in place. Allow all of the tax cuts to expire.

		Keep in place	Expire for >\$250k	Allow all to expire
Aug. 2010	Allstate/National Journal	35%	36%	20%

- As you may know, the tax cuts passed during George W. Bush’s administration lowered taxes by reducing maximum income tax rates for all Americans. These tax cuts are set to expire at the end of 2010, meaning tax rates would go back to what they were before Bush tax laws. Congress is currently considering whether to let these tax cuts expire or extend them. Which of the following comes closest to your view on what action Congress should take?

		Let the tax cuts expire for all Americans	Let tax cuts expire only for people who earn more than \$200,000 a year	Extend the tax cuts for all
Aug. 2010	Reuters/Ipsos	15%	31%	49%

- As you may know, the federal income tax cuts enacted under President George W. Bush will expire at the end of this year unless Congress votes to keep them in place. Should Congress vote to keep the tax cuts in place for all taxpayers, vote to keep the tax cuts in place for those making less than \$250,000 but end the tax cuts for those making \$250,000 or more, or should Congress do nothing and allow the tax cuts to expire for all taxpayers?

		Keep for all	End for ≥\$250k	Allow to expire
Aug. 2010	Gallup/USA Today	37%	44%	15%

- Do you think Congress should allow the Bush tax cuts for persons in the top two percent income category to expire in 2011, or should Congress pass legislation to extend the Bush tax cuts for the top two percent?

Aug. 2010	Newsweek	Allow top 2% cuts to expire 52%	Extend 38%
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- The tax cuts passed in 2001 are set to expire this year for households earning about \$250,000 a year or more. This would increase federal income taxes for those people. Should those tax cuts be made permanent or should they be allowed to expire?

Aug. 2010	CBS	Made permanent for households >\$250k 36%	Allowed to expire 56%
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- As you may know, the tax cuts passed into law when George W. Bush was president are set to expire this year. Unless a new bill is passed, federal income tax rates will rise to the level they were at when those cuts were enacted. Which of the following statements comes closest to your view? Those tax cuts should continue for all Americans regardless of how much money they make. Those tax cuts should continue for families that make less than 250 thousand dollars a year, but taxes should rise to the previous level for families who make more than that amount. Taxes should rise to the previous level for all Americans regardless of how much money they make.

		Continue cuts for all 31%	Continue for <\$250k 51%	Rise to previous levels 18%
Aug. 2010	CNN/ORC			
Nov. 2010	CNN/ORC	35	49	15

- Congress will soon decide whether to keep in place the existing tax cuts enacted during President Bush's time in office, or allow them to expire. Which of the following options would be acceptable to you or not acceptable to you . . . ?

Aug. 2010	NBC/WSJ	Acceptable	Not acceptable
Keep in place all the tax cuts for all Americans for one more year until the economy recovers		71%	25%
Keep in place the tax cuts only for families earning less than \$250,000 per year		66	31
Eliminate the tax cuts for families earning more than \$250,000 per year		46	51
Keep in place all the tax cuts permanently		45	50
Eliminate all the tax cuts permanently		24	72

- In 2001, most Americans received a "temporary" tax cut that is scheduled to end in 2010. Congress will soon decide whether or not to end the tax cut for those households with the highest incomes. When it comes to the current tax rate for households with incomes over two hundred and fifty thousand dollars a year, would you like to see the tax cut end or not?

Sep. 2010	NBC/WSJ	See end 49%	Not see end 45%
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- The Bush tax cuts expire on December 31st. Which statement comes closer to your view?

Marist

	Sep. 2010	Nov. 2010
Congress should extend the tax cuts only for the middle class, but not for the top 2 percent, that is, households earning \$250, 000 or more	49%	51%
Congress should extend the tax cuts for everyone, including the top 2 percent, that is, households earning \$250,000 or more	48	45

Note: Asked of registered voters.

- As you may know, the tax cuts passed into law when George W. Bush was president are set to expire this year. Unless a new bill is passed, federal income tax rates will rise to the level they were at when those cuts were enacted. Please tell me whether you would favor or oppose each of the following:

Sep. 2010 CNN/ORC

	Favor	Oppose
Making those tax cuts permanent for families that make less than \$250,000 a year	79%	19%
Making those tax cuts permanent for families that make more than \$250,000 a year as well	44	53
Continuing those tax cuts for a few years for all families, regardless of how much money they make, but not making them permanent	52	45

- Thinking about the tax cuts passed during George W. Bush's term that are set to expire this year, would you favor or oppose continuing the tax cuts for those making less than \$250,000 a year?

	Favor	Oppose
Sep. 2010 Fox News	76%	18%

And would you favor or oppose continuing the Bush tax cuts for all Americans including those making \$250,000 or more a year?

	Favor	Oppose
Sep. 2010 Fox News	45%	48%

Note: Asked of registered voters.

- In 2001, most Americans received a "temporary" tax cut that is scheduled to end in 2010. Congress will soon decide whether or not to end the tax cut for those households with the highest incomes. When it comes to the current tax rate for households with incomes over two hundred and fifty thousand dollars a year, would you like to see the tax cut end or not?

		Would like to see tax cut end	Would not like to see tax cut end
Sep. 2010	NBC/WSJ	49%	45%
Oct. 2010	CNBC	46	49
Mar. 2012	CNBC	50	41
Jul. 2012*	NBC/WSJ	50	43

Note: *Asked of registered voters.

- Some people support continuing the Bush tax cuts for families of all income levels. Other people support continuing the tax cuts only on incomes below two hundred and fifty thousand dollars a year. What do you think Congress should do: continue the tax cuts for everyone, continue the tax cuts only on incomes below \$250,000 dollars, or allow the tax cuts to expire for everyone and let taxes go back up to their previous levels?

		Continue for everyone	Continue for <\$250,000	Allow to expire
Sept. 2010	Fox News	40%	44%	10%
Oct. 2010	Fox News	39	45	10

Note: Asked of registered voters.

- How should Congress vote on the Bush-era tax cuts; continue them for all, continue them only for families who earn less than \$250,000 a year, or let them expire for all?

		Continue for all	Continue for <\$250k	Expire for all
Nov. 2010	Quinnipiac	35%	43%	14%

Note: Asked of registered voters.

- What do you think Congress should do about income tax cuts under George W. Bush that are set to expire at the end of this year – allow the cuts to expire, keep the tax cuts but set new limits on how much of wealthy American’s income is eligible for the lower rates, or keep the tax cuts for all Americans regardless of income?

Nov. 2010 Gallup/USA Today

Keep tax cuts for all Americans, regardless of income	40%
Keep tax cuts, but set new limits for wealthy Americans	44
Allow tax cuts for all Americans to expire	13

- Which comes closest to your view about the tax cuts passed in 2001? The tax cuts should be continued for everyone. The tax cuts should only continue for households earning less than \$250,000 a year. The tax cuts should expire for everyone.

		Continue for everyone	Continue if earn less than \$250k	Expire for everyone
Nov.-Dec. 2010	CBS	26%	53%	14%

- As you may know, these tax cuts are set to expire at the end of December. Which comes closer to your view about what President Obama and Congress should do now? Keep all of the tax cuts in place. Keep the tax cuts only for income below \$250,000, but end the tax cuts for income above that. End all of the tax cuts.

		Keep all the tax cuts	Keep only for income below \$250,000	End all the tax cuts
Dec. 2010	Pew	34%	47%	11%

Note: Asked of a half sample.

- As you may know, these tax cuts are set to expire at the end of December. Which comes closer to your view about what President Obama and Congress should do now? Keep all of the tax cuts in place. Keep the tax cuts only for income below \$1 million but end the tax cuts for income above that. End all of the tax cuts.

		Keep all the tax cuts	Keep only for income below \$1,000,000	End all the tax cuts
Dec. 2010	Pew	34%	36%	14%

Note: Asked of a half sample.

- I’m going to mention some of the ideas for reducing the deficit. For each, please tell me if this is something you favor or oppose. Eliminate tax cuts the wealthiest Americans have received in recent years.

		Favor	Oppose
Dec. 2010	Bloomberg	59%	38%

- If Congress decided to raise taxes only for those with the highest household income, should it be for those who earn more than \$250,000, more than \$500,000 or more than \$1 million?

		More than \$250,000	More than \$500,000	More than \$1 million
Dec. 2010	Bloomberg	43%	28%	23%

- As you may know, the tax cuts passed during George W. Bush’s term are set to expire at the end of this year. In addition, unemployment benefits for the long-term unemployed are also set to expire. Recently President Obama came to an agreement with Republican leaders that, among other things, allows the Bush-era tax cuts to continue for all Americans for two years in exchange for extending the unemployment benefits. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of this agreement?

		Approve	Disapprove
Dec. 2010	Fox News	68%	26%

Note: Asked of registered voters.

- For each item I name, please tell me if it's something you support strongly, support somewhat, oppose somewhat or oppose strongly. . . .

Dec. 2010 ABC/Wash Post

	Support strongly	Support somewhat	Oppose somewhat	Oppose strongly
Extending the Bush-era tax cuts for all taxpayers, including wealthy people as well as the middle class	30%	24%	16%	27%
Funding an additional 13 months of unemployment benefits for people who are out of work	49	23	11	14
Cutting Social Security payroll taxes by two percentage points for all workers for the next year	18	21	18	39
Increasing the exemption on inheritance taxes so that only estates worth more than five million dollars are taxed	29	23	16	25

- Asked after the question above Obama and the Republican leaders of Congress have reached an agreement to do all four of these things together as a package. Is this plan something you support strongly, support somewhat, oppose somewhat or oppose strongly?

	Support strongly 20%	Support somewhat 49%	Oppose somewhat 17%	Oppose strongly 12%
Dec. 2010 ABC/Wash Post				

- Some people oppose this agreement because it will increase the federal deficit by 900 billion dollars, and some also say it fails to raise taxes on wealthy people who can afford it. Others say it's worth it in order to let people have more money to spend while the economy is still weak. Given these arguments, is this agreement something you support strongly, support somewhat, oppose somewhat or oppose strongly?

	Support strongly 17%	Support somewhat 45%	Oppose somewhat 20%	Oppose strongly 14%
Dec. 2010 ABC/Wash Post				

- The U.S. Congress is considering whether to renew most or all of the Bush tax cuts that expire at the end of December. In your view, what action would be best for the U.S. economy?

Oct. 2010 Bloomberg

Extend for all income levels, which is what the Republicans in Congress recommend	34%
Extend for the middle class but not for the highest-income taxpayers, which is what President Obama recommends	43
Let all tax cuts expire as scheduled and return rates to previous levels to help cut the deficit, which is what former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan recommends	20

- The U.S. Congress is considering whether to renew most or all of the Bush tax cuts that expire at the end of December. In your view, what action would be best for the U.S. economy?

Dec. 2010 Bloomberg

Extend permanently for all income levels	19%
Extend permanently for the middle class, but not if \$250,000 or more	34
Extend permanently for the middle class, 2 years for highest earners	16
Let all tax cuts expire and return to previous levels to help cut the deficit	27

- Over the next year or two, do you think this agreement will help the national economy, hurt the national economy or won't make much difference?

		Help	Hurt	Not much difference
Dec. 2010	ABC/Wash Post	36%	17%	43%

- How closely are you following the news about the agreement on taxes reached by President Obama and Republican leaders in Congress last Monday: very closely, somewhat closely, not too closely, or not at all?

		Very closely	Somewhat closely	Not too closely	Not at all closely
Dec. 2010	Gallup/USA Today	31%	35%	19%	14%

- Based on what you have heard or read about the tax agreement, do you think Congress should or should not vote to pass it?

		Should	Should not	Unsure
Dec. 2010	Gallup/USA Today	49%	32%	18%

- As you may know, one part of the tax agreement reached by President Obama and Republicans in Congress extends for all Americans the income tax cuts passed in 2001 and 2003 that were set to expire on Dec. 31. If it were up to you, what would you want to happen: allow the tax cuts to expire for all Americans, extend the tax cuts but set new limits on how much of wealthy Americans' income is eligible for the lower tax rates, or extend the tax cuts for all Americans?

		Allow to expire	Extend with new limits	Extend for all
Dec. 2010	Gallup/USA Today	7%	47%	41%

- As you may know, recently President Obama announced an agreement with the Republican leadership in Congress to accept a continuation for two years of the Bush tax cuts for all taxpayers, including those with incomes over two hundred and fifty thousand dollars. In exchange, the Republican leadership in Congress is accepting an extension on unemployment benefits for another year and a two percent reduction of Social Security payroll taxes for all taxpayers for one year.

Do you approve or disapprove of this agreement?

		Approve	Disapprove
Dec. 2010	NBC/WSJ	59%	36%

When it comes to this agreement, do you think President Obama gave up too much, that the Republican leadership in Congress gave up too much, or that it is a fair compromise on both sides?

		Obama gave up too much	Repubs. gave up too much	A fair compromise
Dec. 2010	NBC/WSJ	23%	10%	61%

Note: Each question was asked of a half sample.

- Congress has passed and President Obama has signed into law a bill that would extend tax cuts for all Americans, reduce the estate tax, extend unemployment benefits, and reduce the Social Security tax that workers pay. Taking into account all of those provisions, do you favor or oppose that bill?

		Favor	Oppose
Dec. 2010	CNN/ORC	75%	23%

Now let me describe to you some of the specific provisions in that bill and ask how you feel about each one. Please tell me whether you favor or oppose each of the following. . . .

	Favor	Oppose
A two-year extension of tax cuts for families who make less than 250 thousand dollars a year	89%	11%
An extension of unemployment benefits for workers who lose their jobs	76	22

A one-year reduction in the Social Security tax that workers pay		62	36		
An increase in the federal deficit in order to pay for all of those provisions		41	57		
A reduction in the tax paid by the heirs of some wealthy Americans when they die		39	59		
A two-year extension of tax cuts for families who make more than 250 thousand dollars a year		37	62		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Do you think the recent extension of the tax cuts which were passed by Congress and signed by the President last month will be good for the national economy, bad for the national economy, or will extending the tax cuts not have much of an effect on the national economy?					
Jan. 2011	CBS	Good 38%	Bad 22%	Not much effect 28%	Unsure 12%
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Do you think the recent extension of the tax cuts which were passed by Congress and signed by the President last month will increase the budget deficit, reduce the budget deficit, or will extending the tax cuts not have much of an effect on the budget deficit?					
Jan. 2011	CBS	Increase 34%	Reduce 13%	Not much effect 42%	Unsure 11%
<ul style="list-style-type: none">I am going to mention some areas of government spending where some groups are seeking dramatic changes or complete elimination. Please tell me whether you think the action would result in savings to the federal deficit that would be very large, fairly large, fairly small, or would make little difference at all...Repeal the tax cuts for households earning more than \$250,000 per year?					
Mar. 2011	Bloomberg	Very large 25%	Fairly large 29%	Fairly small 20%	Little difference 20%
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Last year Congress extended the tax cuts enacted in 2001 under President George W. Bush for two more years. Do you favor making the tax cuts permanent or letting them expire after two years?					
Jul. 2011	Economist/YouGov	Permanent 35%	Expire 40%		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Which of the following statements comes closest to your view? Taxes on wealthy people should be kept low because they invest their money in the private sector and that helps the economy and create jobs. Taxes on wealthy people should be kept high so the government can use their money for programs to help lower-income people.					
Aug. 2011	CNN/ORC	Should be kept low 34%	Should be kept high 62%		
Nov. 2012	CNN/ORC	36	56		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Federal tax policy now allows capital gains and dividends to be taxed at a lower rate than income from work. Which comes closer to your opinion? You approve of the current policy because you think it encourages investment, which helps the economy and ultimately increases tax revenues. OR, You think capital gains and dividends should be taxed the same as income earned from work because the current policy increases the federal deficit and is unfair to people who don't have money to invest.					
Jan. 2012	CBS	Approve of current policy 36%	Tax cap. gains & dividends the same 52%	Tax cap. gains & dividends more (vol.) 25%	Unsure 10%

- Do you think the tax cuts originally passed by George W. Bush's administration have been good for the nation's economy, bad for the nation's economy, or have they made no difference?

		Good for nation's economy	Bad for nation's economy	Made no difference
Jul. 2012	NBC/WSJ	37%	34%	24%
Note: Asked of registered voters.				

- The tax cuts that were passed in 2001 and 2003 will expire this year if they are not continued. Which of the following best describes what you think Congress should do about the tax cuts? Allow the tax cuts to expire for everyone. Allow the tax cuts on income above \$250,000 to expire, but continue them for income below \$250,000. Continue the tax cuts for everyone.

		Expire for everyone	Expire on income above \$250K	Continue everyone
Dec. 2012	AP-GfK/Roper	13%	48%	32%

- Which comes closest to your view about the tax cuts passed in 2001 and 2003? 1) The tax cuts should be continue for everyone or 2) the tax cuts should only continue for households earning less than \$250,000 a year or 3) the tax cuts should expire for everyone?

		Continue for all	Continue for those earning >\$250k	Expire for all
Jul. 2012	CBS/NYT	27%	49%	17%
Sep. 2012	CBS/NYT	30	47	15
Oct. 2012	CBS/NYT	35	42	15
Dec. 2012	CBS/NYT	28	52	13

- Income from investments, such as the sale of stock or from dividends, is taxed at a lower rate than income from wages. There is currently debate on whether this rate should be raised or kept at its current level. Which of the following is closer to your view? The lower rate encourages investment and so creates jobs. It is fairer for investment income to be taxed at the same rate as income from paychecks.

		Lower rate creates jobs	Fairer to tax at same rate
Dec. 2012	Bloomberg	52%	36%

DOING TAXES: *Very few taxpayers tell pollsters they love doing their taxes. At the other end of the spectrum, roughly 25-30 percent say they hate doing them. When the IRS was in the congressional spotlight in the late 1990s, favorable views about the agency went down. They have improved since then. In January 2017, 58 percent told Pew Research Center pollsters their opinion of the IRS was very or mostly favorable; 33 percent said very or mostly unfavorable. People would rather have a root canal than be audited. They are divided about whether they would rather have dental work or do taxes.*

- How are your taxes usually prepared?

Harris/Tax Foundation

Have my taxes prepared by

I pay an outside tax preparer

Mar-Apr. 2005	35%
Mar. 2006	36
Mar. 2007	34
Feb. 2009	35

By me or someone in my house using software like TurboTax or TaxCut

Mar-Apr. 2005	30
Mar. 2006	33
Mar. 2007	39
Feb. 2009	36

By me or someone in my house using tax forms

Mar-Apr. 2005	24
Mar. 2006	22
Mar. 2007	17
Feb. 2009	20

By a friend or family member outside my house

Mar-Apr. 2005	6
Mar. 2006	5
Mar. 2007	5
Feb. 2009	5

Other

Mar-Apr. 2005	6
Mar. 2006	4
Mar. 2007	5
Feb. 2009	4

- All in all, which of the following best describes how you feel about doing your income taxes – you love it, you like it, you dislike it, or you hate it?

-----Like doing your taxes-----

		Love	Like	Dislike	Hate	Neither (vol.)
Mar. 1990	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	2%	21%	33%	30%	10%
Mar. 1991	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	2	22	40	25	8
Apr. 2000	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	3	15	39	32	9
Apr. 2001	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	3	21	35	31	6

- Which comes closest to your status for filing your [current year] income tax return – have you: 1. finished, already filed 2. started, but not finished, 3. not started yet 4. don't know

		Finished	Started, but not finished	Not started yet
Apr. 1997	Fox News	58%	24%	13%
Apr. 1998	Fox News	67	19	10
Apr. 2000	Fox News	64	20	10
Apr. 2002	Fox News	62	20	13
Apr. 2006	Fox News	65	19	12

Note: Asked of registered voters.

- Next I'm going to read some behaviors. For each, please tell me whether you personally believe that it is morally acceptable, morally wrong, or is it not a moral issue

Feb. 2006

Pew

	Wrong	Acceptable	Not a moral issue
Married people having an affair	88%	3%	7%
Not reporting all income on taxes	79	5	14
Drinking alcohol excessively	61	5	31
Having an abortion	52	12	23
Smoking marijuana	50	10	35
Homosexual behavior	50	12	33
Telling a lie to spare someone's feelings	43	23	26
Sex between unmarried adults	35	22	37
Gambling	35	17	42
Overeating	32	6	58

- All in all, which of the following best describes how you feel about doing your income taxes?

		-----Like doing your taxes-----				
		Love	Like	Dislike	Hate	Neither (vol.)
Mar.-Apr. 2005	Harris/Tax Foundation	1%	11%	45%	25%	19%

- People have strong feelings about some issues, and not so strong feelings about others. On this card there is a scale of feelings – absolutely delighted, pleased, somewhat satisfied, no real feelings one way or the other, somewhat dissatisfied, angry, and boiling mad. Using this scale, how would you describe your feelings when you think about...the amount of taxes you pay?

-----Feel about doing taxes-----							
	Delighted	Pleased	Satisfied	None	Dissat.	Angry	Boiling
Aug. 1996 Roper GfK-NOP	1%	5%	12%	15%	37%	18%	11%

- Does the process of paying your taxes make you feel mostly...?

-----Process of paying your taxes-----						
	Frustrated	Happy	Satisfied	Neutral	Anxious.	Angry
Apr. 2005 Blum & Weprin/NBC	17%	4%	15%	41%	10%	7%

- I'm going to read you a short list of things that might make people feel stress. As I read each one, tell me if this is something that makes you feel a lot of stress, some stress, only a little stress, or no stress at all. How about...doing your taxes?

-----Stress about doing taxes-----				
	A lot	Some	A little	None
Dec. 1999 PSRA/Kaiser	17%	19%	24%	37%

Note: "Doing your taxes" ranked first out of four items in terms of "a lot" of stress. The other categories were "dealing with your health insurance company" (14 percent), "dealing with your auto mechanic or the place that services your vehicle" (12 percent), and "dealing with your auto insurance company" (7 percent).

- About how many hours have you or will you spend doing your income taxes this year?

-----Time to do taxes-----					
	Less 1 hr.	1-3 hrs.	3-5 hrs.	5-10 hrs.	10+ hrs.
Mar. 1991 Gallup	12%	34%	15%	13%	9%

- Have you ever been reviewed by the IRS – that is the Internal Revenue Service?

		-----Reviewed by IRS-----	
		Yes	No
Oct. 1997	NBC/WSJ	21%	79%

(Asked of those who said they were reviewed) Do you believe that you were treated fairly or unfairly in your dealings with the IRS?

		Treated fairly	Treated unfairly
Oct. 1997	NBC/WSJ	57%	42%

(Asked of those who said they were reviewed) There have been a number of incidents in which the IRS is alleged to have behaved unethically or treated people unfairly during audits. Do you believe that these were isolated incidents, or is this something you think occurs fairly regularly?

		-----Abuse by IRS-----	
		Isolated incidents	Occurs regularly
Oct. 1997	NBC/WSJ	19%	70%

- How do you prepare your taxes – do you or someone else in your household use an account and/or tax preparer, a computer software program, a pencil and a calculator?

Mar. 2005	Fox News	
Accountant or tax preparer		61%
Computer software program		19
Pencil and a calculator		16
Not sure		3
Note: Asked of registered voters.		

- Which of the following best describes how you do your income taxes?

Apr. 2005	Blum & Weprin/NBC News	
You prepare and file them well ahead of the April 15 deadline		76%
You prepare and file them at the last minute		19
You get an extension from the IRS		4

- Do you think most people cheat on their taxes, many people cheat on their taxes, only a few people cheat on taxes, or do you think almost no one cheats on their taxes?

		Most people	Many people	Only a few	Almost no one
Apr. 2005	Blum & Weprin/NBC	9%	30%	51%	4%

- Do you think any of your friends or neighbors cheat on their taxes?

		Yes	No	Not sure
Mar. 2005	Fox News	38%	35%	28%
Note: Asked of registered voters.				

- Have you ever been tempted to cheat on your taxes, or haven't you?

		Yes	No
Apr. 2005	Blum & Weprin/NBC	14%	85%

- Do you believe it is becoming easier for someone to cheat on their income taxes, has there been no change, or is it becoming harder for someone to cheat on their income taxes?

		Easier	No change	Harder
Apr. 2005	Gallup	21%	35%	30%

- Are you planning to, or did you already, send your tax return to the IRS by mail, or electronically by computer?

		Mail	Electronically
Mar. 1997	Gallup	77%	15%
Apr. 1999	Gallup	66	20
Apr. 2001	Gallup	62	28
Apr. 2003	Gallup	52	34
Apr. 2005	Gallup	43	44

Attitudes Toward the IRS

- Now let me ask you about a few specific agencies. Using this card, is your opinion of them highly favorable, moderately favorable, or not too favorable, or rather unfavorable...I.R.S. (Internal Revenue Service)

		-----IRS-----				
		Total				
		“Favorable”				
1983	Roper GfK-NOP	51%				
1984	Roper GfK-NOP	60				
1985	Roper GfK-NOP	48				
1986	Roper GfK-NOP	49				
1992	Roper GfK-NOP	37				
1995	Roper GfK-NOP	36				
1996	Roper GfK-NOP	41				
1997	Roper GfK-NOP	34				
1998	Roper GfK-NOP	32				
1999	Roper GfK-NOP	37				
2000	Roper GfK-NOP	41				
2001	Roper GfK-NOP	46				

-----Aug. 1983-----						-----Jul. 2001-----				
	Highly	Not too	Not too	Highly	Don't	Highly	Not too	Not too	Highly	Don't
	fav.	fav.	unfav.	unfav.	know	fav.	fav.	unfav.	unfav.	know
NPS	34%	43%	8%	3%	12%	30%	50%	8%	3%	9%
FBI	29	46	14	5	6	14	45	23	8	10
FDA	31	42	15	5	6	20	49	19	6	6
USPS	--	--	--	--	--	31	47	14	6	2
USFS	--	--	--	--	--	26	48	9	5	13
CDC	--	--	--	--	--	27	45	11	3	13
NASA	--	--	--	--	--	23	46	14	5	12
FCC	18	47	13	4	17	12	45	17	5	20
FAA	18	46	12	5	19	13	47	17	5	18
FTC	10	50	14	4	21	7	46	15	5	27
NIH	--	--	--	--	--	17	50	12	4	17
USBC	--	--	--	--	--	16	54	14	4	13
EPA	21	35	22	12	9	15	49	19	7	10
FEMA	--	--	--	--	--	18	45	14	3	19
SEC	13	42	12	3	30	11	40	13	3	32
CIA	15	38	24	9	13	12	37	25	8	17
IRS	12	38	28	16	6	7	39	30	20	5
BATF	--	--	--	--	--	12	40	24	12	12
SSA	--	--	--	--	--	14	46	24	9	7
BLM	--	--	--	--	--	8	41	18	5	28

- How good a job do you think the IRS does in enforcing the tax laws so that everyone pays what they should pay? Would you say it does an excellent job, a good job, not too good a job, or a poor job of enforcing the tax laws so that everyone pays what they should pay?

		-----IRS-----
		Total
		“Excellent” or “Good”
2005	Blum & Weprin/NBC	52%

- There have been a number of incidents in which the IRS is alleged to have behaved unethically or treated people unfairly during audits. Do you believe that these were isolated, or is this more something you think occurs fairly regularly?

		Isolated incidents	Fairly regular
		42%	43%
Apr. 2005	Blum & Weprin/NBC		

- In your dealings with the IRS do you feel you have been treated fairly or unfairly, or have you not had enough experience with the IRS to say?

		Fairly	Unfairly	Not enough to say
		49%	5%	46%
Apr. 2005	Blum & Weprin/NBC			

- If you had to make a choice, which of the following would you prefer, an audit by the IRS or root canal surgery?

		-----Personally prefer-----
		Root canal IRS audit
		47% 40%
Mar. 1997	The Polling Company	

- If you had a choice, do you think you would rather have a root canal at the dentist or be audited by the IRS?

		-----Personally prefer-----
		Root Canal IRS Audit
		51% 34%
Apr. 2000	Fox News	
Note: Asked of registered voters.		

- If you had to choose, which would you prefer: prepare taxes or go to the dentist?

		-----Personally prefer-----
		Prepare taxes Go to dentist
		48% 49%
Apr. 2005	AP/Ipsos	
Note: Asked of registered voters.		

- If you could choose one person to have audited by the IRS, who would it be: your mother-in-law, your boss, or your congressman?

		-----Choose to get audited-----
		Mother-in-law Boss Congressman
		3% 8% 60%
Jan. 1998	Fox News	
Mar. 1999	Fox News	
Note: Asked of registered voters.		

- Overall, how would you rate the job the Internal Revenue Service or IRS does – excellent, pretty good, only fair, or poor?

		-----IRS-----
		Total
		“Excellent” Or “Pretty good”
2000	Harris	44%
2001	Harris	63
2003	Harris	51
2004	Harris	54
2007	Harris	55
2009	Harris	49

- How would you rate the job being done by the Internal Revenue Service? Would you say it is doing an excellent, good, only fair, or poor job?

		Excellent	Good	Only fair	Poor
Sep. 2003	Gallup	6%	38%	38%	15%
Jul. 2009	Gallup	5	35	36	20
May 2013	Gallup	6	21	29	42
Nov. 2014	Gallup	7	34	29	27

- Please tell me whether you have a generally favorable or unfavorable opinion of . . . The Internal Revenue Service, or the IRS.

		Favorable	Unfavorable	Can't say
Apr. 2002	Fox News	45%	34%	20%
Jun. 2009	Fox News	49	39	11
Apr. 2010	Fox News	49	38	13

Note: Asked of registered voters.

- Is your overall opinion of the Internal Revenue Service, the IRS, very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly unfavorable, or very unfavorable?

		Very/Mostly favorable	Mostly/Very unfavorable
Aug. 1983	Roper	50%	44%
Aug. 1984	Roper	60	34
Aug. 1985	Roper	48	47
Aug. 1986	Roper	51	45
Aug. 1987	Roper	49	46
Oct. 1997	Pew	38	60
Mar. 2010	Pew	47	40
Oct. 2013	Pew	44	51
Jan. 2015	Pew	45	48
Jan. 2017	Pew	58	33

- How much confidence do you have in the IRS? A great deal, some, not much, or none at all?

		Great deal	Some	Not much	None
Feb. 2017	Fox News	14%	41%	20%	22%

In 2003, Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research Inc. (Dem.) conducted two polls on peoples' attitudes toward taxes as part of a series in National Purpose studies sponsored by Public Interests Projects. Stanley Greenberg and Anna Greenberg provided commentary for the July report, "Transforming the Tax Debate" and the November report, "Taxes, Government, and the Obligations of Citizenship." For more information, go to

http://www.greenbergresearch.com/campaigns_us/publications.php

The data in this report come from the archive of public opinion polls at AEI and from The Roper Center's archive at Cornell University. The Roper Center is the oldest and largest archive of public opinion data in the world. To learn more about the Roper Center, visit <https://ropercenter.cornell.edu/>.

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