

A COMMISSION SURVEY

1985

CHANGING
PUBLIC ATTITUDES
ON GOVERNMENTS
AND TAXES

Advisory Commission on
Intergovernmental Relations
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20575 • 1985



S-14

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(September 1985)

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Foreword

This publication presents the 14th annual survey of public attitudes toward government and taxes conducted for the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (ACIR).

The Gallup Organization has conducted the polls since 1983 using the Gallup Personal Omnibus. Every effort was made to ensure comparability with the previous surveys conducted by Opinion Research Corporation of Princeton, New Jersey.

This year ACIR asked five questions. This publication presents both the current results and the cumulative record since 1982. It contains an appendix which lists all the questions which have been asked since 1972 and the tables in which detailed data on responses can be found. Data on questions asked in the 1972-81 surveys may be obtained by requesting copies of the 1983 or 1984 reports (S-12 and S-13) which present the data in Appendix III.

Susannah E. Calkins, senior analyst, prepared this study with the assistance of Alan McInnes. Members of the ACIR staff participated in developing the questions and in reviewing the results. Typing assistance was provided by Alisha Mullins.

All interpretations of the data are those of the ACIR staff.

John Shannon
Executive Director

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The 1985 Survey

HIGHLIGHTS

The Federal Income Tax Chosen As Worst Tax for the Seventh Straight Year

For the seventh straight year, in 1985 the federal income tax was chosen as the worst tax—the least fair—by respondents polled by the Gallup Organization for the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations 1985 poll on changing public attitudes on government and taxes. The percentage choosing the federal income tax as the worst tax has not shown a substantial variation over the past seven years, ranging from 35% to 38%. (*Text Table 1*) (Since the President's tax reform proposals were not released to the public until May 29, 1985, after the time the ACIR poll was taken, the figures do not reflect public reaction to the release of the Administration tax reform plan.)

The gap between those choosing the federal income tax as the worst tax (38%) and those choosing the local property tax (24%) is at its widest since 1972: 14 percentage points separate the two. Since 1978 when the property tax revolt began with Proposition 13 in California, local governments have been making strenuous efforts to hold down property tax levels. At the same time, taxpayer dislike of the federal income tax has remained high as many taxpayers find that inflation has pushed them into high tax brackets. Personal income tax indexation at the federal level, which mitigates these inflationary impacts, did not take effect until January 1, 1985.

In the past seven years, the ratings of both the state income tax and the state sales tax have been relatively stable—and far below those of the federal income tax and the property tax.

Text Table 1

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

Percent of U.S. Public

	May 1985	May 1984	May 1983	May 1982	Sept. 1981	May 1980	May 1979	May 1978	May 1977	May 1975	April 1974	May 1973	March 1972
Federal Income Tax	38	36	35	36	36	36	37	30	28	28	30	30	19
State Income Tax	10	10	11	11	9	10	8	11	11	11	10	10	13
State Sales Tax	16	15	13	14	14	19	15	18	17	23	20	20	13
Local Property Tax	24	29	26	30	33	25	27	32	33	29	28	31	45
Don't Know	12	10	15	9	9	10	13	10	11	10	14	11	11

Detailed data appear in *Appendix II, Tables 4, 5 and 6, pp. 19-23.*

Rating Government Power

Text Table 2

Which of these statements comes closest to your view about government power today?

	Percent of U.S. Public			
	1985	1984	1982	1978
The federal government				
1. Has too much power.	31	35	38	38
2. Has about the right amount of power.	27	25	18	18
3. Should use its powers more vigorously.	36	34	30	36
4. No opinion.	6	6	14	8

Detailed data appear in *Appendix II, Tables 7 and 8, pp. 24-25.*

Since 1982, the public has become more receptive to the idea of a more active role for the federal government. (*Text Table 2*) This pendulum swing is demonstrated by responses to the ACIR poll's questions about government power:

- In 1982, 38% of the respondents believed that the federal government had too much power. Since then anti-federal sentiment has been dropping, and in 1985 only 31% so believe.
- Over the same period, the percent of the public who believe that the federal government has about the right amount of power increased from 18% in 1982 to 27% in 1985.
- The percent of the public believing that the federal government should use its powers

more vigorously for the well-being of all of the people has increased from 30% in 1982 to 36% in 1985.

A look at regional breakdowns indicates that only the Northeast varied significantly from national averages: the Northeast is disposed to regard federal power more favorably than do the other regions. While 31% of the total United States population sampled believe that the federal government has too much power, only 21% do in the Northeast. While 36% of the total population believe that the federal government should use its powers more vigorously to promote the well being of all segments of the people, 44% of the people in the Northeast so believe.

Cutbacks in Federal Aid

Text Table 3

For which, if any, of the following programs should the federal government stop providing federal financial support?

	Percent of U.S. Public
Nursing home care for the elderly	8
Aid to local public schools	10
Highways (except the interstate system)	13
Aid to low-income people (including food stamps)	14
Sewage treatment plants	17
Community and economic development	18
None of these	56
Don't know	6

Detailed data appear in *Appendix II, Table 9, p. 26.*

The struggles of the Administration and the Congress to cut the federal budget have dramatically illustrated how difficult it is for the federal government to eliminate or even cut back on support for state and local programs. In effect, the 1985 public opinion poll shows strong public support for continuing federal aid programs. The poll listed six state and local programs currently receiving federal financial support, ranging from nursing home care for the elderly to support for

community and economic development. When asked for which, if any, of these programs the federal government should stop providing support, a clear majority of 56% said "none." Those demographic groups showing considerably higher than average support (56%) for not cutting out any of the listed programs were nonwhites (68%), those living in the Northeast region (67%), and the 18 to 24 year-old age group (64%). (Text Table 3)

Privatizing Local Government Services

Text Table 4

Would the following services be more efficiently produced/delivered by private companies or your local government?

	Private Companies	Local Government	Don't Know
Hospitals	46	45	9
Parking facilities	42	48	10
Ambulance services	41	52	7
Garbage collection	41	53	6
Parks and swimming pools	25	68	7
Street maintenance	21	73	6

Detailed data appear in *Appendix II, Table 11, pp. 28-29.*

Confronted with tight budgets, many local governments are looking for new ways to provide services to their citizens effectively and economically. One way is contracting with private companies to deliver services that otherwise would be provided by the government. The 1985 poll explored citizen reaction to such "privatization" by naming six functions representative of a wide range of government activities and asking respondents whether they believe the services would be more efficiently produced or delivered by private companies or by the respondent's local government.

Hospitals, traditionally both a private and a government function, received the highest percent of preference for private operation—the 46% preferring operation by private companies was about the same as the 45% preferring local government operation. For the other five functions, the vote for local government delivery and operation exceeded that for private companies. At the bottom of the list of preferences for private company operation was street maintenance, for which only 21% of the respondents chose private com-

panies as the most efficient operator. Parks and swimming pools is close to the bottom of the list, with only 25% preferring private operation. Parking facilities, ambulance service, and garbage collection cluster close together with about 41% choosing private companies. (Text Table 4)

For several of the functions, there are widely differing regional patterns: while 49% of the population in the North Central region, and 48% in the West voted for garbage collection by private companies, in the South 36% chose private companies and in the Northeast, 35%. In the West, 58% opted for private company operation of hospitals; in the North Central region, 49%; in the South, 44%; and in the Northeast, 38%. Demographic groups consisting of college graduates (67%), \$40,000-and-over income households (60%), and the professional-manager-owner occupational group (62%) also showed high levels of support for private operation of hospitals.

A similarly large spread in regional preferences concerning operation of ambulance services appeared; 54% in the West preferred private operation compared to 33% in the Northeast.

Rating Governments

Text Table 5

From which level of government do you feel you get the most for your money—federal, state or local?

	Percent of U.S. Public													
	May 1985	May 1984	May 1983	May 1982	Sept. 1981	May 1980	May 1979	May 1978	May 1977	March 1976	May 1975	April 1974	May 1973	March 1972
Federal	32	24	31	35	30	33	29	35	36	36	38	29	35	39
Local	31	35	31	28	33	26	33	26	26	25	25	28	25	26
State	22	27	20	20	25	22	22	20	20	20	20	24	18	18
Don't Know	15	14	19	17	14	19	16	19	18	19	17	19	22	17

Detailed data appear in *Appendix II, Tables 1, 2 and 3, pp. 13-17.*

Since 1972, the ACIR has asked the public, "From which level of government do you feel you get the most for your money?" This year the percentage of respondents choosing federal and local governments was about equal: 32% for the federal government and 31% for local government. State government was substantially lower at 22%. (*Text Table 5*)

Many of the patterns apparent in earlier years continued, with the highest support for the federal government coming from persons in households with incomes below \$15,000, and nonwhites. High levels of support for local government came from college graduates, the occupational group of professionals, managers, and owners, and households with incomes over \$40,000. State government found its highest level of support from those with some college education, and the white-collar, sales and clerical worker occupational group.

Examination of regional figures shows distinct patterns: the Northeast and the South give high levels of support to the federal government (36% each); and the North Central and West regions give local government first place (35% and 30% respectively).

In 1984, the ACIR analysis emphasized the fact that for the first time since the poll began in 1972, the federal government was in third place at 24%, compared to 27% for state government and 35% for local government. The dramatic drop in the rating of the federal government was not continued in 1985. Instead, in 1985 federal govern-

ment regained first place at 32%, closely followed by local government at 31% (a statistically insignificant difference) and state government at 22%.

The figures for 1985 continue the long-term trend that was interrupted in 1984. Neither ACIR nor the Gallup Organization which does the actual polling has been able to determine any reason for the apparent aberration in the 1984 figures. We have concluded that the 1984 figures, with their dramatic drop in approval for the federal government and the counterbalancing increases for state and local governments can best be described as statistical "blips." Polls in future years may cast more light on the 1984 data.

Results of Previous Polls

This volume contains detailed tables presenting the results of all of the ACIR polls since 1982. In addition, detailed tables from 1972-81 for the two questions which are asked each year (from which level of government do you get the most for your money, and which is the worst tax) are presented in this volume.

Appendix I contains a list of the questions asked since the first poll in 1972 and identifies the table in which the responses are tabulated.

Data for surveys covering 1972-81 appear in *Appendix III* of the 1984 Survey (S-13) and 1983 Survey (S-12). Copies of S-13 or S-12 are available on request.

THE POLL

This report presents the findings of a personal interview research survey conducted among a nationally representative sample of 1,528 men and women, 18 years of age or over, living in private households in the United States.

Interviewing for this survey was completed from May 18-26, 1985, by members of the Gallup Personal Omnibus national interviewing staff. All interviews were conducted in the homes of respondents.

To ensure the representativeness of the sample, data were weighted to take into account demographic variables. Therefore, the results may be projected to the total adult civilian population, 18 years of age or over, living in the United States.

Introduction to Detailed Findings

The tables contained in this report present detailed findings of the various survey results. Percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding.

The following definitions are provided for some of the standard breakdowns by which the data are analyzed. Other breakdowns are self-explanatory.

Occupation refers to the occupation of the respondent. The types of positions included in each category are listed below. The fourth classification is retired persons.

Professional/Manager/Owner

Executives, Professionals, Technical and Kindred Workers, Managers, Officials, and Proprietors.

White Collar, Sales, Clerical

Clerical, Office and Secretarial Workers, and Sales Agents and Workers.

Blue Collar

Semi-skilled, laborers, and service workers: Craftsmen, Foremen, Kindred Workers, Maintenance Repairmen, Carpenters, Plumbers and Electricians; Operatives and Kindred Workers, Apprentices, and As-

sembly Line Workers; Housekeepers in Private Households, Institutional and Public; Police, Security Guards; Beauticians and Barbers.

Metro size groupings are determined by the U.S. Bureau of the Census population figures for the metropolitan area. Nonmetro areas are those not in a metropolitan area, with populations under 50,000. Central city areas have populations of 50,000 or more in a central city of a metropolitan area. Fringe areas have populations of 50,000 or more in metropolitan areas outside a central city.

The four *geographic regions* are defined as follows: Northeast—Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania; North Central—Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas; South—Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas; West—Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Washington, Oregon, California, Hawaii, Alaska.

Income groups respondents by 1984 total household income before taxes.

Sampling tolerances for the survey are ± 3 percentage points at the 95% level of confidence.

Further detail on the survey methods and sampling tolerances are available from ACIR.

Previous Classifications and Results

Data for 1972-81 are presented in Appendix III, Detailed Results of 1972-81 Surveys (p. 41) of the 1984 public opinion volume (S-13) or 1983 (S-12). Copies may be requested from ACIR. Descriptions of classifications used in these years may be found in the volumes for the relevant years.

Tables for 1982-1985 are presented in *Appendix II* of this report (S-14).

Appendix I
**QUESTIONS ASKED:
1972-85**

QUESTIONS, 1972-85

Numbered Tables (1982-85) appear in *Appendix II, Detailed Results: 1982-85 Surveys*; Lettered Tables (1972-81) appear in *Appendix III, Detailed Results: 1972-81 Surveys (S-12 or S-13)*.

Taxes

	Year	Table	Page
<i>Federal-State-Local Taxes</i>			
From which level of government do you feel you get the most for your money?	1972-76	3	16
	1977-81	2	14
	1982-85	1	13
Considering all government services on the one hand and taxes on the other, which of the following statements comes closest to your view?	1975-80	B	46 (S-13)
	1982	22	40
Here is a list of the major types of taxes in the country today. Which do you think is the fairest?	1972, 74	E	51 (S-13)
Which do you think is the worst tax, that is the least fair?	1972-75	6	22
	1977-81	5	20
	1982-85	4	19
<i>Federal-Local Taxes</i>			
Which statement agrees most with your own thinking about the national value-added tax and local property tax?	1972	I	59 (S-13)
<i>Federal Taxes</i>			
If the federal government had to raise taxes substantially, which would be the best way to do it?	1972	K	62 (S-13)
	1983	15	33
	1984	13	31
If the federal income tax collections must be increased, which way is the best?	1983	16	34
Which one of the changes would be the single most important change that would make the nation's tax system more fair?	1983	19	37
Which one way of reducing the federal deficit would you prefer?	1984	10	27
<i>State Taxes</i>			
Suppose your state government must raise taxes substantially, which would be the way to do it?	1972,76	D	50 (S-13)
	1983	17	35
Do you favor or oppose state laws which give special tax breaks or other incentives to industries that will locate or expand present operations in the state?	1977	L	63 (S-13)
<i>Local Taxes</i>			
Suppose your local government must raise more revenue, which would be the way to do it?	1981	H	58 (S-13)
	1983	18	36
Which reason do you feel is the most important for dissatisfaction with the property tax?	1977	L	63 (S-13)

Aid Programs

<i>Federal Aid</i>			
Rank types of federal grant programs as to whether they are necessary or unnecessary.	1982	16	30-38 (S-13)

	Year	Table	Page
Do you favor or oppose revenue sharing?	1973-76, 1979	C	48 (S-13)
Do you favor or oppose special federal aid for central cities experiencing financial difficulty?	1976-79	J	60 (S-13)
Which, if any, of the following programs should the federal government stop providing federal financial support for?	1985	9	26
<i>State Aid</i>			
With the cutbacks in federal financial aid to local governments, what should states do?	1983	20	38
Spending			
<i>Federal Spending</i>			
Which functions should the federal government turn back to state and local governments?	1981	P	68 (S-13)
Which one way of reducing the federal deficit would you prefer?	1984	10	27
If the federal government decides to reduce spending, which one way would you prefer?	1984	12	30
<i>State-Local Spending</i>			
Supposing the budgets of your state and local governments have to be curtailed, which one part would you limit most severely?	1980-81	0	66 (S-13)
Government Power and Efficiency			
<i>Federal Power and Efficiency</i>			
Which of these statements comes closest to your view about government power today?	1978	8	25
	1982,1984,1985	7	24
<i>Federal-State-Local Efficiency</i>			
From which level of government do you feel you get the most for your money?	1972-76	3	16
	1977-81	2	14
	1982-85	1	13
<i>State-Local Efficiency</i>			
Which of these statements about the ability of state and local government to deal with today's problems comes closest to your view?	1978	N	65 (S-13)
Would the following services be more efficiently produced/delivered by private companies or your local government?	1985	11	28
Other			
<i>Political Organizations</i>			
In general, which one of the organizations listed below do you feel best represents the political interests of people like you?	1983	21	39
<i>State Surplus Funds</i>			
How should states use their surplus funds?	1984	16	34

Appendix II
**DETAILED RESULTS:
1982-85 SURVEYS**



Table 1
1982-85*

From Which Level of Government Do You Feel You Get the Most for
Your Money—Federal, State, or Local?

(in percent)

	1. Federal				2. State				3. Local				4. Don't Know/No Answer			
	1985				1984				1983				1982			
	1.	2.	3.	4.	1.	2.	3.	4.	1.	2.	3.	4.	1.	2.	3.	4.
Total Public	32	22	31	15	24	27	35	14	31	20	31	19	35	20	28	17
Male	33	23	31	13	26	27	37	10	33	20	32	16	38	20	29	13
Female	32	22	29	17	23	27	33	17	29	20	31	21	33	19	28	20
Head of Household	32	22	31	15	24	26	37	13	30	19	32	19	36	18	28	18
Male Head	32	22	33	13	26	25	38	11	32	20	33	16	37	20	29	14
Female Head	32	22	29	17	23	26	35	16	28	19	32	22	34	17	28	21
Under 35 Years of Age	32	27	28	13	22	34	33	11	31	23	30	16	35	24	27	14
18-24	35	26	27	12	21	36	28	15	36	24	23	17	37	27	23	13
25-34	29	28	28	15	22	33	37	8	27	23	35	15	33	21	30	16
35-44	28	21	38	13	21	26	38	15	27	22	37	15	27	26	36	11
45-65	36	19	30	15	26	23	37	14	30	18	32	20	34	15	31	20
Over 65	33	17	29	21	32	18	33	17	37	11	26	25	46	11	19	24
High School Incomplete	37	17	26	20	30	21	27	22	37	18	20	26	44	13	22	21
High School Graduate	35	22	28	15	25	28	34	13	29	18	33	19	32	23	27	18
College Incomplete	27	32	30	11	20	35	34	11	30	23	36	11	30	24	31	15
College Graduate	24	22	43	11	19	25	49	7	23	23	44	10	30	19	43	8
Household Income																
Under \$15K	39	20	22	19	29	27	29	15	37	16	24	24	42	15	21	22
\$15-24.9K	33	20	33	14	26	26	36	12	26	24	34	16	37	20	30	13
\$25K +	27	25	36	12	20	27	41	12	26	23	39	12	25	24	36	15
\$25-29.9K	27	27	34	12	21	19	38	22	28	28	35	9	24 ^a	23 ^a	35 ^a	18 ^a
\$30-39.9K	25	27	35	13	21	29	41	9	26	23	38	13	26 ^b	26 ^b	36 ^b	12 ^b
\$40K +	28	23	38	11	18	32	43	7	26	20	42	12	—	—	—	—
Own	30	23	32	15	23	27	37	13	28	19	35	17	32	20	31	17
Rent	37	23	27	13	27	26	34	13	39	18	22	21	42	19	22	17
White	31	23	32	14	23	27	37	13	27	21	34	18	32	20	30	18
Nonwhite	40	22	19	19	33	26	24	17	51	12	16	21	57	13	19	11
Employed	31	24	32	13	22	29	37	12	27	21	37	16	30	23	32	15
Employed Female	30	23	31	16	20	29	36	15	27	20	36	18	27	25	31	17
Not Employed	34	20	28	18	28	23	32	17	35	18	25	22	38	17	26	19
Not Employed Female	32	22	28	18	27	25	30	18	31	19	27	23	37	16	27	20
Prof., Manager, Owner	27	23	40	10	23	28	36	13	24	21	44	11	28	17	43	12
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	29	30	26	15	26	25	31	18	32	19	33	16	29	34	24	13
Blue Collar	35	21	29	15	22	29	36	13	29	21	30	19	31	24	28	17
Retired	37	17	27	19	26	25	28	21	41	12	24	23	43	13	21	23
Married	30	24	32	14	23	26	38	13	29	21	33	18	33	19	32	16
Not Married	37	18	29	16	27	29	29	15	34	18	29	20	38	20	22	20
Household Size																
1-2 People	33	21	29	17	26	24	36	14	34	14	31	21	38	17	24	21
3-4 People	32	23	33	12	21	29	36	14	26	26	32	16	31	23	31	15
5+ People	28	27	28	17	26	27	34	13	32	20	31	18	37	20	31	12
Children in Household																
Children under 18	29	25	33	13	23	27	36	14	28	23	33	16	31	22	33	14
No Children	36	20	27	17	25	27	35	13	33	17	30	20	38	18	24	20
Northeast	36	19	28	17	25	22	37	16	31	14	31	24	32	14	33	21
North-Central	29	22	35	14	26	30	31	13	27	20	38	15	33	24	24	19
South	36	22	28	14	23	26	36	15	34	20	28	18	39	18	26	17
West	25	28	30	17	23	29	36	12	30	26	28	16	35	21	31	13
Nonmetro	30	23	30	17	22	30	34	14	29	23	28	20	35	21	28	16
Metro—50,000 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	35	19	28	18
Fringe	33	22	32	13	22	27	39	12	27	17	42	14	—	—	—	—
Central City	33	22	30	15	29	24	32	15	36	17	27	21	—	—	—	—

^a \$25-34.9K

^b \$35K +

*1972-1981 data appear in Tables 2 and 3.

Table 2
1977-81

From Which Level of Government Do You Feel You Get the Most for Your Money
—Federal, State, or Local?

(in percent)

	1. Federal				2. State				3. Local				4. Don't Know							
	September 1981				May 1980				May 1979				May 1978				May 1977			
	1.	2.	3.	4.	1.	2.	3.	4.	1.	2.	3.	4.	1.	2.	3.	4.	1.	2.	3.	4.
Total Public*	30	25	33	14	33	22	26	19	29	22	33	16	35	20	26	19	36	20	26	18
18-29 Years of Age*	29	27	33	11	35	29	23	13	29	25	36	10	37	24	25	14	33	27	25	14
30-44	29	25	35	11	29	22	30	19	27	23	38	12	30	21	29	20	29	22	33	16
45-59	25	27	34	15	30	21	30	19	27	22	33	19	31	21	30	18	37	16	27	20
60 Years and Over*	35	18	29	19	40	13	18	29	32	15	26	27	41	10	21	28	45	13	18	25
Male																				
Total*	32	24	34	10	33	22	28	17	31	21	33	14	38	20	27	15	42	17	28	13
18-29 Years of Age	29	27	37	7	31	29	29	11	31	24	37	8	39	23	27	11	36	27	27	10
30-44	34	24	34	9	28	25	31	16	29	24	38	8	33	19	30	18	37	18	36	9
45-59	28	29	29	15	30	20	30	20	32	21	28	20	30	25	30	15	48	10	30	12
60 Years and Over	36	15	36	13	46	11	20	23	35	13	28	20	52	9	22	18	50	10	21	19
Female																				
Total*	28	25	31	16	34	22	23	21	26	22	34	18	32	20	25	23	30	24	24	23
18-29 Years of Age	30	28	29	14	38	30	18	14	28	25	35	12	36	26	23	16	31	28	24	18
30-44	24	27	36	13	30	20	29	21	25	23	37	15	27	23	28	21	24	25	31	20
45-59	22	25	39	15	31	21	30	18	23	23	37	17	31	19	30	21	26	23	23	27
60 Years and Over	34	20	24	23	36	15	17	32	29	17	24	30	34	11	20	35	39	16	13	31
Employed	26	28	35	11	31	25	29	15	24	23	37	16	33	19	31	17	29	25	26	20
Housewife	29	23	29	20	32	21	23	24	24	23	38	16	28	22	26	25	28	23	25	25
High School Grad or Less																				
Total	32	24	29	15	36	21	21	22	32	20	30	18	36	18	24	22	38	21	21	21
Less Than Grad*	34	22	25	19	39	15	18	28	36	18	21	25	40	13	18	28	39	20	16	26
High School Grad*	30	26	32	12	32	27	24	17	28	22	37	13	33	22	29	16	37	22	26	15
College																				
Total*	—	—	—	—	28	24	36	12	21	26	43	11	30	25	31	14	32	20	36	13
Some	25	26	38	11	30	24	32	14	22	26	41	11	33	26	27	14	35	21	31	14
Grad	22	25	46	7	26	24	41	9	19	25	46	11	26	22	38	14	27	19	43	11
Executive, Prof., Manager*	28	25	42	6	24	26	36	14	22	27	43	9	23	25	36	17	23	24	42	11
White Collar	29	27	31	14	27	24	35	14	26	20	43	12	31	23	33	13	33	21	32	14
Blue Collar																				
Total	25	30	35	11	35	25	21	19	30	24	30	17	35	21	23	21	36	22	22	20
Skilled	19	32	37	13	32	28	23	17	27	25	32	15	36	24	24	17	34	21	25	20
Semi/Unskilled	29	28	33	10	38	22	20	20	31	23	27	18	35	18	22	25	38	22	19	20
Retired	—	—	—	—	43	12	18	27	35	16	25	24	45	12	19	24	45	15	17	22

Nielsen Markets

A	--	--	--	--	36	21	23	20	30	16	37	17	39	18	25	18	36	18	25	20
B	--	--	--	--	34	18	31	17	31	23	31	15	34	20	27	19	36	19	30	15
C	--	--	--	--	28	26	27	18	29	22	35	15	32	21	28	19	35	23	25	17
D	--	--	--	--	31	26	21	22	21	31	30	18	31	21	24	24	34	24	22	20

Household Income

Under \$7K	34	24	25	17	45	15	15	25	37	15	21	26	47	16	15	22	41	20	15	23
\$7-9.9K*	34	24	31	11	41	20	21	18	32	18	33	17	35	14	28	23	38	21	24	17
\$10-14.9K*	35	23	27	15	34	24	26	16	30	22	34	15	37	22	21	20	35	23	26	16
\$15-24.9K*	28	22	35	15	29	26	27	18	24	28	37	10	28	21	35	16	32	19	33	17
\$25K Plus	24	29	39	9	24	24	38	14	22	23	44	12	23	26	35	15	27	18	48	8
\$25-29.9K	24	36	35	6	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
\$30-34.9K	24	25	37	14	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
\$35K+	24	26	43	7	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Region

Northeast*	38	19	27	16	36	17	26	21	38	16	30	16	41	16	26	18	39	16	26	19
North-Central*	28	26	37	9	33	24	24	19	25	18	40	17	30	20	32	18	37	19	27	16
South*	30	24	32	15	34	21	27	19	31	26	27	16	36	18	21	25	34	24	22	20
West*	22	30	34	15	30	27	25	18	18	27	40	15	32	28	27	13	31	22	29	17

Rural*

Suburb	--	--	--	--	35	21	23	21	20	31	27	22	33	19	24	25	33	25	20	23
--------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

City

Total	--	--	--	--	35	22	24	19	33	18	32	16	38	20	24	18	38	20	25	17
One Family*	--	--	--	--	32	22	26	20	30	18	35	16	25	21	26	18	36	18	29	17
Multifamily*	--	--	--	--	40	22	21	17	39	19	25	16	46	18	19	18	42	22	18	18

Race

White*	28	24	34	15	32	23	26	19	26	22	36	15	33	20	28	18	35	21	27	18
Nonwhite*	42	28	25	5	42	18	18	22	46	18	13	22	44	18	9	29	42	18	18	21

No Child*

With Children	30	23	33	15	34	21	24	21	29	21	33	17	35	16	26	23	39	18	23	19
---------------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

Total

12-17*	30	26	33	12	32	24	28	16	29	23	34	14	34	23	27	17	31	23	29	17
--------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

Under 12

6-11	29	27	34	10	30	22	31	17	30	23	33	14	37	21	27	15	32	22	29	16
------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

Under 6

Own Home*	30	26	34	11	32	23	30	15	27	23	36	14	28	24	28	19	32	23	27	17
-----------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

Rent Home*

6-11	--	--	--	--	33	24	28	15	30	24	36	9	33	24	24	19	29	25	29	17
------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

Under 6

Own Home*	--	--	--	--	31	22	28	19	25	22	37	15	33	19	28	19	35	18	29	18
-----------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

Own Home*

Rent Home*	28	23	36	13	39	21	21	19	36	20	26	18	39	20	21	20	38	25	19	18
------------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

Rent Home*

Nonmetro—Rural	34	27	26	13	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
----------------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

Nonmetro—Urban

Urban	23	29	26	23	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
-------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

Metro—50,000-999,999

1,000,000 and over	27	25	39	10	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
--------------------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

Metro—50,000-999,999

1,000,000 and over	30	26	30	15	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
--------------------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

1,000,000 and over

	33	22	34	11	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
--	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

*Comparable category in 1976-72 surveys.

Table 3
1972-76

**From Which Level of Government Do You Feel You Get the Most for Your Money
—Federal, State, or Local?**

(in percent)

	1. Federal				2. State				3. Local				4. Don't Know							
	March 1976				May 1975				April 1974				May 1973				March 1972			
	1.	2.	3.	4.	1.	2.	3.	4.	1.	2.	3.	4.	1.	2.	3.	4.	1.	2.	3.	4.
Total Public	36	20	25	19	38	20	25	17	29	24	28	19	35	18	25	22	39	18	26	17
Male	39	19	26	17	40	21	26	13	34	23	28	15	37	20	26	17	43	17	28	12
Female	33	21	24	22	36	21	23	20	25	26	27	22	33	17	24	26	37	18	24	21
18—29 Years of Age	36	26	25	13	38	26	24	12	30	27	27	16	38	21	23	18	40	23	24	13
30—39	31	23	30	16	36	22	28	14	23	24	32	21	33	20	26	21	41	19	23	17
40—49	33	22	28	19	40	18	27	15	31	23	30	16	35	20	26	19	39	15	30	16
50—59	32	17	24	27	40	18	29	13	31	24	28	17	31	17	31	21	35	16	32	17
60 Years and Over	43	12	19	26	38	16	18	28	30	21	24	25	37	14	19	30	41	14	22	23
Less Than High School Grad	43	16	16	26	41	16	19	24	31	22	20	27	37	16	19	28	38	17	23	22
High School Grad	33	24	26	17	37	22	27	14	27	27	31	15	35	20	27	18	41	19	27	13
Some College	31	21	36	13	37	22	29	12	29	24	35	12	34	21	30	15	38	19	30	13
Professional	27	27	34	13	35	24	31	10	22	28	34	16	30	22	37	11	43	19	25	13
Managerial	29	17	40	14	37	21	31	11	29	24	34	13	34	19	30	17	34	22	32	12
Clerical, Sales	32	27	25	16	43	21	25	11	25	28	31	16	34	17	28	21	41	18	26	15
Craftsman, Foreman	35	25	22	18	35	20	30	15	28	25	29	18	33	21	27	19	37	21	26	16
Other Manual, Service	37	17	22	24	41	21	19	19	33	21	25	21	37	18	22	23	41	15	25	19
Farmer, Farm Laborer	30	27	29	21	35	26	26	13	18	22	27	33	23	28	20	29	40	14	27	19

Rural	34	21	30	16	37	21	24	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Old Suburb	33	24	24	20	38	21	25	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
New Suburb	24	24	34	18	36	24	31	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
City																				
One Family	40	18	25	17	38	22	25	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Multifamily	30	26	20	24	49	13	20	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Apartment	46	13	17	24	35	17	25	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Nonmetro — Rural	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	26	25	25	24	35	20	21	24	33	20	26	21
— Urban	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	28	27	29	16	35	19	28	18	37	20	27	16
Metro — 50,000-999,999	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	26	26	27	21	34	18	26	22	37	20	29	14
— 1,000,000 or Over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	32	22	28	18	37	18	23	22	44	15	23	18
Region																				
Northeast	36	18	24	24	42	16	24	18	28	22	25	25	34	16	28	22	43	12	24	21
North-Central	34	22	27	18	34	24	27	15	30	22	35	13	37	16	26	21	38	21	29	12
South	39	22	22	17	42	19	20	19	29	27	22	22	37	19	21	23	36	19	27	18
West	34	17	31	18	34	23	29	14	28	27	28	17	30	25	26	19	42	21	21	16
Household Income																				
Under \$5K	42	17	19	24	37	19	17	27	32	26	21	21	37	15	16	32	42	18	19	21
\$5-6.9K	50	13	13	24	43	14	22	21	34	20	29	17	38	20	18	24	48	17	19	16
\$7-9.9K	34	19	26	21	41	20	26	13	27	23	24	26	35	18	23	24	37	19	29	15
\$10-14.9K	34	24	22	20	37	22	26	15	25	28	30	17	35	22	29	14	36	16	31	17
\$15K Plus	30	23	35	13	37	23	31	9	29	22	35	14	33	18	33	16	39	20	29	12
Race																				
White	35	21	27	17	37	21	25	17	28	24	30	18	35	19	27	19	38	19	26	17
Nonwhite	46	11	10	33	44	18	20	18	34	24	11	31	40	16	11	33	52	10	20	18
No Children	38	19	23	21	39	19	22	20	29	23	27	21	35	18	23	24	39	17	25	19
Under 18	34	22	27	18	37	23	27	13	29	26	28	17	35	19	26	20	40	19	26	15
12-17	32	21	28	19	38	22	27	13	31	22	28	19	35	18	25	22	38	18	28	16
Own Home	34	21	27	19	39	21	24	16	29	24	30	17	34	17	28	21	38	18	28	16
Rent Home	41	19	19	21	37	20	24	19	30	24	23	23	36	22	19	23	43	19	20	18

Table 4
1982-85*

Which Do You Think is the Worst Tax, That is the Least Fair?

(in percent)

1. Federal Income Tax 3. State Sales Tax 5. Don't Know/No Answer
2. State Income Tax 4. Local Property Tax

	1985					1984					1983					1982				
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
Total Public	38	10	16	24	12	36	10	15	29	10	35	11	13	26	15	36	11	14	30	9
Male	36	11	17	26	10	36	9	15	32	8	35	12	14	27	13	36	12	16	29	7
Female	39	9	16	22	14	35	11	16	26	12	36	11	11	25	17	35	10	13	31	11
Head of Household	38	9	17	23	13	35	11	15	29	10	38	11	12	26	14	36	11	13	30	10
Male Head	36	11	16	26	11	35	10	14	33	8	37	11	13	27	12	37	12	14	29	8
Female Head	40	8	17	21	14	34	12	16	27	11	38	10	12	25	16	35	9	13	31	12
Under 35 Years of Age	39	9	17	24	11	36	11	15	29	9	33	15	13	25	14	39	11	15	29	6
18-24	33	10	17	29	11	33	8	15	33	11	26	14	14	27	19	36	13	18	27	6
25-34	43	9	17	19	12	38	13	15	27	7	40	16	12	23	11	41	10	12	30	7
35-44	44	10	17	22	7	36	13	14	29	8	38	10	16	25	11	31	12	16	33	8
45-65	37	10	17	24	12	38	10	17	25	10	40	10	11	26	13	36	12	11	30	11
Over 65	29	9	14	26	22	29	6	17	32	16	27	6	11	32	23	31	5	17	33	14
High School Incomplete	27	10	17	32	14	28	6	18	29	19	29	9	14	27	22	28	8	16	32	16
High School Graduate	40	9	17	21	13	38	10	14	32	6	38	12	12	27	12	38	12	13	32	5
College Incomplete	43	9	13	25	10	40	10	13	25	12	36	14	14	22	14	36	13	17	25	9
College Graduate	43	10	18	20	9	35	16	18	25	6	41	13	10	27	9	45	8	12	29	6
Household Income																				
Under \$15K	28	10	17	28	17	32	8	18	31	11	30	10	14	25	21	30	9	17	32	12
\$15-24.9K	41	10	15	21	13	37	11	14	28	10	39	12	12	27	10	36	12	14	31	7
\$25K +	43	10	17	22	8	38	12	14	28	8	42	13	11	28	7	41	12	11	30	6
\$25-29.9K	45	7	13	25	10	29	14	17	29	11	37	9	14	30	10	39 ^a	12 ^a	12 ^a	31 ^a	6 ^a
\$30-39.9K	42	12	17	21	8	40	9	12	33	6	39	19	9	27	6	44 ^b	11 ^b	10 ^b	28 ^b	7 ^b
\$40K +	44	9	19	22	6	42	13	14	24	7	48	10	11	26	6	—	—	—	—	—
Own	38	10	15	25	12	36	10	14	30	10	37	11	11	29	11	37	9	13	33	8
Rent	37	9	19	22	13	36	12	18	25	9	30	13	16	19	22	33	13	17	24	13
White	38	10	17	23	12	35	11	14	30	10	37	11	12	27	14	36	11	15	29	9
Nonwhite	33	9	15	27	16	36	7	23	23	11	28	15	16	21	20	33	11	11	34	11
Employed	42	9	16	23	10	38	11	15	29	7	38	13	12	27	11	38	12	13	30	7
Employed Female	46	8	15	21	10	39	13	16	24	8	39	13	9	28	10	36	11	13	32	8
Not Employed	31	11	17	24	17	31	9	17	29	14	32	10	13	26	19	35	9	15	30	11
Not Employed Female	32	9	17	23	19	31	9	16	28	16	33	10	12	24	21	35	8	15	31	11
Prof., Manager, Owner	45	9	17	21	8	35	11	15	26	13	40	14	11	30	5	48	13	14	20	5
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	47	7	16	20	10	41	8	22	19	10	33	16	13	26	13	37	15	10	30	8
Blue Collar	37	11	16	27	9	42	10	16	25	7	36	11	12	27	13	32	11	12	36	9
Retired	29	13	17	23	18	27	6	8	37	22	28	8	14	30	21	29	8	18	32	13
Married	39	10	17	23	11	35	11	14	30	10	39	11	13	26	11	39	10	12	31	8
Not Married	34	10	16	24	16	36	9	18	27	10	29	12	12	26	21	29	11	18	30	12
Household Size																				
1-2 People	34	10	15	23	18	37	10	16	27	10	35	11	12	25	17	35	11	14	29	11
3-4 People	39	8	19	26	8	36	10	13	32	9	39	13	11	28	11	38	9	15	30	8
5+ People	42	13	15	19	11	33	9	21	25	12	30	11	17	26	17	32	13	14	33	8
Children in Household																				
Children under 18	43	10	17	21	9	32	9	16	32	11	35	13	14	27	12	36	9	15	31	9
No Children	33	10	16	25	16	39	11	15	26	9	35	10	12	25	17	35	11	14	30	10
Northeast	32	10	22	22	14	27	13	24	28	8	29	17	15	23	16	37	11	16	24	12
North-Central	34	9	15	33	9	32	7	12	39	10	34	15	10	29	12	32	11	12	37	8
South	42	9	14	21	14	39	10	13	27	11	36	6	12	28	17	38	10	10	33	9
West	39	13	17	18	13	44	12	14	20	10	43	8	14	21	14	34	12	24	22	8
Nonmetro	37	10	13	27	13	38	7	11	32	12	39	8	12	27	14	34	13	14	29	10
Metro—50,000 and Over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	36	9	15	31	9
Fringe	41	10	19	18	12	37	13	15	27	8	33	13	13	30	11	—	—	—	—	—
Central City	34	9	18	26	13	31	11	21	28	9	32	14	13	22	19	—	—	—	—	—

^a \$25-34.9K

^b \$35K +

* 1972-81 data appear in Tables 5 and 6.

Table 5
1977-81

Which Do You Think is the Worst Tax – That is, the Least Fair?

(in percent)

	1. Federal Income Tax					2. State Income Tax					3. State Sales Tax					4. Local Property Tax					5. Don't Know					
	September 1981					May 1980					May 1979					May 1978					May 1977					
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	
Total Public	36	9	14	33	9	36	10	19	25	10	37	8	15	27	13	30	11	18	32	10	28	11	17	33	11	
18-29 Years of Age	36	7	13	35	8	37	10	22	24	7	42	7	16	25	9	29	10	19	32	10	29	10	18	35	9	
30-44	42	9	18	25	6	40	10	17	24	9	42	9	11	26	13	31	14	21	29	5	34	15	16	29	6	
45-59	36	7	13	39	6	39	12	18	22	9	36	12	15	27	9	35	11	16	32	9	32	11	14	33	10	
60 Years and Over	28	11	14	33	15	29	11	16	29	15	24	6	16	33	21	24	7	17	36	18	18	7	20	34	20	
Male																										
Total	38	9	13	34	7	38	11	19	24	8	39	9	14	26	12	31	13	17	32	8	28	11	18	36	7	
18-29 Years of Age	44	7	10	32	7	41	10	21	23	5	48	6	15	23	8	30	12	16	33	9	29	10	18	40	3	
30-44	39	8	18	27	8	37	10	19	21	13	38	9	11	29	13	32	15	19	29	4	32	16	15	33	4	
45-59	36	9	10	40	6	39	11	17	26	7	35	16	15	24	10	34	13	16	35	6	29	11	15	38	7	
60 Years and Over	29	11	14	40	7	32	12	18	29	9	30	4	15	31	20	26	11	19	33	12	21	9	23	31	16	
Female																										
Total	34	9	16	32	10	35	11	18	25	11	35	8	15	28	14	29	9	19	32	12	29	10	17	30	14	
18-29 Years of Age	29	7	16	39	10	34	10	24	24	8	37	8	17	26	11	27	8	22	32	11	28	9	19	30	14	
30-44	44	10	19	23	4	42	10	15	27	6	45	8	11	23	13	31	13	22	29	5	35	15	18	26	7	
45-59	37	6	15	37	5	38	12	20	19	11	38	8	16	30	9	36	9	17	29	11	34	10	14	28	14	
60 Years and Over	27	11	13	28	21	27	10	15	28	20	20	8	17	34	21	22	4	15	37	22	15	4	17	38	26	
Employed	38	11	17	29	5	38	11	19	26	6	47	7	14	22	9	32	8	22	31	8	31	10	19	30	10	
Housewife	31	7	15	34	14	37	11	17	25	10	31	10	16	30	13	30	9	14	35	13	29	13	17	27	13	
High School Grad or Less																										
Total	34	7	14	35	9	35	10	19	25	11	34	8	15	28	15	26	12	20	31	12	26	11	19	31	13	
Less Than Grad	30	7	17	35	12	30	10	17	27	16	27	8	17	28	20	19	10	21	33	16	23	11	20	29	17	
High School Grad	37	8	12	36	7	40	11	20	22	7	40	8	14	29	10	31	13	19	30	9	29	11	17	33	10	
College																										
Total	—	—	—	—	—	40	11	18	24	7	45	9	13	24	8	39	8	14	34	5	33	10	15	35	6	
Some	38	11	12	31	8	42	10	18	24	6	48	10	11	24	7	36	8	14	36	6	33	12	14	35	6	
Grad	42	12	18	22	5	37	12	18	24	9	41	9	17	23	10	43	9	14	32	5	34	8	16	36	7	
Executive, Prof, Manager	38	9	14	34	4	42	10	17	24	7	45	10	13	26	7	39	13	15	29	6	29	8	14	42	6	
White Collar	40	9	13	35	3	39	11	19	24	7	41	11	13	26	9	35	11	16	30	8	34	13	14	32	7	

Table 6
1972-75

Which Do You Think is the Worst Tax – That is, the Least Fair?
(in percent)

	1. Federal Income Tax					3. State Sales Tax					5. Don't Know									
	2. State Income Tax					4. Local Property Tax														
	May 1975					April 1974					May 1973					March 1972				
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
Total Public	28	11	23	29	10	30	10	20	28	14	30	10	20	31	11	19	13	13	45	11
Male	30	12	22	29	9	29	9	23	31	10	30	9	19	34	9	19	11	15	44	11
Female	26	11	24	29	12	30	10	17	26	19	30	11	20	28	12	18	14	12	45	12
18-29 Years of Age	33	12	25	26	5	31	8	21	29	13	31	12	21	28	9	22	13	15	41	9
30-39	28	14	23	29	8	30	11	18	29	13	33	9	19	31	8	22	16	15	40	10
40-49	29	12	19	33	9	35	10	21	28	7	29	11	19	32	11	19	12	12	46	11
50-59	26	12	22	30	11	31	13	17	30	14	36	12	16	29	8	17	14	14	45	11
60 Years and Over	22	9	25	29	20	24	8	21	26	23	21	7	22	34	17	13	9	10	51	17
Less Than Grad	24	10	26	28	16	26	8	22	25	22	27	7	21	30	15	17	11	13	43	16
High School Grad	29	12	20	32	9	34	12	16	30	11	34	12	19	29	8	21	14	12	46	8
Some College	33	12	23	27	6	32	9	22	31	7	28	13	18	34	7	19	13	17	45	8
Professional	29	13	19	30	9	33	14	21	27	10	29	11	20	35	5	13	16	17	48	9
Managerial	35	11	20	31	5	37	10	16	29	12	37	11	16	31	5	25	12	16	41	6
Clerical, Sales	28	12	22	31	7	33	8	16	32	11	32	15	15	30	8	23	13	13	42	9
Craftsman, Foreman	27	13	21	31	10	34	12	19	26	9	34	12	14	32	9	21	15	15	41	9
Other Manual, Service	31	13	26	27	6	26	10	19	31	15	32	10	24	27	10	20	13	11	43	14
Farmer, Farm Laborer	22	4	36	22	16	27	4	27	11	31	27	9	14	27	23	16	13	5	51	16

Rural	28	9	26	28	13	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
Old Suburb	29	15	22	27	8	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
New Suburb	24	10	19	34	13	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
City																				
One Family	29	11	19	35	8	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
Multifamily	21	10	33	29	7	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
Apartment	33	12	25	20	13	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
Nonmetro - Rural	--	--	--	--	--	26	8	26	18	23	32	6	17	30	15	26	9	6	41	19
- Urban	--	--	--	--	--	41	7	19	25	8	31	10	20	31	9	25	7	15	41	12
Metro - 50,000-999,999	--	--	--	--	--	30	10	17	30	15	28	13	22	28	10	18	15	14	47	7
- 1,000,000 or Over	--	--	--	--	--	27	10	21	31	14	31	9	19	33	10	15	13	14	45	13
Region																				
Northeast	21	15	27	30	10	29	11	21	29	17	29	12	23	28	9	13	16	20	38	13
North-Central	26	14	21	34	7	32	12	20	27	9	27	9	20	36	10	16	11	9	56	10
South	33	6	22	25	14	29	9	19	23	19	30	11	20	25	14	26	12	13	34	16
West	31	12	23	27	10	29	4	19	38	11	35	8	13	36	8	18	12	11	54	5
Household Income																				
Under \$5K	25	9	25	25	19	22	7	24	26	22	23	5	22	28	21	16	9	13	48	15
\$5-6.9K	31	10	26	25	11	22	8	26	29	15	26	9	26	28	12	18	11	14	44	13
\$7-9.9K	25	14	27	24	10	30	8	18	30	16	35	12	19	29	8	21	15	13	41	12
\$10-14.9K	31	12	23	30	7	33	10	17	20	10	30	13	18	33	7	22	15	14	41	8
\$15K Plus	29	13	18	35	6	38	14	17	27	8	34	10	16	35	6	19	13	14	46	8
Race																				
White	28	12	22	31	10	31	10	20	29	12	30	11	19	31	10	20	12	13	45	11
Nonwhite	30	7	30	17	16	23	7	21	24	29	26	7	26	26	18	12	16	16	39	18
No Children																				
Under 18	28	10	24	27	12	29	9	20	28	17	28	9	20	32	12	18	11	12	46	13
12-17	28	13	21	31	8	31	10	19	29	12	32	11	19	29	10	19	14	15	43	10
12-17	28	12	20	34	9	30	10	21	28	12	31	11	20	28	10	19	15	13	45	10
Own Home	27	11	21	33	10	31	10	18	29	13	28	12	18	35	9	19	12	12	47	11
Rent Home	31	13	26	20	12	27	8	24	27	17	33	7	24	23	14	19	14	15	40	12

Table 7

1982-85

Which of These Statements Comes Closest to Your View About Government Power Today?

(in percent)

1. The federal government has too much power.
2. The federal government is using about the right amount of power for meeting today's needs.
3. The federal government should use its powers more vigorously to promote the well-being of all segments of the people.
4. Don't know/No answer.

	1984				1982			
	1.	2.	3.	4.	1.	2.	3.	4.
Total public	35	25	34	6	38	18	30	14
Male	41	24	30	5	38	20	32	10
Female	30	25	37	8	39	16	29	16
Head of Household	36	23	34	7	39	17	30	14
Male Head	42	23	30	5	39	21	30	10
Female Head	31	23	38	8	39	14	29	18
Under 35 Years of Age	34	27	34	5	38	17	33	12
18-24	32	27	33	8	32	19	35	14
25-34	35	27	34	4	43	15	31	11
35-44	37	22	34	7	42	17	28	13
45-65	38	25	31	6	41	18	30	11
Over 65	32	20	37	11	29	20	29	22
High School Incomplete	32	19	37	12	28	16	35	21
High School Graduate	33	23	37	7	41	18	28	13
College Incomplete	41	29	27	3	42	17	30	11
College Graduate	38	32	28	2	47	22	27	4
Household Income								
Under \$15K	31	21	38	10	30	16	36	18
\$15-24.9K	36	25	34	5	36	21	30	13
\$25K+	39	28	29	4	49	18	24	9
\$25-29.9K	40	27	25	8	47 ^c	18 ^c	26 ^c	9 ^c
\$30-39.9K	40	26	32	2	51 ^d	18 ^d	22 ^d	9 ^d
\$40K+	38	29	31	2	—	—	—	—
Own	36	25	33	6	41	18	29	12
Rent	33	23	38	6	32	16	35	17
White	36	25	33	6	41	18	28	13
Nonwhite	29	20	41	10	21	15	45	19
Employed	37	27	31	5	39	19	31	11
Employed Female	30	29	36	5	40	16	29	15
Not Employed	32	20	38	10	39	16	31	14
Not Employed Female	29	20	39	12	39	15	32	14
Prof., Manager, Owner	34	27	34	5	51	17	26	6
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	29	18	38	15	37	26	28	9
Blue Collar	33	23	38	6	34	16	34	16
Retired	36	22	29	13	33	17	30	20
Married	38	24	33	5	42	17	28	13
Not Married	31	26	34	9	31	19	34	16
Household Size								
1-2 People	37	20	36	7	37	19	30	14
3-4 People	35	26	33	6	37	17	30	16
5+ People	32	31	32	5	44	13	34	9
Children in Household					35	20	31	14
Children under 18	33	27	34	6	42	15	28	15
No Children	37	23	33	7	41	14	35	10
Northeast	26	22	44	8	42	18	30	10
North-Central	39	24	30	7	36	21	32	11
South	37	24	32	7	35	16	30	19
West	36	28	31	5	41	16	29	14
Nonmetro	39	25	29	7	37	16	31	16
Metro—50,000 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fringe	33	25	35	7	41 ^a	16 ^a	29 ^a	14 ^a
Central City	33	24	37	6	37 ^b	20 ^b	32 ^b	11 ^b

^aMetro—50,000-999,999^c\$25-34.9K^bMetro—1,000,000 and over^d\$35K+

Table 8
May 1978

**Which of These Statements Comes Closest to Your View
About Government Power Today?**

(in percent)

1. Federal government has too much power.
2. Federal government is using about the right amount of power for meeting today's needs.
3. Federal government should use its powers more vigorously to promote the well being of all segments of the people.
4. No Opinion.

	1.	2.	3.	4.		1.	2.	3.	4.
Total Public	38	18	36	8	Total Public	38	18	36	8
18-29 Years of Age	32	20	42	6	Nielsen Markets				
30-44	44	17	35	4	A	33	19	41	6
45-59	43	17	33	7	B	36	20	35	8
60 Years and Over	33	18	33	16	C	45	14	32	8
Male					D	41	16	31	12
Total	38	19	37	6	Household Income				
18-29 Years of Age	34	21	39	6	Under \$7K	27	16	42	15
30-44	46	15	38	1	\$7-9.9K	32	19	37	12
45-59	39	20	35	5	\$10-14.9K	39	20	34	7
60 Years and Over	35	19	33	13	\$15-24.9K	46	15	36	4
Female					\$25K Plus	46	21	31	2
Total	37	17	36	10	Region				
18-29 Years of Age	31	18	45	6	Northeast	27	17	47	9
30-44	42	18	33	7	North-Central	41	23	31	5
45-59	47	13	31	9	South	40	16	33	11
60 Years and Over	31	17	32	19	West	42	15	37	6
Employed	41	15	38	6	Rural	38	18	33	10
Housewife	37	17	34	12	Suburb	40	18	35	7
High School Grad or Less					City				
Total	34	17	38	10	Total	36	18	39	8
Less Than Grad	28	15	41	16	One Family	41	16	35	7
Grad	40	18	37	5	Multifamily	23	21	47	9
College					Race				
Total	46	20	31	3	White	39	17	36	7
Some	43	21	33	3	Nonwhite	24	23	36	16
Grad	51	18	28	4	No Child	36	18	35	11
Executive, Prof., Manager	48	20	30	2	With Children				
White Collar	42	17	35	6	Total	39	18	37	6
Blue Collar					12-17	44	15	36	5
Total	35	17	39	9	6-11	39	18	36	7
Skilled	38	15	41	6	Under 6	34	18	41	7
Semi/Unskilled	32	18	38	12	Own Home	41	18	33	8
Retired	31	20	37	12	Rent Home	29	18	44	9

Table 9
1985

Which, if any, of the Following Programs Should the Federal Government Stop Providing Federal Financial Support For?

(in percent)

	1. Highways (Except the Interstate System)	2. Aid to Local Public Schools	3. Aid to Low-Income People, Including Food Stamps	4. Nursing Home Care for the elderly	5. Sewage Treatment Plants	6. Community and Economic Development	7. None of These	8. Don't Know
Total Public	13	10	14	8	17	18	56	6
Male	14	10	15	9	17	19	53	6
Female	13	9	13	7	16	18	58	6
Head of Household	13	10	14	8	17	19	56	6
Male Head	14	11	16	10	18	20	52	6
Female Head	12	9	13	7	16	18	59	6
Under 35 Years of Age	12	7	14	6	14	12	59	6
18-24	10	5	11	1	13	7	64	5
25-34	13	9	15	9	16	16	56	6
35-44	15	10	14	9	21	24	53	4
45-65	14	12	16	10	20	23	55	5
Over 65	13	13	13	8	12	19	52	13
High School Incomplete	12	8	12	6	11	14	58	10
High School Graduate	10	8	13	6	18	17	57	7
College Incomplete	14	11	17	8	16	18	56	3
College Graduate	19	16	18	15	23	28	52	1
Household Income								
Under \$15K	10	9	11	6	13	15	59	11
\$15-24.9K	16	9	14	7	17	19	57	4
\$25K+	15	11	18	10	19	22	53	3
\$25-29.9K	13	13	14	8	14	16	51	8
\$30-39.9K	13	7	17	7	19	21	56	2
\$40K+	18	14	20	13	22	25	53	2
Own	12	11	15	9	18	20	55	5
Rent	15	6	13	6	14	14	59	7
White	14	11	15	9	18	20	54	6
Nonwhite	9	5	9	4	10	9	68	8
Employed	13	9	14	8	16	17	57	5
Employed Female	14	9	12	6	14	17	60	5
Not Employed	12	11	14	8	18	20	55	8
Not Employed Female	11	10	14	7	19	19	56	8
Prof., Manager, Owner	15	14	16	13	21	22	59	2
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	14	7	14	3	16	17	54	3
Blue Collar	12	7	13	7	14	15	56	6
Retired	10	11	11	7	15	19	58	10
Married	13	10	16	9	18	21	54	5
Not Married	13	9	11	6	14	13	60	8
Household Size								
1-2 People	15	12	13	9	17	20	55	8
3-4 People	12	8	15	6	17	18	54	6
5+ People	11	9	14	10	17	14	62	4
Children in Household								
Children under 18	12	8	14	8	17	17	57	4
No Children	13	11	15	8	17	19	55	8
Northeast	11	6	9	5	12	15	67	6
North-Central	12	10	15	7	20	20	55	4
South	15	12	17	11	17	17	50	9
West	13	11	16	8	19	23	55	4
Nonmetro	10	10	17	6	17	18	54	6
Metro—50,000 and over								
Fringe	13	9	13	9	18	20	55	5
Central City	18	11	13	10	14	15	60	7

Table 10
1984

In the Next Fiscal Year, the Federal Government is Expected to Spend About 180 Billion Dollars More Than it Takes in. Which One of These Basic Ways of Reducing the Deficit Would You Most Prefer?

(in percent)

1. Mostly by cuts in spending.
2. Mostly by increases in taxes which would be earmarked for reducing the deficit.
3. About equally by cuts in spending and by tax-increases.
4. Don't know/No answer.

	1.	2.	3.	4.
Total Public	51	7	33	9
Male	51	8	34	7
Female	51	6	32	11
Head of Household	52	7	32	9
Male Head	52	8	33	7
Female Head	52	6	32	10
Under 35 Years of Age	50	7	35	8
18-24	46	9	33	12
25-34	52	6	37	5
35-44	51	8	33	8
45-65	53	6	31	10
Over 65	51	8	29	12
High School Incomplete	50	8	24	18
High School Graduate	51	8	33	8
College Incomplete	51	6	37	6
College Graduate	51	6	40	3
Household Income				
Under \$15K	50	8	29	13
\$15-24.9K	54	6	31	9
\$25K+	51	6	38	5
\$25-29.9K	44	11	37	8
\$30-39.9K	55	4	37	4
\$40K+	53	4	40	3
Own	53	6	33	8
Rent	48	9	33	10
White	53	6	33	8
Nonwhite	38	14	33	15
Employed	52	8	33	7
Employed Female	52	8	33	7
Not Employed	49	6	32	13
Not Employed Female	50	4	30	16
Prof., Manager, Owner	46	5	41	8
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	60	4	26	10
Blue Collar	55	8	28	9
Retired	47	3	40	10
Married	52	7	34	7
Not Married	50	7	31	12
Household Size				
1-2 People	53	8	31	8
3-4 People	50	6	35	9
5+ People	50	8	32	10
Children in Household				
Children Under 18	49	6	35	10
No Children	53	8	31	8
Northeast	46	9	30	15
North-Central	56	6	31	7
South	50	6	34	10
West	52	8	36	4
Nonmetro	54	5	32	9
Metro—50,000 and Over				
Fringe	53	5	35	7
Central City	45	12	31	12

Table 11
1985

Would the Following Services Be More Efficiently Produced/Delivered
(in percent)

	Parking Facilities			Street Maintenance		
	Private Companies	Local Government	Don't Know	Private Companies	Local Government	Don't Know
Total Public	42	48	10	21	73	6
Male	44	49	7	24	72	4
Female	41	46	13	18	74	8
Head of Household	42	48	10	22	72	6
Male Head	43	50	7	24	72	4
Female Head	41	46	13	19	73	8
Under 35 Years of Age	45	47	8	22	73	5
18-24	41	50	9	16	81	3
25-34	47	45	8	27	67	6
35-44	44	47	9	24	71	5
45-65	42	48	10	19	76	5
Over 65	34	50	16	17	71	12
High School Incomplete	37	50	13	16	74	10
High School Graduate	40	50	10	19	75	6
College Incomplete	48	44	8	23	73	4
College Graduate	50	45	5	29	69	2
Household Income						
Under \$15K	40	44	16	21	69	10
\$15-24.9K	45	47	8	19	77	4
\$25K+	43	52	5	23	74	3
\$25-29.9K	37	55	8	22	75	3
\$30-39.9K	42	53	5	21	73	6
\$40K+	47	49	4	25	73	2
Own	43	48	9	20	74	6
Rent	40	47	13	22	71	7
White	42	48	10	21	74	5
Nonwhite	45	43	12	19	70	11
Employed	43	49	8	23	73	4
Employed Female	40	49	11	21	74	5
Not Employed	41	45	14	17	73	10
Not Employed Female	42	43	15	15	74	11
Prof., Manager, Owner	44	52	4	27	71	2
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	40	51	9	19	79	2
Blue Collar	43	48	9	22	73	5
Retired	35	50	15	18	74	8
Married	43	49	8	22	73	5
Not Married	41	46	13	18	74	8
Household Size						
1-2 People	41	46	13	22	70	8
3-4 People	41	51	8	17	78	5
5+ People	47	46	7	26	69	5
Children in Household						
Children under 18	43	48	9	21	74	5
No Children	42	47	11	21	72	7
Northeast	38	52	10	24	70	6
North-Central	38	51	11	19	73	8
South	46	42	12	19	75	6
West	45	50	5	24	73	3
Nonmetro	40	49	11	23	71	6
Metro—50,000 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fringe	41	50	9	19	76	5
Central City	47	43	10	21	71	8

by Private Companies or Your Local Government?

Hospitals			Parks and Swimming Pools			Garbage Collection			Ambulance Service		
Private Companies	Local Government	Don't Know	Private Companies	Local Government	Don't Know	Private Companies	Local Government	Don't Know	Private Companies	Local Government	Don't Know
46	45	9	25	68	7	41	53	6	41	52	7
48	44	8	24	70	6	43	52	5	43	50	7
46	45	9	25	67	8	39	55	6	39	53	8
47	44	9	24	69	7	42	52	6	42	51	7
50	42	8	22	71	7	45	50	5	44	49	7
45	45	10	26	66	8	40	54	6	40	52	8
45	48	7	28	66	6	43	52	5	42	52	6
32	60	8	30	65	5	38	58	4	31	63	6
53	40	7	26	67	7	46	48	6	48	45	7
49	44	7	25	69	6	42	54	4	44	50	6
48	44	8	21	73	6	40	56	4	42	52	6
47	36	17	22	64	14	36	52	12	37	49	14
34	54	12	24	65	11	33	59	8	32	58	10
41	50	9	25	68	7	41	54	5	38	55	7
57	36	7	22	73	5	46	48	6	48	45	7
67	28	5	26	70	4	48	50	2	55	42	3
39	48	13	26	61	13	39	51	10	38	52	10
44	50	6	23	72	5	36	61	3	40	56	4
55	39	6	25	72	3	47	51	2	46	49	5
51	41	8	26	70	4	57	40	3	45	48	7
53	42	5	23	74	3	43	55	2	50	45	5
60	35	5	25	73	2	46	52	2	44	52	4
49	42	9	22	71	7	42	53	5	41	52	7
39	52	9	29	63	8	37	56	7	41	52	7
49	43	8	24	69	7	43	52	5	43	51	6
29	58	13	27	63	10	26	65	9	26	60	14
48	45	7	25	70	5	43	53	4	42	52	6
48	46	6	26	69	5	43	54	3	41	54	5
44	44	12	24	65	11	38	54	8	39	51	10
44	43	13	24	65	11	35	56	9	37	53	10
62	33	5	23	74	3	47	51	2	48	49	3
47	49	4	25	72	3	44	53	3	47	51	2
35	57	8	25	69	6	37	58	5	34	60	6
45	40	15	20	68	12	38	54	8	40	50	10
50	42	8	26	69	5	45	51	4	44	50	6
40	49	11	22	68	10	34	58	8	35	55	10
50	39	11	25	66	9	40	52	8	42	48	10
45	48	7	21	73	6	41	55	4	40	54	6
43	52	5	31	64	5	45	51	4	41	55	4
44	49	7	26	69	5	42	54	4	42	53	5
48	42	10	24	67	9	40	53	7	40	52	8
38	54	8	22	70	8	36	58	6	33	61	6
49	42	9	27	65	8	49	45	6	40	51	9
44	46	10	26	66	8	35	59	6	39	53	8
58	35	7	20	76	4	48	48	4	54	40	6
47	44	9	27	63	10	52	42	6	45	48	7
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
47	44	9	22	74	4	41	55	4	39	54	7
46	46	8	25	68	7	27	66	7	38	53	9

Table 12
1984

If the Federal Government Decides to Reduce Spending to Keep it More in Line with Revenues, Which One of These Would You Prefer?

(in percent)

1. Cut defense spending.
2. Cut social security and Medicare.
3. Cut all federal programs *other than* defense and social security and Medicare. That would include federal programs such as farm supports, veterans benefits, welfare, education, and transportation aid.
4. All federal programs (volunteered).
5. No federal programs (volunteered).
6. Don't know/No answer.

	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
Total Public	50	3	31	2	2	12
Male	49	2	35	3	1	10
Female	51	3	27	3	3	13
Head of Household	50	3	31	2	2	12
Male Head	48	3	36	2	1	10
Female Head	52	3	26	3	3	13
Under 35 Years of Age	53	3	30	2	1	11
18-24	52	2	29	2	1	14
25-34	55	3	30	2	1	9
35-44	48	5	33	1	2	11
45-65	51	2	28	5	2	12
Over 65	42	2	35	2	3	16
High School Incomplete	51	2	23	3	2	19
High School Graduate	48	2	34	2	2	12
College Incomplete	51	5	35	1	1	7
College Graduate	53	4	30	3	1	9
Household Income						
Under \$15K	55	1	24	3	2	15
\$15-24.9K	51	3	30	3	3	10
\$25K+	45	4	38	2	1	10
\$25-29.9K	47	5	33	2	1	12
\$30-39.9K	45	2	42	2	1	8
\$40K+	43	4	39	3	1	10
Own	47	3	33	3	2	12
Rent	57	3	25	2	1	12
White	47	3	33	3	2	12
Nonwhite	68	2	12	1	1	16
Employed	49	3	34	2	2	10
Employed Female	48	3	32	2	3	12
Not Employed	51	3	26	3	2	15
Not Employed Female	53	2	22	4	3	16
Prof., Manager, Owner	50	2	34	1	2	11
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	42	4	30	4	2	18
Blue Collar	53	2	31	2	3	9
Retired	50	—	26	1	2	21
Married	48	3	34	2	2	11
Not Married	54	2	25	3	2	14
Household Size						
1-2 People	53	2	29	3	1	12
3-4 People	47	3	33	3	2	12
5+ People	52	3	30	1	2	12
Children in Household						
Children under 18	50	3	31	2	2	12
No Children	50	2	31	3	2	12
Northeast	53	6	22	2	2	15
North-Central	50	1	36	2	2	9
South	48	3	29	3	2	15
West	51	2	36	3	1	7
Nonmetro	48	2	36	2	2	10
Metro—50,000 and Over						
Fringe	50	3	31	2	2	12
Central City	53	3	26	4	1	13

Table 13
1984

Suppose the Federal Government Must Raise Taxes Substantially, Which of These Do You Think Would be the Best Way to Do It?

(in percent)

1. Have a form of national sales tax on things other than food and similar necessities.
2. Raise individual income tax rates.
3. Raise money by reducing special tax treatment for capital gains and cutting tax deduction allowances for charitable contributions, state and local taxes, medical expenses, etc.
4. Don't know/No answer.

	1.	2.	3.	4.
Total Public	32	7	47	14
Male	34	7	47	12
Female	29	7	48	16
Head of Household	32	7	48	13
Male Head	35	7	47	11
Female Head	29	6	50	15
Under 35 Years of Age	30	8	49	13
18-24	30	8	45	17
25-34	30	8	52	10
35-44	34	6	48	12
45-65	29	6	49	16
Over 65	37	6	39	18
High School Incomplete	29	4	42	25
High School Graduate	33	6	47	14
College Incomplete	31	8	52	9
College Graduate	33	11	49	7
Household Income				
Under \$15K	30	6	45	19
\$15-24.9K	34	7	47	12
\$25K+	32	8	50	10
\$25-29.9K	26	11	51	12
\$30-39.9K	30	5	51	14
\$40K+	37	9	48	6
Own	31	6	47	16
Rent	30	9	48	13
White	33	7	47	13
Nonwhite	23	8	47	22
Employed	30	7	50	13
Employed Female	27	8	52	13
Not Employed	34	7	42	17
Not Employed Female	32	6	42	20
Prof., Manager, Owner	26	10	51	13
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	21	8	42	29
Blue Collar	27	9	51	13
Retired	38	5	37	20
Married	32	7	49	12
Not Married	30	7	44	19
Household Size				
1-2 People	35	6	45	14
3-4 People	30	6	50	14
5+ People	28	11	46	15
Children in Household				
Children under 18	29	7	50	14
No Children	34	7	44	15
Northeast	24	8	48	20
North-Central	33	7	48	12
South	33	6	45	16
West	36	6	49	9
Nonmetro	32	6	49	13
Metro—50,000 and Over				
Fringe	33	6	46	15
Central City	29	9	46	16

Table 14
1983

If the Federal Government Had to Raise Taxes Substantially, Which Would be a Better Way to Do It?

(in percent)

	Increasing Individual Income Taxes	A New National Sales Tax on All Purchases Other Than Food	Don't Know
Total Public	24	52	25
Male	25	53	22
Female	23	51	27
Head of Household	24	51	25
Male Head	27	52	22
Female Head	22	51	27
Under 35 Years of Age	26	52	22
18-24	24	56	20
25-34	27	49	24
35-44	22	56	23
45-65	24	52	24
Over 65	21	44	35
High School Incomplete	19	47	35
High School Graduate	22	55	23
College Incomplete	26	59	15
College Graduate	37	46	17
Household Income			
Under \$15K	22	47	32
\$15-24.9K	23	54	23
\$25K +	28	58	15
\$25-29.9K	29	55	16
\$30-39.9K	28	60	12
\$40K +	26	58	17
Own	23	54	22
Rent	25	45	30
White	25	52	23
Nonwhite	16	49	36
Employed	27	53	20
Employed Female	30	49	21
Not Employed	20	50	30
Not Employed Female	18	52	30
Prof., Manager, Owner	29	53	18
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	28	52	20
Blue Collar	20	55	25
Retired	27	44	30
Married	25	54	22
Not Married	23	48	29
Household			
1-2 People	25	50	26
3-4 People	25	53	22
5+ People	21	54	26
Children in Household			
Children under 18	22	54	24
No Children	25	50	25
Northeast	31	40	29
North-Central	21	58	21
South	21	55	24
West	24	52	25
Nonmetro	21	57	22
Metro—50,000 and Over			
Fringe	27	50	23
Central City	25	46	30

Table 15
1983

**If the Federal Income Tax Collections Must be Increased,
Which Way is the Best?**

(in percent)

1. Raise individual income tax rates.
2. Cut back on current tax exemptions such as social security, pensions, interest on municipal bonds, etc.
3. Cut back on all itemized deductions, such as those for state and local taxes, interest paid on mortgages and consumer loans, and charitable contributions.
4. Don't know.

	1.	2.	3.	4.
Total Public	21	14	39	26
Male	23	14	40	23
Female	19	14	38	29
Head of Household	22	14	38	26
Male Head	25	14	39	22
Female Head	20	13	38	30
Under 35 Years of Age	20	19	40	22
18-24	16	19	47	18
25-34	23	18	35	25
35-44	24	13	41	22
45-65	24	10	41	26
Over 65	16	12	32	40
High School Incomplete	16	11	37	36
High School Graduate	23	13	40	25
College Incomplete	19	20	46	15
College Graduate	30	17	35	18
Household Income				
Under \$15K	19	10	38	33
\$15-24.9K	22	18	40	21
\$25K+	23	17	42	18
\$25-29.9K	25	18	43	14
\$30-39.9K	23	21	39	18
\$40K+	21	13	45	21
Own	22	15	40	24
Rent	20	13	38	29
White	22	14	40	24
Nonwhite	15	13	33	38
Employed	24	16	40	20
Employed Female	22	15	41	22
Not Employed	18	12	38	31
Not Employed Female	17	14	36	33
Prof., Manager, Owner	24	23	36	17
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	21	16	47	16
Blue Collar	22	10	43	25
Retired	24	10	31	36
Married	23	14	40	23
Not Married	17	15	37	31
Household				
1-2 People	23	12	37	28
3-4 People	20	16	39	25
5+ People	18	15	44	23
Children in Household				
Children under 18	19	15	40	25
No Children	22	13	38	27
Northeast	27	9	35	29
North-Central	20	16	40	24
South	19	16	39	26
West	18	15	44	23
Nonmetro	18	15	39	27
Metro—50,000 and Over				
Fringe	29	11	41	18
Central City	18	14	37	30

Table 16
1984

Now that Economic Recovery is Underway, Many State Treasuries are Beginning to Report Surpluses. Should the States Use Most of These Surplus Funds to Reduce Taxes, or to Expand Government Programs, or Should They Place Them in a "Rainy Day" Fund?

(in percent)

1. Reduce taxes.
2. Expand government programs.
3. Place in a "rainy day fund."
4. Don't know/No answer.

	1.	2.	3.	4.
Total Public	42	15	34	9
Male	43	16	35	6
Female	40	15	34	11
Head of Household	43	14	34	9
Male Head	45	15	34	6
Female Head	41	14	34	11
Under 35 Years of Age	37	18	36	9
18-24	38	20	32	10
25-34	36	17	38	9
35-44	43	18	31	8
45-65	46	13	34	7
Over 65	45	10	35	10
High School Incomplete	41	13	33	13
High School Graduate	43	16	33	8
College Incomplete	37	17	40	6
College Graduate	45	16	34	5
Household Income				
Under \$15K	42	17	30	11
\$15-24.9K	38	15	39	8
\$25K +	43	13	37	7
\$25-29.9K	41	15	35	9
\$30-39.9K	45	9	38	8
\$40K +	43	15	37	5
Own	44	12	36	8
Rent	38	22	30	10
White	43	14	35	8
Nonwhite	31	25	28	16
Employed	42	16	35	7
Employed Female	40	16	36	8
Not Employed	40	14	34	12
Not Employed Female	41	14	31	14
Prof., Manager, Owner	33	20	36	11
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	52	15	27	6
Blue Collar	33	19	38	10
Retired	43	6	34	17
Married	43	14	35	8
Not Married	39	19	33	9
Household Size				
1-2 People	45	13	33	9
3-4 People	38	18	35	9
5+ People	39	17	35	9
Children in Household				
Children under 18	38	17	36	9
No Children	44	14	33	9
Northeast	43	22	25	10
North-Central	41	13	38	8
South	42	13	35	10
West	40	16	37	7
Nonmetro	43	12	38	7
Metro—50,000 and Over				
Fringe	46	15	31	8
Central City	36	20	33	11

Table 17
1983

Suppose Your State Government Must Raise Taxes Substantially, Which Would be a Better Way to Do It?

(in percent)

	State Individual Income Tax	State Sales Tax	Don't Know
Total Public	23	57	20
Male	24	59	17
Female	22	56	23
Head of Household	22	58	20
Male Head	24	60	16
Female Head	21	56	24
Under 35 Years of Age	25	59	17
18-24	25	59	16
25-34	24	59	17
35-44	22	58	20
45-65	23	58	19
Over 65	19	52	30
High School Incomplete	20	47	33
High School Graduate	21	60	19
College Incomplete	25	66	10
College Graduate	30	63	7
Household Income			
Under \$15K	23	50	28
\$15-24.9 K	23	61	16
\$25K+	23	67	10
\$25-29.9K	23	65	12
\$30-39.9K	22	67	11
\$40K+	23	69	8
Own	22	62	16
Rent	24	47	29
White	23	59	18
Nonwhite	20	48	32
Employed	25	61	14
Employed Female	30	57	14
Not Employed	20	54	26
Not Employed Female	15	56	29
Prof., Manager, Owner	31	61	8
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	27	61	13
Blue Collar	23	57	20
Retired	20	54	26
Married	21	62	17
Not Married	26	50	25
Household			
1-2 People	27	53	20
3-4 People	20	62	19
5+ People	18	59	23
Children in Household			
Children under 18	18	62	21
No Children	27	54	20
Northeast	30	48	22
North-Central	23	60	17
South	17	61	22
West	22	60	18
Nonmetro	19	62	19
Metro—50,000 and Over			
Fringe	29	56	15
Central City	22	53	25

Table 18
1983

**Suppose Your Local Government Must Raise More Revenue,
The Better Way to Do This Would Be—**

(in percent)

	Local Income Tax	Local Sales Tax	Local Property Tax	Don't Know
Total Public	12	45	19	24
Male	12	46	22	20
Female	12	44	17	28
Head of Household	12	45	20	23
Male Head	12	47	23	19
Female Head	12	44	17	27
Under 35 Years of Age	12	41	25	22
18-24	13	43	22	22
25-34	11	40	27	22
35-44	14	44	21	21
45-65	11	52	14	23
Over 65	12	38	15	35
High School Incomplete	14	38	13	35
High School Graduate	10	45	20	25
College Incomplete	9	50	28	13
College Graduate	15	54	22	10
Household Income				
Under \$15K	11	38	18	33
\$15-24.9K	13	46	22	19
\$25K +	11	55	20	14
\$25-29.9K	14	43	25	18
\$30-39.9K	11	56	18	15
\$40K +	9	64	18	9
Own	12	51	16	22
Rent	11	32	28	29
White	13	46	20	22
Nonwhite	8	41	16	35
Employed	12	46	23	19
Employed Female	14	44	21	21
Not Employed	12	43	16	29
Not Employed Female	11	43	15	32
Prof., Manager, Owner	14	48	27	12
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	13	45	22	21
Blue Collar	11	43	22	24
Retired	13	44	14	29
Married	12	48	18	22
Not Married	12	39	22	28
Household				
1-2 People	12	44	20	24
3-4 People	11	46	20	23
5+ People	12	45	17	26
Children in Household				
Children under 18	11	46	20	23
No Children	12	44	19	25
Northeast	17	33	21	29
North-Central	12	48	20	20
South	9	49	18	23
West	10	48	17	25
Nonmetro	10	48	20	23
Metro—50,000 and Over				
Fringe	13	43	23	21
Central City	13	42	16	28

Table 19
1983

Which One of the Changes Would Be the Single Most Important Change That Would Make the Nation's Tax System More Fair?

(in percent)

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1. Make the upper income taxpayers pay more. | 5. None of the above. |
| 2. Reduce taxes on lower income taxpayers. | 6. Don't know. |
| 3. Make business firms pay more even if it reduces the number of jobs. | |
| 4. Leave the tax system alone—it is about as fair as you are ever going to get. | |

	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
Total Public	49	13	6	16	7	9
Male	50	14	7	15	7	7
Female	48	12	6	17	6	11
Head of Household	49	13	6	16	7	9
Male Head	51	14	6	15	8	6
Female Head	48	12	6	17	7	11
Under 35 Years of Age	46	15	8	16	6	10
18-24	38	17	11	18	5	11
25-34	53	13	5	14	7	8
35-44	54	12	6	13	6	9
45-65	52	12	6	15	8	6
Over 65	41	14	4	22	5	14
High School Incomplete	42	14	6	20	3	16
High School Graduate	52	14	6	15	6	7
College Incomplete	47	14	10	16	10	4
College Graduate	57	8	5	13	12	5
Household Income						
Under \$15K	45	15	6	16	5	13
\$15-24.9K	52	14	6	16	5	6
\$25K +	52	11	7	15	10	4
\$25-29.9K	57	12	6	11	8	5
\$30-39.9K	58	11	7	16	6	3
\$40K +	43	11	7	17	17	5
Own	52	12	7	15	7	7
Rent	43	15	6	17	5	14
White	49	13	6	17	7	8
Nonwhite	46	17	6	12	3	16
Employed	50	15	6	15	8	6
Employed Female	51	14	7	16	7	5
Not Employed	47	12	7	17	5	11
Not Employed Female	46	11	6	17	6	14
Prof., Manager, Owner	54	11	5	15	11	4
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	52	11	7	13	6	10
Blue Collar	49	16	8	16	5	6
Retired	48	15	3	20	6	8
Married	51	12	6	17	7	7
Not Married	45	15	8	14	6	13
Household						
1-2 People	48	13	6	18	6	10
3-4 People	50	15	6	16	8	6
5+ People	49	9	9	13	7	14
Children in Household						
Children under 18	48	13	8	16	6	9
No Children	49	13	5	16	7	9
Northeast	47	14	6	13	5	15
North-Central	56	14	5	15	5	5
South	46	12	8	18	5	12
West	45	13	6	18	15	4
Nonmetro	49	14	6	18	6	7
Metro—50,00 and Over						
Fringe	53	11	7	15	7	7
Central City	45	13	7	14	8	13

Table 20
1983

With the Cutbacks in Federal Financial Aid to Local Governments, There is a Debate As to What the States Should Do. Which Statement Comes Closest to Your View?

(in percent)

1. State governments should not try to make up for any of the federal cutbacks in financial aid to local governments.
2. State governments should try to make up for only some of the federal cutbacks in financial aid to local governments.
3. State governments should try to make up for almost all of the federal cutbacks in financial aid to local governments.
4. Don't know.

	1.	2.	3.	4.
Total Public	18	46	16	20
Male	21	47	16	16
Female	16	45	16	23
Head of Household	20	45	15	21
Male Head	23	47	14	16
Female Head	17	44	15	24
Under 35 Years of Age	15	51	18	16
18-24	16	49	21	14
25-34	15	52	15	18
35-44	22	49	12	17
45-65	21	45	15	19
Over 65	16	32	16	35
High School Incomplete	17	30	19	34
High School Graduate	21	47	15	18
College Incomplete	16	59	17	8
College Graduate	17	62	13	8
Household Income				
Under \$15K	17	36	20	28
\$15-24.9K	17	51	16	17
\$25K+	22	59	11	9
\$25-29.9K	27	53	10	11
\$30-39.9K	15	61	14	10
\$40K+	24	61	10	6
Own	20	48	14	18
Rent	16	40	21	24
White	20	48	15	17
Nonwhite	10	36	21	33
Employed	22	50	15	14
Employed Female	19	50	15	16
Not Employed	15	42	17	25
Not Employed Female	14	42	16	28
Prof., Manager, Owner	23	57	14	7
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	16	54	12	18
Blue Collar	21	45	17	18
Retired	18	39	16	28
Married	21	49	14	17
Not Married	14	41	20	25
Household				
1-2 People	18	43	17	22
3-4 People	22	48	14	17
5+ People	14	48	17	22
Children in Household				
Children under 18	18	47	15	20
No Children	19	45	17	20
Northeast	13	48	17	21
North-Central	23	45	13	18
South	16	42	19	23
West	22	51	12	15
Nonmetro	20	46	13	21
Metro—50,000 and Over				
Fringe	18	51	17	15
Central City	17	42	19	22

Table 21
1983

**In General, Which One of the Kinds of Organizations Listed Below
Do You Feel Best Represents the Political Interests of People Like You?**

(in percent)

1. Organized groups concerned with specific issues such as business, labor, environmental and civil rights groups.
2. The two major political parties—the Democrats and the Republicans.
3. Other political parties.
4. Don't know.

	1.	2.	3.	4.
Total Public	45	34	3	17
Male	45	38	3	14
Female	45	32	3	20
Head of Household	45	36	3	17
Male Head	45	39	3	13
Female Head	44	33	2	21
Under 35 Years of Age	56	25	5	15
18-24	56	21	5	17
25-34	56	27	4	13
35-44	44	41	3	12
45-65	41	40	2	17
Over 65	27	42	2	29
High School Incomplete	34	34	4	29
High School Graduate	47	34	3	16
College Incomplete	54	39	2	6
College Graduate	57	32	2	9
Household Income				
Under \$15K	40	29	4	27
\$15-24.9K	47	40	2	11
\$25K+	52	38	2	9
\$25-29.9K	54	36	2	8
\$30-39.9K	57	33	2	8
\$40K+	45	44	2	10
Own	43	39	2	16
Rent	51	23	4	22
White	45	36	3	16
Nonwhite	45	27	3	25
Employed	51	34	4	12
Employed Female	55	29	4	12
Not Employed	41	35	3	21
Not Employed Female	40	34	2	24
Prof., Manager, Owner	51	39	3	7
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	53	33	2	12
Blue Collar	51	29	3	16
Retired	34	39	2	24
Married	46	38	3	14
Not Married	45	29	4	23
Household				
1-2 People	43	35	3	19
3-4 People	47	37	2	14
5+ People	46	29	5	21
Children in Household				
Children under 18	48	32	4	16
No Children	43	36	3	18
Northeast	52	26	2	21
North-Central	43	38	3	15
South	41	37	4	19
West	48	35	3	14
Nonmetro	40	38	3	19
Metro—50,000 and Over				
Fringe	51	36	3	10
Central City	48	29	3	21

Table 22
1982*

**Considering All Government Services on the One Hand and Taxes on the Other,
Which of the Following Statements Comes Closest to Your View?**

(in percent)

1. Decrease services and taxes.

3. Increase services and raise taxes.

2. Keep taxes and services about where they are.

4. No Opinion.

	1.	2.	3.	4.
Total Public	36	42	8	14
Male	37	40	8	15
Female	34	43	9	14
Head of Household	37	41	8	14
Male Head	40	40	7	13
Female Head	34	43	9	14
Under 35 Years of Age	33	43	10	14
18-24	31	42	9	18
25-34	34	43	11	12
35-44	37	46	8	9
45-65	37	42	8	13
Over 65	39	34	5	22
High School Incomplete	34	41	7	18
High School Graduate	35	43	8	14
College Incomplete	34	41	9	16
College Graduate	44	41	10	5
Household Income				
Under \$15K	33	42	8	17
15-24.9K	36	44	10	10
25K+	39	41	7	13
25-34.9K	34	43	8	15
35K+	44	39	6	11
Own	38	43	6	13
Rent	32	39	13	16
White	37	41	8	14
Nonwhite	28	45	11	16
Employed	38	41	9	12
Employed Female	34	45	8	13
Not Employed	31	44	9	16
Not Employed Female	32	43	11	14
Prof., Manager, Owner	43	41	11	5
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	36	39	8	17
Blue Collar	36	43	7	14
Retired	38	38	5	19
Married	38	43	7	12
Not Married	31	39	10	20
Household				
1-2 People	37	40	7	16
3-4 People	35	42	9	14
5+ People	36	44	9	11
No Children in Household	36	41	8	15
Children under 12	34	43	8	15
Children 12-17	37	42	10	11
Northeast	36	42	7	15
North-Central	34	42	7	17
South	36	43	8	13
West	37	38	11	14
Nonmetro	37	43	7	13
Metro - 50,000-999,999	35	39	9	17
1,000,000 and Over	35	42	9	14

*1975-1980 data appear in Appendix Table B, S-12 or S-13.

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The Commission is composed of 26 members—nine representing the federal government, 14 representing state and local government, and three representing the public. The President appoints 20—three private citizens and three federal executive officials directly and four governors, three state legislators, four mayors, and three elected county officials from slates nominated by the National Governors' Association, the Council of State Governments, the National League of Cities/U.S. Conference of Mayors, and the National Association of Counties. The three Senators are chosen by the President of the Senate and the three Representatives by the Speaker of the House.

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