

A COMMISSION SURVEY

CHANGING
PUBLIC ATTITUDES
ON GOVERNMENTS
AND TAXES

1989

Advisory Commission on
Intergovernmental Relations
WASHINGTON, DC 20575

S-18



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(August 1989)

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Foreword

This publication presents the 18th annual survey of public attitudes toward governments 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, NJ. A description of the poll appears on page 13. Users should note that for 1989, the sample size is 1,029, and the sampling tolerances are slightly smaller than in 1988.

This year ACIR asked 15 questions. This publication presents only the current survey results. Detailed data can be found in the appendix. Survey results for questions asked in the 1982-88 surveys can be found by ordering the 1988 report (S-17), which presents the data in Appendix I. Data on questions asked in the 1972-81 surveys may be obtained by ordering the 1983 or 1984 reports (S-12 and S-13), which present data in Appendix III of each of these volumes.

The following analysis of the poll results was prepared by Debra L. Dean, analyst, with assistance from Bruce D. McDowell, director of government policy research. Members of the ACIR staff participated in developing the questions and in reviewing the results.

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

John Kincaid
Executive Director

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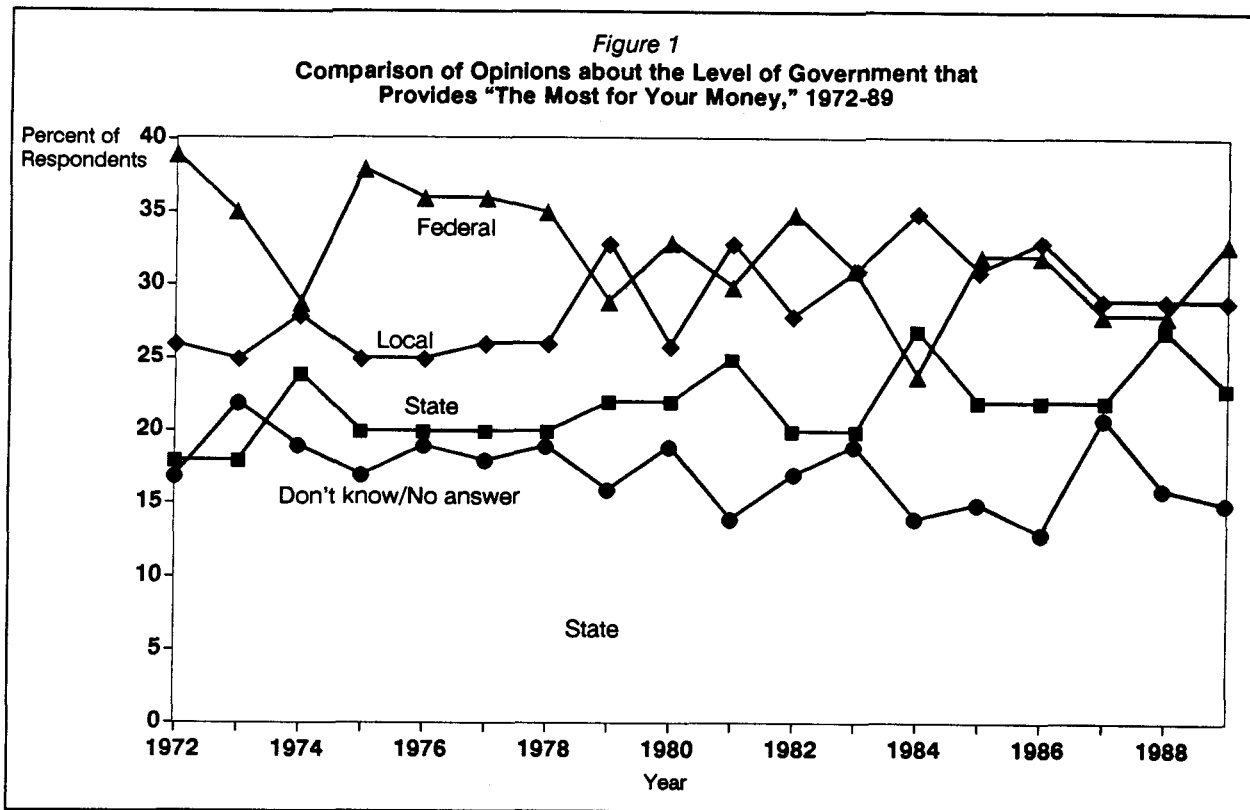
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The 1989 Survey

Highlights

Major findings from the U.S. Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations June 1989 poll on changing public attitudes on government and taxes include the following:

- For the past 18 years, the ACIR poll has asked, "Which do you think is the worst tax, that is the least fair?" In 1989, local property taxes were rated as the least fair by 32 percent of the respondents. Twenty-seven percent of the public rated the federal income tax as the least fair. The result is a clear change from the 1979-1988 trend, in which the federal income tax was consistently rated as the worst tax.
- One-third of the respondents to the 1989 poll chose the federal government as giving them the most for their money. Local government was chosen by 29 percent and state government by 23 percent; 15 percent replied don't know or gave no answer. The current results show a 5 percentage point increase in the proportion of respondents picking the federal government as giving them the most for their money, while the proportion selecting state government fell by 4 percentage points compared to 1988. The current results mark the first time since 1982 that the federal government clearly rated higher than state and local governments as giving citizens the most for their money.
- At the same time, the federal government was perceived as providing Americans the least for their money by 36 percent of the respondents. Twenty-five percent picked state government as providing the least for their money and 25 percent picked local government. Fourteen percent replied don't know or no answer.
- Local government officials receive relatively high marks for honesty. Asked, "On the whole, who do you think is most honest, federal officials, state officials or local officials?" 35 percent of the respondents chose local officials. Much smaller proportions chose federal officials (13 percent) or state officials (11 percent). However, one-quarter of the respondents volunteered that no officials are most honest, while only 5 percent volunteered that they are all honest.
- Local government also rated well in terms of spending tax dollars wisely. The ACIR asked, "Which level of government do you think spends your tax dollars most wisely?" Thirty-six percent of the respondents said that local government spends their tax dollars most wisely. Twenty percent chose state government and 11 percent chose the federal government.
- Local governments also did comparatively well on the question, "Which level of government do you think responds best to your needs?" Forty percent of the respondents chose local government as responding best, followed by 21 percent selecting state government and 18 percent, the federal government.
- The federal government was perceived to have too much power, compared to state and local governments. Sixty-one percent of the respondents said that the federal government has too much power, compared to 9 percent choosing the state governments and 4 percent mentioning local government.
- The ACIR poll also asked, "Which level of government do you think needs more power today?" Twenty-two percent said that state governments need more power; 34 percent said local governments and 5 percent, the federal government. Twenty-six percent of the respondents, however, volunteered that no government needs more power.
- Respondents were asked which level of government they had the most trust and confidence in to handle a variety of problems. A plurality of Americans stated the most trust and confidence in the federal government to



handle air pollution (47 percent) and the war on drugs (39 percent). State government was selected as the one to handle improving public schools (42 percent) and managing urban development (37 percent), and local government was chosen for trash recycling (50 percent).

This is the 18th annual public opinion survey commissioned by the ACIR. The sample for the poll was 1,029 adults age 18 and older. The margin of error for samples of this size is plus or minus 4 percentage points at the 95 percent level of confidence.

This volume contains only the 1989 survey results. Detailed data for each question are in Appendix I. Survey results for questions asked in the 1982-88 surveys can be found in the 1988 report (S-17), which presents the data in Appendix I. Data on questions asked in the 1972-81 surveys may be obtained in the 1983 or 1984 reports (S-12 and S-13), which present data in Appendix III.

From Which Level of Government Do You Get the Most for Your Money?

For the past 18 years, the ACIR poll has asked, "From which level of government do you feel you get the most for your money?" In the 1989 poll, 33 percent of the respondents chose the federal government as giving them the most for their money, fol-

lowed by 29 percent picking local government, and 23 percent selecting state government. Fifteen percent said don't know or gave no answer.

Compared to last year, these results represent a 5 percentage point increase in the proportion of Americans saying that the federal government gives them the most for their money (see Table 1). Simultaneously, the proportion of Americans saying that state government gives them the most for their money fell 4 percentage points compared to 1988, from 27 percent to 23 percent. The proportion choosing local government remained stable.

Similar to previous years, the subgroups within the population most likely to pick the federal government as giving them the most for their money were persons over 65 years old (38 percent), retired (41 percent), nonwhites (49 percent), and those who did not complete high school (42 percent). Some subgroups were more likely than others to pick the state government as giving them the most for their money. These groups included persons 25-34 years old (29 percent) and individuals in white collar, sales, and professional occupations (31 percent). The respondents who were more likely to pick local government were male heads of households (34 percent), persons 35-44 years old (35 percent), college graduates (41 percent), people with incomes over \$40,000 a year (36 percent) and those in the professional, managerial, or owner categories of occupation (34 percent).

Table 1
From Which Level of Government Do You Feel You Get the Most for Your Money—Federal, State, or Local?
(in percent)

| | Federal | State | Local | Don't know/ No answer |
|------|---------|-------|-------|--------------------------|
| 1989 | 33 | 23 | 29 | 15 |
| 1988 | 28 | 27 | 29 | 16 |
| 1987 | 28 | 22 | 29 | 21 |
| 1986 | 32 | 22 | 33 | 13 |
| 1985 | 32 | 22 | 31 | 15 |
| 1984 | 24 | 27 | 35 | 14 |
| 1983 | 31 | 20 | 31 | 19 |
| 1982 | 35 | 20 | 28 | 17 |
| 1981 | 30 | 25 | 33 | 14 |
| 1980 | 33 | 22 | 26 | 19 |
| 1979 | 29 | 22 | 33 | 16 |
| 1978 | 35 | 20 | 26 | 19 |
| 1977 | 36 | 20 | 26 | 18 |
| 1976 | 36 | 20 | 25 | 19 |
| 1975 | 38 | 20 | 25 | 17 |
| 1974 | 29 | 24 | 28 | 19 |
| 1973 | 35 | 18 | 25 | 22 |
| 1972 | 39 | 18 | 26 | 17 |

Detailed data appear in Appendix I, Table 1, page 17.

The 1989 poll results show a possible change in direction compared to previous years. During the 17 years from 1972 to 1988, the percentage of Americans saying that the federal government gave them the most for their money declined generally, though with several fluctuations, from 39 percent in 1972 to 28 percent in 1988 (see Figure 1 and Table 1). In 1989, however, the percentage recovered 5 points, rising to 33 percent. At the same time, the percentage of respondents choosing state government, which had been on a slightly upward trend over the same period, fell in 1989 by 4 percentage points.

It should, of course, be noted that polling results for the past 18 years have shown marked year-by-year changes in direction. For this reason, one cannot conclude that the federal government's relative standing with the public on this question is now on a long-term upward path. This caution is particularly pertinent in light of the following question asked in 1989.

From Which Level of Government Do You Get the Least for Your Money?

For the first time, the 1989 ACIR poll asked Americans, "From which level of government do you feel you get the *least* for your money?" The purpose of asking this question was to provide a contrast to the long-standing "most for your money" question. This

new question allows us to gauge public opinion from another angle.

The federal government was perceived to provide the least for their money by 36 percent of the public (see Table 2, Column 2). Twenty-five percent picked state government as providing the least for their money, and 25 percent picked local government. (Fourteen percent replied don't know or no answer.) Compared directly to state and local governments, the federal government is more often viewed as providing the public with the least for its money.

However, only a slightly larger proportion of respondents said that the federal government provides the *least* for their money (36 percent) than the proportion who said that it provides the *most* (33 percent). Indeed, the percentage of Americans saying each type of government provides the most for their money is almost evenly balanced by the percentage saying the same government provides the least for their money. (Compare Columns 1 and 2 in Table 2.)

Table 2
From Which Level of Government Do You Feel You Get the Most/Least for Your Money?
(in percent)

| | Most | Least |
|--------------------------|------|-------|
| Federal | 33 | 36 |
| State | 23 | 25 |
| Local | 29 | 25 |
| Don't know/ No answer | 15 | 14 |

(Detailed data appear in Appendix I, Tables 1 and 2, pages 17 and 18.)

Subgroups that were more likely to pick the federal government as providing the least for their money included employed women (41 percent), people in households making \$40,000 or more annually (43 percent), college graduates (44 percent) and those in the 35-44 age range (45 percent). Persons more likely to pick state government as providing the least for their money included retired people (33 percent) and persons in households with annual incomes in the \$25,000-\$40,000 range (32 percent).

Which Level of Government Do You Think Spends Your Tax Dollars Most Wisely?

The questions about which government gives the most or the least for one's money are questions regarding value (i.e., benefits for dollars spent). This can be quite different from whether money is spent wisely. For example, one could purchase a frivolous item on sale. Such an item might be a good value dollar wise, but an unwise expenditure.

In the 1989 poll, the ACIR asked, "Which level of government do you think spends your tax dollars

Table 3
Which Level of Government Do You Think Spends Your Tax Dollars Most Wisely?
 (in percent)

| | |
|----------------------------|----|
| Federal | 11 |
| State | 20 |
| Local | 36 |
| All of them (volunteered) | 2 |
| None of them (volunteered) | 19 |
| Don't know/No answer | 12 |

(Detailed data appear in Appendix I, Table 7, page 23.)

most wisely?" The answer was, unmistakably, local government. Thirty-six percent of the respondents said that local government spends their tax dollars most wisely (see Table 3). Twenty percent chose state government and 11 percent chose the federal government as spending their tax dollars most wisely.

Interestingly, nearly one out of five Americans (19 percent) volunteered to interviewers that no level of government spends their tax money most wisely. Subgroups that were more likely than average to say that no level of government spends tax dollars most wisely included: individuals who attended but did not complete college (24 percent), those over age 65 (27 percent) and those in the northeast region of the country (27 percent).

The subgroups that were more likely to say that the federal government spends tax money most wisely were: individuals 18 to 24 years old (16 percent), those who did not complete high school (18 percent), nonwhites (24 percent), and those in the West (13 percent). Subgroups that tended to pick local government as spending tax money most wisely were: those making at least \$25,000 annually (42 percent), college graduates (47 percent), and those in the North Central states (48 percent).

The volunteered responses—all of them and none of them—were recorded in this question so as to provide still another perspective on public opinion. In the previous two questions about most and least for your money, respondents were asked by interviewers to chose federal, state, or local, even if they initially said all or none of them. As one can see from Table 3, allowing respondents to volunteer "all of them" or "none of them" does make a difference in the results, and does provide additional information.

However, there are advantages and disadvantages to each type of question. The advantage of reducing options is that it really requires people to make a choice and, thereby, express their views about one or another government in the federal system. The disadvantages, however, are that people may choose randomly just to satisfy the interview require-

ment, and their response may mask a stronger feeling, which might be all or none of the governmental choices. The disadvantages of allowing volunteered responses is that they dull the sharpness of the evaluations and allow respondents to skirt the question.

Which Level of Government Do You Think Responds Best to Your Needs?

Local governments also do comparatively well on the question, "Which level of government do you think responds best to your needs?" Forty percent of the respondents chose local government as responding best, followed by 21 percent selecting state government and 18 percent, the federal government (see Table 4).

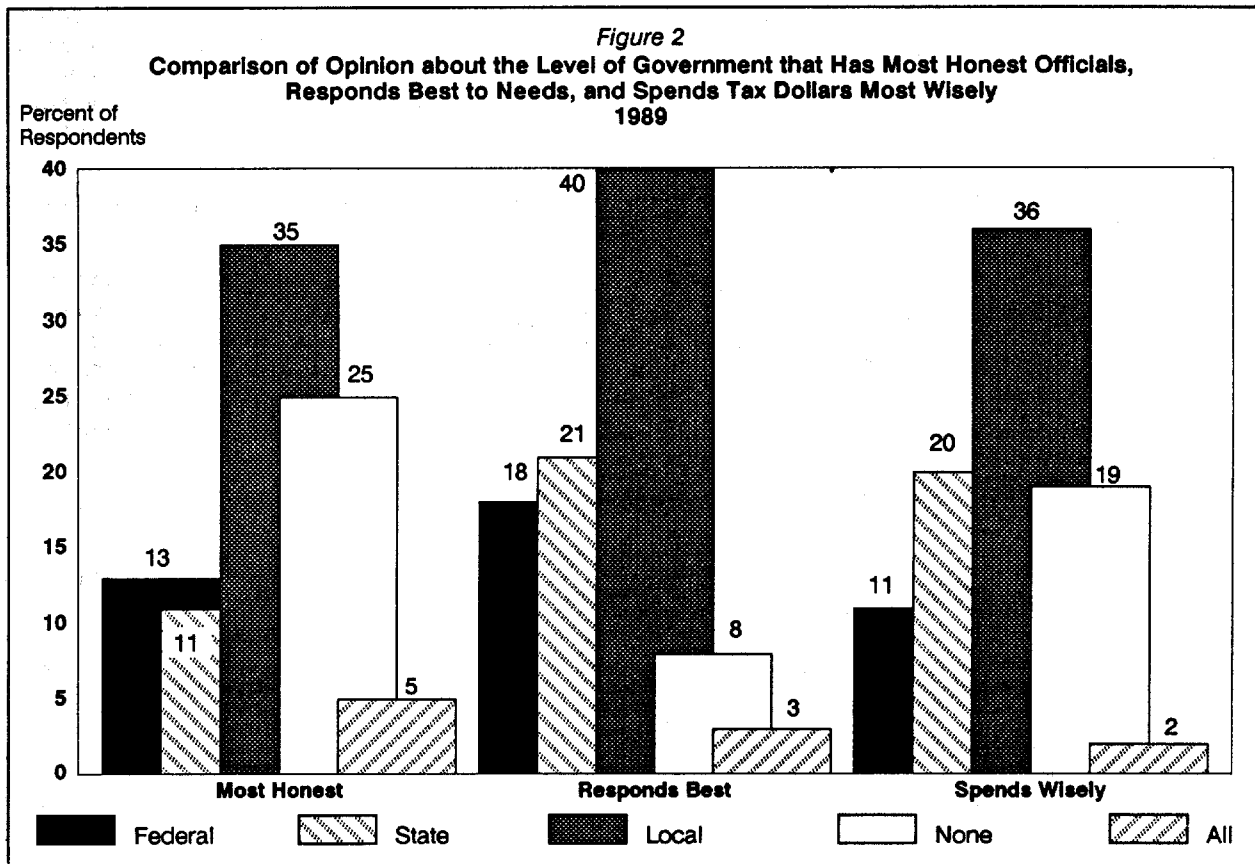
Table 4
Which Level of Government Do You Think Responds Best to Your Needs?
 (in percent)

| | |
|----------------------------|----|
| Federal | 18 |
| State | 21 |
| Local | 40 |
| All of them (volunteered) | 3 |
| None of them (volunteered) | 8 |
| Don't know/No answer | 10 |

(Detailed data appear in Appendix I, Table 6, page 22.)

Subgroups that were particularly likely to say that local government is the most responsive included: individuals 35 to 44 years old (50 percent), college graduates (53 percent), people in households earning \$40,000 or more annually (51 percent), and residents of the North Central states (52 percent). Groups that were especially likely to mention the federal government as being most responsive included: people over 65 years old (24 percent), those who did not complete high school (28 percent), households with annual incomes under \$25,000 (25 percent), nonwhites (28 percent), those not employed (23 percent), the retired (31 percent), the unmarried (24 percent) and those living in central cities (24 percent).

Perhaps the single most striking difference in group responses to this question, however, was that between white and nonwhite respondents. Fully 42 percent of white respondents chose local government, as opposed to only 20 percent of nonwhite respondents. Nonwhites were more likely to choose the federal government (28 percent) as responding best to their needs, in contrast to 17 percent of whites. At the same time, nonwhites (9 percent) were more likely than whites (3 percent) to say "all of them."



On the Whole, Who Do You Think Are Most Honest, Federal Officials, State Officials or Local Officials?

The American public more often perceives local government as spending money most wisely and being most responsive, compared to the federal and state governments. Similarly, Americans more often perceive local officials as being the most honest. Asked, "On the whole, who do you think are the most honest, federal officials, state officials or local officials?" 35 percent replied that local officials are the most honest. Much smaller proportions chose federal officials (13 percent) or state officials (11 percent). However, fully one-quarter of the respondents volunteered that no officials are the most honest, while only 5 percent volunteered that they are all the most honest (see Table 5).

Among the subgroups that were particularly likely to pick local officials as the most honest were: college graduates (45 percent), households making \$30,000 to \$40,000 annually (44 percent), those making \$40,000 or more annually (41 percent) and respondents in the North Central states (50 percent). The subgroups more likely to volunteer that no officials are most honest included: persons over 65 years old (30 percent), those who did not complete high

school (30 percent), and respondents in the South (32 percent).

Again, there were marked differences between nonwhite and white respondents. Only 15 percent of nonwhites picked local officials as being the most honest, compared to 38 percent of whites. Only 12 percent of white respondents chose federal officials as being the most honest, as opposed to 20 percent of nonwhite respondents. Interestingly, however, 11 percent of nonwhites volunteered "all of them" as

Table 5
On the Whole, Who Do You Think Are the Most Honest, Federal Officials, State Officials, or Local Officials?
 (in percent)

| | |
|----------------------------|----|
| Federal Officials | 13 |
| State Officials | 11 |
| Local Officials | 35 |
| All of them (volunteered) | 5 |
| None of them (volunteered) | 25 |
| Don't know/No answer | 11 |

(Detailed data appear in Appendix I, Table 5, page 21.)

being most honest, in contrast to only 4 percent of whites.

These three characteristics—honesty, responsiveness, and spending wisely—are important elements in the impression individuals have of their governments. Figure 2 compares how the various types of government fare on each of these questions. It is evident that for each of these characteristics, local government is seen far more favorably than the state or federal governments. Given these opinions, one might expect that Americans would be willing to see local government obtain more power. This turns out to be the case, as the answers to the following questions suggest.

**Which Level of Government
Do You Think Has Too Much Power/
Needs More Power Today?**

The ACIR poll asked two questions about the relative power of the various types of governments. Respondents were first asked: “Which level of government do you think has too much power today?” The federal government is clearly perceived to have too much power, compared to state and local governments. Sixty-one percent of the respondents said that the federal government has too much power, compared to 9 percent choosing state government and 4 percent mentioning local government (see Table 6, Column 2).

Although there was some variation by subgroups, majorities of all groups selected the federal government as having too much power. Groups that were more likely to pick the federal government included 35-to-44 year olds (68 percent) and those in the \$40,000-or-more annual household income range (71 percent).

The 1987 ACIR poll contained a similar question: “Overall, do you feel that the federal government has too much power, the right amount of power, or too little power over the activities of state and local governments today?” The answers to this

question were as follows: 45 percent said that the federal government had too much power, 37 percent said that the federal government had the right amount of power and only 8 percent said that it had too little power. Although the 1987 and 1989 questions are not identical, these results suggest that many Americans feel that the federal government has too much power.

The second question about power in the 1989 ACIR poll was: “Which level of government do you think needs more power today?” Only 5 percent of the respondents replied that the federal government needs more power (see Table 6, Column 1). Twenty-two percent said that state governments need more power, and 34 percent said that local governments need more power. Fully 26 percent of the respondents, however, volunteered that no government needs more power.

There was relatively little variation by subgroups, with pluralities of all subgroups picking local government. However, 18-to-24 year olds (41 percent), high school graduates (39 percent), blue collar workers (39 percent) and those individuals in households making annual incomes of between \$30,000 and \$40,000 (41 percent) were more likely than most to choose local government as needing more power.

Very few subgroups were unusually likely to say that the federal government needs more power. Indeed, nonwhites, who generally see the federal government more favorably, were not much more likely to say that the federal government needs more power.

The final column in Table 6 subtracts the percentage of respondents saying which type of government has too much power from the percentage saying which type of government needs more power. Negative numbers indicate that the type of government is, on balance, perceived to have too much power. Positive numbers indicate that the type of government is

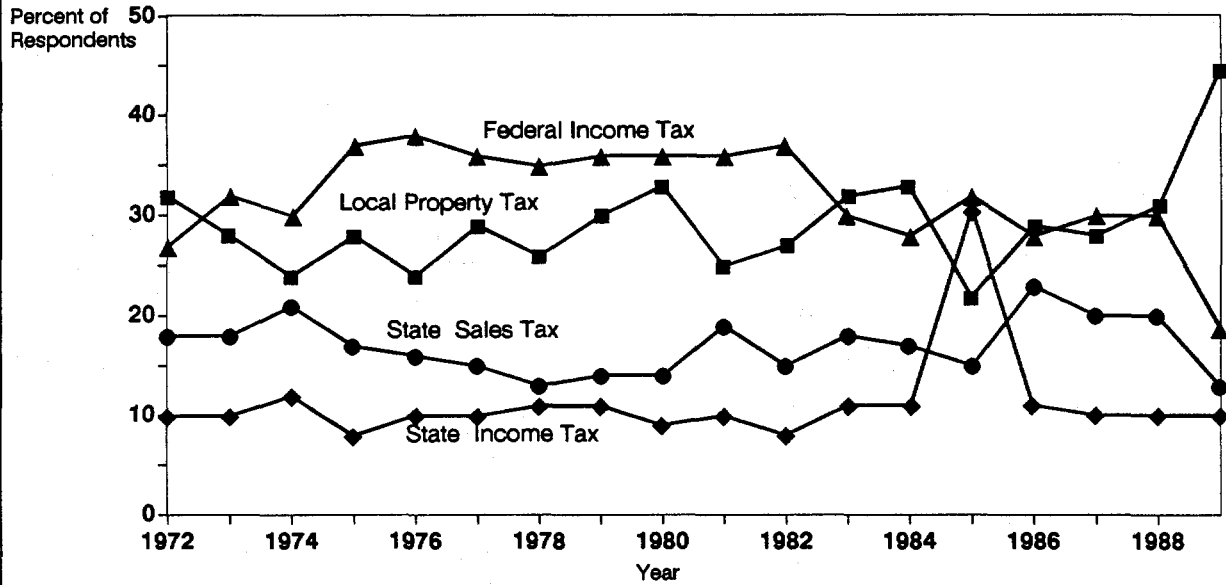
Table 6
Which Level of Government Do You Think Has Too Much Power Today?/Needs More Power Today?
(in percent)

| | Needs More Power | Has Too Much Power | Difference* |
|----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Federal | 5 | 61 | -56 |
| State | 22 | 9 | 13 |
| Local | 34 | 4 | 30 |
| All of them (volunteered) | 1 | 8 | -7 |
| None of them (volunteered) | 26 | 6 | 20 |
| Don't know/No answer | 12 | 12 | 0 |

*Difference = Needs More Power minus Too Much Power.

(Detailed data appear in Appendix I, Table 8, page 24.)

Figure 3
Comparison of Opinions about Worst Tax—
That Is, the Least Fair, 1972-1989



perceived to need more power. Table 6 makes it clear that the respondents felt particularly that local government needed more power (a margin of 30 percentage points). Additionally, there was a strong consensus that the federal government had too much power (a margin of 56 percentage points).

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

Since 1972, the ACIR poll has asked, “Which do you think is the worst tax, that is the least fair?” In 1989, 27 percent of the public rated the federal income tax as the least fair. However, a larger propor-

Table 7
Which Do You Think is the Worst Tax—That is, The Least Fair?
(in percent)

| | Federal Income Tax | State Income Tax | State Sales Tax | Local Property Tax | Don't Know/ No Answer |
|------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| June 1989 | 27 | 10 | 18 | 32 | 13 |
| July 1988 | 33 | 10 | 18 | 28 | 11 |
| June 1987 | 30 | 12 | 21 | 24 | 13 |
| May 1986 | 37 | 8 | 17 | 28 | 10 |
| May 1985 | 38 | 10 | 16 | 24 | 12 |
| May 1984 | 36 | 10 | 15 | 29 | 10 |
| May 1983 | 35 | 11 | 13 | 26 | 15 |
| May 1982 | 36 | 11 | 14 | 30 | 9 |
| Sept. 1981 | 36 | 9 | 14 | 33 | 9 |
| May 1980 | 36 | 10 | 19 | 25 | 10 |
| May 1979 | 37 | 8 | 15 | 27 | 13 |
| May 1978 | 30 | 11 | 18 | 32 | 10 |
| May 1977 | 28 | 11 | 17 | 33 | 11 |
| May 1976 | | | Not Available | | |
| May 1975 | 28 | 11 | 23 | 29 | 10 |
| April 1974 | 30 | 10 | 20 | 28 | 14 |
| May 1973 | 30 | 10 | 20 | 31 | 11 |
| March 1972 | 19 | 13 | 13 | 45 | 11 |

(Detailed data appear in Appendix I, Table 3, page 19.)

Table 8
Which Do You Think is the Worst Tax—That is, the Least Fair? With Social Security
(in percent)

| | Federal Income Tax | Social Security Tax | State Income Tax | State Sales Tax | Local Property Tax | Don't Know/ No Answer |
|-----------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| June 1989 | 21 | 18 | 9 | 14 | 28 | 10 |
| June 1988 | 26 | 17 | 9 | 15 | 24 | 9 |

(Detailed data appear in Appendix I, Table 4, page 20.)

tion (32 percent) rated the local property tax as the least fair.

These results represent a sharp break from the trend of 1979 to 1988, in which the federal income tax was consistently rated as the worst tax (see Figure 3 and Table 7). Indeed, the current figures more closely resemble public opinion in the pre-1979 period, when local property taxes were seen as the worst or were tied with the federal income tax for that rating. This 1989 shift is particularly interesting because the proportions of Americans picking state income or state sales taxes as the least fair remained unchanged from 1988 to 1989. It is possible, therefore, that the federal *Tax Reform Act of 1986* is having an impact on public opinion. At the same time, however, with declining federal aid and rising costs, many local governments are experiencing pressures to raise revenues. Together, changes in federal taxes and rising local revenue pressure may be contributing to the increased dissatisfaction with property taxes evident in Table 7.

Most subgroups of the population picked the local property tax as being the least fair. However, several subgroups continued to see the federal income tax as least fair by margins of 5 percentage points or more. They included individuals aged 35 to 44, people who attended but did not graduate from college, renters, and respondents in the West. (See the detailed data in Appendix I, Table 3.)

The ACIR poll repeated the worst tax question, but added Social Security to the response choices. Once again, the local property tax was rated as the worst tax (28 percent), followed by the federal income tax (21 percent). The Social Security tax was rated worst by 18 percent, the state sales tax was rated worst by 14 percent and the state income tax by 9 percent of the respondents (see Table 8).

Comparing the 1988 and 1989 figures shows that the proportion of Americans choosing Social Security as the worst tax remained essentially unchanged, as did the proportions picking the state income tax and the state sales tax. Again, the shift was the decline, from 1988 to 1989, in the proportion of persons selecting the federal income tax as the worst and the increase in the percentage picking the local property tax as the worst.

The current figures show that the margin between the local property tax and the federal income tax is 7 percentage points (28 percent minus 21 percent). In 1988, the two proportions were about equal (26 percent compared to 24 percent).

In 1989, as in 1988, the addition of Social Security as a possible response reduces the proportion of respondents choosing the federal income tax as the worst tax (see Table 9). Without Social Security in the responses, 27 percent of the respondents picked the federal income tax as the worst tax in 1989. But with

Table 9
Comparison of Worst Tax—With and Without Social Security
(in percent)

| | With Social Security as an Answer | | Without Social Security as an Answer | | Difference* | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|------|---|------|-------------|------|
| | 1988 | 1989 | 1988 | 1989 | 1988 | 1989 |
| Federal income tax | 26 | 21 | 33 | 27 | -7 | -6 |
| Local property tax | 24 | 28 | 28 | 32 | -4 | -4 |
| Social security tax | 17 | 18 | — | — | — | — |
| State sales tax | 15 | 14 | 18 | 18 | -3 | -4 |
| State income tax | 9 | 9 | 10 | 10 | -1 | -1 |
| Don't know/No answer | 9 | 10 | 11 | 13 | -2 | -3 |

*With Social Security minus Without Social Security for each year separately.

(Detailed data appear in Appendix I, Tables 3 and 4, pages 19 and 20.)

Table 10
In Which Level of Government Do You Have the Most Trust and Confidence to Handle Each of the Following Problems Most Effectively?
 (in percent)

| | Clean Up Air Pollution | Fight Drugs | Help Homeless | Manage Urban Development | Improve Schools | Recycle Trash |
|----------------------|------------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Federal | 47 | 39 | 28 | 17 | 12 | 9 |
| State | 30 | 18 | 26 | 37 | 42 | 28 |
| Local | 9 | 21 | 27 | 29 | 32 | 50 |
| All 3 | 10 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 4 | |
| None | 8 | 8 | 7 | 7 | 4 | 5 |
| Don't know/No answer | 3 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 4 |

(Detailed data appear in Appendix I, Tables 10-15, pages 26-31)

Social Security, the proportion picking the federal income tax as the worst fell by 6 percentage points to 21 percent.

In Which Level of Government Do You Have the Most Trust and Confidence to Handle Each of the Following Problems?

Respondents to the 1989 ACIR poll were asked in which level of government they had the most trust and confidence in to handle a variety of problems (see Table 10). There was considerable variation in responses by the type of problem. For example, a 47 percent plurality of Americans said that they have the most trust in the federal government to handle air pollution. By contrast, only 9 percent said they have

the most trust in the federal government to handle the recycling of trash.

A closer look at Table 10 shows that pluralities of the public apparently "assign" different problems to different types of government. A plurality of Americans stated the most trust and confidence in the federal government to handle air pollution and the war on drugs. State government was selected as the one to handle improving public schools and managing urban development, and local government was chosen for trash recycling. Interestingly, approximately equal proportions of Americans chose each type of government for helping the homeless. One possible conclusion from this last finding is that Americans perceive the problem of homelessness to be a truly intergovernmental responsibility. (This finding also is

Figure 4
Comparison of Trust and Confidence in Levels of Government to Handle Public Problems Most Effectively
 1989

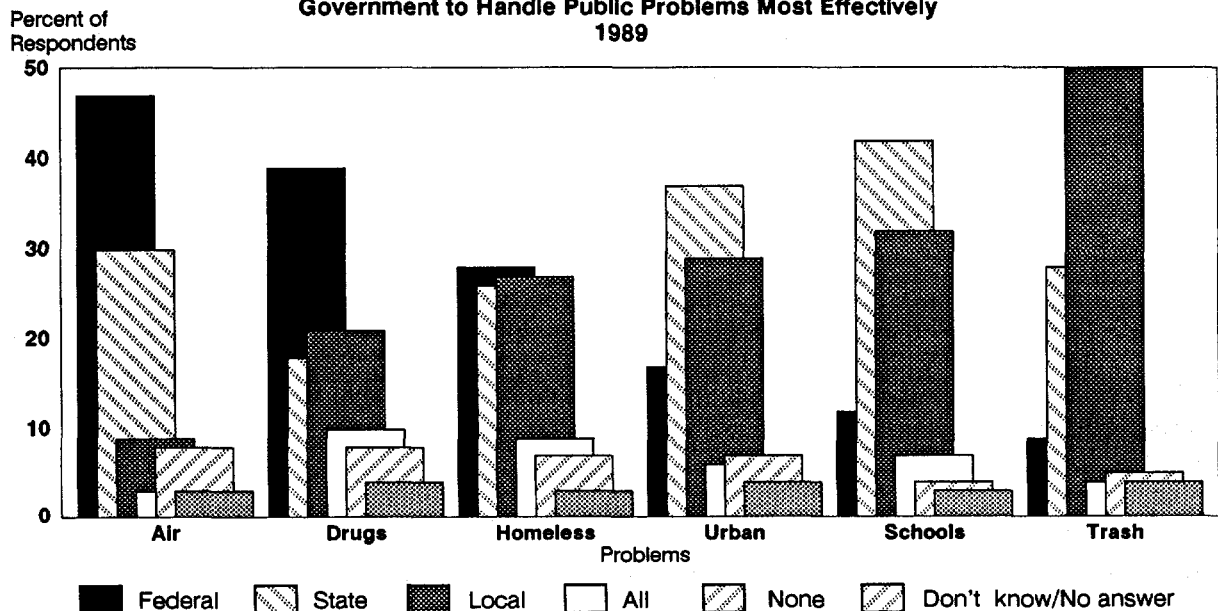


Table 11
In Which Level of Government Do You Have the Most Trust and Confidence to Clean Up Air Pollution Most Effectively?
 (in percent)

| | Total Public | Population Density | | | Region | | | | Race | |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------|----------|--------------|------------|---------------|-------|------|-------|-----------|
| | | Rural | Suburban | Central City | North-east | North-central | South | West | White | Non-White |
| Federal | 47 | 45 | 46 | 49 | 46 | 51 | 52 | 32 | 47 | 42 |
| State | 30 | 32 | 32 | 26 | 25 | 32 | 27 | 38 | 29 | 35 |
| Local | 9 | 6 | 8 | 13 | 13 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 9 |
| All | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| None | 8 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 10 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 9 |
| Don't know/ No answer | 3 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 2 |

(Detailed data appear in Appendix I, Table 11, page 27.)

directly in line with the ACIR's 1988 recommendations on homelessness, see "Assisting the Homeless," *Intergovernmental Perspective* (Winter 1989, page 31, and *Assisting the Homeless: State and Local Responses in an Era of Limited Resources*, 1988.)

Air Pollution

The problem of air pollution is one that was "assigned" to the federal government on the basis of the respondents' trust and confidence. There were some interesting subgroup variations in terms of region. For three of the four regions, a plurality of respondents said that they had the most trust in the federal government (see Table 11). But in the fourth region, the West, a small plurality said that they had the most trust and confidence in the state government. Respondents in the northeastern states were more likely than most to say they had the most trust in local government (13 percent). There was relatively little variation between rural residents, suburbanites, and inner city residents, although the central city residents were more likely than others to place their trust in local government. This did not, however, appear to be

the result of differences in the racial composition of these areas, since whites and nonwhites held essentially similar views.

Fighting Drugs

The drug problem was perceived to be best handled by the federal government. Again, there are some interesting variations within certain subgroups. For example, central city residents were more likely to trust the federal government to wage war against drugs (43 percent) than rural residents (35 percent), with suburbanites in the middle (41 percent). However, the suburban residents were also more likely than others to trust local government to handle the problem (see Table 12).

Similarly, both whites and nonwhites said that they place the most trust and confidence in the federal government to fight drugs (39 percent each). However, nonwhites chose state government (23 percent) more often than local government (12 percent), while whites tended to choose local government (22 percent) in higher proportions than state government (17 percent).

Table 12
In Which Level of Government Do You Have the Most Trust and Confidence to Fight against Drugs Most Effectively?
 (in percent)

| | Total Public | Population Density | | | Race | |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------------|----------|--------------|-------|-----------|
| | | Rural | Suburban | Central City | White | Non-White |
| Federal | 39 | 35 | 41 | 43 | 39 | 39 |
| State | 18 | 22 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 23 |
| Local | 21 | 20 | 24 | 18 | 22 | 12 |
| All | 10 | 10 | 9 | 12 | 11 | 9 |
| None | 8 | 6 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 12 |
| Don't know/No answer | 4 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

(Detailed data appear in Appendix I, Table 10, page 26.)

Table 13
In Which Level of Government Do You Have the Most Trust and Confidence to Help the Homeless Most Effectively?
 (in percent)

| | Total Public | Population Density | | | Region | | | |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------------|----------|--------------|------------|---------------|-------|------|
| | | Rural | Suburban | Central City | North-east | North-central | South | West |
| Federal | 28 | 26 | 31 | 24 | 32 | 26 | 28 | 25 |
| State | 26 | 32 | 23 | 21 | 22 | 30 | 23 | 28 |
| Local | 27 | 24 | 29 | 29 | 24 | 30 | 29 | 23 |
| All | 9 | 6 | 8 | 14 | 14 | 7 | 8 | 8 |
| None | 7 | 6 | 7 | 10 | 7 | 4 | 10 | 7 |
| Don't know/No answer | 3 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 9 |

(Detailed data appear in Appendix I, Table 15, page 31.)

Homelessness

The issue of homelessness is one of the most interesting from the perspective of the trust and confidence respondents have in the different levels of government. Alone among the six issues tested, homelessness is not perceived to be the predominant responsibility of any one government. The public divided evenly on what government they trust to handle the problem, with 28 percent picking the federal government, 26 percent picking state government, and 27 percent choosing local government—a statistical tie.

There are some interesting subgroup variations (see Table 13). In the Northeast, a 32 percent plurality of respondents trusted the federal government to handle homelessness. In the North Central states, 30 percent of the respondents selected state government and 30 percent selected local government, while in the South there was a tie between the federal government (28 percent) and local government (29 percent). Only in the West was state government the plurality choice (28 percent). Rural residents also tended to select state government (32 percent). Suburbanites were divided between those who trusted

the federal government (31 percent) and those who said it was a local problem (29 percent). Only in the central city did respondents say that they trusted local government to handle homelessness effectively.

Managing Urban Development

It is interesting to note that more Americans trusted state government to manage urban development effectively (37 percent) than trusted local government to handle this problem (29 percent). This suggests that a substantial minority of Americans sees problems of urban congestion and management to be more than purely local matters.

In fact, residents of nonmetropolitan areas appear to be more ready to call urban management a statewide problem than do individuals who live in the suburbs or central cities (see Table 14). Among nonmetropolitan residents, 39 percent trusted state government to manage urban areas, while 26 percent trusted local government—a 13-point margin in favor of state government. Among metropolitan area residents, however, the margin by which respondents chose the state over local government is much smaller. There are also some interesting variations by region, with westerners much more likely than resi-

Table 14
In Which Level of Government Do You Have the Most Trust and Confidence to Manage Urban Development to Limit Costs and Congestion Most Effectively?
 (in percent)

| | Total Public | Population Density | | | Region | | | |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------------|----------|--------------|------------|---------------|-------|------|
| | | Rural | Suburban | Central City | North-east | North-central | South | West |
| Federal | 17 | 17 | 15 | 19 | 15 | 17 | 21 | 10 |
| State | 37 | 39 | 37 | 33 | 37 | 44 | 34 | 32 |
| Local | 29 | 26 | 33 | 28 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 36 |
| All | 6 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 6 |
| None | 7 | 7 | 7 | 9 | 12 | 5 | 9 | 5 |
| Don't know/No answer | 4 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 11 |

(Detailed data appear in Appendix I, Table 13, page 29.)

Table 15
In Which Level of Government Do You Have the Most Trust and Confidence to Improve Public Schools Most Effectively?
(in percent)

| | Total Public | Population Density | | | Region | | | |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------------|----------|--------------|------------|---------------|-------|------|
| | | Rural | Suburban | Central City | North-east | North-central | South | West |
| Federal | 12 | 10 | 13 | 15 | 12 | 8 | 14 | 15 |
| State | 42 | 45 | 39 | 41 | 32 | 50 | 43 | 40 |
| Local | 32 | 33 | 35 | 26 | 40 | 33 | 29 | 26 |
| All | 7 | 5 | 6 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 7 | 6 |
| None | 4 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 4 |
| Don't know/No answer | 3 | 5 | 2 | 2 | * | 2 | 3 | 9 |

*Less than 0.5 percent.

(Detailed data appear in Appendix I, Table 12, page 28.)

dents of other regions to place trust in local government to manage urban development. A plurality of westerners (36 percent) chose local government. In the other regions, pluralities selected state government (see Table 14).

Improving Public Schools

Public schools are not perceived to be a federal government function by most Americans. A 42 percent plurality of respondents placed their trust in the states to improve public schools. Another 32 percent placed their trust in local government to do so. Only 12 percent placed the most trust in the federal government to improve public schools effectively. There is considerable variation by region and also by population density (see Table 15). Residents of the North Central states were more likely than residents of other regions to trust their state government to improve public schools (50 percent). By contrast, northeastern residents were clearly the most likely to place trust in their local government (40 percent), compared to other regions. Suburban residents picked state government by only a 4-percentage point margin over local government (state, 39 percent; local, 35

percent). This is quite different from both rural and, especially, central city residents, who placed their trust in the state government.

Recycling Trash

Among the functions tested in this survey, the public was more likely to place trust in their local government to handle recycling trash. This finding is probably more the result of the specific functions included in the study, rather than an indicator of lack of confidence in local government, particularly in light of other results from this survey that show local government doing relatively well compared to the state and federal governments.

There was a marked difference in the perceptions of whites and nonwhites on this issue. A majority of whites (51 percent) said they had the most trust and confidence in local government to recycle trash. By contrast, nonwhites split more evenly between local government (38 percent) and state government (32 percent). On the other hand, central city residents and rural residents were less likely than suburbanites to place their trust in local government to handle this issue effectively (see Table 16).

Table 16
In Which Level of Government Do You Have the Most Trust and Confidence to Dispose of or Recycle Trash Most Effectively?
(in percent)

| | Total Public | Population Density | | | Race | |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------------|----------|--------------|-------|-----------|
| | | Rural | Suburban | Central City | White | Non-White |
| Federal | 9 | 9 | 7 | 11 | 8 | 13 |
| State | 28 | 29 | 27 | 28 | 28 | 32 |
| Local | 50 | 49 | 55 | 45 | 51 | 38 |
| All | 4 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 7 |
| None | 5 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 6 |
| Don't know/No answer | 4 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 4 |

(Detailed data appear in Appendix I, Table 14, page 30.)

The Poll

This report presents the findings of a personal interview research survey conducted among a nationally representative sample of 1,029 men and women, 18 years of age or over, living in private households in the United States.

Interviewing for this survey was completed June 10-18, 1989, 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.

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 Assembly 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 met-

ropolitan area. Nonmetro areas are those not in a metropolitan area. Metropolitan areas consist of two parts: (1) "central city areas" with populations of 50,000 or more in a central city or combination of central cities of a metropolitan area; and (2) "fringe areas" with urban concentrations of population outside but closely associated with the central city or cities.

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 1989 total household income before taxes.

Sampling tolerances for the survey are plus or minus 4 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

This volume presents only the 1989 survey results. Detailed data may be found in Appendix I.

Survey results for questions asked in the 1982-1988 surveys may be found by ordering the 1988 report (S-17), which presents the data in Appendix I. Revised 1986 figures are underlined in the detailed tables of the 1988 report.

Data on questions asked in the 1972-1981 survey may be obtained by ordering copies of the 1983 or 1984 reports (S-12 and S-13), which present data in Appendix III of each of these volumes. Descriptions of classifications used in these years may be found in the respective volumes.

Appendix I

**Detailed Results:
1989 Survey**

Table 1
1989
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 | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|----|-------------------------------------|----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Total Public | 33 | 23 | 29 | 15 |
| Male | 33 | 21 | 33 | 13 |
| Female | 33 | 24 | 26 | 17 |
| Head of Household | 33 | 22 | 30 | 15 |
| Male Head | 34 | 19 | 34 | 13 |
| Female Head | 33 | 25 | 26 | 16 |
| Under 35 Years of Age | 32 | 29 | 24 | 15 |
| 18-24 | 31 | 27 | 22 | 20 |
| 25-34 | 32 | 29 | 26 | 13 |
| 35-44 | 28 | 22 | 35 | 15 |
| 45-65 | 36 | 21 | 29 | 14 |
| Over 65 | 38 | 13 | 32 | 17 |
| High School Incomplete | 42 | 20 | 14 | 24 |
| High School Graduate | 34 | 22 | 30 | 14 |
| College Incomplete | 34 | 24 | 31 | 11 |
| College Graduate | 22 | 26 | 41 | 11 |
| Household Income: Under \$15K | 37 | 18 | 22 | 23 |
| \$15-24.9K | 37 | 23 | 30 | 10 |
| \$25K + | 29 | 26 | 33 | 12 |
| \$25-29.9K | 31 | 25 | 26 | 18 |
| \$30-39.9K | 35 | 27 | 30 | 8 |
| \$40K + | 26 | 26 | 36 | 12 |
| Own | 32 | 23 | 30 | 15 |
| Rent | 36 | 25 | 25 | 14 |
| White | 31 | 23 | 31 | 15 |
| Nonwhite | 49 | 17 | 17 | 17 |
| Employed | 31 | 25 | 30 | 14 |
| Employed Female | 30 | 28 | 25 | 17 |
| Not employed | 37 | 18 | 28 | 17 |
| Not Employed Female | 36 | 20 | 27 | 17 |
| Professional, Manager, Owner | 31 | 27 | 34 | 8 |
| White Collar, Sales, Clerical | 29 | 31 | 22 | 18 |
| Blue Collar | 37 | 22 | 26 | 15 |
| Retired | 41 | 15 | 32 | 12 |
| Married | 32 | 23 | 31 | 14 |
| Not Married | 36 | 21 | 25 | 18 |
| Household Size: 1-2 People | 33 | 24 | 28 | 15 |
| 3-4 People | 32 | 19 | 31 | 18 |
| 5+ People | 41 | 28 | 29 | 2 |
| Children in Household: Under 18 | 33 | 23 | 28 | 16 |
| No Children | 33 | 23 | 29 | 15 |
| Northeast | 32 | 22 | 29 | 17 |
| North-Central | 29 | 23 | 37 | 11 |
| South | 39 | 22 | 24 | 15 |
| West | 29 | 24 | 29 | 18 |
| Nonmetro | 30 | 24 | 30 | 16 |
| Metro: 50,000 and Over | | | | |
| Fringe | 33 | 23 | 30 | 14 |
| Central City | 37 | 20 | 27 | 16 |

Table 2
1989
From Which Level of Government
Do You Feel You Get the Least for Your Money—
Federal, State, or Local?
(in percent)

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

Table 3
1989
Which Do You Think Is the Worst Tax—That Is, the Least Fair?
(in percent)

| | 1. Federal income tax | | 4. Local property tax | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|----|-------------------------|----|----|
| | 2. State income tax | | 5. Don't know/No answer | | |
| | 3. State sales tax | | | | |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Total Public | 27 | 10 | 18 | 32 | 13 |
| Male | 29 | 9 | 18 | 33 | 11 |
| Female | 25 | 10 | 19 | 32 | 14 |
| Head of Household | 28 | 9 | 19 | 33 | 11 |
| Male Head | 29 | 9 | 19 | 33 | 10 |
| Female Head | 27 | 9 | 20 | 32 | 12 |
| Under 35 Years of Age | 26 | 12 | 18 | 32 | 12 |
| 18-24 | 23 | 11 | 13 | 35 | 18 |
| 25-34 | 28 | 12 | 20 | 31 | 9 |
| 35-44 | 36 | 12 | 18 | 27 | 7 |
| 45-65 | 24 | 8 | 21 | 34 | 13 |
| Over 65 | 25 | 4 | 15 | 36 | 20 |
| High School Incomplete | 17 | 7 | 21 | 34 | 21 |
| High School Graduate | 26 | 10 | 17 | 35 | 12 |
| College Incomplete | 36 | 13 | 15 | 29 | 7 |
| College Graduate | 32 | 9 | 21 | 30 | 8 |
| Household Income: Under \$15K | 19 | 8 | 21 | 35 | 17 |
| \$15-24.9K | 26 | 12 | 20 | 34 | 8 |
| \$25K + | 32 | 10 | 16 | 32 | 10 |
| \$25-29.9K | 29 | 2 | 20 | 35 | 14 |
| \$30-39.9K | 30 | 17 | 13 | 33 | 7 |
| \$40K + | 34 | 9 | 17 | 30 | 10 |
| Own | 27 | 10 | 16 | 35 | 12 |
| Rent | 30 | 9 | 27 | 23 | 11 |
| White | 27 | 10 | 17 | 33 | 13 |
| Nonwhite | 30 | 5 | 24 | 30 | 11 |
| Employed | 30 | 11 | 18 | 31 | 10 |
| Employed Female | 31 | 13 | 16 | 29 | 11 |
| Not employed | 22 | 7 | 19 | 36 | 16 |
| Not Employed Female | 20 | 7 | 22 | 35 | 16 |
| Professional, Manager, Owner | 31 | 14 | 20 | 27 | 8 |
| White Collar, Sales, Clerical | 27 | 14 | 13 | 33 | 13 |
| Blue Collar | 29 | 9 | 18 | 32 | 12 |
| Retired | 27 | 4 | 21 | 35 | 13 |
| Married | 30 | 9 | 17 | 34 | 10 |
| Not Married | 23 | 10 | 20 | 30 | 17 |
| Household Size: 1-2 People | 27 | 9 | 19 | 33 | 12 |
| 3-4 People | 28 | 10 | 18 | 29 | 15 |
| 5+ People | 37 | — | 16 | 44 | 3 |
| Children in Household: Under 18 | 27 | 12 | 16 | 35 | 10 |
| No Children | 28 | 7 | 20 | 30 | 15 |
| Northeast | 20 | 11 | 24 | 40 | 5 |
| North-Central | 28 | 9 | 13 | 36 | 14 |
| South | 31 | 8 | 18 | 30 | 13 |
| West | 28 | 11 | 19 | 23 | 19 |
| Nonmetro | 26 | 6 | 16 | 36 | 16 |
| Metro: 50,000 and Over | | | | | |
| Fringe | 30 | 11 | 19 | 29 | 11 |
| Central City | 26 | 13 | 20 | 32 | 9 |

— represents zero

Table 4
1989
Which Do You Think Is the Worst Tax – That Is, the Least Fair –
Including Social Security?
(in percent)

| | 1. Federal income tax | | 4. State sales tax | | 5. Local property tax | | 6. Don't know/No answer |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|----|-----------------------|----|-------------------------|----|-------------------------|
| | 2. Social security | | 5. Local property tax | | 6. Don't know/No answer | | |
| | 3. State income tax | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Total Public | | 21 | 18 | 9 | 14 | 28 | 10 |
| Male | | 23 | 17 | 8 | 15 | 29 | 8 |
| Female | | 20 | 19 | 8 | 13 | 28 | 12 |
| Head of Household | | 22 | 17 | 8 | 15 | 29 | 9 |
| Male Head | | 23 | 16 | 9 | 16 | 29 | 7 |
| Female Head | | 22 | 18 | 8 | 13 | 28 | 11 |
| Under 35 Years of Age | | 19 | 20 | 10 | 13 | 28 | 10 |
| 18-24 | | 15 | 19 | 11 | 8 | 33 | 14 |
| 25-34 | | 21 | 21 | 9 | 15 | 26 | 8 |
| 35-44 | | 29 | 17 | 11 | 12 | 24 | 7 |
| 45-65 | | 18 | 17 | 7 | 18 | 31 | 9 |
| Over 65 | | 23 | 16 | 5 | 12 | 29 | 15 |
| High School Incomplete | | 15 | 17 | 7 | 16 | 30 | 15 |
| High School Graduate | | 20 | 20 | 8 | 12 | 30 | 10 |
| College Incomplete | | 26 | 19 | 12 | 12 | 25 | 6 |
| College Graduate | | 27 | 15 | 8 | 16 | 28 | 6 |
| Household Income: Under \$15K | | 14 | 19 | 7 | 14 | 32 | 14 |
| \$15-24.9K | | 20 | 20 | 11 | 13 | 30 | 6 |
| \$25K + | | 25 | 18 | 9 | 14 | 27 | 7 |
| \$25-29.9K | | 28 | 16 | 6 | 19 | 23 | 8 |
| \$30-39.9K | | 23 | 20 | 14 | 10 | 27 | 6 |
| \$40K + | | 25 | 18 | 7 | 14 | 28 | 8 |
| Own | | 22 | 18 | 8 | 13 | 30 | 9 |
| Rent | | 21 | 20 | 9 | 17 | 23 | 10 |
| White | | 21 | 18 | 9 | 13 | 29 | 10 |
| Nonwhite | | 22 | 16 | 6 | 21 | 27 | 8 |
| Employed | | 23 | 18 | 10 | 14 | 27 | 8 |
| Employed Female | | 24 | 18 | 12 | 10 | 26 | 10 |
| Not employed | | 17 | 20 | 6 | 14 | 31 | 12 |
| Not Employed Female | | 15 | 20 | 5 | 16 | 30 | 14 |
| Professional, Manager, Owner | | 25 | 15 | 12 | 17 | 26 | 5 |
| White Collar, Sales, Clerical | | 22 | 20 | 12 | 8 | 26 | 12 |
| Blue Collar | | 23 | 18 | 7 | 15 | 29 | 8 |
| Retired | | 25 | 14 | 7 | 13 | 30 | 11 |
| Married | | 24 | 17 | 8 | 14 | 28 | 9 |
| Not Married | | 17 | 19 | 10 | 13 | 29 | 12 |
| Household Size: 1-2 People | | 22 | 18 | 8 | 15 | 28 | 9 |
| 3-4 People | | 19 | 17 | 11 | 11 | 29 | 13 |
| 5+ People | | 29 | 23 | — | 11 | 29 | 8 |
| Children in Household: Under 18 | | 20 | 21 | 8 | 14 | 29 | 8 |
| No Children | | 23 | 16 | 9 | 14 | 27 | 11 |
| Northeast | | 16 | 16 | 8 | 18 | 39 | 3 |
| North-Central | | 19 | 23 | 7 | 11 | 30 | 10 |
| South | | 26 | 14 | 9 | 13 | 28 | 10 |
| West | | 23 | 20 | 9 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| Nonmetro | | 21 | 18 | 5 | 13 | 32 | 11 |
| Metro: 50,000 and Over | | | | | | | |
| Fringe | | 23 | 19 | 10 | 13 | 25 | 10 |
| Central City | | 20 | 17 | 10 | 17 | 27 | 9 |

— represents zero

Table 5

1989
On the Whole, Who Do You Think Are the Most Honest,
Federal Officials, State Officials, or Local Officials?
(in percent)

| | 1. Federal officials | 2. State officials | 3. Local officials | 4. All of them (volunteered) | 5. None of them (volunteered) | 6. Don't know/No answer |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Total Public | 13 | 11 | 35 | 5 | 25 | 11 |
| Male | 14 | 11 | 37 | 6 | 23 | 9 |
| Female | 11 | 11 | 34 | 4 | 27 | 13 |
| Head of Household | 13 | 10 | 35 | 6 | 26 | 10 |
| Male Head | 14 | 10 | 37 | 6 | 24 | 9 |
| Female Head | 11 | 11 | 34 | 4 | 28 | 12 |
| Under 35 Years of Age | 14 | 13 | 35 | 5 | 24 | 9 |
| 18-24 | 16 | 10 | 38 | 4 | 20 | 12 |
| 25-34 | 12 | 15 | 33 | 6 | 26 | 8 |
| 35-44 | 11 | 11 | 39 | 5 | 24 | 10 |
| 45-65 | 15 | 10 | 34 | 5 | 25 | 11 |
| Over 65 | 9 | 8 | 34 | 3 | 30 | 16 |
| High School Incomplete | 14 | 9 | 25 | 5 | 30 | 17 |
| High School Graduate | 13 | 10 | 37 | 6 | 24 | 10 |
| College Incomplete | 14 | 12 | 35 | 3 | 28 | 8 |
| College Graduate | 9 | 12 | 45 | 4 | 21 | 9 |
| Household Income: Under \$15K | 14 | 10 | 29 | 5 | 26 | 16 |
| \$15-24.9K | 14 | 11 | 30 | 8 | 27 | 10 |
| \$25K + | 13 | 11 | 41 | 4 | 23 | 8 |
| \$25-29.9K | 11 | 10 | 36 | 2 | 30 | 11 |
| \$30-39.9K | 9 | 11 | 44 | 8 | 21 | 7 |
| \$40K + | 15 | 12 | 41 | 3 | 22 | 7 |
| Own | 11 | 11 | 35 | 4 | 28 | 11 |
| Rent | 17 | 12 | 32 | 9 | 20 | 10 |
| White | 12 | 11 | 38 | 4 | 25 | 10 |
| Nonwhite | 20 | 12 | 15 | 11 | 26 | 16 |
| Employed | 13 | 12 | 35 | 6 | 25 | 9 |
| Employed Female | 11 | 13 | 33 | 5 | 28 | 10 |
| Not Employed | 13 | 8 | 35 | 3 | 26 | 15 |
| Not Employed Female | 12 | 8 | 35 | 3 | 27 | 15 |
| Professional, Manager, Owner | 14 | 11 | 38 | 4 | 28 | 5 |
| White Collar, Sales, Clerical | 12 | 14 | 32 | 3 | 27 | 12 |
| Blue Collar | 13 | 13 | 35 | 8 | 22 | 9 |
| Retired | 12 | 8 | 37 | 3 | 24 | 16 |
| Married | 12 | 11 | 37 | 5 | 24 | 11 |
| Not Married | 14 | 11 | 33 | 4 | 27 | 11 |
| Household Size: 1-2 People | 12 | 11 | 37 | 4 | 25 | 11 |
| 3-4 People | 14 | 11 | 31 | 5 | 26 | 13 |
| 5+ People | 7 | 28 | 20 | 13 | 27 | 5 |
| Children in Household: Under 18 | 13 | 12 | 35 | 6 | 25 | 9 |
| No Children | 13 | 10 | 35 | 4 | 26 | 12 |
| Northeast | 14 | 11 | 33 | 8 | 29 | 5 |
| North-Central | 11 | 13 | 50 | 3 | 15 | 8 |
| South | 13 | 10 | 27 | 6 | 32 | 12 |
| West | 13 | 9 | 32 | 3 | 23 | 20 |
| Nonmetro | 11 | 11 | 39 | 5 | 22 | 12 |
| Metro: 50,000 and Over | | | | | | |
| Fringe | 13 | 9 | 38 | 4 | 26 | 10 |
| Central City | 15 | 12 | 27 | 6 | 30 | 10 |

Table 6
1989
Which Level of Government Responds Best to Your Needs—
Federal, State, or Local?
(in percent)

| | 1. Federal | 2. State | 3. Local | 4. All of them (volunteered) | 5. None of them (volunteered) | 6. Don't know/No answer |
|---------------------------------|------------|----------|----------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Total Public | 18 | 21 | 40 | 3 | 8 | 10 |
| Male | 21 | 21 | 40 | 3 | 8 | 7 |
| Female | 16 | 22 | 40 | 3 | 7 | 12 |
| Head of Household | 18 | 21 | 40 | 4 | 8 | 9 |
| Male Head | 20 | 19 | 40 | 4 | 9 | 8 |
| Female Head | 17 | 22 | 40 | 3 | 7 | 11 |
| Under 35 Years of Age | 16 | 24 | 36 | 4 | 10 | 10 |
| 18-24 | 17 | 26 | 32 | * | 8 | 17 |
| 25-34 | 15 | 23 | 38 | 6 | 11 | 7 |
| 35-44 | 14 | 22 | 50 | 2 | 5 | 7 |
| 45-65 | 21 | 20 | 37 | 4 | 8 | 10 |
| Over 65 | 24 | 17 | 38 | 3 | 6 | 12 |
| High School Incomplete | 28 | 21 | 24 | 5 | 9 | 13 |
| High School Graduate | 17 | 22 | 42 | 4 | 6 | 9 |
| College Incomplete | 18 | 21 | 38 | 1 | 11 | 11 |
| College Graduate | 12 | 19 | 53 | 3 | 5 | 8 |
| Household Income: Under \$15K | 25 | 26 | 29 | 4 | 6 | 10 |
| \$15-24.9K | 21 | 20 | 39 | 6 | 5 | 9 |
| \$25K + | 15 | 19 | 46 | 3 | 8 | 9 |
| \$25-29.9K | 16 | 22 | 34 | 2 | 13 | 13 |
| \$30-39.9K | 20 | 17 | 44 | 2 | 7 | 10 |
| \$40K + | 11 | 20 | 51 | 3 | 8 | 7 |
| Own | 18 | 20 | 41 | 3 | 8 | 10 |
| Rent | 19 | 24 | 35 | 6 | 7 | 9 |
| White | 17 | 22 | 42 | 3 | 7 | 9 |
| Nonwhite | 28 | 19 | 20 | 9 | 10 | 14 |
| Employed | 16 | 22 | 41 | 4 | 8 | 9 |
| Employed Female | 10 | 24 | 42 | 4 | 8 | 12 |
| Not Employed | 23 | 20 | 37 | 3 | 6 | 11 |
| Not Employed Female | 24 | 19 | 37 | 3 | 5 | 12 |
| Professional, Manager, Owner | 15 | 20 | 46 | 3 | 9 | 7 |
| White Collar, Sales, Clerical | 16 | 26 | 36 | 2 | 6 | 14 |
| Blue Collar | 19 | 22 | 36 | 5 | 9 | 9 |
| Retired | 31 | 18 | 38 | 1 | 5 | 7 |
| Married | 15 | 22 | 41 | 4 | 8 | 10 |
| Not Married | 24 | 20 | 37 | 3 | 6 | 10 |
| Household Size: 1-2 People | 18 | 21 | 41 | 3 | 8 | 9 |
| 3-4 People | 18 | 20 | 36 | 4 | 8 | 14 |
| 5+ People | 12 | 47 | 29 | 7 | — | 5 |
| Children in Household: Under 18 | 15 | 25 | 40 | 3 | 9 | 8 |
| No Children | 21 | 19 | 39 | 3 | 7 | 11 |
| Northeast | 22 | 20 | 36 | 5 | 10 | 7 |
| North-Central | 12 | 23 | 52 | 1 | 4 | 8 |
| South | 19 | 24 | 34 | 5 | 10 | 8 |
| West | 21 | 16 | 36 | 1 | 6 | 20 |
| Nonmetro | 16 | 25 | 39 | 3 | 5 | 12 |
| Metro: 50,000 and Over | | | | | | |
| Fringe | 16 | 19 | 41 | 3 | 11 | 10 |
| Central City | 24 | 19 | 39 | 4 | 6 | 8 |

*less than 0.5 percent

Table 7
1989
Which Level of Government Do You Think Spends Your Tax Dollars Most Wisely—
Federal, State, or Local?
(in percent)

| | 1. Federal | 2. State | 3. Local | 4. All of them (volunteered) | 5. None of them (volunteered) | 6. Don't know/No answer |
|---------------------------------|------------|----------|----------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Total Public | 11 | 20 | 36 | 2 | 19 | 12 |
| Male | 11 | 22 | 38 | 2 | 18 | 9 |
| Female | 10 | 19 | 35 | 2 | 20 | 14 |
| Head of Household | 10 | 20 | 37 | 2 | 20 | 11 |
| Male Head | 11 | 20 | 39 | 2 | 19 | 9 |
| Female Head | 8 | 20 | 35 | 2 | 22 | 13 |
| Under 35 Years of Age | 12 | 22 | 36 | 2 | 15 | 13 |
| 18-24 | 16 | 22 | 33 | * | 13 | 16 |
| 25-34 | 10 | 23 | 36 | 3 | 17 | 11 |
| 35-44 | 11 | 21 | 39 | 1 | 19 | 9 |
| 45-65 | 10 | 19 | 36 | 3 | 20 | 12 |
| Over 65 | 9 | 18 | 35 | 1 | 27 | 10 |
| High School Incomplete | 18 | 17 | 25 | 3 | 20 | 17 |
| High School Graduate | 9 | 22 | 39 | 3 | 18 | 9 |
| College Incomplete | 11 | 22 | 33 | 1 | 24 | 9 |
| College Graduate | 7 | 19 | 47 | * | 16 | 11 |
| Household Income: Under \$15K | 15 | 21 | 27 | 2 | 19 | 16 |
| \$15-24.9K | 14 | 21 | 38 | 5 | 13 | 9 |
| \$25K + | 8 | 21 | 42 | 1 | 19 | 9 |
| \$25-29.9K | 7 | 23 | 41 | 2 | 18 | 9 |
| \$30-39.9K | 8 | 23 | 42 | 2 | 18 | 7 |
| \$40K + | 8 | 20 | 42 | — | 20 | 10 |
| Own | 9 | 19 | 38 | 1 | 22 | 11 |
| Rent | 15 | 23 | 32 | 4 | 14 | 12 |
| White | 9 | 21 | 39 | 1 | 19 | 11 |
| Nonwhite | 24 | 20 | 17 | 6 | 18 | 15 |
| Employed | 10 | 19 | 38 | 3 | 19 | 11 |
| Employed Female | 10 | 16 | 36 | 2 | 23 | 13 |
| Not Employed | 12 | 22 | 34 | 1 | 19 | 12 |
| Not Employed Female | 11 | 22 | 34 | 1 | 18 | 14 |
| Professional, Manager, Owner | 10 | 20 | 38 | 1 | 22 | 9 |
| White Collar, Sales, Clerical | 7 | 17 | 39 | 1 | 18 | 18 |
| Blue Collar | 12 | 24 | 34 | 4 | 17 | 9 |
| Retired | 9 | 23 | 37 | 1 | 21 | 9 |
| Married | 9 | 21 | 37 | 2 | 20 | 11 |
| Not Married | 14 | 20 | 35 | 2 | 17 | 12 |
| Household Size: 1-2 People | 10 | 20 | 38 | 2 | 20 | 10 |
| 3-4 People | 11 | 22 | 35 | 2 | 15 | 15 |
| 5+ People | 25 | 24 | 10 | — | 16 | 25 |
| Children in Household: Under 18 | 13 | 21 | 34 | 1 | 20 | 11 |
| No Children | 10 | 20 | 38 | 2 | 18 | 12 |
| Northeast | 10 | 20 | 32 | 4 | 27 | 7 |
| North-Central | 9 | 19 | 48 | — | 12 | 12 |
| South | 11 | 23 | 31 | 3 | 21 | 11 |
| West | 13 | 19 | 35 | — | 15 | 18 |
| Nonmetro | 7 | 19 | 43 | 2 | 17 | 12 |
| Metro: 50,000 and Over | | | | | | |
| Fringe | 10 | 20 | 36 | 1 | 22 | 11 |
| Central City | 16 | 23 | 28 | 3 | 18 | 12 |

— represents zero

*less than 0.5 percent

Table 8

1989
Which Level of Government Do You Think Has Too Much Power Today—
Federal, State, or Local?
(in percent)

| | 1. Federal | 2. State | 3. Local | 4. All of them (volunteered) | 5. None of them (volunteered) | 6. Don't know/No answer |
|---------------------------------|------------|----------|----------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Total Public | 61 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 12 |
| Male | 63 | 10 | 3 | 9 | 6 | 9 |
| Female | 60 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 14 |
| Head of Household | 62 | 9 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 11 |
| Male Head | 62 | 11 | 3 | 10 | 6 | 8 |
| Female Head | 62 | 8 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 13 |
| Under 35 Years of Age | 57 | 13 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 11 |
| 18-24 | 50 | 19 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 16 |
| 25-34 | 60 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 6 | 9 |
| 35-44 | 68 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 9 |
| 45-65 | 64 | 10 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 11 |
| Over 65 | 58 | 5 | 5 | 11 | 3 | 18 |
| High School Incomplete | 54 | 10 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 19 |
| High School Graduate | 66 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 11 |
| College Incomplete | 57 | 12 | 4 | 8 | 11 | 8 |
| College Graduate | 64 | 11 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 8 |
| Household Income: Under \$15K | 52 | 12 | 5 | 9 | 5 | 17 |
| \$15-24.9K | 59 | 9 | 4 | 10 | 4 | 14 |
| \$25K + | 68 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 7 |
| \$25-29.9K | 55 | 11 | 9 | 10 | 5 | 10 |
| \$30-39.9K | 69 | 10 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 4 |
| \$40K + | 71 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 8 |
| Own | 64 | 9 | 5 | 8 | 5 | 9 |
| Rent | 53 | 14 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 15 |
| White | 62 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 11 |
| Nonwhite | 54 | 11 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 14 |
| Employed | 61 | 11 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 9 |
| Employed Female | 59 | 9 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 13 |
| Not Employed | 62 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 15 |
| Not Employed Female | 59 | 10 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 16 |
| Professional, Manager, Owner | 61 | 12 | 4 | 6 | 11 | 6 |
| White Collar, Sales, Clerical | 64 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 13 |
| Blue Collar | 61 | 12 | 3 | 11 | 4 | 9 |
| Retired | 65 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 13 |
| Married | 65 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 10 |
| Not Married | 55 | 10 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 16 |
| Household Size: 1-2 People | 64 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 10 |
| 3-4 People | 56 | 11 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 16 |
| 5+ People | 42 | 12 | 3 | 3 | 17 | 23 |
| Children in Household: Under 18 | 61 | 13 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 9 |
| No Children | 62 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 13 |
| Northeast | 56 | 12 | 7 | 9 | 9 | 7 |
| North-Central | 72 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 8 |
| South | 58 | 11 | 5 | 9 | 5 | 12 |
| West | 57 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 22 |
| Nonmetro | 64 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 14 |
| Metro: 50,000 and Over | | | | | | |
| Fringe | 61 | 10 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 10 |
| Central City | 58 | 11 | 5 | 8 | 8 | 10 |

Table 9
1989
Which Level of Government Do You Think Needs More Power Today—
Federal, State, or Local?
(in percent)

| | 1. Federal | 2. State | 3. Local | 4. All of them (volunteered) | 5. None of them (volunteered) | 6. Don't know/No answer |
|---------------------------------|------------|----------|----------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Total Public | 5 | 22 | 34 | 1 | 26 | 12 |
| Male | 6 | 22 | 36 | 1 | 26 | 9 |
| Female | 4 | 22 | 31 | 1 | 26 | 16 |
| Head of Household | 5 | 22 | 32 | 1 | 28 | 12 |
| Male Head | 7 | 21 | 35 | 1 | 27 | 9 |
| Female Head | 4 | 23 | 30 | 1 | 28 | 14 |
| Under 35 Years of Age | 5 | 21 | 39 | 1 | 23 | 11 |
| 18-24 | 8 | 21 | 41 | — | 14 | 16 |
| 25-34 | 4 | 21 | 38 | 2 | 28 | 7 |
| 35-44 | 4 | 22 | 40 | 1 | 22 | 11 |
| 45-65 | 6 | 23 | 28 | * | 31 | 12 |
| Over 65 | 5 | 21 | 25 | 1 | 30 | 18 |
| High School Incomplete | 7 | 22 | 25 | 1 | 21 | 24 |
| High School Graduate | 4 | 21 | 39 | 1 | 25 | 10 |
| College Incomplete | 5 | 22 | 29 | 1 | 35 | 8 |
| College Graduate | 5 | 22 | 38 | * | 27 | 8 |
| Household Income: Under \$15K | 6 | 18 | 35 | 2 | 20 | 19 |
| \$15-24.9K | 6 | 27 | 27 | * | 27 | 13 |
| \$25K+ | 4 | 22 | 39 | * | 28 | 7 |
| \$25-29.9K | 10 | 20 | 32 | 1 | 26 | 11 |
| \$30-39.9K | 3 | 23 | 37 | * | 30 | 7 |
| \$40K+ | 3 | 23 | 41 | — | 27 | 6 |
| Own | 5 | 22 | 34 | 1 | 27 | 11 |
| Rent | 6 | 21 | 35 | 2 | 23 | 13 |
| White | 5 | 22 | 34 | 1 | 26 | 12 |
| Nonwhite | 8 | 16 | 31 | 2 | 30 | 13 |
| Employed | 6 | 19 | 36 | 1 | 28 | 10 |
| Employed Female | 5 | 19 | 33 | 1 | 29 | 13 |
| Not Employed | 5 | 27 | 29 | 1 | 22 | 16 |
| Not Employed Female | 3 | 27 | 29 | 1 | 23 | 17 |
| Professional, Manager, Owner | 5 | 22 | 34 | 1 | 32 | 6 |
| White Collar, Sales, Clerical | 5 | 22 | 34 | 1 | 25 | 13 |
| Blue Collar | 6 | 20 | 39 | — | 25 | 10 |
| Retired | 6 | 26 | 29 | 1 | 26 | 12 |
| Married | 5 | 22 | 34 | 1 | 28 | 10 |
| Not Married | 5 | 22 | 34 | * | 23 | 16 |
| Household Size: 1-2 People | 4 | 23 | 34 | 1 | 26 | 12 |
| 3-4 People | 7 | 18 | 35 | 1 | 27 | 12 |
| 5+ People | 10 | 17 | 18 | — | 36 | 19 |
| Children in Household: Under 18 | 5 | 20 | 37 | 1 | 27 | 10 |
| No Children | 5 | 23 | 32 | * | 26 | 14 |
| Northeast | 6 | 20 | 32 | 1 | 29 | 12 |
| North-Central | 3 | 27 | 38 | 1 | 23 | 8 |
| South | 7 | 23 | 33 | * | 26 | 11 |
| West | 3 | 15 | 32 | 1 | 29 | 20 |
| Nonmetro | 4 | 22 | 33 | — | 26 | 15 |
| Metro: 50,000 and Over | | | | | | |
| Fringe | 6 | 18 | 36 | 1 | 28 | 11 |
| Central City | 5 | 27 | 32 | 2 | 24 | 10 |

— represents zero

*less than 0.5 percent

Table 10

1989

**In Which Level of Government Do You Have the Most Trust and Confidence
to Handle Each of the Following Problems Most Effectively?**

Fighting against Drugs

(in percent)

| | 1. Federal | 2. State | 3. Local | 4. All of them (volunteered) | 5. None of them (volunteered) | 6. Don't know/No answer |
|---------------------------------|------------|----------|----------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Total Public | 39 | 18 | 21 | 10 | 8 | 4 |
| Male | 45 | 16 | 18 | 9 | 8 | 4 |
| Female | 34 | 19 | 23 | 12 | 7 | 5 |
| Head of Household | 40 | 17 | 21 | 10 | 8 | 4 |
| Male Head | 46 | 16 | 18 | 9 | 7 | 4 |
| Female Head | 34 | 18 | 24 | 11 | 8 | 5 |
| Under 35 Years of Age | 40 | 20 | 21 | 8 | 8 | 3 |
| 18-24 | 44 | 25 | 20 | 7 | 1 | 3 |
| 25-34 | 38 | 17 | 22 | 9 | 11 | 3 |
| 35-44 | 39 | 19 | 25 | 6 | 5 | 6 |
| 45-65 | 39 | 17 | 21 | 13 | 6 | 4 |
| Over 65 | 38 | 12 | 15 | 16 | 12 | 7 |
| High School Incomplete | 39 | 18 | 15 | 11 | 9 | 8 |
| High School Graduate | 37 | 19 | 24 | 11 | 5 | 4 |
| College Incomplete | 41 | 18 | 24 | 8 | 7 | 2 |
| College Graduate | 41 | 16 | 19 | 11 | 10 | 3 |
| Household Income: Under \$15K | 38 | 20 | 22 | 11 | 4 | 5 |
| \$15-24.9K | 39 | 20 | 17 | 13 | 8 | 3 |
| \$25K + | 41 | 17 | 22 | 8 | 8 | 4 |
| \$25-29.9K | 42 | 15 | 21 | 3 | 10 | 9 |
| \$30-39.9K | 40 | 22 | 21 | 8 | 6 | 3 |
| \$40K + | 41 | 15 | 24 | 10 | 8 | 2 |
| Own | 39 | 18 | 20 | 10 | 8 | 5 |
| Rent | 40 | 18 | 24 | 9 | 6 | 3 |
| White | 39 | 17 | 22 | 11 | 7 | 4 |
| Nonwhite | 39 | 23 | 12 | 9 | 12 | 5 |
| Employed | 41 | 18 | 22 | 9 | 7 | 3 |
| Employed Female | 33 | 19 | 25 | 12 | 8 | 3 |
| Not Employed | 37 | 18 | 19 | 13 | 7 | 6 |
| Not Employed Female | 34 | 21 | 20 | 13 | 6 | 6 |
| Professional, Manager, Owner | 42 | 15 | 23 | 9 | 9 | 2 |
| White Collar, Sales, Clerical | 42 | 21 | 17 | 7 | 8 | 5 |
| Blue Collar | 39 | 20 | 22 | 11 | 4 | 4 |
| Retired | 39 | 11 | 19 | 13 | 12 | 6 |
| Married | 39 | 18 | 22 | 10 | 7 | 4 |
| Not Married | 41 | 17 | 20 | 10 | 8 | 4 |
| Household Size: 1-2 People | 40 | 17 | 22 | 10 | 8 | 3 |
| 3-4 People | 37 | 20 | 20 | 9 | 7 | 7 |
| 5+ People | 53 | 18 | 16 | 10 | 3 | — |
| Children in Household: Under 18 | 38 | 20 | 23 | 8 | 6 | 5 |
| No Children | 41 | 16 | 19 | 12 | 8 | 4 |
| Northeast | 38 | 17 | 20 | 14 | 9 | 2 |
| North-Central | 41 | 19 | 23 | 9 | 5 | 3 |
| South | 39 | 20 | 21 | 10 | 7 | 3 |
| West | 39 | 14 | 19 | 8 | 9 | 11 |
| Nonmetro | 35 | 22 | 20 | 10 | 6 | 7 |
| Metro: 50,000 and Over | | | | | | |
| Fringe | 41 | 15 | 24 | 9 | 8 | 3 |
| Central City | 43 | 16 | 18 | 12 | 8 | 3 |

— represents zero

Table 11

1989
In Which Level of Government Do You Have the Most Trust and Confidence
to Handle Each of the Following Problems Most Effectively?
Cleaning Up Air Pollution
(in percent)

| | 1. Federal | 2. State | 3. Local | 4. All of them (volunteered) | 5. None of them (volunteered) | 6. Don't know/No answer |
|---------------------------------|------------|----------|----------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Total Public | 47 | 30 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 3 |
| Male | 54 | 28 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 2 |
| Female | 39 | 32 | 10 | 4 | 10 | 5 |
| Head of Household | 46 | 30 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 4 |
| Male Head | 53 | 28 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 2 |
| Female Head | 40 | 32 | 10 | 3 | 11 | 4 |
| Under 35 Years of Age | 48 | 31 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 3 |
| 18-24 | 48 | 30 | 10 | 4 | 5 | 3 |
| 25-34 | 48 | 32 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 3 |
| 35-44 | 51 | 30 | 9 | * | 6 | 4 |
| 45-65 | 41 | 33 | 9 | 5 | 9 | 3 |
| Over 65 | 46 | 24 | 10 | 4 | 12 | 4 |
| High School Incomplete | 47 | 23 | 8 | 6 | 11 | 5 |
| High School Graduate | 41 | 35 | 11 | 3 | 7 | 3 |
| College Incomplete | 45 | 36 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 3 |
| College Graduate | 58 | 23 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 2 |
| Household Income: Under \$15K | 44 | 29 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 5 |
| \$15-24.9K | 37 | 36 | 12 | 3 | 10 | 2 |
| \$25K + | 52 | 29 | 7 | 2 | 7 | 3 |
| \$25-29.9K | 50 | 28 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 6 |
| \$30-39.9K | 52 | 30 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 2 |
| \$40K + | 52 | 30 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 2 |
| Own | 48 | 29 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 3 |
| Rent | 42 | 34 | 10 | 3 | 7 | 4 |
| White | 47 | 29 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 4 |
| Nonwhite | 42 | 35 | 9 | 3 | 9 | 2 |
| Employed | 47 | 32 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 3 |
| Employed Female | 36 | 36 | 9 | 3 | 11 | 5 |
| Not Employed | 46 | 26 | 12 | 4 | 8 | 4 |
| Not Employed Female | 44 | 28 | 11 | 4 | 9 | 4 |
| Professional, Manager, Owner | 51 | 28 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 2 |
| White Collar, Sales, Clerical | 45 | 28 | 10 | 3 | 7 | 7 |
| Blue Collar | 46 | 35 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 3 |
| Retired | 49 | 23 | 11 | 4 | 10 | 3 |
| Married | 47 | 30 | 9 | 2 | 8 | 4 |
| Not Married | 46 | 31 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 3 |
| Household Size: 1-2 People | 47 | 29 | 9 | 3 | 9 | 3 |
| 3-4 People | 47 | 30 | 9 | 2 | 6 | 6 |
| 5+ People | 33 | 54 | — | 7 | 3 | 3 |
| Children in Household: Under 18 | 46 | 33 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 4 |
| No Children | 48 | 27 | 9 | 4 | 9 | 3 |
| Northeast | 46 | 25 | 13 | 5 | 10 | 1 |
| North-Central | 51 | 32 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 3 |
| South | 52 | 27 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 2 |
| West | 32 | 38 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 9 |
| Nonmetro | 45 | 32 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 6 |
| Metro: 50,000 and Over | | | | | | |
| Fringe | 46 | 32 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 2 |
| Central City | 49 | 26 | 13 | 4 | 7 | 1 |

— represents zero

*less than 0.5 percent

Table 12

1989

**In Which Level of Government Do You Have the Most Trust and Confidence
to Handle Each of the Following Problems Most Effectively?**

Improving Public Schools

(in percent)

| | 1. Federal | 2. State | 3. Local | 4. All of them (volunteered) | 5. None of them (volunteered) | 6. Don't know/No answer |
|---------------------------------|------------|----------|----------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Total Public | 12 | 42 | 32 | 7 | 4 | 3 |
| Male | 17 | 42 | 29 | 6 | 3 | 3 |
| Female | 8 | 41 | 34 | 8 | 5 | 4 |
| Head of Household | 12 | 41 | 34 | 6 | 4 | 3 |
| Male Head | 16 | 41 | 32 | 5 | 3 | 3 |
| Female Head | 9 | 41 | 35 | 7 | 5 | 3 |
| Under 35 Years of Age | 12 | 49 | 25 | 7 | 4 | 3 |
| 18-24 | 12 | 53 | 25 | 7 | * | 3 |
| 25-34 | 13 | 46 | 25 | 7 | 6 | 3 |
| 35-44 | 16 | 38 | 34 | 5 | 3 | 4 |
| 45-65 | 11 | 39 | 35 | 7 | 5 | 3 |
| Over 65 | 11 | 37 | 36 | 8 | 4 | 4 |
| High School Incomplete | 15 | 41 | 28 | 7 | 2 | 7 |
| High School Graduate | 11 | 43 | 33 | 8 | 3 | 2 |
| College Incomplete | 11 | 47 | 28 | 4 | 8 | 2 |
| College Graduate | 14 | 36 | 37 | 6 | 5 | 2 |
| Household Income: Under \$15K | 11 | 43 | 31 | 8 | 1 | 6 |
| \$15-24.9K | 15 | 42 | 28 | 9 | 4 | 2 |
| \$25K + | 13 | 41 | 34 | 5 | 5 | 2 |
| \$25-29.9K | 16 | 36 | 32 | 4 | 7 | 5 |
| \$30-39.9K | 11 | 45 | 33 | 6 | 4 | 1 |
| \$40K + | 13 | 40 | 35 | 5 | 5 | 2 |
| Own | 12 | 41 | 33 | 6 | 5 | 3 |
| Rent | 14 | 45 | 27 | 9 | 2 | 3 |
| White | 12 | 41 | 34 | 6 | 4 | 3 |
| Nonwhite | 14 | 49 | 14 | 10 | 8 | 5 |
| Employed | 14 | 41 | 30 | 7 | 5 | 3 |
| Employed Female | 9 | 39 | 35 | 8 | 6 | 3 |
| Not Employed | 10 | 43 | 33 | 7 | 3 | 4 |
| Not Employed Female | 8 | 45 | 33 | 7 | 3 | 4 |
| Professional, Manager, Owner | 16 | 37 | 33 | 7 | 6 | 1 |
| White Collar, Sales, Clerical | 12 | 41 | 30 | 6 | 5 | 6 |
| Blue Collar | 14 | 44 | 29 | 7 | 3 | 3 |
| Retired | 9 | 45 | 36 | 5 | 4 | 1 |
| Married | 13 | 40 | 33 | 7 | 4 | 3 |
| Not Married | 12 | 45 | 28 | 7 | 4 | 4 |
| Household Size: 1-2 People | 12 | 43 | 33 | 6 | 4 | 2 |
| 3-4 People | 13 | 41 | 27 | 8 | 4 | 7 |
| 5+ People | 7 | 38 | 30 | 17 | 8 | — |
| Children in Household: Under 18 | 14 | 41 | 30 | 7 | 4 | 4 |
| No Children | 11 | 43 | 32 | 7 | 4 | 3 |
| Northeast | 12 | 32 | 40 | 10 | 6 | * |
| North-Central | 8 | 50 | 33 | 5 | 2 | 2 |
| South | 14 | 43 | 29 | 7 | 4 | 3 |
| West | 15 | 40 | 26 | 6 | 4 | 9 |
| Nonmetro | 10 | 45 | 33 | 5 | 2 | 5 |
| Metro: 50,000 and Over | | | | | | |
| Fringe | 13 | 39 | 35 | 6 | 5 | 2 |
| Central City | 15 | 41 | 26 | 10 | 6 | 2 |

— represents zero

*less than 0.5 percent

Table 13

1989

**In Which Level of Government Do You Have the Most Trust and Confidence
to Handle Each of the Following Problems Most Effectively?
Managing Urban Development to Limit Costs and Congestion**

(in percent)

| | 1. Federal | 2. State | 3. Local | 4. All of them (volunteered) | 5. None of them (volunteered) | 6. Don't know/No answer |
|---------------------------------|------------|----------|----------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Total Public | 17 | 37 | 29 | 6 | 7 | 4 |
| Male | 17 | 38 | 29 | 5 | 7 | 4 |
| Female | 16 | 36 | 29 | 6 | 8 | 5 |
| Head of Household | 16 | 37 | 30 | 5 | 8 | 4 |
| Male Head | 17 | 36 | 31 | 4 | 8 | 4 |
| Female Head | 16 | 37 | 29 | 6 | 8 | 4 |
| Under 35 Years of Age | 17 | 42 | 25 | 6 | 7 | 3 |
| 18-24 | 16 | 43 | 28 | 4 | 6 | 3 |
| 25-34 | 18 | 41 | 24 | 6 | 8 | 3 |
| 35-44 | 17 | 37 | 34 | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| 45-65 | 16 | 33 | 31 | 7 | 9 | 4 |
| Over 65 | 16 | 31 | 29 | 9 | 9 | 6 |
| High School Incomplete | 24 | 28 | 24 | 8 | 7 | 9 |
| High School Graduate | 17 | 41 | 25 | 8 | 6 | 3 |
| College Incomplete | 13 | 38 | 34 | 2 | 10 | 3 |
| College Graduate | 13 | 36 | 37 | 2 | 8 | 4 |
| Household Income: Under \$15K | 22 | 36 | 21 | 8 | 7 | 6 |
| \$15-24.9K | 14 | 37 | 30 | 10 | 5 | 4 |
| \$25K + | 17 | 38 | 31 | 3 | 8 | 3 |
| \$25-29.9K | 19 | 32 | 25 | 2 | 14 | 8 |
| \$30-39.9K | 16 | 44 | 31 | 3 | 4 | 2 |
| \$40K + | 16 | 37 | 33 | 3 | 9 | 2 |
| Own | 16 | 36 | 30 | 5 | 8 | 5 |
| Rent | 19 | 37 | 27 | 7 | 6 | 4 |
| White | 16 | 37 | 31 | 5 | 7 | 4 |
| Nonwhite | 21 | 34 | 18 | 10 | 10 | 7 |
| Employed | 17 | 38 | 29 | 4 | 8 | 4 |
| Employed Female | 18 | 35 | 29 | 4 | 10 | 4 |
| Not Employed | 17 | 35 | 29 | 8 | 6 | 5 |
| Not Employed Female | 16 | 36 | 29 | 8 | 6 | 5 |
| Professional, Manager, Owner | 13 | 34 | 39 | 3 | 10 | 1 |
| White Collar, Sales, Clerical | 16 | 40 | 22 | 6 | 10 | 6 |
| Blue Collar | 19 | 39 | 26 | 6 | 5 | 5 |
| Retired | 17 | 32 | 33 | 5 | 9 | 4 |
| Married | 16 | 36 | 30 | 6 | 8 | 4 |
| Not Married | 17 | 39 | 27 | 6 | 7 | 4 |
| Household Size: 1-2 People | 17 | 37 | 30 | 6 | 7 | 3 |
| 3-4 People | 14 | 37 | 27 | 6 | 8 | 8 |
| 5+ People | 44 | 29 | 14 | 10 | 3 | — |
| Children in Household: Under 18 | 18 | 36 | 29 | 4 | 8 | 5 |
| No Children | 16 | 37 | 29 | 7 | 7 | 4 |
| Northeast | 15 | 37 | 27 | 8 | 12 | 1 |
| North-Central | 17 | 44 | 27 | 4 | 5 | 3 |
| South | 21 | 34 | 27 | 6 | 9 | 3 |
| West | 10 | 32 | 36 | 6 | 5 | 11 |
| Nonmetro | 17 | 39 | 26 | 4 | 7 | 7 |
| Metro: 50,000 and Over | | | | | | |
| Fringe | 15 | 37 | 33 | 5 | 7 | 3 |
| Central City | 19 | 33 | 28 | 9 | 9 | 2 |

— represents zero

Table 14

1989

**In Which Level of Government Do You Have the Most Trust and Confidence
to Handle Each of the Following Problems Most Effectively?
Disposing of or Recycling Trash**
(in percent)

| | 1. Federal | 2. State | 3. Local | 4. All of them (volunteered) | 5. None of them (volunteered) | 6. Don't know/No answer |
|---------------------------------|------------|----------|----------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Total Public | 9 | 28 | 50 | 4 | 5 | 4 |
| Male | 11 | 30 | 46 | 4 | 6 | 3 |
| Female | 7 | 26 | 53 | 4 | 5 | 5 |
| Head of Household | 9 | 28 | 50 | 4 | 6 | 3 |
| Male Head | 11 | 30 | 47 | 4 | 5 | 3 |
| Female Head | 6 | 26 | 54 | 4 | 6 | 4 |
| Under 35 Years of Age | 8 | 32 | 45 | 6 | 5 | 4 |
| 18-24 | 7 | 35 | 45 | 6 | 3 | 4 |
| 25-34 | 8 | 31 | 45 | 6 | 6 | 4 |
| 35-44 | 8 | 27 | 54 | 2 | 4 | 5 |
| 45-65 | 11 | 27 | 49 | 4 | 7 | 2 |
| Over 65 | 8 | 22 | 56 | 2 | 7 | 5 |
| High School Incomplete | 13 | 22 | 47 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| High School Graduate | 9 | 31 | 49 | 5 | 3 | 3 |
| College Incomplete | 6 | 33 | 47 | 2 | 9 | 3 |
| College Graduate | 7 | 24 | 59 | 3 | 5 | 2 |
| Household Income: Under \$15K | 7 | 30 | 48 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| \$15-24.9K | 9 | 28 | 49 | 7 | 5 | 2 |
| \$25K + | 9 | 28 | 52 | 2 | 6 | 3 |
| \$25-29.9K | 12 | 31 | 39 | 1 | 8 | 9 |
| \$30-39.9K | 11 | 31 | 50 | 2 | 4 | 2 |
| \$40K + | 7 | 25 | 57 | 3 | 6 | 2 |
| Own | 9 | 27 | 52 | 2 | 6 | 4 |
| Rent | 9 | 30 | 44 | 7 | 5 | 5 |
| White | 8 | 28 | 51 | 4 | 5 | 4 |
| Nonwhite | 13 | 32 | 38 | 7 | 6 | 4 |
| Employed | 9 | 28 | 49 | 5 | 6 | 3 |
| Employed Female | 6 | 23 | 55 | 5 | 7 | 4 |
| Not Employed | 8 | 29 | 51 | 3 | 5 | 4 |
| Not Employed Female | 8 | 29 | 52 | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| Professional, Manager, Owner | 7 | 28 | 53 | 2 | 8 | 2 |
| White Collar, Sales, Clerical | 8 | 23 | 46 | 9 | 6 | 8 |
| Blue Collar | 12 | 30 | 46 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Retired | 9 | 26 | 55 | 2 | 6 | 2 |
| Married | 10 | 27 | 50 | 3 | 6 | 4 |
| Not Married | 7 | 30 | 48 | 6 | 5 | 4 |
| Household Size: 1-2 People | 8 | 29 | 50 | 4 | 6 | 3 |
| 3-4 People | 11 | 26 | 47 | 5 | 5 | 6 |
| 5+ People | 10 | 24 | 56 | 7 | 3 | — |
| Children in Household: Under 18 | 10 | 32 | 46 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| No Children | 8 | 25 | 53 | 4 | 6 | 4 |
| Northeast | 5 | 25 | 58 | 6 | 6 | — |
| North-Central | 10 | 31 | 46 | 3 | 5 | 5 |
| South | 12 | 30 | 47 | 3 | 6 | 2 |
| West | 5 | 24 | 51 | 5 | 5 | 10 |
| Nonmetro | 9 | 29 | 49 | 2 | 5 | 6 |
| Metro: 50,000 and Over | | | | | | |
| Fringe | 7 | 27 | 55 | 3 | 5 | 3 |
| Central City | 11 | 28 | 45 | 8 | 6 | 2 |

— represents zero.

Table 15

1989

**In Which Level of Government Do You Have the Most Trust and Confidence
to Handle Each of the Following Problems Most Effectively?**

Helping the Homeless

(in percent)

| | 1. Federal | 2. State | 3. Local | 4. All of them (volunteered) | 5. None of them (volunteered) | 6. Don't know/No answer |
|---------------------------------|------------|----------|----------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Total Public | 28 | 26 | 27 | 9 | 7 | 3 |
| Male | 32 | 27 | 23 | 8 | 7 | 3 |
| Female | 23 | 25 | 30 | 10 | 8 | 4 |
| Head of Household | 27 | 26 | 28 | 8 | 8 | 3 |
| Male Head | 31 | 26 | 26 | 7 | 7 | 3 |
| Female Head | 22 | 27 | 30 | 9 | 8 | 4 |
| Under 35 Years of Age | 32 | 27 | 23 | 8 | 7 | 3 |
| 18-24 | 41 | 24 | 21 | 7 | 5 | 2 |
| 25-34 | 27 | 29 | 24 | 9 | 9 | 2 |
| 35-44 | 27 | 23 | 33 | 5 | 7 | 5 |
| 45-65 | 25 | 30 | 27 | 9 | 6 | 3 |
| Over 65 | 25 | 18 | 28 | 14 | 10 | 5 |
| High School Incomplete | 32 | 22 | 20 | 12 | 7 | 7 |
| High School Graduate | 25 | 26 | 29 | 10 | 7 | 3 |
| College Incomplete | 26 | 29 | 27 | 6 | 9 | 3 |
| College Graduate | 30 | 26 | 31 | 5 | 6 | 2 |
| Household Income: Under \$15K | 27 | 27 | 24 | 10 | 7 | 5 |
| \$15-24.9K | 28 | 24 | 24 | 14 | 8 | 2 |
| \$25K+ | 28 | 27 | 29 | 6 | 7 | 3 |
| \$25-29.9K | 28 | 24 | 24 | 4 | 12 | 8 |
| \$30-39.9K | 26 | 31 | 30 | 7 | 4 | 2 |
| \$40K+ | 29 | 26 | 31 | 6 | 6 | 2 |
| Own | 28 | 23 | 29 | 8 | 8 | 4 |
| Rent | 27 | 31 | 23 | 12 | 4 | 3 |
| White | 29 | 26 | 28 | 8 | 6 | 3 |
| Nonwhite | 20 | 26 | 19 | 14 | 15 | 6 |
| Employed | 29 | 26 | 26 | 8 | 8 | 3 |
| Employed Female | 22 | 25 | 31 | 9 | 10 | 3 |
| Not Employed | 27 | 23 | 28 | 11 | 6 | 5 |
| Not Employed Female | 26 | 23 | 29 | 11 | 6 | 5 |
| Professional, Manager, Owner | 27 | 26 | 30 | 7 | 9 | 1 |
| White Collar, Sales, Clerical | 24 | 28 | 26 | 7 | 10 | 5 |
| Blue Collar | 33 | 24 | 25 | 8 | 6 | 4 |
| Retired | 26 | 21 | 30 | 12 | 7 | 4 |
| Married | 26 | 27 | 28 | 9 | 7 | 3 |
| Not Married | 30 | 24 | 25 | 9 | 8 | 4 |
| Household Size: 1-2 People | 27 | 28 | 26 | 9 | 7 | 3 |
| 3-4 People | 29 | 18 | 29 | 9 | 8 | 7 |
| 5+ People | 44 | 27 | 16 | 10 | 3 | — |
| Children in Household: Under 18 | 26 | 28 | 28 | 7 | 7 | 4 |
| No Children | 30 | 24 | 26 | 10 | 7 | 3 |
| Northeast | 32 | 22 | 24 | 14 | 7 | 1 |
| North-Central | 26 | 30 | 30 | 7 | 4 | 3 |
| South | 28 | 23 | 29 | 8 | 10 | 2 |
| West | 25 | 28 | 23 | 8 | 7 | 9 |
| Nonmetro | 26 | 32 | 24 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Metro: 50,000 and Over | | | | | | |
| Fringe | 31 | 23 | 29 | 8 | 7 | 2 |
| Central City | 24 | 21 | 29 | 14 | 10 | 2 |

— represents zero

Appendix II

Guide to Current and Historical Questions, 1988-72

This guide is an index to all questions asked in the ACIR polls from 1972 until 1989. Individuals wishing to order data may (1) order individual reference tables and/or (2) order the publications in which the data appear.

This index should be read as follows: The first column is the question wording. Column 2 (Year) reports the years in which the question was asked. Column 3 (Reference Table number) reports the number of the Reference Table containing this question.

Column 4 (Publication, Table number) reports the publication and table number for previously published detailed tables.

The data for the questions asked in 1989 are published in *Changing Public Attitudes on Government and Taxes 1989* (S-18). The data for the period 1982-88 are in volume S-17 and the data for 1972-81 are in volumes S-12 or S-13. For years with blanks, data are included in the first tables in that list.

| | Year | Reference Table Numbers | Publication, Table Numbers |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Taxes | | | |
| Federal-State-Local Taxes | | | |
| From which level of government do you feel you get the most for your money —federal, state, or local? | 1989-72 | 1-4 2 | S-18, 1 S-17, 1-4 |
| From which level of government do you feel you get the least for your money —federal, state, or local? | 1989 | 49 | S-18, 2 |
| Considering all government services on the one hand and taxes on the other, which of the following statements comes closest to your view? | 1986, 82 1980-77 1976-75 | 38-40 | S-17, 38-40 |
| Here is a list of the major types of taxes in the country today. Which do you think is the fairest? | 1972, 74 | E | S-13, E |
| Which do you think is the worst tax, that is, the least fair? | 1988-77 1975-72 | 6-9 | S-18, 3 S-17, 6-9 |
| Which do you think is the worst tax, that is, the least fair—including Social Security? | 1989-88 | 5 | S-18, 4 S-17, 5 |
| Federal-Local Taxes | | | |
| Which statement agrees most with your own thinking about the national value-added tax and local property tax? | 1972 | 1 | S-13, 1 |
| Federal Taxes | | | |
| If the federal government had to raise taxes/revenues, which would be the best way to do it? | 1987 1984 1983 1972 | 22-24 K | S-17, 22-24 S-13, K |
| If the federal income tax collections must be increased, which way is the best? | 1983 | 25 | S-17, 25 |
| Which one of the changes would be the single most important change that would make the nation's tax system more fair? | 1983 | 46 | S-17, 46 |

| | | | |
|---|------------------------------|--------|--------------------|
| Which one way of reducing the federal deficit would you prefer? | 1984 | 43 | S-17, 43 |
| State Taxes | | | |
| Suppose your state government must raise taxes/revenues, which would be the way to do it? | 1987 1983 | 26-27 | S-17, 26-27 |
| 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? | 1972, 76 1977 | D L | S-13, D S-13, L |
| Local Taxes | | | |
| Suppose your local government must raise more taxes/revenue, which would be the way to do it? | 1987 1986 1983 1981 | 28-31 | S-17, 28-31 |
| Which reason do you feel is the most important for dissatisfaction with the property tax? | 1977 | G | S-13, G |
| Aid Programs | | | |
| Federal Aid | | | |
| Rank types of federal grant programs as to whether they are necessary or unnecessary. | 1982 | 16 | S-17,16 |
| Do you favor or oppose revenue sharing? | 1973-76, 79 | C | S-13, C |
| Do you favor or oppose special federal aid for central cities experiencing financial difficulty? | 1976-79 | J | S-13, J |
| For which, if any, of the following programs should the federal government stop providing federal financial support? | 1985 | 42 | S-17, 42 |
| State Aid | | | |
| With the cutbacks in federal financial aid to local governments, what should states do? | 1983 | 47 | S-17, 47 |
| Welfare | | | |
| Should single parents receiving welfare be required to work in a government program to continue receiving payments? | 1986 | 41 | S-17, 41 |
| Spending | | | |
| Federal-State-Local Spending | | | |
| Which level of government do you think spends your tax dollars most wisely—federal, state, or local? | 1989 | 52 | S-18, 7 |
| Federal Spending | | | |
| Which functions should the federal government turn back to state and local governments? | 1981 | P | S-13, P |
| Which one way of reducing the federal deficit would you prefer? | 1984 | 43 | S-17, 43 |
| If the federal government decides to reduce spending, which one way would you prefer? | 1986, 84 | 37 | S-17, 37 |
| State-Local Spending | | | |
| Supposing the budgets of your state and local governments have to be curtailed, which one part would you limit most severely? | 1980-81 | O | S-13, O |
| Government Power and Efficiency | | | |
| Federal-State-Local Power | | | |
| Which level of government do you think has too much power today—federal, state, or local? | 1989 | 53 | S-18, 8 |
| Which level of government do you think needs more power today—federal, state, or local? | 1989 | 54 | S-18, 9 |
| How much power do you feel the federal government has over the activities of state and local government? | 1987 | 32 | S-17, 32 |

| | | | |
|--|-----------------|-------|-------------|
| Which of these statements comes closest to your view about government power today? | 1986-82 1978 | 35,36 | S-17, 35-36 |
|--|-----------------|-------|-------------|

Federal Efficiency

| | | | |
|--|------|----|----------|
| In your opinion, how often does the federal government perform its duties efficiently and at the best cost possible? | 1988 | 10 | S-17, 10 |
|--|------|----|----------|

Federal-State-Local Efficiency

| | | | |
|---|---------|-----|-----------|
| From which level of government do you feel you get the most for your money? | 1989-72 | 1-4 | S-17, 1-4 |
|---|---------|-----|-----------|

| | | | |
|---|------|----|----------|
| Which government do you feel wastes the most of your tax money? | 1987 | 21 | S-17, 21 |
|---|------|----|----------|

| | | | |
|---|------|----|----------|
| In your opinion, how often does your state government perform its duties efficiently and at the best cost possible? | 1988 | 11 | S-17, 11 |
|---|------|----|----------|

| | | | |
|---|------|----|----------|
| In your opinion, how often does your local government perform its duties efficiently and at the best cost possible? | 1988 | 12 | S-17, 12 |
|---|------|----|----------|

State-Local Efficiency

| | | | |
|---|------|---|---------|
| 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 | S-13, N |
|---|------|---|---------|

| | | | |
|--|------|----|----------|
| Would the following services be more efficiently produced/delivered by private companies or your local government? | 1985 | 44 | S-17, 44 |
|--|------|----|----------|

Trust and Confidence in Government

Federal-State-Local Confidence

| | | | |
|---|------|----|---------|
| On the whole, who do you think is the most honest—federal officials, state officials, or local officials? | 1989 | 50 | S-18, 5 |
|---|------|----|---------|

| | | | |
|---|------|----|---------|
| Which level of government do you think responds best to your needs? | 1989 | 51 | S-18, 6 |
|---|------|----|---------|

| | | | |
|--|------|----|----------|
| How much trust and confidence do you have in your government to do a good job? | 1987 | 34 | S-17, 34 |
|--|------|----|----------|

| | | | |
|--|------|----|----------|
| In which people in government do you have the most trust and confidence? | 1987 | 33 | S-17, 33 |
|--|------|----|----------|

Government Functions

In which level of government do you have the most trust and confidence to handle each of the following problems most effectively—federal, state, or local?

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------|----|----------|
| a. Disposing of or recycling trash? | 1989 | 59 | S-18, 14 |
|-------------------------------------|------|----|----------|

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|------|----|----------|
| b. Cleaning up air pollution? | 1989 | 56 | S-18, 11 |
|-------------------------------|------|----|----------|

| | | | |
|----------------------------|------|----|----------|
| c. Fighting against drugs? | 1989 | 55 | S-18, 10 |
|----------------------------|------|----|----------|

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------|----|----------|
| d. Improving public schools? | 1989 | 57 | S-18, 12 |
|------------------------------|------|----|----------|

| | | | |
|--------------------------|------|----|----------|
| e. Helping the homeless? | 1989 | 60 | S-18, 15 |
|--------------------------|------|----|----------|

| | | | |
|---|------|----|----------|
| f. Managing urban development to limit cost and congestion? | 1989 | 58 | S-18, 13 |
|---|------|----|----------|

Foreign Policy and Trade

| | | | |
|---|------|----|----------|
| In recent years, many states have set up full-time offices in foreign countries to promote trade, tourism, and investment for their states. Are these state offices usually a very good use of public funds, a somewhat good use, not a very good use, or a poor use of public funds? | 1988 | 15 | S-17, 15 |
|---|------|----|----------|

| | | | |
|---|------|----|----------|
| In recent years, many governors and mayors have traveled to foreign countries to promote trade, tourism, and investment for their states. Are these foreign trips by governors and mayors usually a very good use of public funds, a somewhat good use, a not a very good use, or a poor use of public funds? | 1988 | 16 | S-17, 16 |
|---|------|----|----------|

| | | | |
|---|------|----|----------|
| Many city councils have passed resolutions on such foreign policy issues as Israel, Northern Ireland, South Africa, and nuclear weapons. These resolutions sometimes oppose the foreign policy of the President and Congress. Do you think it is very proper, somewhat proper, not very proper, or not proper at all for city councils to pass resolutions on foreign policy? | 1988 | 17 | S-17, 17 |
|---|------|----|----------|

Public Works

| | | | |
|--|------|----|----------|
| If you were to grade the performance of the following types of public works services based on your own experience, what grade would you give each—roads and bridges, water supply, solid waste disposal? | 1988 | 18 | S-17, 18 |
|--|------|----|----------|

| | | | |
|--|------|----|----------|
| Average grades for public works services | 1988 | 19 | S-17, 19 |
| If there is a need to raise additional revenues to improve public works services, which one of these methods would you prefer? | 1988 | 20 | S-17, 20 |

Other

Political Organizations

| | | | |
|---|------|----|----------|
| In general, which one of the organizations listed below do you feel best represents the political interests of people like you? | 1983 | 48 | S-17, 48 |
|---|------|----|----------|

State Surplus Funds

| | | | |
|--|------|----|----------|
| How should states use their surplus funds? | 1984 | 45 | S-17, 45 |
|--|------|----|----------|

State Constitutions

| | | | |
|--|------|----|----------|
| Does your state have its own constitution, or does it rely on the United States Constitution for its governing powers? | 1988 | 13 | S-17, 13 |
|--|------|----|----------|

| | | | |
|--|------|----|----------|
| Does the constitution of your state have a Bill of Rights or some other provisions that protect individual rights, like freedom of religion and freedom of speech? | 1988 | 14 | S-17, 14 |
|--|------|----|----------|

Recent Publications of the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations

| | |
|---|---------|
| State Constitutions in the Federal System: Selected Issues and Opportunities for State Initiatives A-113, 7/89, 128 pp. | \$15.00 |
| Residential Community Associations: Questions and Answers for Public Officials M-166, 7/89, 40 pp. | \$5.00 |
| Residential Community Associations: Private Governments in the Intergovernmental System? A-112, 5/89, 128 pp. | \$10.00 |
| Readings in Federalism—Perspectives on a Decade of Change, SR-11, 5/89, 128 pp. | \$10.00 |
| Disability Rights Mandates: Federal and State Compliance with Employment Protections and Architectural Barrier Removal, A-111, 4/89, 136 pp. | \$10.00 |
| 1986 State Fiscal Capacity and Effort, M-165, 3/89, 128 pp. | \$15.00 |
| Hearings on Constitutional Reform of Federalism: Statements by State and Local Government Association Representatives, M-164, 1/89, 60 pp. | \$5.00 |
| Significant Features of Fiscal Federalism, 1989 Edition, Vol. I, M-163, 1/89, 160 pp. | \$15.00 |
| State and Federal Regulation of Banking: A Roundtable Discussion, M-162, 11/88, 36 pp. | \$5.00 |
| Assisting the Homeless: State and Local Responses in an Era of Limited Resources, M-161, 11/88, 160 pp. | \$10.00 |
| Devolution of Federal Aid Highway Programs: Cases in State-Local Relations and Issues in State Law, M-160, 10/88, 60 pp. | \$5.00 |
| State Regulations of Banks in an Era of Deregulation, A-110, 9/88, 36 pp. | \$10.00 |
| State Constitutional Law: Cases and Materials, M-159, 9/88, 480 pp. | \$25.00 |
| Changing Public Attitudes on Governments and Taxes: 1988, S-17, 9/88, 88 pp. | \$10.00 |
| Local Revenue Diversification: Local Income Taxes, SR-10, 8/88, 52 pp. | \$5.00 |
| Metropolitan Organization: The St. Louis Case, M-158, 9/88, 176 pp. | \$10.00 |
| Significant Features of Fiscal Federalism, 1988 Edition Vol II, M-155 II, 9/88, 152 pp. | \$10.00 |
| Interjurisdictional Competition in the Federal System: A Roundtable Discussion, M-157, 8/88, 32 pp. | \$5.00 |
| State-Local Highway Consultation and Cooperation: The Perspective of State Legislators, SR-9, 5/88, 54 pp. | \$5.00 |
| Governments at Risk: Liability Insurance and Tort Reform, SR-7, 12/87, 42 pp. | \$5.00 |
| The Organization of Local Public Economies, A-109, 12/87, 64 pp. | \$5.00 |
| Measuring State Fiscal Capacity, 1987 Edition, M-156, 12/87, 152 pp. | \$10.00 |
| Is Constitutional Reform Necessary to Reinvigorate Federalism? A Roundtable Discussion, M-154, 11/87, 39 pp. | \$5.00 |
| Local Revenue Diversification: User Charges, SR-6, 10/87, 64 pp. | \$5.00 |
| The Transformation in American Politics: Implications for Federalism, B-9R, 10/87, 88 pp. | \$5.00 |
| Devolving Selected Federal-Aid Highway Programs and Revenue Bases: A Critical Appraisal, A-108, 9/87, 56 pp. | \$10.00 |
| Estimates of Revenue Potential from State Taxation of Out-of-State Mail Order Sales, SR-5, 9/87, 10 pp. | \$3.00 |
| A Catalog of Federal Grant-in-Aid Programs to State and Local Governments: Grants Funded FY 1987, M-153, 8/87, 36 pp. | \$10.00 |
| Fiscal Discipline in the Federal System: National Reform and the Experience of the States, A-107, 8/87, 58 pp. | \$10.00 |
| Federalism and the Constitution: A Symposium on Garcia, M-152, 7/87, 88 pp. | \$10.00 |

What is ACIR?

The Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (ACIR) was created by the Congress in 1959 to monitor the operation of the American federal system and to recommend improvements. ACIR is a permanent national bipartisan body representing the executive and legislative branches of Federal, state, and local government and the public.

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 National Conference of State Legislatures, 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 of Representatives.

Each Commission member serves a two-year term and may be reappointed.

As a continuing body, the Commission addresses specific issues and problems, the resolution of which would produce improved cooperation among the levels of government and more effective functioning of the federal system. In addition to dealing with important functional and policy relationships among the various governments, the Commission extensively studies critical governmental finance issues. One of the long-range efforts of the Commission has been to seek ways to improve federal, state, and local governmental practices and policies to achieve equitable allocation of resources and increased efficiency and equity.

In selecting items for the research program, the Commission considers the relative importance and urgency of the problem, its manageability from the point of view of finances and staff available to ACIR, and the extent to which the Commission can make a fruitful contribution toward the solution of the problem.

After selecting specific intergovernmental issues for investigation, ACIR follows a multistep procedure that assures review and comment by representatives of all points of view, all affected levels of government, technical experts, and interested groups. The Commission then debates each issue and formulates its policy position. Commission findings and recommendations are published and draft bills and executive orders developed to assist in implementing ACIR policy recommendations.

