

A COMMISSION SURVEY

CHANGING
PUBLIC ATTITUDES
ON GOVERNMENTS
AND TAXES

1991

Advisory Commission on
Intergovernmental Relations
WASHINGTON, DC 20575

S-20



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(October 1991)

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Foreword

This publication presents the results of the 20th 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. A description of the poll appears on page 17. For 1991, the sample size is 1,069 adults aged 18 and over. The margin of error for a poll of this size is plus or minus 4 percentage points.

This year ACIR asked 14 questions.

The analysis of the poll results was prepared by Phillip E. Riggins and Jeffrey S. Fitzpatrick, analysts, 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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The 1991 Survey Highlights

Major findings from the U.S. Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations July 1991 poll on changing attitudes toward governments and taxes include the following:

- Since 1972, citizens have been asked, “Which do you think is the worst tax—that is, the least fair?” The 1991 responses show the local property tax as least fair (30 percent) for the third year in a row, followed by the federal income tax (26 percent). In 1990, the percentages were 28 for the local property tax and 26 for federal income tax.
- The question “From which level of government do you feel you get the most for your money—federal, state, or local?” was asked from 1972-1989, and again in 1991. This year, 31 percent said local government gives the most for the money, followed by the federal government (26 percent) and state government (22 percent). The “don’t know/ no answer” responses were 22 percent. Local government claimed the top spot from 1986-1988, but was rated second in 1989, behind the federal government.
- The question “Which level of government do you think spends your tax dollars most wisely?” was asked for the second time in the 1991 poll. The answer was unmistakably local government. Thirty-five percent of the respondents said local government spends their tax dollars most wisely. Far behind was the federal government (12 percent) and state government (14 percent). More people volunteered “none of them” (27 percent) than chose federal and state government combined. When this question was asked in 1989, local government was chosen by 36 percent; federal government, 11 percent; state government, 20 percent; and the volunteered “none of them,” 19 percent.
- For the second year, and the second time, a government cooperation question was asked. Of those polled, 50 percent said the federal and state governments cooperate very well or fairly well (7 percent and 43 percent, respectively). Thirty-seven percent thought those governments do not cooperate well, and 13 percent did not know or gave no answer. State-local relations were rated a little better—59 percent said those two governments are able to work together (9 percent said very well; 50 percent, fairly well). Thirty percent thought state and local governments do not cooperate well, and 12 percent did not know or gave no answer.
- The question of federal mandates to state and local governments was included in the 1991 poll for the first time. The views were mixed. Asked if the federal government was right in passing a law mandating better pay and overtime benefits for local employees, 60 percent of the respondents said that each local government should make those decisions; 30 percent said the federal government was right in passing the mandate. However, 61 percent agreed that the federal government was right to mandate that state governments provide more health care for the poor. In this case, only 30 percent said the state government should decide the level of services. On a question about cleaning up waterways, 71 percent thought the federal government was right to require that local governments improve the treatment of wastewater rather than allowing local governments to set treatment standards (22 percent).
Whether or not they agreed with the federal mandates in the poll, most Americans think the costs should be shared. On local pay and benefits, 47 percent said the federal and local governments should each pay part of the cost; 59 percent said the federal and state governments should share the costs of providing federally required health care services; and 62 percent said the federal and local governments should share the cost of federal wastewater treatment standards.
- Most Americans think the federal government has the most power in the United States. Asked, “Which level of government do you think has the most power in the U.S. federal system: federal, state, or local?” 60 percent chose a graphic distribution showing the federal government with the most power, followed by state and local governments, respectively. Fifteen percent selected a state-federal-local government power distribution, and 4 percent picked a local-state-federal arrangement. Nine percent believe power is evenly distributed between all three governments.

Given the chance to divide 100 units of power between the federal, state, and local governments as they chose, respondents gave the highest percentage to the federal government (average of 39 percent), followed by state governments (average 31 percent), and local governments (average 30 percent). Twenty-two percent distributed the power equally between federal, state, and local governments.

- When asked, “In addition to the United States Constitution, do you know if your state

has its own constitution, or does your state not have its own constitution?” 52 percent of voting-age Americans know that their state has its own constitution, but a surprising 37 percent do not know, and 11 percent believe that their state does not have a constitution. A similar question was asked in 1988 and 44 percent knew each state has its own constitution, 19 percent said their state relies on the U.S. Constitution for its governing power, and 32 percent did not know or gave no answer.

The 1991 Survey in Detail

This is the 20th annual survey on public attitudes toward governments and taxes commissioned by the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (ACIR). The sample for the poll was 1,069 adults aged 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. Details may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

This report contains only the 1991 survey results. Detailed data for each question are in Appendix I. Survey results for 1990 can be found in the 1990 report (S-19), for 1989 in the 1989 report (S-18), for 1982-1988 in the 1988 report (S-17), and for 1972-1981 in the 1982 or 1984 reports (S-12 and S-13).

TAXING AND SPENDING

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

Since the first poll in 1972, ACIR has asked Americans, "Which do you think is the worst tax—that is, the least fair: federal income tax, state income tax, state sales tax, or local property tax?" (see Figure

1 and Table 1).¹ This year, continuing a trend begun in 1989, 30 percent chose the local property tax as the least fair tax. The federal income tax was cited as least fair by 26 percent, while 19 percent picked the state sales tax, and 12 percent chose the state income tax. The 1989-1991 trend marks a dramatic change from 1979-1988, when the federal income tax was consistently ranked least fair.

The 1991 survey found that 43 percent of the respondents in the North-Central region think the local property tax is the worst tax, followed by the Northeast (32 percent), West (25 percent), and South (23 percent).

The largest percentages choosing the local property tax as worst included those from age 45 to over 65 (32 percent), high school graduates (36 percent), and individuals in households with incomes less than \$15,000 (36 percent). The lowest percentages for those choosing the local property tax were individuals

¹ In 1988 and 1989, two versions of this question were asked, one including the social security tax. Beginning in 1990, the two versions are being alternated. The question was not asked in 1976.

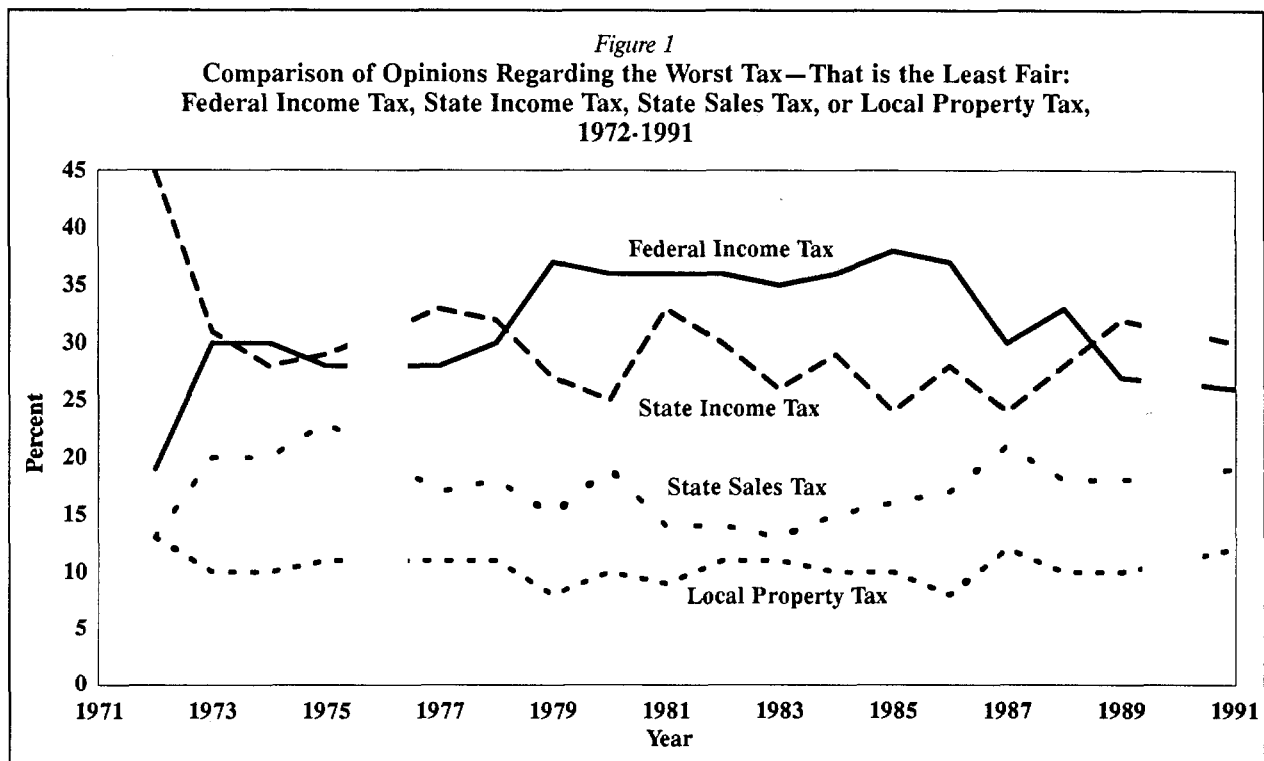


Table 1
Which Do You Think Is the Worst Tax—That Is the Least Fair?
1972-1991
 (percent)

	Federal Income Tax	State Income Tax	State Sales Tax	Local Property Tax	Don't Know/ No Answer
1991	26	12	19	30	14
1990			Different Version Asked		
1989	27	10	18	32	13
1988	33	10	18	28	11
1987	30	12	21	24	13
1986	37	8	17	28	10
1985	38	10	16	24	12
1984	36	10	15	29	10
1983	35	11	13	26	15
1982	36	11	14	30	9
1981	36	9	14	33	9
1980	36	10	19	25	10
1979	37	8	15	27	13
1978	30	11	18	32	10
1977	28	11	17	33	11
1976			Question Not Asked		
1975	28	11	23	29	10
1974	30	10	20	28	14
1973	30	10	20	31	11
1972	19	13	13	45	11
20-Year Average	32	10	16	30	11

aged 25-34 (27percent), college graduates (24 percent), and those in households with incomes of \$40,000 and over (25 percent). More homeowners than renters cited the local property tax as least fair (35 percent to 24 percent).

Among respondents citing the federal income tax as worst, the highest percentages making that choice were aged 35-44 (34 percent). The fewest picking the federal income tax included persons in the age group 18-24 (13 percent), those who had not completed high school (21 percent), and individuals in households with incomes less than \$15,000 (18 percent) (see Appendix I, Table A1).

The regional distribution for those choosing the federal income tax was South, 30 percent; West, 28 percent; North-Central, 24 percent; and Northeast, 20 percent.

Table 1 shows that the average "worst tax" rating for the federal income tax for the 20-year period (1972-1991) is 32 percent, slightly higher than the 30 percent average for the local property tax. State sales and state income taxes have consistently placed third and fourth, averaging 17 percent and 10 percent, respectively. Also, Americans have picked the federal income tax as "worst" more often than any other tax (11 of 18 times, compared to 7 of 18 times for the local property tax).

Often, fluctuations in public attitudes toward taxes have paralleled major political events and important changes in tax law. The rise of the federal

income tax as "worst," beginning in 1978, corresponded with the passage of Proposition 13 in California. The extensive media coverage of Proposition 13 and similar tax revolts in other states dissipated some of the animosity toward the local property tax, at least as reflected in the survey responses. Nationally, the percentage of Americans who identified the local property tax as least fair began to drop in 1978, and continued falling in 1979 and 1980 (see Figure 1). Prior to 1979, the local property tax was chosen as "worst," ahead of the federal income tax, in every year except 1974. From 1979 to 1989, this pattern was reversed.

Regional analysis of the local property tax over 20 years reveals that the dramatic decline in the West accounts for much of the drop nationally (see Tables 2 through 5). In the first ACIR poll after passage of Proposition 13, the West registered a drop of 20 percentage points (44 to 24 percent) in those citing the local property tax as the least fair. Much of the growing antipathy toward the local property tax nationally in the late 1980s is attributable to increasing dissatisfaction in the Northeast and North-Central states.

Similarly, enactment of the federal *Tax Reform Act* in 1986 appears to have improved the public's perception of the federal income tax. While Americans chose the federal income tax as worst throughout most of the 1980s, the percentage fell from 37 to 30 percent between 1986 and 1987 (see Table 1). In 1989, the federal income tax was displaced as least fair by the local property tax.

Table 2
Which Do You Think Is the Worst Tax—That Is the Least Fair?
Northeast Region
1972-1991
 (percent)

	Federal Income Tax	State Income Tax	State Sales Tax	Local Property Tax	Don't Know/ No Answer
1991	20	15	21	32	13
1990			Different Version Asked		
1989	20	11	24	40	5
1988	31	10	16	35	8
1987	21	9	27	28	15
1986	31	9	22	27	11
1985	32	10	22	22	14
1984	27	13	24	28	8
1983	29	17	15	23	16
1982	37	11	16	24	12
1981	24	12	22	39	3
1980	31	13	25	22	9
1979	27	10	24	29	10
1978	25	18	21	27	9
1977	20	17	23	28	13
1976			Question Not Asked		
1975	21	15	27	30	10
1974	29	11	21	29	17
1973	29	12	23	28	9
1972	13	16	20	38	13

Table 3
Which Do You Think Is the Worst Tax—That Is the Least Fair?
North-Central Region
1972-1991
 (percent)

	Federal Income Tax	State Income Tax	State Sales Tax	Local Property Tax	Don't Know/ No Answer
1991	24	7	14	43	12
1990			Different Version Asked		
1989	28	9	13	36	14
1988	31	11	17	32	9
1987	32	14	18	26	10
1986	37	8	14	34	7
1985	34	9	15	33	29
1984	32	7	12	39	10
1983	34	15	10	29	12
1982	32	11	12	37	8
1981	33	7	13	38	10
1980	37	9	17	28	9
1979	38	10	11	30	11
1978	34	11	15	35	7
1977	32	9	15	37	8
1976			Question Not Asked		
1975	25	14	21	34	7
1974	32	12	20	27	9
1973	27	9	20	36	10
1972	16	11	9	56	10

Table 4
Which Do You Think Is the Worst Tax—That Is the Least Fair?
Southern Region
1972-1991
 (percent)

	Federal Income Tax	State Income Tax	State Sales Tax	Local Property Tax	Don't Know/ No Answer
1991	30	16	17	23	14
1990			Different Version Asked		
1989	31	8	18	30	13
1988	31	10	19	27	13
1987	35	12	21	19	13
1986	36	6	16	28	14
1985	42	9	14	21	14
1984	39	10	13	27	11
1983	36	6	12	28	17
1982	38	10	10	33	9
1981	43	8	11	27	1
1980	39	11	15	24	11
1979	38	6	13	25	17
1978	33	6	19	27	17
1977	33	10	17	25	14
1976			Question Not Asked		
1975	33	6	22	25	14
1974	29	9	19	23	19
1973	30	11	20	25	14
1972	26	12	13	34	16

Table 5
Which Do You Think Is the Worst Tax—That Is the Least Fair?
Western Region
1972-1991
 (percent)

	Federal Income Tax	State Income Tax	State Sales Tax	Local Property Tax	Don't Know/ No Answer
1991	28	8	24	25	16
1990			Different Version Asked		
1989	28	11	19	23	19
1988	39	9	19	18	15
1987	28	10	20	28	14
1986	44	9	16	22	9
1985	39	13	17	18	13
1984	44	12	14	20	10
1983	43	8	14	21	14
1982	34	12	24	22	8
1981	40	8	14	30	9
1980	37	9	19	25	10
1979	45	9	11	24	11
1978	23	11	19	44	5
1977	25	7	15	45	7
1976			Question Not Asked		
1975	31	12	23	27	10
1974	29	4	19	38	11
1973	35	8	13	36	8
1972	18	12	11	54	5

Table 6
From Which Level of Government
Do You Feel You Get the Most for Your Money
— Federal, State, or Local?
 (percent)

	Federal	State	Local	Don't Know/ No Answer
1991	26	22	31	22
1990		Not Asked		
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

(See Appendix I, Table A2, page 21, for 1991 detailed data.)

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

For the past 20 years, the ACIR poll has asked, "From which level of government do you get the most for your money?"² This year, 31 percent of those asked identified local government as giving them the most for their money, followed by the federal government (26 percent), and state government (22 percent). Twenty-two percent of respondents were not sure or gave no answer (see Table 6). When the question was asked in 1989, 33 percent chose the federal government and 29 percent picked local government as giving the most for the money.

The highest percentage picking local government as giving them the most for their money were college graduates (52 percent); individuals in households with incomes of \$40,000 or more (43 percent); and professionals, managers, and business owners (42 percent) (see Appendix I, Table A2). The federal government was chosen most by blacks (36 percent), residents of the Northeast (34 percent), those who did not complete high school (33 percent), persons over age 65 (32 percent), and individuals in households with incomes less than \$15,000 (32 percent). State government was chosen most as giving them the most for their money by individuals aged 18 to 24 (33 percent); white collar, sales, and clerical workers (28 percent); and employed females (28 percent).

²In 1989, ACIR asked two variations of this question—from which government do you feel you get the *most* and the *least* for your money. In 1990, the "least for your money" version was asked. Each version will be alternated annually.

Figure 2
Comparison of Opinions Regarding from Which Level of Government
Do You Feel You Get the Most for Your Money—Federal, State, or Local?
 1972-1991

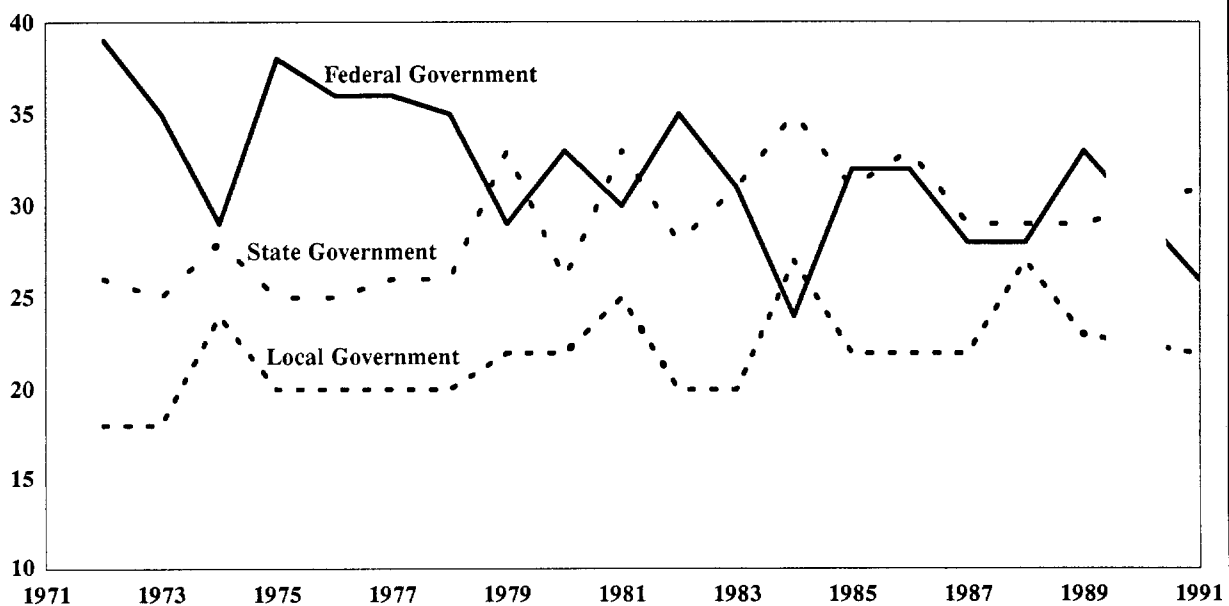


Table 7
Which Level of Government Do You Think Spends Your Tax Dollars Most Wisely?
 (percent)

	Federal	State	Local	All of Them*	None of Them*	Don't Know/No Answer
July 1991	12	14	35	2	27	10
June 1990	11	20	36	2	19	12

*Response volunteered. (See Appendix I, Table A3, page 22, for 1991 detailed data)

From 1978 to 1989, percentages for the federal government (30 percent average) and local government (31 percent average) were similar, often alternating between first and second place (see Table 6 and Figure 2). State government has been in last place every year except 1984. Over the years, an average of 17 percent did not know or gave no response.

Which Level of Government Do You Think Spends Your Tax Dollars Most Wisely: Federal, State, or Local?

In addition to choosing local government as giving them the most for their money, 35 percent of those asked said local governments spend their tax dollars most wisely (see Table 7). Only 14 percent of the respondents chose state government as spending tax money most wisely, followed by 12 percent for the federal government. The response "none of them" was volunteered by 27 percent.

ACIR asked the same question in 1989 and obtained similar results. Local government was cited as spending tax money most wisely (36 percent), followed by state government (20 percent), federal government (11 percent), and the volunteered "none of them" (19 percent).

Among the 1991 respondents most often choosing local government as spending tax dollars most wisely were college graduates (51 percent); persons in households with incomes over \$25,000 (43 percent); professionals, managers, or owners of businesses (45 percent); and persons aged 35 to 44 (43 percent)(see Appendix I, Table A3). More homeowners than renters picked local government (39 percent to 31 percent), as did whites compared to blacks (38 percent to 23 percent). State government did best with people aged 18 to 24 (25 percent). The federal government did best with persons aged 25 to 34 (20 percent).

The largest percentages of those citing no government as spending their money most wisely include people over age 65 (37 percent) and retired workers (34 percent). More people over age 65 said no government spends their money wisely than selected any of the governments. Likewise, more homeowners than renters volunteered "none" (31 percent to 19 percent), as did unemployed individuals compared to employed individuals (31 percent to 23 percent).

GOVERNMENT COOPERATION

The following two questions are new this year. The results show that half the American public thinks that cooperation between the federal government and their state is good. State and local government relations did a little better.

Overall, How Well Do You Think the Federal Government and Your State Government Cooperate and Get Along with Each Other?

Half of the respondents (50 percent) think the federal government and their state government cooperate and get along "very well" (7 percent) or "fairly well" (43 percent)(see Table 8). Thirty-seven percent, however, said the two get along "not very well" or "not well at all" (24 percent said not very well and 13 percent said not well at all), while 13 percent replied don't know or gave no answer.

The largest groups saying the federal government and their state get along very well or fairly well include college graduates (57 percent); white collar, sales, or clerical workers (57 percent); and residents of the South (56 percent) (see Appendix I, Table A4). Northeastern residents (48 percent) and individuals living in households with incomes of \$40,000 or more (44 percent) more often said the two governments do not cooperate very well or at all well. The percentage of respondents saying the federal government and their state get along fairly well increased with education (from 34 percent for those who had not completed high school to 54 percent for college graduates).

Table 8
Overall, How Well Do You Think the Federal Government and Your State Government Cooperate and Get Along with Each Other?
 (percent)

Very Well	7
Fairly Well	43
Not Very Well	24
Not Well At All	13
Don't Know/No Answer	13

(See Appendix I, Table A4, page 23, for 1991 detailed data)

Table 9
**Overall, How Well Do You Think
 Your State Government
 and Your Local Government
 Cooperate and Get Along with Each Other?**
 (percent)

Very Well	9
Fairly Well	50
Not Very Well	19
Not Well At All	11
Don't Know/No Answer	12

(See Appendix I, Table A5, page 24,
 for 1991 detailed data)

**Overall, How Well Do You Think Your State
 Government and Your Local Government Cooperate
 and Get Along with Each Other?**

As in the previous question, a majority of the American public (59 percent) said state and local governments cooperate and get along "very well" (9 percent) or "fairly well" (50 percent)(see Table 9). Thirty percent think the two governments get along "not very well" or "not well at all" (19 percent said not very well and 11 percent said not well at all), and 12 percent replied don't know or gave no answer. Variation among subgroups was minimal (see Appendix I, Table A5).

**FEDERAL MANDATES TO STATE
 AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

For the first time, the 1991 ACIR poll asked citizens what they think about federal mandates to state and local governments, one of today's major intergovernmental issues. Sometimes the federal government provides money to carry out these mandates, but often it does not. Opinion varied depending on the type of mandate, but whether or not they approved, Americans think the costs of federal mandates should be shared (see Figures 3 and 4, and Tables 10 and 11).

Asked about a federal mandate involving increased pay and overtime benefits for local employees, 60 percent said their local government should make those decisions; 30 percent said the federal government was right in passing the mandate. However, 61 percent agreed that the federal government was right to mandate that state governments provide more health care for the poor. Only 30 percent said the state government should decide the level of services.

On a question of cleaning up the country's waterways, 71 percent thought the federal government was right to require that local governments improve treatment of wastewater rather than allowing local governments to set the standards (22 percent).

On questions of who should pay for these federal mandates, 47 percent of those asked said the federal government and their local government should each

Figure 3
Should the Federal Government Impose Mandates on State and Local Governments?

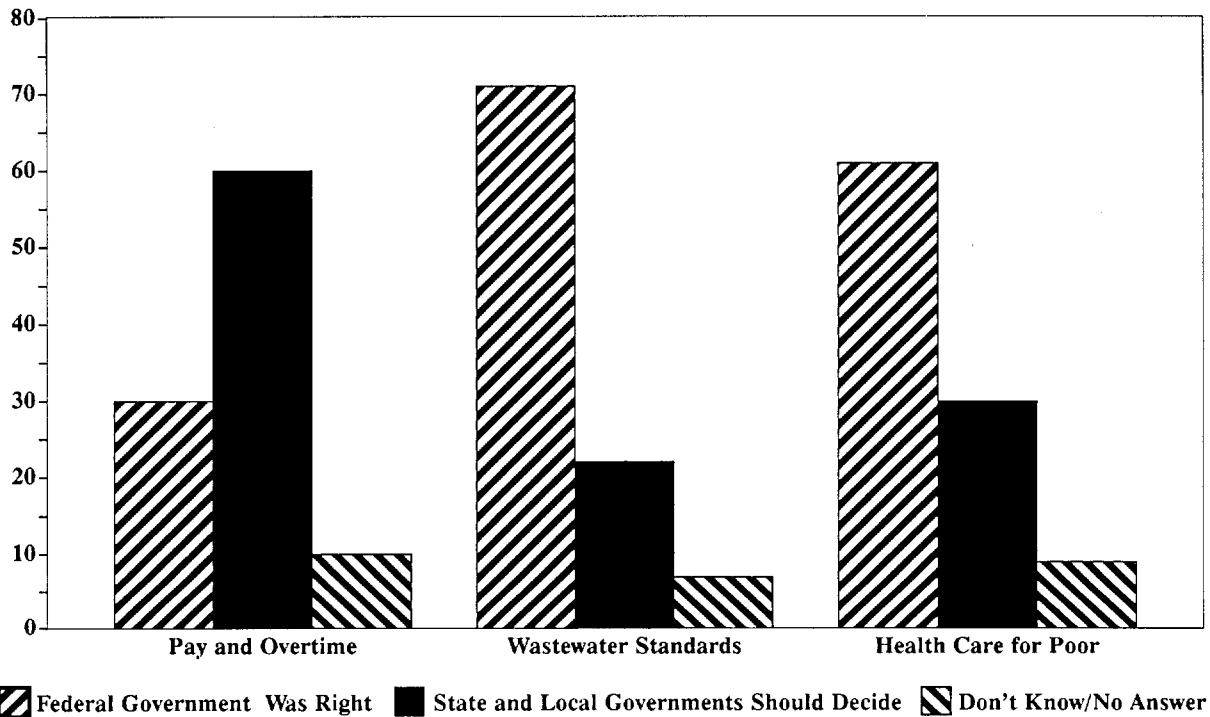


Figure 4
Who Should Pay for Federal Government Mandates on State and Local Governments?

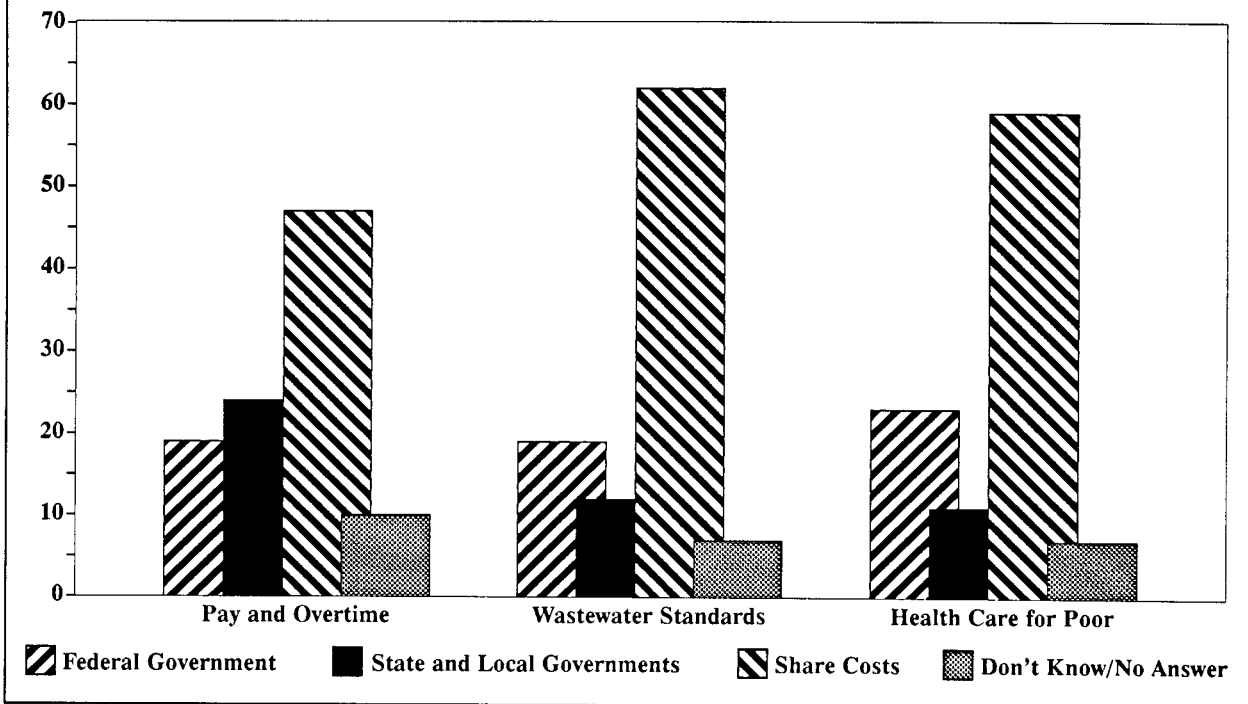


Table 10
Was the Federal Government Right to Pass a Law Requiring . . .
 (percent)

	Federal Government Was Right	Each Local (State) Government Should Decide	Don't Know/No Answer
Better Pay and Overtime Benefits for Local Government Employees?	30	60	10
Improved Waste Water Treatment Standards?	71	22	7
More Health Care Services for the Poor?	61	30	9

(See Appendix I, Tables A6, A8, and A10, pages 25, 27, and 29, for 1991 detailed data.)

Table 11
Regardless of Your Feelings about this Federal Law, Do You Think the Costs of . . .
Should Be Paid for by the Federal Government, by Your Local (State) Government,
or by the Federal Government and Your Local (State) Government, Each Paying Part of the Costs?
 (percent)

	Federal Government	Local (State) Government	Federal and Local (State) Each Paying Part	Don't Know/No Answer
These Required Benefits for Local Government Employees	19	24	47	10
Building or Remodeling a Local Wastewater Treatment Plant to Meet Federal Standards	19	12	62	7
Providing these Required Health-Care Services to the Poor	23	11	59	8

(See Appendix I, Tables A7, A9, and A11, pages 26, 28, and 30, for 1991 detailed data)

pay part of the cost of federally mandated pay and benefit increases for local employees; 59 percent said the federal and state government should share the costs of providing federally required health care services; and 62 percent said the federal and local governments should share the cost of meeting federally required wastewater treatment standards.

Pay and Overtime Benefits

The Federal Government Has Passed a Law Requiring Local Governments to Give Better Pay and Overtime Benefits to Employees of Local Governments. Do You Think the Federal Government Was Right in Passing this Law, or Do You Think Each Local Government Should Decide on the Pay and Overtime Benefits for Its Own Employees?

Of the three federal mandates in the poll, this one received the least public support. The majority of Americans (60 percent) said local governments should make the decisions about pay and overtime benefits for their employees.

Most of the respondents who said that each local government should decide were those who have attended but not completed college (75 percent), individuals in households with incomes of \$40,000 or more (70 percent), and persons aged 45 to 65 (67 percent)(see Appendix I, Table A6). Blacks (46 percent), residents of the Northeast (38 percent), and those living in central cities (38 percent) were the largest groups saying that the federal government was right to pass a law mandating better pay and overtime benefits.

Blacks more than whites said the federal government was right to mandate the increases (46 percent to 27 percent). Conversely, whites were much more in favor of each local government deciding on its employees' pay and benefit levels (64 percent to 36 percent).

Likewise, people living in central cities said more often than people living in non-metro areas that the federal government was right to mandate increases in pay and overtime for local government employees (38 percent to 26 percent). Local government was chosen more by those living in non-metro areas rather than in central cities (67 percent to 51 percent).

Regardless of Your Feelings about this Federal Law, Do You Think the Costs of these Required Benefits for Local Government Employees Should Be Paid for by the Federal Government, by Your Local Government, or by the Federal Government and Your Local Government Each Paying Part of the Costs?

A plurality of Americans (47 percent) said the costs should be shared by the federal government and their local government. Cost sharing did best with female heads of household (53 percent), people living in non-metro areas (53 percent), and respondents older than 65 (52 percent). The federal government paying was cited more often by individuals 18 to 24 years old (27 percent), and blacks (26 percent). Of

those choosing local government alone paying the bill, the largest percentages were college graduates (33 percent), persons in households with incomes above \$40,000 (32 percent), male heads of household (30 percent), and those living in urban areas (30 percent)(see Appendix I, Table A7).

Wastewater Treatment Standards

The Federal Government Has Passed a Law Requiring Local Governments to Improve the Treatment of Wastewater in Order to Clean Up Our Waterways. Do You Think the Federal Government Was Right in Passing this Law, or Do You Think Each Local Government Should Decide on How Much to Clean Up Its Community's Wastewater?

This federal mandate received the greatest public support (71 percent for, 22 percent against). In fact, this mandate received more than 50 percent support from every subgroup.

Those most approving the federal government passing a law requiring local governments to improve wastewater treatment were college graduates (84 percent), people aged 35 to 44 (80 percent), and individuals in households with incomes above \$25,000 (77 percent) (see Appendix I, Table A8).

Regardless of Your Feelings about this Federal Law, Do You Think the Costs of Building or Remodeling a Local Wastewater Treatment Plant to Meet Federal Standards Should Be Paid for by the Federal Government, by Your Local Government, or by the Federal Government and Your Local Government Each Paying Part of the Costs?

Once again, a shared cost approach was chosen (62 percent), with support greater than 50 percent for most subgroups. College graduates (71 percent) and professionals, managers, and business owners (70 percent) were most in favor of shared costs. The percentages of those saying the federal government should pay range from 8 percent to 24 percent. The percentages of those saying that local governments should pay all of the costs range from 8 percent to 18 percent (See Appendix I, Table A9).

Health Care Services for the Poor

The Federal Government Has Passed a Law Requiring State Governments to Provide More Health Care Services to the Poor. Do You Think the Federal Government Was Right in Passing this Law, or Do You Think Each State Government Should Decide on What Health Care Services to Provide for Its Poor Citizens?

The majority of the public (61 percent) supports federal regulations requiring state governments to provide more health care services to poor citizens. Once again, more than 50 percent of every subgroup approved of this federal mandate (see Appendix I, Table A10). Those with the highest approval include blacks (81 percent), renters (68 percent), and people

who have attended but not completed college (68 percent). Respondents over age 65 gave the federal mandate the lowest approval (50 percent).

Groups that felt strongly that each state should decide were those over age 65 (37 percent), college graduates (37 percent), and individuals in households with incomes of \$40,000 or more (37 percent).

Regardless of Your Feelings about this Federal Law, Do You Think the Costs of Providing these Required Health Care Services to the Poor Should Be Paid for by the Federal Government, by Your State Government, or by the Federal Government and Your State Government Each Paying Part of the Costs?

Here, too, respondents showed a preference for sharing the costs of the mandate (59 percent), especially college graduates (65 percent) and persons aged 35 to 44 (64 percent). Blacks had the lowest percentage for sharing the costs (52 percent) and the highest for the federal government paying all of the costs (29 percent). Support for having the state pick up the entire tab for this federal mandate was low (see Appendix I, Table A11).

BALANCE OF POWER IN THE FEDERAL SYSTEM

Power in our Federal System Is Divided between the Federal, State, and Local Governments. Here Is a Card (Show Card A) with Glasses of Water Illustrating Different Amounts of Power for Each Government. Which Set of Glasses Do You Think Best Illustrates How Power Is Actually Distributed between Our Federal, State, and Local Governments Today?

Here Is a Card with Three Empty Glasses (Show Card B). Each Glass Has a Scale from 0 to 100, 0 Meaning Empty or No Power, and 100 Meaning Full or a Lot of Power. If You Had 100 Units of Power to Distribute, So That You Could Give the Federal, State, and Local Governments the Amount of Power You Thought Each Should Have, How Many Units of Power Would You Put in the Federal Glass, the State Glass, and the Local Glass?

The 1991 ACIR poll asked the two questions above to measure public attitudes toward the appropriate balance of power between the federal, state, and local governments. The first question gauged perceptions of the existing arrangement. Interviewers showed respondents a card depicting four sets of glasses representing four possible distributions of power (see Figure 5). Respondents chose the set they think best illustrates the current distribution.

The majority of Americans (60 percent) perceive the federal government as having the most power in the federal system, followed by state government and local government (see Table 12). Fifteen percent chose a state-federal-local distribution, and 4 percent picked the local-state-federal arrangement. Nine percent thought that power is distributed evenly between the three governments.

Table 12
Power in Our Federal System Is Divided between the Federal, State, and Local Governments. Here Is a Card with Glasses of Water Illustrating Different Amounts of Power for Each Government. Which Set of Glasses Do You Think Best Illustrates How Power Is Actually Distributed Between Our Federal, State, and Local Governments Today—Set A, Set B, Set C, or Set D? (percent)

Set A (Local-State-Federal)	4
Set B (State-Federal-Local)	15
Set C (Federal-State-Local)	60
Set D (Even Distribution)	9
None of These Apply	1
Don't Know/No Answer	11

(See Appendix I, Table A12, page 31, for 1991 detailed data)

There were few noticeable differences among most of the subgroups. However, individuals living in households with incomes of \$40,000 or more (70 percent); professionals, managers, and business owners (69 percent); and respondents living in the West (69 percent) gave the highest power ratings to the federal government (see Appendix I, Table A12).

To determine the public's preferred balance of power, the second question asked respondents to allocate "100 units" of power between the federal, state, and local governments (see Figure 6) in the amount they thought each government should have—all 100 units, some of them, or none of them.

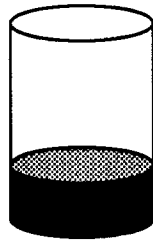
Respondents gave the highest proportion of power to the federal government, an average of 39 percent, followed by state governments (31 percent average), then local governments (30 percent average) (see Table 13).

In 1989, ACIR asked somewhat different questions about perceptions of government power: "Which level of government do you think has too much power today?" and "Which level of government do you think needs more power today?" That year, 61 percent of those asked said the federal government has too much power, while 34 percent said local governments need more power.

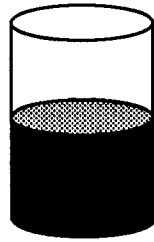
Similarly, between 1978 and 1989, ACIR asked Americans several times if the federal government had too much power, the right amount of power, or needed to use its powers more vigorously. In 1978, 36 percent thought the federal government should use its powers more vigorously, and 38 percent said the federal government has too much power. In 1982, only 30 percent said the federal government "should use its powers more vigorously to promote the well-being of all segments of the people," while 38 percent said the "federal government has too much power."

Figure 5
Card A

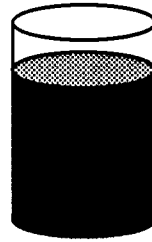
A



Federal

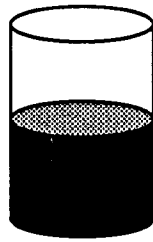


State

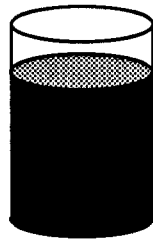


Local

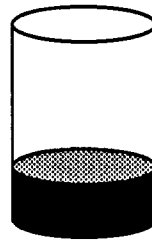
B



Federal

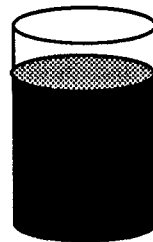


State

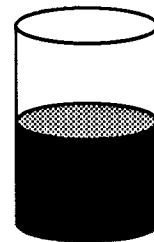


Local

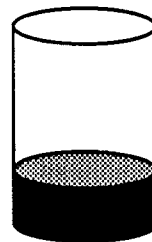
C



Federal

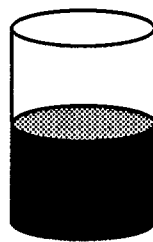


State

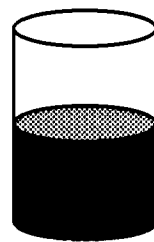


Local

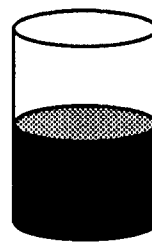
D



Federal



State



Local

Figure 6
Card B

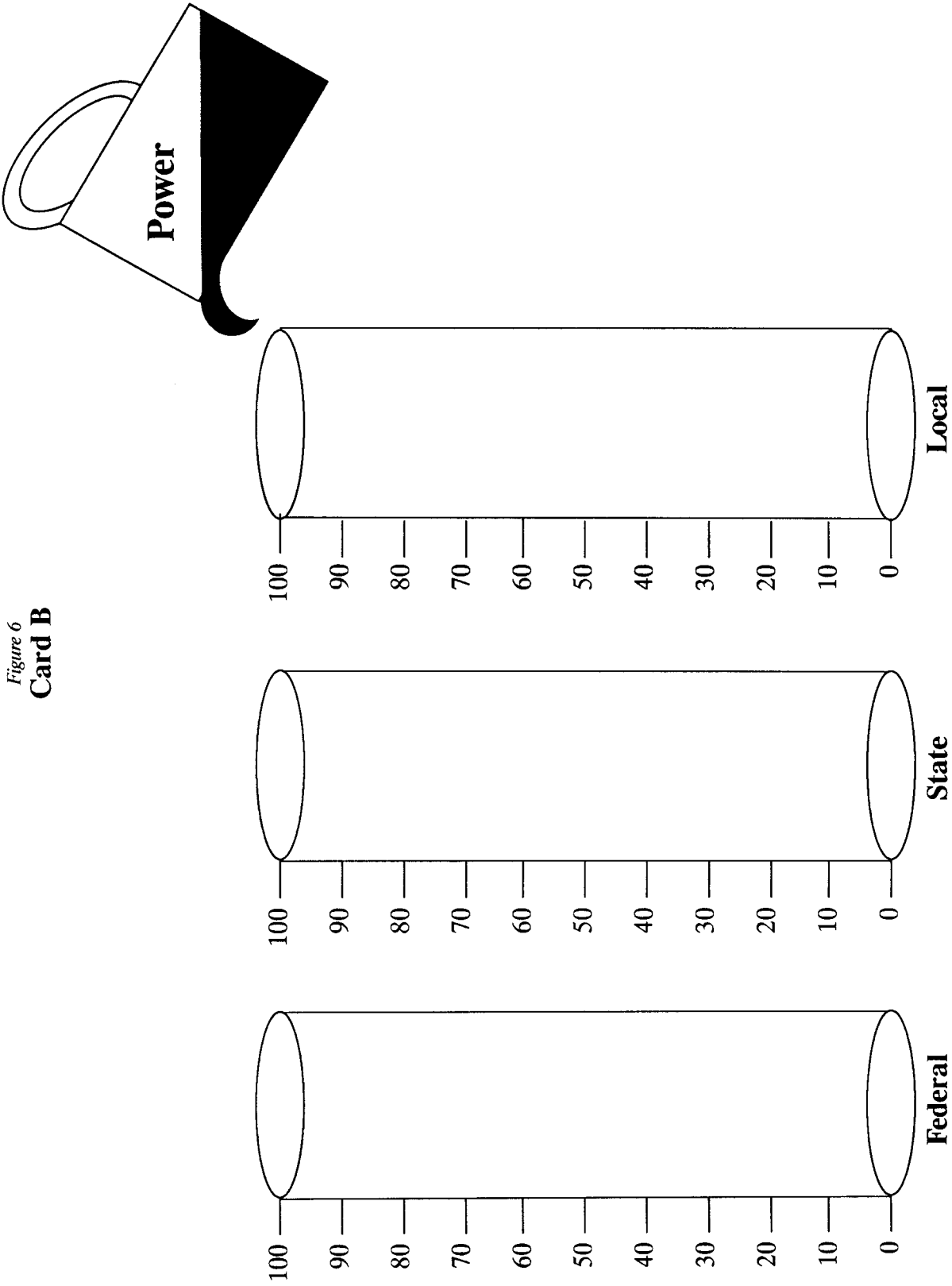


Table 13

Here Is a Card with Three Empty Glasses. Each Glass Has a Scale from 0 to 100, 0 Meaning Empty or No Power, and 100 Meaning Full or a Lot of Power. If You Had 100 Units of Power to Distribute, So That You Could Give the Federal, State, and Local Governments the Amount of Power You Thought Each Should Have, How Many Units of Power Would You Put in the . . . ?
(percent)

	0	1-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90-99	100	DK/NA	Mean
Federal Glass	0	1	3	11	32	11	16	7	3	1	0	0	14	39
State Glass	1	1	2	17	53	8	3	1	0	0	0	0	14	31
Local Glass	1	1	10	22	35	7	6	3	1	1	0	0	14	30

(See Appendix I, Tables A13, A14, and A15, pages 32, 34, and 36, for 1991 detailed data)

Awareness of State Constitutions

In Addition to the United States Constitution, Do You Know If Your State Has Its Own Constitution, or Does Your State Not Have Its Own Constitution?

A majority of Americans (52 percent) said their state has its own constitution (see Table 14). Eleven percent said their state does not have its own constitution, and 37 percent did not know or gave no answer.

This year, knowledge of the existence of a state constitution was the highest among college graduates (75 percent); respondents in households with incomes of \$40,000 or more (67 percent); and professionals, managers, and business owners (67 percent). Least knowledge of the existence of state constitutions was among people living in the Northeast (41 percent), individuals aged 18 to 24 (40 percent), blacks (37 percent), and persons in households with incomes of less than \$15,000 (37 percent) (see Appendix I, Table A14).

Of the more than one-third of respondents who did not know or who gave no answer, the percentages for several subgroups were larger than expected: individuals who attended but did not complete high school (56 percent), people living in households with five or more members (54 percent), those aged 18 to 24 and over 65 (48 percent each), and citizens in households with incomes of less than \$15,000 (48 percent).

The responses between some subgroups were significantly different. More men (57 percent) than women (48 percent) said their state has a constitution, as did homeowners (58 percent) compared to renters (44 percent), whites (54 percent) compared to blacks (37 percent), married individuals (58 percent) compared to unmarried individuals (43 percent), and non-metro residents (57 percent) compared to central-city residents (47 percent).

ACIR asked a similar question in 1988 with comparable results. The 1988 poll asked citizens whether their state has its own constitution, or whether it relies on the United States Constitution for its governing powers. Less than half of those asked (44 percent) said their state has its own constitution. Nineteen percent replied that their state relies on the U.S. Constitution, while 32 percent did not know or gave no answer. (Five percent volunteered that their state has its own constitution and relies on the U.S. Constitution.)

Table 14

In Addition to the United States Constitution, Do You Know If Your State Has Its Own Constitution, or Does Your State Not Have Its Own Constitution?

(percent)

Has Its Own Constitution	52
Does Not Have Its Own Constitution	11
Don't Know/No Answer	37

(See Appendix I, Table A16, page 38, for 1991 detailed data)

The Poll

This report presents the findings of a personal interview research survey conducted among a nationally representative sample of 1,069 men and women, 18 years of age or over, living in private households in the United States.

Interviewing for this survey was completed July 22-25, 1991, 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. Details may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

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

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

Professional/Manager/Owner

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

White Collar, Sales, Clerical

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

Blue Collar

Semi-Skilled, Laborers, and Service Workers; Craftsmen, Foremen, Kindred Workers, Maintenance Repairmen, Carpenters, Plumbers and Electricians; Operatives and Kindred Workers; Apprentices, and 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 metropolitan 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 1990 total household income before taxes.

Sampling tolerances for the survey are plus or minus 4 percentage points at the 95 percent 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 1991 survey results. Detailed data may be found in Appendix I.

Survey results for questions asked in 1989 and 1990 may be obtained by ordering the 1989 report (S-18) and the 1990 report (S-19).

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

Data on questions asked in the 1972-1981 surveys may be found in Appendix III of the 1983 or 1984 reports (S-12 and S-13). Descriptions of classifications used in these years also may be found in those reports.

Appendix I
**Detailed Results:
1991 Survey**

Table A1
1991

Which Do You Think Is the Worst Tax—That Is the Least Fair:
Federal Income Tax, State Income Tax, State Sales Tax, or Local Property Tax?
(percent)

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

Table A2
1991

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

	Federal	State	Local	Don't Know/ No Answer
Total Public	26	22	31	22
Male	28	19	33	21
Female	24	24	28	23
Head of Household	26	21	32	22
Male Head	26	17	36	21
Female Head	25	24	29	22
Under 35 Years of Age	23	29	27	21
18-24	21	33	23	24
25-34	25	26	29	20
35-44	24	20	37	20
45-65	27	18	34	22
Over 65	32	13	28	27
High School Incomplete	33	20	16	31
High School Graduate	27	22	27	24
College Incomplete	21	26	33	19
College Graduate	20	18	52	11
Household Income: Under \$15K	32	23	20	26
\$15-24.9K	27	24	24	24
\$25K +	23	22	39	17
\$25-29.9K	27	20	25	28
\$30-39.9K	21	21	38	20
\$40K +	22	23	43	13
Own	25	19	35	21
Rent	28	27	25	20
White	24	22	33	22
Black	36	20	21	22
Employed	23	24	31	22
Employed Female	23	28	28	21
Not Employed	29	19	28	24
Not Employed Female	24	21	28	27
Professional, Manager, Owner	22	21	42	14
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	28	28	23	22
Blue Collar	26	24	25	25
Retired	32	12	31	26
Married	24	21	34	20
Not Married	29	22	24	26
Household Size: 1-2 People	25	23	32	20
3-4 People	27	19	27	26
5+ People	24	21	23	33
Children in Household: Under 18	22	24	31	23
No Children	29	20	29	22
Northeast	34	14	29	24
North-Central	22	20	38	21
South	24	26	27	22
West	24	26	29	22
Nonmetro	21	23	32	25
Metro: 50,000 and Over				
Fringe	27	19	34	20
Central City	30	24	25	22

Table A3

1991

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

	Federal	State	Local	All of Them	None of Them	Don't Know/ No Answer
Total Public	12	14	35	2	27	10
Male	14	13	39	2	25	7
Female	11	15	32	2	28	12
Head of Household	11	14	37	2	28	8
Male Head	11	13	42	2	26	6
Female Head	11	15	33	2	30	10
Under 35 Years of Age	17	17	33	3	20	11
18-24	12	25	29	4	15	15
25-34	20	12	36	2	22	9
35-44	9	13	43	2	27	6
45-65	11	12	37	2	29	9
Over 65	7	13	31	2	37	11
High School Incomplete	12	17	22	4	28	18
High School Graduate	15	13	32	3	28	9
College Incomplete	9	15	42	1	27	6
College Graduate	10	13	51	1	19	5
Household Income: Under \$15K	16	16	24	3	28	13
\$15-24.9K	11	14	31	3	32	10
\$25K +	10	14	43	2	24	7
\$25-29.9K	9	7	46	0	24	15
\$30-39.9K	9	16	44	4	23	4
\$40K +	11	14	42	2	24	7
Own	9	13	39	2	31	6
Rent	18	16	31	2	19	14
White	11	14	38	2	26	9
Black	15	17	23	4	27	15
Employed	13	14	38	2	23	9
Employed Female	12	14	35	3	26	10
Not Employed	10	15	29	3	31	11
Not Employed Female	8	16	27	2	32	14
Professional, Manager, Owner	12	13	45	2	26	3
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	14	18	32	2	22	12
Blue Collar	17	13	30	4	26	10
Retired	8	13	36	2	34	7
Married	12	13	39	2	28	8
Not Married	13	17	30	4	24	12
Household Size: 1-2 People	11	14	38	2	27	9
3-4 People	14	15	30	4	29	9
5+ People	24	14	29	1	16	16
Children in Household: Under 18	14	16	34	3	23	11
No Children	11	14	35	2	30	9
Northeast	14	9	39	2	27	9
North-Central	6	13	44	4	22	10
South	14	18	28	2	28	10
West	14	15	34	1	29	8
Nonmetro	10	12	43	2	25	8
Metro: 50,000 and Over						
Fringe	14	12	35	2	27	10
Central City	13	19	26	2	29	11

Table A4

1991

**Overall, How Well Do You Think the Federal Government and Your State Government
Cooperate and Get Along with Each Other?**

(percent)

	Very Well	Fairly Well	Not Very Well	Not Well At All	Don't Know/ No Answer
Total Public	7	43	24	13	13
Male	7	44	26	13	11
Female	7	42	23	13	16
Head of Household	7	42	24	14	13
Male Head	7	42	26	14	11
Female Head	7	43	22	14	14
Under 35 Years of Age	5	46	21	12	16
18-24	4	44	20	11	22
25-34	5	48	22	13	12
35-44	9	39	27	15	10
45-65	8	44	27	14	8
Over 65	5	40	25	11	20
High School Incomplete	9	34	20	9	27
High School Graduate	7	42	23	14	14
College Incomplete	5	46	28	15	7
College Graduate	3	54	27	13	4
Household Income: Under \$15K	8	44	18	10	21
\$15-24.9K	7	39	25	15	13
\$25K +	6	45	26	13	9
\$25-29.9K	6	46	25	10	12
\$30-39.9K	7	47	21	14	12
\$40K +	5	44	30	14	7
Own	7	45	25	13	10
Rent	7	39	24	11	19
White	5	45	26	12	13
Black	17	36	14	18	16
Employed	7	44	25	13	12
Employed Female	6	45	23	13	13
Not Employed	7	41	23	13	16
Not Employed Female	8	38	23	13	19
Professional, Manager, Owner	4	48	27	15	6
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	6	51	21	9	13
Blue Collar	9	41	24	14	12
Retired	4	44	22	16	13
Married	7	42	27	13	12
Not Married	6	45	20	13	17
Household Size: 1-2 People	6	44	24	14	13
3-4 People	9	44	23	10	15
5+ People	11	26	35	11	17
Children in Household: Under 18	8	39	25	13	16
No Children	6	45	25	13	11
Northeast	7	34	32	16	12
North-Central	5	47	21	13	15
South	9	47	20	11	14
West	6	43	26	13	13
Nonmetro	7	45	26	11	12
Metro: 50,000 and Over					
Fringe	7	45	23	12	13
Central City	6	39	23	16	16

Table A5

1991

**Overall, How Well Do You Think Your State Government and Your Local Government
Cooperate and Get Along with Each Other?**

(percent)

	Very Well	Fairly Well	Not Very Well	Not Well At All	Don't Know/ No Answer
Total Public	9	50	19	11	12
Male	9	51	18	12	11
Female	9	50	20	10	12
Head of Household	9	50	19	12	10
Male Head	9	49	18	13	10
Female Head	9	50	20	11	10
Under 35 Years of Age	9	47	21	11	13
18-24	11	45	17	10	18
25-34	8	48	24	11	10
35-44	8	52	19	10	12
45-65	10	52	21	10	7
Over 65	8	50	13	13	16
High School Incomplete	11	41	13	12	23
High School Graduate	11	49	20	9	12
College Incomplete	8	53	19	13	7
College Graduate	4	57	25	11	4
Household Income: Under \$15K	11	47	17	10	16
\$15-24.9K	7	50	19	13	12
\$25K +	9	51	21	11	9
\$25-29.9K	9	56	20	6	9
\$30-39.9K	12	49	18	9	13
\$40K +	7	50	24	13	6
Own	9	53	20	11	8
Rent	10	43	19	11	16
White	7	52	20	11	11
Black	18	38	15	12	17
Employed	10	47	22	10	11
Employed Female	10	47	22	9	12
Not Employed	7	54	15	12	12
Not Employed Female	7	51	17	12	13
Professional, Manager, Owner	6	54	20	15	5
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	6	57	18	5	13
Blue Collar	11	44	22	11	12
Retired	10	51	12	16	13
Married	8	52	20	11	9
Not Married	9	45	19	11	16
Household Size: 1-2 People	8	50	20	12	11
3-4 People	11	51	18	8	13
5+ People	9	41	19	11	20
Children in Household: Under 18	9	48	20	10	13
No Children	9	50	19	12	11
Northeast	8	39	28	15	10
North-Central	5	55	17	10	13
South	10	57	13	8	12
West	11	42	23	13	11
Nonmetro	8	54	19	7	11
Metro: 50,000 and Over					
Fringe	11	51	18	11	10
Central City	8	43	20	15	14

Table A6

1991

**The Federal Government Has Passed a Law Requiring Local Governments to Give Better
Pay and Overtime Benefits to Employees of Local Governments.
Do You Think the Federal Government Was Right in Passing this Law, or Do You Think Each
Local Government Should Decide on the Pay and Overtime Benefits for Its Own Employees?
(percent)**

	Federal Government Was Right	Each Local Government Should Decide	Don't Know/ No Answer
Total Public	30	60	10
Male	26	64	10
Female	33	56	11
Head of Household	31	60	10
Male Head	26	65	10
Female Head	34	56	10
Under 35 Years of Age	33	55	12
18-24	34	54	12
25-34	33	55	12
35-44	32	60	8
45-65	27	67	6
Over 65	23	62	16
High School Incomplete	30	53	17
High School Graduate	34	56	11
College Incomplete	19	75	7
College Graduate	34	60	6
Household Income: Under \$15K	33	54	13
\$15-24.9K	29	59	12
\$25K +	28	65	7
\$25-29.9K	34	59	8
\$30-39.9K	31	60	9
\$40K +	24	70	6
Own	27	66	8
Rent	35	51	14
White	27	64	9
Black	46	36	19
Employed	29	60	11
Employed Female	31	58	11
Not Employed	31	60	10
Not Employed Female	35	55	10
Professional, Manager, Owner	29	64	7
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	32	58	10
Blue Collar	32	56	12
Retired	24	64	12
Married	29	62	9
Not Married	31	56	13
Household Size: 1-2 People	31	59	10
3-4 People	24	65	11
5+ People	39	39	22
Children in Household: Under 18	30	58	12
No Children	29	62	9
Northeast	38	52	11
North-Central	29	64	7
South	30	59	11
West	20	66	13
Nonmetro	26	67	7
Metro: 50,000 and Over			
Fringe	27	60	13
Central City	38	51	11

Table A7

1991

Regardless of Your Feelings about this Federal Law, Do You Think the Costs of these Required Benefits for Local Government Employees Should be Paid for by the Federal Government, by Your Local Government, or by the Federal Government and Your Local Government, Each Paying Part of the Costs?
(percent)

	Federal Government	Local Government	Federal and Local Each Pay Part	Don't Know/ No Answer
Total Public	19	24	47	10
Male	20	28	42	11
Female	18	21	52	9
Head of Household	18	25	48	8
Male Head	19	30	43	9
Female Head	18	22	53	8
Under 35 Years of Age	20	21	48	11
18-24	27	15	47	12
25-34	16	25	48	10
35-44	20	27	45	8
45-65	19	29	45	7
Over 65	14	21	52	13
High School Incomplete	16	21	44	19
High School Graduate	22	18	51	9
College Incomplete	19	31	44	6
College Graduate	16	33	46	5
Household Income: Under \$15K	20	21	46	14
\$15-24.9K	18	21	51	10
\$25K +	19	29	46	7
\$25-29.9K	24	19	51	6
\$30-39.9K	18	28	46	9
\$40K +	18	32	44	6
Own	18	27	49	6
Rent	21	23	43	13
White	18	26	48	9
Black	26	15	42	16
Employed	19	27	45	10
Employed Female	17	23	51	9
Not Employed	19	22	50	10
Not Employed Female	20	20	51	10
Professional, Manager, Owner	16	29	51	4
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	18	24	49	10
Blue Collar	19	25	43	13
Retired	19	23	44	14
Married	19	26	46	8
Not Married	19	21	48	12
Household Size: 1-2 People	20	24	48	8
3-4 People	16	26	47	12
5+ People	28	13	32	27
Children in Household: Under 18	20	24	45	12
No Children	18	25	49	9
Northeast	24	17	48	11
North-Central	15	26	51	8
South	20	26	43	11
West	16	27	47	10
Nonmetro	19	21	53	7
Metro: 50,000 and Over				
Fringe	16	30	45	10
Central City	23	22	42	13

Table A8

1991

The Federal Government Has Passed a Law Requiring Local Governments to Improve the Treatment of Wastewater in Order to Clean Up Our Waterways. Do You Think the Federal Government Was Right in Passing this Law, or Do You Think Each Local Government Should Decide on How Much to Clean Up Its Community's Wastewater?

(percent)

	Federal Government Was Right	Each Local Government Should Decide	Don't Know/ No Answer
Total Public	71	22	7
Male	72	22	7
Female	70	23	7
Head of Household	72	22	6
Male Head	74	20	6
Female Head	71	23	6
Under 35 Years of Age	70	22	8
18-24	62	27	11
25-34	74	19	7
35-44	80	15	5
45-65	72	25	3
Over 65	61	29	10
High School Incomplete	53	32	15
High School Graduate	72	22	6
College Incomplete	77	20	3
College Graduate	84	14	2
Household Income: Under \$15K	63	28	9
\$15-24.9K	65	28	8
\$25K +	77	18	5
\$25-29.9K	75	18	7
\$30-39.9K	80	15	5
\$40K +	76	20	5
Own	73	23	4
Rent	71	19	10
White	73	21	6
Black	62	26	11
Employed	74	19	7
Employed Female	75	18	7
Not Employed	66	27	7
Not Employed Female	65	29	7
Professional, Manager, Owner	78	18	4
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	74	15	11
Blue Collar	71	23	6
Retired	66	26	8
Married	73	21	5
Not Married	67	24	9
Household Size: 1-2 People	74	20	6
3-4 People	66	26	8
5+ People	51	34	15
Children in Household: Under 18	73	19	8
No Children	69	25	6
Northeast	78	18	4
North-Central	69	25	6
South	68	23	9
West	71	23	6
Nonmetro	69	26	5
Metro: 50,000 and Over			
Fringe	72	21	7
Central City	72	19	9

Table A9
1991

Regardless of Your Feelings about this Federal Law, Do You Think the Costs of Building or Remodeling a Local Wastewater Treatment Plant Should be Paid for by the Federal Government, by Your Local Government, or by the Federal Government and Your Local Government, Each Paying Part of the Costs? (percent)

	Federal Government	Local Government	Federal and Local Each Pay Part	Don't Know/ No Answer
Total Public	19	12	62	7
Male	19	14	59	7
Female	19	10	64	7
Head of Household	18	12	64	6
Male Head	18	15	61	6
Female Head	18	10	66	6
Under 35 Years of Age	22	10	59	10
18-24	23	9	53	14
25-34	21	11	62	7
35-44	18	12	65	5
45-65	17	14	66	4
Over 65	18	12	61	9
High School Incomplete	18	16	49	17
High School Graduate	21	9	63	6
College Incomplete	20	12	65	3
College Graduate	15	12	71	3
Household Income: Under \$15K	21	13	57	9
\$15-24.9K	19	12	62	7
\$25K +	17	12	65	6
\$25-29.9K	24	8	60	9
\$30-39.9K	14	16	61	9
\$40K +	16	10	69	4
Own	17	13	65	5
Rent	23	10	57	10
White	18	12	63	7
Black	24	14	52	10
Employed	19	11	62	8
Employed Female	18	9	65	8
Not Employed	19	13	62	7
Not Employed Female	21	11	62	6
Professional, Manager, Owner	17	9	70	4
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	14	12	64	10
Blue Collar	21	13	58	8
Retired	17	18	59	7
Married	18	11	65	6
Not Married	21	13	57	9
Household Size: 1-2 People	21	12	61	7
3-4 People	17	12	63	8
5+ People	8	16	60	17
Children in Household: Under 18	20	12	60	9
No Children	18	12	64	6
Northeast	24	8	63	5
North-Central	19	12	65	5
South	20	14	57	10
West	12	14	65	8
Nonmetro	20	12	62	6
Metro: 50,000 and Over				
Fringe	17	10	65	8
Central City	20	14	58	8

Table A10

1991

**The Federal Government Has Passed a Law Requiring State Governments to Provide
More Health-Care Services to the Poor. Do You Think the Federal Government Was Right
in Passing this Law, or Do You Think Each State Government Should Decide What Health-Care Services to
Provide its Poor Citizens?**

(percent)

	Federal Government Was Right	Each State Government Should Decide	Don't Know/ No Answer
Total Public	61	30	9
Male	59	33	8
Female	63	28	9
Head of Household	60	31	9
Male Head	58	34	9
Female Head	63	28	9
Under 35 Years of Age	63	27	11
18-24	62	26	12
25-34	64	27	9
35-44	67	27	6
45-65	61	34	5
Over 65	50	37	14
High School Incomplete	59	27	15
High School Graduate	60	31	9
College Incomplete	68	27	6
College Graduate	59	37	5
Household Income: Under \$15K	65	25	10
\$15-24.9K	60	31	9
\$25K +	60	33	8
\$25-29.9K	55	30	15
\$30-39.9K	63	28	9
\$40K +	58	37	5
Own	57	35	8
Rent	68	21	10
White	58	33	9
Black	81	14	6
Employed	63	29	8
Employed Female	65	25	10
Not Employed	60	30	10
Not Employed Female	62	29	9
Professional, Manager, Owner	60	31	9
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	60	28	12
Blue Collar	63	31	6
Retired	57	31	12
Married	61	32	7
Not Married	61	27	12
Household Size: 1-2 People	61	30	9
3-4 People	62	31	7
5+ People	58	27	15
Children in Household: Under 18	64	28	8
No Children	59	32	9
Northeast	66	27	7
North-Central	55	33	12
South	62	29	9
West	62	32	6
Nonmetro	56	35	9
Metro: 50,000 and Over			
Fringe	61	30	9
Central City	67	25	9

Table A11

1991

Regardless of Your Feelings about this Federal Law, Do You Think the Costs of Providing these Required Health-Care Services to the Poor Should be Paid for by the Federal Government, by Your State Government, or by the Federal Government and Your State Government, Each Paying Part of the Costs?

(percent)

	Federal Government	State Government	Federal and State Each Pay Part	Don't Know/ No Answer
Total Public	23	11	59	8
Male	26	10	56	8
Female	20	11	61	8
Head of Household	22	11	60	8
Male Head	24	10	58	8
Female Head	20	11	61	7
Under 35 Years of Age	23	9	57	11
18-24	22	10	54	14
25-34	23	9	58	9
35-44	21	10	64	5
45-65	23	13	61	3
Over 65	21	10	57	12
High School Incomplete	24	10	54	13
High School Graduate	23	12	57	9
College Incomplete	21	10	63	6
College Graduate	20	11	65	5
Household Income: Under \$15K	25	9	55	11
\$15-24.9K	20	12	60	8
\$25K +	21	10	62	7
\$25-29.9K	28	5	61	7
\$30-39.9K	18	9	64	9
\$40K +	21	13	62	5
Own	21	11	62	7
Rent	26	9	56	10
White	22	11	59	8
Black	29	10	52	10
Employed	21	11	60	8
Employed Female	16	12	64	9
Not Employed	24	10	58	9
Not Employed Female	24	9	59	8
Professional, Manager, Owner	22	11	61	5
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	23	11	54	11
Blue Collar	20	12	61	7
Retired	23	10	54	12
Married	23	10	62	6
Not Married	23	12	55	11
Household Size: 1-2 People	23	10	58	8
3-4 People	21	11	60	8
5+ People	17	8	58	17
Children in Household: Under 18	24	9	58	9
No Children	21	11	60	8
Northeast	28	6	59	7
North-Central	19	12	60	9
South	22	11	58	9
West	23	12	59	6
Nonmetro	18	13	61	8
Metro: 50,000 and Over				
Fringe	24	8	58	9
Central City	26	10	57	7

Table A12

1991

**Power in Our Federal System Is Divided between the Federal, State, and Local Governments.
Here Is a Card with Glasses of Water Illustrating Different Amounts of Power for Each Government.
Which Set of Glasses Do You Think Best Illustrates How Power Is Actually Distributed
between Our Federal, State, and Local Governments Today—Set A, Set B, Set C, or Set D?**

	Set A	Set B	Set C	Set D	None Apply	Don't Know/ No Answer
Total Public	4	15	60	9	1	11
Male	3	16	63	9	1	9
Female	5	14	58	8	2	13
Head of Household	5	15	61	9	1	10
Male Head	3	15	64	9	1	8
Female Head	6	14	58	9	2	11
Under 35 Years of Age	3	16	59	7	1	14
18-24	2	15	60	5	0	18
25-34	4	16	59	9	1	11
35-44	2	17	66	7	1	7
45-65	4	13	67	10	1	6
Over 65	8	12	48	13	3	17
High School Incomplete	5	18	43	14	2	18
High School Graduate	4	13	63	8	1	11
College Incomplete	3	15	67	5	1	9
College Graduate	5	15	67	7	1	5
Household Income: Under \$15	5	10	52	12	1	20
\$15-24.9K	6	14	59	10	2	9
\$25K +	3	15	67	7	1	7
\$25-29.9K	2	11	66	6	3	12
\$30-39.9K	4	16	64	8	0	8
\$40K +	2	16	70	6	0	5
Own	5	13	64	9	1	7
Rent	2	17	55	9	1	17
White	5	15	61	9	1	9
Black	2	13	55	9	0	21
Employed	3	15	64	8	1	10
Employed Female	3	13	64	7	1	13
Not Employed	7	14	54	11	2	14
Not Employed Female	9	15	50	10	2	14
Professional, Manager, Owne	4	18	69	5	0	5
White Collar, Sales, Cleric	4	16	59	10	2	10
Blue Collar	2	14	64	9	0	11
Retired	11	10	51	14	3	11
Married	4	13	66	8	1	8
Not Married	4	17	51	11	1	16
Household Size: 1-2 People	5	14	61	8	1	11
3-4 People	3	16	62	10	0	10
5+ People	0	26	46	9	3	16
Children in Household: Unde	4	15	62	9	1	10
No Children	4	15	59	9	1	11
Northeast	3	21	55	11	0	10
North-Central	5	15	64	7	0	10
South	5	11	56	9	3	16
West	3	14	69	8	1	6
Nonmetro	5	12	63	9	2	9
Metro: 50,000 and Over						
Fringe	4	16	59	10	1	10
Central City	4	17	59	7	0	14

Table A13
1991

Here Is a Card with Three Empty Glasses. Each Glass Has a Scale from 0 to 100, 0 Meaning Empty or No Power, and 100 Meaning Full or a Lot of Power. If You Had 100 Units of Power to Distribute, So that You Could Give the Federal, State, and Local Governments the Amount of Power You Thought Each Should Have, How Many Units of Power Would You Put in the Federal Glass?
(percent)

	Units of Power											DK/NA	Mean	
	0	1-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90-99			100
Total Public	0	1	3	11	32	11	16	7	3	1	0	0	14	39
Male	0	1	3	11	32	12	15	7	3	1	0	0	15	39
Female	1	1	3	11	32	11	16	8	3	1	0	0	14	39
Head of Household	1	1	4	12	32	12	16	7	3	1	0	0	13	38
Male Head	0	1	4	12	31	12	16	7	2	1	0	0	14	38
Female Head	1	0	4	11	32	11	16	8	3	2	0	0	13	39
Under 35 Years of Age	1	1	1	10	37	12	17	7	2	1	0	0	13	38
18-24	0	0	0	11	36	12	13	8	1	2	0	0	16	39
25-34	1	1	2	10	37	11	19	7	2	-	0	0	11	37
35-44	0	0	6	16	28	11	16	5	5	1	1	0	12	38
45-65	0	1	4	12	29	13	17	10	2	2	0	0	10	40
Over 65	1	0	4	6	30	9	11	6	4	1	0	1	27	40
High School Incomplete	0	1	2	4	33	8	11	7	4	3	0	1	27	41
High School Graduate	0	0	4	13	31	9	18	7	3	1	1	0	14	39
College Incomplete	2	0	4	12	32	15	14	8	2	1	0	0	10	37
College Graduate	0	1	3	13	33	16	19	8	2	0	0	0	5	38
Household Income: Under \$15K	1	0	2	8	30	8	16	7	4	1	1	1	23	41
\$15-24.9K	0	0	3	12	29	10	18	7	4	3	0	0	15	41
\$25K+	1	1	4	13	33	13	16	9	2	0	0	0	10	37
\$25-29.9K	0	1	4	15	35	13	12	7	2	1	0	0	10	36
\$30-39.9K	1	2	4	12	39	9	13	10	1	0	0	0	11	36
\$40K+	1	1	3	13	29	15	19	8	2	0	0	0	9	38
Own	1	0	4	13	31	11	16	7	3	1	0	0	13	38
Rent	0	0	2	9	31	12	18	8	2	2	1	0	16	40
White	1	1	3	12	33	11	16	8	3	1	0	0	13	38
Black	0	0	2	8	26	12	12	5	3	6	1	0	25	42

Employed	0	1	3	12	31	13	16	8	3	1	0	0	12	39
Employed Female	1	1	2	12	31	12	16	9	3	2	0	0	12	40
Not Employed	1	0	4	8	34	10	14	7	3	1	0	1	19	39
Not Employed Female	1	0	5	9	34	9	15	6	2	1	0	1	18	37
Professional, Manager, Owner	1	0	2	16	32	16	16	7	2	1	0	0	17	37
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	0	2	4	13	33	11	17	7	2	0	0	0	12	37
Blue Collar	0	0	2	9	32	11	17	8	4	2	1	0	14	41
Retired	2	0	4	8	30	10	12	8	3	1	0	0	23	38
Married	0	1	4	13	33	12	15	8	2	1	0	0	12	38
Not Married	0	0	2	8	31	10	17	7	4	1	0	0	19	40
Household Size: 1-2 People	0	0	4	11	33	11	16	7	3	1	0	0	14	38
3-4 People	0	1	2	10	28	13	17	9	4	1	0	0	16	40
5+ People	4	0	1	16	35	10	5	5	4	0	0	0	20	34
Children in Household: Under 18	0	1	3	12	32	11	16	8	2	1	0	0	13	38
No Children	0	0	3	10	32	11	15	7	4	1	0	0	16	39
Northeast	0	0	2	11	30	15	20	6	4	0	0	1	12	40
North-Central	1	1	5	10	32	10	17	8	4	2	0	0	11	38
South	0	0	3	12	35	11	9	7	2	1	0	0	21	37
West	0	1	2	11	29	11	22	10	3	1	1	0	10	40
Nonmetro	1	0	4	13	33	9	18	5	2	1	0	1	14	37
Metro: 50,000 and Over														
Fringe	0	1	3	7	36	15	12	7	4	0	0	0	14	38
Central City	0	1	2	13	26	10	18	10	3	3	0	0	15	41

Table A14
1991

Here Is a Card with Three Empty Glasses. Each Glass Has a Scale from 0 to 100, 0 Meaning Empty or No Power, and 100 Meaning Full or a Lot of Power. If You Had 100 Units of Power to Distribute, So that You Could Give the Federal, State, and Local Governments the Amount of Power You Thought Each Should Have, How Many Units of Power Would You Put in the State Glass?
(percent)

	Units of Power												DK/NA	Mean
	0	1-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90-99	100		
Total Public	1	1	2	17	53	8	3	1	0	0	0	0	14	30
Male	1	1	3	17	52	7	3	2	1	0	0	0	15	30
Female	1	0	2	17	53	8	4	1	0	0	0	0	14	30
Head of Household	1	1	3	16	54	8	3	1	0	0	0	0	13	30
Male Head	1	1	3	15	54	7	2	2	1	0	0	0	14	30
Female Head	1	0	3	17	53	9	4	0	0	0	0	0	13	30
Under 35 Years of Age	0	1	2	15	59	6	3	2	0	0	0	0	13	30
18-24	0	0	3	19	55	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	16	31
25-34	0	1	1	13	62	8	3	3	0	0	0	0	11	29
35-44	1	1	2	17	51	11	4	1	0	0	0	0	12	32
45-65	1	1	3	21	51	9	4	1	1	0	0	0	10	30
Over 65	1	0	5	14	43	6	3	1	0	0	0	0	27	30
High School Incomplete	1	1	2	18	44	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	27	27
High School Graduate	0	1	4	17	52	7	4	3	0	0	0	0	14	30
College Incomplete	0	0	1	17	57	9	4	1	0	0	0	0	10	31
College Graduate	1	0	1	15	63	11	3	1	0	0	0	0	5	30
Household Income: Under \$15K	1	1	4	17	48	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	23	30
\$15-24.9K	0	0	5	20	50	8	2	1	0	0	0	0	15	28
\$25K +	0	1	1	16	57	8	5	2	0	0	0	0	10	31
\$25-29.9K	0	0	2	11	63	5	4	4	1	0	0	0	10	31
\$30-39.9K	0	2	1	13	58	8	5	2	1	0	0	0	11	30
\$40K +	1	0	1	20	55	9	5	1	0	0	0	0	9	31
Own	1	0	2	17	53	8	4	2	0	0	0	0	13	31
Rent	0	1	3	18	54	6	1	1	0	0	0	0	16	29
White	1	0	2	18	53	8	4	2	0	0	0	0	13	30
Black	0	2	4	15	47	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	25	29

Employed	1	1	2	17	55	9	3	2	0	0	0	0	12	30
Employed Female	0	0	1	18	56	10	3	0	0	0	0	0	12	29
Not Employed	1	0	3	16	49	6	5	1	1	0	0	0	19	30
Not Employed Female	1	1	3	16	50	5	6	1	0	0	0	0	18	32
Professional, Manager, Owner	0	0	2	15	60	12	4	0	0	0	0	0	7	31
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	0	2	0	15	57	11	2	2	0	0	0	0	12	30
Blue Collar	1	1	3	19	52	6	2	2	0	0	0	0	14	29
Retired	0	0	5	16	44	6	4	2	1	0	0	0	23	30
Married	1	1	2	17	54	9	4	1	0	0	0	0	12	31
Not Married	0	0	3	17	50	6	2	2	0	0	0	0	19	29
Household Size: 1-2 People	1	1	3	16	54	8	2	1	0	0	0	0	14	30
3-4 People	1	1	1	19	49	8	4	1	0	0	0	0	16	28
5+ People	0	0	4	18	44	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	20	34
Children in Household: Under 18	1	1	2	16	55	8	2	2	0	0	0	0	13	30
No Children	1	0	3	17	51	7	4	1	0	0	0	0	16	30
Northeast	2	0	1	21	50	8	4	1	0	0	0	0	12	29
North-Central	0	1	3	19	54	7	4	1	1	0	0	0	11	31
South	0	0	3	12	50	9	2	2	0	0	0	0	21	31
West	0	2	2	18	59	5	3	1	0	0	0	0	10	28
Nonmetro	1	0	2	16	52	7	5	2	0	0	0	0	14	31
Metro: 50,000 and Over														
Fringe	0	1	2	15	55	9	3	1	0	0	0	0	14	29
Central City	0	1	3	20	52	7	1	1	0	0	0	0	15	29

Table A15
1991

Here Is a Card with Three Empty Glasses. Each Glass Has a Scale from 0 to 100, 0 Meaning Empty or No Power, and 100 Meaning Full or a Lot of Power. If You Had 100 Units of Power to Distribute, So that You Could Give the Federal, State, and Local Governments the Amount of Power You Thought Each Should Have, How Many Units of Power Would You Put In the Local Glass?
(percent)

	Units of Power												DK/NA	Mean
	0	1-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90-99	100		
Total Public	1	1	10	22	35	7	6	3	1	1	0	0	14	30
Male	0	1	10	21	34	9	7	2	0	0	0	0	15	30
Female	1	1	9	22	37	5	6	3	1	1	0	0	14	30
Head of Household	1	1	9	21	36	7	7	3	1	1	0	0	13	30
Male Head	0	1	10	21	34	9	8	2	1	1	0	0	14	30
Female Head	2	1	9	22	37	5	6	3	1	1	0	0	13	30
Under 35 Years of Age	1	1	7	23	40	9	5	3	0	0	0	0	13	30
18-24	2	0	6	17	43	8	4	4	0	0	0	0	16	31
25-34	1	1	7	26	38	9	5	2	0	0	0	0	11	29
35-44	0	1	11	22	32	7	10	3	2	1	0	0	12	32
45-65	0	1	13	25	32	5	9	4	1	1	0	0	10	30
Over 65	2	1	9	15	33	5	4	2	1	2	0	0	27	30
High School Incomplete	3	1	10	16	38	3	2	1	1	0	0	0	27	27
High School Graduate	1	1	10	23	34	6	7	3	1	1	0	0	14	30
College Incomplete	0	1	9	22	37	6	9	3	1	2	0	0	10	31
College Graduate	0	0	9	27	34	14	8	3	0	0	0	0	5	30
Household Income: Under \$15K	2	1	7	19	35	5	5	1	1	1	0	0	23	30
\$15-24.9K	2	1	13	22	35	5	6	1	0	2	0	0	15	28
\$25K +	0	1	9	24	36	7	8	4	1	0	0	0	10	31
\$25-29.9K	0	1	10	18	38	10	6	5	2	1	0	0	10	31
\$30-39.9K	0	2	8	22	41	7	8	2	0	0	0	0	11	30
\$40K +	0	0	9	27	33	7	9	5	2	0	0	0	9	31
Own	1	1	9	24	33	6	8	3	1	1	0	0	13	31
Rent	1	1	9	21	38	7	4	2	1	0	0	0	16	29
White	1	1	10	22	36	6	7	3	1	1	0	0	13	30
Black	2	2	9	17	30	9	2	4	0	0	0	0	25	29

Employed	1	1	10	23	33	9	8	2	1	1	0	0	12	30
Employed Female	1	1	12	23	34	5	9	2	1	1	0	0	12	29
Not Employed	1	1	8	20	39	4	3	4	1	1	0	0	19	30
Not Employed Female	2	1	5	20	40	3	3	5	1	2	0	0	18	32
Professional, Manager, Owner	0	0	9	25	32	12	13	1	1	0	0	0	7	31
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	1	2	10	20	37	4	8	5	1	0	0	0	12	30
Blue Collar	1	1	11	23	36	8	4	2	0	1	0	0	14	29
Retired	2	1	8	20	33	5	5	3	0	1	0	0	23	30
Married	1	1	8	23	37	7	7	3	1	1	0	0	12	31
Not Married	1	1	12	20	33	7	5	2	0	1	0	0	19	29
Household Size: 1-2 People	1	1	8	22	36	6	7	2	1	1	0	0	14	30
3-4 People	0	1	13	24	31	7	4	3	1	0	0	0	16	28
5+ People	0	0	7	11	37	10	9	7	0	0	0	0	20	34
Children in Household: Under 18	1	1	9	23	36	7	6	3	1	1	0	0	13	30
No Children	1	1	10	21	35	6	7	3	1	1	0	0	16	30
Northeast	1	0	11	25	35	7	7	2	0	0	0	0	12	29
North-Central	2	1	8	24	35	6	8	3	1	2	0	0	11	31
South	0	0	8	15	38	7	5	3	1	0	0	0	21	31
West	0	2	12	28	31	7	6	2	1	1	0	0	10	28
Nonmetro	1	1	6	23	36	7	8	2	1	1	0	0	14	31
Metro: 50,000 and Over														
Fringe	0	1	10	21	41	6	3	2	1	1	0	0	14	29
Central City	1	1	13	22	28	7	8	4	1	0	0	0	15	29

Table A16

1991

**In Addition to the United States Constitution, Do You Know If Your State Has Its Own Constitution,
or Does Your State Not Have Its Own Constitution?**

(percent)

	Has its Own Constitution	Does Not Have Its Own Constitution	Don't Know/ No Answer
Total Public	52	11	37
Male	57	12	31
Female	48	11	42
Head of Household	53	10	36
Male Head	60	10	30
Female Head	48	11	41
Under 35 Years of Age	47	13	40
18-24	40	13	48
25-34	51	13	36
35-44	59	9	32
45-65	60	12	29
Over 65	45	7	48
High School Incomplete	31	13	56
High School Graduate	46	10	44
College Incomplete	64	10	26
College Graduate	75	12	14
Household Income: Under \$15K	37	15	48
\$15-24.9K	47	8	45
\$25K +	62	10	28
\$25-29.9K	55	12	33
\$30-39.9K	58	11	31
\$40K +	67	9	25
Own	58	8	35
Rent	44	16	40
White	54	10	36
Black	37	21	42
Employed	56	12	32
Employed Female	49	12	39
Not Employed	46	10	44
Not Employed Female	45	8	47
Professional, Manager, Owner	67	9	25
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	45	13	43
Blue Collar	53	12	35
Retired	49	8	43
Married	58	10	32
Not Married	43	12	45
Household Size: 1-2 People	52	11	37
3-4 People	54	13	33
5+ People	35	11	54
Children in Household: Under 18	50	12	38
No Children	53	11	37
Northeast	41	21	38
North-Central	59	6	35
South	50	9	41
West	59	11	31
Nonmetro	57	8	34
Metro: 50,000 and Over			
Fringe	50	10	39
Central City	47	15	38

Guide to Current and Historical Questions, 1972-1991

This guide is an index to all questions asked in the ACIR polls from 1972 until 1991. Individuals wishing to order data may (1) order individual 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 (Publication, Table Number) reports the

publication and table number for previously published detailed tables.

The data for the questions asked in 1991 are published in *Changing Public Attitudes on Governments and Taxes 1991* (S-20). The data for 1990 are in volume S-19, for 1989 in volume S-18, 1982-88 in volume S-17, and for 1972-81 in volumes S-12 or S-13. For years with blanks, data are included in the first tables in that list.

	Year	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?	1991 1989-72	S-20, A2 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?	1990 1989	S-19, A2 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	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	S-13, E
Which do you think is the worst tax, that is, the least fair?	1991 1990 1988-77 1975-72	S-20, A1 S-19, A1 S-18, 3 S-17, 6-9
Which do you think is the worst tax, that is, the least fair—including Social Security?	1990-88	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	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	S-17, 22-24 S-13, K
If the federal income tax collections must be increased, which way is the best?	1983	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	S-17, 46

Which one way of reducing the federal deficit would you prefer?	1984	S-17, 43
State Taxes		
Suppose your state government must raise taxes/revenues, which would be the better way to do it?	1987 1983 1972, 76	S-17, 26-27 S-13, D
Do you favor or oppose state laws which give special tax breaks or other incentives to industries that will locate or expand present operations in the state?	1977	S-13, L

Local Taxes

Suppose your local government must raise more taxes/revenue, which would be the better way to do it?	1987 1986 1983 1981	S-17, 28-31
Which reason do you feel is the most important for dissatisfaction with the property tax?	1977	S-13, G

SPENDING

Federal Mandates

The federal government has passed laws requiring better local pay and benefits, local wastewater treatment standards, and state health services to the poor. Do you think the federal government was right in passing these laws?	1991	S-20, A6, A8, A10
Regardless of how you feel about these laws, do you think the costs should be paid by the federal government, your state or local government, or the federal and state or local government each paying part?	1991	S-20 A7, A9, A11

Federal-State-Local Spending

Which level of government do you think spends your tax dollars most wisely— federal, state, or local?	1991 1989	S-20, A3 S-18, 7
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Federal Spending

Which functions should the federal government turn back to state and local governments?	1981	S-13, P
Which one way of reducing the federal deficit would you prefer?	1984	S-17, 43
If the federal government decides to reduce spending, which one way would you prefer?	1986, 84	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	S-13, O
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AID PROGRAMS

Federal Aid

Rank types of federal grant programs as to whether they are necessary or unnecessary.	1982	S-17, 16
Do you favor or oppose revenue sharing?	1973-76, 79	S-13, C
Do you favor or oppose special federal aid for central cities experiencing financial difficulty?	1976-79	S-13, J
For which, if any, of the following programs should the federal government stop providing federal financial support?	1985	S-17, 42

State Aid

With the cutbacks in federal financial aid to local governments, what should states do?	1983	S-17, 47
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Welfare

Should single parents receiving welfare be required to work in a government program to continue receiving payments?	1986	S-17, 41
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GOVERNMENT POWER AND EFFICIENCY

Federal-State-Local Power

Power in our federal system is divided between the federal, state, and local governments. Here is a card with glasses of water illustrating different amounts of power for each government. Which set of glasses do you think best illustrates how power is actually distributed between our federal, state, and local governments today?	1991	S-20, A12
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Here is a card with three empty glasses. Each glass has a scale from 0 to 100, 0 meaning empty or no power, and 100 meaning full or a lot of power. If you had 100 units of power to distribute, so that you could give the federal, state, and local governments the amount of power you thought each should have, how many units of power would you put in each glass?	1991	S-20, A13-15
Which level of government do you think has too much power today—federal, state, or local?	1989	S-18, 8
Which level of government do you think needs more power today—federal, state, or local?	1989	S-18, 9
How much power do you feel the federal government has over the activities of state and local government?	1987	S-17, 32
Which of these statements comes closest to your view about government power today?	1986-82 1978	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	S-17, 10
Federal-State-Local Efficiency		
Which government do you feel wastes the most of your tax money?	1987	S-17, 21
In your opinion, how often does your state government perform its duties efficiently and at the best cost possible?	1988	S-17, 11
In your opinion, how often does your local government perform its duties efficiently and at the best cost possible?	1988	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	S-13, N
Would the following services be more efficiently produced/delivered by private companies or your local government?	1985	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	S-18, 5
Which level of government do you think responds best to your needs?	1989	S-18, 6
How much trust and confidence do you have in your government to do a good job?	1987	S-17, 34
In which people in government do you have the most trust and confidence?	1987	S-17, 33
To the extent that government may be involved, 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?	1990	S19, A3-A8
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?	1989	S-18, 10-15

GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS

Performance and Cooperation		
Overall, how well do you think the federal government and your state government cooperate and get along with each other?	1991	S-20, A4
Overall, how well do you think your state government and your local government cooperate and get along with each other?	1991	S-20, A5
Overall, how would you grade the performance of each of the following governments—federal, state, local?	1990	S-19, A9-11
Overall, how would you grade the ability of the federal, state, and local governments to cooperate and work together today?	1990	S-19, A12-14
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	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	1988	S-17, 16

and mayors usually a very good use of public funds, a somewhat good use, a not very good use, or a poor use of public funds?

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 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 S-17, 18

Average grades for public works services 1988 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 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 S-17, 48

State Surplus Funds

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

State Constitutions

In addition to the United States constitution, do you know if your state has its own constitution, or does your state not have its own constitution? 1991 S-20, A16

Does your state have its own constitution, or does it rely on the United States Constitution for its governing powers? 1988 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 S-17, 14

Recent Publications of the U.S. Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations

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