

A COMMISSION SURVEY

# CHANGING PUBLIC ATTITUDES ON GOVERNMENTS AND TAXES

# 1987

Advisory Commission on  
Intergovernmental Relations  
WASHINGTON, DC 20575

S-16





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(September 1987)

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# Foreword

This publication presents the 16th annual survey of public attitudes toward government and taxes conducted for the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (ACIR).

The Gallup Organization has conducted the polls since 1983 using the Gallup Personal Omnibus. Every effort was made to ensure comparability with the previous surveys conducted by Opinion Research Corporation of Princeton, NJ. A description of the poll appears on page 8. Users should note that for 1987, the sample size is 1,044, and the sampling tolerances are slightly larger than in years preceding 1986.

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

John Kincaid, research director, directed the 1987 study. It was prepared by Susannah E. Calkins, senior analyst, with the assistance of Lena Huang. Members of the ACIR staff participated in developing the questions and in reviewing the results.

We wish to express our gratitude to Steven and Linda Bennett, Richard Goode, Mavis Reeves, Robert Savage and Larry Sabato for their assistance in reviewing the poll results, and to numerous others who assisted in the development of the questions.

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

**John Shannon**  
**Executive Director**

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# The 1987 Survey

## HIGHLIGHTS

According to a June 1987 poll on changing public attitudes toward governments and taxes, commissioned by the U.S. Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations:

- Local governments score high in public trust and confidence.
- Many Americans (45 percent) believe that the federal government has too much power over the activities of state and local governments today.
- The public is almost evenly divided on whether they get the most for their tax money from the federal government, state government, or local government—with one fifth saying they don't know.
- Of the nation's federal, state, and local governments, however, two-thirds of the public believe that the federal government wastes the most of their tax money.
- Of the major taxes levied by governments in the federal system, the federal income tax is most often viewed as the worst tax (i.e., the least fair), although the percentage of respondents choosing the federal income tax as the worst tax dropped from 37 percent in 1986 to 30 percent in 1987.
- If governments need to raise a small amount of additional revenue, Americans would more likely prefer a national lottery as a federal revenue source, an increase in cigarette and liquor taxes as a state revenue source, and an increase in user fees as a local revenue source.

This 1987 public opinion survey is the 16th annual poll commissioned by the ACIR.

### Trust And Confidence In The People Running Government

Responses to a number of questions in this year's ACIR poll suggest that local governments stand high in public esteem.

In a new question posed this year, respondents were asked to choose whether they have the most trust and confidence in the people in charge of running the federal government, their state government, or their local government (see *Table 1*). Thirty-seven percent of the respondents expressed the most trust and confidence in the people in charge of running their local government. The people in charge of running state government received 22 percent of the trust-and-confidence vote, and the people in charge of running the federal government got 19 percent of the trust-and-confidence vote. It should be noted, however, that more than one-fifth (22 percent) of the respondents did not make a choice. Looked at another way, of those respondents who did make a choice, 47 percent expressed the most trust and confidence in the people in charge of running their local government.

In terms of groups within the sample population, nonwhites (28 percent) were more likely than whites (17 percent) to choose those in charge of running the federal government as being the people in whom they have the most trust and confidence. Conversely, whites (39 percent) were more likely than nonwhites (20 percent) to express the most trust and confidence in the people in charge of running their local government. Otherwise, groups expressing markedly above-average trust and confidence in the people running local governments included respondents having

Table 1

**In Which Of The Following People In Government  
Do You Have The Most Trust And Confidence?**

(Percent of U.S. Public)

Federal Government	19
State Government	22
Local Government	37
Don't Know	22

(Detailed data appear in *Appendix I, Table 21*, page 34.)

some college education (45 percent), those having an income between \$30,000 and \$39,999 (46 percent), employed women (45 percent), and respondents living in the nation's North-Central region (44 percent).

**Trust And Confidence In The  
Ability Of Governments To  
Carry Out Their Responsibilities**

Asking respondents to choose the one government in whose officials they have the most trust and confidence can give a misleading picture of public attitudes because a choice of one government does not necessarily mean that respondents lack trust and confidence in the other governments. Members of the public may have equally high or low levels of trust and confidence in two or three of the principal governments in the federal system. To test for this possibility, respondents were asked about how much trust and confidence they have in the ability of each of the three types of government to do a good job in carrying out its responsibilities. Respondents were given four choices, ranging from "a great deal" to "none at all" (see *Table 2*).

Sixteen percent of the respondents reported that they have "a great deal" of trust and confidence in the ability of their local government to

carry out its responsibilities. Eleven percent said that they have "a great deal" of trust and confidence in their state government, and 9 percent said that they have "a great deal" of trust and confidence in the federal government. Although local government again scores comparatively high in public esteem, if one combines the results in the first two columns of *Table 2*, one sees that more than two-thirds of the respondents expressed "a great deal" to "a fair amount" of trust and confidence in each type of government to carry out its responsibilities. At the other end of the scale, only small percentages of respondents reported that they have no trust and confidence at all in any of the three governments.

Striking differences were evident between the attitudes of whites and nonwhites toward government. The percentage of nonwhites who reported that they have no trust and confidence at all in government to do a good job consistently exceeded the sample average: 15 percent expressed no trust and confidence in the federal government, 10 percent reported no confidence in state government, and 18 percent expressed no confidence in local government. The percentages of nonwhites reporting "a great deal" of trust and confidence were 5 percent for the federal government, 6 percent for state government, and 5 percent for local government.

Table 2

**How Much Trust And Confidence Do You Have In Your Federal, State or Local  
Government To Do A Good Job In Carrying Out Its Responsibilities?**

(Percent of U.S. Public)

	<b>A Great Deal</b>	<b>A Fair Amount</b>	<b>Not Very Much</b>	<b>None At All</b>	<b>Don't Know/ No Answer</b>
Federal	9	59	24	4	4
State	11	62	19	4	4
Local	16	57	16	7	4

(Detailed data appear in *Appendix I, Table 22*, page 35.)



Table 3

**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?**

(Percent of U.S. Public)

Too Much Power	46
The Right Amount of Power	37
Too Little Power	7
Don't Know	10

(Detailed data appear in *Appendix I, Table 20*, page 33.)

In sum, when asked to choose the one government in whose officials they have the most trust and confidence, respondents were more likely to choose local government, although a sizable number of respondents (22 percent) declined to make a choice, and thus fell into the "Don't Know" category. However, when asked about the ability of each government individually to carry out its responsibilities, few respondents fell into the "Don't Know" category, and more than two-thirds expressed "a great deal" to "a fair amount" of trust and confidence in the federal government, their state government, and their local government.

**Federal Power Over The Activities Of State And Local Governments**

A cardinal question of the federal union is the balance of power among the nation's federal, state, and local governments. In light of this year's commemoration of the bicentennial of the signing of the United States Constitution, the ACIR poll included a question on whether the federal government has too much, the right amount, or too little power over the activities of state and local governments today.

Forty-six percent of the respondents said that they believe that the federal government has too much power over state and local government activities (see *Table 3*). Thirty-seven percent believe that the federal government has just about the right amount of power, while only 7 percent feel that the federal government has too little power. There were few noticeable differences among different groups of respondents on this question, although nonwhites (53 percent) were more likely than whites (44 percent) to say that the federal government has too much power. Similarly, re-

spondents from the South (51 percent) were slightly more likely than respondents from other regions to say that the federal government has too much power over the activities of state and local governments today.<sup>1</sup>

**From Which Level Of Government Do You Get The Most For Your Money?**

Since 1972, the ACIR poll has asked: "From which level of government do you get the most for your money?" Just as in 1985 and 1986, the percentages of respondents saying that they get the most for their money from local government and from the federal government were about equal: 29 percent chose local government, and 28 percent chose the federal government (see *Table 4*). However, between 1986 and 1987, there was a four percentage-point drop in the proportion of respondents choosing each of the two. Those choosing local government dropped from 33 percent in 1986 to 29 percent in 1987, and those choosing the federal government dropped from 32 percent in both 1985 and 1986 to 28 percent in 1987. The percentage of respondents saying that they get the most for their money from state government remained the same (22 percent) as in 1986 and 1985.

There was a sharp increase in 1987 in the percentage of respondents who said "Don't Know" to this question: from 13 percent in 1986 to 21 percent this year. This is the highest percentage of "Don't Know" responses recorded for this question since 1974, when the "Don't Know" response rate was 22 percent. Generally, it should be noted that, relative to most other questions in ACIR's polls, the number of "Don't Know" responses is consistently high for this question.

<sup>1</sup>A May 1987 CBS-New York Times Poll asked a related question: Does the federal government have too much power, do the state governments have too much power, or is the balance about right? Thirty-nine percent of the respondents felt that the federal government has too much power, 5 percent believed that the state governments have too much power, and 47 percent believed that the balance is about right.

Table 4

### From Which Level Of Government Do You Feel You Get The Most For Your Money—Federal, State or Local?

(Percent of U.S. Public)

	Federal	Local	State	Don't Know
June 1987	28	29	22	21
May 1986	32	33	22	13
May 1985	32	31	22	15
May 1984	24	35	27	14
May 1983	31	31	20	19
May 1982	35	28	20	17
Sept. 1981	30	33	25	14
May 1980	33	26	22	19
May 1979	29	33	22	16
May 1978	35	26	20	19
May 1977	36	26	20	18
March 1976	36	25	20	19
May 1975	38	25	20	17
April 1974	29	28	24	19
May 1973	35	25	18	22
March 1972	39	26	18	17

(Detailed data appear in *Appendix I, Tables 1-4*, pages 10-14.)

The question is admittedly difficult to answer. Respondents must, in effect, compare the services they receive from each government—and possibly the efficiency with which those services are delivered—to the amount of “money” they perceive each government as receiving from them. Some respondents may also have difficulty choosing one government because they may feel that they get a great deal for their money from all three governments or not much at all from any government.

As in past years, the demographic data indicate that the respondents most likely to cite the federal government as the government from which they get the most for their money are those who are over age 65 (38 percent), retired (37 percent), or nonwhite (42 percent). The highest percentage of respondents choosing state government came from those aged 25-34 (32 percent). The respondents most likely to say that they get the most for their money from local government were college graduates (45 percent), the occupational category of professionals, managers, and owners (45 percent), and persons with annual incomes of \$40,000 or more (40 percent).

Regionally, respondents in the Northeast and West were more likely than respondents from other regions to say that they get the most for their money from local government. Respondents in the

South were more likely to cite the federal government, while those in the North-Central region divided almost equally on all three governments.

### Which Government Wastes The Most Of Your Tax Money?

As a counterpoint to the above question, the poll also asked respondents to choose which government wastes the most of their tax money. Two-thirds of the respondents said that the federal government wastes the most of their tax money. Only 14 percent chose state government, and 8 percent chose local government (see *Table 5*). The respondents most likely to cite the federal government as being the most wasteful included the occupational category of professionals, managers, and owners (79 percent), persons with some college education (78 percent), persons who had graduated from college (76 percent), and respondents earning \$40,000 or more (76 percent).

Deviations from the total percentage (66 percent) citing the federal government as the most wasteful were equally noticeable on the low side. Only 39 percent of the nonwhite respondents as opposed to 70 percent of the white respondents said that the federal government wastes the most of their tax money. Similarly, 52 percent of the

Table 5

### Which Government Do You Feel Wastes The Most Of Your Tax Money— Federal, State or Local?

(Percent of U.S. Public)

Federal	66
State	14
Local	8
Don't Know	12

(Detailed data appear in *Appendix I, Table 9*, page 22.)

respondents who had not completed high school and 54 percent of those with incomes under \$15,000 chose the federal government as the most wasteful.

Although only 8 percent of all the respondents cited local government as the most wasteful, 17 percent of the nonwhite respondents and 13 percent of those with incomes under \$15,000 said that local government is the most wasteful. With regard to state government, chosen as wasteful by 14 percent of the respondents, there were no marked differences in responses among different demographic groups.

Interestingly, the percentage of "Don't Know" responses to this question (12 percent) is signifi-

cantly lower than the 22 percent given for the previous question. Evidently, respondents have an easier time deciding which government wastes the most of their tax money than they do deciding which government gives them the most for their tax money. The overwhelming number of respondents citing the federal government as the most wasteful may be due, in part, to the amount of media attention often given to alleged waste in the federal government, the large number of federal spending programs, and the sheer size of the federal government's budget compared to the size of the budgets of individual state and local governments.

Table 6

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

(Percent of U.S. Public)

	Federal Income Tax	State Income Tax	State Sales Tax	Local Property Tax	Don't Know
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			n.a.		
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, Tables 5-8*, pages 16-20.)

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

For the ninth straight year, the federal income tax has received the most votes as the worst tax in the ACIR poll. Thirty percent of the respondents chose it as the least fair tax, compared to 24 percent who chose the local property tax (see *Table 6*). The percent choosing the federal income tax as least fair showed a marked drop from 37 per-

cent in 1986 to 30 percent in 1987. This is the third time in the 16 years the poll has been conducted that there has been an abrupt change in public opinion on the federal income tax, and the first time that there has been such a large drop in the percentage of respondents choosing it as the worst tax.

The 30 percent selecting the federal income tax as the worst tax is the same as in 1978—the last year before a sharp increase in public disap-

*Table 7*

### If The Federal Government Decided To Raise A Small Amount Of Additional Revenue To Help Meet Costs And Reduce The Deficit, Which One Of These Would You Prefer?

(Percent of U.S. Public)

An increase in gasoline and diesel fuel taxes	8
An increase in individual income tax rates	7
A national lottery	47
A national sales tax on all purchases other than food	10
An increase in user fees or charges for things like the use of national parks and forests, passports, customs inspections, and Coast Guard services for boaters	15
(Volunteered) No tax increase/No new taxes	6
Don't know/No answer	7

### If Your State Government Decided To Raise A Small Amount Of Additional Revenue To Help Meet Costs And Improve Services, Which One Of These Would You Prefer?

(Percent of U.S. Public)

An increase in cigarette and liquor taxes	54
An increase in the general state sales tax	8
An increase in gasoline and diesel fuel taxes	4
An increase in state income tax rates, or an income tax if your state does not now have one	6
An increase in user fees or charges for things like the use of state parks, automobile registration, boating licenses, or toll roads	13
(Volunteered) No tax increase/No new taxes	8
Don't know/No answer	7

### If Your Local Government Decided To Raise A Small Amount Of Additional Revenue To Help Meet Costs And Improve Services, Which One Of These Would You Prefer?

(Percent of U.S. Public 1987)

A local income or wage tax, or an increase in existing local income or wage tax rates	9
A local sales tax, or an increase in the existing local sales tax	20
An increase in property tax rates	9
An increase in user fees or charges for things like the use of local parks and swimming pools, parking, library use, garbage pick-up, or ambulance service	33
(Volunteered) No tax increase/No new taxes	17
Don't know/No answer	12

(Detailed data appear in *Appendix I, Table 10, 14, 16, pages 23, 27, and 29* .



proval. (Beginning in 1979, the public consistently ranked the federal income tax as the worst tax, exceeding by a substantial margin those who chose the local property tax.) The sharp drop in the percent choosing the federal income tax as the worst tax can possibly be attributed to the enactment of federal income-tax reform legislation in 1986.

Not unexpectedly, the lowest income groups were less likely than other income groups to choose the federal income tax as the worst tax, while higher income groups were more likely to choose it as the worst tax.

The percentage of respondents choosing the local property tax as the worst tax also dropped somewhat—from 28 percent in 1986 to 24 percent in 1987. Both state taxes—the state income tax and the state sales tax—seem to be slipping somewhat in public approbation, with both of them polling a higher percentage of votes as the worst tax in 1987 than in 1986. This change may be due to the considerable amount of state tax activity which has occurred since ACIR's 1986 poll. A number of states have increased taxes, and many states have discussed changes or increases in state taxes. However, in the absence of other questions probing the views of respondents, we cannot be certain about the reasons for the changes in public attitudes toward the four principal taxes levied by governments in the federal system.

## **Raising Revenue For Federal, State, And Local Governments**

A consistent finding of ACIR polls is the preference of the American public for raising government revenues in what might be regarded as the least painful way. This finding is clearly underscored by the responses to the three 1987 questions which ask how the public would prefer, if necessary, to raise a small amount of additional revenue for the federal, state, and local governments (see *Table 7*). In reading the responses to this question in *Table 7*, it should be noted that respondents were asked to choose from the specific revenue-raising mechanisms given for each type of government. The alternative of "No tax increase/No new taxes" was not given to respondents. Consequently, responses in this category were recorded only when respondents refused to choose a revenue-raising mechanism and specifically said that the government should not increase taxes or impose any new taxes.

If necessary, the public prefers a national lottery as a source of revenue for the federal govern-

ment (47 percent), an increase in cigarette and liquor taxes as a source of revenue for state government (54 percent), and an increase in user fees as a source of revenue for local governments (33 percent).

Preference for raising more federal revenue by a national lottery was higher in the Northeast region of the country (55 percent) than the national average of 47 percent. Residents of the Northeast are most familiar with lotteries because all of the states in that region have had state lotteries for several years. Older Americans were less supportive of a national lottery than the average, with only 33 percent of those over 65 years of age and 38 percent of retired persons choosing a lottery as a national revenue raiser.

The public's preference for raising more state revenue by increasing cigarette and liquor taxes varies by region. Percentages were high in the North Central region (60 percent) and the West (61 percent) in comparison to the national average of 54 percent. Nonwhites tended to be less supportive, with only 44 percent supporting an increase in cigarette and liquor taxes. (It should be noted that increasing the tax on beer was not specifically identified in the list of alternatives; responses by many groups might have been different if beer had been included along with liquor.)

More variation was found in choosing ways to raise a small amount of revenue for local government. User fees received the highest percentage of the vote—33 percent. Persons with some college education (41 percent) and persons with incomes in the \$30,000-39,999 range (43 percent) were among the most likely to prefer increasing user fees. College graduates gave slightly larger than average support to user fees, but also gave greater than average support to sales taxes (30 percent compared to the U.S. average of 20 percent). For local government, nonwhites gave equal support to increasing user fees and the volunteered answer that there should be no tax increase (23 percent).

When the responses for federal, state, and local government are compared, the public shows significant variations in support for similar ways of raising additional revenue. Support for user charges was highest for local government (33 percent) compared to 16 percent for the federal government and 13 percent for states. Support for a sales tax (or increasing existing sales tax rates) was higher for local government (20 percent) than for either the federal government or state governments. The volunteered answer of "No tax increase/No new taxes" was also highest for local government.

# The Poll

This report presents the findings of a personal interview research survey conducted among a nationally representative sample of 1,044 men and women, 18 years of age or over, living in private households in the United States.

Interviewing for this survey was completed June 6-14, 1987, 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 metropolitan area. Nonmetro areas are those not in a metropolitan area. Nonmetro areas are those not in a metropolitan area, with populations under 50,000. Central city areas have populations of 50,000 or more in a central city of a metropolitan area. Fringe areas have populations of 50,000 or more in metropolitan areas outside a central city.

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

*Income* groups respondents by 1987 total household income before taxes.

*Sampling tolerances* for the survey are  $\pm 4$  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

Data for 1981-72 are presented in *Appendix III*, Detailed Results of 1981-72 Surveys (p. 41) of the 1984 public opinion volume (S-13) or the 1983 volume (S-12). Copies may be requested from ACIR. Descriptions of classifications used in these years may be found in the volumes for the relevant years.

Tables for 1987-1982 are presented in *Appendix I* of this report (S-16).

*Revised* 1986 figures are underlined in the detailed tables.

*Appendix I*

# **Detailed Results: 1987-82 Surveys**

*Table 1*  
**1987-85\***  
**From Which Level Of Government Do You Feel You Get The Most For Your Money—**  
**Federal, State, Or Local?**  
(in percent)

	1. Federal.				2. State.				3. Local.				4. Don't know/No answer.			
	1987				1986				1985							
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Total Public	28	22	29	21	32	22	33	13	32	22	31	15	32	22	31	15
Male	31	21	32	16	34	24	34	8	33	23	31	13	33	23	31	13
Female	26	24	26	24	31	21	31	17	32	22	29	17	32	22	29	17
Head of Household	28	21	31	20	33	22	33	12	32	22	31	15	32	22	31	15
Male Head	29	20	35	16	34	23	35	8	32	22	33	13	32	22	33	13
Female Head	27	22	27	24	33	21	31	15	32	22	29	17	32	22	29	17
Under 35 Years of Age	30	30	23	17	32	27	32	9	32	27	28	13	32	27	28	13
18-24	34	27	16	23	33	29	26	12	35	26	27	12	35	26	27	12
25-34	27	32	28	13	31	26	36	7	29	28	28	15	29	28	28	15
35-44	21	23	40	16	28	24	37	11	28	21	38	13	28	21	38	13
45-65	26	16	31	27	30	19	37	14	36	19	30	15	36	19	30	15
Over 65	38	14	24	24	43	16	21	20	33	17	29	21	33	17	29	21
High School Incomplete	31	16	18	35	36	19	23	22	37	17	26	20	37	17	26	20
High School Graduate	31	24	24	21	34	23	31	12	35	22	28	15	35	22	28	15
College Incomplete	27	24	36	13	32	21	39	8	27	32	30	11	27	32	30	11
College Graduate	20	26	45	9	24	25	43	8	24	22	43	11	24	22	43	11
Household Income: Under \$15K	35	19	19	27	37	21	22	20	39	20	22	19	39	20	22	19
\$15-24.9K	27	23	32	18	36	21	33	10	33	20	33	14	33	20	33	14
\$25K+	23	24	35	18	28	24	41	7	27	25	36	12	27	25	36	12
\$25-29.9K	30	21	25	24	24	23	46	7	27	27	34	12	27	27	34	12
\$30-39.9K	22	23	34	21	32	25	36	7	25	27	35	13	25	27	35	13
\$40K+	21	27	40	12	26	24	42	8	28	23	38	11	28	23	38	11
Own	27	21	31	21	30	22	36	12	30	23	32	15	30	23	32	15
Rent	30	25	25	20	38	24	26	12	37	23	27	13	37	23	27	13
White	26	24	30	20	32	22	34	12	31	23	32	14	31	23	32	14
Nonwhite	42	15	15	28	37	27	25	11	40	22	19	19	40	22	19	19
Employed	26	24	33	17	32	25	35	8	31	24	32	13	31	24	32	13
Employed Female	22	27	32	19	33	23	33	11	30	23	31	16	30	23	31	16
Not Employed	31	21	22	26	33	18	30	19	34	20	28	18	34	20	28	18
Not Employed Female	30	23	19	28	29	19	29	23	32	22	28	18	32	22	28	18
Prof., Manager, Owner	22	23	45	10	25	27	42	6	27	23	40	10	27	23	40	10
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	32	26	22	20	38	20	34	8	29	30	26	15	29	30	26	15
Blue Collar	27	23	26	24	35	25	31	19	35	21	29	15	35	21	29	15
Retired	37	13	26	24	31	23	35	11	37	17	27	19	37	17	27	19
Married	29	21	32	18	31	23	35	11	30	24	32	14	30	24	32	14
Not Married	28	25	22	25	35	22	28	15	37	18	29	16	37	18	29	16
Household Size: 1-2 People	28	21	30	21	32	22	33	13	33	21	29	17	33	21	29	17
3-4 People	28	28	24	20	33	26	31	10	32	23	33	12	32	23	33	12
5+ People	37	13	23	27	41	20	37	2	28	27	28	17	28	27	28	17
Children in Household: Under 18	31	23	30	16	32	22	37	9	29	25	33	19	29	25	33	19
No Children	27	22	27	24	33	22	30	15	36	20	27	17	36	20	27	17
Northeast	23	20	32	25	37	26	25	12	36	19	28	17	36	19	28	17
North-Central	29	26	27	18	28	22	39	11	29	22	35	14	29	22	35	14
South	32	20	26	22	32	18	35	15	36	22	28	14	36	22	28	14
West	26	25	30	19	32	27	29	12	25	28	30	17	25	28	30	17
Nonmetro	30	21	27	22	32	20	33	15	30	23	30	17	30	23	30	17
Metro: 50,000 and Over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fringe	22	24	32	22	32	24	32	12	33	22	32	13	33	22	32	13
Central City	34	23	26	17	35	23	33	9	33	22	30	15	33	22	30	15

\*1984-72 data appear in *Tables 2-4*.



Table 2  
1984-82  
**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.			
	1984				1983				1982							
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4				
Total Public	24	27	35	14	31	20	31	19	35	20	28	17				
Male	26	27	39	10	33	20	32	16	38	20	29	13				
Female	23	27	33	17	29	20	31	21	33	19	28	20				
Head of Household	24	26	37	13	30	19	32	19	36	18	28	18				
Male Head	26	25	38	11	32	20	33	16	37	20	29	14				
Female Head	23	26	35	16	28	19	32	22	34	17	28	21				
Under 35 Years of Age	22	34	33	11	31	23	30	16	35	24	27	14				
18-24	21	36	28	15	36	24	23	17	39	27	23	13				
25-34	22	33	37	8	27	23	35	15	33	21	30	16				
35-44	21	26	38	15	27	22	37	15	27	26	36	11				
45-65	26	23	37	14	30	18	32	20	34	15	31	20				
Over 65	32	18	33	17	37	11	26	25	46	11	19	24				
High School Incomplete	30	21	27	22	37	18	20	26	44	13	22	21				
High School Graduate	25	28	34	13	29	18	33	19	32	23	27	18				
College Incomplete	20	35	34	11	30	23	36	11	30	24	31	15				
College Graduate	19	25	49	7	23	23	44	10	30	19	43	8				
Household Income: Under \$15K	29	27	29	15	37	16	24	24	42	15	21	22				
\$15-24.9K	26	26	36	12	26	24	34	16	37	20	30	13				
\$25K+	20	27	41	12	26	23	39	12	25	24	36	15				
\$25-29.9K	21	19	38	22	28	28	35	9	24 <sup>1</sup>	23 <sup>1</sup>	35 <sup>1</sup>	18 <sup>1</sup>				
\$30-39.9K	21	29	41	9	26	23	38	13	26 <sup>2</sup>	26 <sup>2</sup>	36 <sup>2</sup>	12 <sup>2</sup>				
\$40K+	18	32	43	7	26	20	42	12	—	—	—	—				
Own	23	27	37	13	28	19	35	17	32	20	31	17				
Rent	27	26	34	13	39	18	22	21	42	19	22	17				
White	23	27	37	13	27	21	34	18	32	20	30	18				
Nonwhite	33	26	24	17	51	12	16	21	57	13	19	11				
Employed	22	29	37	12	27	21	37	16	30	23	32	15				
Employed Female	20	29	36	15	27	20	36	18	27	25	31	17				
Not Employed	28	23	32	17	35	18	25	22	38	17	26	19				
Not Employed Female	27	25	30	18	31	19	27	23	37	16	27	20				
Prof., Manager, Owner	23	28	36	13	24	21	44	11	28	17	43	12				
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	26	25	31	18	32	19	33	16	29	34	24	13				
Blue Collar	22	29	36	13	29	21	30	19	31	24	28	17				
Retired	26	25	28	21	41	12	24	23	43	13	21	23				
Married	23	26	38	13	29	21	33	18	33	19	32	16				
Not Married	27	29	29	15	34	18	29	20	38	20	22	20				
Household Size: 1-2 People	26	24	36	14	34	14	31	21	38	17	24	21				
3-4 People	21	29	36	14	26	26	32	16	31	23	31	15				
5+ People	26	27	34	13	32	20	31	18	37	20	31	12				
Children in Household: Under 18	23	27	36	14	28	23	33	16	31	22	33	14				
No Children	25	27	35	13	33	17	30	20	38	18	24	20				
Northeast	25	22	37	16	31	14	31	24	32	14	33	21				
North-Central	26	30	31	13	27	20	38	15	33	24	24	19				
South	23	26	36	15	34	20	28	18	39	18	26	17				
West	23	29	36	12	30	26	28	16	35	21	31	13				
Nonmetro	22	30	34	14	29	23	28	20	35	21	28	16				
Metro: 50,000 and Over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	35	19	28	18				
Fringe	22	27	39	12	27	17	42	14	—	—	—	—				
Central City	29	24	32	15	36	17	27	21	—	—	—	—				

<sup>1</sup>\$25-34.9K.

<sup>2</sup>\$35K +

Table 3  
1981-77  
**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.							
	1981				1980				1979				1978				1977			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Total Public*	30	25	33	14	33	22	26	19	29	22	33	16	35	20	26	19	36	20	26	18
18-29 Years of Age*	29	27	33	11	35	29	23	13	29	25	36	10	37	24	25	14	33	27	25	14
30-44	29	25	35	11	29	22	30	19	27	23	38	12	30	21	29	20	29	22	33	16
45-59	25	27	34	15	30	21	30	19	27	22	33	19	31	21	30	18	37	16	27	20
60 Years and Over*	35	18	29	19	40	13	18	29	32	15	26	27	41	10	21	28	45	13	18	25
Male: Total*	32	24	34	10	33	22	28	17	31	21	33	14	38	20	27	15	42	17	28	13
18-29 Years of Age	29	27	37	7	31	29	29	11	31	24	37	8	39	23	27	11	36	27	27	10
30-44	34	24	34	9	28	25	31	16	29	24	38	8	33	19	30	18	37	18	36	9
45-59	28	29	29	15	30	20	30	20	32	21	28	20	30	25	30	15	48	10	30	12
60 Years and Over	36	15	36	13	46	11	20	23	35	13	28	20	52	9	22	18	50	10	21	19
Female: Total*	28	25	31	16	34	22	23	21	26	22	34	18	32	20	25	23	30	24	24	23
18-29 Years of Age	30	28	29	14	38	30	18	14	28	25	35	12	36	26	23	16	31	28	24	18
30-44	24	27	36	13	30	20	29	21	25	23	37	15	27	23	28	21	24	25	31	20
45-59	22	25	39	15	31	21	30	18	23	23	37	17	31	19	30	21	26	23	23	27
60 Years and Over	34	20	24	23	36	15	17	32	29	17	24	30	34	11	20	35	39	16	13	31
Employed	26	28	35	11	31	25	29	15	24	23	37	16	33	19	31	17	29	25	26	20
Housewife	29	23	29	20	32	21	23	24	24	23	28	16	28	22	26	25	28	23	25	25
High School Grad or Less: Total	32	24	29	15	36	21	21	22	32	20	30	18	36	18	24	22	38	21	21	21
Less Than Grad*	34	22	25	19	39	15	18	28	36	18	21	25	40	13	18	28	39	20	16	26
High School Grad*	30	26	32	12	32	27	24	17	28	22	37	13	33	22	29	16	37	22	26	15
College: Total*	—	—	—	—	28	24	36	12	21	26	43	11	30	25	31	14	32	20	36	13
Some	25	26	38	11	30	24	32	14	22	26	41	11	33	26	27	14	35	21	31	14
Grad	22	25	46	7	26	24	41	9	19	25	46	11	26	22	38	14	27	19	43	11
Executive, Prof., Manager*	28	25	42	6	24	26	36	14	22	27	43	9	23	25	36	17	23	24	42	11
White Collar	29	27	31	14	27	24	35	14	26	20	43	12	31	23	33	13	33	21	32	14
Blue Collar: Total	25	30	35	11	35	25	21	19	30	24	30	17	35	21	23	21	36	22	22	20
Skilled	19	32	37	13	32	28	23	17	27	25	32	15	36	24	24	17	34	21	25	20
Semi/Unskilled	29	28	33	10	38	22	20	20	31	23	27	18	35	18	22	25	38	22	19	20
Retired	—	—	—	—	43	12	18	27	35	16	25	24	45	12	19	24	45	15	17	22

Nielson Markets: A	—	—	—	—	36	21	23	20	30	16	37	17	39	18	25	18	36	18	25	20
B	—	—	—	—	34	18	31	17	31	23	31	15	34	20	27	19	36	19	30	15
C	—	—	—	—	28	26	27	18	29	22	35	15	32	21	28	19	35	23	25	17
D	—	—	—	—	31	26	21	22	21	31	30	18	31	21	24	24	34	24	22	20
Household Income: Under \$7K	34	24	25	17	45	15	15	25	37	15	21	26	47	16	15	22	41	20	15	23
\$7-9.9K*	34	24	31	11	41	20	21	18	32	18	33	17	35	14	28	23	38	21	24	17
\$10-14.9K*	35	23	27	15	34	24	26	16	30	22	34	15	37	22	21	20	35	23	26	16
\$15-24.9K*	28	22	35	15	29	26	27	18	24	28	37	10	28	21	35	16	32	19	33	17
\$25K +	24	29	39	9	24	24	38	14	22	23	44	12	23	26	35	15	27	18	48	8
\$25-29.9K	24	36	35	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
\$30-34.9K	24	25	37	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
\$35K +	24	26	43	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northeast*	38	19	27	16	36	17	26	21	38	16	30	16	41	16	26	18	39	16	26	19
North-Central*	28	26	37	9	33	24	24	19	25	18	40	17	30	20	32	18	37	19	27	16
South*	30	24	32	15	34	21	27	19	31	26	27	16	36	18	21	25	34	24	22	20
West*	22	30	34	15	30	27	25	18	18	27	40	15	32	28	27	13	31	22	29	17
Rural*	—	—	—	—	35	21	23	21	20	31	27	22	33	19	24	25	33	25	20	23
Suburb	—	—	—	—	30	22	29	19	27	21	40	12	31	20	31	18	34	20	28	17
City: Total	—	—	—	—	35	22	24	19	33	18	32	16	38	20	24	18	38	20	25	17
One Family*	—	—	—	—	32	22	26	20	30	18	35	16	25	21	26	18	36	18	29	17
Multifamily*	—	—	—	—	40	22	21	17	39	19	25	16	46	18	19	18	42	22	18	18
White*	28	24	34	15	32	23	26	19	26	22	36	15	33	20	28	18	35	21	27	18
Nonwhite*	42	28	25	5	42	18	18	22	46	18	13	22	44	18	9	29	42	18	18	21
No Child*	30	23	33	15	34	21	24	21	29	21	33	17	35	16	26	23	39	18	23	19
With Children: Total	30	26	33	12	32	24	28	16	29	23	34	14	34	23	27	17	31	23	29	17
12-17*	29	27	34	10	30	22	31	17	30	23	33	14	37	21	27	15	32	22	29	16
Under 12	30	26	34	11	32	23	30	15	27	23	36	14	28	24	28	19	32	23	27	17
6-11	—	—	—	—	33	24	28	15	30	24	36	9	33	24	24	19	29	25	29	17
Under 6	—	—	—	—	31	22	28	19	25	22	37	15	33	19	28	19	35	18	29	18
Own Home*	28	23	36	13	39	21	21	19	36	20	26	18	39	20	21	20	38	25	19	18
Rent Home*	34	27	26	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nonmetro: Rural	23	29	26	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Urban	27	25	39	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Metro 50,000-999,999	30	26	30	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1,000,000 and over	33	22	34	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

\*Comparable category in 1976-72 surveys.

*Table 4*  
**1976-72**  
**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.							
	March 1976				May 1975				April 1974				May 1973				March 1972			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Total Public	36	20	25	19	38	20	25	17	29	24	28	19	35	18	25	22	39	18	26	17
Male	39	19	26	17	40	21	26	13	34	23	28	15	37	20	26	17	43	17	28	12
Female	33	21	24	22	36	21	23	20	25	26	27	22	33	17	24	26	37	18	24	21
18-29 Years of Age	36	26	25	13	38	26	24	12	30	27	27	16	38	21	23	18	40	23	24	13
30-39	31	23	30	16	36	22	28	14	23	24	32	21	33	20	26	21	41	19	23	17
40-49	33	22	28	19	40	18	27	15	31	23	30	16	35	20	26	19	39	15	30	16
50-59	32	17	24	27	40	18	29	13	31	24	28	17	31	17	31	21	35	16	32	17
60 Years and Over	43	12	19	26	38	16	18	28	30	21	24	25	37	14	19	30	41	14	22	23
Less Than High School Grad	43	16	16	26	41	16	19	24	31	22	20	27	37	16	19	28	38	17	23	22
High School Grad	33	24	26	17	37	22	27	14	27	27	31	15	35	20	27	18	41	19	27	13
Some College	31	21	36	13	37	22	29	12	29	24	35	12	34	21	30	15	38	19	30	13
Professional	27	27	34	13	35	24	31	10	22	28	34	16	30	22	37	11	43	19	25	13
Managerial	29	17	40	14	37	21	31	11	29	24	34	13	34	19	30	17	34	22	32	12
Clerical, Sales	32	27	25	16	43	21	25	11	25	28	31	16	34	17	28	21	41	18	26	15
Craftsman, Foreman	35	25	22	18	35	20	30	15	28	25	29	18	33	21	27	19	37	21	26	16
Other Manual, Service	37	17	22	24	41	21	19	19	33	21	25	21	37	18	22	23	41	15	25	19
Farmer, Farm Laborer	30	27	29	21	35	26	26	13	18	22	27	33	23	28	20	29	40	14	27	19
Rural	34	21	30	16	37	21	24	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Old Suburb	33	24	24	20	38	21	25	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
New Suburb	24	24	34	18	36	24	31	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
City: One Family	40	18	25	17	38	22	25	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Multifamily	30	26	20	24	49	13	20	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Apartment	46	13	17	24	35	17	25	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nonmetro: Rural	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	26	25	25	24	35	20	21	24	33	20	26	21
Urban	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	28	27	29	16	35	19	28	18	37	20	27	16
Metro: 50,000-999,999	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	26	26	27	21	34	18	26	22	37	20	29	14
1,000,000 or Over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	32	22	28	18	37	18	23	22	44	15	23	18



Northeast	36	18	24	24	42	16	24	18	28	22	25	25	34	16	28	22	43	12	24	21
North-Central	34	22	27	18	34	24	27	15	30	22	35	13	37	16	26	21	38	21	29	12
South	39	22	22	17	42	19	20	19	29	27	22	22	37	19	21	23	36	19	27	18
West	34	17	31	18	34	23	29	14	28	27	28	17	30	25	26	19	42	21	21	16
Household Income Under \$5K	42	17	19	24	37	19	17	27	32	26	21	21	37	15	16	32	42	18	19	21
\$5-6.9K	50	13	13	24	43	14	22	21	34	20	29	17	38	20	18	24	48	17	19	16
\$7-9.9K	34	19	26	21	41	20	26	13	27	23	24	26	35	18	23	24	37	19	29	15
\$10-14.9K	34	24	22	20	37	22	26	15	25	28	30	17	35	22	29	14	36	16	31	17
\$15K+	30	23	35	13	37	23	31	9	29	22	35	14	33	18	33	16	39	20	29	12
White	35	21	27	17	37	21	25	17	28	24	30	18	35	19	27	19	38	19	26	17
Nonwhite	46	11	10	33	44	18	20	18	34	24	11	31	40	16	11	33	52	10	20	18
No Children	38	19	23	21	39	19	22	20	29	23	27	21	35	18	23	24	39	17	25	19
Under 18	34	22	27	18	37	23	27	13	29	26	28	17	35	19	26	20	40	19	26	15
12-17	32	21	28	19	38	22	27	13	31	22	28	19	35	18	25	22	38	18	28	16
Own Home	34	21	27	19	39	21	24	16	29	24	30	17	34	17	28	21	38	18	28	16
Rent Home	41	19	19	21	37	20	24	19	30	24	23	23	36	22	19	23	43	19	20	18

*Table 5*  
**1987-85\***  
**Which Do You Think Is The Worst Tax—That Is, The Least Fair?**  
(in percent)

	1. Federal income tax.					2. State income tax.					3. State sales tax.					4. Local property tax.				
	5. Don't know/No answer.																			
	1987					1986					1985									
	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5					
Total Public	30	12	21	24	13	37	8	17	28	10	38	10	16	24	12					
Male	30	11	23	25	11	36	8	17	30	9	36	11	17	26	10					
Female	30	12	20	23	15	38	8	16	26	12	39	9	16	22	14					
Head of Household	30	12	21	25	12	38	7	16	28	11	38	9	17	23	13					
Male Head	31	12	22	25	10	39	7	16	30	8	36	11	16	26	11					
Female Head	30	12	20	24	14	38	7	16	26	13	40	8	17	21	14					
Under 35 Years of Age	30	10	23	25	12	34	8	20	31	7	39	9	17	24	11					
18-24	33	9	22	21	15	21	12	23	34	10	33	10	17	29	11					
25-34	28	11	23	27	11	43	5	17	30	5	43	9	17	19	12					
35-44	37	14	19	16	14	47	4	18	22	9	44	10	17	22	7					
45-65	26	14	22	26	12	37	9	15	28	11	37	10	17	24	12					
Over 65	27	8	22	30	13	31	9	12	28	20	29	9	14	26	22					
High School Incomplete	24	9	23	24	20	25	7	20	32	16	27	10	17	32	14					
High School Graduate	28	13	20	27	12	36	7	16	30	11	40	9	17	21	13					
College Incomplete	39	10	20	20	11	48	8	13	24	7	43	9	13	25	10					
College Graduate	33	13	24	22	8	41	9	17	24	9	43	10	18	20	9					
Household Income: Under \$15K	22	9	23	30	16	33	5	20	27	15	28	10	17	28	17					
\$15-24.9K	34	14	18	22	12	31	10	13	36	10	41	10	15	21	13					
\$25K+	34	13	23	20	10	44	8	16	24	8	43	10	17	22	8					
\$25-29.9K	32	9	24	26	9	45	5	16	25	9	45	7	13	25	10					
\$30-39.9K	35	13	17	19	16	42	9	18	23	8	42	12	17	21	8					
\$40K+	35	15	25	19	6	44	8	15	25	8	44	9	19	22	6					
Own	28	13	20	26	13	39	8	13	30	10	38	10	15	25	12					
Rent	35	9	25	18	13	35	5	23	25	12	37	9	19	22	13					
White	31	11	21	25	12	37	8	17	28	10	38	10	17	23	12					
Nonwhite	22	11	28	20	19	38	5	15	30	12	33	9	15	27	16					
Employed	35	11	21	21	12	39	8	18	28	7	42	9	16	23	10					
Employed Female	36	13	19	19	13	39	8	18	27	8	46	8	15	21	10					
Not Employed	22	12	23	29	14	33	7	16	29	15	31	11	17	24	17					
Not Employed Female	23	11	23	27	16	35	6	16	27	16	32	9	17	23	19					
Prof., Manager, Owner	43	9	18	22	8	37	6	16	31	10	45	9	17	21	8					
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	30	13	20	20	17	37	11	13	37	2	47	7	16	20	10					
Blue Collar	31	14	24	20	11	38	7	21	25	9	37	11	16	27	9					
Retired	21	13	23	30	13	36	7	15	24	18	29	13	17	23	18					
Married	30	12	21	25	12	38	7	16	28	11	39	10	17	23	11					
Not Married	29	11	22	22	16	34	8	18	29	11	34	10	16	24	16					
Household Size: 1-2 People	30	12	20	25	13	38	7	15	29	11	34	10	15	23	18					
3-4 People	28	12	24	23	13	35	6	23	28	8	39	8	19	26	8					
5+ People	39	11	29	12	9	17	22	33	17	11	42	13	15	19	11					
Children in Household: Under 18	28	12	23	24	13	36	8	20	28	8	43	10	17	21	9					
No Children	31	11	20	25	13	38	8	15	26	13	33	10	16	25	16					
Northeast	21	9	27	28	15	31	9	22	27	11	32	10	22	22	14					
North-Central	32	14	18	26	10	37	8	14	34	7	34	9	15	33	29					
South	35	12	21	19	13	36	6	16	28	14	42	9	14	21	14					
West	28	10	20	28	14	44	9	16	22	9	39	13	17	18	13					
Nonmetro	29	12	21	27	11	34	5	18	30	13	37	10	13	27	13					
Metro—50,000 and Over: Fringe	32	12	21	21	14	39	10	16	25	10	41	10	19	18	12					
Central City	29	11	23	24	13	38	8	16	30	8	34	9	18	26	13					

\*1984-72 data appear in *Tables 6-8*.

Table 6  
1984-82  
**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.				
	1984					1993					1982				
	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Total Public	36	10	15	29	10	35	11	13	26	15	36	11	14	30	9
Male	36	9	15	32	8	35	12	14	27	13	36	12	16	29	7
Female	35	11	16	26	12	36	11	11	25	17	35	10	13	31	11
Head of Household	35	11	15	29	10	38	11	12	26	14	36	11	13	30	10
Male Head	35	10	14	33	8	37	11	13	27	12	37	12	14	29	8
Female Head	34	12	16	27	11	38	10	12	25	16	35	9	13	31	12
Under 35 Years of Age	36	11	15	29	9	33	15	13	25	14	39	11	15	29	6
18-24	33	8	15	33	11	26	14	14	27	19	36	13	18	27	6
25-34	38	13	15	27	7	40	16	12	23	11	41	10	12	30	7
35-44	36	13	14	29	8	38	10	16	25	11	31	12	16	33	8
45-65	38	10	17	25	10	40	10	11	26	13	36	12	11	30	11
Over 65	29	6	17	32	16	27	6	11	32	23	31	5	17	33	14
High School Incomplete	28	6	18	29	19	29	9	14	27	22	28	8	16	32	16
High School Graduate	38	10	14	32	6	38	12	12	27	12	38	12	13	32	5
College Incomplete	40	10	13	25	12	36	14	14	22	14	36	13	17	25	9
College Graduate	35	16	18	25	6	41	13	10	27	9	45	8	12	29	6
Household Income: Under \$15K	32	8	18	31	11	30	10	14	25	21	30	9	17	32	12
\$15-24.9K	37	11	14	28	10	39	12	12	27	10	36	12	14	31	7
\$25K+	38	12	14	28	8	42	13	11	28	7	41	12	11	30	6
\$25-29.9K	29	14	17	29	11	37	9	14	30	10	39 <sup>1</sup>	12 <sup>1</sup>	12 <sup>1</sup>	31 <sup>1</sup>	6 <sup>1</sup>
\$30-39.9K	40	9	12	33	6	39	19	9	27	6	44 <sup>2</sup>	11 <sup>2</sup>	10 <sup>2</sup>	28 <sup>2</sup>	7 <sup>2</sup>
\$40K+	42	13	14	24	7	48	10	11	26	6	—	—	—	—	—
Own	36	10	14	30	10	37	11	11	29	11	37	9	13	33	8
Rent	36	12	18	25	9	30	13	16	19	22	33	13	17	24	13
White	35	11	14	30	10	37	11	12	27	14	36	11	15	29	9
Nonwhite	36	7	23	23	11	28	15	16	21	20	33	11	11	34	11
Employed	38	11	15	29	7	38	13	12	27	11	38	12	13	30	7
Employed Female	39	13	16	24	8	39	13	9	28	10	36	11	13	32	8
Not Employed	31	9	17	29	14	32	10	13	26	19	35	9	15	30	11
Not Employed Female	31	9	16	28	16	33	10	12	24	21	35	8	15	31	11
Prof., Manager, Owner	35	11	15	26	13	40	14	11	30	5	48	13	14	20	5
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	41	8	22	19	10	33	16	13	26	13	37	15	10	30	8
Blue Collar	42	10	16	25	7	36	11	12	27	13	32	11	12	36	9
Retired	27	6	8	37	22	28	8	14	30	21	29	8	18	32	13
Married	35	11	14	30	10	39	11	13	26	11	39	10	12	31	8
Not Married	36	9	18	27	10	29	12	12	26	21	29	11	18	30	12
Household Size: 1-2 People	37	10	16	27	10	35	11	12	25	17	35	11	14	29	11
3-4 People	36	10	13	32	9	39	13	11	28	11	38	9	15	30	8
5+ People	33	9	21	25	12	30	11	17	26	17	32	13	14	33	8
Children in Household: Under 18	32	9	16	32	11	35	13	14	27	12	36	9	15	31	9
No Children	39	11	15	26	9	35	10	12	25	17	35	11	14	30	10
Northeast	27	13	24	28	8	29	17	15	23	16	37	11	16	24	12
North-Central	32	7	12	39	10	34	15	10	29	12	32	11	12	37	8
South	39	10	13	27	11	36	6	12	28	17	38	10	10	33	9
West	44	12	14	20	10	43	8	14	21	14	34	12	24	22	8
Nonmetro	38	7	11	32	12	39	8	12	27	14	34	13	14	29	10
Metro: 50,000 and Over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	36	9	15	31	9
Fringe	37	13	15	27	8	33	13	13	30	11	—	—	—	—	—
Central City	31	11	21	28	9	32	14	13	22	19	—	—	—	—	—

<sup>1</sup>\$25-34.9K

<sup>2</sup>\$35K+

Table 7  
1981-77  
**Which Do You Think Is The Worst Tax—  
That Is, The Least Fair?**  
(in percent)

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



Nielsen Markets: A	—	—	—	—	—	34	12	21	23	10	40	10	16	23	10	26	15	18	32	9	25	13	16	34	11
B	—	—	—	—	—	32	11	24	23	10	37	7	15	28	13	31	10	19	31	9	31	9	17	33	9
C	—	—	—	—	—	43	9	12	28	8	28	11	13	34	13	30	8	16	35	12	28	10	18	35	10
D	—	—	—	—	—	41	8	13	26	12	40	5	11	26	18	35	4	20	30	13	31	9	20	25	15
Household Income: Under \$7K	30	5	12	40	13	25	8	23	27	17	26	5	21	26	22	22	7	20	32	19	22	8	21	30	18
\$7-9.9K	24	11	18	37	11	31	7	20	28	14	28	8	17	28	19	26	11	25	27	10	28	11	19	30	12
\$10-14.9K	38	11	10	33	9	47	11	13	23	6	36	12	10	32	10	26	14	18	36	8	31	10	18	37	4
\$15-24.9K	42	9	14	29	7	39	12	20	22	7	42	8	14	28	8	34	10	16	36	6	33	13	14	32	8
\$25K+	38	8	17	32	5	40	12	17	25	6	47	11	11	24	7	43	13	16	25	5	31	13	14	38	3
\$25-29.9K	43	5	14	33	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
\$30-34.9K	34	8	19	35	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
\$35K+	37	10	19	28	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northeast	24	12	22	39	3	31	13	25	22	9	27	10	24	29	10	25	18	21	27	9	20	17	23	28	13
North-Central	33	7	13	38	10	37	9	17	28	9	38	10	11	30	11	34	11	15	35	7	32	9	15	37	8
South	43	8	11	27	11	39	11	15	24	11	38	6	13	25	17	33	6	19	27	17	33	10	17	25	14
West	40	8	14	30	9	37	9	19	25	10	45	9	11	24	11	23	11	19	44	5	25	7	15	45	7
Rural	—	—	—	—	—	40	10	12	26	12	34	9	8	34	16	28	9	17	34	13	27	10	17	36	10
Suburb	—	—	—	—	—	38	10	17	27	8	40	9	15	23	13	33	9	18	32	9	27	11	15	35	11
City: Total	—	—	—	—	—	34	11	22	23	10	36	8	17	27	12	27	13	19	31	10	30	10	20	29	11
One Family	—	—	—	—	—	34	12	21	24	9	37	7	13	31	11	30	13	14	34	9	29	10	20	31	10
Multifamily	—	—	—	—	—	33	10	25	20	12	34	9	26	17	14	21	13	28	25	12	31	12	18	25	14
White	36	9	15	33	8	37	11	18	25	9	38	8	14	28	11	32	10	17	33	9	28	11	17	34	10
Nonwhite	33	9	13	31	15	31	8	21	24	16	30	9	17	19	25	16	13	27	23	23	27	10	20	23	20
No Child	33	9	14	35	9	35	10	19	25	11	34	9	15	29	13	26	11	17	34	13	26	9	17	34	14
With Children: Total	39	7	15	30	8	39	11	18	24	8	41	8	13	26	12	33	11	19	30	7	31	11	18	32	8
12-17	41	8	18	25	7	34	13	19	26	8	40	10	13	27	11	35	11	18	29	7	31	13	18	31	8
Under 12	41	7	15	29	9	42	10	21	20	7	43	8	12	23	15	31	10	19	31	8	32	13	18	30	7
Under 6	—	—	—	—	—	42	10	16	23	9	42	7	14	28	9	31	11	21	30	7	29	10	17	34	9
Own Home	36	9	13	33	8	37	11	17	27	8	37	9	12	30	11	32	11	16	34	9	27	10	17	36	10
Rent Home	36	7	17	32	9	35	10	23	20	12	36	6	20	20	18	24	11	24	26	14	30	12	18	26	14
Nonmetro: Rural	29	6	13	38	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Urban	34	9	20	30	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Metro: 50,000-999,000	38	10	15	30	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1,000,000 and over	38	8	12	34	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Table 8  
1975-72\*  
**Which Do You Think Is The Worst Tax—  
That Is, The Least Fair?**  
(in percent)

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

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

\*This question was not included in the 1976 survey.

Table 9  
1987  
**Which Government Do You Feel Wastes The  
Most Of Your Tax Money—  
Federal, State, Or Local?**  
(in percent)

	1. Federal. 3. Local.	2. State. 4. Don't know/No answer.		
	1	2	3	4
Total Public	66	14	8	12
Male	70	14	7	9
Female	63	14	9	14
Head of Household	68	13	8	11
Male Head	73	13	5	9
Female Head	63	14	10	13
Under 35 Years of Age	63	17	8	12
18-24	62	16	11	11
25-34	64	18	6	12
35-44	70	11	9	10
45-65	70	12	7	11
Over 65	64	13	10	13
High School Incomplete	52	19	9	20
High School Graduate	65	15	9	11
College Incomplete	78	8	4	10
College Graduate	76	13	7	4
Household Income: Under \$15K	54	17	13	16
\$15-24.9K	71	12	8	9
\$25K+	74	13	3	10
\$25-29.9K	70	13	7	10
\$30-39.9K	74	13	0	13
\$40K+	76	12	4	8
Own	69	13	7	11
Rent	61	15	10	14
White	70	13	7	10
Nonwhite	39	19	17	25
Employed	71	14	6	9
Employed Female	71	15	4	10
Not Employed	58	14	11	17
Not Employed Female	54	15	14	17
Prof., Manager, Owner	79	11	5	5
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	70	14	9	7
Blue Collar	64	17	6	13
Retired	68	13	10	9
Married	68	14	7	11
Not Married	63	13	10	14
Household Size: 1-2 People	68	12	8	12
3-4 People	62	17	9	12
5+ People	59	18	0	23
Children in Household: Under 18	66	17	6	11
No Children	67	11	9	13
Northeast	59	15	10	16
North-Central	76	12	5	7
South	61	17	10	12
West	70	11	6	13
Nonmetro	67	17	8	8
Metro-50,000 and Over: Fringe	69	10	7	14
Central City	62	16	9	13

Table 10  
1987

**If The Federal Government Decided To Raise A Small Amount Of  
Additional Revenue To Help Meet Costs And  
Reduce The Deficit, Which One Of These Would You Prefer?**

(in percent)

1. An increase in gasoline and diesel fuel taxes.
2. An increase in individual income tax rates.
3. A national lottery.
4. A national sales tax on all purchases other than food.
5. An increase in user fees or charges for things like the use of national parks and forests, passports, customs inspections, and Coast Guard services for boaters.
6. (Volunteered) No tax increase/No new taxes.
7. Don't know/No answer.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Total Public	8	7	47	10	15	6	7
Male	9	7	47	11	14	6	6
Female	7	5	46	10	17	7	8
Head of Household	9	6	46	11	16	6	6
Male Head	10	8	47	11	14	5	5
Female Head	8	5	44	11	18	7	7
Under 35 Years of Age	7	6	54	8	14	5	6
18-24	3	6	57	11	12	5	6
25-34	10	6	52	5	16	5	6
35-44	7	7	46	15	14	7	4
45-65	9	8	42	9	19	5	8
Over 65	10	6	33	16	13	11	11
High School Incomplete	9	4	46	11	8	7	15
High School Graduate	6	5	52	8	15	7	7
College Incomplete	5	6	51	10	20	6	2
College Graduate	15	14	32	13	22	2	2
Household Income: Under \$15K	7	4	47	10	12	8	12
\$15-24.9K	5	5	48	12	17	7	6
\$25K+	10	9	47	9	18	4	3
\$25-29.9K	6	6	52	6	15	10	5
\$30-39.9K	12	7	41	11	22	4	3
\$40K+	11	12	48	10	15	2	2
Own	9	7	43	11	18	6	6
Rent	7	4	52	9	11	8	9
White	9	6	46	10	17	6	6
Nonwhite	4	7	47	13	7	9	13
Employed	9	7	49	8	15	7	5
Employed Female	7	7	51	7	15	8	5
Not Employed	8	4	42	13	18	5	10
Not Employed Female	8	3	42	12	21	4	10
Prof., Manager, Owner	12	9	45	11	16	5	2
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	4	11	50	12	11	6	6
Blue Collar	7	5	52	9	13	9	5
Retired	10	7	38	12	17	8	8
Married	10	6	46	11	17	5	5
Not Married	6	7	47	9	13	8	10
Household Size: 1-2 People	8	6	45	12	15	7	7
3-4 People	11	7	48	8	16	4	6
5+ People	0	0	71	0	8	15	6
Children in Household: Under 18	9	6	53	9	14	5	4
No Children	8	7	42	11	16	7	9
Northeast	7	4	55	4	15	6	9
North-Central	9	7	44	16	15	4	5
South	9	8	45	10	14	7	7
West	7	7	43	10	18	8	7
Nonmetro	7	6	48	11	16	6	6
Metro-50,000 and Over: Fringe	10	7	45	7	16	6	9
Central City	7	6	47	15	13	6	6

Table 11

1984

**Suppose The Federal Government Must Raise Taxes Substantially,  
Which Of These Do You Think Would Be The Best Way To Do It?**

(in percent)

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

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

Table 12  
1983  
**If The Federal Government Had To Raise Taxes Substantially,  
Which Would Be A Better Way To Do It?**  
(in percent)

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



Table 13  
1983

**If Federal Income Tax Collections Must Be Increased, Which Way Is The Best?**  
(in percent)

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

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

Table 14

1987

**If Your State Government Decided To Raise A Small Amount Of Additional Revenue To Help Meet Costs And Improve Services, Which One Of These Would You Prefer?**

(in percent)

1. An increase in cigarette and liquor taxes.
2. An increase in the general state sales tax.
3. An increase in gasoline and diesel fuel taxes.
4. An increase in state income tax rates, or an income tax if your state does not now have one.
5. An increase in user fees or charges for things like the use of state parks, automobile registration, boating licenses, or toll roads.
6. (Volunteered) No tax increase/No new taxes.
7. Don't know/No answer.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Total Public	54	8	4	6	13	8	7
Male	53	9	4	5	15	9	5
Female	55	7	3	6	13	7	9
Head of Household	55	8	4	6	14	8	5
Male Head	53	8	5	5	15	9	5
Female Head	57	7	3	6	12	7	8
Under 35 Years of Age	56	7	4	6	13	7	7
18-24	57	7	1	4	15	10	6
25-34	55	7	5	7	11	6	9
35-44	53	9	4	7	16	7	4
45-65	51	9	3	6	16	8	7
Over 65	57	9	3	3	10	10	8
High School Incomplete	50	3	5	4	14	10	14
High School Graduate	53	9	3	6	14	8	7
College Incomplete	60	7	3	6	12	10	2
College Graduate	57	11	5	8	15	3	1
Household Income: Under \$15K	54	6	3	5	11	11	10
\$15-24.9K	55	7	3	4	15	8	8
\$25K+	53	11	4	7	16	6	3
\$25-29.9K	46	8	3	6	17	16	4
\$30-39.9K	55	12	5	7	16	4	1
\$40K+	56	11	3	8	15	4	3
Own	58	8	3	6	13	7	5
Rent	49	8	5	5	13	10	10
White	56	9	3	5	14	7	6
Nonwhite	44	3	5	9	10	15	14
Employed	54	8	4	6	13	8	7
Employed Female	54	8	4	8	11	7	8
Not Employed	55	7	3	6	14	8	7
Not Employed Female	58	6	2	5	15	6	8
Prof., Manager, Owner	66	9	5	5	8	5	2
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	51	10	2	8	14	6	9
Blue Collar	51	7	4	6	13	11	8
Retired	50	7	4	3	19	11	6
Married	55	8	4	6	15	7	5
Not Married	53	8	3	5	11	10	10
Household Size: 1-2 People	54	8	4	6	13	8	7
3-4 People	55	7	3	4	16	7	8
5+ People	58	14	0	3	0	11	14
Children in Household: Under 18	60	6	4	6	14	6	4
No Children	50	9	3	6	13	9	10
Northeast	48	8	4	4	10	11	15
North-Central	60	6	5	7	12	7	3
South	50	9	2	6	17	9	7
West	61	9	3	5	13	5	4
Nonmetro	57	7	2	8	15	7	4
Metro-50,000 and Over: Fringe	55	8	4	4	13	7	9
Central City	49	10	4	5	13	11	8

Table 15  
**1983**  
**Suppose Your State Government Must Raise Taxes Substantially,**  
**Which Would Be A Better Way To Do It?**  
(in percent)

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

Table 16  
1987\*

**If Your Local Government Decided To Raise A Small Amount Of Additional Revenue To Help Meet Costs And Improve Services, Which One Of These Would You Prefer?**  
(in percent)

1. A local income or wage tax, or an increase in existing local income or wage tax rates.
2. A local sales tax, or an increase in the existing local sales tax.
3. An increase in property tax rates.
4. An increase in user fees or charges for things like the use of local parks and swimming pools, parking, library use, garbage pick-up, or ambulance service.
5. (Volunteered) No tax increase/No new taxes.
6. Don't know/No answer.

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Total Public	9	20	9	33	17	12
Male	9	24	10	32	16	9
Female	9	16	9	35	17	14
Head of Household	10	19	9	34	17	11
Male Head	10	23	10	33	15	9
Female Head	9	17	8	34	19	13
Under 35 Years of Age	9	23	8	34	15	11
18-24	6	21	11	37	15	10
25-34	10	25	7	32	14	12
35-44	7	19	12	35	18	9
45-65	10	19	11	33	15	12
Over 65	11	16	4	31	23	15
High School Incomplete	9	16	8	23	21	23
High School Graduate	10	20	8	34	17	11
College Incomplete	8	17	9	41	20	5
College Graduate	8	30	14	37	7	4
Household Income: Under \$15K	10	18	5	28	20	19
\$15-24.9K	8	21	10	31	20	10
\$25K+	9	22	12	39	12	6
\$25-29.9K	5	22	9	34	22	8
\$30-39.9K	7	26	10	43	8	6
\$40K+	11	20	16	38	10	5
Own	9	20	10	35	16	10
Rent	8	22	8	29	18	15
White	9	20	10	35	16	10
Nonwhite	6	20	6	23	23	22
Employed	8	22	11	34	15	10
Employed Female	9	15	12	34	17	13
Not Employed	11	17	6	32	19	15
Not Employed Female	11	15	6	35	18	15
Prof., Manager, Owner	9	25	12	35	15	4
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	8	21	13	32	13	13
Blue Collar	8	20	9	31	18	14
Retired	12	17	4	34	22	11
Married	9	20	9	36	16	10
Not Married	8	21	10	30	17	14
Household Size: 1-2 People	10	20	9	34	18	9
3-4 People	7	23	11	32	12	15
5+ People	2	11	0	41	17	29
Children in Household: Under 18	8	20	8	38	15	11
No Children	10	20	10	30	18	12
Northeast	10	16	7	30	19	18
North-Central	12	22	11	33	14	8
South	8	20	10	36	16	10
West	6	23	8	33	17	13
Nonmetro	11	20	8	34	18	9
Metro-50,000 and Over: Fringe	8	19	12	33	14	14
Central City	8	23	7	32	18	12

\*See also, Tables 17-19.

Table 17  
1986\*  
**Suppose Your Local Government Must Raise More Revenue,  
The Better Way To Do This Would Be . . .**  
(in percent)

	1. Local income tax.	2. Local sales tax.			
	3. Local property tax.	4. Charges for specific services.			
5. Don't know.					
	1	2	3	4	5
Total Public	9	26	7	49	9
Male	9	28	7	50	6
Female	9	25	7	48	11
Head of Household	9	27	7	48	9
Male Head	8	29	7	50	6
Female Head	9	25	8	47	11
Under 35 Years of Age	9	23	8	55	5
18-24	12	21	6	55	6
25-34	8	23	9	55	5
35-44	6	25	10	51	8
45-65	10	30	5	46	9
Over 65	11	29	5	39	16
High School Incomplete	12	23	7	40	18
High School Graduate	9	25	7	53	6
College Incomplete	4	33	7	50	6
College Graduate	12	25	7	51	5
Household Income: Under \$15K	11	20	9	43	17
\$15-24.9K	8	30	5	52	5
\$25K +	9	28	8	51	4
\$25-29.9K	5	32	9	45	9
\$30-39.9K	10	23	8	55	4
\$40K +	10	30	6	52	2
Own	9	29	6	48	8
Rent	7	22	9	51	11
White	9	27	7	49	8
Nonwhite	8	19	10	46	17
Employed	9	26	7	52	6
Employed Female	10	20	8	55	7
Not Employed	9	26	7	45	13
Not Employed Female	7	31	7	40	15
Prof., Manager, Owner	10	26	5	54	5
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	10	23	6	56	5
Blue Collar	9	21	10	53	7
Retired	9	30	7	39	15
Married	8	27	7	50	8
Not Married	10	25	8	47	10
Household Size: 1-2 People	7	29	7	48	9
3-4 People	14	19	7	53	7
5 + People	18	15	2	60	5
Children in Household: Under 18	9	25	8	52	6
No Children	8	28	6	48	10
Northeast	9	17	11	54	9
North-Central	11	30	6	48	5
South	8	30	5	44	13
West	8	26	7	54	5
Nonmetro	12	27	4	46	11
Metro-50,000 and Over: Fringe	6	24	9	54	7
Central City	7	28	10	47	8

\*1981 data appear in Table 19; similar data with different options for 1983 appear in Table 18.

Table 18  
1983  
**Suppose Your Local Government Must Raise More Revenue,  
The Better Way To Do This Would Be . . .**  
(in percent)

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

Table 19  
**September 1981**  
**Suppose Your Local Government Must Raise More Revenue,**  
**Which Of These Do You Think Would Be The Best Way To Do It?**  
(in percent)

	1. Local income tax.	2. Local sales tax.			
	3. Local property tax .	4. Charges for specific services.			
	5. Don't know.				
	1	2	3	4	5
Total Public	7	21	5	55	12
18-29 Years of Age	9	15	4	60	12
30-44	9	16	6	65	5
45-59	4	32	3	53	9
60 Years and Over	7	26	7	38	22
Male: Total	10	24	6	51	9
18-29 Years of Age	12	17	4	60	8
30-44	13	17	7	57	7
45-59	5	39	5	46	5
60 Years and Over	8	28	9	35	20
Female: Total	5	19	5	59	14
18-29 Years of Age	6	13	5	61	15
30-44	6	15	6	72	3
45-59	3	25	1	60	12
60 Years and Over	6	25	6	40	23
Employed	3	20	6	61	11
Housewife	6	18	4	57	15
High School Grad or Less: Total	7	21	5	54	13
Less Than Grad	7	22	8	46	18
High School Grad	7	21	2	61	10
College: Some	7	22	5	58	8
Grad.	10	19	8	56	7
Executive, Prof., Manager	7	22	4	59	9
White Collar	8	16	4	62	10
Blue Collar: Total	6	26	7	53	8
Skilled	7	21	6	58	8
Semi/Unskilled	5	29	8	51	9
Household Income: Under \$7K	7	21	4	48	19
\$7-9.9K	4	32	7	48	11
\$10-14.9K	10	22	6	48	14
\$15-24.9K	9	23	4	56	9
\$25K +	6	16	5	65	8
\$25-29.9K	7	14	8	62	9
\$30-34.9K	4	16	4	69	6
\$35K +	7	17	4	64	8
Northeast	7	11	4	68	10
North-Central	9	25	5	53	9
South	7	23	6	50	16
West	7	26	5	53	9
White	7	22	5	55	11
Nonwhite	10	15	3	56	18
No Child	6	25	5	50	14
With Children: Total	9	16	6	61	9
12-17	8	16	5	60	11
Under 12	10	14	6	64	6
Own Home	7	23	4	56	10
Rent Home	7	17	8	55	13
Nonmetro: Rural	8	28	5	44	16
Urban	6	24	3	58	9
Metro: 50,000-999,999	5	19	6	60	11
1,000,000 and Over	10	19	6	54	12



Table 20

1987

**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?**

(in percent)

	1. Too much power. 3. Too little power.	2. The right amount of power. 4. Don't know/No answer.		
	1	2	3	4
Total Public	45	37	8	10
Male	47	37	9	7
Female	44	37	6	13
Head of Household	46	37	8	9
Male Head	48	37	9	6
Female Head	44	37	6	13
Under 35 Years of Age	39	42	7	12
18-24	39	41	9	11
25-34	40	43	5	12
35-44	48	39	8	5
45-65	52	29	8	11
Over 65	46	32	9	13
High School Incomplete	45	26	10	19
High School Graduate	48	34	7	11
College Incomplete	51	38	6	5
College Graduate	37	55	4	4
Household Income: Under \$15K	46	30	9	15
\$15-24.9K	49	33	9	9
\$25K+	43	43	6	8
\$25-29.9K	53	35	2	10
\$30-39.9K	40	45	4	11
\$40K+	41	44	10	5
Own	46	38	7	9
Rent	45	33	10	12
White	44	38	8	10
Nonwhite	53	30	4	13
Employed	44	39	9	8
Employed Female	45	39	7	9
Not Employed	47	33	6	14
Not Employed Female	45	34	5	16
Prof., Manager, Owner	44	45	6	5
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	50	35	7	8
Blue Collar	47	32	11	10
Retired	47	33	6	14
Married	45	38	8	9
Not Married	46	35	7	12
Household Size: 1-2 People	45	36	8	11
3-4 People	46	36	8	10
5+ People	50	45	0	5
Children in Household: Under 18	41	39	9	11
No Children	49	35	6	10
Northeast	38	44	6	12
North-Central	43	39	10	8
South	51	34	6	9
West	46	31	9	14
Nonmetro	49	30	8	13
Metro-50,000 and Over: Fringe	44	41	6	9
Central City	42	40	9	9

Table 21  
1987  
**In Which Of The Following People In Government  
Do You Have The Most Trust And Confidence?**  
(in percent)

1. The people in charge of running the federal government.
2. The people in charge of running your state government.
3. The people in charge of running your local government.
4. Don't know/No answer.

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

Table 22

1987

# Overall, How Much Trust And Confidence Do You Have In Your Federal, State Or Local Government To Do A Good Job In Carrying Out Its Responsibilities?

(in percent)

	1. A great deal. 4. None at all.					2. A fair amount. 5. Don't know/No answer.					3. Not very much.				
	Federal					State					Local				
	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Total Public	9	59	24	4	4	11	62	19	4	4	16	57	16	7	4
Male	10	61	21	6	2	12	61	20	5	2	17	56	17	8	2
Female	9	56	27	2	6	11	63	18	3	5	14	59	15	6	6
Head of Household	9	59	25	3	4	11	62	19	4	4	16	56	17	7	4
Male Head	10	61	22	5	2	11	60	22	5	2	17	54	18	9	2
Female Head	9	57	27	2	5	11	64	17	3	5	15	59	15	5	6
Under 35 Years of Age	9	62	22	3	4	11	66	15	4	4	13	64	14	5	4
18-24	6	67	20	6	1	10	71	14	3	2	12	64	16	6	2
25-34	11	58	24	1	6	11	63	16	4	6	13	64	13	5	5
35-44	4	66	24	3	3	10	63	21	4	2	14	58	19	6	3
45-65	10	54	25	7	4	11	59	21	5	4	14	53	17	11	5
Over 65	15	51	26	4	4	16	60	19	2	3	29	45	17	5	4
High School Incomplete	10	51	25	9	5	11	56	22	6	5	13	52	19	10	6
High School Graduate	8	59	26	3	4	9	63	20	3	5	13	59	15	8	5
College Incomplete	11	58	25	3	3	16	67	14	3	0	21	58	15	5	1
College Graduate	9	70	18	1	2	12	65	16	4	3	19	59	15	4	3
Household Income: Under \$15K	11	53	24	6	6	10	60	20	6	4	15	54	15	10	6
\$15-24.9K	9	59	29	1	2	13	61	21	2	3	13	58	19	6	4
\$25K+	7	63	23	4	3	10	67	16	4	3	16	59	16	6	3
\$25-29.9K	6	65	19	6	4	13	60	19	6	2	10	61	21	6	2
\$30-39.9K	10	59	24	3	4	10	69	13	3	5	13	62	16	5	4
\$40K+	5	66	23	4	2	9	68	17	4	2	22	57	13	6	2
Own	10	58	25	3	4	12	63	18	3	4	18	56	15	7	4
Rent	8	62	22	4	4	10	61	19	6	4	11	58	19	8	4
White	10	60	23	3	4	12	64	17	3	4	17	58	15	6	4
Nonwhite	5	46	30	15	4	6	49	32	10	3	5	48	26	18	3
Employed	8	62	24	3	3	11	65	18	3	3	15	60	15	6	4
Employed Female	7	59	27	2	5	10	68	15	3	4	15	62	12	6	5
Not Employed	12	52	25	6	5	12	58	20	5	5	15	52	19	9	5
Not Employed Female	10	53	28	3	6	12	58	21	3	6	14	55	18	6	7
Prof., Manager., Owner	9	68	18	2	3	13	65	16	3	3	22	57	15	3	3
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	6	69	21	2	2	10	75	12	1	2	12	68	8	9	3
Blue Collar	8	57	26	6	3	9	59	21	8	3	12	57	16	11	4
Retired	14	49	30	4	3	12	59	24	3	2	22	47	22	6	3
Married	9	60	24	3	4	11	63	20	3	3	16	57	17	6	4
Not Married	10	56	24	6	4	11	62	17	6	4	15	57	16	8	4
Household Size: 1-2 People	9	60	25	3	3	11	63	19	4	3	15	57	17	7	4
3-4 People	9	57	24	5	5	11	62	18	5	4	16	57	15	8	4
5+ People	18	64	13	0	5	21	60	12	5	2	33	52	10	5	0
Children in Household: Under 18	7	64	23	2	4	8	66	20	3	3	14	62	15	5	4
No Children	11	55	25	5	4	14	59	18	6	3	17	53	17	9	4
Northeast	15	55	21	5	4	13	65	15	5	2	18	53	15	9	5
North-Central	6	62	25	4	3	9	67	17	3	4	19	61	11	6	3
South	10	59	23	3	5	13	57	22	3	5	14	56	19	7	4
West	7	57	27	5	4	8	62	20	7	3	12	58	18	8	4
Nonmetro	8	63	22	2	5	10	65	18	2	5	17	55	15	8	5
Metro-50,000 and Over: Fringe	9	57	25	5	4	12	65	15	5	3	16	59	15	6	4
Central City	11	55	27	4	3	12	55	25	6	2	13	57	18	8	4

Table 23  
**1986-82\***  
**Which Of These Statements Comes Closest To Your View About**  
**Government Power Today?**  
(in percent)

1. The federal government has too much power.
2. The federal government is using about the right amount of power for meeting today's needs.
3. The federal government should use its powers more vigorously to promote the well being of all segments of the people.
4. Don't know.

	1986				1985				1984				1982			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Total Public	28	24	41	7	31	27	36	6	35	25	34	6	38	18	30	14
Male	32	29	34	5	35	27	34	4	41	24	30	5	38	20	32	10
Female	24	20	48	8	28	27	38	7	30	25	37	8	39	16	29	16
Head of Household	30	24	39	7	32	26	36	6	36	23	34	7	39	17	30	14
Male Head	37	29	30	4	36	25	34	5	42	23	30	5	39	21	30	10
Female Head	25	19	47	9	28	27	38	7	31	23	38	8	39	14	29	18
Under 35 Years of Age	25	29	43	3	29	29	37	5	34	27	34	5	38	17	33	12
18-24	17	31	48	4	27	32	38	3	32	27	33	8	32	19	35	14
25-34	31	28	39	2	31	28	35	6	35	27	34	4	43	15	31	11
35-44	28	26	38	8	37	24	36	3	37	22	34	7	42	17	28	13
45-65	31	21	40	8	32	27	37	4	38	25	31	6	41	18	30	11
Over 65	31	16	42	11	28	25	33	14	32	20	37	11	29	20	29	22
High School Incomplete	24	20	44	12	28	24	38	10	32	19	37	12	28	16	35	21
High School Graduate	31	21	42	6	31	23	40	6	33	23	37	7	41	18	28	13
College Incomplete	29	22	46	3	30	35	33	2	41	29	27	3	42	17	30	11
College Graduate	26	39	30	5	38	32	28	2	38	32	28	2	47	22	27	4
Household Income: Under \$15K	20	23	45	12	31	23	37	9	31	21	38	10	30	16	36	18
\$15-24.9K	26	20	49	5	28	28	39	5	36	25	34	5	36	21	30	13
\$25K+	31	28	37	4	34	29	35	2	39	28	29	4	49	18	24	9
\$25-29.9K	37	26	32	5	28	30	38	4	40	27	25	8	47 <sup>a</sup>	18 <sup>a</sup>	26 <sup>a</sup>	9 <sup>a</sup>
\$30-39.9K	25	30	42	3	35	27	35	3	40	26	32	2	51 <sup>a</sup>	18 <sup>a</sup>	22 <sup>a</sup>	9 <sup>a</sup>
\$40K+	34	28	34	4	34	31	34	1	38	29	31	2	—	—	—	—
Own	30	23	41	6	31	27	36	6	36	25	33	6	41	18	29	12
Rent	23	26	43	8	32	28	36	4	33	23	38	6	32	16	35	17

White	29	25	40	6	31	28	36	5	36	25	33	6	41	18	28	13
Nonwhite	22	18	52	8	30	20	39	11	29	20	41	10	21	15	45	19
Employed	28	27	40	5	33	27	37	3	37	27	31	5	39	19	31	11
Employed Female	20	22	53	5	29	26	41	4	30	29	36	5	40	16	29	15
Not Employed	29	21	42	8	29	27	35	9	32	20	38	10	39	16	31	14
Not Employed Female	28	17	44	11	27	28	35	10	29	20	39	12	39	15	32	14
Prof., Manager, Owner	24	34	38	4	37	26	36	1	34	27	34	5	51	17	26	6
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	28	28	41	3.	29	37	31	3	29	18	38	15	37	26	28	9
Blue Collar	29	20	45	6	30	24	42	4	33	23	38	6	34	16	34	16
Retired	35	19	38	8	28	27	35	10	36	22	29	13	33	17	30	20
Married	32	24	39	5	34	26	34	6	38	24	33	5	42	17	28	13
Not Married	21	24	46	9	25	28	40	7	31	26	34	9	31	19	34	16
Household Size: 1-2 People	30	24	39	7	31	27	35	7	37	20	36	7	37	19	30	14
3-4 People	22	24	50	4	32	26	38	4	35	26	33	6	37	17	30	16
5+ People	26	24	43	7	32	30	33	5	32,	31	33	5	44	13	34	9
Children in Household	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	35	20	31	14
Under 18	29	26	40	5	33	25	38	4	33	27	34	6	42	15	28	15
No Children	28	23	42	7	28	29	36	7	37	23	33	7	41	14	35	10
Northeast	21	27	45	7	21	29	44	6	26	22	44	8	42	18	30	10
North-Central	26	20	48	6	31	27	36	6	39	24	30	7	36	21	32	11
South	32	28	34	6	37	25	32	6	37	24	32	7	35	16	30	19
West	32	20	42	6	34	28	34	4	36	28	31	5	41	16	29	14
Nonmetro	31	23	39	7	32	25	37	6	39	25	29	7	37	16	31	16
Metro-50,000 and over: Fringe	27	22	45	6	30	27	40	3	33	25	35	7	41 <sup>1</sup>	16 <sup>1</sup>	29 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>
Central City	23	30	40	7	33	30	29	8	33	24	37	6	37 <sup>2</sup>	20 <sup>2</sup>	32 <sup>2</sup>	11 <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Metro—50,000-999,999.

<sup>2</sup>Metro—1,000,000 and over.

<sup>3</sup>\$25-34.9K

<sup>4</sup>\$35K+

\*1978 data appear in *Table 24*.

Table 24  
**May 1978**  
**Which Of These Statements Comes Closest To**  
**Your View About Government Power Today?**  
(in percent)

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

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

Table 25  
**1986, 1984**  
**If The Federal Government Decides To Reduce Spending To Keep It**  
**More In Line With Revenues, Which One Of These Would You Prefer?**  
(in percent)

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

	1986						1984					
	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6
Total Public	53	2	29	3	4	9	50	3	31	2	2	12
Male	51	2	31	3	4	9	49	2	35	3	1	10
Female	55	2	27	3	4	9	51	3	27	3	3	13
Head of Household	52	2	30	3	4	9	50	3	31	2	2	12
Male Head	49	2	32	3	4	10	48	3	36	2	1	10
Female Head	54	2	27	3	5	9	52	3	26	3	3	13
Under 35 Years of Age	61	3	24	1	4	7	53	3	30	2	1	11
18-24	68	3	16	1	5	7	52	2	29	2	1	14
25-34	57	2	29	1	3	8	55	3	30	2	1	9
35-44	47	2	31	2	5	13	48	5	33	1	2	11
45-65	48	2	34	5	5	6	51	2	28	5	2	12
Over 65	49	1	28	6	3	13	42	2	35	2	3	16
High School Incomplete	58	2	23	2	6	9	51	2	23	3	2	19
High School Graduate	53	1	28	2	5	11	48	2	34	2	2	12
College Incomplete	52	3	31	5	2	7	51	5	35	1	1	7
College Graduate	49	3	35	4	3	6	53	4	30	3	1	9
Household Income: Under \$15K	56	2	24	2	4	12	55	1	24	3	2	15
\$15-24.9K	63	2	25	2	2	6	51	3	30	3	3	10
\$25K+	46	2	35	4	6	7	45	4	38	2	1	10
\$25-29.9K	55	-	28	3	4	10	47	5	33	2	1	12
\$30-39.9K	43	2	35	3	9	8	45	2	42	2	1	8
\$40K+	44	3	38	5	4	6	43	4	39	3	1	10
Own	51	2	31	4	3	9	47	3	33	3	2	12
Rent	54	2	26	2	7	9	57	3	25	2	1	12
White	51	2	30	3	5	9	47	3	33	3	2	12
Nonwhite	66	-	21	2	3	8	68	2	12	1	1	16
Employed	52	2	30	2	5	9	49	3	34	2	2	10
Employed Female	56	1	28	2	5	8	48	3	32	2	3	12
Not Employed	55	2	26	4	4	9	51	3	26	3	2	15
Not Employed Female	54	2	25	5	4	10	53	2	22	4	3	16
Prof., Manager, Owner	47	3	37	4	4	5	50	2	34	1	2	11
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	60	4	24	1	3	8	42	4	30	4	2	18
Blue Collar	51	1	28	2	6	12	53	2	31	2	3	9
Retired	51	2	25	6	6	10	50	-	26	1	2	21
Married	50	2	33	3	4	8	48	3	34	2	2	11
Not Married	59	3	21	3	5	9	54	2	25	3	2	14
Household Size: 1-2 People	52	2	29	3	5	9	53	2	29	3	1	12
3-4 People	56	3	27	3	3	8	47	3	33	3	2	12
5+ People	63	-	29	2	2	4	52	3	30	1	2	12
Children in Household: Under 18	56	1	27	2	5	9	50	3	31	2	2	12
No Children	50	3	30	4	4	9	50	2	31	3	2	12
Northeast	57	3	23	2	3	12	53	6	22	2	2	15
North-Central	56	2	31	4	4	3	50	1	36	2	2	9
South	45	2	35	3	4	11	48	3	29	3	2	15
West	57	1	24	3	6	9	51	2	36	3	1	7
Nonmetro	50	1	33	3	4	9	48	2	36	2	2	10
Metro-50,000 and Over : Fringe	51	3	27	4	5	10	50	3	31	2	2	12
Central City	60	3	24	2	4	7	53	3	26	4	1	13

**Table 26**  
**1986, 1982\***  
**Considering All Government Services On The One Hand And Taxes On The Other**  
**Which Of The Following Statements Comes Closest To Your View?**

(in percent)

1. Decrease services and taxes.                      2. Keep taxes and services about where they are.  
3. Increase services and raise taxes.                4. No opinion.

	1986				1982			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Total Public	31	51	9	9	36	42	8	14
Male	34	51	9	6	37	40	8	15
Female	28	51	10	11	34	43	9	14
Head of Household: Male Head	31	51	10	8	37	41	8	14
Female Head	29	51	10	10	34	43	9	14
Under 35 Years of Age	31	52	8	9	33	43	10	14
18-24	33	50	4	13	31	42	9	18
25-34	29	53	10	8	34	43	11	12
35-44	29	55	11	5	37	46	8	9
45-65	36	46	10	8	37	42	8	13
Over 65	27	51	11	11	39	34	5	22
High School Incomplete	26	49	12	13	34	41	7	18
High School Graduate	32	54	5	9	35	43	8	14
College Incomplete	39	42	12	7	34	41	9	16
College Graduate	28	54	14	4	44	41	40	5
Household Income: Under \$15K	25	56	8	11	—	—	—	—
\$15-24.9K	34	44	10	12	33	42	8	17
\$25K+	34	50	12	4	36	44	10	10
\$25-29.9K	22	61	7	10	39	41	7	13
\$30-39.9K	37	50	10	3	34	43	8	15
\$40K+	37	45	16	2	44	39	6	11
Own	32	51	10	7	38	43	6	13
Rent	28	51	8	13	32	39	13	16
White	32	50	10	8	37	41	8	14
Nonwhite	22	53	10	15	28	45	11	16
Employed	31	52	9	8	38	41	9	12
Employed Female	23	56	11	10	34	45	8	13
Not Employed	32	49	9	10	31	44	9	16
Not Employed Female	33	47	8	12	32	43	11	14
Prof., Manager, Owner	32	47	16	5	43	41	11	5
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	31	54	8	7	36	39	8	17
Blue Collar	30	55	5	10	36	43	7	14
Retired	29	49	13	9	38	38	5	19
Married	33	50	10	7	38	43	7	12
Not Married	27	53	9	11	31	39	10	20
Household Size: 1-2 People	30	52	10	8	37	40	7	16
3-4 People	34	48	7	11	35	42	9	14
5+ People	40	45	9	6	36	44	9	11
Children in Household	—	—	—	—	36	41	8	15
Children under 18	34	50	8	8	34	43	8	15
No Children	30	52	11	7	37	42	10	11
Northeast	26	58	6	10	36	42	7	15
North-Central	32	51	10	7	34	42	7	17
South	33	50	9	8	36	43	8	13
West	33	44	14	9	37	38	11	14
Nonmetro	35	48	10	7	37	43	7	13
Metro-50,000 and Over : Fringe	31	52	8	9	35	39	9	17
Central City	25	53	11	11	35	42	9	14

\*1980-75 data appear in *Tables 27 and 28.*



**Table 27**  
**1980-77**  
**Considering All Government Services On The One Hand And Taxes On The Other,**  
**Which Of The Following Statements Comes Closest To Your View?**

(in percent)

1. Decrease services and taxes.                      2. Keep taxes and services about where they are.  
3. Increase services and raise taxes.              4. No opinion.

	May 1980				May 1979				May 1977			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Total Public	38	45	6	11	39	46	6	9	31	52	4	13
18-29 Years of Age	35	43	10	12	41	43	7	8	30	51	5	14
30-44	41	44	7	8	39	46	5	10	31	54	3	12
45-59	39	48	4	9	40	47	5	8	35	49	3	13
60 Years and Over	39	46	3	12	36	48	5	11	29	56	3	12
Male: Total	37	44	8	11	41	44	6	10	35	51	4	10
18-29 Years of Age	34	42	12	12	44	41	7	8	37	49	5	9
30-44	38	41	9	12	45	40	5	10	36	51	4	10
45-50	39	49	5	7	37	48	6	9	38	50	3	10
60 Years and Over	39	47	2	12	34	47	5	13	29	56	4	11
Female: Total	39	45	5	11	38	47	5	9	28	53	3	16
18-29 Years of Age	36	44	8	12	39	45	8	9	24	52	5	19
30-44	43	46	5	6	33	51	6	10	28	57	2	13
45-59	39	47	3	11	43	46	3	8	31	49	3	16
60 Years and Over	39	45	3	13	38	48	4	10	29	56	2	13
Employed	37	48	6	9	36	50	6	8	29	52	4	15
Housewife	41	47	3	9	41	48	3	8	28	54	2	15
High School Grad or Less: Total	38	45	5	12	39	46	5	11	30	53	3	14
Less than Grad	39	42	5	14	37	45	4	13	32	49	2	17
High School Grad	38	47	5	10	40	46	5	9	28	57	4	11
College: Total	38	46	8	8	41	46	7	6	34	51	4	11
Some	35	50	8	7	42	43	8	7	32	54	2	12
Grad	43	41	9	7	40	49	6	5	36	47	8	9
Executive, Prof., Manager	44	42	6	8	44	43	6	7	37	52	4	7
White Collar	43	41	7	9	38	47	7	8	35	51	4	10
Blue Collar												
Total	36	45	7	12	40	45	5	10	29	51	4	16
Skilled	39	42	8	11	41	46	7	7	27	56	4	13
Semi/Unskilled	33	48	6	13	40	44	3	13	30	47	4	19
Retired	35	51	4	10	37	47	5	11	29	56	2	13
Nielsen Markets: A	34	46	8	12	39	47	5	10	29	54	4	14
B	38	45	7	10	43	42	7	7	35	52	5	9
C	41	49	2	8	36	46	5	13	31	54	1	14
D	44	37	6	13	37	51	4	8	30	49	5	16
Household Income: Under \$7K	33	45	8	14	36	46	5	14	27	51	4	18
\$7-9.9K	36	52	4	8	36	49	5	10	32	51	3	13
\$10-14K	37	44	7	12	39	46	4	10	31	58	2	9
\$15-24.9K	38	46	5	11	41	46	6	7	33	52	3	12
\$25K+	43	43	7	7	44	43	7	6	38	50	6	6
Northeast	35	46	8	11	39	43	10	9	33	48	3	15
North-Central	38	48	4	10	40	49	3	7	27	61	4	8
South	38	44	6	12	36	47	6	12	32	51	4	13
West	42	42	7	9	45	42	3	18	33	46	3	18
Rural	49	34	5	12	41	45	3	12	37	45	3	15
Suburb	38	48	4	10	42	47	5	6	31	55	4	10
City: Total	35	46	8	11	37	45	7	10	29	53	3	15
One Family	37	48	5	10	38	46	6	10	30	55	3	12
Multifamily	30	44	13	13	36	44	8	12	28	48	5	20
White	40	45	6	9	41	46	5	8	33	53	3	11
Nonwhite	27	45	10	18	30	44	7	20	22	49	6	23
No Child	37	46	6	11	38	49	5	9	30	54	3	13
With Children: Total	40	43	7	10	40	44	6	9	32	50	4	13
12-17	37	47	8	8	37	49	5	9	33	52	4	11
6-11	39	43	8	10	37	44	4	14	28	53	5	14
Under 6	41	43	6	10	43	43	7	6	32	49	5	14
Own Home	40	45	5	10	41	46	5	7	32	54	3	11
Rent Home	34	45	9	12	35	44	6	15	30	48	5	17

Table 28  
1976-75  
**Considering All Government Services On The One Hand And Taxes On The Other,  
Which Of The Following Statements Comes Closest To Your View?**  
(in percent)

1. Decrease services and taxes.
2. Keep taxes and services about where they are.
3. Increase services and raise taxes.
4. No opinion.

	March 1976				May 1975			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Total U.S. Public	30	51	5	14	38	45	5	12
18-29 Years of Age	32	51	5	12	36	47	6	11
30-39	30	53	4	13	42	46	3	9
40-49	33	45	7	15	39	47	3	11
50-59	35	45	5	15	43	42	5	10
60 Years and Over	23	59	3	15	33	45	3	19
Male	32	50	6	12	40	46	4	10
Female	29	52	4	15	37	45	4	14
High School Grad or Less								
Less than Grad	32	47	4	17	33	46	4	17
High School Grad	31	53	3	13	43	46	3	8
College: Some College	28	53	9	10	40	42	7	11
Professional	28	52	10	10	36	49	8	7
Managerial	38	46	5	11	44	45	5	6
Clerical, Sales	31	50	4	15	37	52	3	8
Craftsman, Foreman	32	50	4	14	42	43	4	11
Other Manual, Service	30	51	4	15	36	49	4	11
Farmer, Farm Laborer	39	35	6	20	39	30	5	26
Household Income: Under \$5K	30	52	4	14	31	42	5	22
\$5-6.9K	25	54	1	20	39	44	3	14
\$7-9.9K	34	47	5	14	34	53	4	9
\$10-14.9K	28	52	4	16	39	48	5	8
\$15K+	32	52	6	10	46	42	5	7
Northeast	28	53	5	14	39	39	5	17
North-Central	28	50	5	17	39	47	4	10
South	31	53	4	12	34	50	4	12
West	37	46	5	12	43	42	5	10
Rural	40	45	4	11	37	48	3	12
Old Suburb	32	53	5	10	37	50	4	9
New Suburb	29	57	3	11	41	47	4	8
City: One Family	27	53	4	16	42	44	4	10
Multifamily	23	59	3	15	43	41	4	12
White	31	51	5	13	39	46	3	12
Nonwhite	24	48	4	24	33	40	11	16
No Child	28	54	5	13	36	44	5	15
With Children: Under 18	33	48	5	14	40	48	4	8
12-17	37	44	5	14	44	46	2	8
Own Home	32	51	4	13	41	46	3	10
Rent Home	26	52	5	17	33	45	6	16
Apartment	29	50	8	13	31	40	9	20

Table 29  
1986  
**Which Statement Comes Closest To Your View On  
Single Parents That Receive Welfare?**  
(in percent)

1. Single parents should be required to work in a government program in order to continue receiving payments.
2. Single parents should be required to work in a government program only if the children can be placed in affordable day care or are in school.
3. Single parents should not be required to work in a government program in order to continue receiving payments.
4. Don't know.

	1	2	3	4
Total Public	32	51	13	4
Male	34	49	14	3
Female	30	52	13	5
Head of Household	33	50	13	4
Male Head	36	48	12	4
Female Head	30	52	13	5
Under 35 Years of Age	24	54	19	3
18-24	23	53	21	3
25-34	25	55	18	2
35-44	30	52	14	4
30-65	40	48	7	5
Over 65	39	44	12	5
High School Incomplete	34	45	14	7
High School Graduate	32	53	12	3
College Incomplete	32	47	16	5
College Graduate	29	56	12	3
Household Income: Under \$15K	30	48	15	7
\$15-24.9K	36	52	10	3
\$25K+	31	53	14	2
\$25-29.9K	25	63	9	3
\$30-39.9K	30	49	19	2
\$40K+	35	51	12	2
Own	37	48	12	3
Rent	23	55	16	6
White	33	50	13	4
Nonwhite	25	55	17	3
Employed	31	53	13	3
Employed Female	31	55	12	2
Not Employed	34	46	14	6
Not Employed Female	29	50	14	7
Prof., Manager, Owner	32	56	10	2
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	30	54	12	4
Blue Collar	31	51	15	3
Retired	42	43	9	6
Married	35	48	14	3
Not Married	27	55	13	5
Household Size: 1-2 People	33	49	13	5
3-4 People	31	53	14	2
5+ People	17	70	11	2
Children in Household: Under 18	27	56	14	3
No Children	37	46	13	4
Northeast	29	57	10	4
North-Central	32	53	12	3
South	34	47	15	4
West	34	46	15	5
Nonmetro	34	47	14	5
Metro-50,000 and over				
Fringe	34	52	10	4
Central City	26	54	17	3

Table 30  
1985  
**For Which, If Any, Of The Following Programs Should The Federal Government  
Stop Providing Federal Financial Support?**  
(in percent)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Highways (except the Interstate system).<br/>         3. Aid to low-income people, including food stamps.<br/>         5. Sewage treatment plants.<br/>         7. None of these.</p> | <p>2. Aid to local public schools.<br/>         4. Nursing home care for the elderly.<br/>         6. Community and economic development.<br/>         8. Don't know.</p> |
|---|---|

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Total Public	13	10	14	8	17	18	56	6
Male	14	10	15	9	17	19	53	6
Female	13	9	13	7	16	18	58	6
Head of Household	13	10	14	8	17	19	56	6
Male Head	14	11	16	10	18	20	52	6
Female Head	12	9	13	7	16	18	59	6
Under 35 Years of Age	12	7	14	6	14	12	59	6
18-24	10	5	11	1	13	7	64	5
25-34	13	9	15	9	16	16	56	6
35-44	15	10	14	9	21	24	53	4
45-65	14	12	16	10	20	23	55	5
Over 65	13	13	13	8	12	19	52	13
High School Incomplete	12	8	12	6	11	14	58	10
High School Graduate	10	8	13	6	18	17	57	7
College Incomplete	14	11	17	8	16	18	56	3
College Graduate	19	16	18	15	23	28	52	1
Household Income: Under \$15K	10	9	11	6	13	15	59	11
\$15-24.9K	16	9	14	7	17	19	57	4
\$25K +	15	11	18	10	19	22	53	3
\$25-29.9K	13	13	14	8	14	16	51	8
\$30-39.9K	13	7	17	7	19	21	56	2
\$40K +	18	14	20	13	22	25	53	2
Own	12	11	15	9	18	20	55	5
Rent	15	6	13	6	14	14	59	7
White	14	11	15	9	18	20	54	6
Nonwhite	9	5	9	4	10	9	68	8
Employed	13	9	14	8	16	17	57	5
Employed Female	14	9	12	6	14	17	60	5
Not Employed	12	11	14	8	18	20	55	8
Not Employed Female	11	10	14	7	19	19	56	8
Prof., Manager, Owner	15	14	16	13	21	22	59	2
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	14	7	14	3	16	17	54	3
Blue Collar	12	7	13	7	14	15	56	6
Retired	10	11	11	7	15	19	58	10
Married	13	10	16	9	18	21	54	5
Not Married	13	9	11	6	14	13	60	8
Household Size: 1-2 People	15	12	13	9	17	20	55	8
3-4 People	12	8	15	6	17	18	54	6
5+ People	11	9	14	10	17	14	62	4
Children in Household: Under 18	12	8	14	8	17	17	57	4
No Children	13	11	15	8	17	19	55	8
Northeast	11	6	9	5	12	15	67	6
North-Central	12	10	15	7	20	20	55	4
South	15	12	17	11	17	17	50	9
West	13	11	16	8	19	23	55	4
Nonmetro	10	10	17	6	17	18	54	6
Metro-50,000 and Over: Fringe	13	9	13	9	18	20	55	5
Central City	18	11	13	10	14	15	60	7

Table 31

1984

**In The Next Fiscal Year, The Federal Government Is Expected To Spend About \$180 Billion More Than It Takes In. Which One Of These Basic Ways Of Reducing The Deficit Would You Most Prefer?**

(in percent)

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

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

Table 32  
**1985**  
**Would the Following Services Be More Efficiently Produced/Delivered by Private Companies or**  
**Your Local Government?**  
(in percent)

	1. Private Companies			2. Local Government			3. Don't Know											
	<u>Parking Facilities</u>			<u>Street Maintenance</u>			<u>Hospitals</u>			<u>Parks and Swimming Pools</u>			<u>Garbage Collection</u>			<u>Ambulance Service</u>		
	1.	2.	3.	1.	2.	3.	1.	2.	3.	1.	2.	3.	1.	2.	3.	1.	2.	3.
Total Public	42	48	10	21	73	6	46	45	9	25	68	7	41	53	6	41	52	7
Male	44	49	7	24	72	4	48	44	8	24	70	6	43	52	5	43	50	7
Female	41	46	13	18	74	8	46	45	9	25	67	8	39	55	6	39	53	8
Head of Household	42	48	10	22	72	6	47	44	9	24	69	7	42	52	6	42	51	7
Male Head	43	50	7	24	72	4	50	42	8	22	71	7	45	50	5	44	49	7
Female Head	41	46	13	19	73	8	45	45	10	26	66	8	40	54	6	40	52	8
Under 35 Years of Age	45	47	8	22	73	5	45	48	7	28	66	6	43	52	5	42	52	6
18-24	41	50	9	16	80	3	32	60	8	30	65	5	38	58	4	31	63	6
25-34	47	45	8	27	67	6	53	40	7	26	67	7	46	48	6	48	45	7
35-44	44	47	9	24	71	5	49	44	7	25	69	6	42	54	4	44	50	6
45-65	42	48	10	19	76	5	48	44	8	21	73	6	40	56	4	42	52	6
Over 65	34	50	16	17	71	12	47	36	17	22	64	14	36	52	12	37	49	14
High School Incomplete	37	50	13	16	74	10	34	54	12	24	65	11	33	59	8	32	58	10
High School Graduate	40	50	10	19	75	6	41	50	9	25	68	7	41	54	5	38	55	7
College Incomplete	48	44	8	23	73	4	57	36	7	22	73	5	46	48	6	48	45	7
College Graduate	50	45	5	29	69	2	67	28	5	26	70	4	48	50	2	55	42	3
Household Income: Under \$15K	40	44	16	21	69	10	39	48	13	26	61	13	39	51	10	38	52	10
\$15-24.9K	45	47	8	19	77	4	44	50	6	23	72	5	36	61	3	40	56	46
\$25K	43	52	5	23	74	3	55	39	6	25	72	3	47	51	2	46	49	5
\$25-29.9K	37	55	8	22	75	3	51	41	8	26	70	4	57	40	3	45	48	7
\$30-39.9K	42	53	5	21	73	6	53	42	5	23	74	3	43	55	2	50	45	5
\$40K+	47	49	4	25	73	2	60	35	5	25	73	2	46	52	2	44	52	4
Own	43	48	9	20	74	6	49	42	9	22	71	7	42	53	5	41	52	7
Rent	40	47	13	22	71	7	39	52	9	29	63	8	37	56	7	41	52	7

White	42	48	10	21	74	5	49	43	8	24	69	7	43	52	5	43	51	6
Nonwhite	45	43	12	19	70	11	29	58	13	27	63	10	26	65	9	26	60	14
Employed	43	49	8	23	73	4	48	45	7	25	70	5	43	53	4	42	52	6
Employed Female	40	49	11	21	74	5	48	46	6	26	69	5	43	54	3	41	54	5
Not Employed	41	45	14	17	73	10	44	44	12	24	65	11	38	54	8	39	51	10
Not Employed Female	42	43	15	15	74	11	44	43	13	24	65	11	35	56	9	37	53	10
Prof., Manager, Owner	44	52	4	27	71	2	62	33	5	23	74	3	47	51	2	48	49	3
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	40	51	9	19	79	2	47	49	4	25	72	3	44	53	3	47	51	2
Blue Collar	43	48	9	22	73	5	35	57	8	25	69	6	37	58	5	34	60	6
Retired	35	50	15	18	74	8	45	40	15	20	68	12	38	54	8	40	50	10
Married	43	49	8	22	73	5	50	42	8	26	69	5	45	51	4	44	50	6
Not Married	41	46	13	18	74	8	40	49	11	22	68	10	34	58	8	35	55	10
Household Size: 1-2 People	41	46	13	22	70	8	50	39	11	25	66	9	40	52	8	42	48	10
3-4 People	41	51	8	17	78	5	45	48	7	21	73	6	41	55	4	40	54	6
5+ People	47	46	7	26	69	5	43	52	5	31	64	5	45	51	4	41	55	4
Children in Household: Under 18	43	48	9	21	74	5	44	49	7	26	69	5	42	54	4	42	53	5
No Children	42	47	11	21	72	7	48	42	10	24	67	9	40	53	7	40	52	8
Northeast	38	52	10	24	70	6	38	54	8	22	70	8	36	58	6	33	61	6
North-Central	38	51	11	19	73	8	49	42	9	27	65	8	49	45	6	40	51	9
South	46	42	12	19	75	6	44	46	10	26	66	8	35	59	6	39	53	8
West	45	50	5	24	73	3	58	35	7	20	76	4	48	48	4	54	40	6
Nonmetro	40	49	11	23	71	6	47	44	9	27	63	10	52	42	6	45	48	7
Metro-50,000 and Over: Fringe	41	50	9	19	76	5	47	44	9	22	74	4	41	55	4	39	54	7
Central City	47	43	10	21	71	8	46	46	8	25	68	7	27	66	7	38	53	9

Table 33  
1984

**Now That Economic Recovery Is Underway,  
Many State Treasuries Are Beginning To Report Surpluses.  
Should The States Use Most Of These Surplus Funds To Reduce Taxes, Or To Expand  
Government Programs, Or Should They Place Them In A "Rainy Day" Fund?**  
(in percent)

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

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



Table 34

1983

# Which One Of The Changes Would Be The Single Most Important Change That Would Make The Nation's Tax System More Fair?

(in percent)

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

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Total Public	49	13	6	16	7	9
Male	50	14	7	15	7	7
Female	48	12	6	17	6	11
Head of Household	49	13	6	16	7	9
Male Head	51	14	6	15	8	6
Female Head	48	12	6	17	7	11
Under 35 Years of Age	46	15	8	16	6	10
18–24	38	17	11	18	5	11
25–34	53	13	5	14	7	8
35–44	54	12	6	13	6	9
45–65	52	12	6	15	8	6
Over 65	41	14	4	22	5	14
High School Incomplete	42	14	6	20	3	16
High School Graduate	52	14	6	is	6	7
College Incomplete	47	14	10	16	10	4
College Graduate	57	8	5	13	12	5
Household Income: Under \$15K	45	15	6	16	5	13
\$15–24.9K	52	14	6	16	5	6
\$25K+	52	11	7	15	10	4
\$25–29.9K	57	12	6	11	8	5
\$30–39.9K	58	11	7	16	6	3
\$40K+	43	11	7	17	17	5
Own	52	12	7	is	7	7
Rent	43	15	6	17	5	14
White	49	13	6	17	7	8
Nonwhite	46	17	6	12	3	16
Employed	50	15	6	15	8	6
Employed Female	51	14	7	16	7	5
Not Employed	47	12	7	17	5	11
Not Employed Female	46	11	6	17	6	14
Prof., Manager, Owner	54	11	5	15	11	4
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	52	11	7	13	6	10
Blue Collar	49	16	8	16	5	6
Retired	48	15	3	20	6	8
Married	51	12	6	17	7	7
Not Married	45	15	8	14	6	13
Household Size: 1–2 People	48	13	6	18	6	10
3–4 People	50	is	6	16	8	6
5+ People	49	9	9	13	7	14
Children in Household: Under–18	48	13	8	16	6	9
No Children	49	13	5	16	7	9
Northeast	47	14	6	13	5	15
North–Central	56	14	5	15	5	5
South	46	12	8	18	5	12
West	45	13	6	18	15	4
Nonmetro	49	14	6	18	6	7
Metro–50,000 and Over: Fringe	53	11	7	15	7	7
Central City	45	13	7	14	8	13

Table 35

1983

**With The Cutbacks In Federal Financial Aid To Local Governments, There Is A Debate  
As To What The States Should Do. Which Statement Comes Closest To Your View?**

(in percent)

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

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

Table 36

1983

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

(in percent)

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

	1	2	3	4
Total Public	45	34	3	17
Male	45	38	3	14
Female	45	32	3	20
Head of Household	45	36	3	17
Male Head	45	39	3	13
Female Head	44	33	2	21
Under 35 Years of Age	56	25	5	15
18-24	56	21	5	17
25-34	56	27	4	13
35-44	44	41	3	12
45-65	41	40	2	17
Over 65	27	42	2	29
High School Incomplete	34	34	4	29
High School Graduate	47	34	31	6
College Incomplete	54	39	2	6
College Graduate	57	32	2	9
Household Income Under \$15K	40	29	4	27
\$15-24.9K	47	40	2	11
\$25K +	52	38	2	9
\$25-29.9K	54	36	2	8
\$30-39.9K	57	33	2	8
\$40K +	45	44	2	10
Own	43	39	2	16
Rent	51	23	4	22
White	45	36	3	16
Nonwhite	45	27	3	25
Employed	51	34	4	12
Employed Female	55	29	41	2
Not Employed	41	35	3	21
Not Employed Female	40	34	2	24
Prof., Manager, Owner	51	39	3	7
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	53	33	2	12
Blue Collar	51	29	3	16
Retired	34	39	2	24
Married	46	38	3	14
Not Married	45	29	4	23
Household Size: 1-2 People	43	35	3	19
3-4 People	47	37	2	14
5+ People	46	29	5	21
Children in Household: Under 18	48	32	4	16
No Children	43	36	3	18
Northeast	52	26	2	21
North-Central	43	38	3	15
South	41	37	4	19
West	48	35	3	14
Nonmetro	40	38	3	19
Metro-50,000 and Over: Fringe	51	36	3	10
Central City	48	29	3	21



## Appendix II

# Questions, 1987-72

Numbered Tables (1987-82) appear in *Appendix I* of this volume—Detailed Results: 1987-82 Surveys. Lettered Tables (1972-81) appear in *Changing Public Attitudes on Government and Taxes*, (S-12 or S-13), Appendix III, Detailed Results: 1972-81 Surveys.

	Year	Table	Page
<b>Taxes</b>			
<b>Federal-State-Local Taxes</b>			
From which level of government do you feel you get the most for your money?	1976-72	4	14
	1981-77	3	12
	1984-82	2	11
	1987-85	1	10
Considering all government services on the one hand and taxes on the other, which of the following statements comes closest to your view?	1976-75	28	42
	1980-77	27	41
	1986, 82	26	40
Here is a list of the major types of taxes in the country today. Which do you think is the fairest?	1972, 74	E	51 (S-13)
Which do you think is the worst tax, that is, the least fair?	1975-72	8	20
	1981-77	7	18
	1984-82	6	17
	1987-85	5	16
<b>Federal-Local Taxes</b>			
Which statement agrees most with your own thinking about the national value-added tax and local property tax?	1972	1	59 (S-13)
<b>Federal Taxes</b>			
If the federal government had to raise taxes/revenues, which would be the best way to do it?	1972	K	62 (S-13)
	1983	12	25
	1984	11	24
	1987	10	23
If the federal income tax collections must be increased, which way is the best?	1983	13	26
Which one of the changes would be the single most important change that would make the nation's tax system more fair?	1983	34	49
Which one way of reducing the federal deficit would you prefer?	1984	31	45

### State Taxes

Suppose your state government must raise taxes/revenues, which would be the way to do it?	1972, 76	D	50 (S-13)
	1983	15	28
	1987	14	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?	1977	L	63 (S-13)

### Local Taxes

Suppose your local government must raise more taxes/revenue, which would be the way to do it?	1981	19	32
	1983	18	31
	1986	17	30
	1987	16	29
Which reason do you feel is the most important for dissatisfaction with the property tax?	1977	G	56 (S-13)

## Aid Programs

### Federal Aid

Rank types of federal grant programs as to whether they are necessary or unnecessary.	1982	16	30-38 (S-13)
Do you favor or oppose revenue sharing?	1973-76, 79	C	48 (S-13)
Do you favor or oppose special federal aid for central cities experiencing financial difficulty?	1976-79	J	60 (S-13)
For which, if any, of the following programs should the federal government stop providing federal financial support?	1985	30	44

### State Aid

With the cutbacks in federal financial aid to local governments, what should states do?	1983	35	50
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## Spending

### Federal Spending

Which functions should the federal government turn back to state and local governments?	1981	P	68 (S-13)
Which one way of reducing the federal deficit would you prefer?	1984	31	45
If the federal government decides to reduce spending, which one way would you prefer?	1986, 84	25	39

### 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	0	66 (S-13)
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## Government Power and Efficiency

### Federal Power and Efficiency

Which of these statements comes closest to your view about government power today?	1978	24	38
	1986-82	23	36
How much power do you feel the federal government has over the activities of state and local government?	1987	20	33

**Federal-State-Local Efficiency**

From which level of government do you feel you get the most for your money?	1976-72	4	14
	1981-77	3	12
	1984-82	2	11
	1987-85	1	10
Which government do you feel wastes the most of your tax money?	1987	9	22

**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	65 (S-13)
Would the following services be more efficiently produced/delivered by private companies or your local government?	1985	32	46

**Trust and Confidence in Government**

How much trust and confidence do you have in your government to do a good job?	1987	22	35
In which people in government do you have the most trust and confidence?	1987	21	34

**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	36	51
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**State Surplus Funds**

How should states use their surplus funds?	1984	33	48
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**Welfare**

Should single parents receiving welfare be required to work in a government program to continue receiving payments?	1986	29	43
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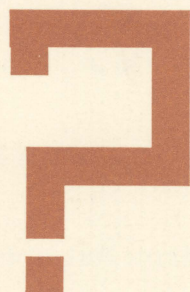


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## What is ACIR?

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 the all-important functional and structural relationships among the various governments, the Commission has extensively studied critical stresses currently being placed on traditional governmental taxing practices. One of the long-range efforts of the Commission has been to seek ways to improve federal, state, and local governmental taxing practices and policies to achieve equitable allocation of resources, increased efficiency in collection and administration, and reduced compliance burdens upon the taxpayers.

Studies undertaken by the Commission have dealt with subjects as diverse as *transportation* and as specific as *state and local taxation of out-of-state mail order sales*; as wide ranging as the *transformation in American politics* to the more specialized issue of *local revenue diversification*. 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 multi-step 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.

