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Interviews: 1,596 voters  
Dates: June 4-10, 2012

**FINAL**

Study #10549  
Americans For Tax Fairness  
June 2012

48 Male  
52 Female  
**[109]**

***Please note: all results are shown as percentages unless otherwise stated.***

Hart Research Associates, a national public opinion polling firm is conducting a survey about issues facing the country, and we would really appreciate the chance to get your opinions on a few questions. This is a public opinion survey, and you will not be sold anything. Your name and individual opinions will be kept confidential. Responses will only be reported in the aggregate.

S1. Are you currently registered to vote?

Yes .....	100	<b>CONTINUE</b>	<b>[110]</b>
No .....	-	<b>TERMINATE</b>	
Not sure .....	-		

1. How closely do you follow news from Washington, D.C., about what the president and Congress are doing?

Follow very closely .....	15	<b>[130]</b>
Follow fairly closely .....	41	
Follow just somewhat closely .....	30	
Do not follow too closely .....	14	

2. Please read these two statements about federal taxes and indicate on a one-to-seven scale which statement comes closer to your point of view. A "1" means that you agree much more with the statement on the left, a "7" means you agree much more with the statement on the right, and a "4" is in the middle.

**A) We should raise income taxes on the richest two percent of households OR We should not raise income taxes on anyone at this time**

Total	Agree Much More With Statement A					Agree Much More With Statement B		Total	
<u>1-3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>5-7</u>	
<b>63</b>	40	16	7	5	3	5	24	<b>32</b>	<b>[131]</b>

**B) The country needs more tax revenue to fund priorities like education, transportation, and Medicare OR The country does not need more tax revenue, we only need to reduce wasteful government spending**

Total	Agree Much More With Statement A					Agree Much More With Statement B		Total	
<u>1-3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>5-7</u>	
<b>31</b>	16	8	7	12	9	10	38	<b>57</b>	<b>[132]</b>

3. Which party do you think would do a better job of handling the issue of federal taxes?

Democrats would do a much better job of handling federal taxes .....	16	<b>[133]</b>
Democrats would do a somewhat better job of handling federal taxes .....	19	
No difference.....	30	
Republicans would do a somewhat better job of handling federal taxes .....	20	
Republicans would do a much better job of handling federal taxes .....	15	
<hr/>		
<b>Total Democrats Would Do Better Job</b>	<b>35</b>	
<b>Total Republican Would Do Better Job</b>	<b>35</b>	

4. Here are some goals that Congress and the president might try to achieve as they reform the federal tax system. Please rate how important each one of these goals is to you, using a scale from zero to 10, on which a "0" means it is not important and a "10" means it should be an extremely important goal for tax reform. You may use any number from zero to 10, depending on how strongly you feel.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY EXTREMELY IMPORTANT (RATING OF "9-10")

	<i>Mean</i>	<b>Extremely Important</b>		<b>Not Important</b>		
		<u>9-10</u>	<u>7-8</u>	<u>4-6</u>	<u>0-3</u>	
Get rid of tax breaks for corporations that ship American jobs overseas ** .....	8.5	68	16	12	4	<b>[208-209]</b>
Get rid of tax loopholes that favor large corporations * .....	8.5	65	18	13	4	<b>[150-151]</b>
Make sure that the same rules apply to everyone, with no special loopholes.....	8.5	64	19	14	3	<b>[138-139]</b>
Make sure large corporations pay their fair share of taxes ** .....	8.3	64	18	13	5	<b>[174-175]</b>
Reduce federal government spending.....	8.4	64	16	16	4	<b>[140-141]</b>
Make the tax system more fair.....	8.4	62	21	14	3	<b>[134-135]</b>
Reduce the federal budget deficit.....	8.4	62	18	16	4	<b>[144-145]</b>
Make sure the rich pay their fair share of taxes * .....	8.0	61	14	15	10	<b>[148-149]</b>
Get rid of tax breaks that favor the rich ** .....	7.8	60	13	15	12	<b>[176-177]</b>
Simplify the tax system ** .....	8.1	57	17	22	4	<b>[210-211]</b>
Make sure we have enough revenue to fund investments that strengthen the economy, like education, research, and transportation ** .....	7.9	51	24	20	5	<b>[172-173]</b>
Make sure we have enough revenue to fund priorities that middle-class families depend on, like education and Medicare .....	7.8	48	26	19	7	<b>[136-137]</b>
Make sure we have enough revenue to fund the military and national defense * .....	7.7	46	26	22	6	<b>[156-157]</b>
Get rid of tax breaks that allow investors to pay a lower tax rate on income from stocks and bonds than working people pay on their wages and salaries ** .....	7.0	46	18	19	17	<b>[178-179]</b>
Maintain tax deductions that help families, like the child credit and deductibility of college tuition * .....	7.5	45	25	23	7	<b>[154-155]</b>
Make sure we have enough revenue to fund investments that create jobs, like education, research, and transportation * .....	7.6	43	30	19	8	<b>[146-147]</b>
Keep taxes low ** .....	7.2	41	18	32	9	<b>[212-213]</b>
Reduce tax rates on small businesses * .....	7.1	35	26	30	9	<b>[158-159]</b>
Tax income from wealth, such as stocks and bonds, at least as much as income from work, such as wages and salaries * .....	5.9	27	20	30	23	<b>[152-153]</b>
Reduce tax rates on all taxpayers .....	5.6	23	15	37	25	<b>[142-143]</b>

\* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS A/B).

\*\* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS C/D).

5a. As Congress and the president make decisions about taxes and the budget, which of these is your bigger concern today? \*

Concerned that Democrats will go too far in maintaining wasteful government spending .....	42	<b>[214]</b>
Concerned that Republicans will go too far in cutting priorities like education and Medicare.....	50	
Neither one concerns me .....	8	

\* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS A/C).

5b. As Congress and the president make decisions about taxes and the budget, which of these is your bigger concern today? \*\*

Concerned that Democrats will go too far in increasing taxes and maintaining wasteful government spending .....	45	<b>[215]</b>
Concerned that Republicans will go too far in protecting tax breaks for the rich and corporations while cutting priorities like education and Medicare .....	50	
Neither one concerns me .....	5	

\*\* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS B/D).

6a. As you may know, about half of the Members of Congress have signed a pledge promising that they will never vote for any tax increase. What is your view of those who signed this pledge never to raise taxes? \*

Very favorable.....	22	<b>[216]</b>
Somewhat favorable.....	38	
Somewhat unfavorable.....	18	
Very unfavorable.....	22	

\* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS A/D).

6b. As you may know, about half of the Members of Congress have signed a pledge promising that they will never vote for any tax increase. This pledge includes a promise that they will never vote to make the very wealthy and corporations pay a penny more in taxes, even by eliminating special tax breaks or loopholes. What is your view of those who signed this pledge never to raise taxes? \*\*

Very favorable.....	9	<b>[217]</b>
Somewhat favorable.....	23	
Somewhat unfavorable.....	25	
Very unfavorable.....	43	

\*\* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS B/C).

7. If a law increased income tax rates on **(FORMS A/B:)** household incomes above \$250,000 **(FORMS C/D:)** households in the top two percent of incomes, do you think it would be accurate or not accurate to say that law "raises taxes on the rich?"

	Household Incomes Above \$250,000*	Top Two Percent Of Incomes**	
Very accurate.....	22	39	<b>[218]</b>
Mostly accurate.....	45	40	
Not too accurate.....	21	15	
Not accurate at all .....	12	6	

\* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS A/B).

\*\* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS C/D).

8. Next are some statements that people have made about taxes and the budget. For each one, please indicate whether you think it is definitely true, probably true, probably false, or definitely false.

*THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY DEFINITELY TRUE OR PROBABLY TRUE*

	Definitely <u>True</u>	Probably <u>True</u>	Probably <u>False</u>	Definitely <u>False</u>	Not <u>Sure</u>	
Spending more in areas like transportation, education, and research will strengthen our economy and create jobs *.....	29	46	12	5	8	<b>[221]</b>
Cutting back on spending in areas like transportation, education, and research will weaken our economy and cost jobs **.....	33	39	15	8	5	<b>[226]</b>
When Washington raises taxes, they just waste the money .....	35	35	17	6	7	<b>[219]</b>
A major cause of the budget deficit is the tax breaks given to the wealthy and large corporations * .....	29	31	17	16	7	<b>[223]</b>
Raising taxes on job creators will hurt the economy and increase unemployment .....	24	33	22	12	9	<b>[220]</b>
There is no way to protect important priorities like education and Medicare unless we ask the wealthy and corporations to pay their fair share of taxes * .....	27	29	19	19	6	<b>[222]</b>
With a \$1 trillion deficit, there is no way to protect important priorities like education and Medicare unless we ask the wealthy and corporations to pay their fair share of taxes ** .....	26	30	16	21	7	<b>[227]</b>
We've tried cutting taxes on rich people for the last decade, and it just doesn't reduce the deficit or help our economy **.....	26	21	21	22	10	<b>[228]</b>

\* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS A/C).

\*\* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS B/D).

9. Following are some tax and budget proposals being considered by Congress. Please indicate whether you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose each one.

	Strongly <u>Favor</u>	Somewhat <u>Favor</u>	Somewhat <u>Oppose</u>	Strongly <u>Oppose</u>	
Increase tax rates on household income above \$250,000.....	38	34	14	14	<b>[229]</b>
Make sure that all large corporations pay at least some income taxes .....	74	21	3	2	<b>[230]</b>
Tax income made by investors, such as from stocks and bonds, at the same rate as income made by workers from their wages and salaries *.....	28	38	19	15	<b>[231]</b>
Increase funding for investments in education, research, and transportation *.....	40	37	17	6	<b>[232]</b>
End the preferential treatment of income made by investors, such as from stocks and bonds, so it is no longer taxed at a lower rate than income made by workers from their wages and salaries ** .....	36	33	19	12	<b>[236]</b>
Cut funding for investments in education, research, and transportation **.....	5	12	34	49	<b>[237]</b>
End <u>Bush tax cuts</u> for top/richest two percent of households <sup>1</sup> .....	55	18	14	13	<b>[233]</b>
End <u>Bush tax breaks</u> for top/richest two percent of households <sup>2</sup> .....	54	19	11	16	<b>[238]</b>
End Bush tax cuts/breaks for <u>top two percent</u> of households ** .....	54	17	14	15	<b>[243]</b>
End Bush tax cuts/breaks for <u>richest two percent</u> of households * .....	54	20	11	15	<b>[248]</b>

\* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS A/D).

\*\* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS B/C).

<sup>1</sup>Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS A/C).

<sup>2</sup>Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS B/D).

10. In general, do you think tax rates on corporations should be higher, should be lower, or should be kept at the current level? \*

Should be higher .....	60	<b>[249]</b>
Should be lower.....	14	
Should be kept at the current level .....	26	

\* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS A/B).

11a/b. As you may know, the Bush tax cuts passed in 2001 are due to expire at the end of this year, which means that personal income tax rates will increase unless Congress takes action. Which of these do you think is the better way for Congress to deal with the Bush tax cuts? And do you feel strongly or not strongly about that?

<b>Total Continue The Tax Cuts For All Income Levels</b>	<b>32</b>	
Feel strongly .....	27	<b>[250-251]</b>
Do not feel strongly .....	5	
<b>Total Continue The Tax Cuts For Income Under \$250,000, But End The Tax Cuts For Income Above \$250,000</b>	<b>68</b>	
Do not feel strongly .....	9	
Feel strongly .....	59	

11c. And if the choice were between continuing the tax cuts for all income levels and ending the tax cuts for all income levels, which would you prefer?

Continue the tax cuts for all income levels.....	63	<b>[252]</b>
End the tax cuts for all income levels .....	37	

12. Which of these, if any, do you think is the best reason to consider ending the Bush tax cuts for income above \$250,000?

*THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE*

So that the wealthy pay their fair share of taxes .....	32	<b>[253]</b>
So we can protect priorities like Medicare and education.....	18	
So we can get the federal budget deficit under control .....	18	
So we can make investments in roads, bridges, and schools to create jobs .....	11	
None of these.....	21	

13. And overall, which one of these would be your biggest concern about raising taxes on income above \$250,000?

*THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE*

It will lead to more wasteful government spending .....	27	
It will lead to additional tax increases on the middle class.....	23	
It will prevent job creation and hurt our economy.....	17	<b>[254]</b>
None of these are concerns .....	33	

14. Ending the Bush tax cuts for income above \$250,000 would bring in about \$1 trillion in additional tax revenue over the next decade. In your opinion, is this fact more of a reason to end these tax breaks, more of a reason to continue the tax breaks, or not a reason either way? \*

More of a reason to end tax breaks.....	62	<b>[255]</b>
More of a reason to continue tax breaks.....	10	
Not a reason either way.....	28	

\* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS A/B).

15. You will now see some statements made by people who favor ending the tax cuts on income above \$250,000. For each one you read, please rate it on a scale from one to seven in terms of how convincing you find the statement to be. A “1” means the statement is not that convincing a reason and a “7” means it is an extremely convincing reason to end the tax cuts on income above \$250,000. You may use any number from one to seven to rate how you feel.

*THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY EXTREMELY CONVINCING (RATING OF “6-7”)*

	<i>Mean</i>	<b>Extremely Convincing</b>		<b>Not That Convincing</b>	
		<u>6-7</u>	<u>3-5</u>	<u>1-2</u>	
The wealthiest people in our country have received the biggest tax breaks, and we just can't afford to keep giving tax cuts to those who need it the least ** .....	5.0	56	23	21	<b>[261]</b>
The wealthiest people in our country have received the biggest tax breaks, and now it's time for them to pay their fair share * .....	4.8	52	25	23	<b>[256]</b>
If we give more tax breaks to the top two percent, we won't be able to afford to protect middle-class priorities like education and Medicare from deep cutbacks * .....	4.1	36	32	32	<b>[258]</b>
If we give more tax breaks to the top two percent, we won't be able to bring the federal budget deficit under control and we will have to keep borrowing billions from China every year ** .....	4.1	35	33	32	<b>[264]</b>
Ending tax breaks for the top two percent will allow us to fund middle-class priorities like education and Medicare ** .....	4.2	34	39	27	<b>[263]</b>
These tax cuts were always intended to be temporary, and we should let them expire now that the country's needs have changed * .....	4.2	33	38	29	<b>[260]</b>
If we give more tax breaks to the top two percent, we won't be able to bring the federal budget deficit under control * .....	4.0	33	36	31	<b>[259]</b>
Ending tax breaks for the top two percent will allow us to create jobs by investing in areas like education, research, and transportation ** .....	4.2	32	41	27	<b>[262]</b>
If we give more tax breaks to the top two percent, we won't be able to afford to create jobs by investing in areas like education, research, and transportation * .....	3.8	29	37	34	<b>[257]</b>
This is a modest tax increase on the wealthy--a family making \$300,000 would get to keep about \$9,000 of their Bush tax cuts and lose only about \$100 ** .....	3.9	28	38	34	<b>[265]</b>

\* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS A/D).

\*\* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS B/C).

16. You will now see some statements from people who favor continuing the Bush tax cuts for all income levels, including income above \$250,000. For each one you read, please rate it on a scale from one to seven in terms of how convincing you find the statement to be. A "1" means the statement is not that convincing a reason, and a "7" means that it is an extremely convincing reason to continue the tax cuts for all income levels. You may use any number from one to seven to rate how you feel.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY EXTREMELY CONVINCING (RATING OF "6-7")

	<u>Mean</u>	<b>Extremely Convincing</b> <u>6-7</u>	<u>3-5</u>	<b>Not That Convincing</b> <u>1-2</u>	
The national debt was caused by out-of-control government spending, not low taxes. We should reduce the deficit by cutting wasteful spending, not raising taxes on the American people ** .....	5.0	49	34	17	[273]
Raising taxes on small businesses and job creators will hurt our economy and cost millions of Americans their jobs.....	4.8	45	37	18	[266]
Politicians raise taxes so they can keep growing the federal government. Until Washington starts respecting taxpayers' dollars, we shouldn't give them any more * .....	4.6	43	32	25	[269]
Giving the government more money by raising taxes will just lead to more wasteful government spending * .....	4.6	42	37	21	[268]
The politicians may claim they are only raising taxes on high-income families, but once they start increasing taxes you know they will raise taxes on the struggling middle class too--and we just can't afford that.....	4.3	37	36	27	[267]
Tax increases will do nothing to reduce the deficit, but it will increase the size of our government ** .....	4.0	32	35	33	[274]
The top one percent of taxpayers already pay almost 40 percent of all income taxes, while nearly half of all people don't pay any federal income taxes at all. We shouldn't penalize those who have been successful **.....	3.8	30	32	38	[275]
Raising taxes only on those who have done well is class warfare, dividing America when we should be uniting the country * .....	3.5	26	32	42	[270]

\* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS A/D).  
\*\* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS B/C).

17. If Congress ends the Bush tax cuts for income above \$250,000, increasing tax rates for those taxpayers, do you think that would have a good impact, a bad impact, or no impact either way when it comes to (INSERT ITEM)?

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY GOOD IMPACT MINUS BAD IMPACT

	<b>Good Minus Bad</b>	<u>Good Impact</u>	<u>Bad Impact</u>	<u>No Impact Either Way</u>	
Funding for education ** .....	40	50	10	40	[280]
The budget deficit * .....	39	53	14	33	[278]
The fairness of the tax system ** .....	33	54	21	25	[308]
The strength of Medicare * .....	28	40	12	48	[277]
The economy * .....	19	46	27	27	[276]
Jobs ** .....	8	36	28	36	[279]

\* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS A/C).  
\*\* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS B/D).

18a/b. And taking all these issues into consideration, which of these do you think is the best way for Congress to deal with the Bush tax cuts? And do you feel strongly or not strongly about that?

<b>Total Continue The Tax Cuts For All Income Levels</b>	<b>34</b>	
Feel strongly.....	28	<b>[309-310]</b>
Do not feel strongly.....	6	
<b>Total Continue The Tax Cuts For Income Under \$250,000, But End The Tax Cuts For Income Above \$250,000</b>	<b>66</b>	
Do not feel strongly.....	10	
Feel strongly.....	56	

19. Suppose that Congress decides to end the Bush tax cuts for income above \$250,000, which brings in additional tax revenue. In that case, please indicate which three of these areas you would most like to see Congress use that money for. \*\*

*THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE*

Reducing the budget deficit.....	68	<b>[311]</b>
Medicare.....	42	>
K-through-12 public education .....	42	
Health care .....	39	
Infrastructure and transportation .....	33	
National defense .....	25	
College loans and tuition assistance.....	22	
Job training .....	18	
Scientific research .....	11	

\*\* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS C/D).

20. You will now see some statements made by people who favor increasing taxes on the wealthy and corporations in order to increase federal revenue. For each one you read, please rate it on a scale from one to seven in terms of how convincing you find the statement to be. A "1" means the statement is not that convincing a reason, and a "7" means it is an extremely convincing reason to increase taxes and raise more revenue. You may use any number from one to seven.

**(AFTER RATING:)** Please read this statement again. This time as you read the statement use the **(PROGRAM)** key to highlight any words or phrases in the statement that you feel are especially convincing about the need to increase taxes on the wealthy and corporations. And on the other side, use the **(PROGRAM)** key to highlight any words or phrases in the statement that you feel lack credibility or do a poor job of explaining the need to increase taxes on the wealthy and corporations.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY EXTREMELY CONVINCING (RATING OF "6-7")

	<i>Mean</i>	<b>Extremely Convincing</b> 6-7	3-5	<b>Not That Convincing</b> 1-2	
Today the big corporations use their lobbyists and campaign contributions to rig the system so they get special loopholes that ordinary people and small businesses don't. Profitable oil companies get billions in special tax breaks, while large companies like G.E. and Verizon pay no federal income taxes at all in some years. American small businesses that pay their fair share are subsidizing large corporations that dodge their taxes and ship jobs overseas. Small businesses create many new jobs, and if we care about seeing "Made in the USA" again we need to level the playing field by eliminating the tax loopholes for big corporations * .....	5.6	61	31	8	<b>[313]</b>
Our tax code should reflect our values so we should end tax breaks for companies that ship jobs overseas. And we should end tax breaks for corporations and wealthy individuals that use offshore tax shelters in places like the Cayman Islands to hide their profits overseas and avoid paying the taxes they owe. As Americans who are loyal to our communities and our country, we pay our taxes because it's an investment in America and the next generation. Those who have succeeded should pay their fair share, because if you do well in America, you ought to do well by America ** .....	5.6	61	31	8	<b>[315]</b>
It's time we overhauled our tax code so that it's fair to the 99 percent of us who work hard and play by the rules, not just the one percent who lobby hard and rewrite the rules in their favor. Our tax code needs to reflect the interests of the middle class, not the special interests of corporate CEOs and their lobbyists. The millionaire driving a red Ferrari shouldn't be paying a lower tax rate than the mechanic who's fixing the brakes. It's not right that the rich and big corporations get special breaks and loopholes the rest of us don't get, and it's about time they started living by the same rules as the rest of us <sup>1</sup> .....	5.5	61	29	10	<b>[316]</b>
We're facing high unemployment and stagnant wages, while corporations and the wealthy are sitting on trillions of dollars in cash and asking for still more tax breaks. We should require them to pay their fair share of taxes, and use that money to create jobs and put people to work. We need to support small businesses, invest in education, jump start research and clean energy development, and improve infrastructure like schools, roads, and bridges. By putting Americans back to work, and putting money in the pockets of middle-class consumers, we will get our economy moving again and build a stronger future <sup>3</sup> .....	5.2	56	30	14	<b>[318]</b>

\* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS A/B).

\*\* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS C/D).

<sup>1</sup> Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A/C).

<sup>3</sup> Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS A/D).

Q.20 (cont'd)

	<i>Mean</i>	<b>Extremely Convincing</b> <u>6-7</u>	<u>3-5</u>	<b>Not That Convincing</b> <u>1-2</u>	
America simply can't afford to keep giving special tax breaks to the wealthiest Americans. Our nation has urgent needs: to create jobs, protect seniors, invest in education, and bring the deficit under control. We can't do all that and keep giving tax breaks to millionaires and big corporations. Are we willing to cut Medicare and nursing home care to pay for tax loopholes for oil companies? Do we want to cut back on medical research and our schools to give tax breaks to the richest two percent? Instead of providing billions of dollars in tax breaks, let's use the money to invest in America's future and reduce the deficit * .....	5.1	55	29	16	<b>[312]</b>
It's time America reinvests in our future to make sure every child has access to the kinds of public schools that will allow them to compete in the global economy. Countries like India and China that out-educate us today will out-compete us tomorrow. We should be improving K-through-12 education--not cutting it back. We should make job training and college more affordable for families. We cannot allow a whole generation of children to lose out--their legacy is our responsibility. To ensure America's future prosperity, we need the richest two percent and large corporations to pay their fair share ** .....	5.0	53	31	16	<b>[314]</b>
We need to stop giving tax breaks to the wealthiest Americans. We need everybody to do their fair share and play by the same rules, so that every American who's willing to work hard has a chance at success, so that we're making investments that help this economy grow, and so that we're able to bring down our deficits in a fair and sensible way. This is not just about fairness. This is also about being able to make the investments America needs to succeed <sup>2</sup> .....	5.0	50	34	16	<b>[317]</b>
America must find a balanced approach to the budget that reduces the deficit, protects commitments like Medicare, and grows our economy. We must get serious about reducing our trillion-dollar deficit, which is forcing us to borrow money from China every day and threatens our children's and grandchildren's future. But cutting investments in education and jobs also puts future generations at risk. There's a better way forward: if we stop giving tax breaks to the wealthy and big corporations, we will have the resources we need to grow our economy in a fiscally responsible way <sup>4</sup> .....	5.0	48	37	15	<b>[319]</b>

\* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS A/B).

\*\* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS C/D).

<sup>2</sup>Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B/C).

<sup>4</sup>Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS B/D).

21. Here are some statements that people have made about taxes. Please rate how much you agree with each statement, using a scale from zero to 10, on which a “0” means that you do not agree at all and a “10” means that you totally agree with the statement. You may use any number from zero to 10, depending on how strongly you agree.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY TOTALLY AGREE (RATING OF “9-10”)

	<i>Mean</i>	<b>Totally Agree</b> 9-10	6-8	<b>Do Not Agree</b> 0-3	
Too many politicians are willing to stack the deck in favor of their wealthy campaign contributors and corporate interests, while the middle class gets stuck with the tab *	8.1	61	23	16	[338-339]
We need to stop wasteful spending in Washington, and that includes getting rid of wasteful tax breaks for corporate CEOs and billionaire hedge fund managers **	8.0	61	20	19	[350-351]
Our current tax code is full of special deals for powerful interests, and it needs to be overhauled so everyone plays by the same rules **	8.1	59	25	16	[354-355]
To get our nation back on track we need everyone to do their part, and that includes the wealthy and large corporations **	7.9	59	21	20	[352-353]
Today our tax system is rigged in favor of the rich and big corporations who can afford to hire lobbyists and tax lawyers, unlike the rest of us **	7.5	55	22	23	[348-349]
With a \$1-trillion deficit, the country simply can't afford to keep giving out tax breaks to the wealthy and large corporations and still meet our pressing needs **	7.3	53	21	26	[346-347]
We don't begrudge financial success in this country; we admire it. But when the rich get tax breaks they don't need and the country can't afford, somebody else has to make up the difference—and that's not right **	7.3	51	23	26	[356-357]
The country simply can't afford to keep giving out tax breaks to the wealthy and large corporations and still meet our pressing needs *	7.2	51	21	28	[328-329]
Our tax code should reward hard work instead of giving special tax breaks to the privileged and comfortable who sit around collecting income on their wealth *	7.0	47	24	29	[330-331]
The Bible says that to whom much is given, much is required. It's wrong that our tax code lets some large corporations get away with not paying anything, and taxes many millionaires less than working families.....	6.4	42	18	40	[340-341]
We need to get away from the George Bush agenda on taxes, which made the tax system less fair and increased the budget deficit *	6.2	41	17	42	[332-333]
It is irresponsible for politicians to promise new tax breaks at this time when we already can't afford to make all the investments in education, research, and transportation that we need *	6.8	40	26	34	[334-335]
Jesus repeatedly condemned leaders who favored the rich at the expense of the poor. But loopholes in our tax system let some millionaires get away without paying anything.....	6.2	38	22	40	[342-343]
Catholics understand the dignity of work and the sinfulness of greed, but our tax code lets many millionaires get away with paying a lower tax rate than hardworking families. That's not right. The rich and powerful need to pay their fair share <sup>1</sup> .....	6.0	36	20	44	[344-345]
The budget deficit is a revenue problem, not a spending problem, which is why we need the rich and big corporations to pay their fair share of taxes *	4.7	23	20	57	[336-337]

<sup>1</sup> Asked only of Catholics.

\* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS A/C).

\*\* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS B/D).

**Getting to the end of the survey...**

22. Please read these two statements about federal taxes and indicate on a one-to-seven scale which statement comes closer to your point of view. A "1" means that you agree much more with the statement on the left, a "7" means you agree much more with the statement on the right, and a "4" is in the middle.

**A)** We should raise income taxes on the richest two percent of households OR We should not raise income taxes on anyone at this time

	Total	Agree Much More With Statement A					Agree Much More With Statement B		Total	
	<u>1-3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>5-7</u>	[364]
Q.22 .....	<b>65</b>	44	14	7	6	4	5	20	<b>29</b>	
Q.2 .....	<b>63</b>	40	16	7	5	3	5	24	<b>32</b>	

**B)** The country needs more tax revenue to fund priorities like education, transportation, and Medicare OR The country does not need more tax revenue, we only need to reduce wasteful government spending

	Total	Agree Much More With Statement A					Agree Much More With Statement B		Total	
	<u>1-3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>5-7</u>	[364]
Q.22.....	<b>42</b>	22	11	9	13	7	8	30	<b>45</b>	
Q.2 .....	<b>31</b>	16	8	7	12	9	10	38	<b>57</b>	

23a. Now you will read some specific concerns that have been raised about the tax policies of Republicans in Congress. For each one of these, please indicate whether it gives you very major doubts, fairly major doubts, some doubts, or no real doubts about Republicans in Congress.

*THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY VERY MAJOR DOUBTS ABOUT REPUBLICANS*

	Very Major Doubts About <u>Republicans</u>	Fairly Major Doubts About <u>Republicans</u>	Some Doubts About <u>Republicans</u>	No Real Doubts About <u>Republicans</u>	
Nearly every Republican in Congress has signed a pledge promising that they will never vote to make big corporations pay a penny more in taxes, even by closing loopholes that reward them for shipping American jobs overseas *	48	16	21	15	<b>[369]</b>
Republicans in Congress voted for a tax plan that increases taxes on 18 million low-income working families, but cuts taxes by 30 percent for corporations and millionaires *	48	15	20	17	<b>[371]</b>
Republicans in Congress passed a budget that ends the Medicare guarantee and requires seniors to pay \$6,000 more per year for fewer benefits than they get now, while giving the richest Americans a \$300,000 tax break *	47	17	19	17	<b>[370]</b>
Republicans favor giving more tax breaks to the wealthiest Americans and large corporations while demanding cuts in programs that average families rely on, like Medicare, Medicaid, and college tuition assistance *	47	17	18	18	<b>[366]</b>
Republicans are protecting huge tax breaks for the oil companies, even though these companies are gouging consumers and reporting record profits *	47	15	20	18	<b>[367]</b>
Republicans favor keeping the policies that allow multi-millionaire investors like Mitt Romney to pay a tax rate of just 14 percent--far below what many middle-class families pay *	46	15	19	20	<b>[368]</b>
Republicans in Congress voted for a budget that eliminates taxes on foreign profits of U.S. corporations, making it even more profitable for corporations to shift American jobs overseas **	44	18	22	16	<b>[377]</b>
Nearly every Republican in Congress has signed a pledge promising to protect loopholes that allow billionaire hedge fund managers to pay a lower tax rate than middle-class Americans **	44	18	20	18	<b>[375]</b>
Republicans favor giving more tax breaks to the wealthiest Americans and large corporations while demanding cuts in vital investments for our future, like education, college loans, and medical research **	43	15	21	21	<b>[373]</b>
Republicans are now trying to give <u>new</u> tax breaks to big corporations, such as Wall Street investment banks and oil companies, which the country simply can't afford **	42	18	22	18	<b>[374]</b>
Republicans in Congress voted for a budget that cuts taxes for the wealthy and big corporations by 30 percent--as if they didn't have enough already **	42	17	20	21	<b>[376]</b>
Republicans are putting the interests of their rich campaign donors first, demanding big new tax breaks for the rich and corporations while cutting investments in education, transportation, and research **	41	19	21	19	<b>[372]</b>

\* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS A/B).

\*\* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM C/D).

23b. And overall, which of these concerns you more about the approach of Republicans on tax and budget issues?

Republicans are protecting tax breaks and loopholes that mainly benefit the wealthy and big corporations .....	49	<b>[378]</b>
Republicans are cutting middle-class investments like education, Medicare, and transportation .....	28	
Neither concerns me .....	23	

24. Which party do you think would do a better job of handling the issue of federal taxes?

	<u>Q.24</u>	<u>Q.3</u>	
Democrats would do a much better job of handling federal taxes .....	19	16	<b>[379]</b>
Democrats would do a somewhat better job of handling federal taxes .....	22	19	
No difference .....	30	30	
Republicans would do a somewhat better job of handling federal taxes .....	15	20	
Republicans would do a much better job of handling federal taxes .....	14	15	
<b>Total Democrats Would Do Better Job</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>35</b>	
<b>Total Republican Would Do Better Job</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>35</b>	

**FACTUALS: These next few questions are for statistical purposes only.**

F1. Are you a member of a labor union or is anyone else in your household a member of a labor union?

Yes, I am a union member .....	10	<b>[380]</b>
No, I am not union member, but another person in my household is a union member.....	11	
No one in my household is a union member .....	79	

F2. Are you currently employed for pay?

Yes, currently employed .....	60	<b>[408]</b>
No, not currently employed .....	40	

F3. Thinking about your general approach to issues, do you consider yourself to be.

Very conservative.....	16	<b>[409]</b>
Somewhat conservative.....	25	
Middle of the road.....	33	
Somewhat liberal.....	18	
Very liberal.....	8	

F4. Are you currently single and never married, unmarried and living with a partner, married, separated, widowed, or divorced?

Single .....	22	<b>[410]</b>
Unmarried, living with partner .....	6	
Married .....	59	
Separated .....	-	
Widowed .....	4	
Divorced .....	9	

F5. How would you describe the area in which you live?

Urban.....	20	<b>[411]</b>
Suburban.....	48	
Small town .....	18	
Rural.....	14	

F6. Which of the following categories contains your total HOUSEHOLD income before taxes last year?

Less than \$12,000 .....	4	<b>[412]</b>
\$12,000 to \$25,000 .....	8	
\$25,000 to \$35,000 .....	9	
\$35,000 to \$50,000 .....	16	
\$50,000 to \$65,000 .....	14	
\$65,000 to \$75,000 .....	10	
\$75,000 to \$100,000.....	18	
\$100,000 to \$150,000 .....	14	
More than \$150,000 .....	7	

F7. How often do you attend church or religious services—at least once every week, once or twice a month, several times a year, hardly ever, or never?

At least once every week .....	31	<b>[413]</b>
Once or twice a month.....	11	
Several times a year.....	14	
Hardly ever .....	26	
Never.....	18	

F8. Please indicate whether any of these descriptions applies to you.

	Yes, Applies To Me	No, Does Not Apply To Me	
A veteran or active duty member of the U.S. armed services .....	13	87	<b>[414]</b>
Own a small business.....	10	90	<b>[415]</b>
Are self-employed .....	12	88	<b>[416]</b>
Have at least \$5,000 in stock and bond investments, not counting retirement accounts like IRAs or 401(k).....	40	60	<b>[417]</b>

F9. Regardless of how you may be registered, in politics today, do you consider yourself to be a Democrat, a Republican, or an independent? (IF "DEMOCRAT" OR "REPUBLICAN," ASK:) Would you say that you are a strong (DEMOCRAT/REPUBLICAN), or not that strong a (DEMOCRAT/REPUBLICAN)? (IF "INDEPENDENT" OR "NOT SURE," ASK:) As of today, do you lean more toward the Democratic Party or the Republican Party?

Strong Democrat .....	23	<b>[111-114]</b>
Not very strong Democrat.....	15	
Lean more toward the Democratic Party .....	10	
Lean more toward the Republican Party.....	10	
Not very strong Republican.....	12	
Strong Republican.....	22	
Do not lean to either party/completely independent .....	8	
<b>Total Democrat</b>	<b>48</b>	
<b>Total Republican</b>	<b>44</b>	

F10. What is your age?

18-24 .....	7	<b>[122-123]</b>
25-29 .....	8	
30-34 .....	6	
35-39 .....	8	
40-44 .....	9	
45-49 .....	11	
50-54 .....	10	
55-59 .....	10	
60-64 .....	10	
65-69 .....	10	
70-74 .....	6	
75 and over .....	5	

F11. What is the last grade that you completed in school?

Grade school .....	-	<b>[124-125]</b>
Some high school .....	-	
High school graduate .....	30	
Some college, no degree .....	24	
Vocational training .....	3	
2-year college degree .....	8	
4-year college/Bachelor's degree .....	19	
Some postgraduate work, no degree .....	4	
2 or 3 years' postgraduate work/Master's degree .....	7	
PhD or professional degree (MD, JD, MBA) .....	5	

F12. Are you from a Hispanic or Spanish-speaking background? (IF "NO" OR "PREFER NOT TO SAY," ASK:) What is your race?

White .....	76	<b>[126/127]</b>
African American .....	11	
Hispanic .....	8	
Asian .....	2	
Other .....	2	
Prefer not to say .....	1	

F13a. What is your religion?

Protestant .....	31	<b>[128]</b>
Catholic .....	23	
Jewish .....	3	
Muslim .....	1	
Another Christian religion .....	19	
Another religion .....	3	
No religious affiliation .....	20	

**(ASK ONLY OF PROTESTANTS AND OTHER CHRISTIANS IN F13a)**

F13b. Would you describe yourself as a "born again" or evangelical Christian, or not?

Yes, born again or evangelical Christian .....	29	<b>[129]</b>
No, neither born again nor evangelical .....	22	
Catholic/Jewish/Muslim/another religion/no religious affiliation (F13a) .....	49	