



KEY FINDINGS OF OCTOBER 2013 POLL ON TAXES AND GOVERNMENT SPENDING

Hart Research Associates conducted a nationwide survey of 1,009 2012 voters for Americans for Tax Fairness (ATF) on October 25-30, 2013 (margin of error +/- 3.1%). A polling memo, PowerPoint Deck and topline are at <http://bit.ly/1clwrvX>. Polling data cited below are from the topline questions and are indicated by [Q##].

Overview of Americans' Budget Priorities

- By 68% to 28%, voters said Congress should “focus on strengthening the economy and creating jobs, while also tackling our deficit responsibly,” rather than simply “getting our budget deficit under control and bringing down the national debt.” [Q5b]
- By 56% to 39%, voters prefer “a budget that increases tax revenue from the wealthy and corporations and also cuts spending to a budget that cuts spending, with no tax increases.” [Q7]
- Voters said the best way to deal with the \$110 billion in automatic spending cuts mandated by the sequester is to “Reduce the spending cuts somewhat” (56%), rather than “Allow the full spending cuts to take effect” (18%), or to “Cancel the spending cuts” (18%). [Q9]
- By 53% to 27%, voters want to “Reduce the [\$110 billion in automatic] spending cuts by fifty percent and replace them with new tax revenue from the wealthy and corporations,” rather than “Allow the full spending cuts to take effect.” [Q10a]
- By 50% to 34%, voters want to “Cancel the spending cuts and replace them with new tax revenue from the wealthy and corporations,” rather than “Allow the full spending cuts to take effect.” [Q10b]
- By 70% to 12%, voters believe if Congress decides to cancel some of the automatic spending cuts a better way to pay for that is by “Eliminating some tax breaks for the wealthy and big corporations,” rather than by “Reducing spending on Medicare and Social Security in future years.” [Q12b]
- 65% of voters said the “richest two percent should be paying more in taxes;” 8% said “they should be paying less in taxes.” [Q3a]
- 64% of voters said “large corporations should be paying more in taxes;” 10% said “they should be paying less in taxes.” [Q3a]

Tax Reform Measures Favored by the Public

All data are from Questions 20a/b unless indicated otherwise.

- By 82% to 9%, voters believe that “reform[ing] the tax system by closing corporate loopholes and limiting deductions for the wealthy” should be used to “reduce the budget deficit and make new investments” rather than to “reduce tax rates on corporations and the wealthy.” [Q21]

- By 79% to 17%, voters want to “Close tax loopholes to ensure that American corporations pay as much on foreign profits as they do on profits made in the United States.”
- By 71% to 23%, voters want to “Pass the Buffett Rule, which sets a minimum income tax rate of thirty percent for millionaires to ensure they do not pay a lower tax rate than the middle class.”
- By 68% to 28%, voters want to “Eliminate the [carried interest] loophole that allows Wall Street hedge fund managers to pay a lower tax rate than middle-class taxpayers.”
- By 62% to 36%, voters want to “Close loopholes that allow corporations and wealthy individuals to avoid paying U.S. taxes by shifting income to offshore tax havens.”
- By 62% to 34%, voters want to “Eliminate special tax breaks for oil and gas companies.”
- By 52% to 41%, voters want to “Limit tax deductions for people making over two hundred fifty thousand dollars a year.”
- By 51% to 45%, voters want to “Prevent corporations from avoiding taxes when they award their executives millions of dollars in stock options.”
- By 51% to 45%, voters want to “Establish a small tax on all sales of stocks and bonds. For example, for each ten thousand dollars sold, the tax would be three dollars.”