

Voter / Consumer Research  
 Taxation issues  
 VCR08251 / Florida  
 Toplines  
 Field date: 2/2/2009 – 2/5/2009  
 N=607  
 Margin of Error ± 4%

Hello, I am \_\_\_\_\_ with Voter / Consumer Research. We're a national survey research company doing a public opinion survey in your area. Could I please speak with the youngest (male / female) available now. This person must be registered to vote at this address.

Q01. As of right now do you believe things in [NAME STATE] are going in the right direction or have they gotten off on the wrong track?

1	Right direction	31
2	Wrong track	46
3	Mixed / somewhere in between / depends (DNR)	5
4	Don't know (DNR)	17
5	Refused (DNR)	1

Q02. Of the following list of issues in [NAME STATE] which concern you the most?(RANDOMIZE, RECORD UP TO THREE RESPONSES)

1	Jobs and the economy	53
2	Taxes	22
3	State government spending	21
4	Health care	27
5	Education	32
6	The environment	10
7	The cost of living	25
8	Moral values	17
9	Other (DNR)	2
10	None (DNR)	*
11	All (DNR)	6
12	Don't know (DNR)	*
13	Refused (DNR)	-

Here are the names of some people in the news. Please tell me for each of these whether you have a favorable or unfavorable impression. If you're not aware of the name, just let me know. (PROMPT:) And do you feel strongly about that or just somewhat? (RANDOMIZE)

		Favorable	Unfavorable	Favorable / strongly	Favorable / somewhat	Unfavorable / somewhat	Unfavorable / strongly	Aware / no impression	Not aware	Refused (DNR)
Q03.	President Barack Obama	45	20	45	20	9	11	13	1	1
Q04.	Senator Majority Leader Harry Reid	22	27	4	17	6	20	14	37	1
Q05.	House Speaker Nancy Pelosi	33	44	11	22	11	32	10	13	1

Q06.	Do you approve or disapprove of the job done by the [NAME STATE] state legislature? (PROMPT) And do you strongly or just somewhat (approve / disapprove)?	
	1 Strongly approve	6
	2 Somewhat approve	35
	3 Somewhat disapprove	15
	4 Strongly disapprove	21
	5 Don't know (DNR)	22
	6 Refused (DNR)	1
	Approve	40
	Disapprove	36
Q07.	And do you approve or disapprove of the job done by the [NAME STATE] state legislature on taxes, spending and balancing the state budget?(PROMPT) And do you strongly or just somewhat (approve / disapprove)?	
	1 Strongly approve	5
	2 Somewhat approve	24
	3 Somewhat disapprove	27
	4 Strongly disapprove	32
	5 Don't know (DNR)	13
	6 Refused (DNR)	*
	Approve	28
	Disapprove	59
Q08.	Thinking about taxes in [NAME STATE] are they too high, too low or about right?	
	1 Too high	47
	2 Too low	4
	3 About right	46
	4 Don't know (DNR)	3
	5 Refused (DNR)	1
Q09.	And what about spending by state government; do you think state spending in [NAME STATE] is too high, too low or about right?	
	1 Too high	53
	2 Too low	8
	3 About right	29
	4 Don't know (DNR)	10
	5 Refused (DNR)	1
Q10.	To balance the state budget, should the Governor and the legislature (ROTATE 1 – 2)	
	1 Rely exclusively on cutting spending	35
	2 Rely exclusively on increasing taxes	2
	3 Rely on a mixture of spending cuts and tax increases	58
	4 Don't know (DNR)	4
	5 Refused (DNR)	1
Q11.	And in thinking about the state budget, which of the following are the most important issues (READ ONCE, RECORD UP TO THREE)	
	1 High taxes	16
	2 Too much spending overall	21
	3 Too much spending on programs that don't work	54
	4 The size of the deficit	12
	5 The budget's impact on funding for schools, health care and public safety	42
	6 Other (DNR)	2
	7 Don't know (DNR)	4
	8 Refused (DNR)	*

Q12.	Thinking about your personal financial situation, are you better off worse off or about the same compared to a year ago?	
1	Better off	10
2	Worse off	51
3	About the same	38
4	Don't know (DNR)	1
5	Refused (DNR)	*
Q13.	As a result of the economic slowdown or as a result of increased living expenses, have you had to cut back on some expenditures, or have you not been in that situation?	
1	Have had to cut back on some expenditure	72
2	Have not been in that situation	27
3	Don't know (DNR)	1
4	Refused (DNR)	*
Q14.	If taxes were increased in [NAME STATE], do you think the state economy would be better off, worse off or not change much?	
1	Better off	11
2	Worse off	46
3	Not change much	37
4	Depends (DNR)	3
5	Don't know (DNR)	3
6	Refused (DNR)	*
Q15.	And if taxes were increased in [NAME STATE] , would you, yourself be better off worse off or about the same compared to a year ago?	
1	Better off	3
2	Worse off	63
3	About the same	28
4	Depends (DNR)	3
5	Don't know (DNR)	2
6	Refused (DNR)	1
Q16.	If taxes were increased in [NAME STATE], but they were taxes that you would not pay yourself, taxes that would be paid by others, would you support or would you oppose such tax increases? (IF ANSWERED ASK:) And do you feel strongly about that?	
1	Support / strongly	14
2	Support / not strongly	9
3	Oppose / not strongly	9
4	Oppose / strongly	45
5	Depends (DNR)	14
6	Don't know (DNR)	8
7	Refused (DNR)	2
	Support	23
	Oppose	54

Q17.	And if taxes were increase in [NAME STATE], to what extent would you trust elected officials to spend the new revenues wisely – would you say you trust them a great deal, trust them a little bit, distrust them a little bit or distrust them a great deal?	
	1 Trust a great deal	4
	2 Trust a little bit	29
	3 Distrust a little bit	29
	4 Distrust a great deal	36
	5 Don't know (DNR)	2
	6 Refused (DNR)	1
	<b>Trust</b>	33
	<b>Distrust</b>	65
Q18.	Some proposed tax increased would be paid for the most part by the working poor and lower income groups, people that make less than 40,000 dollars a year. If this were the case would you support or oppose such tax increases? ? (IF ANSWERED ASK:) And do you feel strongly about that?	
	1 Support / strongly	6
	2 Support / not strongly	4
	3 Oppose / not strongly	8
	4 Oppose / strongly	77
	5 Depends (DNR)	1
	6 Don't know (DNR)	3
	7 Refused (DNR)	2
	<b>Support</b>	9
	<b>Oppose</b>	85
Q19.	In talking to people we found some people weren't able to vote in the elections on November 4. What about you, did you vote or did you not get a chance to go vote?	
	1 Voted	92
	2 Did not vote	8
	3 Don't know (DNR)	-
	4 Refused (DNR)	*
Q20.	(IF VOTED:) In deciding who to vote for, how important were the candidates' positions on taxes – were they -- (ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)	
	1 Extremely important	23
	2 Very important	31
	3 Somewhat important	34
	4 Not very important	9
	5 Not important at all	3
	6 Depends / case by case (DNR)	*
	7 Don't know (DNR)	1
	8 Refused (DNR)	*
	<b>Important</b>	53
	<b>Somewhat Important</b>	34
	<b>Not Important</b>	12
Q21.	(IF < 5:) And generally, (ROTATE)	
	1 Did you vote for candidates who supported tax increases	9
	2 Did you vote for candidates who supported tax cuts	54
	3 Did you vote for candidates who wanted to leave taxes alone	19
	4 Depends / mixed (DNR)	5
	5 Don't know (DNR)	10
	6 Refused (DNR)	3

Q22. Some state legislators in Florida signed a written pledge that they would oppose tax increases, but once elected voted to raise taxes – would you definitely vote to re-elect such a person, would probably vote to re-elect such a person, would probably vote against such a person, or would you definitely vote against such a person. If this issue would make no difference to you in your vote, just let me know.

1	Definitely re-elect	16
2	Probably re-elect	27
3	Probably vote against	12
4	Definitely vote against	6
5	Would not make a difference to my vote	34
6	Other / depends (DNR)	4
7	Don't know (DNR)	1
8	Refused (DNR)	1
	<b>Re-elect</b>	<b>43</b>
	<b>Vote against</b>	<b>18</b>

Q23. Some states require that legislative proposals to increase taxes need support from more than 50% of legislators to be approved. First of all how familiar are you with these supermajority requirements?

1	Very familiar	10
2	Somewhat familiar	33
3	Not very familiar	29
4	Not familiar at all	27
5	Don't know (DNR)	1
6	Refused (DNR)	*
	<b>Familiar</b>	<b>43</b>
	<b>Not Familiar</b>	<b>56</b>

Q24. And regardless of the situation in your state, in general when a tax increase is proposed in the state legislature, (ROTATE)

Do you believe a fifty percent majority is enough to approve tax increases in the legislature /or/  
Do you believe a two-thirds majority should be required to approve a tax increase in the legislature

1	50% majority is enough	23
2	2/3 majority should be required	73
3	Neither / other (DNR)	1
4	Don't know (DNR)	4
5	Refused (DNR)	-

Q25. And regardless of the situation in your state, do you favor or do you oppose requiring that any proposal to increase taxes has to be approved by the voters before taking effect? (PROMPT) And do you strongly or just somewhat (favor / oppose)?

1	Strongly favor	65
2	Somewhat favor	15
3	Somewhat oppose	11
4	Strongly oppose	7
5	Don't know (DNR)	1
6	Refused (DNR)	1
	<b>Favor</b>	<b>80</b>
	<b>Oppose</b>	<b>18</b>

Q26.	Some states require that the growth in state government spending be limited to no more than the growth in population plus inflation. Generally speaking do you think this is a good idea or a bad idea?	
1	Good idea	66
2	Bad idea	18
3	Neither / neutral / mixed (DNR)	3
4	Don't know (DNR)	12
5	Refused (DNR)	1
Q27.	And do you agree with people who say that at a time President Obama wants to cut taxes to get the economy going, it is a bad idea for NAME STATE's government to increase taxes or do you disagree with this view? (IF ANSWERED:) And do you strongly (agree / disagree) or just somewhat (agree / disagree)?	
1	Strongly agree	38
2	Somewhat agree	17
3	Somewhat disagree	19
4	Strongly disagree	18
5	Don't know (DNR)	7
6	Refused (DNR)	2
	Agree	55
	Disagree	37
	Now just a few last questions for statistical purposes ...	
Q28.	Which of the following ranges includes your age? Just stop me when I get to the right one (READ CHOICES 1 - 6)	
1	18 – 24	6
2	25 – 34	9
3	35 – 44	18
4	45 – 54	19
5	55 – 64	22
6	65 & over	26
7	Don't know (DNR)	-
8	Refused (DNR)	*
Q29.	In the last general election in which you voted, which of the following best describes how you voted for state and local offices like Governor and Senator? (READ, ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)	
1	Straight Democratic	16
2	Mostly Democratic	19
3	A few more Democrats than Republicans	6
4	About equally for both parties	17
5	A few more Republicans than Democrats	6
6	Mostly Republican	19
7	Straight Republican	12
8	Have not voted before	1
9	Don't know (DNR)	3
10	Refused (DNR)	3
Q30.	On political issues, do you consider yourself (ROTATE) a liberal, a moderate or a conservative?	
1	Liberal	15
2	Moderate	41
3	Conservative	38
4	Don't know (DNR)	5
5	Refused (DNR)	1

Q31.	Are you, yourself of Hispanic or Latino descent -- for instance Mexican American or Cuban or Puerto Rican, or not	
1	Yes	9
2	No	90
3	Don't know (DNR)	*
4	Refused (DNR)	1
Q32.	(IF > 1:) Is your racial or ethnic background (RANDOMIZE) white, black, Asian, American Indian or something else?	
1	White	78
2	Black	12
3	Asian	1
4	American Indian	4
5	Other	4
6	Don't know (DNR)	-
7	Refused (DNR)	2
Q33.	Which of the following income groups includes your TOTAL FAMILY INCOME last year, before taxes? Just stop me when I get to the right category	
1	Under \$10,000	3
2	\$10,000 to \$20,000	8
3	\$20,000 to \$30,000	12
4	\$30,000 to \$40,000	11
5	\$40,000 to \$50,000	12
6	\$50,000 to \$75,000	17
7	\$75,000 to \$100,000	12
8	\$100,000 and over	14
9	Don't know (DNR)	2
10	Refused (DNR)	9
Q34.	What is the highest level of school you have completed? (READ, ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)	
1	Grade school or less	1
2	Some high school	4
3	High School Graduate	18
4	Vocational / Technical School	6
5	Some college / 2 yrs or less	19
6	Some college / more than 2 yrs	10
7	Graduated college	25
8	Post-graduate degree	15
9	Don't know (DNR)	*
10	Refused (DNR)	*
Q35.	Sex (BY OBSERVATION)	
1	Male	47
2	Female	53