

Table 1. Distribution of socio-demographics in survey sample provided by Survey Sampling International's (SSI) and voter population data from 2016 Census Current Population Survey Data

Variables	Voter Population	Weighted Sample	Unweighted Sample
Gender: Male	48.2	48.2	47
Gender: Female	51.8	51.8	53
Age: 18-24	12.3	12.3	7.6
Age: 25-44	32.5	32.5	32.3
Age: 45-64	34.7	34.7	33.1
Age: 65+	20.5	20.5	27.0
Education: Less than HS	9.5	9.5	2.3
Education: HS graduate	29.2	29.1	18.7
Education: Some college or associate degree	30	30.0	36.1
Education: Bachelor's degree	20	20.1	28.1
Education: Advanced degree	11.2	11.3	14.8

Spending & Revenue Survey

Welcome

Informed Consent Form

You are invited to participate in an opinion survey for university research.

Purpose of the Study

The goal of this survey is to obtain respondents' opinions on the U.S. Federal budget.

Procedure

You will be asked a number of opinion questions and your participation is voluntary. We ask that you read each question carefully before selecting responses.

Approximate Duration of Study

This poll should take approximately **15 minutes** to complete.

Risks/Discomforts

Risks are minimal for involvement in this study.

Eligibility

There are two eligibility requirements to take this survey. First, participants must be 18 years or older. Second, participants must be either a US citizen, resident alien, or non-resident alien currently residing in the US.

Confidentiality

If you choose to participate in this study, no identifying information about you will be made public and any views you express will be kept completely confidential.

Participation and Withdrawal Participation in this research study is completely voluntary, and you have the right to withdraw at any time.

I have read this consent form, and I agree to take part in this research.

Yes

No

End of Block

Pre-Budget Questions

The U.S. Federal budget has received a lot of coverage in the news recently.

How important is the issue of the U.S. Federal debt to you personally?

- Extremely important
- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not too important
- Not important at all

Page Break

The U.S. Federal Government is in debt. In 2017 the government is going to spend approximately \$519 billion more than it will collect in taxes and other revenues. This 1/2 trillion dollars will be added to the debt total which is currently approximately 19 trillion dollars. To put this in perspective, the current debt of the U.S. Government is equal to approximately \$45,000 for every American citizen.

Page Break

Some people believe that the deficit is best reduced through cuts in Federal Government Programs. Others believe that it would be better to increase taxes. There are still others who believe that reducing the deficit would be best achieved through some combination of the two.

Which deficit-reduction option do you support the most from the list below?

- 100% spending cuts, 0% tax increases
- 80% spending cuts, 20% tax increases
- 60% spending cuts, 40% tax increases
- 50% spending cuts, 50% tax increases
- 40% spending cuts, 60% tax increases
- 20% spending cuts, 80% tax increases
- 0% spending cuts, 100% tax increases

End of Block

Budget Tool Here

With the size of the deficit in mind, we would like to see how you personally would change Federal taxes and/or spending. We have created a “budget model” based on the actual Federal budget.

In the model you will be able to cut spending in any category where you believe that the Federal government spends too much money and/or increase revenues in any category where you think taxes should be raised. The basic idea is to allow you to change taxes *and/or* spending in the ways you prefer. The model *will only allow* spending cuts and/or increases in Federal taxes.

You will have 10 minutes to complete the budget model. After completing the model, you will be returned to the survey and asked some follow-up questions.

Please click on the link below to begin the budget model.

[\[Click HERE to go to Budget Model \]](#)

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

Did you complete the budget model in less than 10 minutes?

- Yes
 - No
-

Would you personally support the budget that you submitted?

- Yes
 - No
-
-

Page Break

How difficult was it to create a budget that you would support?

- Much easier than I expected
 - Easier than I expected
 - About what I expected
 - Harder than I expected
 - Much harder than I expected
-

In a few words, please explain why you thought it was easier, harder, or about what you expected?

End of Block

Control Group (No Budget Tool)

You have completed 40% of survey! Your responses are important to us.

Please click "Next" to continue.

End of Block

Which of the following best describes your current employment situation?

- Working full-time
- Working part-time
- Temporarily without work
- Long-term unemployment
- Retired
- Permanently disabled
- Taking care of home and/or family
- Student
- Other _____

Page Break

What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Did not graduate from high school
- High school graduate
- Some college, but no degree
- 2-year college degree
- 4-year college degree
- Post-college graduate degree

Page Break

When it comes to politics, do you think of yourself as:

- Very liberal
- Liberal
- Somewhat liberal
- Moderate or middle of the road
- Somewhat conservative
- Conservative
- Very conservative

Page Break

Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as:

- Strong Republican
- Weak Republican
- Lean Republican
- Independent
- Lean Democrat
- Weak Democrat
- Strong Democrat

Page Break

In what year were you born?

- 1935
- 1936
- 1937
- 1938
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- 1993
- 1994
- 1995
- 1996

1997

1998

1999

Page Break

In what state do you currently reside?

- Alabama
- Alaska
- Arizona
- Arkansas
- California
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Delaware
- District of Columbia
- Florida
- Georgia
- Hawaii
- Idaho
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Maine
- Maryland

- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- Montana
- Nebraska
- Nevada
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- New Mexico
- New York
- North Carolina
- North Dakota
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- Pennsylvania
- Rhode Island
- South Carolina
- South Dakota

- Tennessee
 - Texas
 - Utah
 - Vermont
 - Virginia
 - Washington
 - West Virginia
 - Wisconsin
 - Wyoming
-

Page Break

What racial or ethnic group or groups best describes you?

- White
- Black or African-American
- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Asian
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific islander
- Hispanic
- Middle Eastern
- Other _____

End of Block

Income Question

Over the past year, what was your family's approximate annual income?

- Less than \$10,000
- \$10,000 - \$19,999
- \$20,000 - \$29,999
- \$30,000 - \$39,999
- \$40,000 - \$49,999
- \$50,000 - \$59,999
- \$60,000 - \$69,999
- \$70,000 - \$79,999
- \$80,000 - \$99,999
- \$100,000 - \$119,999
- \$120,000 - \$149,999
- \$150,000 - \$199,999
- \$200,000 - \$249,999
- \$250,000 - \$349,999
- \$350,000 - \$499,999
- \$500,000 or more
- Prefer not to say

Page Break

End of Block

Post-Treatment (post-budget) Questions

After some more thought, which deficit-reduction option do you support the most from the list below?

- 100% spending cuts, 0% tax increases
- 80% spending cuts, 20% tax increases
- 60% spending cuts, 40% tax increases
- 50% spending cuts, 50% tax increases
- 40% spending cuts, 60% tax increases
- 20% spending cuts, 80% tax increases
- 0% spending cuts, 100% tax increases

End of Block

Construction worker & Tax Questions

We would like you to consider a person who is self-employed in the construction industry making approximately \$60,000 a year.

	Will probably report 100% of the earned income to the IRS.	Will probably report about 75% of earned income.	Will probably report 50% of earned income.	Will probably report about 25% of earned income	Will probably report no income to the IRS.
How much of the \$60,000 in income do you think this person will likely report to the IRS?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Page Break

Please use the sliding scale below to indicate what you believe the chances are that the person will be caught by the tax authorities for under-reporting the income?

(scale range from 0% to 100% probability of being caught)

Probability of getting caught by tax authority

Probability



Page Break

In the list below, which punishment(s) do you think a person will receive if he/she is caught cheating on their taxes?

- The person will have to pay the tax they legally owed, plus a fine.
- The person will serve time in jail (or prison) for tax evasion.
- The person will not be charged and not have to pay fines or taxes.
- The person will be able to negotiate an agreement with the authorities and pay back some or most of the taxes they avoided.
- The person will have to pay all taxes they legally owed, but not a fine.

Page Break

Assuming the person is you, how much of the income would you be willing to report to tax authorities?

- I would report all income
- I would report nearly all income
- I would report the majority of the income
- I would report half of the income
- I would report less than half of the income
- I would report a small amount of the income
- I would report none of the income

End of Block

Other Questions

How often can you trust the federal government in Washington to do what is right?

- Always
- Most of the time
- About half the time
- Sometimes
- Never

Page Break

Who did you vote for in the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election?

- Donald Trump
- Hillary Clinton
- Gary Johnson
- Jill Stein
- Evan McMullin
- Other
- Did not vote

End of Block