



PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY, UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

POVERTY

- Questionnaire -

Q1a. What is your feeling about how things are going with the economy in the U.S.? Overall, would you say the economy is:

Getting better	Staying about the same	Getting worse
1	2	3

	Getting better	Staying about the same	Getting worse	Refused/ Don't know
National	25.7%	41.8%	32.4%	0.2%
GOP	12.3%	44.7%	42.8%	0.2%
Dem.	41.7%	38.0%	20.1%	0.1%
Indep.	16.8%	44.2%	38.5%	0.5%
Texas	22.3%	41.3%	36.4%	0.0%
GOP	9.4%	44.0%	46.6%	0.0%
Dem.	42.1%	32.2%	25.7%	0.0%
North Carolina	28.9%	34.7%	36.2%	0.2%
GOP	15.2%	34.7%	50.0%	0.0%
Dem.	45.0%	30.0%	24.6%	0.4%
Florida	23.1%	45.1%	31.8%	0.0%
GOP	11.3%	48.9%	39.7%	0.0%
Dem.	38.4%	44.2%	17.5%	0.0%
Ohio	25.0%	41.1%	34.0%	0.0%
GOP	13.7%	42.2%	44.1%	0.0%
Dem.	40.4%	37.4%	22.2%	0.0%
Virginia	33.1%	38.7%	28.1%	0.0%
GOP	15.8%	48.8%	35.4%	0.0%
Dem.	49.6%	29.6%	20.9%	0.0%
California	28.1%	40.3%	30.9%	0.6%
GOP	11.0%	42.6%	46.4%	0.0%

Dem.	45.2%	38.8%	15.7%	0.3%
Maryland	32.1%	43.5%	24.3%	0.0%
GOP	14.9%	51.2%	33.9%	0.0%
Dem.	42.9%	38.5%	18.6%	0.0%
New York	27.9%	37.7%	34.4%	0.0%
GOP	13.9%	52.5%	33.6%	0.0%
Dem.	38.1%	37.5%	24.5%	0.0%

Q1b. Is your personal financial situation getting better, getting worse or staying about the same?

Getting better	Staying about the same	Getting worse
1	2	3

	Getting better	Staying about the same	Getting worse	Refused/Don't know
National	19.6%	52.8%	27.5%	0.1%
GOP	14.6%	52.8%	32.6%	0.0%
Dem.	25.5%	55.1%	19.4%	0.0%
Indep.	16.7%	47.5%	35.5%	0.3%
Texas	22.2%	52.3%	25.4%	0.0%
GOP	21.2%	48.8%	30.0%	0.0%
Dem.	25.6%	55.5%	18.9%	0.0%
North Carolina	18.8%	50.8%	30.5%	0.0%
GOP	13.7%	49.5%	36.8%	0.0%
Dem.	25.3%	53.5%	21.2%	0.0%
Florida	17.2%	49.8%	32.9%	0.1%
GOP	10.6%	52.8%	36.6%	0.0%
Dem.	24.2%	53.1%	22.3%	0.3%
Ohio	15.8%	57.6%	26.3%	0.2%
GOP	11.5%	54.0%	34.0%	0.5%
Dem.	20.6%	60.1%	19.3%	0.0%
Virginia	23.2%	51.1%	25.5%	0.2%
GOP	17.7%	49.3%	33.0%	0.0%
Dem.	28.3%	53.8%	17.9%	0.0%
California	22.8%	55.4%	21.6%	0.2%

GOP	17.5%	55.1%	27.3%	0.0%
Dem.	29.5%	55.7%	14.8%	0.0%
Maryland	23.6%	54.9%	21.5%	0.0%
GOP	18.8%	48.0%	33.2%	0.0%
Dem.	25.8%	58.4%	15.8%	0.0%
New York	19.9%	57.8%	21.7%	0.6%
GOP	13.0%	58.2%	28.8%	0.0%
Dem.	25.2%	60.7%	14.0%	0.0%

Poverty in the U.S.

Today we are going to explore what the U.S. government should do about poverty in the United States.

Q2. How much would you say you're concerned about poverty in the U.S.?

[PRESENTED ON SCREEN IN GRID FORMAT, DISTANCE BETWEEN EACH NUMBER WAS EQUIDISTANT]										
Not at all acceptable 0	1	2	3	4	Just tolerable 5	6	7	8	9	Very acceptable 10

	Mean	Not at all (0-4)	5	Very much (6-10)	Refused / Don't know
National	7.5	9.5%	10.2%	80.2%	0.1%
GOP	6.8	14.7%	14.2%	71.1%	0.0%
Dem.	8.0	4.4%	6.8%	88.8%	0.1%
Indep.	7.5	10.1%	9.9%	80.0%	0.0%
Texas	7.4	11.3%	9.0%	79.7%	0.0%
GOP	6.8	15.2%	11.9%	72.9%	0.0%
Dem.	8.0	5.6%	5.4%	89.0%	0.0%
North Carolina	7.7	8.6%	7.7%	83.7%	0.0%
GOP	7.0	9.7%	14.9%	75.4%	0.0%
Dem.	8.4	4.5%	3.5%	92.1%	0.0%
Florida	7.8	10.2%	7.1%	82.6%	0.1%
GOP	6.8	18.0%	11.7%	70.2%	0.0%
Dem.	8.4	4.2%	3.7%	91.8%	0.2%
Ohio	7.4	7.8%	11.2%	81.0%	0.0%
GOP	7.1	10.5%	13.3%	76.2%	0.0%
Dem.	7.8	5.4%	7.8%	86.7%	0.0%

Virginia	7.3	8.9%	11.4%	79.6%	0.0%
GOP	6.5	15.1%	15.2%	69.7%	0.0%
Dem.	7.9	4.9%	8.9%	86.2%	0.0%
California	7.5	7.1%	11.4%	81.4%	0.1%
GOP	6.7	12.6%	15.7%	71.4%	0.3%
Dem.	7.9	3.9%	7.3%	88.8%	0.0%
Maryland	7.6	7.9%	9.5%	82.7%	0.0%
GOP	6.6	16.1%	13.3%	70.6%	0.0%
Dem.	8.0	2.7%	7.8%	89.6%	0.0%
New York	7.4	9.4%	11.1%	79.3%	0.2%
GOP	7.1	9.7%	15.7%	74.6%	0.0%
Dem.	7.7	5.6%	8.7%	85.3%	0.5%

We'll start by briefing you on how the federal government defines poverty and how many people are poor.

We'll then look at some major Federal programs for addressing poverty.

You will be able to make your recommendations about those programs--whether they should continue as they are or whether they should be changed, and if so, how.

Defining Poverty

The federal government defines poverty as total cash income per year below a certain level, depending on household size, counting adults and children. This is called the "poverty line." This income does not include the value of government benefits, such as food stamps, that the household may receive. Here is the current poverty line for some types of households.

Size of household	Poverty line
One adult living alone	\$12,071 or less
Single mother with child	\$16,337 or less
A couple with two children	\$24,036 or less

Q3. Thinking about how you define poverty, would you set the poverty line:

A lot higher (i.e., more people would be defined as poor)	Somewhat higher	A little higher	Keep it where it is	A little lower	Somewhat lower	A lot lower (i.e., fewer people would be defined as poor)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

	A lot higher	Somewhat higher	A little higher	Keep it where it is	A little lower	Somewhat lower	A lot lower	Refused/ Don't know
National	20.8%	23.5%	24.0%	20.3%	6.0%	2.8%	2.5%	0.2%

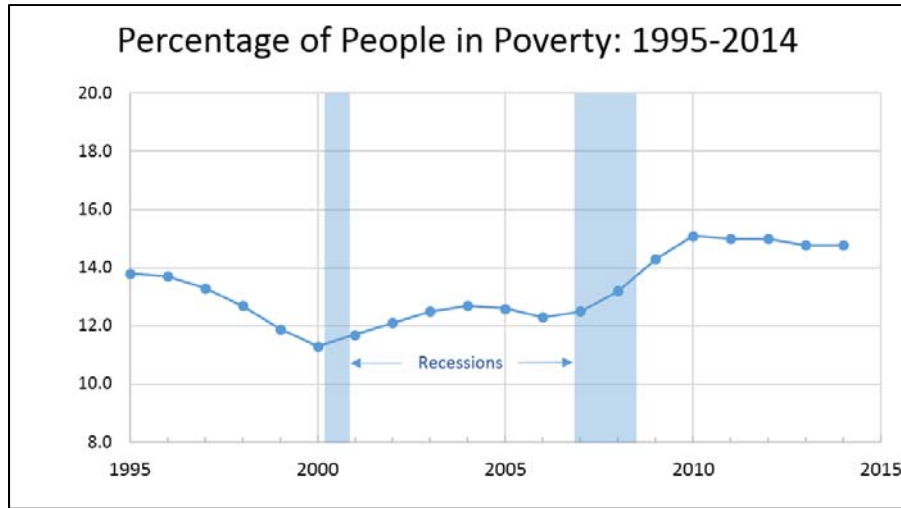
GOP	27.7%	26.5%	22.2%	13.4%	5.1%	2.3%	2.9%	0.0%
Dem.	21.7%	25.1%	23.5%	18.0%	5.4%	2.6%	3.7%	0.0%
Indep.	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Texas	22.2%	21.8%	21.2%	21.8%	8.0%	1.8%	3.2%	0.0%
GOP	13.3%	18.9%	20.1%	32.9%	10.2%	3.1%	1.6%	0.0%
Dem.	30.2%	23%	22.1%	13.8%	5.3%	0.5%	5.1%	0.0%
North Carolina	19.3%	26.3%	27.7%	17.4%	5.0%	2.7%	1.6%	0.0%
GOP	7.5%	22.8%	33.8%	21.1%	10%	4.7%	0.0%	0.0%
Dem.	28.1%	28.3%	22.4%	15%	1.2%	1.6%	3.4%	0.0%
Florida	22.1%	24.0%	19.7%	22.6%	6.3%	2.4%	2.8%	0.0%
GOP	11.8%	18.3%	26.3%	32.4%	8.0%	1.9%	1.4%	0.0%
Dem.	25.7%	24.7%	19.1%	17.3%	6.3%	4.0%	2.9%	0.0%
Ohio	17.2%	22.6%	29.6%	18.9%	5.5%	3.2%	3.1%	0.0%
GOP	14.2%	16.5%	29.9%	25.7%	4.5%	5.8%	3.3%	0.0%
Dem.	22.1%	28.2%	30%	10.7%	5.5%	1.7%	1.9%	0.0%
Virginia	18.3%	26.8%	20.1%	25.4%	4.3%	3.4%	1.7%	0.0%
GOP	7.1%	22.5%	24%	37.5%	4.6%	3.1%	1.3%	0.0%
Dem.	23.1%	32.1%	19%	16.3%	4.9%	2.9%	1.7%	0.0%
California	25.8%	24.2%	20.0%	20.3%	5.4%	2.5%	1.9%	0.0%
GOP	16.4%	25.3%	19.4%	31.3%	3.8%	1.8%	2.0%	0.0%
Dem.	32%	26.2%	17.8%	13.7%	6.1%	1.9%	2.3%	0.0%
Maryland	24.8%	28.2%	17.8%	19.5%	5.5%	1.4%	2.7%	0.0%
GOP	13.2%	21.2%	21.3%	38%	5.6%	0.4%	0.3%	0.0%
Dem.	32.2%	30.8%	16.9%	10.8%	4.5%	1.0%	3.7%	0.0%
New York	23.8%	22.7%	23.1%	18.9%	4.7%	2.5%	4.3%	0.0%
GOP	15.5%	22.6%	19.7%	29.8%	7.3%	3.9%	1.2%	0.0%
Dem.	30.6%	18.9%	26.9%	17%	4.7%	0.5%	1.4%	0.0%

According to the most recent Census report, 46.7 million Americans currently live under the poverty line-- 14.8% of the population. About one-third of them are children (under age 18).

While some people live under the poverty line for extended periods, for many people it is shorter. Over half of Americans will live under the poverty line at some point in their lives.

The number of people under the poverty line changes with changing economic conditions.

Here is how it has gone up and down over time.



Q4. Is the number of people living under the poverty line:

More than you expected	About the same as you expected	Less than you expected
1	2	3

	More than you expected	About the same as you expected	Less than you expected	Refused / Don't know
National	26.3%	53.5%	19.8%	0.3%
GOP	25.4%	56.0%	18.1%	0.4%
Dem.	28.4%	52.3%	19.1%	0.2%
Indep.	23.6%	51.0%	25.0%	0.4%
Texas	28.6%	46.0%	25.0%	0.3%
GOP	28.5%	48.8%	22.1%	0.6%
Dem.	34.0%	42.3%	23.7%	0.0%
North Carolina	27.1%	52.6%	19.3%	0.9%
GOP	24.1%	53.9%	19.9%	2.1%
Dem.	26.6%	57.1%	16.3%	0.0%
Florida	26.7%	49.7%	23.6%	0.0%
GOP	26.2%	55.0%	18.8%	0.0%
Dem.	30.5%	48.3%	21.2%	0.0%
Ohio	26.1%	57.0%	16.3%	0.6%
GOP	25.1%	58.3%	15.2%	1.5%
Dem.	28.4%	53.6%	18.0%	0.0%
Virginia	21.5%	58.7%	19.1%	0.7%
GOP	19.6%	62.3%	16.8%	1.3%

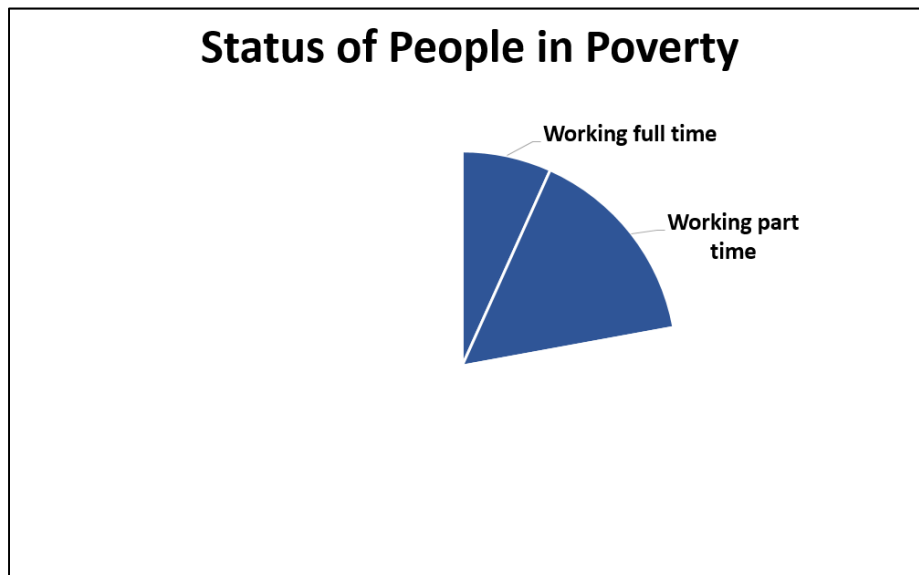
Dem.	25.1%	55.0%	19.5%	0.5%
California	30.6%	50.0%	19.2%	0.2%
GOP	31.9%	53.3%	14.3%	0.5%
Dem.	30.7%	47.0%	22.2%	0.2%
Maryland	28.6%	52.3%	18.8%	0.2%
GOP	24.4%	53.5%	22.1%	0.0%
Dem.	32.3%	48.7%	18.6%	0.4%
New York	27.9%	47.7%	24.1%	0.4%
GOP	31.1%	54.0%	14.9%	0.0%
Dem.	29.0%	48.2%	22.6%	0.2%

Status of People in Poverty

People under the poverty line vary in terms of work status.
A little under a quarter are working.

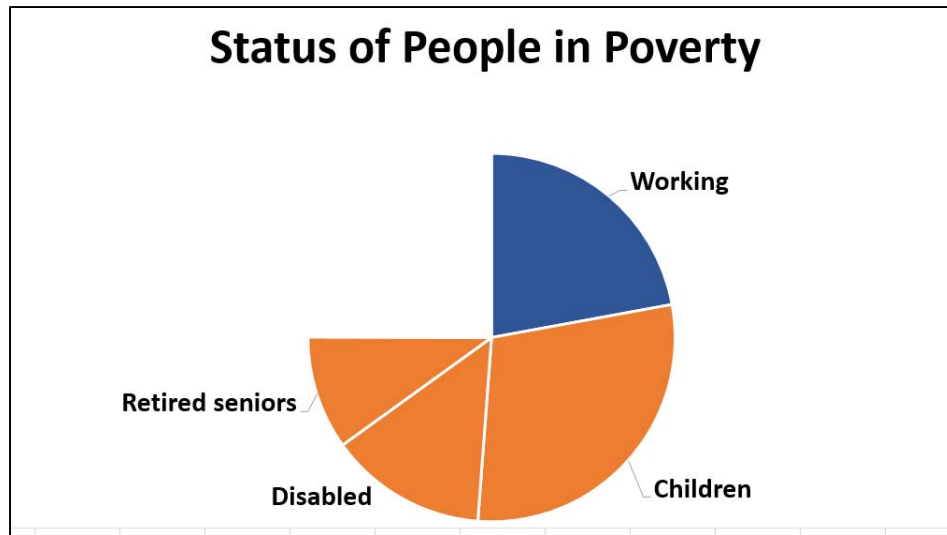
These include:

- Working full-time: 3.1 million
- Working part-time: 7.1 million



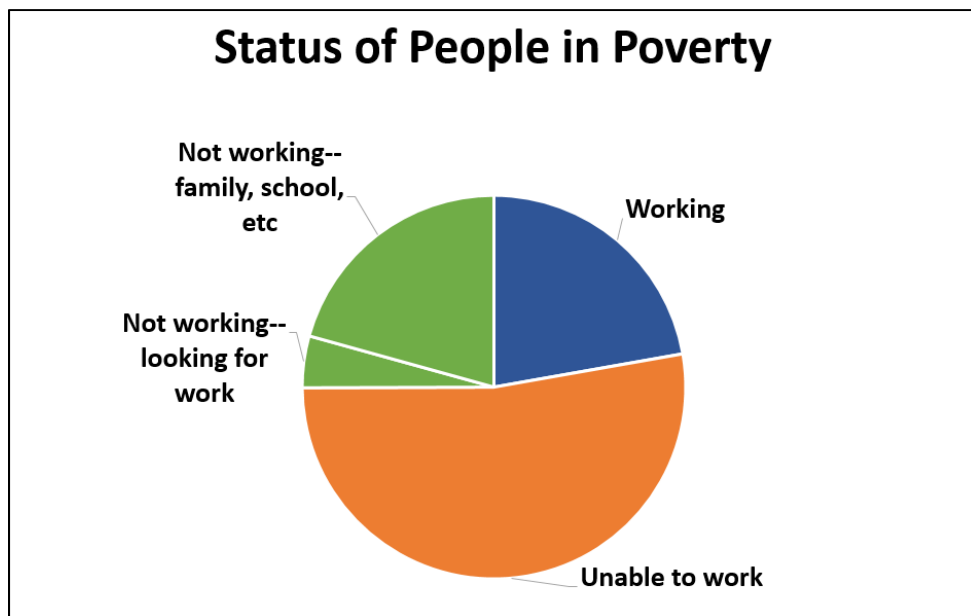
A little over half of those under the poverty line are not working and not potentially able to work. These include:

- Children: 13.4 million
- People with disabilities: 6.4 million
- Retired seniors: 4.6 million



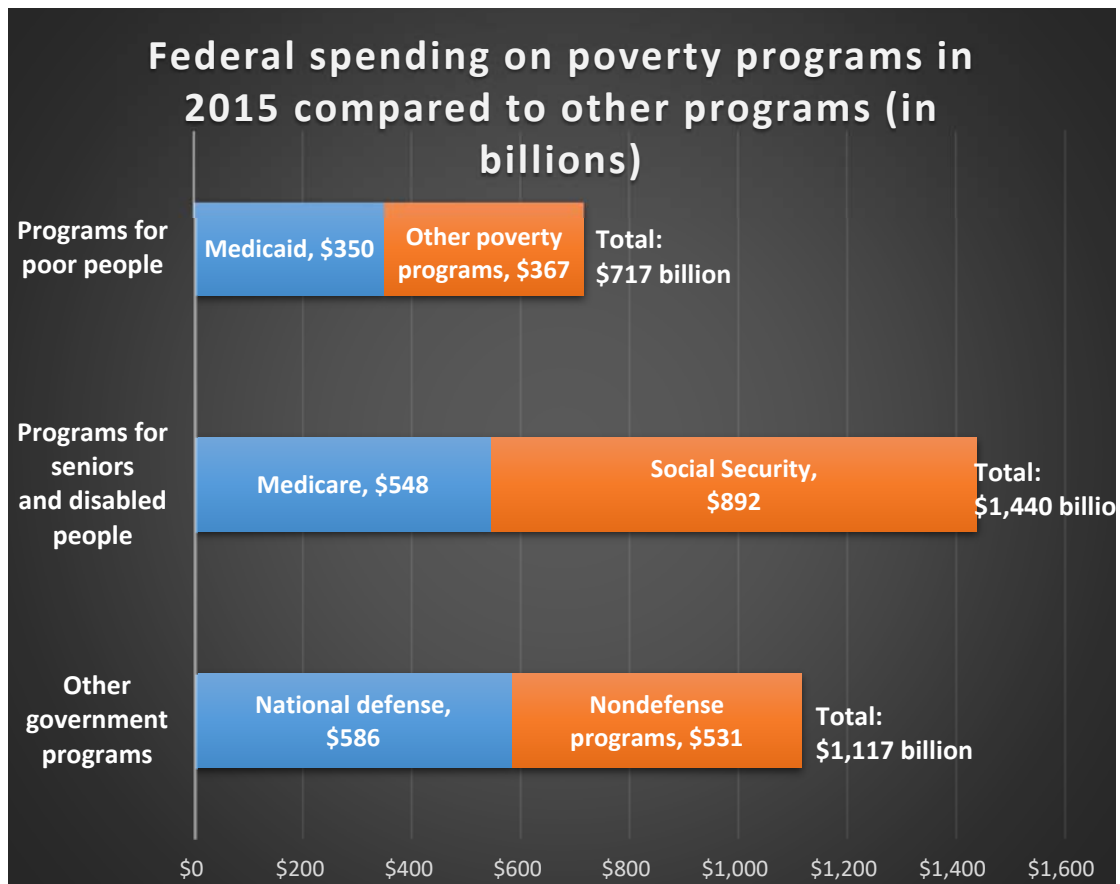
Approximately a quarter of those under the poverty line are not working, but potentially could. This includes:

- about 2 million people actively looking for work
- about 9.5 million people who are taking care of children or the elderly, in school, or have retired early



Federal Poverty Programs

Let us turn now to how much the federal government spends to help people in or near poverty. The graph also shows how this compares to other types of spending.



Now, we'll look at some major Federal programs and proposed legislation for addressing poverty.

First, we'll look at the programs that aim to reduce the negative effects of poverty by helping poor people (both working and non-working) meet their basic needs. These include:

- Food stamps
- Access to housing
- Medicaid

Later, we'll explore programs for helping the working poor and options for increasing the availability of jobs. For each proposal, you will be presented at least one argument in favor of the proposal and at least one argument against the proposal. You will also be asked how convincing you find each argument before evaluating each proposal.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/Food Stamps)

One of the largest poverty programs helps people in low-income households purchase food. It is called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP--more commonly known as 'food stamps.' Recipients now get a card, similar to a debit card, which allows them to buy food at specific grocery/retail stores only up to a certain limit.

In 2015, the program cost \$74 billion, with 23 million households receiving benefits, including about 26 million adults and 20 million children.

SNAP Eligibility

To become eligible for SNAP benefits, the federal government has established several guidelines (though some states have more relaxed requirements).

The Federal guidelines for each household are:

- **Total household income:** Must be no more than a bit above the federal poverty line.
- **Total household savings:** Must be less than \$2,250. In fact, the average recipient has \$400 in savings.
- **Work requirements:** Able-bodied adults must register with a state employment office, actively seek work and/or job training, and accept a job, if offered.

SNAP Benefits

Benefits vary on a sliding scale depending on household income. As income goes up, benefits go down, and then stop entirely when income is a bit above the poverty line.

Here are some examples of average SNAP benefits:

- About half of all SNAP recipients are living alone. Their average monthly income is \$542. Their SNAP benefit is, on average, about \$140 a month.
- Another major group of SNAP recipients are single mothers with one child. Their average income is approximately \$760 a month. Their SNAP benefit is, on average, \$253 a month.

Q5. How do these levels of benefits seem to you? Do they seem:

Very low	Somewhat low	About right	Somewhat high	Very high
1	2	3	4	5

	Very low	Somewhat low	About right	Somewhat high	Very high	Refused/ Don't know
National	18.9%	38.5%	29.9%	9.6%	2.7%	0.5%
 GOP	8.7%	31.5%	40.9%	14.6%	4.0%	0.4%
 Dem.	27.1%	44.6%	21.8%	4.8%	1.3%	0.4%
 Indep.	21.8%	39.1%	25.2%	9.9%	3.1%	0.8%
Texas	18.4%	35.7%	37.2%	4.4%	3.7%	0.5%
 GOP	9.8%	27.9%	52.3%	5.9%	3.9%	0.3%
 Dem.	25.2%	41.7%	25.4%	3.5%	4.2%	0.0%
North Carolina	21.4%	37.5%	25.1%	11.8%	3.7%	0.6%
 GOP	10.7%	34.4%	34.6%	13.1%	7.2%	0.0%
 Dem.	28.7%	43.7%	20.3%	5.4%	1.0%	0.8%
Florida	20.6%	39.1%	27.1%	10.8%	2.2%	0.2%

GOP	8.6%	34.0%	40.3%	14.0%	2.5%	0.6%
Dem.	26.5%	46.2%	19.7%	5.3%	2.2%	0.0%
Ohio						
GOP	17.4%	39.1%	29.6%	11.2%	2.5%	0.1%
Dem.	9.9%	32.0%	42.1%	12.3%	3.8%	0.0%
Dem.	26.0%	45.6%	20.4%	7.5%	0.2%	0.2%
Virginia						
GOP	18.9%	36.9%	32.8%	7.9%	2.7%	0.9%
Dem.	8.2%	21.0%	48.8%	14.8%	4.8%	2.4%
Dem.	25.4%	47.3%	23.6%	3.6%	0.0%	0.0%
California						
GOP	21.7%	42.2%	26.3%	6.8%	2.6%	0.4%
Dem.	8.5%	34.0%	39.8%	11.5%	6.2%	0.0%
Dem.	29.4%	47.0%	17.9%	5.1%	0.6%	0.0%
Maryland						
GOP	23.4%	35.7%	30.0%	8.9%	1.2%	0.7%
Dem.	7.5%	29.4%	47.6%	12.1%	2.4%	1.0%
Dem.	31.0%	39.9%	24.0%	4.2%	0.4%	0.4%
New York						
GOP	22.3%	41.5%	25.9%	7.5%	2.2%	0.6%
Dem.	11.1%	36.7%	32.5%	16.2%	3.4%	0.0%
Dem.	24.5%	46.6%	22.8%	3.1%	1.9%	1.1%

Here is an argument in favor of raising benefits

Q6. The average person who receives food stamps makes only \$542 a month. For them to get \$140 a month for food stamps is simply not enough—this is less than \$5 a day. Many want to earn more, but can't find a job or a better paying job. Food is a basic human need and it is simply wrong to keep people on the edge of hunger with benefits so low.

Please indicate whether you find this argument convincing or unconvincing.

Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing
1	2	3	4

	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Total convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing	Total unconvincing	Refused / Don't know
National	34.1%	37.7%	71.8%	17.5%	10.3%	27.8%	0.4%
GOP	17.1%	40.6%	57.7%	26.8%	15.3%	42.1%	0.3%
Dem.	50.1%	35.2%	85.3%	9.2%	5.3%	14.5%	0.3%
Indep.	33.0%	37.7%	70.7%	17.1%	11.3%	28.4%	0.9%
Texas	34.3%	35.2%	69.5%	21.3%	9.2%	30.5%	0.0%
GOP	17.3%	38.8%	56.1%	31.7%	12.2%	43.9%	0.0%
Dem.	49.1%	33.7%	82.8%	11.8%	5.4%	17.2%	0.0%

North Carolina	41.3%	30.5%	71.8%	17.3%	10.9%	28.2%	0.0%
GOP	24.0%	34.1%	58.1%	24.8%	17.1%	41.9%	0.0%
Dem.	54.4%	34.6%	89.0%	8.2%	2.7%	10.9%	0.0%
Florida	33.3%	40.3%	73.6%	14.2%	11.8%	26.0%	0.3%
GOP	21.5%	42.0%	63.5%	20.7%	15.6%	36.3%	0.2%
Dem.	44.8%	39.8%	84.6%	10.7%	4.0%	14.7%	0.7%
Ohio	34.1%	41.5%	75.6%	14.3%	10.1%	24.4%	0.0%
GOP	20.4%	43.4%	63.8%	20.5%	15.7%	36.2%	0.0%
Dem.	50.3%	39.1%	89.4%	6.3%	4.3%	10.6%	0.0%
Virginia	35.9%	41.0%	76.9%	11.5%	11.6%	23.1%	0.0%
GOP	13.6%	45.8%	59.4%	20.4%	20.2%	40.6%	0.0%
Dem.	53.9%	37.0%	90.9%	5.6%	3.5%	9.1%	0.0%
California	34.4%	39.1%	73.5%	14.4%	11.9%	26.3%	0.2%
GOP	11.8%	42.5%	54.3%	22.8%	22.4%	45.2%	0.6%
Dem.	48.3%	36.7%	85.0%	7.5%	7.6%	15.1%	0.0%
Maryland	39.4%	33.7%	73.1%	18.8%	7.5%	26.3%	0.6%
GOP	13.9%	42.8%	56.7%	33.9%	9.4%	43.3%	0.0%
Dem.	56.3%	31.0%	87.3%	9.7%	3.0%	12.7%	0.0%
New York	41.9%	33.0%	74.9%	17.9%	7.1%	25.0%	0.0%
GOP	26.4%	31.3%	57.7%	27.8%	14.5%	42.3%	0.0%
Dem.	48.2%	37.2%	85.4%	9.1%	5.5%	14.6%	0.0%

Here is an argument against raising benefits

Q7. The amount we spend on SNAP is a lot of money--\$74 billion dollars. We should not increase it. The economy is better now and there are more jobs out there. We need to encourage people to get out there and try harder in this improving labor market. We shouldn't make it easier for them not to make the effort.

Please indicate whether you find this argument convincing or unconvincing.

Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing
1	2	3	4

	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Total convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing	Total unconvincing	Refused / Don't know
National	18.4%	33.8%	52.2%	25.7%	21.8%	47.5%	0.2%
GOP	27.8%	41.9%	69.7%	19.5%	10.5%	30.0%	0.4%
Dem.	10.5%	27.6%	38.1%	30.2%	31.7%	61.9%	0.1%

Indep.	16.7%	30.9%	47.6%	28.8%	23.3%	52.1%	0.3%
Texas	22.3%	31.5%	53.8%	24.6%	21.6%	46.2%	0.0%
GOP	34.8%	40.4%	75.2%	18.5%	6.3%	24.8%	0.0%
Dem.	15.7%	23.3%	39.0%	28.1%	32.9%	61.0%	0.0%
North Carolina	23.1%	28.7%	51.8%	27.8%	20.1%	47.9%	0.2%
GOP	35.2%	36.7%	71.9%	20.5%	7.6%	28.1%	0.0%
Dem.	12.1%	22.9%	35.0%	37.0%	28.0%	65.0%	0.0%
Florida	16.4%	34.6%	51.0%	26.1%	22.4%	48.5%	0.5%
GOP	27.4%	40.3%	67.7%	20.0%	11.0%	31.0%	1.4%
Dem.	6.7%	35.0%	41.7%	30.8%	27.4%	58.2%	0.0%
Ohio	19.3%	38.6%	57.9%	25.2%	16.8%	42.0%	0.1%
GOP	25.1%	48.1%	73.2%	18.6%	8.0%	26.6%	0.2%
Dem.	12.6%	28.6%	41.2%	32.5%	26.1%	58.6%	0.1%
Virginia	15.1%	32.8%	47.9%	26.4%	25.4%	51.8%	0.4%
GOP	24.3%	43.2%	67.5%	23.8%	8.7%	32.5%	0.0%
Dem.	7.1%	27.0%	34.1%	29.4%	35.7%	65.1%	0.8%
California	14.7%	36.8%	51.5%	24.4%	24.0%	48.4%	0.1%
GOP	27.2%	46.9%	74.1%	17.4%	8.3%	25.7%	0.3%
Dem.	8.1%	29.8%	37.9%	25.8%	36.3%	62.1%	0.0%
Maryland	14.5%	27.8%	42.3%	28.1%	29.5%	57.6%	0.2%
GOP	25.0%	45.6%	70.6%	19.9%	9.4%	29.3%	0.0%
Dem.	11.3%	18.2%	29.5%	29.7%	40.4%	70.1%	0.3%
New York	12.2%	29.1%	41.3%	28.8%	29.8%	58.6%	0.1%
GOP	25.1%	41.2%	66.3%	18.6%	14.9%	33.5%	0.3%
Dem.	7.0%	24.2%	31.2%	33.7%	35.1%	68.8%	0.0%

Now, we would like to know what you think average monthly SNAP benefits should be.

Q8. For recipients living alone and earning on average \$542 a month, current SNAP benefits are about \$140.

What do you think this amount should be? \$ _____

	Median	Lowered	Kept the same	Raised	Refused / Don't know
National	200.0	11.2%	8.3%	80.5%	0.0%
GOP	175.0	19.0%	15.0%	66.0%	0.0%
Dem.	210.0	3.7%	3.4%	92.9%	0.0%

Indep.	200.0	12.2%	5.7%	82.1%	0.0%
Texas	200.0	10.4%	9.1%	79.4%	1.1%
GOP	180.0	16.2%	16.9%	64.5%	2.3%
Dem.	214.6	4.8%	4.3%	90.9%	0.0%
North Carolina	200.0	7.8%	10.2%	79.9%	2.2%
GOP	188.1	16.7%	14.5%	66.1%	2.6%
Dem.	215.9	2.5%	4.4%	90.8%	2.4%
Florida	200.0	9.9%	7.8%	79.1%	3.1%
GOP	200.0	16.7%	14.9%	63.9%	4.5%
Dem.	200.0	2.9%	5.0%	89.4%	2.6%
Ohio	200.0	11.5%	8.0%	78.4%	2.1%
GOP	180.0	18.2%	14.0%	65.9%	1.9%
Dem.	220.0	2.4%	3.1%	92.2%	2.3%
Virginia	200.0	12.9%	10.9%	74.2%	1.9%
GOP	150.0	23.1%	20.1%	53.1%	3.8%
Dem.	200.0	5.3%	2.2%	91.5%	1.1%
California	200.0	9.1%	7.2%	78.7%	5.1%
GOP	175.0	17.8%	13.6%	62.9%	5.7%
Dem.	222.1	3.7%	6.3%	87.1%	3.0%
Maryland	200.0	10.3%	6.7%	81.8%	1.3%
GOP	160.0	18.5%	15.6%	62.8%	3.2%
Dem.	225.0	4.4%	3.5%	91.5%	0.6%
New York	200.0	8.5%	4.8%	84.3%	2.4%
GOP	182.8	17.0%	12.2%	65.8%	5.0%
Dem.	200.0	2.9%	0.0%	94.6%	2.5%

Q9. For a single mother with one child and earning on average \$760 a month, current SNAP benefits are about \$253.

What do you think this amount should be? \$ _____

	Median	Lowered	Kept the same	Raised	Refused / Don't know
National	300.0	14.7%	7.8%	77.5%	0.0%
GOP	287.0	24.4%	13.2%	62.4%	0.0%
Dem.	350.0	5.8%	3.3%	90.9%	0.0%
Indep.	300.0	14.9%	6.6%	78.5%	0.0%

Texas	300.0	12.3%	9.9%	75.9%	1.9%
GOP	300.0	19.7%	16.3%	60.0%	4.0%
Dem.	350.0	6.7%	4.7%	88.7%	0.0%

North Carolina	325.0	14.3%	7.4%	75.6%	2.7%
GOP	300.0	22.7%	10.1%	64.6%	2.6%
Dem.	350.0	4.2%	4.6%	87.7%	3.5%

Florida	325.0	14.7%	6.6%	75.2%	3.5%
GOP	300.0	22.2%	12.5%	61.9%	3.4%
Dem.	350.0	6.8%	2.7%	89.3%	1.2%

Ohio	300.0	14.1%	6.6%	76.9%	2.4%
GOP	300.0	22.1%	12.5%	63.5%	1.9%
Dem.	350.0	4.9%	1.2%	90.7%	3.1%

Virginia	300.0	15.4%	8.1%	75.1%	1.4%
GOP	275.0	28.1%	14.2%	54.8%	2.9%
Dem.	350.0	4.6%	3.0%	91.9%	0.5%

California	320.0	10.3%	7.0%	79.0%	3.6%
GOP	300.0	22.1%	13.8%	59.4%	4.7%
Dem.	350.0	4.0%	5.0%	89.4%	1.6%

Maryland	300.0	12.1%	7.0%	79.6%	1.4%
GOP	275.0	22.6%	11.8%	63.5%	2.1%
Dem.	350.0	5.2%	4.9%	89.0%	0.9%

New York	325.0	10.5%	3.6%	82.1%	3.8%
GOP	300.0	23.0%	9.3%	62.3%	5.4%
Dem.	350.0	2.9%	0.2%	93.8%	3.2%

Proposal: Remove asset limits

Currently for people to be eligible for SNAP, their household savings should be under \$2,250. There is debate about whether this limit should remain \$2,250, be raised to a higher level, or eliminated.

Here is an argument in favor of preserving the current limit

Q10. We should ensure that people receiving government assistance are truly in need. Taxpayer dollars should only help people who have exhausted all other means. If someone loses their job but has substantial money in the bank, they should not qualify for SNAP. They should be expected to use those savings until they are below \$2,250. It is not the government's responsibility to ensure that people can maintain their bank accounts. Many working people don't have \$2,250 in the bank.

Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing
1	2	3	4

	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Total convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing	Total unconvincing	Refused / Don't know
National	31.2%	34.7%	65.9%	19.3%	13.5%	32.8%	1.3%
 GOP	39.5%	32.4%	71.9%	18.9%	7.7%	26.6%	1.6%
Dem.	26.0%	37.2%	63.2%	18.4%	17.4%	35.8%	1.0%
Indep.	24.7%	33.6%	58.3%	22.8%	17.4%	40.2%	1.5%
Texas	32.8%	22.4%	55.2%	25.8%	19.0%	44.8%	0.0%
 GOP	33.9%	24.1%	58.0%	24.9%	17.1%	42.0%	0.0%
Dem.	37.4%	21.1%	58.5%	25.4%	16.1%	41.5%	0.0%
North Carolina	30.6%	35.8%	66.4%	23.9%	8.7%	32.6%	1.0%
 GOP	41.9%	19.9%	61.8%	19.6%	15.0%	34.6%	3.6%
Dem.	28.5%	38.3%	66.8%	25.0%	8.2%	33.2%	0.0%
Florida	29.3%	33.6%	62.9%	23.7%	12.0%	35.7%	1.5%
 GOP	33.2%	41.9%	75.1%	19.1%	5.7%	24.8%	0.0%
Dem.	25.9%	29.9%	55.8%	23.6%	17.2%	40.8%	3.5%
Ohio	27.0%	42.7%	69.7%	15.5%	14.7%	30.2%	0.2%
 GOP	34.4%	48.1%	82.5%	5.9%	11.2%	17.1%	0.5%
Dem.	19.8%	40.3%	60.1%	20.3%	19.7%	40.0%	0.0%
Virginia	36.7%	40.2%	76.9%	12.7%	10.5%	23.2%	0.0%
 GOP	61.0%	25.7%	86.7%	5.1%	8.2%	13.3%	0.0%
Dem.	15.5%	49.3%	64.8%	21.4%	13.9%	35.3%	0.0%
California	25.1%	44.7%	69.8%	17.3%	12.7%	30.0%	0.2%
 GOP	36.1%	43.7%	79.8%	18.3%	1.9%	20.2%	0.0%
Dem.	20.8%	40.0%	60.8%	17.8%	21.0%	38.8%	0.4%
Maryland	28.5%	35.2%	63.7%	18.4%	17.9%	36.3%	0.0%
 GOP	34.4%	43.2%	77.6%	13.2%	9.2%	22.4%	0.0%
Dem.	19.3%	33.6%	52.9%	22.4%	24.7%	47.1%	0.0%
New York	29.9%	32.7%	62.6%	25.3%	12.1%	37.4%	0.0%
 GOP	30.5%	36.3%	66.8%	24.9%	8.3%	33.2%	0.0%
Dem.	24.6%	36.5%	61.1%	23.1%	15.8%	38.9%	0.0%

Here is an argument in favor of raising the limit

Q11. There should be a limit on how much savings a SNAP recipient can have, but it should be above \$2,250. To say a parent with children and a little more than \$2,250 must spend down these savings before getting food stamps is ridiculous. If they face an unexpected cost, they could end up broke and maybe homeless. Even poor people deserve to have a month or two's security.

Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing
1	2	3	4

	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Total convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing	Total unconvincing	Refused / Don't know
National	30.2%	38.2%	68.4%	18.2%	12.3%	30.5%	1.1%
GOP	20.8%	37.7%	58.5%	25.4%	15.2%	40.6%	0.9%
Dem.	39.7%	38.8%	78.5%	11.8%	8.4%	20.2%	1.3%
Indep.	28.2%	38.1%	66.3%	17.2%	15.1%	32.3%	1.3%
Texas	24.1%	39.3%	63.4%	16.3%	16.9%	33.2%	3.4%
GOP	21.4%	29.2%	50.6%	22.8%	25.5%	48.3%	1.0%
Dem.	28.4%	45.5%	73.9%	8.8%	10.2%	19.0%	7.0%
North Carolina	27.7%	38.3%	66.0%	21.9%	11.1%	33.0%	1.0%
GOP	12.7%	51.0%	63.7%	21.8%	10.9%	32.7%	3.6%
Dem.	39.0%	28.8%	67.8%	19.8%	12.3%	32.1%	0.0%
Florida	34.7%	32.8%	67.5%	18.9%	13.6%	32.5%	0.0%
GOP	42.0%	21.9%	63.9%	25.5%	10.5%	36.0%	0.0%
Dem.	32.9%	36.3%	69.2%	18.7%	12.1%	30.8%	0.0%
Ohio	26.1%	48.9%	75.0%	18.1%	6.7%	24.8%	0.2%
GOP	23.3%	51.9%	75.2%	15.6%	8.7%	24.3%	0.5%
Dem.	33.3%	47.0%	80.3%	16.5%	3.1%	19.6%	0.0%
Virginia	29.3%	41.1%	70.4%	19.6%	10.1%	29.7%	0.0%
GOP	9.1%	49.7%	58.8%	18.2%	23.1%	41.3%	0.0%
Dem.	47.7%	42.1%	89.8%	10.2%	0.0%	10.2%	0.0%
California	31.1%	47.9%	79.0%	11.3%	9.8%	21.1%	0.0%
GOP	9.0%	48.6%	57.6%	15.3%	27.0%	42.3%	0.0%
Dem.	45.4%	40.4%	85.8%	11.2%	3.0%	14.2%	0.0%
Maryland	36.8%	26.3%	63.1%	27.2%	9.7%	36.9%	0.0%
GOP	19.1%	27.7%	46.8%	38.9%	14.4%	53.3%	0.0%
Dem.	49.0%	26.5%	75.5%	16.3%	8.2%	24.5%	0.0%

New York	37.2%	37.2%	74.4%	12.3%	13.4%	25.7%	0.0%
GOP	35.7%	35.6%	71.3%	11.8%	16.9%	28.7%	0.0%
Dem.	39.4%	37.8%	77.2%	10.4%	12.3%	22.7%	0.0%

Q12. What do you think the government should do about the amount of savings a household can have and still receive SNAP benefits?

A: Keep the current Federal limit requiring less than \$2,250 in savings	B: Raise the Federal limit from the current \$2,250 in savings to a higher level
1	2

	Keep the current Federal limit requiring less than \$2,250 in savings	Raise the Federal limit from the current \$2,250 in savings to a higher level	Refused / Don't know
National	52.5%	46.1%	1.4%
GOP	65.1%	33.5%	1.3%
Dem.	40.2%	58.6%	1.3%
Indep.	53.6%	44.5%	1.9%
Texas	45.3%	54.2%	0.5%
GOP	64.6%	35.4%	0.0%
Dem.	28.4%	71.6%	0.0%
North Carolina	53.3%	42.7%	4.0%
GOP	67.8%	28.6%	3.6%
Dem.	32.5%	61.6%	5.9%
Florida	51.5%	47.2%	1.3%
GOP	62.8%	37.2%	0.0%
Dem.	37.9%	59.0%	3.1%
Ohio	58.8%	40.5%	0.8%
GOP	78.8%	20.7%	0.5%
Dem.	40.4%	58.5%	1.1%
Virginia	52.6%	46.9%	0.5%
GOP	69.7%	30.3%	0.0%
Dem.	35.2%	63.6%	1.2%
California	41.0%	55.3%	3.7%
GOP	66.7%	33.3%	0.0%
Dem.	30.4%	64.9%	4.7%
Maryland	58.5%	41.5%	0.0%
GOP	81.5%	18.5%	0.0%
Dem.	43.9%	56.1%	0.0%

New York	44.2%	54.7%	1.2%
GOP	50.1%	45.9%	4.0%
Dem.	30.7%	69.3%	0.0%

Q12a: Please specify what the limit should be. \$ _____

	Median
National	4000.0
GOP	4000.0
Dem.	4000.0
Indep.	4250.0
Texas	7058.3
GOP	4595.2
Dem.	6271.2
North Carolina	4327.5
GOP	4081.5
Dem.	4453.3
Florida	4851.6
GOP	7963.9
Dem.	3936.8

	Median
Ohio	5806.1
GOP	4007.5
Dem.	6681.7
Virginia	6930.9
GOP	5954.2
Dem.	8051.0
California	4715.5
GOP	3614.3
Dem.	5322.1
Maryland	6381.1
GOP	6355.1
Dem.	5936.9
New York	4589.2
GOP	6477.6
Dem.	4069.0

Proposal: Restrict SNAP-eligible foods

Recently, there has been a debate over whether some kinds of food people can buy with SNAP benefits should be restricted. Currently, SNAP cannot be used for alcoholic beverages, and usually not for hot ready-to-eat food.

One proposal is to extend these limits to other food items with little nutritional value, such as sweetened sodas, candy, cookies, cakes, and ice cream.

Here is an argument in favor of restricting SNAP eligible foods

Q13. Helping needy people meet their nutritional needs is one thing, but taxpayer dollars should not go to purchase junk food with no nutritional value. We should not encourage people to waste money on food that can damage their health. The rise in obesity and diabetes from eating fatty and sugary foods is a serious strain on America’s healthcare system.

Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing
1	2	3	4

	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Total convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing	Total unconvincing	Refused / Don't know
National	51.5%	30.9%	82.4%	9.6%	7.6%	17.2%	0.3%
GOP	63.7%	26.8%	90.5%	4.1%	5.3%	9.4%	0.1%
Dem.	40.1%	35.7%	75.8%	15.3%	8.4%	23.7%	0.5%
Indep.	54.6%	27.1%	81.7%	6.9%	11.0%	17.9%	0.4%
Texas	48.1%	33.6%	81.7%	4.9%	13.3%	18.2%	0.0%
GOP	64.3%	27.3%	91.6%	2.7%	5.7%	8.4%	0.0%
Dem.	33.6%	47.5%	81.1%	8.1%	10.9%	19.0%	0.0%
North Carolina	57.4%	26.6%	84.0%	10.5%	5.5%	16.0%	0.0%
GOP	76.2%	17.9%	94.1%	5.1%	0.8%	5.9%	0.0%
Dem.	45.2%	29.8%	75.0%	11.4%	13.5%	24.9%	0.0%
Florida	50.7%	24.3%	75.0%	5.0%	18.1%	23.1%	1.8%
GOP	65.6%	28.2%	93.8%	0.0%	6.2%	6.2%	0.0%
Dem.	45.4%	28.1%	73.5%	14.0%	12.5%	26.5%	0.0%
Ohio	44.7%	33.2%	77.9%	11.7%	10.2%	21.9%	0.2%
GOP	60.7%	18.6%	79.3%	13.0%	7.7%	20.7%	0.0%
Dem.	28.9%	46.2%	75.1%	12.7%	11.8%	24.5%	0.5%
Virginia	46.6%	29.9%	76.5%	12.5%	11.0%	23.5%	0.0%
GOP	61.3%	14.1%	75.4%	14.1%	10.5%	24.6%	0.0%
Dem.	41.2%	33.0%	74.2%	11.7%	14.1%	25.8%	0.0%
California	51.5%	27.2%	78.7%	9.1%	11.5%	20.6%	0.7%
GOP	55.3%	28.3%	83.6%	1.8%	14.7%	16.5%	0.0%
Dem.	47.7%	31.8%	79.5%	9.8%	9.2%	19.0%	1.6%
Maryland	49.2%	33.2%	82.4%	7.8%	8.7%	16.5%	1.1%
GOP	48.6%	41.2%	89.8%	8.4%	1.8%	10.2%	0.0%
Dem.	47.2%	29.2%	76.4%	6.9%	14.7%	21.6%	2.0%
New York	43.1%	36.3%	79.4%	13.1%	7.5%	20.6%	0.0%
GOP	61.1%	10.5%	71.6%	13.9%	14.5%	28.4%	0.0%
Dem.	36.2%	39.9%	76.1%	15.6%	8.3%	23.9%	0.0%

Here is an argument against restricting SNAP eligible foods

Q14. Just because people are poor does not mean the federal government should tell them what to eat. Individuals can make their own decisions about nutrition. Furthermore, administering such rules could be expensive. Congress would have to fend off armies of food-industry lobbyists, trying to protect certain foods from being excluded.

Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing
1	2	3	4

	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Total convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing	Total unconvincing	Refused / Don't know
National	14.8%	27.0%	41.8%	23.1%	34.8%	57.9%	0.3%
 GOP	7.5%	22.8%	30.3%	22.6%	47.2%	69.8%	0.0%
Dem.	20.7%	30.9%	51.6%	23.5%	24.3%	47.8%	0.7%
Indep.	15.7%	26.2%	41.9%	23.1%	34.8%	57.9%	0.2%
Texas	18.0%	23.3%	41.3%	28.8%	30.0%	58.8%	0.0%
 GOP	7.2%	15.2%	22.4%	24.7%	52.9%	77.6%	0.0%
Dem.	22.2%	37.0%	59.2%	31.1%	9.7%	40.8%	0.0%
North Carolina	14.5%	31.1%	45.6%	20.0%	34.4%	54.4%	0.0%
 GOP	10.5%	34.0%	44.5%	26.4%	29.1%	55.5%	0.0%
Dem.	25.4%	34.7%	60.1%	18.7%	21.2%	39.9%	0.0%
Florida	14.3%	31.6%	45.9%	15.4%	38.7%	54.1%	0.0%
 GOP	8.2%	29.8%	38.0%	14.5%	47.5%	62.0%	0.0%
Dem.	14.1%	30.1%	44.2%	25.1%	30.7%	55.8%	0.0%
Ohio	14.8%	21.6%	36.4%	26.9%	35.7%	62.6%	1.0%
 GOP	6.3%	16.7%	23.0%	29.9%	47.1%	77.0%	0.0%
Dem.	24.2%	30.0%	54.2%	19.5%	26.3%	45.8%	0.0%
Virginia	19.1%	23.9%	43.0%	24.9%	32.1%	57.0%	0.0%
 GOP	12.7%	19.2%	31.9%	24.4%	43.7%	68.1%	0.0%
Dem.	24.9%	21.5%	46.4%	27.1%	26.5%	53.6%	0.0%
California	12.0%	27.1%	39.1%	25.5%	34.7%	60.2%	0.7%
 GOP	5.0%	24.3%	29.3%	17.8%	52.9%	70.7%	0.0%
Dem.	14.9%	28.8%	43.7%	29.6%	25.1%	54.7%	1.6%
Maryland	15.4%	22.5%	37.9%	26.6%	35.5%	62.1%	0.0%
 GOP	11.1%	33.1%	44.2%	17.1%	38.7%	55.8%	0.0%
Dem.	20.1%	20.8%	40.9%	24.4%	34.7%	59.1%	0.0%
New York	16.8%	33.7%	50.5%	24.7%	24.8%	49.5%	0.0%
 GOP	25.6%	21.1%	46.7%	20.6%	32.7%	53.3%	0.0%
Dem.	17.2%	34.4%	51.6%	26.3%	22.1%	48.4%	0.0%

Q15: Now, please select whether you think SNAP credits (food stamps) should be allowed or not allowed for buying the following items.

15a: Sweetened sodas

	Should be allowed	Should <u>not</u> be allowed	Refused / Don't know
National	25.1%	73.4%	1.5%
GOP	16.6%	82.0%	1.4%
Dem.	31.7%	66.6%	1.8%
Indep.	26.7%	72.3%	1.0%
Texas	28.6%	71.4%	0.0%
GOP	14.5%	85.5%	0.0%
Dem.	40.3%	59.7%	0.0%
North Carolina	34.2%	64.2%	1.7%
GOP	18.0%	77.6%	4.4%
Dem.	49.4%	50.6%	0.0%
Florida	30.1%	67.1%	2.9%
GOP	23.0%	69.2%	7.8%
Dem.	36.2%	63.8%	0.0%
Ohio	27.2%	72.8%	0.0%
GOP	13.2%	86.8%	0.0%
Dem.	43.0%	57.0%	0.0%
Virginia	32.8%	66.0%	1.2%
GOP	26.5%	73.5%	0.0%
Dem.	37.6%	61.2%	1.2%
California	21.4%	76.5%	2.1%
GOP	16.2%	80.9%	2.8%
Dem.	19.8%	77.4%	2.8%
Maryland	23.6%	76.4%	0.0%
GOP	22.8%	77.2%	0.0%
Dem.	25.8%	74.2%	0.0%
New York	26.1%	65.7%	8.2%
GOP	16.0%	76.4%	7.6%
Dem.	30.1%	65.0%	4.9%

15b: Candy

	Should be allowed	Should <u>not</u> be allowed	Refused / Don't know
National	22.7%	75.8%	1.5%
GOP	13.4%	85.4%	1.3%

Dem.	30.3%	67.7%	2.0%
Indep.	23.9%	75.5%	0.7%
Texas			
Dem.	23.9%	76.1%	0.0%
GOP	12.4%	87.6%	0.0%
Dem.	30.2%	69.8%	0.0%
North Carolina			
Dem.	32.2%	66.1%	1.7%
GOP	20.1%	75.5%	4.4%
Dem.	44.0%	56.0%	0.0%
Florida			
Dem.	29.1%	70.9%	0.0%
GOP	15.3%	84.7%	0.0%
Dem.	33.5%	66.5%	0.0%
Ohio			
Dem.	22.6%	75.2%	2.2%
GOP	12.7%	82.2%	5.1%
Dem.	35.0%	64.3%	0.7%
Virginia			
Dem.	30.6%	68.8%	0.6%
GOP	16.9%	83.1%	0.0%
Dem.	39.8%	59.0%	1.2%
California			
Dem.	20.9%	76.6%	2.4%
GOP	13.6%	83.6%	2.8%
Dem.	20.3%	76.1%	3.5%
Maryland			
Dem.	20.6%	79.4%	0.0%
GOP	14.4%	85.6%	0.0%
Dem.	27.1%	72.9%	0.0%
New York			
Dem.	27.7%	65.8%	6.6%
GOP	22.4%	70.1%	7.6%
Dem.	30.6%	64.5%	4.9%

15c: Cookies, cakes and doughnuts

	Should be allowed	Should <u>not</u> be allowed	Refused / Don't know
National	39.7%	58.8%	1.4%
GOP	25.4%	73.1%	1.5%
Dem.	52.1%	46.2%	1.7%
Indep.	39.2%	60.4%	0.4%

Texas	36.4%	62.7%	1.0%
GOP	23.6%	76.4%	0.0%
Dem.	48.8%	48.9%	2.3%

North Carolina	40.4%	57.9%	1.7%
GOP	22.4%	73.2%	4.4%
Dem.	56.3%	43.7%	0.0%

Florida	45.1%	54.4%	0.5%
GOP	40.4%	59.6%	0.0%
Dem.	57.2%	41.5%	1.4%

Ohio	36.9%	62.8%	0.4%
GOP	27.8%	72.2%	0.0%
Dem.	46.7%	52.5%	0.8%

Virginia	48.0%	51.4%	0.6%
GOP	33.6%	66.4%	0.0%
Dem.	60.3%	38.5%	1.2%

California	38.1%	59.8%	2.1%
GOP	21.9%	75.2%	2.8%
Dem.	37.0%	60.2%	2.8%

Maryland	38.1%	60.9%	1.0%
GOP	21.9%	78.1%	0.0%
Dem.	49.5%	48.6%	1.8%

New York	44.7%	51.4%	3.8%
GOP	28.2%	64.2%	7.6%
Dem.	53.2%	46.8%	0.0%

15d: Chips and snack crackers

	Should be allowed	Should <u>not</u> be allowed	Refused / Don't know
National	58.3%	40.0%	1.7%
GOP	46.8%	51.9%	1.4%
Dem.	68.9%	29.0%	2.1%
Indep.	56.3%	42.6%	1.2%

Texas	55.8%	44.2%	0.0%
GOP	36.2%	63.8%	0.0%
Dem.	79.7%	20.3%	0.0%

North Carolina	58.3%	40.0%	1.7%
GOP	43.3%	52.3%	4.4%
Dem.	72.7%	27.3%	0.0%

Florida	59.4%	40.6%	0.0%
GOP	52.8%	47.2%	0.0%
Dem.	62.8%	37.2%	0.0%

Ohio	58.5%	40.3%	1.1%
GOP	41.6%	56.3%	2.1%
Dem.	76.3%	23.0%	0.7%

Virginia	64.6%	32.7%	2.7%
GOP	53.1%	46.9%	0.0%
Dem.	72.5%	24.6%	2.9%

California	57.4%	40.5%	2.1%
GOP	28.2%	68.9%	2.8%
Dem.	63.7%	33.5%	2.8%

Maryland	52.7%	47.3%	0.0%
GOP	48.4%	51.6%	0.0%
Dem.	54.7%	45.3%	0.0%

New York	63.3%	34.8%	1.9%
GOP	46.2%	52.7%	1.2%
Dem.	60.9%	36.1%	3.0%

15e: Ice cream

	Should be allowed	Should not be allowed	Refused / Don't know
National	55.1%	43.1%	1.8%
GOP	41.7%	55.9%	2.4%
Dem.	66.2%	32.0%	1.8%
Indep.	55.8%	43.8%	0.4%

Texas	47.3%	52.7%	0.0%
GOP	34.6%	65.4%	0.0%
Dem.	52.4%	47.6%	0.0%

North Carolina	54.0%	44.4%	1.7%
GOP	33.8%	61.8%	4.4%

Dem.	73.9%	26.1%	0.0%
Florida	52.5%	47.5%	0.0%
GOP	45.7%	54.3%	0.0%
Dem.	53.9%	46.1%	0.0%
Ohio	51.9%	46.3%	1.8%
GOP	39.1%	60.9%	0.0%
Dem.	61.9%	34.3%	3.8%
Virginia	60.4%	39.0%	0.6%
GOP	47.7%	52.3%	0.0%
Dem.	66.5%	32.3%	1.2%
California	55.1%	42.8%	2.1%
GOP	27.2%	70.0%	2.8%
Dem.	59.5%	37.7%	2.8%
Maryland	52.5%	47.5%	0.0%
GOP	38.7%	61.3%	0.0%
Dem.	66.1%	33.9%	0.0%
New York	71.6%	26.8%	1.5%
GOP	55.7%	43.2%	1.2%
Dem.	79.5%	18.2%	2.3%

Statement: Another idea that has been considered for the SNAP program is to try to encourage people to eat more healthy food like fruits and vegetables. Research shows that if SNAP recipients are given a discount on fruits and vegetables they are more likely to buy them, as it helps their food stamps go further. On the one hand, these discounts would be an extra cost for the program; on the other hand, they are likely to have positive health effects, which might produce some savings for government spending on healthcare benefits for SNAP beneficiaries, who are also on Medicaid.

Q15F: Do you favor or oppose offering discounts on fruit and vegetables bought using SNAP credits?

Favor	Oppose
1	2

	Favor	Oppose	Don't Know / Refused
National	88.0%	11.6%	0.3%
GOP	81.3%	18.5%	0.2%
Dem.	93.1%	6.4%	0.5%
Indep.	89.9%	10.1%	0.0%
Texas	83.6%	16.4%	0.0%

GOP	78.2%	21.8%	0.0%
Dem.	89.4%	10.6%	0.0%

North Carolina	87.7%	12.3%	0.0%
GOP	77.0%	23.0%	0.0%
Dem.	97.0%	3.0%	0.0%

Florida	87.2%	12.8%	0.0%
GOP	86.2%	13.8%	0.0%
Dem.	86.2%	13.8%	0.0%

Ohio	91.1%	8.9%	0.0%
GOP	77.8%	22.2%	0.0%
Dem.	99.6%	0.4%	0.0%

Virginia	83.4%	16.6%	0.0%
GOP	70.0%	30.0%	0.0%
Dem.	90.4%	9.6%	0.0%

California	86.9%	11.6%	1.6%
GOP	80.8%	16.4%	2.8%
Dem.	91.2%	7.2%	1.6%

Maryland	91.6%	8.4%	0.0%
GOP	90.6%	9.4%	0.0%
Dem.	98.2%	1.8%	0.0%

New York	93.0%	7.0%	0.0%
GOP	78.2%	21.8%	0.0%
Dem.	99.5%	0.5%	0.0%

Housing

The federal government provides some housing assistance to poor and very low-income people. Federal housing programs generally require low-income tenants to contribute 30% of their monthly income toward the cost of housing. No matter how little income they have, there is always a minimum payment they must cover. There is a debate over whether this 30% contribution should be set higher or lower.

Here is an argument in favor of increasing tenant payments

Q16. Asking public housing tenants to contribute only 30% of their income is not enough. On average, renters with similar incomes but no public housing benefits contribute nearly 40% of their monthly income to rent. If tenants were gradually to move up to 35%, that would still be an excellent deal. Residents in public housing will still have the peace of mind of knowing they will always pay a fixed percentage of their income toward rent.

Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing
1	2	3	4

	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Total convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing	Total unconvincing	Refused / Don't know
National	20.5%	46.4%	66.9%	20.8%	11.9%	32.7%	0.4%
GOP	24.9%	49.9%	74.8%	17.7%	6.9%	24.6%	0.6%
Dem.	17.3%	42.5%	59.8%	23.9%	16.0%	39.9%	0.4%
Indep.	18.7%	47.8%	66.5%	20.0%	13.3%	33.3%	0.2%
Texas	18.2%	45.0%	63.2%	23.2%	12.4%	35.6%	1.2%
GOP	23.6%	46.3%	69.9%	18.3%	9.2%	27.5%	2.5%
Dem.	17.0%	44.1%	61.1%	25.6%	13.3%	38.9%	0.0%
North Carolina	21.8%	46.6%	68.4%	20.4%	11.2%	31.6%	0.0%
GOP	27.7%	51.2%	78.9%	16.1%	5.0%	21.1%	0.0%
Dem.	19.2%	37.9%	57.1%	28.5%	14.5%	43.0%	0.0%
Florida	22.5%	49.0%	71.5%	19.7%	8.7%	28.4%	0.1%
GOP	27.4%	52.3%	79.7%	15.7%	4.4%	20.1%	0.2%
Dem.	18.9%	48.7%	67.6%	23.1%	9.3%	32.4%	0.0%
Ohio	18.3%	51.8%	70.1%	18.3%	10.9%	29.2%	0.7%
GOP	22.7%	52.0%	74.7%	15.7%	8.0%	23.7%	1.6%
Dem.	14.9%	49.2%	64.1%	22.3%	13.6%	35.9%	0.0%
Virginia	19.4%	48.7%	68.1%	19.4%	11.1%	30.5%	1.3%
GOP	28.6%	53.7%	82.3%	11.5%	6.2%	17.7%	0.0%
Dem.	11.8%	48.1%	59.9%	22.6%	15.3%	37.9%	2.2%
California	18.6%	48.4%	67.0%	22.2%	10.4%	32.6%	0.4%
GOP	24.6%	51.5%	76.1%	18.8%	5.1%	23.9%	0.0%
Dem.	17.5%	42.3%	59.8%	22.6%	17.1%	39.7%	0.5%
Maryland	17.6%	47.6%	65.2%	21.6%	12.8%	34.4%	0.4%
GOP	28.4%	49.1%	77.5%	17.4%	5.1%	22.5%	0.0%
Dem.	12.6%	46.3%	58.9%	21.5%	18.9%	40.4%	0.8%
New York	16.6%	44.2%	60.8%	24.1%	14.8%	38.9%	0.3%
GOP	20.3%	45.8%	66.1%	24.4%	8.4%	32.8%	1.2%
Dem.	15.6%	39.9%	55.5%	27.7%	16.8%	44.5%	0.0%

Here is an argument in favor of decreasing tenant payments

Q17. People in public housing live there because they are poor. They set aside a fixed portion of their income to pay for housing, then struggle to handle their other necessities. An increase in their rent contribution would require them to cut back on food, child care, or medical care. This would make them even more vulnerable and may increase the likelihood that other government programs will have to step in, especially for children and the elderly. Instead, let's lower their 30% share to 25% and give them a bit of stability.

Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing
1	2	3	4

	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Total convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing	Total unconvincing	Refused / Don't know
National	21.9%	35.5%	57.4%	27.6%	14.8%	42.4%	0.3%
GOP	11.6%	31.7%	43.3%	35.3%	21.2%	56.5%	0.2%
Dem.	32.0%	38.4%	70.4%	20.6%	8.8%	29.4%	0.2%
Indep.	20.3%	37.0%	57.3%	27.1%	15.1%	42.2%	0.5%
Texas	18.7%	42.5%	61.2%	24.0%	14.5%	38.5%	0.4%
GOP	9.9%	40.4%	50.3%	26.2%	23.5%	49.7%	0.0%
Dem.	30.6%	40.2%	70.8%	21.0%	8.3%	29.3%	0.0%
North Carolina	26.4%	33.6%	60.0%	26.8%	12.9%	39.7%	0.3%
GOP	8.3%	34.6%	42.9%	33.8%	23.2%	57.0%	0.0%
Dem.	42.6%	35.6%	78.2%	14.9%	6.6%	21.5%	0.2%
Florida	24.3%	39.0%	63.3%	22.7%	13.8%	36.5%	0.1%
GOP	14.6%	35.9%	50.5%	33.6%	15.7%	49.3%	0.2%
Dem.	29.2%	38.1%	67.3%	19.6%	13.1%	32.7%	0.0%
Ohio	20.1%	39.9%	60.0%	25.2%	14.8%	40.0%	0.0%
GOP	14.0%	33.6%	47.6%	33.0%	19.4%	52.4%	0.0%
Dem.	26.8%	47.6%	74.4%	15.8%	9.9%	25.7%	0.0%
Virginia	20.3%	32.6%	52.9%	30.3%	16.7%	47.0%	0.0%
GOP	6.1%	22.7%	28.8%	42.4%	28.9%	71.3%	0.0%
Dem.	30.9%	39.5%	70.4%	22.0%	7.6%	29.6%	0.0%
California	22.0%	34.4%	56.4%	28.4%	14.4%	42.8%	0.7%
GOP	9.5%	28.0%	37.5%	40.3%	22.2%	62.5%	0.0%
Dem.	31.9%	38.4%	70.3%	20.9%	8.1%	29.0%	0.7%
Maryland	20.5%	37.1%	57.6%	30.9%	10.8%	41.7%	0.8%
GOP	6.8%	32.3%	39.1%	43.8%	17.1%	60.9%	0.0%
Dem.	32.2%	38.4%	70.6%	21.6%	6.5%	28.1%	1.4%

New York	26.1%	31.8%	57.9%	28.4%	13.4%	41.8%	0.3%
GOP	19.0%	28.8%	47.8%	35.5%	15.5%	51.0%	1.1%
Dem.	29.7%	38.7%	68.4%	21.1%	10.5%	31.6%	0.0%

Now that you have evaluated the arguments, here are two proposals for changing the percentage of their income tenants in public housing pay.

One proposal would gradually **increase** the amount from 30% to 35%. This would **save** the government between \$2 and \$3 billion a year.

Another proposal would **reduce** the amount from 30% to 25%. This proposal would **cost** between \$2 and \$3 billion a year.

Q18. Which would you recommend?

- 1 Raising the amount tenants would pay to 35% of their income
- 2 Keeping the current amount they pay of 30%
- 3 Lowering the amount tenants would pay to 25% of their income

	Raising the amount tenants pay to 35% of their income	Keeping the current amounts they pay of 30%	Lowering the amount tenants pay to 25% of their income	Refused / Don't know
National	36.3%	35.3%	28.0%	0.5%
GOP	50.5%	32.6%	16.6%	0.3%
Dem.	23.8%	37.4%	38.1%	0.7%
Indep.	34.8%	35.9%	29.1%	0.2%
Texas	32.9%	35.3%	31.0%	0.8%
GOP	45.7%	36.3%	18.0%	0.0%
Dem.	26.8%	37.0%	34.5%	1.6%
North Carolina	37.9%	32.5%	29.0%	0.6%
GOP	63.3%	24.4%	11.9%	0.4%
Dem.	17.5%	38.3%	43.6%	0.5%
Florida	30.6%	36.4%	32.7%	0.3%
GOP	39.6%	36.8%	23.6%	0.0%
Dem.	24.5%	36.8%	38.0%	0.7%
Ohio	34.0%	39.7%	26.1%	0.2%
GOP	43.9%	36.0%	20.0%	0.0%
Dem.	23.6%	46.3%	30.2%	0.0%
Virginia	37.9%	36.8%	24.7%	0.5%
GOP	59.0%	29.2%	11.8%	0.0%

Dem.	21.4%	44.6%	33.5%	0.5%
California	37.3%	33.4%	28.9%	0.4%
GOP	54.9%	33.3%	11.1%	0.7%
Dem.	23.7%	33.5%	42.3%	0.5%
Maryland	34.0%	38.6%	27.1%	0.3%
GOP	55.5%	33.8%	10.7%	0.0%
Dem.	23.6%	37.1%	38.8%	0.5%
New York	26.3%	34.7%	38.9%	0.2%
GOP	45.0%	28.1%	26.9%	0.0%
Dem.	17.9%	37.1%	44.7%	0.3%

Medicaid

As you may know, Medicaid is a government health insurance program that serves low-income people.

Medicaid is a partnership between the federal government and the states. Currently, the federal government covers on average 60% of the cost, while the states cover the other 40%.

There is a lot of discussion these days about a proposal to expand Medicaid. In 2013, for people to receive Medicaid, they had to be well below the poverty line--on average, no more than 61%. For example, for a single parent with two children, their income could be no more than \$11,316.

Q19. Based on what you have heard so far, please select how you feel about raising this limit to some extent. Would this be:

[PRESENTED ON SCREEN IN GRID FORMAT, DISTANCE BETWEEN EACH NUMBER WAS EQUIDISTANT]										
Not at all acceptable 0	1	2	3	4	Just tolerable 5	6	7	8	9	Very acceptable 10

	Mean	Completely Unacceptable (0-4)	Just Tolerable (5)	Very Acceptable (6-10)	Refused / Don't know
National	5.7	26.7%	22.5%	50.2%	0.6%
GOP	5.0	31.6%	28.7%	39.2%	0.4%
Dem.	6.4	21.6%	16.4%	61.4%	0.6%
Indep.	5.5	28.3%	23.3%	47.5%	0.9%
Texas	0.0	25.3%	21.7%	52.5%	0.5%
GOP	5.0	29.6%	32.2%	38.1%	0.0%
Dem.	6.7	18.9%	10.8%	69.4%	0.9%
North Carolina	0.0	30.3%	18.9%	49.3%	1.5%
GOP	5.5	20.7%	34.5%	44.8%	0.0%

Dem.	5.8	29.8%	11.0%	58.2%	1.0%
Florida	0.0	27.7%	21.7%	49.4%	1.2%
GOP	5.1	32.4%	29.3%	36.7%	1.5%
Dem.	6.3	21.9%	15.1%	62.2%	0.8%
Ohio	0.0	26.8%	22.3%	50.7%	0.1%
GOP	4.9	34.2%	27.0%	38.6%	0.2%
Dem.	6.5	19.1%	16.6%	64.2%	0.1%
Virginia	0.0	25.9%	21.1%	51.8%	1.2%
GOP	4.5	35.0%	31.1%	33.8%	0.0%
Dem.	6.7	18.0%	14.7%	65.5%	1.8%
California	0.0	28.6%	20.7%	49.2%	1.5%
GOP	4.9	36.0%	28.5%	34.7%	0.8%
Dem.	6.6	19.7%	15.6%	63.0%	1.7%
Maryland	0.0	27.3%	22.3%	49.2%	1.2%
GOP	5.1	32.5%	32.3%	34.6%	0.6%
Dem.	6.3	25.0%	16.2%	58.3%	0.5%
New York	0.0	27.2%	16.5%	56.2%	0.1%
GOP	5.1	34.2%	22.3%	43.5%	0.0%
Dem.	6.8	21.7%	11.3%	66.8%	0.2%

As you may know, the federal government has proposed that it help the states to provide Medicaid to more people. It is up to the states whether they accept this help. Some states have already accepted it, while others have not.

Under this plan, the federal government covers **100%** of Medicaid expansion costs through 2016. After that, it will permanently cover at least **90%** of those costs and the states will provide 10%.

This plan would enable the states to expand Medicaid coverage to households with incomes up to 138% of the poverty line. For example, a family with a single parent and two children could qualify with an income up to \$25,560.

We would like you to consider whether or not you would recommend **your** state accepting this plan for expanding Medicaid.

Here is an argument in favor of your state accepting this plan for expanding Medicaid

Q20. This is a no-brainer. Many very low-income people are in genuine need and can't afford medical insurance for themselves and their children. They do not get healthcare when they need it and often end up more sick as a result. This is also bad for the state: when they get sick, poor people end up going to emergency rooms because they cannot be denied treatment there. This is very inefficient. The costs are passed on to others in the state. If the

federal government is willing to cover nearly all the costs of providing Medicaid to these low-income people, our state should definitely do it. It not only helps those people, but saves us money as well.

Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing
1	2	3	4

	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Total convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing	Total unconvincing	Refused / Don't know
National	35.7%	39.5%	75.2%	14.6%	9.6%	24.2%	0.5%
 GOP	19.6%	44.4%	64.0%	21.2%	14.2%	35.4%	0.6%
Dem.	51.4%	35.3%	86.7%	7.8%	5.0%	12.8%	0.5%
Indep.	33.7%	39.0%	72.7%	16.3%	10.6%	26.9%	0.5%
Texas	38.4%	37.9%	76.3%	15.1%	8.2%	23.3%	0.5%
 GOP	20.4%	49.5%	69.9%	20.8%	9.2%	30.0%	0.0%
Dem.	54.7%	29.3%	84.0%	9.3%	6.5%	15.8%	0.3%
North Carolina	42.4%	29.4%	71.8%	18.8%	9.4%	28.2%	0.0%
 GOP	21.8%	39.5%	61.3%	26.1%	12.6%	38.7%	0.0%
Dem.	62.8%	25.7%	88.5%	8.9%	2.7%	11.6%	0.0%
Florida	34.4%	41.1%	75.5%	12.8%	11.3%	24.1%	0.4%
 GOP	20.3%	44.7%	65.0%	21.7%	12.4%	34.1%	0.9%
Dem.	48.6%	38.3%	86.9%	5.7%	7.2%	12.9%	0.2%
Ohio	35.9%	41.4%	77.3%	13.8%	8.6%	22.4%	0.3%
 GOP	21.2%	47.0%	68.2%	18.5%	13.1%	31.6%	0.2%
Dem.	51.5%	34.7%	86.2%	9.8%	3.5%	13.3%	0.5%
Virginia	42.6%	34.6%	77.2%	12.0%	10.7%	22.7%	0.1%
 GOP	19.0%	37.2%	56.2%	22.2%	21.6%	43.8%	0.0%
Dem.	59.8%	34.2%	94.0%	3.9%	1.9%	5.8%	0.2%
California	35.2%	43.7%	78.9%	11.9%	8.9%	20.8%	0.4%
 GOP	18.1%	47.1%	65.2%	15.6%	18.4%	34.0%	0.8%
Dem.	50.4%	38.0%	88.4%	6.5%	4.6%	11.1%	0.5%
Maryland	45.6%	35.4%	81.0%	12.6%	5.9%	18.5%	0.5%
 GOP	20.8%	46.6%	67.4%	23.3%	8.2%	31.5%	1.3%
Dem.	59.2%	30.8%	90.0%	6.5%	3.1%	9.6%	0.4%
New York	35.6%	42.3%	77.9%	12.4%	9.1%	21.5%	0.5%
 GOP	16.7%	45.5%	62.2%	18.0%	18.3%	36.3%	1.4%
Dem.	45.4%	40.7%	86.1%	7.0%	6.5%	13.5%	0.4%

Here is an argument against your state accepting this plan for expanding Medicaid

Q21. Our state should not be enticed into taking on this new responsibility. While the federal government covers the cost at first, our state will have a whole new ongoing obligation after 2016. We cannot be certain that the federal government will not cut back later and leave us holding the bag. In a bad economic year, the state's amount would go way up. This would either drive up taxes or crowd out spending for other state priorities-- education, transportation, and other social services.

Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing
1	2	3	4

	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Total convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing	Total unconvincing	Refused / Don't know
National	17.4%	36.7%	54.1%	27.3%	18.1%	45.4%	0.5%
GOP	27.3%	42.8%	70.1%	21.5%	7.6%	29.1%	0.8%
Dem.	8.6%	30.7%	39.3%	31.7%	28.6%	60.3%	0.4%
Indep.	16.8%	37.4%	54.2%	29.5%	16.1%	45.6%	0.2%
Texas	17.0%	31.5%	48.5%	29.7%	21.9%	51.6%	0.0%
GOP	25.7%	41.6%	67.3%	21.7%	11.0%	32.7%	0.0%
Dem.	11.1%	22.0%	33.1%	36.8%	30.1%	66.9%	0.0%
North Carolina	14.5%	32.2%	46.7%	26.9%	26.0%	52.9%	0.4%
GOP	26.8%	44.0%	70.8%	19.2%	8.8%	28.0%	1.3%
Dem.	6.2%	22.7%	28.9%	30.3%	40.7%	71.0%	0.0%
Florida	17.4%	36.0%	53.4%	24.4%	21.7%	46.1%	0.6%
GOP	26.0%	39.6%	65.6%	21.6%	11.4%	33.0%	1.4%
Dem.	10.1%	30.7%	40.8%	26.6%	32.4%	59.0%	0.2%
Ohio	15.5%	40.3%	55.8%	27.9%	16.2%	44.1%	0.1%
GOP	25.4%	44.1%	69.5%	20.7%	9.8%	30.5%	0.0%
Dem.	8.4%	33.9%	42.3%	32.7%	24.7%	57.4%	0.4%
Virginia	17.6%	32.7%	50.3%	28.6%	20.5%	49.1%	0.6%
GOP	34.1%	35.9%	70.0%	22.1%	7.2%	29.3%	0.6%
Dem.	6.1%	30.4%	36.5%	32.3%	31.2%	63.5%	0.0%
California	17.5%	38.3%	55.8%	25.2%	18.6%	43.8%	0.4%
GOP	27.7%	40.8%	68.5%	25.8%	5.6%	31.4%	0.0%
Dem.	7.9%	37.0%	44.9%	25.2%	29.1%	54.3%	0.8%
Maryland	14.6%	34.3%	48.9%	28.0%	22.7%	50.7%	0.4%
GOP	17.9%	49.8%	67.7%	23.8%	7.7%	31.5%	0.8%

Dem.	12.4%	24.0%	36.4%	32.2%	31.1%	63.3%	0.3%
New York	14.2%	34.3%	48.5%	30.7%	19.8%	50.5%	0.9%
GOP	23.5%	43.8%	67.3%	21.9%	7.1%	29.0%	3.7%
Dem.	6.2%	30.4%	36.6%	37.5%	25.9%	63.4%	0.0%

Q22. Now, having considered these different perspectives on the federal government’s plan for expanding Medicaid, would you recommend that your state:

- 1 Accept the plan
- 2 Not accept the plan

	Accept the plan	Not accept the plan	Refused/ Don't know
National	64.1%	35.2%	0.7%
GOP	42.8%	56.4%	0.8%
Dem.	83.9%	15.5%	0.6%
Indep.	63.4%	35.8%	0.8%
Texas	67.0%	31.9%	1.1%
GOP	46.7%	52.3%	1.0%
Dem.	85.0%	13.6%	1.4%
North Carolina	66.3%	33.5%	0.2%
GOP	44.1%	55.9%	0.0%
Dem.	87.7%	11.8%	0.5%
Florida	66.7%	32.5%	0.8%
GOP	47.4%	52.6%	0.0%
Dem.	87.5%	11.5%	1.0%
Ohio	65.0%	34.4%	0.5%
GOP	46.7%	52.1%	1.2%
Dem.	83.5%	16.5%	0.0%
Virginia	68.9%	30.5%	0.6%
GOP	39.3%	60.1%	0.6%
Dem.	91.6%	7.9%	0.6%
California	68.3%	30.9%	0.8%
GOP	45.5%	53.0%	1.5%
Dem.	84.2%	15.2%	0.6%
Maryland	68.1%	29.6%	2.3%
GOP	42.7%	56.9%	0.4%
Dem.	83.4%	13.7%	2.8%

New York	68.4%	30.9%	0.7%
GOP	45.0%	54.0%	1.0%
Dem.	82.3%	17.5%	0.2%

EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT

Now, we'll explore proposals for helping low-income people who are working, but are still living under or close to the poverty line.

One federal program that helps low-income workers is the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). EITC supplements the income of low-wage workers.

Currently, nearly all of EITC goes to workers **with** children. Low-wage workers with children can have their earnings supplemented by up to \$6,242 a year.

There are proposals to expand the EITC for low-wage **workers without children**, who currently receive far less—at present, a maximum of \$503 a year.

These proposals increase the benefits and those eligible for them. This would have an impact on people living under or near the poverty line.

Here are three EITC proposals that would apply to **workers without children**:

- **Proposal One:** Raise the maximum benefit from \$503 to \$1,000.
- **Proposal Two:** Increase the maximum earnings they can make and be eligible for EITC from \$14,820 to \$18,000.
- **Proposal Three:** Lower the age when workers without children can first get EITC from 25 to 21.

Here is an argument in favor of having more EITC go to low-wage workers without children

Q23. EITC is one of the most successful antipoverty programs because it encourages people to work and rewards them for it. But, while it has done a lot to reduce poverty for families with children, it's done little for workers who don't have children. Just because a worker at or near poverty has no children doesn't mean they are unworthy of help. A meaningful EITC benefit for workers without children would encourage more people to enter the labor force and work their way out of poverty.

Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing
1	2	3	4

	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Total convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing	Total unconvincing	Refused / Don't know
National	28.6%	48.6%	77.2%	14.6%	7.5%	22.1%	0.8%
GOP	20.9%	49.4%	70.3%	17.6%	11.4%	29.0%	0.7%
Dem.	36.8%	47.1%	83.9%	11.8%	3.7%	15.5%	0.6%
Indep.	25.9%	50.3%	76.2%	14.8%	7.9%	22.7%	1.1%
Texas	29.0%	46.6%	75.6%	14.3%	9.1%	23.4%	1.0%
GOP	21.9%	49.8%	71.7%	16.5%	11.2%	27.7%	0.6%

Dem.	35.8%	41.8%	77.6%	12.3%	8.1%	20.4%	2.0%
North Carolina	31.9%	44.9%	76.8%	14.1%	8.9%	23.0%	0.2%
GOP	21.4%	47.7%	69.1%	14.8%	16.1%	30.9%	0.0%
Dem.	39.9%	41.9%	81.8%	12.2%	5.5%	17.7%	0.5%
Florida	24.1%	51.4%	75.5%	14.2%	8.9%	23.1%	1.4%
GOP	17.1%	47.8%	64.9%	21.6%	12.0%	33.6%	1.5%
Dem.	29.0%	51.8%	80.8%	11.3%	5.5%	16.8%	2.4%
Ohio	27.6%	50.2%	77.8%	15.5%	6.4%	21.9%	0.2%
GOP	16.6%	56.2%	72.8%	18.3%	8.6%	26.9%	0.3%
Dem.	41.4%	41.8%	83.2%	12.2%	4.4%	16.6%	0.3%
Virginia	26.9%	52.1%	79.0%	12.7%	7.9%	20.6%	0.4%
GOP	14.4%	52.7%	67.1%	18.2%	14.2%	32.4%	0.6%
Dem.	36.3%	53.2%	89.5%	8.3%	1.7%	10.0%	0.4%
California	31.6%	46.2%	77.8%	15.0%	6.8%	21.8%	0.5%
GOP	21.6%	47.0%	68.6%	18.7%	11.7%	30.4%	1.1%
Dem.	36.6%	48.3%	84.9%	11.9%	2.7%	14.6%	0.5%
Maryland	34.1%	44.2%	78.3%	17.2%	4.4%	21.6%	0.0%
GOP	26.5%	43.6%	70.1%	24.4%	5.6%	30.0%	0.0%
Dem.	43.9%	42.6%	86.5%	11.2%	2.3%	13.5%	0.0%
New York	27.7%	51.5%	79.2%	11.8%	8.8%	20.6%	0.1%
GOP	21.1%	57.6%	78.7%	9.0%	12.4%	21.4%	0.0%
Dem.	33.9%	51.2%	85.1%	11.4%	3.3%	14.7%	0.2%

Here is an argument against having more EITC go to low-wage workers without children

Q24. EITC was originally conceived for families and especially to benefit children. It is not the government's job to supplement the income of able-bodied working people without children. Furthermore, EITC already covers most single workers without children who are under the poverty line. This plan for extending EITC would end up covering many people who are above the poverty line. It's an example of mission creep.

Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing
1	2	3	4

	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Total convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing	Total unconvincing	Refused / Don't know
National	19.9%	37.9%	57.8%	27.3%	14.1%	41.4%	0.8%
GOP	29.5%	39.7%	69.2%	22.5%	7.5%	30.0%	0.8%
Dem.	12.3%	35.4%	47.7%	31.2%	20.5%	51.7%	0.6%

Indep.	16.9%	39.8%	56.7%	28.6%	13.6%	42.2%	1.2%
Texas	24.4%	37.9%	62.3%	25.7%	11.5%	37.2%	0.6%
GOP	34.5%	38.0%	72.5%	21.7%	5.6%	27.3%	0.3%
Dem.	18.5%	35.2%	53.7%	27.5%	17.6%	45.1%	1.1%
North Carolina	19.9%	35.2%	55.1%	26.0%	17.1%	43.1%	1.9%
GOP	25.0%	39.7%	64.7%	25.2%	10.1%	35.3%	0.0%
Dem.	15.3%	33.0%	48.3%	29.2%	22.4%	51.6%	0.2%
Florida	20.7%	39.2%	59.9%	24.1%	13.3%	37.4%	2.6%
GOP	35.5%	40.3%	75.8%	17.4%	4.9%	22.3%	1.8%
Dem.	12.5%	44.8%	57.3%	24.4%	15.9%	40.3%	2.4%
Ohio	18.2%	40.3%	58.5%	26.2%	14.9%	41.1%	0.4%
GOP	23.4%	40.4%	63.8%	23.9%	12.3%	36.2%	0.0%
Dem.	13.3%	41.6%	54.9%	25.5%	19.2%	44.7%	0.4%
Virginia	23.5%	37.4%	60.9%	25.4%	11.6%	37.0%	2.0%
GOP	39.6%	34.9%	74.5%	16.5%	5.2%	21.7%	3.7%
Dem.	10.7%	43.4%	54.1%	28.8%	15.9%	44.7%	1.2%
California	17.3%	40.8%	58.1%	26.4%	15.5%	41.9%	0.0%
GOP	28.7%	43.8%	72.5%	22.2%	5.3%	27.5%	0.0%
Dem.	10.8%	36.8%	47.6%	29.0%	23.4%	52.4%	0.0%
Maryland	15.2%	35.9%	51.1%	34.2%	14.5%	48.7%	0.2%
GOP	24.1%	43.1%	67.2%	21.4%	11.4%	32.8%	0.0%
Dem.	12.2%	29.4%	41.6%	40.8%	17.2%	58.0%	0.3%
New York	16.3%	37.3%	53.6%	26.6%	19.0%	45.6%	0.9%
GOP	26.7%	39.0%	65.7%	26.5%	4.7%	31.2%	3.0%
Dem.	7.9%	34.8%	42.7%	34.3%	22.6%	56.9%	0.4%

Finally, please select which steps, if any, you would recommend taking for **workers without children**. You may select as many as you wish:

Q25. Increase their maximum EITC credit from \$503 to \$1,000

	Chosen	Not chosen
National	43.9%	56.1%
GOP	34.8%	65.2%
Dem.	52.5%	47.5%
Indep.	43.5%	56.5%

Texas	43.1%	56.9%
GOP	36.9%	63.1%
Dem.	48.3%	51.7%

North Carolina	45.0%	55.0%
GOP	27.4%	72.6%
Dem.	61.2%	38.8%

Florida	43.3%	56.7%
GOP	37.4%	62.6%
Dem.	50.1%	49.9%

Ohio	45.8%	54.2%
GOP	35.9%	64.1%
Dem.	57.1%	42.9%

Virginia	42.3%	57.7%
GOP	34.7%	65.3%
Dem.	49.2%	50.8%

California	42.5%	57.5%
GOP	30.0%	70.0%
Dem.	53.1%	46.9%

Maryland	50.7%	49.3%
GOP	35.8%	64.2%
Dem.	57.9%	42.1%

New York	46.0%	54.0%
GOP	38.0%	62.0%
Dem.	55.5%	44.5%

Q26. ___ Raise the maximum amount that they can make and still be eligible for EITC from \$14,820 to \$18,000

	Chosen	Not chosen
National	59.3%	40.7%
GOP	50.6%	49.4%
Dem.	66.9%	33.1%
Indep.	60.0%	40.0%

Texas	56.1%	43.9%
GOP	49.4%	50.6%
Dem.	59.2%	40.8%

North Carolina	53.7%	46.3%
GOP	60.4%	39.6%
Dem.	53.2%	46.8%

Florida	56.5%	43.5%
GOP	51.2%	48.8%
Dem.	65.6%	34.4%

Ohio	57.8%	42.2%
GOP	53.0%	47.0%
Dem.	62.1%	37.9%

Virginia	59.1%	40.9%
GOP	44.7%	55.3%
Dem.	70.0%	30.0%

California	63.0%	37.0%
GOP	53.0%	47.0%
Dem.	68.3%	31.7%

Maryland	61.2%	38.8%
GOP	46.2%	53.8%
Dem.	70.2%	29.8%

New York	63.4%	36.6%
GOP	54.6%	45.4%
Dem.	66.3%	33.7%

Q27. __Reduce their minimum age for eligibility for EITC from 25 to 21

	Chosen	Not chosen
National	32.1%	67.9%
GOP	26.1%	73.9%
Dem.	37.6%	62.4%
Indep.	32.3%	67.7%

Texas	35.8%	64.2%
GOP	34.2%	65.8%
Dem.	35.5%	64.5%

North Carolina	35.0%	65.0%
GOP	25.9%	74.1%
Dem.	38.3%	61.7%

Florida	28.4%	71.6%
GOP	23.2%	76.8%
Dem.	23.9%	76.1%

Ohio	31.0%	69.0%
GOP	28.2%	71.8%
Dem.	34.2%	65.8%

Virginia	34.8%	65.2%
GOP	23.6%	76.4%
Dem.	43.4%	56.6%

California	34.2%	65.8%
GOP	19.8%	80.2%
Dem.	41.6%	58.4%

Maryland	36.8%	63.2%
GOP	31.0%	69.0%
Dem.	43.3%	56.7%

New York	33.8%	66.2%
GOP	24.1%	75.9%
Dem.	35.0%	65.0%

MINIMUM WAGE

Another approach to help working people in poverty is to raise the minimum wage. Here are a few key things to know about the minimum wage:

- Currently, the federal minimum wage is \$7.25 an hour. Here is how much a full-time worker earns at that rate **before** taxes:

	Per week	Per month	Per year
Full-time minimum wage earnings	\$290	\$1,208	\$14,500

- A single person earning minimum wage and working full-time is a bit above the poverty line. However, someone earning minimum wage with one or more children, or a spouse who does not work, is under the poverty line. Thus, raising the minimum wage would lift a significant number of people above the poverty line.
- Raising the minimum wage would not create costs for the federal government, although it would increase costs to employers.

- Raising the minimum wage is controversial among economists. Some economists argue that increasing it could lead some employers to not create new jobs and even lay off employees. Other economists say this is not the case, pointing to cases when the minimum wage was increased in one state but not in another neighboring state, and employment rates were no different between the states.

Here is an argument in favor of raising the minimum wage

Q28. People who work should not live in poverty. Increasing the minimum wage would raise many workers and their children above the poverty line. This would also save the government money. The current minimum wage lets companies get away with paying very low wages, because the government has to fill the gap with poverty programs like food stamps. Raising the minimum wage will lessen the need for these programs and save the government money.

Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing
1	2	3	4

	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Total convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing	Total unconvincing	Refused / Don't know
National	37.7%	34.0%	71.7%	13.5%	14.4%	27.9%	0.4%
GOP	19.9%	34.5%	54.4%	19.4%	25.7%	45.1%	0.4%
Dem.	56.5%	31.5%	88.0%	7.5%	4.1%	11.6%	0.4%
Indep.	31.6%	38.9%	70.5%	14.7%	14.1%	28.8%	0.7%
Texas	42.4%	32.0%	74.4%	11.9%	12.9%	24.8%	0.8%
GOP	26.4%	35.9%	62.3%	15.8%	20.0%	35.8%	1.9%
Dem.	55.2%	30.3%	85.5%	9.6%	4.9%	14.5%	0.0%
North Carolina	43.1%	28.3%	71.4%	14.0%	13.9%	27.9%	0.7%
GOP	25.9%	29.3%	55.2%	23.0%	20.9%	43.9%	0.9%
Dem.	60.4%	24.9%	85.3%	4.5%	10.3%	14.8%	0.0%
Florida	37.0%	35.7%	72.7%	12.5%	14.6%	27.1%	0.1%
GOP	20.9%	34.3%	55.2%	22.8%	21.6%	44.4%	0.4%
Dem.	57.5%	32.2%	89.7%	5.2%	5.1%	10.3%	0.0%
Ohio	32.9%	38.9%	71.8%	14.1%	14.0%	28.1%	0.0%
GOP	16.9%	37.4%	54.3%	20.0%	25.8%	45.8%	0.0%
Dem.	52.8%	37.0%	89.8%	8.4%	1.8%	10.2%	0.0%
Virginia	39.2%	31.7%	70.9%	13.4%	15.6%	29.0%	0.2%
GOP	25.7%	28.5%	54.2%	14.2%	31.6%	45.8%	0.0%
Dem.	55.6%	30.8%	86.4%	10.4%	3.2%	13.6%	0.0%
California	37.9%	33.8%	71.7%	14.1%	14.0%	28.1%	0.1%
GOP	16.0%	31.5%	47.5%	22.4%	29.8%	52.2%	0.3%
Dem.	57.4%	29.8%	87.2%	8.0%	4.6%	12.6%	0.1%

Maryland	42.9%	34.6%	77.5%	13.1%	8.6%	21.7%	0.7%
GOP	17.7%	36.6%	54.3%	23.7%	22.0%	45.7%	0.0%
Dem.	57.5%	34.2%	91.7%	6.0%	1.8%	7.8%	0.5%
New York	42.4%	36.5%	78.9%	13.0%	8.1%	21.1%	0.0%
GOP	24.3%	32.5%	56.8%	23.2%	20.0%	43.2%	0.0%
Dem.	58.8%	31.7%	90.5%	6.9%	2.5%	9.4%	0.0%

Here is an argument against raising the minimum wage

Q29. If we raise the minimum wage, some employers will have to lay off workers because they cannot pay the higher wages and make a profit. Some may also find automation more cost-efficient. This will especially hurt workers with few skills, no high school diploma, and little savings; they are not likely to be rehired and may be thrown deep into poverty. It will also hurt younger workers who accept low wages to get work experience that can lead to better-paying jobs.

Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing
1	2	3	4

	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Total convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing	Total unconvincing	Refused / Don't know
National	21.6%	34.0%	55.6%	25.0%	18.5%	43.5%	0.9%
GOP	35.1%	38.9%	74.0%	17.1%	7.8%	24.9%	1.1%
Dem.	9.9%	28.3%	38.2%	31.9%	29.6%	61.5%	0.4%
Indep.	20.1%	36.9%	57.0%	25.9%	15.6%	41.5%	1.5%
Texas	21.2%	32.5%	53.7%	24.7%	20.8%	45.5%	0.8%
GOP	31.9%	37.7%	69.6%	24.1%	4.8%	28.9%	1.5%
Dem.	12.7%	27.2%	39.9%	25.4%	34.3%	59.7%	0.3%
North Carolina	27.2%	28.9%	56.1%	22.4%	21.1%	43.5%	0.4%
GOP	35.7%	36.6%	72.3%	14.5%	12.6%	27.1%	0.5%
Dem.	17.1%	25.9%	43.0%	26.1%	30.9%	57.0%	0.0%
Florida	20.4%	38.1%	58.5%	25.3%	15.9%	41.2%	0.2%
GOP	32.0%	45.3%	77.3%	15.6%	6.6%	22.2%	0.6%
Dem.	5.6%	39.1%	44.7%	33.5%	21.7%	55.2%	0.0%
Ohio	20.2%	42.0%	62.2%	22.3%	15.0%	37.3%	0.5%
GOP	29.5%	42.4%	71.9%	20.6%	6.9%	27.5%	0.7%
Dem.	10.4%	40.1%	50.5%	25.5%	24.0%	49.5%	0.0%
Virginia	19.9%	32.3%	52.2%	28.3%	19.0%	47.3%	0.5%
GOP	38.1%	39.4%	77.5%	15.0%	6.9%	21.9%	0.7%

Dem.	6.0%	27.3%	33.3%	36.5%	29.9%	66.4%	0.2%
California	21.0%	34.6%	55.6%	26.4%	17.1%	43.5%	0.9%
GOP	39.3%	37.0%	76.3%	19.2%	3.8%	23.0%	0.7%
Dem.	10.7%	32.8%	43.5%	29.6%	26.5%	56.1%	0.4%
Maryland	16.1%	35.2%	51.3%	28.2%	19.4%	47.6%	1.0%
GOP	35.3%	38.5%	73.8%	18.1%	5.6%	23.7%	2.6%
Dem.	8.6%	30.4%	39.0%	33.3%	27.1%	60.4%	0.7%
New York	15.6%	35.1%	50.7%	30.2%	18.8%	49.0%	0.3%
GOP	27.1%	46.3%	73.4%	11.3%	15.4%	26.7%	0.0%
Dem.	10.5%	25.5%	36.0%	38.0%	25.5%	63.5%	0.5%

Now, here is one of two proposals for raising the minimum wage that have been analyzed by the Congressional Budget Office, or CBO.

The **first proposal** would raise the minimum wage over a two-year period from \$7.25 to \$9.00.

CBO estimates that with this option the most likely outcomes would be:

- About 7.6 million people would have an increase in their weekly earnings.
- About 300,000 people would have their household income rise above the poverty line.
- The number of jobs in the economy would decline by about 100,000, or 0.07%.

Q30. Do you favor or oppose the proposal to raise the minimum wage over a two-year period from \$7.25 to \$9.00?

Favor	Oppose
1	2

	Favor	Oppose	Refused/ Don't know
National	73.8%	25.9%	0.3%
GOP	57.5%	42.4%	0.1%
Dem.	89.4%	10.3%	0.4%
Indep.	72.3%	27.0%	0.8%
Texas	75.1%	24.2%	0.6%
GOP	64.0%	36.0%	0.0%
Dem.	85.0%	13.7%	1.3%
North Carolina	75.9%	22.7%	1.4%
GOP	59.5%	40.5%	0.0%
Dem.	90.5%	8.9%	0.6%
Florida	73.9%	25.9%	0.2%
GOP	58.0%	42.0%	0.0%

Dem.	89.3%	10.3%	0.4%
Ohio	69.0%	30.9%	0.1%
GOP	54.3%	45.7%	0.0%
Dem.	83.2%	16.6%	0.2%
Virginia	70.5%	29.2%	0.3%
GOP	50.2%	49.4%	0.3%
Dem.	88.2%	11.6%	0.2%
California	74.9%	24.7%	0.5%
GOP	55.8%	44.0%	0.2%
Dem.	89.9%	9.5%	0.6%
Maryland	74.4%	25.3%	0.3%
GOP	54.8%	45.2%	0.0%
Dem.	84.8%	14.9%	0.3%
New York	82.5%	17.3%	0.1%
GOP	68.3%	31.7%	0.0%
Dem.	92.3%	7.5%	0.3%

The **second proposal** that the CBO analyzed goes further. It would raise the current minimum wage over a three-year period from \$7.25 to \$10.10.

CBO estimates that with this option the most likely outcomes would be:

- About 16.5 million people would have an increase in their weekly earnings.
- About 900,000 people would have their household income rise above the poverty line.
- The number of jobs in the economy would decline by about 500,000 or 0.35%.

Q31. Do you favor or oppose the proposal to raise the minimum wage over a three-year period from \$7.25 to \$10.10?

Favor	Oppose
1	2

	Favor	Oppose	Refused/ Don't know
National	56.8%	42.5%	0.7%
GOP	32.9%	66.3%	0.7%
Dem.	78.2%	21.2%	0.6%
Indep.	58.2%	41.0%	0.8%
Texas	55.8%	43.5%	0.7%
GOP	38.3%	61.7%	0.0%
Dem.	71.8%	26.7%	1.5%

North Carolina	59.1%	39.4%	1.5%
GOP	29.8%	70.2%	0.0%
Dem.	80.8%	19.2%	0.0%

Florida	55.7%	42.9%	1.3%
GOP	32.0%	67.5%	0.5%
Dem.	76.5%	21.6%	2.0%

Ohio	49.3%	49.9%	0.8%
GOP	27.4%	70.8%	1.8%
Dem.	71.0%	29.0%	0.0%

Virginia	54.2%	44.7%	1.1%
GOP	27.7%	72.3%	0.0%
Dem.	76.3%	22.0%	1.6%

California	64.5%	35.1%	0.3%
GOP	36.3%	63.2%	0.4%
Dem.	82.3%	17.5%	0.2%

Maryland	61.1%	38.4%	0.5%
GOP	31.7%	68.3%	0.0%
Dem.	73.7%	25.3%	1.0%

New York	70.9%	28.3%	0.8%
GOP	47.8%	51.6%	0.6%
Dem.	86.0%	14.0%	0.0%

Q32. We would like to know more exactly what you think the minimum wage should be. What do you think the minimum wage should be three years from now? Please include a decimal point when entering dollars and cents.

\$_____per hour

	Median
National	10.0
GOP	9.0
Dem.	11.5
Indep.	10.0
Texas	10.0
GOP	9.0
Dem.	11.6
North Carolina	10.0
GOP	9.0

Dem.	11.4
Florida	10.0
GOP	9.0
Dem.	11.0
Ohio	10.0
GOP	9.0
Dem.	10.5
Virginia	10.0
GOP	8.8
Dem.	11.0
California	11.0
GOP	9.3
Dem.	12.0
Maryland	10.5
GOP	9.0
Dem.	12.0
New York	10.5
GOP	9.7
Dem.	12.0

Another controversial issue is whether the minimum wage should be adjusted for inflation. Presently, it is not adjusted, and it never has been. It is increased by an act of Congress. Thus with inflation, the purchasing power of the minimum wage goes down until Congress acts to raise it.



Here is an argument in favor of adjusting the minimum wage to inflation

Q33. It makes no sense to have the purchasing power of the minimum wage on a constant downward slide, followed by a periodic catch-up. It is not fair to minimum-wage workers and it creates lots of uncertainty not only for workers, but also for employers who need to make long-term plans. The minimum wage should also not be subject to the special interest lobbying that Congress gets caught in.

Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing
1	2	3	4

	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Total convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing	Total unconvincing	Refused / Don't know
National	35.2%	40.1%	75.3%	15.4%	8.7%	24.1%	0.6%
GOP	24.2%	42.2%	66.4%	20.2%	12.9%	33.1%	0.5%
Dem.	46.9%	36.9%	83.8%	11.5%	4.1%	15.6%	0.7%
Indep.	31.3%	43.4%	74.7%	14.4%	10.3%	24.7%	0.6%
Texas	35.1%	39.0%	74.1%	15.3%	9.9%	25.2%	0.7%
GOP	23.5%	45.4%	68.9%	19.4%	11.7%	31.1%	0.0%
Dem.	52.5%	30.0%	82.5%	11.4%	4.3%	15.7%	1.8%
North Carolina	40.3%	38.3%	78.6%	13.4%	7.8%	21.2%	0.2%
GOP	33.3%	41.2%	74.5%	17.2%	8.3%	25.5%	0.0%
Dem.	44.7%	37.1%	81.8%	13.0%	4.7%	17.7%	0.5%
Florida	35.2%	36.9%	72.1%	19.7%	8.0%	27.7%	0.2%
GOP	21.1%	44.1%	65.2%	23.6%	10.8%	34.4%	0.4%
Dem.	46.8%	31.6%	78.4%	17.3%	4.0%	21.3%	0.2%
Ohio	29.5%	50.0%	79.5%	13.6%	6.9%	20.5%	0.0%
GOP	18.9%	54.6%	73.5%	18.7%	7.9%	26.6%	0.0%
Dem.	44.9%	42.7%	87.6%	8.9%	3.4%	12.3%	0.0%
Virginia	40.7%	35.5%	76.2%	13.2%	10.5%	23.7%	0.2%
GOP	24.0%	39.5%	63.5%	17.3%	19.1%	36.4%	0.2%
Dem.	53.5%	33.4%	86.9%	8.4%	4.4%	12.8%	0.3%
California	36.2%	39.1%	75.3%	17.7%	6.9%	24.6%	0.1%
GOP	19.2%	42.8%	62.0%	24.1%	13.9%	38.0%	0.0%
Dem.	44.0%	40.4%	84.4%	12.4%	3.1%	15.5%	0.1%
Maryland	41.4%	38.0%	79.4%	14.7%	5.2%	19.9%	0.7%
GOP	24.1%	46.0%	70.1%	20.4%	8.7%	29.1%	0.7%
Dem.	51.2%	35.7%	86.9%	9.8%	3.3%	13.1%	0.1%

New York	37.5%	38.3%	75.8%	15.2%	8.5%	23.7%	0.5%
 GOP	28.4%	40.4%	68.8%	20.4%	8.6%	29.0%	2.2%
 Dem.	44.9%	35.2%	80.1%	15.9%	4.0%	19.9%	0.0%

Here is an argument against adjusting the minimum wage to inflation

Q34. The minimum wage should not be on auto-pilot. Congress should be able to assess current economic conditions and decide whether it is best to raise the minimum wage or not. For example, when unemployment is high, raising the minimum wage can be a bad idea because it could lead employers to lay off workers. Furthermore, the states can and do raise the minimum wage if they think it is needed.

Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing
1	2	3	4

	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Total convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing	Total unconvincing	Refused / Don't know
National	19.3%	41.1%	60.4%	22.7%	16.2%	38.9%	0.7%
 GOP	28.0%	45.1%	73.1%	17.7%	8.3%	26.0%	0.9%
 Dem.	12.2%	36.6%	48.8%	27.4%	23.1%	50.5%	0.6%
 Indep.	17.4%	42.8%	60.2%	22.5%	16.9%	39.4%	0.5%
Texas	21.3%	37.1%	58.4%	22.9%	18.0%	40.9%	0.8%
 GOP	32.1%	39.1%	71.2%	19.9%	8.3%	28.2%	0.6%
 Dem.	12.6%	34.7%	47.3%	24.9%	26.6%	51.5%	1.3%
North Carolina	17.5%	45.3%	62.8%	17.5%	19.3%	36.8%	0.3%
 GOP	33.3%	44.9%	78.2%	11.7%	9.3%	21.0%	0.8%
 Dem.	10.4%	45.1%	55.5%	22.4%	21.9%	44.3%	0.2%
Florida	18.5%	39.9%	58.4%	24.3%	17.1%	41.4%	0.2%
 GOP	31.1%	46.1%	77.2%	18.7%	3.7%	22.4%	0.4%
 Dem.	12.3%	35.9%	48.2%	27.0%	24.7%	51.7%	0.2%
Ohio	19.5%	45.0%	64.5%	22.1%	13.3%	35.4%	0.2%
 GOP	24.8%	46.5%	71.3%	21.6%	6.7%	28.3%	0.4%
 Dem.	13.8%	41.7%	55.5%	22.5%	22.1%	44.6%	0.0%
Virginia	18.8%	35.5%	54.3%	21.7%	23.3%	45.0%	0.7%
 GOP	33.8%	40.9%	74.7%	13.0%	11.6%	24.6%	0.6%
 Dem.	7.9%	31.3%	39.2%	28.5%	31.3%	59.8%	1.0%
California	17.9%	41.4%	59.3%	22.1%	18.4%	40.5%	0.2%
 GOP	33.4%	46.2%	79.6%	14.2%	6.2%	20.4%	0.0%
 Dem.	10.8%	39.1%	49.9%	24.2%	25.5%	49.7%	0.4%

Maryland	16.9%	35.3%	52.2%	27.5%	19.6%	47.1%	0.7%
GOP	23.6%	46.3%	69.9%	19.6%	10.2%	29.8%	0.3%
Dem.	13.7%	28.3%	42.0%	32.4%	24.5%	56.9%	1.1%
New York	15.0%	40.8%	55.8%	26.2%	17.5%	43.7%	0.5%
GOP	24.3%	47.8%	72.1%	18.8%	6.9%	25.7%	2.2%
Dem.	6.5%	39.6%	46.1%	29.9%	23.9%	53.8%	0.0%

Q35. So, now, do you recommend that the minimum wage should:

1. Be adjusted each year according to the rate of inflation
2. Only be adjusted by an act of Congress

	Be adjusted each year according to inflation	Only be adjusted by an act of Congress	Refused/ Don't know
National	63.0%	35.3%	1.7%
GOP	45.9%	51.7%	2.5%
Dem.	78.2%	20.9%	0.9%
Indep.	64.1%	33.7%	2.2%
Texas	64.4%	34.6%	1.0%
GOP	48.5%	51.0%	0.5%
Dem.	77.8%	20.9%	1.3%
North Carolina	66.3%	32.7%	1.0%
GOP	50.6%	48.1%	1.3%
Dem.	80.4%	19.6%	0.0%
Florida	64.3%	34.2%	1.5%
GOP	50.3%	47.7%	2.0%
Dem.	75.5%	22.8%	1.6%
Ohio	66.7%	31.9%	1.3%
GOP	50.1%	47.7%	2.2%
Dem.	83.1%	16.2%	0.7%
Virginia	63.3%	35.7%	1.1%
GOP	43.7%	55.2%	1.1%
Dem.	80.8%	19.0%	0.3%
California	67.9%	30.4%	1.6%
GOP	45.5%	51.1%	3.5%
Dem.	81.5%	17.8%	0.7%

Maryland	70.4%	29.1%	0.5%
GOP	47.8%	52.2%	0.0%
Dem.	81.7%	17.7%	0.6%
New York	70.0%	29.4%	0.7%
GOP	60.1%	37.1%	2.8%
Dem.	79.7%	20.3%	0.0%

Another problem for the working poor is that they are not always fully paid for the hours they have worked. Research shows that in some industries—especially farming, construction, and restaurants--this is a problem that significantly reduces the pay of low-income workers.

When a worker is not paid, there is a system in place to deal with it. He or she can make a complaint to the local office of the Labor Department. However, this system is not entirely effective, as there are still many cases of unpaid wages, largely because:

- The process for getting unpaid wages is slow and cumbersome.
- Many workers do not even use it, often out of fear that if they do they will get fired.

A proposal in Congress would put greater pressure on companies to pay wages in full, by making it more costly if they are found responsible for unpaid wages while under a government contract.

Currently, if an employer is found guilty of not paying wages under a government contract, the company has to pay those wages plus some interest, but can still make bids to get future government contracts.

The proposal is that if such a company is found guilty, they will also lose the right to make bids to get future government contracts.

Here is an argument in favor of the proposal

Q36. When companies do not pay wages earned—what is called “wage theft”—it most often hurts people who are already living on the edge and are not in a position to fight back. The employer who cheats their workers is also not paying their fair share of taxes. Right now, if they get caught all they have to do is pay those wages plus some interest, so they may think they might as well try to get away with it. We need to raise the costs higher to counter this problem, which has been shown to be widespread and growing.

Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing
1	2	3	4

	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Total convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing	Total unconvincing	Refused / Don't know
National	50.3%	36.9%	87.2%	8.2%	3.4%	11.6%	1.3%
GOP	42.7%	42.4%	85.1%	9.6%	4.3%	13.9%	1.0%
Dem.	60.1%	30.3%	90.4%	6.4%	2.1%	8.5%	1.1%
Indep.	45.7%	39.1%	84.8%	8.9%	4.2%	13.1%	2.2%
Texas	59.9%	32.7%	92.6%	4.9%	2.4%	7.3%	0.0%
GOP	44.5%	47.2%	91.7%	4.4%	3.8%	8.2%	0.0%

Dem.	75.2%	20.1%	95.3%	4.7%	0.0%	4.7%	0.0%
North Carolina	59.4%	29.0%	88.4%	3.4%	7.4%	10.8%	0.8%
GOP	35.9%	52.4%	88.3%	7.7%	3.9%	11.6%	0.0%
Dem.	73.8%	17.3%	91.1%	1.6%	7.3%	8.9%	0.0%
Florida	49.1%	41.0%	90.1%	9.6%	0.2%	9.8%	0.0%
GOP	48.1%	46.2%	94.3%	4.9%	0.7%	5.6%	0.0%
Dem.	60.9%	29.2%	90.1%	9.9%	0.0%	9.9%	0.0%
Ohio	45.0%	48.0%	93.0%	6.3%	0.7%	7.0%	0.0%
GOP	31.8%	57.4%	89.2%	9.8%	1.0%	10.8%	0.0%
Dem.	64.4%	32.0%	96.4%	3.5%	0.0%	3.5%	0.0%
Virginia	52.2%	39.8%	92.0%	4.4%	1.7%	6.1%	2.0%
GOP	48.8%	46.6%	95.4%	1.6%	3.0%	4.6%	0.0%
Dem.	56.7%	36.4%	93.1%	2.9%	0.0%	2.9%	4.1%
California	46.3%	41.6%	87.9%	7.7%	3.8%	11.5%	0.6%
GOP	37.8%	49.0%	86.8%	9.1%	2.8%	11.9%	1.3%
Dem.	47.7%	43.1%	90.8%	6.3%	2.2%	8.5%	0.8%
Maryland	63.7%	29.5%	93.2%	4.8%	2.1%	6.9%	0.0%
GOP	53.8%	42.5%	96.3%	3.7%	0.0%	3.7%	0.0%
Dem.	73.9%	20.8%	94.7%	4.1%	1.2%	5.3%	0.0%
New York	41.8%	39.7%	81.5%	8.2%	10.3%	18.5%	0.0%
GOP	53.1%	35.9%	89.0%	1.0%	9.9%	10.9%	0.0%
Dem.	45.8%	42.4%	88.2%	11.7%	0.0%	11.7%	0.0%

Here is an argument against the proposal

Q37. There is already in place an orderly means for people who don't get paid to file a complaint, get a hearing, and if they are right, to get paid with interest. If workers fail to file complaints, that's not the company's fault. If the company's management thinks they are in the right, they should be able to make their case without fear of losing their ability to bid on government contracts. This proposal puts pressure on companies to give in to the workers' demands when the company might in fact be right.

Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing
1	2	3	4

	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Total convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing	Total unconvincing	Refused / Don't know
National	7.7%	29.4%	37.1%	29.6%	31.9%	61.5%	1.5%
GOP	9.2%	36.0%	45.2%	31.5%	22.5%	54.0%	0.8%

Dem.	6.4%	21.9%	28.3%	28.9%	41.8%	70.7%	1.1%
Indep.	7.4%	31.7%	39.1%	27.0%	30.5%	57.5%	3.4%
Texas	5.3%	38.2%	43.5%	23.5%	33.0%	56.5%	0.0%
GOP	10.2%	47.1%	57.3%	21.9%	20.9%	42.8%	0.0%
Dem.	3.0%	21.8%	24.8%	27.5%	47.7%	75.2%	0.0%
North Carolina	11.8%	28.3%	40.1%	20.7%	38.2%	58.9%	1.0%
GOP	13.3%	37.1%	50.4%	26.5%	23.1%	49.6%	0.0%
Dem.	8.8%	19.9%	28.7%	19.0%	49.8%	68.8%	2.6%
Florida	5.5%	35.6%	41.1%	31.9%	25.3%	57.2%	1.7%
GOP	6.4%	29.4%	35.8%	38.2%	25.9%	64.1%	0.0%
Dem.	4.1%	43.5%	47.6%	25.2%	27.2%	52.4%	0.0%
Ohio	5.6%	35.4%	41.0%	35.9%	21.8%	57.7%	1.3%
GOP	2.8%	56.9%	59.7%	21.8%	18.5%	40.3%	0.0%
Dem.	8.8%	11.1%	19.9%	49.3%	27.3%	76.6%	3.5%
Virginia	6.3%	31.1%	37.4%	29.1%	32.8%	61.9%	0.6%
GOP	0.0%	35.0%	35.0%	25.3%	39.7%	65.0%	0.0%
Dem.	9.2%	36.2%	45.4%	27.5%	27.1%	54.6%	0.0%
California	9.3%	28.1%	37.4%	34.5%	26.1%	60.6%	2.1%
GOP	11.9%	38.1%	50.0%	31.4%	17.3%	48.7%	1.3%
Dem.	1.1%	33.5%	34.6%	33.4%	30.2%	63.6%	1.7%
Maryland	6.5%	26.4%	32.9%	31.0%	36.0%	67.0%	0.0%
GOP	8.6%	39.4%	48.0%	33.6%	18.3%	51.9%	0.0%
Dem.	4.7%	20.7%	25.4%	30.5%	44.2%	74.7%	0.0%
New York	7.8%	36.3%	44.1%	31.6%	24.3%	55.9%	0.0%
GOP	9.9%	54.0%	63.9%	16.7%	19.4%	36.1%	0.0%
Dem.	7.1%	29.9%	37.0%	32.3%	30.7%	63.0%	0.0%

Q38. Do you favor or oppose a proposal that if a company under a government contract is found guilty of not paying wages, the company will lose the right to bid on government contracts?

Favor	Oppose
1	2

	Favor	Oppose	Refused/ Don't know
National	89.5%	9.6%	0.9%
GOP	88.2%	11.1%	0.8%

Dem.	92.3%	6.5%	1.2%
Indep.	86.4%	13.0%	0.6%

Texas	92.2%	7.8%	0.0%
GOP	88.7%	11.3%	0.0%
Dem.	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%

North Carolina	89.2%	10.1%	0.7%
GOP	77.2%	22.8%	0.0%
Dem.	96.0%	4.0%	0.0%

Florida	84.8%	14.3%	0.8%
GOP	94.3%	4.9%	0.8%
Dem.	85.1%	13.4%	1.5%

Ohio	94.5%	5.3%	0.2%
GOP	92.5%	7.5%	0.0%
Dem.	94.1%	5.9%	0.0%

Virginia	90.4%	8.5%	1.1%
GOP	93.2%	3.8%	3.0%
Dem.	91.3%	8.7%	0.0%

California	86.3%	13.1%	0.6%
GOP	88.0%	10.7%	1.3%
Dem.	90.1%	9.1%	0.8%

Maryland	88.7%	11.3%	0.0%
GOP	95.0%	5.0%	0.0%
Dem.	93.0%	7.0%	0.0%

New York	92.6%	6.8%	0.5%
GOP	87.4%	10.4%	2.2%
Dem.	95.5%	4.5%	0.0%

PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION

Another major proposal for helping families in poverty is to expand access to early childhood education. This has two benefits for families in poverty:

- It provides education to poor children.
- It provides childcare for working parents.

Currently, only a small number of 4-year-old children in low-income families attend **pre-kindergarten programs**. The federal government could provide funds to help states build or expand programs, so that more 4-year-old children from low-income families have access to such programs.

Currently, only a small number of children age 3 and under in low-income families have access to the **Early Head Start program**, which helps some states provide care and early education to infants and toddlers from low-income households.

The proposal for the federal government to help states build, or expand and upgrade, their early childhood education programs would:

- Make **pre-kindergarten** available to **all** 4-year-olds in low-income families. To qualify, for example, a family of three (a single parent and two children) would make less than \$37,540 per year.
- Expand the availability of **Early Head Start** programs to more children aged three and under from low-income families. To qualify, for example, a family of three (a single parent and two children) would make less than \$18,770 per year.

This proposal would cost the federal government about \$8 billion per year.

Surrounding this proposal is a controversy about the long-term effectiveness of such pre-school programs for poor children. Research indicates that poor children who go through such programs do better when they enter school, but this advantage fades after the first one to two years. However, there is also some evidence, though not as strong, that in high school some of these advantages reappear. Also, proponents of the proposal emphasize that with more research improvements can be made to increase long-term effectiveness.

Here is an argument in favor of expanding access to early childhood education

Q39. Research shows that poor children get less mental stimulation than other children, and this contributes to deficits in their cognitive development and ultimately poor performance in school. Thus, to help children out of poverty, it is essential to help them get preschool education. While the benefits may not always stick, this is only more reason to improve quality, not a reason to give up. Furthermore, pre-school education allows low-income parents to work and help pull the family out of poverty.

Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing
1	2	3	4

	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Total convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing	Total unconvincing	Refused / Don't know
National	41.7%	39.3%	81.0%	10.8%	7.4%	18.2%	0.7%
 GOP	24.9%	46.0%	70.9%	16.3%	11.8%	28.1%	0.9%
 Dem.	59.5%	32.0%	91.5%	5.7%	2.1%	7.8%	0.6%
 Indep.	36.0%	42.0%	78.0%	11.0%	10.2%	21.2%	0.7%
Texas	39.4%	38.5%	77.9%	12.9%	8.1%	21.0%	1.2%
 GOP	22.7%	49.1%	71.8%	18.1%	9.5%	27.6%	0.6%
 Dem.	60.9%	25.8%	86.7%	6.4%	4.5%	10.9%	2.4%
North Carolina	46.5%	35.6%	82.1%	8.9%	8.4%	17.3%	0.6%

GOP	28.9%	41.5%	70.4%	17.3%	11.0%	28.3%	1.2%
Dem.	64.7%	31.1%	95.8%	2.3%	1.3%	3.6%	0.5%
Florida	40.3%	42.2%	82.5%	7.7%	9.4%	17.1%	0.4%
GOP	26.9%	48.2%	75.1%	15.6%	8.6%	24.2%	0.7%
Dem.	62.0%	34.4%	96.4%	1.9%	1.3%	3.2%	0.4%
Ohio	36.5%	43.4%	79.9%	13.1%	7.0%	20.1%	0.0%
GOP	20.6%	49.2%	69.8%	17.6%	12.7%	30.3%	0.0%
Dem.	56.0%	35.5%	91.5%	5.9%	2.6%	8.5%	0.0%
Virginia	44.6%	36.1%	80.7%	11.1%	7.8%	18.9%	0.4%
GOP	28.4%	38.1%	66.5%	18.2%	15.1%	33.3%	0.3%
Dem.	57.9%	34.7%	92.6%	6.5%	0.7%	7.2%	0.2%
California	43.5%	39.2%	82.7%	10.3%	6.3%	16.6%	0.7%
GOP	26.6%	44.4%	71.0%	14.0%	13.1%	27.1%	1.9%
Dem.	58.1%	33.1%	91.2%	6.4%	2.3%	8.7%	0.1%
Maryland	47.8%	33.8%	81.6%	11.8%	6.2%	18.0%	0.5%
GOP	20.5%	47.4%	67.9%	20.9%	11.1%	32.0%	0.0%
Dem.	64.7%	26.7%	91.4%	5.3%	2.9%	8.2%	0.4%
New York	44.8%	40.2%	85.0%	9.0%	5.7%	14.7%	0.3%
GOP	27.7%	52.7%	80.4%	13.2%	5.2%	18.4%	1.1%
Dem.	58.0%	36.7%	94.7%	3.7%	1.5%	5.2%	0.0%

Here is an argument against expanding access to early childhood education

Q40. We all agree that education is an important American value. But, we have to face what the research shows: these quite expensive programs don't work. Two years into elementary school, the advantages for children who went through the programs disappear. We need proven programs before we can authorize this kind of major investment. As for childcare, people are already finding ways to take care of their children, like having family members cover for them or pooling responsibilities with friends and neighbors.

Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing
1	2	3	4

	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Total convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing	Total unconvincing	Refused / Don't know
National	16.3%	33.1%	49.4%	26.0%	23.8%	49.8%	0.9%
GOP	25.0%	42.1%	67.1%	21.1%	10.9%	32.0%	0.9%
Dem.	8.6%	24.8%	33.4%	29.7%	35.9%	65.6%	0.9%
Indep.	15.4%	33.1%	48.5%	27.7%	23.1%	50.8%	0.6%

Texas	16.7%	32.8%	49.5%	26.0%	23.3%	49.3%	1.2%
GOP	24.6%	43.4%	68.0%	20.6%	11.4%	32.0%	0.0%
Dem.	11.0%	20.5%	31.5%	31.5%	34.5%	66.0%	2.4%
North Carolina	14.8%	30.5%	45.3%	22.6%	31.6%	54.2%	0.5%
GOP	27.6%	38.0%	65.6%	18.4%	16.0%	34.4%	0.0%
Dem.	7.9%	26.9%	34.8%	25.0%	39.5%	64.5%	0.7%
Florida	18.8%	34.7%	53.5%	20.0%	26.2%	46.2%	0.3%
GOP	26.8%	38.9%	65.7%	23.2%	10.8%	34.0%	0.4%
Dem.	11.0%	30.0%	41.0%	19.7%	38.9%	58.6%	0.4%
Ohio	16.0%	38.7%	54.7%	26.0%	19.3%	45.3%	0.0%
GOP	24.9%	45.8%	70.7%	21.1%	8.3%	29.4%	0.0%
Dem.	9.2%	29.3%	38.5%	28.0%	33.5%	61.5%	0.0%
Virginia	15.8%	29.3%	45.1%	29.9%	24.1%	54.0%	0.8%
GOP	26.9%	35.6%	62.5%	24.3%	12.3%	36.6%	0.9%
Dem.	9.4%	24.0%	33.4%	33.6%	33.0%	66.6%	0.0%
California	18.1%	29.1%	47.2%	26.1%	25.8%	51.9%	0.9%
GOP	30.1%	33.5%	63.6%	22.9%	10.8%	33.7%	2.7%
Dem.	9.6%	22.9%	32.5%	29.8%	37.7%	67.5%	0.0%
Maryland	16.8%	25.4%	42.2%	24.3%	32.5%	56.8%	1.1%
GOP	30.8%	31.5%	62.3%	18.0%	17.7%	35.7%	2.0%
Dem.	12.4%	16.7%	29.1%	25.2%	45.5%	70.7%	0.3%
New York	14.9%	28.7%	43.6%	28.8%	27.5%	56.3%	0.1%
GOP	17.6%	43.0%	60.6%	27.3%	11.8%	39.1%	0.3%
Dem.	5.2%	26.4%	31.6%	28.3%	40.1%	68.4%	0.0%

Q41. Do you favor or oppose the proposal that would:

- Make **pre-kindergarten** available to all 4-year-olds in low-income families and
- Expand the availability of **Early Head Start programs**, which provide care and early education from birth until the age of 3 for infants and toddlers from low income households.

Favor	Oppose
1	2

	Favor	Oppose	Refused/ Don't know
National	71.9%	27.4%	0.7%
GOP	51.8%	47.4%	0.8%

Dem.	89.8%	9.5%	0.7%
Indep.	73.0%	26.6%	0.4%

Texas	69.3%	29.7%	0.9%
GOP	47.1%	52.9%	0.0%
Dem.	87.7%	9.8%	2.4%

North Carolina	73.1%	26.4%	0.4%
GOP	49.5%	50.5%	0.0%
Dem.	91.7%	7.8%	0.5%

Florida	73.7%	25.2%	1.1%
GOP	58.6%	40.8%	0.6%
Dem.	90.6%	7.2%	2.2%

Ohio	67.8%	31.9%	0.4%
GOP	52.1%	47.6%	0.3%
Dem.	85.7%	13.7%	0.6%

Virginia	74.0%	25.3%	0.7%
GOP	50.6%	49.1%	0.4%
Dem.	91.9%	7.4%	0.7%

California	74.2%	25.2%	0.6%
GOP	52.1%	46.6%	1.3%
Dem.	91.5%	8.5%	0.0%

Maryland	74.8%	24.1%	1.1%
GOP	50.5%	49.5%	0.0%
Dem.	87.7%	10.8%	1.5%

New York	78.2%	20.7%	1.1%
GOP	62.6%	35.5%	1.9%
Dem.	91.2%	7.4%	1.3%

JOB CREATION

According to the Census Bureau, about 4 million adults are living under the poverty line, are unemployed or underemployed, and are actively seeking work.

One possibility is for the federal government to invest funds to create jobs that would employ people who have been unemployed for a period. This would include many who live under or close to the poverty line.

Such jobs can be created by directing extra funds to a federal, state, or local program so that it can hire additional employees. For example, a Congressional bill proposes funding to:

- Hire construction and maintenance workers to repair and renovate aging high school and elementary school buildings across the country.
- Hire construction, maintenance and unskilled workers for community projects such as reclaiming land affected by pollution, improving energy efficiency, or renovating older public buildings.
- Hire young people for U.S. Forest Service conservation projects to preserve public lands.
- Hire childcare workers and early education teachers to expand Head Start and similar state-run programs.

Here is an argument in favor of the federal government investing in creating jobs

Q42. As long as unemployed people are able and willing to work, the government should invest in creating jobs. A job is always the best poverty program. The work they do contributes to society and it reduces the need for the government to provide benefits. It keeps people in the habit of working, maintains and improves their skills, and sustains their sense of self-worth. Furthermore, if the government is going to have work requirements for its poverty programs, then it has to make sure jobs are available.

Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing
1	2	3	4

	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Total convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing	Total unconvincing	Refused / Don't know
National	48.4%	36.9%	85.3%	8.4%	5.5%	13.9%	0.8%
GOP	37.0%	40.1%	77.1%	12.8%	9.3%	22.1%	0.9%
Dem.	61.0%	32.2%	93.2%	4.5%	1.5%	6.0%	0.7%
Indep.	43.4%	41.3%	84.7%	8.1%	6.6%	14.7%	0.6%
Texas	48.7%	34.6%	83.3%	10.8%	5.1%	15.9%	0.8%
GOP	37.3%	37.1%	74.4%	18.4%	6.6%	25.0%	0.6%
Dem.	64.9%	27.4%	92.3%	3.9%	2.3%	6.2%	1.5%
North Carolina	55.0%	31.3%	86.3%	8.8%	4.9%	13.7%	0.0%
GOP	36.6%	42.0%	78.6%	16.0%	5.4%	21.4%	0.0%
Dem.	68.9%	26.8%	95.7%	4.4%	0.0%	4.4%	0.0%
Florida	51.5%	35.9%	87.4%	7.5%	4.6%	12.1%	0.5%
GOP	40.0%	39.1%	79.1%	11.4%	8.5%	19.9%	1.1%
Dem.	62.1%	34.2%	96.3%	3.1%	0.2%	3.3%	0.4%
Ohio	44.0%	44.2%	88.2%	6.5%	5.3%	11.8%	0.0%
GOP	33.3%	47.3%	80.6%	9.3%	10.1%	19.4%	0.0%
Dem.	59.3%	35.5%	94.8%	4.5%	0.7%	5.2%	0.0%
Virginia	50.7%	33.0%	83.7%	7.6%	7.3%	14.9%	1.4%
GOP	35.5%	35.5%	71.0%	11.7%	13.6%	25.3%	3.7%
Dem.	61.6%	31.7%	93.3%	4.9%	1.5%	6.4%	0.3%

California	55.3%	29.3%	84.6%	9.1%	5.1%	14.2%	1.2%
GOP	42.3%	33.8%	76.1%	13.8%	8.2%	22.0%	1.8%
Dem.	63.9%	28.0%	91.9%	4.7%	3.0%	7.7%	0.3%
Maryland	50.7%	35.6%	86.3%	10.5%	3.1%	13.6%	0.2%
GOP	35.0%	39.5%	74.5%	20.2%	5.3%	25.5%	0.0%
Dem.	63.8%	28.2%	92.0%	5.3%	2.3%	7.6%	0.4%
New York	51.0%	35.8%	86.8%	5.5%	7.7%	13.2%	0.0%
GOP	47.3%	37.9%	85.2%	6.1%	8.7%	14.8%	0.0%
Dem.	57.4%	35.7%	93.1%	4.5%	2.3%	6.8%	0.0%

Here is an argument against the federal government investing in creating jobs

Q43. The government should not be in the business of trying to create jobs. This should be left to the private market economy, which is much more efficient at creating jobs--ones that provide goods and services that are really needed. When the government tries to create jobs, interest groups form that want to keep the jobs going even if they are not really needed anymore. This drains resources and makes people dependent on the government.

Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing
1	2	3	4

	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Total convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing	Total unconvincing	Refused / Don't know
National	17.8%	28.5%	46.3%	28.1%	24.9%	53.0%	0.7%
GOP	28.7%	34.4%	63.1%	23.2%	13.2%	36.4%	0.4%
Dem.	8.4%	22.5%	30.9%	31.8%	36.5%	68.3%	0.7%
Indep.	16.4%	29.7%	46.1%	29.7%	23.1%	52.8%	1.0%
Texas	18.6%	29.6%	48.2%	27.2%	24.1%	51.3%	0.6%
GOP	28.6%	35.2%	63.8%	22.5%	13.7%	36.2%	0.0%
Dem.	10.2%	24.5%	34.7%	31.3%	32.8%	64.1%	1.3%
North Carolina	18.1%	24.0%	42.1%	29.8%	27.9%	57.7%	0.2%
GOP	33.6%	24.9%	58.5%	29.1%	12.4%	41.5%	0.0%
Dem.	7.0%	22.4%	29.4%	32.6%	37.5%	70.1%	0.5%
Florida	21.9%	29.3%	51.2%	21.9%	25.4%	47.3%	1.4%
GOP	33.6%	36.6%	70.2%	16.4%	13.0%	29.4%	0.4%
Dem.	11.9%	27.5%	39.4%	23.8%	34.8%	58.6%	2.1%
Ohio	19.6%	29.2%	48.8%	28.7%	21.9%	50.6%	0.5%
GOP	32.1%	34.6%	66.7%	20.8%	12.5%	33.3%	0.0%
Dem.	7.1%	21.7%	28.8%	37.6%	32.4%	70.0%	1.2%

Virginia	16.4%	30.0%	46.4%	28.4%	25.1%	53.5%	0.1%
GOP	30.6%	35.3%	65.9%	21.4%	12.7%	34.1%	0.0%
Dem.	6.5%	24.0%	30.5%	32.5%	37.0%	69.5%	0.0%
California	13.2%	30.0%	43.2%	27.9%	28.0%	55.9%	1.0%
GOP	23.3%	35.6%	58.9%	26.6%	13.8%	40.4%	0.6%
Dem.	5.9%	26.1%	32.0%	29.8%	38.0%	67.8%	0.1%
Maryland	13.8%	30.5%	44.3%	24.0%	30.7%	54.7%	0.9%
GOP	24.2%	43.3%	67.5%	21.3%	9.6%	30.9%	1.5%
Dem.	9.3%	21.4%	30.7%	24.2%	44.1%	68.3%	1.0%
New York	11.9%	26.7%	38.6%	31.6%	29.4%	61.0%	0.4%
GOP	17.4%	36.2%	53.6%	32.5%	13.3%	45.8%	0.5%
Dem.	7.2%	19.1%	26.3%	35.5%	38.2%	73.7%	0.0%

Here is an argument in favor of creating jobs in difficult times

Q44. In general, job creation should be left to the market economy. But, the market does not necessarily meet national needs, and there are times when the market breaks down and there is a surge in unemployment, with many people falling into poverty. Then the government needs to step in and support programs--especially at the state and local level--to hire people who have been unemployed for a period. This not only helps them, but also allows them to buy goods and services, which creates jobs in the private sector.

Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing
1	2	3	4

	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Total convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing	Total unconvincing	Refused / Don't know
National	30.1%	46.9%	77.0%	15.0%	7.3%	22.3%	0.7%
GOP	21.4%	50.4%	71.8%	18.5%	9.4%	27.9%	0.4%
Dem.	39.8%	43.8%	83.6%	10.8%	4.5%	15.3%	1.0%
Indep.	25.9%	46.7%	72.6%	17.1%	9.4%	26.5%	0.8%
Texas	27.1%	45.4%	72.5%	18.0%	9.1%	27.1%	0.5%
GOP	19.2%	48.3%	67.5%	22.8%	9.7%	32.5%	0.0%
Dem.	41.8%	39.6%	81.4%	9.9%	7.5%	17.4%	1.3%
North Carolina	33.1%	41.9%	75.0%	16.3%	8.0%	24.3%	0.8%
GOP	23.6%	50.2%	73.8%	20.2%	5.2%	25.4%	0.8%
Dem.	39.3%	38.5%	77.8%	13.7%	7.2%	20.9%	1.3%
Florida	31.2%	47.3%	78.5%	14.7%	6.2%	20.9%	0.5%
GOP	21.2%	50.8%	72.0%	19.4%	8.0%	27.4%	0.6%

Dem.	42.1%	43.0%	85.1%	11.2%	2.8%	14.0%	0.8%
Ohio	29.0%	49.4%	78.4%	13.2%	7.3%	20.5%	1.1%
GOP	19.6%	55.7%	75.3%	13.8%	11.0%	24.8%	0.0%
Dem.	41.2%	42.5%	83.7%	9.8%	3.7%	13.5%	2.7%
Virginia	34.2%	45.9%	80.1%	12.5%	7.2%	19.7%	0.2%
GOP	20.6%	48.6%	69.2%	17.2%	13.2%	30.4%	0.4%
Dem.	42.1%	46.0%	88.1%	8.3%	3.5%	11.8%	0.0%
California	31.9%	44.8%	76.7%	15.8%	6.5%	22.3%	1.1%
GOP	23.6%	48.6%	72.2%	17.3%	10.2%	27.5%	0.4%
Dem.	38.3%	43.8%	82.1%	11.7%	5.3%	17.0%	0.9%
Maryland	32.1%	48.3%	80.4%	14.7%	3.7%	18.4%	1.3%
GOP	15.8%	57.6%	73.4%	20.4%	6.2%	26.6%	0.0%
Dem.	43.4%	41.8%	85.2%	9.7%	2.7%	12.4%	2.3%
New York	32.5%	47.0%	79.5%	12.3%	6.8%	19.1%	1.5%
GOP	23.4%	57.6%	81.0%	12.3%	5.7%	18.0%	1.0%
Dem.	38.4%	44.7%	83.1%	12.3%	3.2%	15.5%	1.4%

Here is an argument against creating jobs in difficult times

Q45. The idea of the government trying to create jobs in difficult times is well-intentioned, but in practice, it doesn't really work out. The government is slow to authorize money for these programs. The locations where the projects take place are often not where the need is greatest. By the time they start, the economy is already turning around. And after the programs are implanted, it is hard to end them. All this creates distortions in the natural processes of the economy.

Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing
1	2	3	4

	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Total convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing	Total unconvincing	Refused / Don't know
National	18.1%	37.4%	55.5%	28.1%	15.5%	43.6%	1.0%
GOP	27.1%	40.8%	67.9%	23.4%	7.7%	31.1%	1.0%
Dem.	10.4%	32.3%	42.7%	33.2%	23.3%	56.5%	0.8%
Indep.	16.9%	41.8%	58.7%	26.3%	13.8%	40.1%	1.3%
Texas	19.9%	35.5%	55.4%	24.4%	18.7%	43.1%	1.5%
GOP	29.8%	38.1%	67.9%	21.8%	9.7%	31.5%	0.7%
Dem.	12.9%	29.7%	42.6%	24.8%	30.9%	55.7%	1.8%
North Carolina	14.5%	36.8%	51.3%	31.0%	17.2%	48.2%	0.5%

GOP	23.7%	41.3%	65.0%	23.7%	9.9%	33.6%	1.3%
Dem.	7.5%	31.6%	39.1%	39.7%	21.3%	61.0%	0.0%
Florida	19.0%	39.7%	58.7%	25.4%	15.4%	40.8%	0.4%
GOP	27.6%	41.3%	68.9%	22.7%	8.0%	30.7%	0.4%
Dem.	10.9%	41.3%	52.2%	25.6%	21.5%	47.1%	0.7%
Ohio	18.9%	43.5%	62.4%	25.2%	12.4%	37.6%	0.0%
GOP	29.2%	41.1%	70.3%	20.7%	9.1%	29.8%	0.0%
Dem.	9.3%	44.9%	54.2%	28.7%	17.1%	45.8%	0.0%
Virginia	17.2%	39.5%	56.7%	28.8%	14.2%	43.0%	0.4%
GOP	31.9%	37.2%	69.1%	20.4%	9.7%	30.1%	0.8%
Dem.	7.5%	39.7%	47.2%	33.8%	19.1%	52.9%	0.0%
California	14.8%	37.9%	52.7%	29.2%	17.0%	46.2%	1.2%
GOP	26.4%	45.8%	72.2%	21.0%	4.7%	25.7%	2.1%
Dem.	8.1%	31.3%	39.4%	34.5%	25.9%	60.4%	0.1%
Maryland	16.1%	32.6%	48.7%	31.3%	19.2%	50.5%	0.9%
GOP	25.9%	38.8%	64.7%	29.9%	3.1%	33.0%	2.3%
Dem.	10.9%	26.2%	37.1%	35.1%	27.2%	62.3%	0.6%
New York	11.9%	36.7%	48.6%	33.7%	16.4%	50.1%	1.2%
GOP	20.8%	40.9%	61.7%	33.1%	4.9%	38.0%	0.3%
Dem.	6.8%	33.5%	40.3%	38.3%	21.1%	59.4%	0.2%

On the next screens are four specific proposals, with costs and the number of jobs they would likely produce.

For all these proposals, people who have been unemployed for a period--and are qualified to do the work--would be first to be hired.

Proposal 1: The federal government would offer federal grants to states for repairing and renovating elementary and high school buildings. This would require \$50 billion a year for two years, and create 650,000 construction and maintenance jobs.

Q46. Do you:

- 1 Favor this program in our current economic conditions
- 2 Favor having this program ready to go if economic conditions get worse, but not starting it now
- 3 Oppose this proposal

	Favor this program in our current economic conditions	Favor having this program ready to go if economic conditions get worse, but not starting now	Oppose this proposal	Refused/ Don't know
National	48.3%	32.7%	17.5%	1.6%

GOP	34.9%	34.1%	29.1%	1.9%
Dem.	61.4%	31.5%	6.2%	1.0%
Indep.	46.3%	32.3%	19.2%	2.2%
Texas	50.6%	30.8%	17.4%	1.3%
GOP	39.5%	32.5%	28.0%	0.0%
Dem.	60.1%	32.1%	5.3%	2.4%
North Carolina	51.1%	29.7%	17.3%	1.8%
GOP	42.2%	28.7%	28.2%	0.9%
Dem.	56.8%	33.8%	7.7%	1.6%
Florida	49.2%	31.5%	17.0%	2.2%
GOP	32.7%	35.5%	27.8%	3.9%
Dem.	58.5%	35.6%	4.9%	1.1%
Ohio	43.3%	35.2%	19.4%	2.2%
GOP	33.0%	39.1%	26.5%	1.5%
Dem.	58.0%	29.6%	10.5%	1.9%
Virginia	51.4%	27.0%	19.5%	2.1%
GOP	34.9%	27.6%	36.3%	1.2%
Dem.	62.7%	27.0%	7.6%	2.7%
California	50.0%	34.1%	15.3%	0.6%
GOP	33.4%	35.5%	30.4%	0.6%
Dem.	66.6%	25.7%	6.7%	1.0%
Maryland	51.7%	34.4%	12.1%	1.8%
GOP	28.3%	49.8%	21.9%	0.0%
Dem.	65.6%	26.1%	6.4%	1.9%
New York	52.0%	32.5%	13.2%	2.3%
GOP	41.2%	32.2%	24.4%	2.2%
Dem.	60.1%	34.7%	5.2%	0.0%

Proposal 2: The federal government would offer grants to states and local governments for community projects such as reclaiming land affected by pollution, improving energy efficiency in a neighborhood, or renovating older public buildings. This would require \$30 billion a year for two years and create 750,000 new jobs in construction and unskilled labor.

Q47. Do you:

- 1 Favor this program in our current economic conditions
- 2 Favor having this program ready to go if economic conditions get worse, but not starting it now

3 Oppose this proposal

	Favor this program in our current economic conditions	Favor having this program ready to go if economic conditions get worse, but not starting now	Oppose this proposal	Refused/ Don't know
National	49.4%	30.9%	18.6%	1.1%
GOP	35.0%	34.0%	30.0%	1.0%
Dem.	63.3%	28.4%	7.4%	0.9%
Indep.	48.0%	30.0%	20.3%	1.7%
Texas	47.0%	31.9%	19.6%	1.5%
GOP	37.3%	34.6%	27.6%	0.5%
Dem.	57.1%	32.8%	7.7%	2.4%
North Carolina	52.5%	26.2%	20.7%	0.6%
GOP	42.3%	24.4%	33.3%	0.0%
Dem.	60.4%	28.1%	9.9%	1.6%
Florida	48.5%	31.7%	19.1%	0.7%
GOP	34.2%	34.5%	29.8%	1.5%
Dem.	56.7%	34.3%	8.6%	0.4%
Ohio	46.3%	33.9%	18.9%	0.9%
GOP	36.1%	33.6%	29.2%	1.2%
Dem.	62.0%	30.2%	7.7%	0.1%
Virginia	51.3%	25.8%	22.7%	0.2%
GOP	31.5%	26.2%	41.7%	0.6%
Dem.	65.3%	24.8%	9.9%	0.0%
California	48.0%	33.4%	17.9%	0.7%
GOP	33.1%	31.8%	34.2%	0.9%
Dem.	59.1%	32.7%	7.9%	0.3%
Maryland	54.6%	31.0%	13.7%	0.7%
GOP	31.3%	40.1%	28.6%	0.0%
Dem.	66.6%	27.7%	5.6%	0.2%
New York	55.4%	29.3%	14.2%	1.1%
GOP	49.2%	33.4%	15.4%	2.0%
Dem.	62.9%	31.0%	5.6%	0.4%

Proposal 3: The U.S. Forest Service runs many conservation projects to help preserve public lands that employ youths of ages 16 to 25, for a few months—up to eight months. Increasing the number of these projects would require \$250 million a year for two years in new funding and create 100,000 jobs preserving public lands.

Q48. Do you:

1 Favor this program in our current economic conditions

2 Favor having this program ready to go if economic conditions get worse, but not starting it now

3 Oppose this proposal

	Favor this program in our current economic conditions	Favor having this program ready to go if economic conditions get worse, but not starting now	Oppose this proposal	Refused/ Don't know
National	57.0%	24.5%	17.1%	1.4%
GOP	46.5%	26.7%	25.8%	1.1%
Dem.	66.7%	22.7%	9.1%	1.5%
Indep.	57.0%	24.1%	17.3%	1.6%
Texas	56.6%	23.9%	18.3%	1.2%
GOP	50.4%	25.8%	23.2%	0.6%
Dem.	60.5%	24.1%	13.9%	1.6%
North Carolina	59.5%	24.7%	14.9%	0.9%
GOP	52.0%	22.2%	24.4%	1.3%
Dem.	66.0%	24.1%	8.9%	1.0%
Florida	61.8%	22.4%	14.5%	1.4%
GOP	53.2%	26.6%	19.0%	1.3%
Dem.	69.1%	22.5%	7.1%	1.4%
Ohio	52.8%	25.5%	20.7%	1.0%
GOP	42.9%	24.1%	32.1%	0.9%
Dem.	63.4%	26.3%	9.0%	1.3%
Virginia	57.0%	20.7%	20.9%	1.4%
GOP	42.2%	19.8%	36.1%	1.9%
Dem.	63.5%	24.7%	10.4%	1.4%
California	58.5%	25.4%	14.2%	1.9%
GOP	54.3%	21.3%	23.1%	1.3%
Dem.	65.8%	22.4%	9.7%	2.1%
Maryland	60.8%	25.1%	12.4%	1.7%
GOP	49.3%	30.1%	20.0%	0.5%
Dem.	66.4%	23.7%	8.1%	1.8%
New York	60.9%	26.8%	11.1%	1.2%
GOP	57.9%	19.8%	20.5%	1.8%

Dem.	63.3%	32.5%	2.6%	1.6%
------	-------	-------	------	------

Proposal 4: Lastly, the federal government could hire more child-care workers and early education teachers to expand Head Start and similar state-run programs. This would require \$3 billion a year for two years in new spending and create about 100,000 jobs.

Q49. Do you:

- 1 Favor this program in our current economic conditions
- 2 Favor having this program ready to go if economic conditions get worse, but not starting it now
- 3 Oppose this program

	Favor this program in our current economic conditions	Favor having this program ready to go if economic conditions get worse, but not starting now	Oppose this proposal	Refused/Don't know
National	54.2%	20.7%	24.0%	1.1%
 GOP	36.0%	22.0%	41.0%	1.0%
Dem.	71.6%	19.2%	8.1%	1.0%
Indep.	52.3%	21.5%	24.9%	1.3%
Texas	57.2%	18.3%	23.5%	1.1%
 GOP	39.4%	19.3%	40.9%	0.4%
Dem.	76.4%	14.8%	7.5%	1.3%
North Carolina	57.5%	20.2%	21.4%	0.9%
 GOP	41.8%	17.6%	40.6%	0.0%
Dem.	69.7%	20.1%	8.0%	2.2%
Florida	54.6%	20.6%	23.8%	1.0%
 GOP	36.7%	22.6%	40.3%	0.4%
Dem.	70.9%	20.3%	7.4%	1.3%
Ohio	47.6%	27.3%	24.5%	0.6%
 GOP	32.9%	29.6%	36.4%	1.2%
Dem.	64.4%	25.9%	9.6%	0.1%
Virginia	58.0%	18.2%	22.8%	1.1%
 GOP	35.5%	22.0%	41.9%	0.6%
Dem.	74.8%	16.5%	7.4%	1.3%
California	56.9%	21.2%	21.2%	0.7%
 GOP	35.2%	22.7%	41.6%	0.6%
Dem.	75.3%	15.8%	8.4%	0.6%
Maryland	57.8%	17.0%	23.8%	1.4%

GOP	34.6%	15.5%	49.8%	0.0%
Dem.	70.5%	18.0%	10.6%	0.9%
New York	58.3%	21.7%	19.6%	0.4%
GOP	47.4%	21.2%	29.5%	1.9%
Dem.	66.5%	27.7%	5.9%	0.0%

CHILD POVERTY

Some lawmakers have called for specifically targeting **child** poverty. One proposal before Congress would set the goal of reducing child poverty by half and ultimately eliminating it. A commission that would develop a national plan, working with the National Academy of Sciences to reduce **within 10 years** the number of children living in poverty **by half**. Over the following 10 years the number would be reduced as close to **zero** as possible.

Congress would still have to pass legislation enacting the plan, and the president would still need to sign the legislation into law.

Here is an argument in favor of the government setting the goal of eliminating child poverty

Q50. One in five American children are raised in poverty—much higher than in any other industrialized country. Poverty creates serious difficulties for physical and behavioral development. People raised in poverty are more likely to need social services, end up in the criminal justice system, and be less economically productive. The costs to society are estimated at hundreds of billions of dollars a year. While of course it's important to help the family as a whole, if parents are unresponsive or overwhelmed, we should make sure the children get adequate nutrition and healthcare at these critical stages of their development.

Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing
1	2	3	4

	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Total convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing	Total unconvincing	Refused / Don't know
National	38.7%	43.7%	82.4%	11.2%	5.6%	16.8%	0.9%
GOP	25.3%	49.9%	75.2%	15.2%	8.8%	24.0%	0.7%
Dem.	52.7%	39.9%	92.6%	6.0%	1.1%	7.1%	0.3%
Indep.	34.6%	39.1%	73.7%	14.6%	9.2%	23.8%	2.5%
Texas	37.6%	35.2%	72.8%	19.9%	7.3%	27.2%	0.0%
GOP	26.5%	40.9%	67.4%	24.3%	8.3%	32.6%	0.0%
Dem.	45.4%	39.1%	84.5%	10.5%	5.0%	15.5%	0.0%
North Carolina	37.1%	38.7%	75.8%	8.5%	14.5%	23.0%	1.3%
GOP	20.9%	34.0%	54.9%	21.6%	23.5%	45.1%	0.0%
Dem.	55.9%	41.1%	97.0%	3.0%	0.0%	3.0%	0.0%
Florida	34.2%	40.5%	74.7%	16.3%	8.3%	24.6%	0.7%
GOP	16.8%	53.1%	69.9%	21.4%	8.7%	30.1%	0.0%
Dem.	53.9%	31.4%	85.3%	12.8%	0.0%	12.8%	1.9%

Ohio	35.4%	48.8%	84.2%	8.6%	7.2%	15.8%	0.0%
GOP	23.7%	55.4%	79.1%	7.3%	13.6%	20.9%	0.0%
Dem.	51.5%	39.0%	90.5%	9.4%	0.0%	9.4%	0.0%
Virginia	42.4%	48.7%	91.1%	6.0%	2.4%	8.4%	0.4%
GOP	27.4%	52.7%	80.1%	13.4%	6.5%	19.9%	0.0%
Dem.	51.1%	47.8%	98.9%	1.1%	0.0%	1.1%	0.0%
California	41.0%	41.7%	82.7%	7.9%	8.1%	16.0%	1.3%
GOP	21.4%	57.5%	78.9%	11.8%	9.3%	21.1%	0.0%
Dem.	58.9%	32.3%	91.2%	5.5%	3.3%	8.8%	0.0%
Maryland	38.5%	41.4%	79.9%	13.3%	6.4%	19.7%	0.5%
GOP	22.5%	52.7%	75.2%	15.0%	7.4%	22.4%	2.4%
Dem.	52.2%	44.8%	97.0%	1.5%	1.5%	3.0%	0.0%
New York	47.6%	36.3%	83.9%	10.8%	5.4%	16.2%	0.0%
GOP	20.8%	57.7%	78.5%	13.9%	7.6%	21.5%	0.0%
Dem.	53.8%	36.2%	90.0%	8.1%	1.8%	9.9%	0.0%

Here is an argument against the government setting the goal of eliminating child poverty

Q51. Focusing on children appeals to our emotions, because they seem so vulnerable. But this can be a distraction from dealing with the system they live in day in and day out, which is their family. Going around the parents to get to the children is another example of the state overreaching and undermines the centrality of the family. Nothing can help a child more than to strengthen their family, especially by promoting marriage. Children with two parents in one household—even if those parents have little education—are much less likely to spend time in poverty, both as children and as adults later.

Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing
1	2	3	4

	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Total convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing	Total unconvincing	Refused / Don't know
National	20.9%	35.6%	56.5%	22.6%	20.1%	42.7%	0.7%
GOP	30.9%	43.5%	74.4%	18.1%	6.7%	24.8%	0.7%
Dem.	12.9%	26.7%	39.6%	26.8%	33.2%	60.0%	0.4%
Indep.	18.4%	39.6%	58.0%	22.5%	18.2%	40.7%	1.3%
Texas	29.8%	37.6%	67.4%	17.8%	14.9%	32.7%	0.0%
GOP	35.6%	47.5%	83.1%	11.6%	5.3%	16.9%	0.0%
Dem.	29.4%	26.3%	55.7%	24.0%	20.3%	44.3%	0.0%
North Carolina	18.7%	34.0%	52.7%	21.8%	25.4%	47.2%	0.0%

GOP	36.0%	49.1%	85.1%	12.0%	2.9%	14.9%	0.0%
Dem.	15.9%	9.8%	25.7%	38.0%	36.2%	74.2%	0.0%
Florida	19.6%	50.6%	70.2%	16.2%	12.9%	29.1%	0.8%
GOP	28.4%	52.3%	80.7%	17.0%	0.0%	17.0%	2.2%
Dem.	9.0%	50.5%	59.5%	12.3%	28.2%	40.5%	0.0%
Ohio	24.7%	34.7%	59.4%	22.8%	17.7%	40.5%	0.0%
GOP	28.5%	39.4%	67.9%	21.3%	10.9%	32.2%	0.0%
Dem.	20.0%	26.5%	46.5%	23.2%	30.3%	53.5%	0.0%
Virginia	20.1%	26.8%	46.9%	31.8%	21.3%	53.1%	0.0%
GOP	25.4%	39.6%	65.0%	25.1%	9.9%	35.0%	0.0%
Dem.	14.4%	13.0%	27.4%	41.2%	31.5%	72.7%	0.0%
California	20.1%	29.3%	49.4%	19.5%	30.6%	50.1%	0.4%
GOP	29.3%	47.3%	76.6%	18.8%	4.5%	23.3%	0.0%
Dem.	6.8%	21.1%	27.9%	25.5%	46.5%	72.0%	0.0%
Maryland	12.9%	34.8%	47.7%	29.6%	22.1%	51.7%	0.6%
GOP	32.1%	35.7%	67.8%	22.3%	9.9%	32.2%	0.0%
Dem.	6.9%	33.5%	40.4%	30.3%	28.2%	58.5%	1.2%
New York	12.7%	36.4%	49.1%	33.2%	17.7%	50.9%	0.0%
GOP	21.8%	43.3%	65.1%	31.1%	3.8%	34.9%	0.0%
Dem.	4.2%	20.8%	25.0%	51.4%	23.6%	75.0%	0.0%

Q52. Do you favor or oppose:

Congress setting up a commission to develop a plan to reduce child poverty by half in 10 years and as close to zero as possible in 20 years.

Favor	Oppose
1	2

	Favor	Oppose	Refused/ Don't know
National	74.7%	24.5%	0.7%
 GOP	58.8%	40.0%	1.2%
 Dem.	89.4%	10.5%	0.1%
 Indep.	74.7%	24.1%	1.2%
Texas	74.8%	25.2%	0.0%
 GOP	59.0%	41.0%	0.0%
 Dem.	91.3%	8.7%	0.0%

North Carolina	80.0%	20.0%	0.0%
GOP	57.7%	42.3%	0.0%
Dem.	94.2%	5.8%	0.0%
Florida	71.3%	28.7%	0.0%
GOP	56.3%	43.7%	0.0%
Dem.	92.2%	7.8%	0.0%
Ohio	70.1%	27.0%	2.9%
GOP	58.4%	36.1%	5.6%
Dem.	85.4%	14.6%	0.0%
Virginia	77.9%	21.8%	0.4%
GOP	64.3%	35.7%	0.0%
Dem.	86.9%	13.1%	0.0%
California	74.4%	25.6%	0.0%
GOP	69.4%	30.6%	0.0%
Dem.	82.1%	17.9%	0.0%
Maryland	69.6%	30.4%	0.0%
GOP	44.2%	55.8%	0.0%
Dem.	88.0%	12.0%	0.0%
New York	78.2%	19.9%	1.8%
GOP	54.9%	36.9%	8.2%
Dem.	93.0%	7.0%	0.0%

Making Block Grants to States

Another debate about poverty programs is how much they should be administered by the federal government and how much by the states.

Advocates for having the states administer poverty programs call for the federal government to transfer program funds to the states as “block grants.”

Here is how a block grant works. For states that want it, the federal government provides them with a specified amount of money to address some broad purpose. The federal government sets the basic rules, but states get more flexibility in using the funds.

Funding for various federal poverty programs could be combined into a single block grant. Funding for food stamps, housing vouchers, public housing, assistance to the poor for energy bills and weatherizing homes, and services that help unemployed workers find work could all be combined into a block grant for states.

Here is an argument in favor of the idea

Q53. Currently, the federal government layers on program after program to handle different needs—food, housing, and so on—in a fragmented way. It’s better to have states control those programs, because states are closer to the people who need to be served, and can run them in a more integrated way. States could use charitable organizations with local experience, and could experiment with new methods for helping people find their way out of poverty. The federal government would stay involved by measuring whether states’ efforts are effective.

Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing
1	2	3	4

	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Total convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing	Total unconvincing	Refused / Don't know
National	28.9%	50.6%	79.5%	13.2%	6.2%	19.4%	1.1%
GOP	34.6%	49.7%	84.3%	10.1%	4.3%	14.4%	1.2%
Dem.	25.4%	51.0%	76.4%	15.2%	7.4%	22.6%	1.0%
Indep.	24.6%	51.7%	76.3%	15.0%	7.7%	22.7%	1.1%
Texas	31.8%	45.5%	77.3%	12.8%	9.1%	21.9%	0.8%
GOP	44.2%	41.4%	85.6%	9.6%	4.6%	14.2%	0.2%
Dem.	22.0%	53.0%	75.0%	13.0%	10.8%	23.8%	1.3%
North Carolina	29.4%	49.7%	79.1%	15.5%	5.2%	20.7%	0.2%
GOP	35.5%	49.3%	84.8%	10.9%	4.3%	15.2%	0.0%
Dem.	22.4%	51.7%	74.1%	18.7%	6.7%	25.4%	0.5%
Florida	28.9%	49.8%	78.7%	12.5%	7.2%	19.7%	1.6%
GOP	34.7%	50.0%	84.7%	9.1%	4.8%	13.9%	1.5%
Dem.	26.7%	56.5%	83.2%	12.1%	4.1%	16.2%	0.6%
Ohio	27.1%	53.3%	80.4%	15.2%	3.2%	18.4%	1.1%
GOP	31.9%	50.1%	82.0%	12.9%	3.4%	16.3%	1.8%
Dem.	22.7%	57.4%	80.1%	16.6%	3.0%	19.6%	0.3%
Virginia	27.1%	49.6%	76.7%	14.4%	7.4%	21.8%	1.5%
GOP	29.5%	53.5%	83.0%	10.1%	4.4%	14.5%	2.5%
Dem.	22.9%	46.6%	69.5%	19.1%	10.1%	29.2%	1.3%
California	28.4%	52.8%	81.2%	13.4%	4.8%	18.2%	0.6%
GOP	32.3%	52.8%	85.1%	10.4%	4.1%	14.5%	0.4%
Dem.	29.5%	51.1%	80.6%	13.8%	5.6%	19.4%	0.0%
Maryland	25.6%	49.1%	74.7%	16.7%	8.2%	24.9%	0.5%
GOP	28.1%	53.8%	81.9%	13.9%	3.5%	17.4%	0.7%
Dem.	27.8%	46.2%	74.0%	14.7%	10.8%	25.5%	0.5%
New York	22.3%	56.0%	78.3%	13.7%	7.3%	21.0%	0.7%

GOP	29.5%	52.1%	81.6%	11.3%	4.8%	16.1%	2.3%
Dem.	17.4%	60.7%	78.1%	17.8%	3.8%	21.6%	0.4%

Here is an argument against the idea

Q54. With block grants, the federal government will no longer ensure that established minimum needs are actually met. Congress simply decides each year how large a block grant to make and leaves the states responsible. In recessions when more people become poor, with federal revenues down, Congress is unlikely to increase the block grants. More importantly, when states get big chunks of money like this it's easy for state politicians to use the money for other things, not the needs of poor people. The federal government has to take direct responsibility for ensuring that minimum needs are being met.

Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing
1	2	3	4

	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Total convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing	Total unconvincing	Refused / Don't know
National	22.2%	39.7%	61.9%	25.3%	11.7%	37.0%	1.1%
GOP	16.0%	37.9%	53.9%	29.0%	16.2%	45.2%	0.9%
Dem.	28.9%	40.9%	69.8%	21.1%	7.7%	28.8%	1.3%
Indep.	19.8%	40.4%	60.2%	27.1%	11.2%	38.3%	1.5%
Texas	26.7%	35.4%	62.1%	24.9%	11.6%	36.5%	1.4%
GOP	18.6%	31.7%	50.3%	29.8%	19.4%	49.2%	0.6%
Dem.	37.4%	40.6%	78.0%	17.0%	3.4%	20.4%	1.6%
North Carolina	26.0%	40.8%	66.8%	23.3%	9.5%	32.8%	0.5%
GOP	13.7%	41.3%	55.0%	29.0%	15.5%	44.5%	0.5%
Dem.	40.4%	39.3%	79.7%	15.7%	3.8%	19.5%	0.8%
Florida	26.8%	37.1%	63.9%	24.1%	10.8%	34.9%	1.2%
GOP	23.4%	34.3%	57.7%	29.0%	11.0%	40.0%	2.3%
Dem.	32.1%	39.8%	71.9%	18.3%	9.1%	27.4%	0.6%
Ohio	19.1%	43.1%	62.2%	25.7%	11.9%	37.6%	0.1%
GOP	14.0%	40.8%	54.8%	28.3%	16.9%	45.2%	0.0%
Dem.	27.9%	47.1%	75.0%	17.9%	6.9%	24.8%	0.3%
Virginia	18.3%	42.2%	60.5%	20.8%	17.0%	37.8%	1.7%
GOP	11.8%	43.1%	54.9%	21.1%	22.4%	43.5%	1.6%
Dem.	25.4%	43.0%	68.4%	19.1%	10.1%	29.2%	2.4%
California	22.2%	42.0%	64.2%	25.0%	9.4%	34.4%	1.3%
GOP	18.3%	43.1%	61.4%	22.3%	15.9%	38.2%	0.4%

Dem.	25.2%	41.1%	66.3%	24.5%	8.0%	32.5%	1.2%
Maryland	28.2%	38.6%	66.8%	23.5%	9.5%	33.0%	0.2%
GOP	16.2%	36.1%	52.3%	36.0%	11.7%	47.7%	0.0%
Dem.	35.2%	38.7%	73.9%	17.7%	8.0%	25.7%	0.5%
New York	18.9%	47.9%	66.8%	23.7%	8.3%	32.0%	1.1%
GOP	11.1%	47.3%	58.4%	29.9%	10.9%	40.8%	0.9%
Dem.	23.7%	47.8%	71.5%	22.8%	5.0%	27.8%	0.7%

Q55. Now that you have assessed the arguments, do you favor or oppose combining the funding for various federal programs that deal with poverty into a single block grant that would go to states? Participating states would then develop their own poverty-related programs.

Favor	Oppose
1	2

	Favor	Oppose	Refused/ Don't know
National	60.0%	38.5%	1.5%
GOP	67.2%	31.6%	1.2%
Dem.	54.1%	44.0%	1.9%
Indep.	58.1%	40.5%	1.4%
Texas	57.3%	40.8%	1.8%
GOP	67.0%	33.0%	0.0%
Dem.	52.8%	44.1%	3.1%
North Carolina	57.1%	40.3%	2.6%
GOP	66.4%	31.2%	2.3%
Dem.	45.6%	53.3%	1.1%
Florida	62.7%	35.9%	1.3%
GOP	71.2%	27.3%	1.5%
Dem.	57.4%	40.8%	1.8%
Ohio	63.2%	36.4%	0.4%
GOP	71.5%	28.2%	0.3%
Dem.	53.2%	46.2%	0.6%
Virginia	61.4%	37.6%	1.1%
GOP	69.4%	29.2%	1.3%
Dem.	55.6%	43.8%	0.5%
California	58.2%	40.0%	1.9%

GOP	63.0%	35.4%	1.6%
Dem.	56.2%	41.1%	2.7%

Maryland	50.2%	49.6%	0.2%
GOP	65.4%	34.6%	0.0%
Dem.	47.3%	52.4%	0.3%

New York	58.1%	41.1%	0.7%
GOP	63.9%	35.5%	0.6%
Dem.	52.9%	46.2%	0.8%