

November 16-21, 2015

603 Respondents

431 Landline respondents, 172 Wireless respondents

Margin of error: ± 4 percentage points

Idaho Association of REALTORS®
Idaho Statewide Tax Proposition
Frequencies

Q.2 First of all, are you registered to vote at this address?

(IF NO) I'm sorry. Is there a registered voter at home I can speak to?

	Total
Yes	100
No (TERMINATE)	-

Q.3 Sex of respondent (INTERVIEWER CODE--DO NOT ASK RESPONDENT)

	Total
Male	48
Female	52

Q.4 Generally speaking, do you feel that things in Idaho are headed in the right direction, or do you feel that we have gotten off track and are headed in the wrong direction?

	Total
Right direction	47
Wrong direction	39
(Don't know/refused)	15
 Right direction - Wrong track	 8

Q.5 I am going to read you a list of concerns that many people have. Please tell me which ONE of these concerns you believe is the most important for the Governor and state legislature to focus on? (READ LIST -- RANDOMIZE)

(IF MORE THAN ONE) Well which ONE is the most important for the Governor and state legislature to focus on?

	Total
Education and the schools	41
The economy and jobs	20
The cost of health care	16
The state budget and spending	6
Transportation and infrastructure	6
The state tax system	4
Energy and conservation	2
(Other)	2
(None)	1
(Don't know/refused)	2

Q.6 Now I'm going to read you the names of several public figures and organizations, and I'd like you to rate your feelings toward each one as either very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable. If you have no opinion or never heard of that person or organization, please say so.

(IF DON'T KNOW:) Would you say you are unable to give an opinion of (READ BELOW), or have you never heard of (READ BELOW)?

(NO OPINION/NEUTRAL = 5) (NEVER HEARD = 6) (DON'T KNOW/REFUSED = 7)

(READ BELOW) Would you say you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable opinion of (READ BELOW)?

(RANDOMIZE)

	Very Fav	Smwt Fav	Smwt Unfav	Very Unfav	(No Opin/Ntrl)	(Never heard)	(Dk/Ref)	Total Fav	Total Unfav	Fav - Unfav
A. Butch Otter	15	37	16	21	8	1	0	53	37	15
B. Democrats in the Idaho state legislature	14	25	19	19	18	2	3	39	38	2
C. Republicans in the Idaho state legislature	15	35	15	20	11	1	2	51	35	16
D. The Tea Party	13	22	11	28	17	5	3	36	39	-4

Q.7 How would you rate economic conditions in Idaho today as (ROTATE EXCELLENT TO POOR; POOR TO EXCELLENT) excellent, good, only fair or poor?

	Total
Excellent	3
Good	35
Only fair	43
Poor	17
(Don't know/refused)	1
Excellent/Good	38
Only fair/Poor	61
Excellent/Good - Only Fair/Poor	-22

Q.8 A year from now, do you expect that economic conditions in Idaho as a whole will be (ROTATE BETTER/WORSE) better than they are at present, or worse, or just about the same as now?

	Total
Better than they are at present	19
Worse than they are at present	15
Just about the same as now	63
(Don't know/refused)	3
Better than present - Worse than present	4

Q.9 Thinking about job opportunities where you live, would you say there are plenty of jobs available in your community or are jobs difficult to find?

	Total
Plenty of jobs available	34
Jobs are difficult to find	54
(Not sure/ Both)	12
(Refused)	0

Q.10 Switching gears a bit and thinking about the issue of taxes in Idaho. How fair do you think the Idaho state tax system is? Overall would you say that the state tax system is very fair, mostly fair, or not fair at all?

	Total
Very fair	8
Mostly fair	62
Not too fair	19
Not fair at all	7
(Don't know/refused)	4
Very fair/Mostly fair	70
Not too fair/Not fair at all	26
 Very fair/Mostly fair - Not too fair/Not fair at all	 44

Q.11 In general, for the services you receive, would you say that the taxes in Idaho are (ROTATE TOO HIGH AND TOO LOW) too high, too low, or are they about right?

	Total
Too high	30
Too low	8
About right	59
(Don't know/refused)	3
 Too high - Too low	 21

Q.12 Now I am going to read you a list of specific taxes in Idaho For each one, please tell me whether you believe that specific tax is (ROTATE TOO HIGH AND TOO LOW) too high, too low, or about right for the services you receive. (RANDOMIZE - READ)

(PROMPT) Is that (ROTATE) too high, too low, or about right for the services you receive?

	Too high	Too low	About right	(Dk/Ref)	High-Low
A. The state sales taxes	25	5	67	3	20
B. Local property taxes	41	5	48	6	36
C. State personal income tax	32	6	56	6	26
D. State gas tax	37	8	44	10	28

Q.13 I am going to read a list of some different groups. For each one, please tell me if you think they are paying their fair share in state taxes, paying too much or paying too little. How about...(READ AND RANDOMIZE)

(PROMPT) Are they paying their fair share in state taxes, paying too much or paying too little?

(READ AND RANDOMIZE)

	Fair share	Too much	Too little	(No opn/DK/Ref)	Too much - Too little
A. Lower income people	35	36	19	10	17
B. Middle income people	50	41	4	5	37
C. Upper income people	28	9	53	10	-45
D. Small businesses	40	43	5	12	38
E. Large businesses and corporations	19	9	58	14	-49
F. Farmers and ranchers	34	25	20	20	5

Q.14 Still thinking about the issue of taxes and tax reform, I am going to read you four statements about the Idaho state tax system, and I want you to tell me which one comes closer to your own view, even if none of them are exactly right.

(ROTATE STATEMENTS TOP TO BOTTOM AND BOTTOM TO TOP) The Idaho state tax system...

- Should be completely overhauled
- Needs major changes
- Needs minor changes
- Is fine the way it is

(AFTER STATEMENTS) Which ONE of these four statements comes closer to your own view?

	Total
Should be completely overhauled	15
Needs major changes	20
Needs minor changes	52
Is fine the way it is	10
(Don't know/refused)	3
Should be completely overhauled/Needs major changes	35

Q.15 As you may know, the Idaho Legislature has a Tax Working Group that is discussing a number of changes to the state tax system. I am going to read to you some specific proposals that may be part of an overall state tax reform plan. For each proposal, I want you to tell me whether you (ROTATE) favor or oppose it. The first/next proposal to reform Idaho's tax system is...

(PROMPT) Do you (ROTATE) favor or oppose that as a way to reform Idaho's tax system?

(FOLLOW UP) Is that strongly FAVOR/OPPOSE or somewhat FAVOR/OPPOSE?

(RANDOMIZE AND READ)

	Strng Fav	Smwt Fav	Smwt Opp	Strng Opp	(Und)	(Dk/Ref)	Total Fav	Total Opp	Fav - Opp
A. Reduce the personal property tax that businesses have to pay on equipment and furnishings.	20	28	19	18	10	5	48	38	10
B. Reduce the state personal income tax and replace the revenue by expanding the state sales tax so that it applies to consumer services, like real estate transactions, health care, and legal services.	11	20	32	29	6	2	31	61	-30
C. Reduce the state personal income tax and replace the revenue with an increase in the state sales tax.	10	20	26	35	7	3	29	61	-32
D. Create a new one percent transfer tax on all real estate transactions, including the sale or purchase of a home or investment property, to help fund government services.	9	17	22	43	6	2	26	65	-39
E. Flatten Idaho's individual income tax rates which range from one point six percent to seven point four percent to one single income tax that everyone would pay.	30	23	15	24	7	2	53	38	15
F. Identify new ways to ensure the collection of online sales taxes and use the revenue to reduce other taxes.	25	30	14	21	7	3	55	34	21
G. Eliminate the state sales tax on groceries.	48	21	14	15	3	1	69	28	40
H. Allow county or city governments to charge a sales tax to help pay for local services.	14	21	22	35	6	1	35	57	-21

Q.16 As you just heard, one tax reform proposal would reduce the state income tax and replace the lost revenue by expanding the state sales tax to include professional services, like health care, legal fees and real estate. For individuals, this means you would pay less in income taxes, but pay more in taxes at the doctor's office, if you used a lawyer, or bought or sold a home. Supporters say this proposal is revenue neutral, meaning it will bring in the same total amount of tax money as the current system, but from different sources.

After hearing that information, do you (ROTATE) favor or oppose this proposal?

(FOLLOW UP) Is that strongly FAVOR/OPPOSE or somewhat FAVOR/OPPOSE?

	Total
Strongly favor	7
Somewhat favor	16
Somewhat oppose	25
Strongly oppose	41
(Undecided)	9
(Don't know/refused)	2
Total Favor	23
Total Oppose	66
Total Favor - Total Oppose	-43

Q.17 One of the other tax reform proposals would flatten Idaho's individual income tax rates. Currently, there are six brackets, with higher income people paying a higher rate in income taxes than lower income people. This proposal would create a single bracket so that all state residents paid the same state income tax rate.

I am going to read you statements from supporters and opponents of the state flat tax. Please tell me whether you agree more with the supporters or the opponents, even if neither is exactly right. (ROTATE SUPPORTERS AND OPPONENTS)

(SUPPORTERS) Supporters say a flat tax is simple and fair. Everyone pays the same rate, and there is no way to use accounting gimmicks or loopholes to avoid paying taxes. Wealthy people would pay more taxes than middle or lower income people, because they have a higher income.

(OPPONENTS) Opponents say a flat tax sounds good, but it is just a way to increase taxes on middle class and working families who would have to pay a greater share of their income in taxes, while wealthy people would have to pay less. A flat tax is really a tax increase on the middle class.

(AFTER STATEMENTS) Now after hearing that information, do you agree more with the (ROTATE) supporters of a flat tax, or with opponents?

(FOLLOW UP) Is that much more, or somewhat more?

	Total
Much more supporters	25
Somewhat more supporters	21
Somewhat more opponents	20
Much more opponents	24
(Both)	2
(Neither)	5
(Don't know/refused)	2
Total more supporters	46
Total more opponents	44
Total more supporters - Total more opponents	1

(275 respondents)

Q.18 (IF SUPPORTERS IN PAIR, PUNCH 1 OR 2)

And yes or no: would you still support this proposal to reduce Idaho's six income tax rates into a single income tax rate if you knew that some taxpayers would still be eligible to take deductions on their income tax, claim tax credits, or receive exemptions?

	Total
Yes, still support	50
No, would not support	35
(Undecided/not sure)	14
(Don't know/refused)	1
Yes - No	16

Q.19 (ALL RESPONDENTS)

Now after hearing these different ideas for tax reform, given a choice between changing the state tax system and leaving it the way it is, which would you prefer (ROTATE) changing it or leaving it the way it is?

	Total
Changing it	57
Leaving it the way it is	35
(Undecided/not sure)	6
(Don't know/refused)	1

Changing it - Leaving it the way it is 22

Q.20 And thinking again about the state legislature and their priorities, which ONE of the following is more important to you: (ROTATE CHOICES) reducing the amount you pay in state taxes or fully funding public education and workforce training?

	Total
Reducing the amount you pay in state taxes	30
Fully funding public education and workforce training	58
(Both)	5
(Undecided/not sure)	5
(Don't know/refused)	2

Q.21 Finally, I would like to ask you a few questions for statistical purposes.

Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a (ROTATE) Republican, a Democrat, or what?

	Total
Strong Democrat	13
Weak Democrat	8
Independent-lean Democrat	8
Independent	16
Independent-lean Republican	15
Weak Republican	15
Strong Republican	24
(Don't know/Refused)	0
Democrat	21
Independent with Leaners	40
Republican	38
Democrat - Republican	-17
Democrat and Ind. Lean Dem	30
Pure Independent	16
Republican and Ind. Lean Repub	54
Democrat and Ind. Lean Dem - Republican and Ind. Lean Repub	-24

Q.24 Thinking in political terms, would you say that you are (ROTATE LIBERAL AND CONSERVATIVE WITH MODERATE ALWAYS IN THE MIDDLE) Liberal, Moderate, or Conservative?

	Total
Liberal	18
Moderate	28
Conservative	51
(Don't know/refused)	3

Q.25 In what year were you born? (DON'T KNOW = 0000)

	Total
18 - 24	5
25 - 29	4
30 - 34	7
35 - 39	6
40 - 44	7
45 - 49	9
50 - 54	8
55 - 59	11
60 - 64	13
Over 64	27
(No answer)	4
 18 - 49	 38
50 and over	58

Q.26 What is the last year of schooling that you have completed?

(DO NOT READ LIST)

	Total
1 - 11th grade	2
High school graduate	20
Non-college post H.S.	2
Some college	28
College graduate	33
Post-graduate school	15
(Don't know/refused)	0
 H.S. or less	 22
Post H.S.	30
College Graduate	48
 Not College	 51

Q.27 And yes or no, are you a small business owner or self employed?

	Total
Yes	24
No	75
(Don't know/refused)	1

Q.28 How would you describe your religious affiliation?

(Listen to response, code appropriately)

	Total
Protestant (Baptist, Methodist, Lutheran, etc.)	13
Catholic	9
Christian/Other	31
Church of Latter Day Saints/Mormon	11
Jewish	0
Muslim	-
Atheist/ Agnostic	5
None	17
(Other)	7
(Unsure)	1
(Refused)	4

Q.29 And, for statistical purposes only, is your total annual household income greater or less than \$60,000 dollars?

(IF LESS THAN \$60,000 FOLLOW UP) Is it (ROTATE FIRST TO LAST AND LAST TO FIRST) under \$20,000 dollars, between \$20,000 dollars and \$40,000 dollars, or over \$40,000 dollars?

(IF GREATER THAT \$60,000 FOLLOW UP) Is it (ROTATE FIRST TO LAST AND LAST TO FIRST) under \$80,000 dollars, between \$80,000 dollars and \$100,000 dollars, or over \$100,000 dollars?

	Total
Under \$20,000	10
\$20,000 - \$40,000	21
\$40,000 - \$60,000	22
\$60,000 - \$80,000	17
\$80,000 - \$100,000	9
Over \$100,000	11
(Don't know/refused)	10

Line Type

	Total
Not Wireless	72
Wireless	28

Age on file (from quotas)

	Total
< 35	16
35 to 49	22
50 to 64	31
65 +	31

Partisan score (from quotas)

	Total
< 20	22
20 to < 50	35
50 to < 80 and unknown	31
80 +	13

Party registration

	Total
Democrat	15
Independent	45
Republican	40

Region by congressional district

	Total
1	51
2	49