

Just Facts' 2013 Survey of Voter Knowledge on Public Policy Issues

December 16, 2013 • n=500 • Margin of Error +/- 4.47%

Which of the following best describes how you participate in elections:

| | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------|---|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | I vote every time there is an opportunity | 356 | 71.2 | 71.2 | 71.2 |
| | I try to vote in most elections, but I sometimes miss one | 144 | 28.8 | 28.8 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 500 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

The average U.S. household spends about \$25,000 per year on food, housing, and clothing combined. If we broke down all combined federal, state, and local taxes to a per household cost, do you think this would amount to more or less than an average of \$25,000 per household per year?

| | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
|-------|---|-----------|---------|---------------|
| Valid | Taxes are more than \$25,000 per household per year | 197 | 39.4 | 39.4 |
| | Taxes are less than \$25,000 per household per year | 149 | 29.8 | 29.8 |
| | Unsure | 148 | 29.6 | 29.6 |
| | Refused | 6 | 1.2 | 1.2 |
| | Total | 500 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

On average, who would you say pays a greater portion of their income in federal taxes: The middle-class or the upper 1% of income earners?

| | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------|--------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | Middle Class | 384 | 76.8 | 76.8 | 76.8 |
| | Upper 1% | 92 | 18.4 | 18.4 | 95.2 |
| | Unsure | 24 | 4.8 | 4.8 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 500 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

Suppose we broke down all government spending to a per household cost - do you think the combined spending of federal, state and local governments amounts to more or less than \$40,000 per household per year?

| | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------|--|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | Government spending is more than \$40,000 per household per year | 230 | 46.0 | 46.0 | 46.0 |
| | Government spending is less than \$40,000 per household per year | 166 | 33.2 | 33.2 | 79.2 |
| | Unsure | 101 | 20.2 | 20.2 | 99.4 |
| | Refused | 3 | .6 | .6 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 500 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

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Do you think the federal government spends more money on social programs, such as Medicare, education, and food stamps... or does the federal government spend more money on national defense, such as the Army, Navy, and missile defense?

| | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------------------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid More on Social Programs | 203 | 40.6 | 40.6 | 40.6 |
| More on National Defense | 238 | 47.6 | 47.6 | 88.2 |
| Unsure | 57 | 11.4 | 11.4 | 99.6 |
| Refused | 2 | .4 | .4 | 100.0 |
| Total | 500 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

What about federal government debt? The average U.S. household owes about \$107,000 in consumer debt, such as mortgages and credit cards. Thinking about all federal government debt broken down on a per household basis, do you think the federal government's debt amounts to more or less than \$107,000 per U.S. household?

| | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
|---|-----------|---------|---------------|
| Valid Federal debt is more than \$107,000 per household | 324 | 64.8 | 64.8 |
| Federal debt is less than \$107,000 per household | 100 | 20.0 | 20.0 |
| Unsure | 75 | 15.0 | 15.0 |
| Refused | 1 | .2 | .2 |
| Total | 500 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Over the past 5 years, which has grown at a faster rate, the U.S. economy or the national debt?

| | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|---|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid The U.S. economy has grown faster | 47 | 9.4 | 9.4 | 9.4 |
| The national debt has grown faster | 435 | 87.0 | 87.0 | 96.4 |
| Unsure | 18 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 100.0 |
| Total | 500 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

Would you say the earth is generally warmer than it was 30 years ago, cooler than it was 30 years ago, or about the same?

| | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|----------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid Warmer | 226 | 45.2 | 45.2 | 45.2 |
| Cooler | 41 | 8.2 | 8.2 | 53.4 |
| About the Same | 209 | 41.8 | 41.8 | 95.2 |
| Unsure | 21 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 99.4 |
| Refused | 3 | .6 | .6 | 100.0 |
| Total | 500 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

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Thinking about the whole planet, do you think the number and intensity of hurricanes and tropical storms have increased over the past 30 years, decreased over the past 30 years, or stayed about the same?

| | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------|-----------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | Increased | 240 | 48.0 | 48.0 | 48.0 |
| | Decreased | 25 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 53.0 |
| | Stayed About the Same | 203 | 40.6 | 40.6 | 93.6 |
| | Unsure | 29 | 5.8 | 5.8 | 99.4 |
| | Refused | 3 | .6 | .6 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 500 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

Just thinking about the United States, in your opinion, is the air generally more polluted than it was 30 years ago, less polluted, or about the same?

| | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------|----------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | More Polluted | 219 | 43.8 | 43.8 | 43.8 |
| | Less Polluted | 166 | 33.2 | 33.2 | 77.0 |
| | About the Same | 97 | 19.4 | 19.4 | 96.4 |
| | Unsure | 17 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 99.8 |
| | Refused | 1 | .2 | .2 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 500 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

If the U.S. stopped recycling and buried all of its trash for the next 100 years in a single landfill that was 30 feet high, how much of the nation's land area would this cover?

| | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------|--------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | Less Than 1% | 33 | 6.6 | 6.6 | 6.6 |
| | 1% to Less Than 5% | 87 | 17.4 | 17.4 | 24.0 |
| | More Than 5% | 292 | 58.4 | 58.4 | 82.4 |
| | Unsure | 86 | 17.2 | 17.2 | 99.6 |
| | Refused | 2 | .4 | .4 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 500 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

Without government subsidies, which of these technologies is least expensive for generating electricity?

| | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------|--------------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | Wind Turbines | 127 | 25.4 | 25.4 | 25.4 |
| | Solar Panels | 109 | 21.8 | 21.8 | 47.2 |
| | Natural Gas Power Plants | 217 | 43.4 | 43.4 | 90.6 |
| | Unsure | 45 | 9.0 | 9.0 | 99.6 |
| | Refused | 2 | .4 | .4 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 500 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

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Without government subsidies, which of these fuels is least expensive for powering automobiles?

| | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | Gasoline | 231 | 46.2 | 46.2 | 46.2 |
| | Ethanol | 89 | 17.8 | 17.8 | 64.0 |
| | Biodiesel | 101 | 20.2 | 20.2 | 84.2 |
| | Unsure | 78 | 15.6 | 15.6 | 99.8 |
| | Refused | 1 | .2 | .2 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 500 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

Worldwide, which of these technologies generates the most electricity?

| | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------|--------------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | Solar Panels | 28 | 5.6 | 5.6 | 5.6 |
| | Natural Gas Power Plants | 66 | 13.2 | 13.2 | 18.8 |
| | Coal Power Plants | 214 | 42.8 | 42.8 | 61.6 |
| | Nuclear Power Plants | 139 | 27.8 | 27.8 | 89.4 |
| | Unsure | 53 | 10.6 | 10.6 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 500 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

On an average day, what portion of U.S. households with children have at least one child who experiences hunger?

| | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------|----------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | Less Than 1% | 44 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 8.8 |
| | 1% to Less Than 10% | 143 | 28.6 | 28.6 | 37.4 |
| | 10% to Less Than 20% | 152 | 30.4 | 30.4 | 67.8 |
| | More Than 20% | 130 | 26.0 | 26.0 | 93.8 |
| | Unsure | 30 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 99.8 |
| | Refused | 1 | .2 | .2 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 500 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

Some people say that Social Security faces financial problems because politicians have looted the program and spent the money on other programs. Do you believe that statement is true or false?

| | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------|---------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | True | 381 | 76.2 | 76.2 | 76.2 |
| | False | 96 | 19.2 | 19.2 | 95.4 |
| | Unsure | 22 | 4.4 | 4.4 | 99.8 |
| | Refused | 1 | .2 | .2 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 500 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

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Some policymakers are proposing that individuals be allowed to save and invest some of their Social Security taxes in personal accounts instead of paying these taxes to the Social Security program. In your view, do you think such proposals generally improve or harm the finances of the Social Security program?

| | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------|---------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | Improve | 125 | 25.0 | 25.0 | 25.0 |
| | Harm | 277 | 55.4 | 55.4 | 80.4 |
| | Makes No Difference | 39 | 7.8 | 7.8 | 88.2 |
| | Unsure | 57 | 11.4 | 11.4 | 99.6 |
| | Refused | 2 | .4 | .4 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 500 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

In 1960, governments paid for 24% of all healthcare costs in the U.S. Do you think government now pay a greater portion or a lesser portion of all healthcare costs in the U.S.?

| | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------|---------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | Greater | 284 | 56.8 | 56.8 | 56.8 |
| | Lesser | 161 | 32.2 | 32.2 | 89.0 |
| | Unsure | 54 | 10.8 | 10.8 | 99.8 |
| | Refused | 1 | .2 | .2 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 500 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

When health insurance copayments are high, people tend to spend less on healthcare. Does this reduced spending typically have a negative impact on people's health?

| | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------|---------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | Yes | 376 | 75.2 | 75.2 | 75.2 |
| | No | 79 | 15.8 | 15.8 | 91.0 |
| | Unsure | 44 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 99.8 |
| | Refused | 1 | .2 | .2 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 500 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

In 2010, Congress passed and President Obama signed the Affordable Care Act, also known as "Obamacare." This law uses price controls to save money in the Medicare program. Do you think these price controls will affect Medicare patients' access to care?

| | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------|---------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | Yes | 321 | 64.2 | 64.2 | 64.2 |
| | No | 128 | 25.6 | 25.6 | 89.8 |
| | Unsure | 50 | 10.0 | 10.0 | 99.8 |
| | Refused | 1 | .2 | .2 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 500 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

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If the next U.S. Presidential election were held today, do you think you would probably vote for a Democrat, Republican, or third-party candidate?

| | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------|-----------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | Democrat | 145 | 29.0 | 29.0 | 29.0 |
| | Republican | 189 | 37.8 | 37.8 | 66.8 |
| | Third-Party Candidate | 59 | 11.8 | 11.8 | 78.6 |
| | Unsure | 103 | 20.6 | 20.6 | 99.2 |
| | Refused | 4 | .8 | .8 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 500 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

Sex by Observation

| | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------|--------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | Male | 240 | 48.0 | 48.0 | 48.0 |
| | Female | 260 | 52.0 | 52.0 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 500 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |