

# Just Facts' 2016 Survey of Voter Knowledge on Public Policy Issues

October 11-23, 2016 • n=700 • Margin of Error +/- 3.78%

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

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	I vote everytime there is an opportunity	537	76.7	76.7	76.7
	I try to vote in most elections, but sometimes I miss one	163	23.3	23.3	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	

## Relative to other nations, how do believe U.S. fourth graders rank in terms of their reading and math ability?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	U.S. fourth graders rank in the bottom 50%	276	39.4	39.4	39.4
	U.S. fourth graders rank in the top 50%	262	37.4	37.4	76.9
	Unsure	153	21.9	21.9	98.7
	Refused	9	1.3	1.3	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	

## On average across the United States, how much do you think federal, state, and local governments spend per year to educate each classroom of public school students?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Less than \$150,000 per classroom per year	344	49.1	49.1	49.1
	More than \$150,000 per classroom per year	182	26.0	26.0	75.1
	Unsure	170	24.3	24.3	99.4
	Refused	4	.6	.6	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	

## In your mind, what portion of 17- to 24-year-olds in the U.S. are unqualified for military service because of weak educational skills, poor physical fitness, illegal drug usage, medical conditions, or criminal records?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	More than half are unqualified for military service	287	41.0	41.0	41.0
	More than half are qualified for military service	345	49.3	49.3	90.3
	Unsure	68	9.7	9.7	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	

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**When conventional public schools are subject to school choice programs that allow students to leave for private or charter schools, do think the children who remain in the public schools academically decline?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes, they decline	306	43.7	43.7	43.7
	No, they do not decline	262	37.4	37.4	81.1
	Unsure	129	18.4	18.4	99.6
	Refused	3	.4	.4	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	

**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 \$27,000 per household per year?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Taxes are more than \$27,000 per household per year	311	44.4	44.4	44.4
	Taxes are less than \$27,000 per household per year	253	36.1	36.1	80.6
	Unsure	132	18.9	18.9	99.4
	Refused	4	.6	.6	100.0
	Total	700	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	578	82.6	82.6	82.6
	Upper 1%	81	11.6	11.6	94.1
	Unsure	39	5.6	5.6	99.7
	Refused	2	.3	.3	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	

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**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	240	34.3	34.3	34.3
	Government spending is less than \$40,000 per household per year	326	46.6	46.6	80.9
	Unsure	128	18.3	18.3	99.1
	Refused	6	.9	.9	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	

**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	271	38.7	38.7	38.7
	More on national defense	334	47.7	47.7	86.4
	Unsure	95	13.6	13.6	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	

**Thinking about all federal government debt broken down to a per household basis, do you think federal debt amounts to more or less than \$118,000 per U.S. household?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Federal debt is more than \$118,000 per household	456	65.1	65.1	65.1
	Federal debt is less than \$118,000 per household	148	21.1	21.1	86.3
	Unsure	86	12.3	12.3	98.6
	Refused	10	1.4	1.4	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	

**From the time that the Great Recession ended in 2009, which do you think 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	109	15.6	15.6	15.6
	The national debt has grown faster	538	76.9	76.9	92.4
	Unsure	51	7.3	7.3	99.7
	Refused	2	.3	.3	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	

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**Would you say the earth is measurably warmer than it was 30 years ago?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	469	67.0	67.0	67.0
	No	169	24.1	24.1	91.1
	Unsure	56	8.0	8.0	99.1
	Refused	6	.9	.9	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	

**Thinking about the whole planet, do you think the number and intensity of hurricanes and tropical storms have generally increased over the past 30 years?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	459	65.6	65.6	65.6
	No	190	27.1	27.1	92.7
	Unsure	49	7.0	7.0	99.7
	Refused	2	.3	.3	100.0
	Total	700	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?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	381	54.4	54.4	54.4
	No	266	38.0	38.0	92.4
	Unsure	47	6.7	6.7	99.1
	Refused	6	.9	.9	100.0
	Total	700	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 you think this landfill would cover?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Less than 1%	45	6.4	6.4	6.4
	1% to less than 5%	118	16.9	16.9	23.3
	More than 5%	437	62.4	62.4	85.7
	Unsure	98	14.0	14.0	99.7
	Refused	2	.3	.3	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	

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**Without government subsidies, which of these technologies do you think is least expensive method for generating electricity?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Wind Turbines	163	23.3	23.3	23.3
	Solar Panels	200	28.6	28.6	51.9
	Natural Gas Power Plants	245	35.0	35.0	86.9
	Unsure	91	13.0	13.0	99.9
	Refused	1	.1	.1	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	

**Without government subsidies, which of these fuels do you believe is least expensive for powering automobiles?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Gasoline	345	49.3	49.3	49.3
	Ethanol	84	12.0	12.0	61.3
	Biodiesel	158	22.6	22.6	83.9
	Unsure	108	15.4	15.4	99.3
	Refused	5	.7	.7	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	

**Worldwide, which of these technologies do you think generates the most electricity?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Solar Panels	72	10.3	10.3	10.3
	Natural Gas Power Plants	125	17.9	17.9	28.1
	Coal Power Plants	202	28.9	28.9	57.0
	Nuclear Power Plants	202	28.9	28.9	85.9
	Unsure	96	13.7	13.7	99.6
	Refused	3	.4	.4	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	

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

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Less than 1%	72	10.3	10.3	10.3
	1% to 10%	226	32.3	32.3	42.6
	More than 10%	357	51.0	51.0	93.6
	Unsure	43	6.1	6.1	99.7
	Refused	2	.3	.3	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	

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**Do you think Social Security's financial problems stem from politicians looting the program and spending the money on other programs?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	554	79.1	79.1	79.1
	No	80	11.4	11.4	90.6
	Unsure	59	8.4	8.4	99.0
	Refused	7	1.0	1.0	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	

**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	17.9	17.9	17.9
	Harm	477	68.1	68.1	86.0
	Unsure	94	13.4	13.4	99.4
	Refused	4	.6	.6	100.0
	Total	700	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	344	49.1	49.1	49.1
	Lesser	276	39.4	39.4	88.6
	Unsure	75	10.7	10.7	99.3
	Refused	5	.7	.7	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	

**When health insurance copayments are high, people tend to spend less on healthcare. Do you think that this reduced spending typically has a negative impact on their health?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	573	81.9	81.9	81.9
	No	60	8.6	8.6	90.4
	Unsure	59	8.4	8.4	98.9
	Refused	8	1.1	1.1	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	

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**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 worsen Medicare patients' access to care?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	354	50.6	50.6	50.6
	No	244	34.9	34.9	85.4
	Unsure	92	13.1	13.1	98.6
	Refused	10	1.4	1.4	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	

**In the upcoming presidential election, do you think you will probably vote for Hillary Clinton, Donald Trump, or third-party candidate?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Hillary Clinton	310	44.3	44.3	44.3
	Donald Trump	205	29.3	29.3	73.6
	Third-Party Candidate	56	8.0	8.0	81.6
	Unsure	104	14.9	14.9	96.4
	Refused	25	3.6	3.6	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	

**All other things being equal, if you were faced with a choice between a male and a female presidential candidate, who would you vote for?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	The Male	85	12.1	12.1	12.1
	The Female	105	15.0	15.0	27.1
	Does Not Matter	481	68.7	68.7	95.9
	Unsure	22	3.1	3.1	99.0
	Refused	7	1.0	1.0	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	

## Age Category

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	18 to 34	12	1.7	1.7	1.7
	35 to 64	334	47.7	47.7	49.4
	65 or Older	342	48.9	48.9	98.3
	Refused	12	1.7	1.7	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	

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## Sex by Observation

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Male	337	48.1	48.1	48.1
	Female	363	51.9	51.9	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	