

Just Facts' 2017 Survey of Voter Knowledge on Public Policy Issues

November 1-9, 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	529	75.6	75.6	75.6
	I try to vote in most elections, but sometimes I miss one	171	24.4	24.4	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%	303	43.3	43.3	43.3
	U.S. fourth graders rank in the top 50%	271	38.7	38.7	82.0
	Unsure	122	17.4	17.4	99.4
	Refused	4	.6	.6	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	

On average across the United States, how much do you think public schools spend per year to educate each classroom of students?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Less than \$150,000 per classroom per year	342	48.9	48.9	48.9
	More than \$150,000 per classroom per year	238	34.0	34.0	82.9
	Unsure	118	16.9	16.9	99.7
	Refused	2	.3	.3	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	285	40.7	40.7	40.7
	More than half are qualified for military service	360	51.4	51.4	92.1
	Unsure	51	7.3	7.3	99.4
	Refused	4	.6	.6	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	332	47.4	47.4	47.4
	No, they do not decline	278	39.7	39.7	87.1
	Unsure	86	12.3	12.3	99.4
	Refused	4	.6	.6	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 \$28,000 per household per year?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Taxes are more than \$28,000 per household per year	271	38.7	38.7	38.7
	Taxes are less than \$28,000 per household per year	299	42.7	42.7	81.4
	Unsure	125	17.9	17.9	99.3
	Refused	5	.7	.7	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	534	76.3	76.3	76.3
	Upper 1%	147	21.0	21.0	97.3
	Unsure	19	2.7	2.7	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	

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	275	39.3	39.3	39.3
	Government spending is less than \$40,000 per household per year	311	44.4	44.4	83.7
	Unsure	109	15.6	15.6	99.3
	Refused	5	.7	.7	100.0
	Total	700	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	251	35.9	35.9	35.9
	More on national defense	388	55.4	55.4	91.3
	Unsure	57	8.1	8.1	99.4
	Refused	4	.6	.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 \$119,000 per U.S. household?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Federal debt is more than \$119,000 per household	483	69.0	69.0	69.0
	Federal debt is less than \$119,000 per household	140	20.0	20.0	89.0
	Unsure	76	10.9	10.9	99.9
	Refused	1	.1	.1	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	105	15.0	15.0	15.0
	The national debt has grown faster	569	81.3	81.3	96.3
	Unsure	24	3.4	3.4	99.7
	Refused	2	.3	.3	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	

Would you say the earth is measurably warmer than it was since the 1980s?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	457	65.3	65.3	65.3
	No	197	28.1	28.1	93.4
	Unsure	42	6.0	6.0	99.4
	Refused	4	.6	.6	100.0
	Total	700	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 generally increased since the 1980s?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	482	68.9	68.9	68.9
	No	174	24.9	24.9	93.7
	Unsure	44	6.3	6.3	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	293	41.9	41.9	41.9
	No	362	51.7	51.7	93.6
	Unsure	42	6.0	6.0	99.6
	Refused	3	.4	.4	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%	55	7.9	7.9	7.9
	1% to less than 5%	130	18.6	18.6	26.4
	More than 5%	436	62.3	62.3	88.7
	Unsure	72	10.3	10.3	99.0
	Refused	7	1.0	1.0	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	

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	166	23.7	23.7	23.7
	Solar Panels	207	29.6	29.6	53.3
	Natural Gas Power Plants	276	39.4	39.4	92.7
	Unsure	48	6.9	6.9	99.6
	Refused	3	.4	.4	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	

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

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Gasoline	319	45.6	45.6	45.6
	Ethanol	103	14.7	14.7	60.3
	Biodiesel	173	24.7	24.7	85.0
	Unsure	104	14.9	14.9	99.9
	Refused	1	.1	.1	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	70	10.0	10.0	10.0
	Natural Gas Power Plants	132	18.9	18.9	28.9
	Coal Power Plants	218	31.1	31.1	60.0
	Nuclear Power Plants	213	30.4	30.4	90.4
	Unsure	64	9.1	9.1	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%	99	14.1	14.1	14.1
	1% to 10%	269	38.4	38.4	52.6
	More than 10%	305	43.6	43.6	96.1
	Unsure	23	3.3	3.3	99.4
	Refused	4	.6	.6	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	

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	559	79.9	79.9	79.9
	No	98	14.0	14.0	93.9
	Unsure	40	5.7	5.7	99.6
	Refused	3	.4	.4	100.0
	Total	700	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	161	23.0	23.0	23.0
	Harm	472	67.4	67.4	90.4
	Unsure	66	9.4	9.4	99.9
	Refused	1	.1	.1	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	392	56.0	56.0	56.0
	Lesser	248	35.4	35.4	91.4
	Unsure	50	7.1	7.1	98.6
	Refused	10	1.4	1.4	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	577	82.4	82.4	82.4
	No	94	13.4	13.4	95.9
	Unsure	23	3.3	3.3	99.1
	Refused	6	.9	.9	100.0
	Total	700	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 worsen Medicare patients' access to care?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	311	44.4	44.4	44.4
	No	299	42.7	42.7	87.1
	Unsure	78	11.1	11.1	98.3
	Refused	12	1.7	1.7	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	

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Relative to the rates at which people of different races commit murder, are police more likely to use deadly force against African Americans than other races?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	340	48.6	48.6	48.6
	No	284	40.6	40.6	89.1
	Unsure	67	9.6	9.6	98.7
	Refused	9	1.3	1.3	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	

In the next federal election, do you think you will be more likely to vote for Democrats, Republicans, or third-party candidates?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Democrat	286	40.9	40.9	40.9
	Republican	224	32.0	32.0	72.9
	Third-Party Candidate	101	14.4	14.4	87.3
	Unsure	83	11.9	11.9	99.1
	Refused	6	.9	.9	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	

Age Category

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	18-34	17	2.4	2.4	2.4
	35-64	306	43.7	43.7	46.1
	65 or Older	374	53.4	53.4	99.6
	Refused	3	.4	.4	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	

Sex by Observation

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Male	333	47.6	47.6	47.6
	Female	367	52.4	52.4	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	