

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER  
FEBRUARY 2015 POLITICAL SURVEY  
FINAL TOPLINE  
FEBRUARY 18-22, 2015  
N=1,504**

**QUESTIONS 1-2, 5, 8, 11a-d, 13, 16-18 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****NO QUESTIONS 3-4, 6-7, 9-10, 12, 14-15, 19-24****ASK ALL:**

Now thinking about taxes...

Q.25 How fair do you think our present federal tax system is? Overall would you say that our tax system is **[READ IN ORDER]**?

	<u>Very fair</u>	Moderately <u>fair</u>	Not too <u>fair</u>	Not fair <u>at all</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Feb 18-22, 2015	4	46	24	24	1
Dec 7-11, 2011	3	40	31	24	3
CNN: Apr 9-11, 2011	4	45	30	20	1
NPR/Kaiser/Harvard: March 2003	4	47	32	16	1
Time/CNN: March 1997	3	42	31	23	2
Time/CNN: May 1985	2	41	31	24	2

**ASK ALL:**

Q.26 Considering what you get from the federal government, do you think you pay more than your fair share of taxes, less than your fair share, or about the right amount?

**TREND FOR COMPARISON:**

		<i>NPR/Kaiser/Harvard</i>				
<u>Feb 18-22</u> <u>2015</u>		<u>Dec 7-11</u> <u>2011</u>	<u>Mar 11-21</u> <u>2010</u>	<u>May</u> <u>2000<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>Feb</u> <u>2000</u>	<u>Oct</u> <u>1997</u>
40	More than fair share	38	43	55	55	52
4	Less than fair share	5	3	2	1	2
53	About the right amount	52	50	42	41	45
2	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	5	3	1	3	1

**ASK ALL:**

Q.27 Which of the following statements comes closest to your overall view of the federal tax system in this country? **[READ IN ORDER]**

<u>Feb 18-22</u> <u>2015</u>		<u>Dec 7-11</u> <u>2011</u>	<i>NPR/Kaiser/Harvard</i> <u>March</u> <u>2003</u>
38	On the whole, the federal tax system works pretty well and Congress should make only minor changes to make it work better	34	44
59	There is so much wrong with the federal tax system that Congress should completely change it	59	52
3	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	7	3

<sup>1</sup> May 2000 survey by National Public Radio, Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. The question read, "Considering what you get from the FEDERAL government, do you think you pay more than your fair share of federal taxes, less than your fair share, or about your fair share?"

**ASK ALL:**

Q.28 Please tell me how much, if at all, each of the following bothers you about the federal tax system? First, **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** does this bother you a lot, some, not too much, or not at all? How about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: Does this bother you a lot, some, not too much, or not at all?]**

		<u>A lot</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Not too much</u>	<u>Not at all</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	The amount you pay in taxes Feb 18-22, 2015	27	26	27	19	2
b.	The complexity of the tax system Feb 18-22, 2015	44	28	17	8	3
c.	The feeling that some wealthy people don't pay their fair share Feb 18-22, 2015	61	18	10	10	2
d.	The feeling that some poor people don't pay their fair share Feb 18-22, 2015	20	22	22	34	2
e.	The feeling that some corporations don't pay their fair share Feb 18-22, 2015	64	18	9	8	1

**ASK ALL:**

Q.28 Please tell me how much, if at all, each of the following bothers you about the federal tax system? First, **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** does this bother you a lot, some, not too much, or not at all? How about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: Does this bother you a lot, some, not too much, or not at all?]**

**ASK IF MORE THAN ONE ITEM IN Q.28a-e BOTHERS "A LOT" [N=1,045]:**

Q.29 And of the ones you mentioned that bother you a lot, which one bothers you most about taxes **[READ ONLY THE ITEMS MENTIONED AS BOTHERING A LOT. READ IN SAME ORDER AS IN Q.28. IF RESPONDENT VOLUNTEERS A RESPONSE, OKAY TO ACCEPT RESPONSE]?**

**BASED ON TOTAL:**

Feb 18-22  
2015

28	The feeling that some corporations don't pay their fair share
25	The feeling that some wealthy people don't pay their fair share
19	The complexity of the tax system
7	The amount you pay in taxes
4	The feeling that some poor people don't pay their fair share
2	Other <b>[SPECIFY: _____]</b> <b>(VOL.)</b>
1	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

14 None bother "a lot" in Q.28a-e

**QUESTIONS 51a-c, 52-54, 56, 58F1-59F2, 62-63, 66-68, 70-71, 74-76, 78, 80 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

**NO QUESTIONS 30-50, 55, 57, 60-61, 64-65, 69, 72-73, 77, 79**

**ASK ALL:**

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?

**ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):**

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	Republican	Democrat	Independent	No preference	Other party	DK/Ref	Rep	Dem
Feb 18-22, 2015	24	31	38	4	1	1	18	17
Jan 7-11, 2015	21	30	44	3	1	1	19	18
Dec 3-7, 2014	24	31	39	3	1	2	17	17
Nov 6-9, 2014	27	32	36	2	*	1	15	16
Oct 15-20, 2014	24	33	38	4	*	1	13	17
Sep 2-9, 2014	24	33	38	3	1	2	15	15
Aug 20-24, 2014	24	31	37	4	1	4	15	16
Jul 8-14, 2014	25	34	37	2	1	1	16	15
Apr 23-27, 2014	24	30	41	2	1	2	18	17
Jan 23-Mar 16, 2014	22	31	41	3	1	2	17	17
Feb 14-23, 2014	22	32	39	4	1	2	14	17
<b>Yearly Totals</b>								
2014	23.2	31.5	39.5	3.1	.7	2.0	16.2	16.5
2013	23.9	32.1	38.3	2.9	.5	2.2	16.0	16.0
2012	24.7	32.6	36.4	3.1	.5	2.7	14.4	16.1
2011	24.3	32.3	37.4	3.1	.4	2.5	15.7	15.6
2010	25.2	32.7	35.2	3.6	.4	2.8	14.5	14.1
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.7	36.0	31.5	3.6	.3	3.0	10.6	15.2
2007	25.3	32.9	34.1	4.3	.4	2.9	10.9	17.0
2006	27.8	33.1	30.9	4.4	.3	3.4	10.5	15.1
2005	29.3	32.8	30.2	4.5	.3	2.8	10.3	14.9
2004	30.0	33.5	29.5	3.8	.4	3.0	11.7	13.4
2003	30.3	31.5	30.5	4.8	.5	2.5	12.0	12.6
2002	30.4	31.4	29.8	5.0	.7	2.7	12.4	11.6
2001	29.0	33.2	29.5	5.2	.6	2.6	11.9	11.6
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	27.3	34.4	30.9	5.1	.6	1.7	12.1	13.5
2000	28.0	33.4	29.1	5.5	.5	3.6	11.6	11.7
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.9	33.7	31.1	4.6	.4	2.3	11.6	13.1
1997	28.0	33.4	32.0	4.0	.4	2.3	12.2	14.1
1996	28.9	33.9	31.8	3.0	.4	2.0	12.1	14.9
1995	31.6	30.0	33.7	2.4	.6	1.3	15.1	13.5
1994	30.1	31.5	33.5	1.3	--	3.6	13.7	12.2
1993	27.4	33.6	34.2	4.4	1.5	2.9	11.5	14.9
1992	27.6	33.7	34.7	1.5	0	2.5	12.6	16.5
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	0	1.4	3.0	14.7	10.8
1990	30.9	33.2	29.3	1.2	1.9	3.4	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--

**ASK REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS ONLY (PARTY=1 OR PARTYLN=1):**

TEAPARTY3 From what you know, do you agree or disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way?

**BASED ON REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS [N=679]:**

	Agree	Disagree	No opinion either way	(VOL.) Haven't heard of	(VOL.) Refused	Not heard of/ DK
Feb 18-22, 2015	36	9	54	*	*	--
Jan 7-11, 2015	34	9	54	1	2	--
Dec 3-7, 2014	34	9	55	2	1	--

## TEAPARTY3 CONTINUED...

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>No opinion either way</u>	<u>(VOL.) Haven't heard of</u>	<u>(VOL.) Refused</u>	<u>Not heard of/ DK</u>
Nov 6-9, 2014	31	10	57	1	1	--
Oct 15-20, 2014	32	8	56	2	2	--
Sep 2-9, 2014	38	10	50	1	1	--
Aug 20-24, 2014	34	10	53	*	2	--
Jul 8-14, 2014	35	12	50	2	1	--
Apr 23-27, 2014	33	11	54	1	1	--
Jan 23-Mar 16, 2014	37	11	50	1	1	--
Feb 14-23, 2014	36	9	54	1	1	--
Jan 15-19, 2014	35	12	52	1	*	--
Dec 3-8, 2013	32	9	57	1	1	--
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	40	9	48	2	1	--
Oct 9-13, 2013	41	11	45	2	1	--
Sep 4-8, 2013	35	9	54	1	1	--
Jul 17-21, 2013	37	10	50	2	1	--
Jun 12-16, 2013	44	9	46	1	2	--
May 23-26, 2013	41	7	48	1	3	--
May 1-5, 2013	28	8	61	2	1	--
Mar 13-17, 2013	43	7	47	1	1	--
Feb 13-18, 2013	36	9	52	1	3	--
Feb 14-17, 2013	43	9	45	1	2	--
Jan 9-13, 2013	35	10	51	2	2	--
Dec 5-9, 2012	37	11	51	1	*	--
Oct 31-Nov 3, 2012 (RVs)	40	8	49	1	2	--
Oct 4-7, 2012	38	9	50	1	3	--
Sep 12-16, 2013	39	7	52	1	1	--
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	40	9	47	2	1	--
Jun 7-17, 2012	42	8	48	1	1	--
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	36	9	53	1	2	--
Apr 4-15, 2012	42	8	48	1	1	--
Mar 7-11, 2012	38	10	49	2	1	--
Feb 8-12, 2012	40	7	51	1	1	--
Jan 11-16, 2012	42	8	47	1	1	--
Jan 4-8, 2012	37	8	52	1	1	--
Dec 7-11, 2011	40	9	48	2	1	--
Nov 9-14, 2011	41	9	49	*	1	--
Nov 9-14, 2011	41	9	49	*	1	--
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	37	11	51	1	1	--
Aug 17-21, 2011	43	7	49	*	1	--
Jul 20-24, 2011	40	7	51	*	1	--
Jun 15-19, 2011	42	9	47	1	1	--
May 25-30, 2011	37	7	52	1	3	--
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	45	9	46	*	1	--
Mar 8-14, 2011	37	7	54	1	*	--
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	41	9	48	1	1	--
Feb 2-7, 2011 <sup>2</sup>	43	8	47	1	1	--
Jan 5-9, 2011	45	6	47	1	1	--
Dec 1-5, 2010	48	5	45	1	1	--
Nov 4-7, 2010	51	5	42	1	1	--
Oct 27-30, 2010 (RVs)	58	5	27	--	1	9
Oct 13-18, 2010 (RVs)	54	5	30	--	1	10
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs)	56	6	29	--	*	9
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	46	5	36	--	1	13
Jun 16-20, 2010	46	5	30	--	*	19

<sup>2</sup> In the February 2-7, 2011, survey and before, question read "...do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the Tea Party movement..." In October 2010 and earlier, question was asked only of those who had heard or read a lot or a little about the Tea Party. In May 2010 through October 2010, it was described as: "the Tea Party movement that has been involved in campaigns and protests in the U.S. over the past year." In March 2010 it was described as "the Tea Party protests that have taken place in the U.S. over the past year."

**TEAPARTY3 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>No opinion either way</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Haven't heard of</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Refused</u>	Not heard of/ <u>DK</u>
May 20-23, 2010	53	4	25	--	1	16
Mar 11-21, 2010	48	4	26	--	1	21