

**2026 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL  
WAVE 185 POLITICS JANUARY SURVEY  
FINAL TOPLINE  
January 20-26, 2026  
N=8,512**

Note: This survey was conducted primarily online, with some interviews conducted by live telephone. This topline shows the programming language for online administration. For details on how questions were slightly modified for phone administration, visit the questionnaire.

American Trends Panel surveys conducted between October 2016 and June 2024 were conducted fully online (with tablets and data plans provided to adults without home internet). American Trends Panel surveys conducted prior to October 2016 were conducted primarily online, with some respondents completing by mail. For additional details, visit the Methodology.

\* "No answer" includes web respondents who do not answer the question as well as telephone respondents who refuse to answer or who say that they don't know how to answer. In cases where "not sure" was offered as an explicit option to web and telephone respondents, the "no answer" category includes only web skips and telephone refusals.

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=4,262]:**

YOUR TAXES Considering what you get from the federal government, do you think you pay...

	<u>More than your fair share of taxes</u>	<u>Less than your fair share of taxes</u>	<u>About the right amount of taxes</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Jan 20-26, 2026	60	5	33	1
Mar 27-Apr 2, 2023	56	8	34	1
Apr 5-11, 2021	49	6	44	1
Sep 3-15, 2019	51	8	40	1

**PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON:**

*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?*

	<u>More than fair share</u>	<u>Less than fair share</u>	<u>About the right amount</u>	<u>Don't know/ Refused</u>
Sep 5-16, 2019	39	2	56	3
Apr 5-11, 2017	40	5	54	2
Sep 16-Oct 4, 2015	40	4	54	2
Feb 18-22, 2015	40	4	53	2
Dec 7-11, 2011	38	5	52	5
Mar 11-21, 2010	43	3	50	3
Feb, 2000	55	1	41	3
Oct, 1997	52	2	45	1

## YOUR TAXES PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON CONTINUED ...

## TREND FOR COMPARISON

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?

NPR/Kaiser/Harvard: May, 2000                      55                      2                      42                      1

## ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=4,262]:

TAXBTHR      How much, if at all, does each of the following bother you about the federal tax system?

## [RANDOMIZE ITEMS]

		A lot	Some	Not too much	Not at all	No answer*
YOU	The amount you pay in taxes					
	Jan 20-26, 2026	41	34	18	6	1
	Mar 27-Apr 2, 2023	38	33	20	9	1
	Apr 5-11, 2021	33	33	24	10	1
	<i>Phone trend for comparison:</i>					<b>(VOL.)</b>
	Mar 20-25, 2019	27	29	24	17	<u>DK/Ref</u>
	Apr 5-11, 2017	27	26	25	21	2
	Feb 18-22, 2015	27	26	27	19	1
						2
						1
CMPLX	The complexity of the tax system					
	Jan 20-26, 2026	51	34	10	3	1
	Mar 27-Apr 2, 2023	53	32	10	3	1
	Apr 5-11, 2021	47	35	12	4	1
	<i>Phone trend for comparison:</i>					<b>(VOL.)</b>
	Mar 20-25, 2019	39	34	15	10	<u>DK/Ref</u>
	Apr 5-11, 2017	43	29	16	10	2
	Feb 18-22, 2015	44	28	17	8	2
						3
						3
WLTHY	The feeling that some <u>wealthy people</u> don't pay their fair share					
	Jan 20-26, 2026 <sup>1</sup>	61	21	11	6	1
	Mar 27-Apr 2, 2023	60	22	11	6	1
	Apr 5-11, 2021	59	21	12	7	1
	<i>Phone trend for comparison:</i>					<b>(VOL.)</b>
	Mar 20-25, 2019	60	20	10	9	<u>DK/Ref</u>
	Apr 5-11, 2017	60	18	9	12	1
	Feb 18-22, 2015	61	18	10	10	1
						2
						2

<sup>1</sup> Prior to January 2026, the words "wealthy people" were not underlined.

**TAXBTHR CONTINUED ...**

		<u>A lot</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Not too much</u>	<u>Not at all</u>	<u>No answer*</u>
LWINC	The feeling that some <u>poor people</u> don't pay their fair share <sup>2</sup>					
	Jan 20-26, 2026	12	21	31	35	1
	Mar 27-Apr 2, 2023	13	21	28	36	1
	Apr 5-11, 2021	13	19	31	37	1
	<i>Phone trend for comparison:</i>					<b>(VOL.)</b>
	Mar 20-25, 2019	16	24	19	39	<u>DK/Ref</u>
	Apr 5-11, 2017	20	20	22	36	2
	Feb 18-22, 2015	20	22	22	34	2
CORP	The feeling that some <u>corporations</u> don't pay their fair share <sup>3</sup>					
	Jan 20-26, 2026	60	23	11	5	1
	Mar 27-Apr 2, 2023	61	22	10	5	1
	Apr 5-11, 2021	59	22	12	6	1
	<i>Phone trend for comparison:</i>					<b>(VOL.)</b>
	Mar 20-25, 2019	62	20	9	8	<u>DK/Ref</u>
	Apr 5-11, 2017	62	18	9	9	2
	Feb 18-22, 2015	64	18	9	8	1

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK ALL:**

PARTY In politics today, do you consider yourself a...

**ASK IF INDEP/SOMETHING ELSE (PARTY=3,4 OR REFUSED):**PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to...<sup>4</sup>

<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>Something else</u>	<u>No answer*</u>	<i>Lean Rep</i>	<i>Lean Dem</i>
28	26	29	15	2	18	21

<sup>2</sup> Prior to January 2026, the words "poor people" were not underlined.

<sup>3</sup> Prior to January 2026, the word "corporations" was not underlined.

<sup>4</sup> PARTY and PARTYLN asked in a prior survey.