


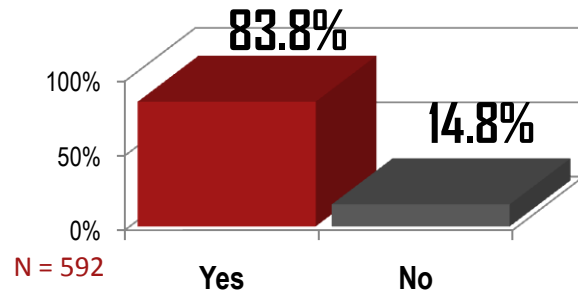
GOVERNMENT & POLITICAL PREFERENCES IN NORTH DAKOTA



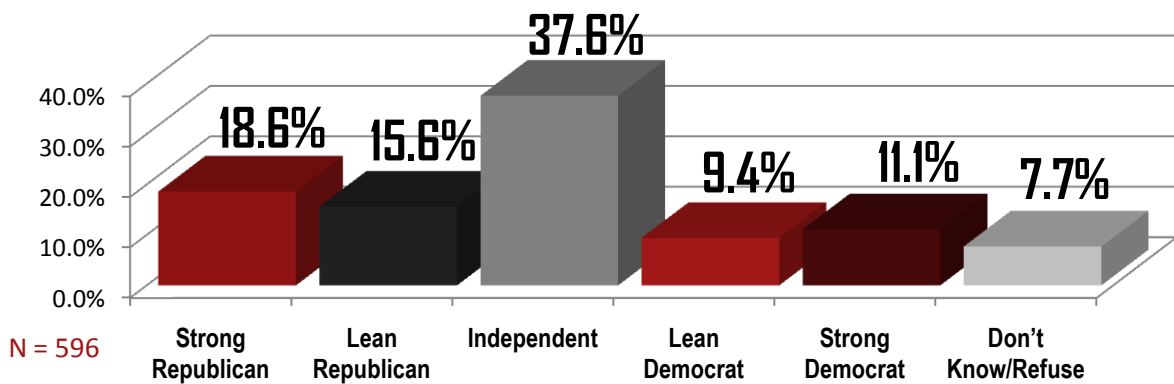
The University of North Dakota's MPA Program conducted a Government and Political Preferences in North Dakota Survey in the Spring of 2010 with the assistance of the Bureau of Governmental Affairs. The survey was administered in order to obtain North Dakotan's opinions on government workers, regulation & taxation impacts on business, balancing the federal budget, and the current electoral system. The survey was conducted on a random sample of adults in North Dakota.

SURVEY BASICS

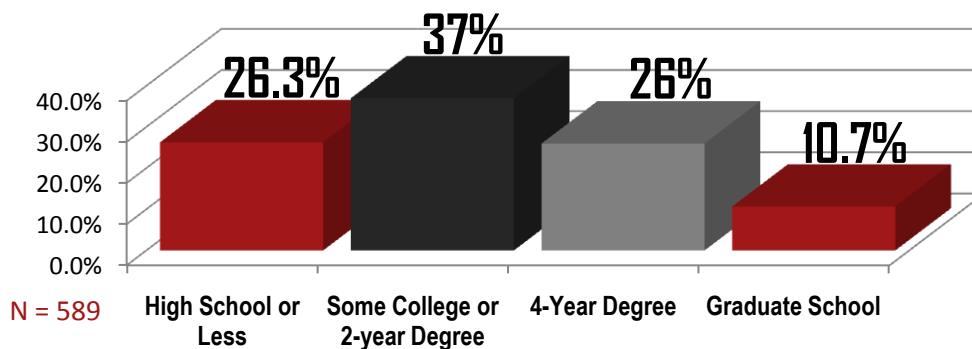
VOTE: Survey respondents were asked if they voted in the last election. The results from the 592 respondents are shown in the graph.



POLITICAL PARTY: Survey respondents were also asked to place themselves in one of the following political party affiliation categories: strong Republican, leaning Republican, strongly Democrat, leaning Democrat, or Independent. The results from the 596 respondents are shown in the graph.

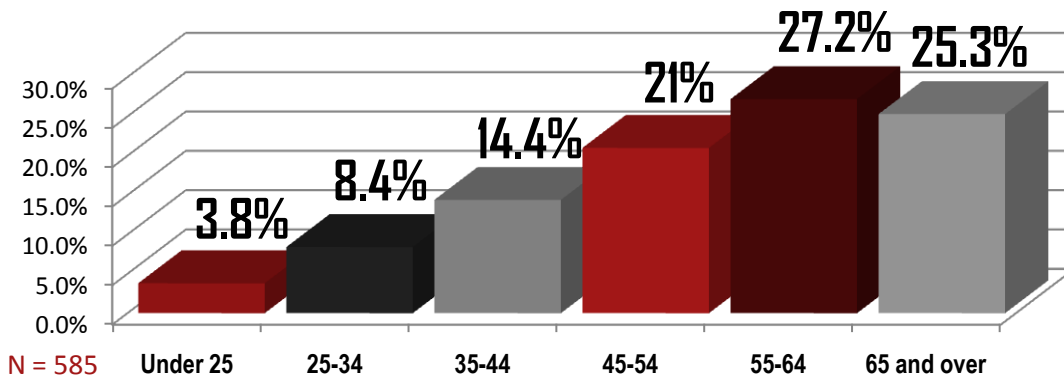


EDUCATION: Survey respondents were asked their highest level of formal education in the following categories: High School or less, some college/2-year degree, 4-year degree, or Graduate school. The results from the 589 respondents are shown in the graph.



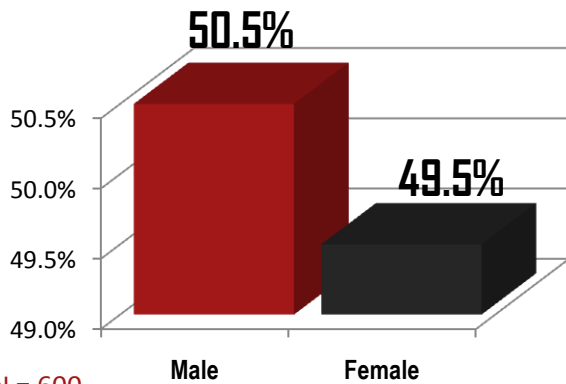
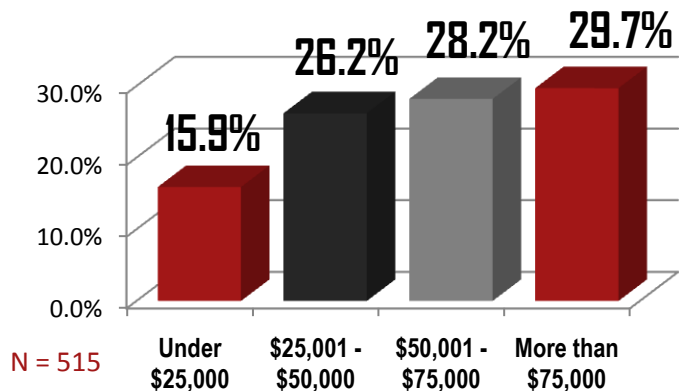
SURVEY BASICS CONTINUED...

RESPONDENT AGE: Survey respondents were asked to indicate their age at the time of the survey within the following ranges: Under 25, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65 and over. The results from the 585 respondents are shown in the graph.



HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Survey respondents were also asked which of the ranges best reflects their annual household income. The results from the 515 respondents are shown in the graph to the right.

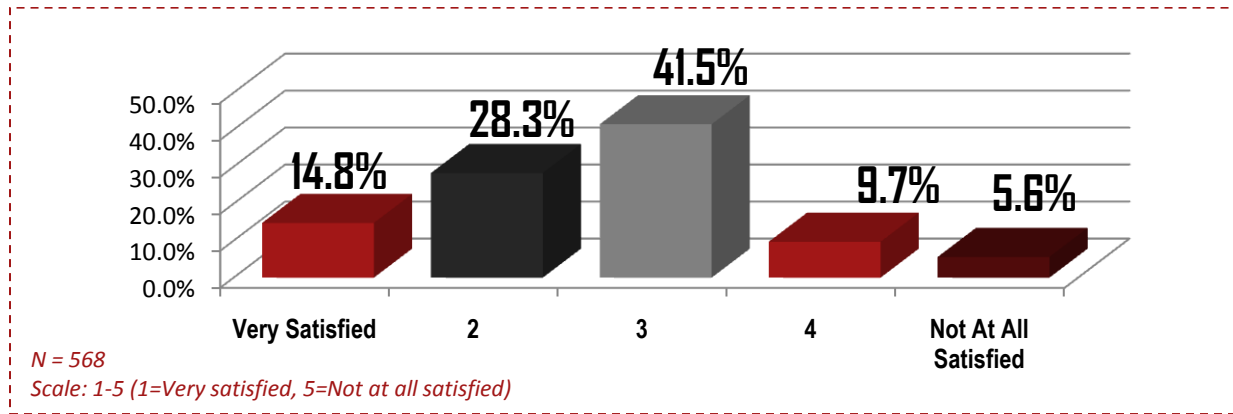


GENDER

Survey respondents were also asked to indicate their gender. The results from the 600 respondents are shown in the graph to the left.

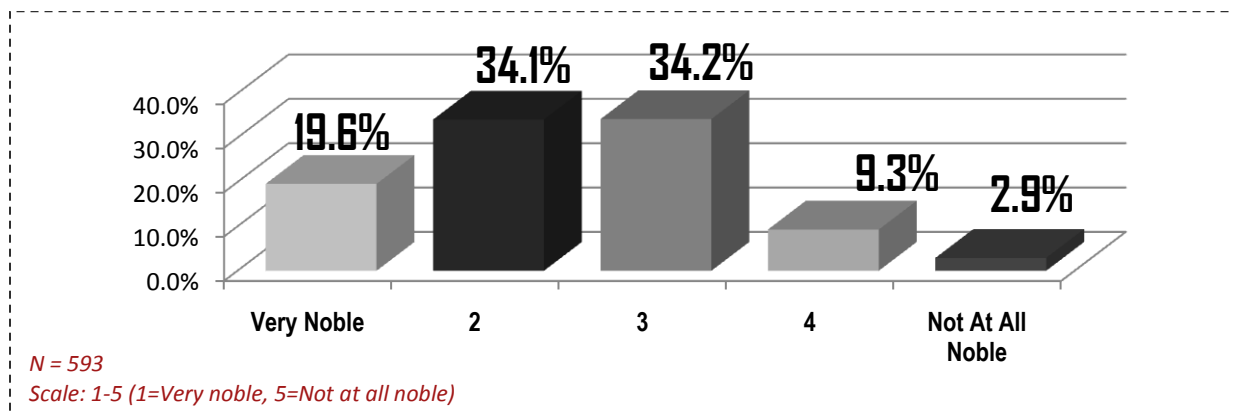
SATISFACTION WITH PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Survey respondents were asked on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being very satisfied and 5 being not at all satisfied, how satisfied are you with non-elected government workers or public employees in North Dakota? As shown in the graph, out of 568 respondents, a ranking of 3 on the scale was the most common response at 41.5% and a ranking of 2 was the second most common response at 28.3%.



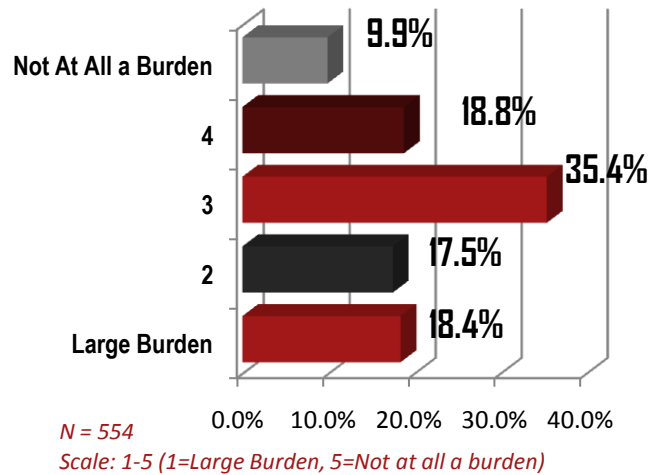
NOBILITY OF PUBLIC SERVICE PROFESSION

Survey respondents were asked if public service is defined as working for the government as a public employee, how noble of a profession would you say public service is on a scale where 1 is very noble and 5 is not noble at all. As shown in the graph, out of 593 respondents, a ranking of 3 was the most common response at 41.5% and a ranking of 2 the second most common response at 28.3%.

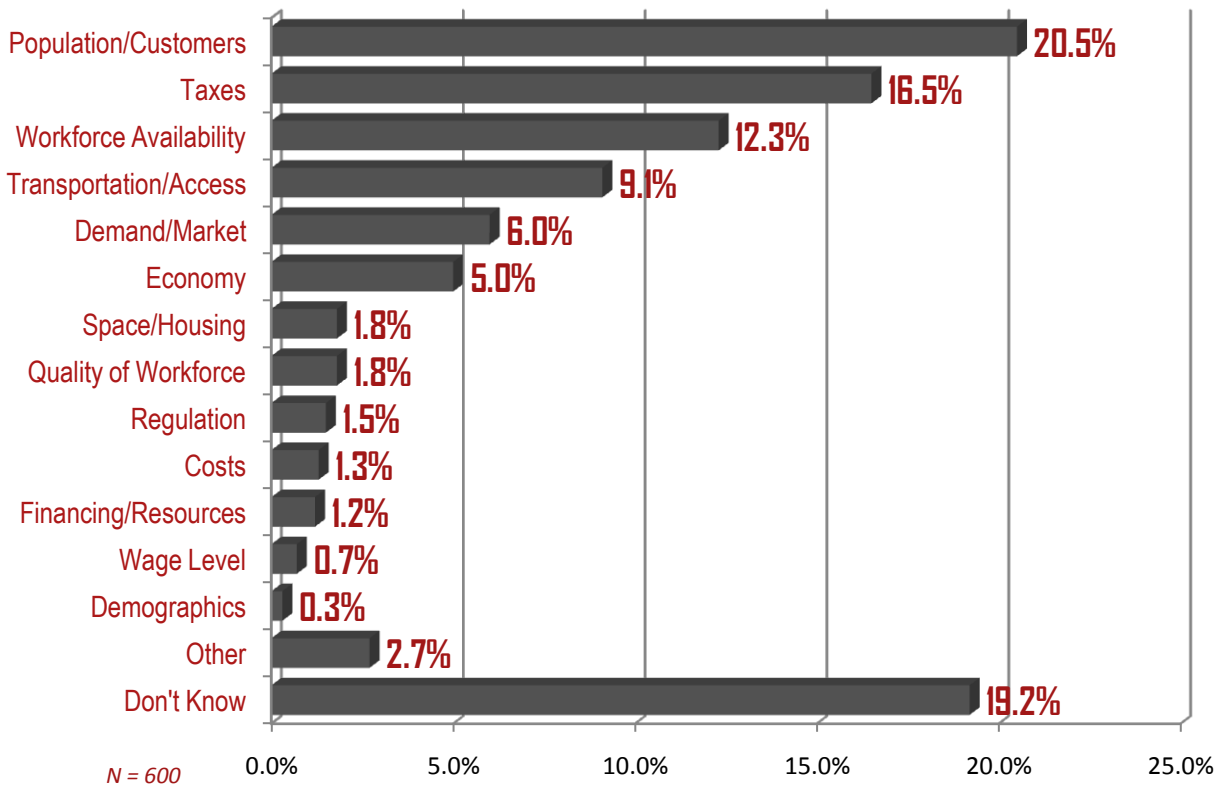


GOVERNMENT REGULATION & BUSINESSES

BURDEN OF REGULATION: Survey respondents were asked on the same scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being a large burden and 5 being not a burden at all, how much of a burden do you think government regulation or taxation is to new businesses starting in North Dakota. Out of the 554 respondents, 35.4% responded with a ranking of 3 while a total of 35.9% responded with a ranking of 1 (large burden) or 2.



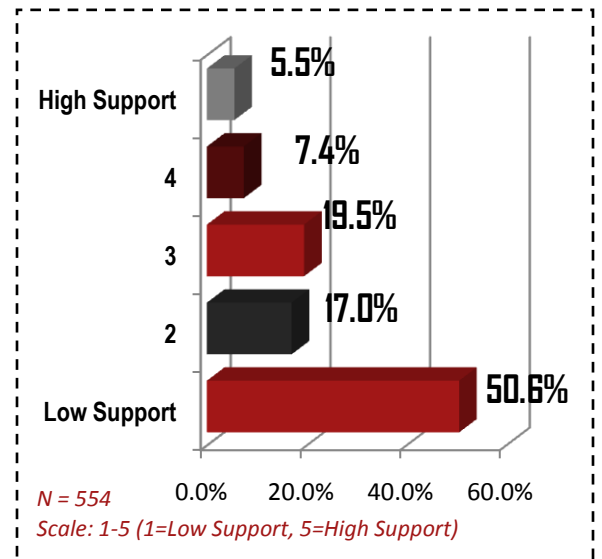
FACTORS OF BUSINESS LOCATIONS: Survey respondents were asked to identify a single factor or consideration that they think is most important to businesses when deciding where to locate, or whether to start-up in a given area. The results from the 600 respondents were grouped into categories. Common responses included Population/Customers (20.5%), Taxes (16.5%) and Workforce Availability (12.3%).



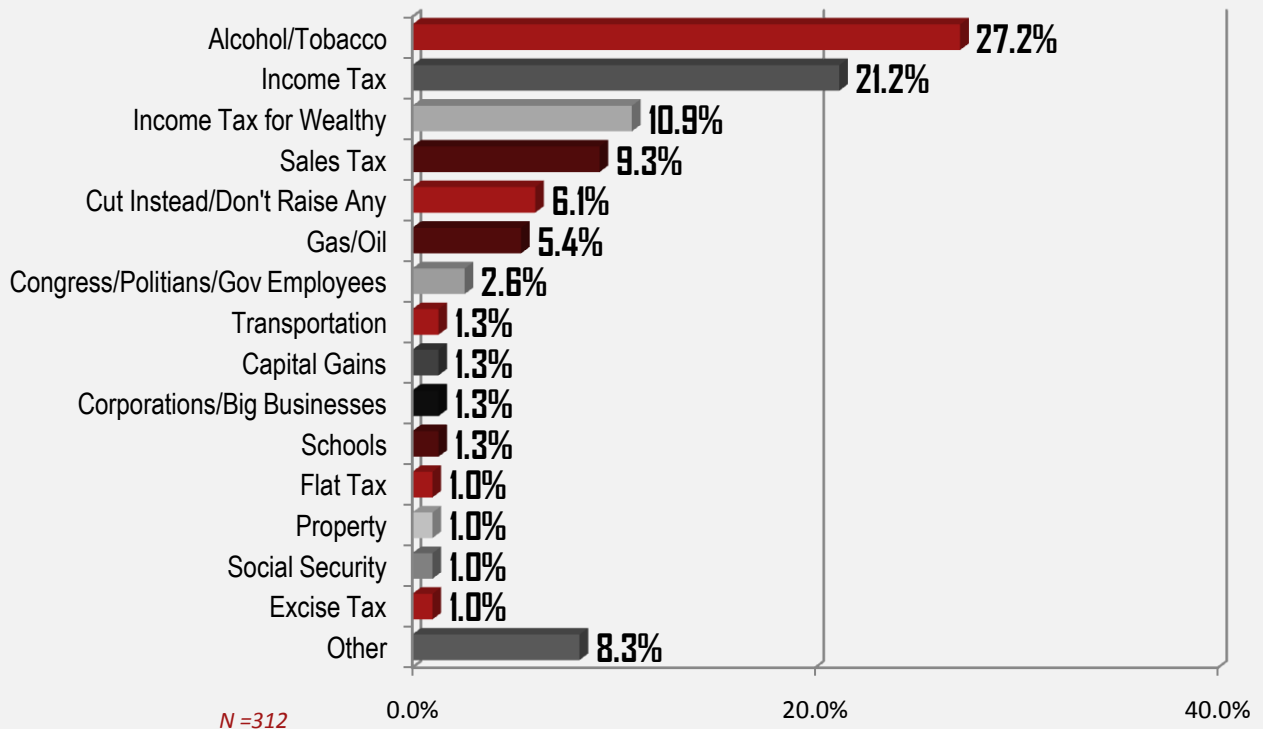
BALANCING THE BUDGET

The survey also contained questions concerning the record level federal deficit. Respondents were asked their opinion on two accepted means of balancing the federal budget: spending and increasing taxes.

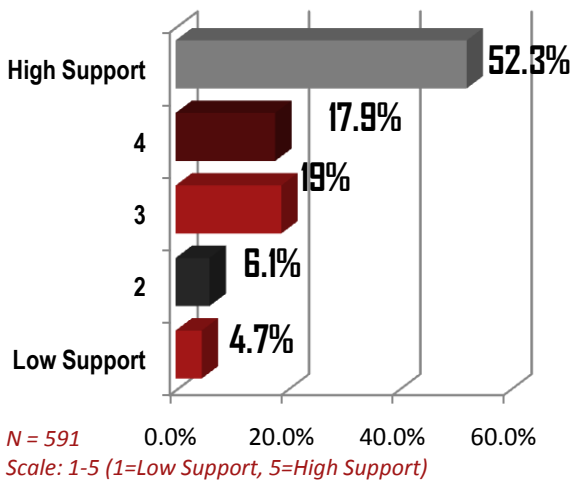
SUPPORT FOR RAISING TAXES: Respondents were asked on a scale from 1 to 5, with 1 indicating low support and 5 high support, how much they support raising taxes to balance the federal budget. As shown in the graph to the right, most (50.6%) of the 595 respondents responded with “low support” for raising taxes in order to balance the budget.



WHICH TAX TO RAISE: Respondents were also asked if they had to raise a single federal tax, what it would be. As shown in the graph below, of the 312 respondents, the most popular response was Alcohol and/or Tobacco taxes (27.2%). Another common response was income tax (total of 32.1%) and 10.9% specified raising the income tax for the wealthy. Responses of “none” or “don’t know” were excluded.

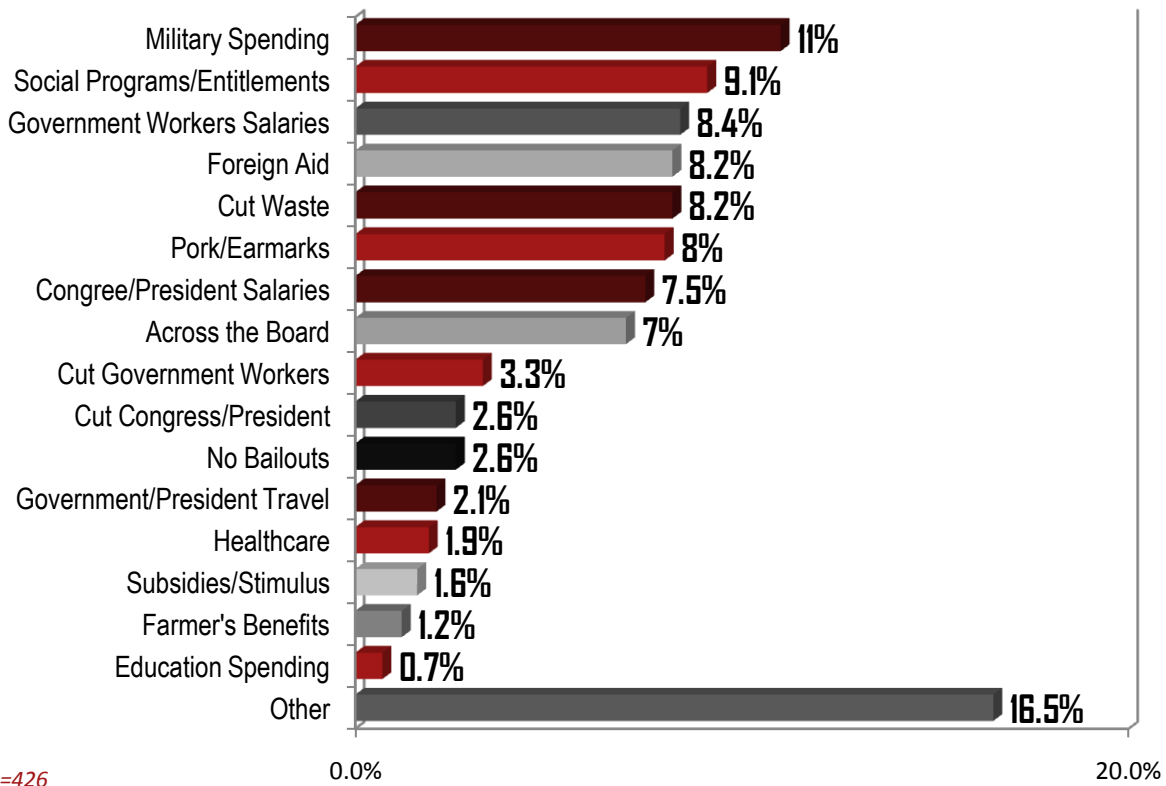


BALANCING THE BUDGET CONTINUED...



SUPPORT FOR CUTTING SPENDING: Respondents were asked on a scale from 1 to 5, with 1 indicating low support and 5 high support, how much they support cutting government spending. As shown in the graph to the left, most (52.3%) of the 591 respondents indicated high support for cutting government spending.

RECOMMENDATION FOR CUTTING SPENDING: Respondents were also asked what their recommendation would be for cutting government spending. As shown in the graph below, of the 426 respondents, the most popular responses were Military Spending (11%), Social Programs/Entitlements (9.1%), and Government Workers Salaries (8.4%). Responses of “none” or “don’t know” were excluded.



CORRELATIONS

GOVERNMENT WORKERS & PUBLIC SERVICE: Out of the 600 respondents, 557-589 respondents indicated both their age and political affiliation and responded to the following questions:

1. On a scale from 1 to 5, with 1 being very satisfied and 5 being not at all satisfied, how satisfied are you with non-elected government workers or public employees in North Dakota.
2. If public service is defined as working for the government as a public employee, how noble of a profession would say public service is on a scale where 1 is very noble and 5 is not noble at all?

In order to determine whether individuals' satisfaction with government workers or their opinion on the nobility of public service as a profession correlated to age or political affiliation, Pearson Correlations were run. Using a scale from 1 to 5, Strong Republican = 1 and Strong Democrat = 5. As shown in the chart, the responses to neither of these questions correlated to age or political affiliation at a significant level.

		AGE	POLITICAL AFFILIATION
SATISFACTION WITH PUBLIC WORKERS	Pearson Correlation	-.081	-.011
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.056	.789
	N	557	564
PUBLIC SERVICE AS NOBLE PROFESSION	Pearson Correlation	-.032	-.027
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.436	.515
	N	580	589

TAXATION, REGULATION & BUSINESS: Out of the 600 respondents, 541-550 respondents indicated both their age and political affiliation and responded to the following question: On a scale from 1 to 5, with 1 being a large burden and 5 not being a burden at all, how much of a burden do you think government regulation or taxation is to new businesses starting in North Dakota?

In order to determine whether individuals' opinion on the impact of taxation on business correlated to age or political affiliation, Pearson Correlations were run. Using a scale from 1 to 5, Strong Republican = 1 and Strong Democrat = 5. As shown in the chart, both correlations were positive and significant; indicating that Republicans and older individuals felt that taxation and regulation was more of a burden while Democrats and younger individuals felt it was less of a burden.

		AGE	POLITICAL AFFILIATION
TAXATION/REGULATION & BUSINESS	Pearson Correlation	.128*	.118*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.003	.006
	N	550	541

CORRELATIONS CONTINUED...

RAISING TAXES & CUTTING SPENDING: Out of the 600 respondents, 508-595 respondents indicated their age, political affiliation, gender and income and responded to the following questions:

1. On a scale from 1 to 5, with 1 indicating low support and 5 indicating high support, how much do you support raising taxes to balance the federal budget?
2. On the same scale, how much do you support cutting government spending?

In order to determine whether individuals' level of support for raising taxes or cutting spending correlated with age, political affiliation, gender or income level, Pearson Correlations were run.

Using a scale from 1 to 5, Strong Republican = 1 and Strong Democrat = 5. Education levels were given on a scale from 1 to 4 (1= High School or less, 2 = Some College/2-year Degree, 3 = 4-Year Degree, 4 = Graduate School) Gender was indicated by Female = 1, Male = 0.

AGE: As shown in the chart, age did not significantly correlate to the responses to either question at a significant level.

POLITICAL AFFILIATION: Political affiliation correlated to the responses to both questions. Republicans were less supportive to raising taxes and Democrats were more supportive. Republicans were more supportive of cutting government spending and Democrats were less supportive.

GENDER: Gender did not correlate to the responses to either question at a significant level.

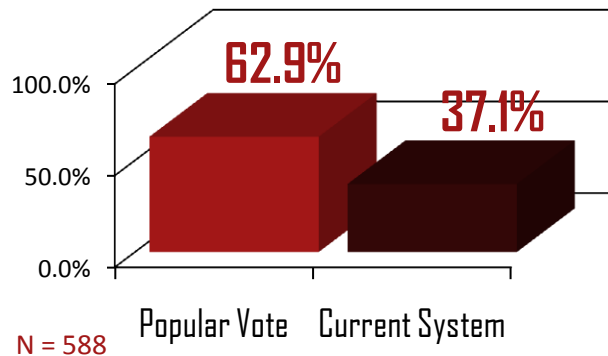
EDUCATION: Education correlated to the responses to raising taxes. Those with higher levels of education supported raising taxes more while those with lower levels of education indicated less support for raising taxes.

INCOME LEVEL: Income level correlated with the responses to cutting spending. Those with higher levels of income supported cutting spending more while those with lower levels of income indicated less support for cutting spending.

		AGE	POLITICAL AFFILIATION	GENDER	EDUCATION	INCOME
RAISING TAXES	Pearson Correlation	.079	.192*	-.022	.127*	.043
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.058	.000	.593	.002	.335
	N	580	591	595	584	514
CUTTING SPENDING	Pearson Correlation	-.054	-.132*	-.073	.000	.094*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.196	.001	.077	.997	.034
	N	576	587	591	580	508

NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE

ELECT THE PRESIDENT: Respondents were asked how they think we should elect the President: by the candidate who gets the most votes in all 50 states, or with the current electoral system. Of the 588 respondents, most (62.9%) felt that the President should be elected by Popular vote.



AGE & NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE:

To determine whether age correlates with individuals' opinion on the national popular vote, a Pearson Correlation was run. Out of the 600

respondents to the entire survey, 573 individuals responded with both their age and the national popular vote question. Supporting the current system = 1 while supporting the National Popular Vote Option = 0. As shown in the chart, there was no significant relationship between the two variables.

N=573		AGE
NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE	Pearson Correlation	.046
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.276

POLITICAL AFFILIATION & NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE:

To determine whether political affiliation correlates with individuals' opinion on the national popular vote, a Pearson Correlation was

run. Out of the 600 respondents to the entire survey, 584 individuals responded with both their political affiliation and the national popular vote question. Using a scale from 1 to 5, Strong Republican = 1 and Strong Democrat = 5. Supporting national popular vote option = 0 while supporting the current system = 1. As shown in the chart, there is a slight negative correlation, indicating that Republicans were more likely to support the current system while Democrats were more likely to support the national popular vote option.

N=584		POLITICAL AFFILIATION
NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE	Pearson Correlation	-.110
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.008