



**AP-AOL POLL  
CONDUCTED BY IPSOS PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
PROJECT #81-5681-13**

**NOTE: all results shown are percentages unless otherwise labeled.**

<b>TAXES STUDY</b>
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**NOTE: Results represent all adults unless otherwise indicated.**

1. Do you think the amount of taxes you pay is fair or unfair?

Very fair	16
Somewhat fair	37
Somewhat unfair	20
Very unfair	25
(DK/NS)	2

2a. Do you happen to know what the deadline is for filing your federal income tax return for 2006, or not?

**[IF "YES" TO Qu. 2a, ASK Qu. 2b; OTHERWISE, SKIP TO Qu. 3.]**

2b. And what is that deadline?

April 15	48
April 16	15
April 17	19
Some other date	7
(DK/NS)	11

3. What best describes your responsibility for filing the taxes in your household? Would you say ...

Primary responsibility	57
Shared responsibility	29
No responsibility	14

**[IF "You don't have the responsibility for filing taxes in your household / DK / REF" TO Qu. 3, SKIP TO Qu. 11.]**

4. What best describes the status of your federal tax return for 2006?

Already filed	64
Started working on return, but haven't filed yet	21
Haven't started working on return but expect to file by deadline	9
Plan to file for an extension	4
(NOT READ) Don't have to file	1
(DK/NS)	1

**[IF RESPONDED ANYTHING BUT "Already filed" TO Qu. 4, ASK Qu. 6a.]**

6a. This year, how will you prepare your income tax return?

**[IF "Already filed" TO Qu. 4, ASK Qu. 6b.]**

6b. This year, how did you prepare your income tax return?

Use a professional tax preparer	51
Use a software program, either online or on your computer	25
Fill out tax form manually	15
Have a friend or family member fill out your tax forms	8
DK/NS	1

**[IF "Used a software program to prepare your own taxes, either online or on your computer" TO Qu. 6a OR 6b, ASK Qu. 6c; OTHERWISE, SKIP TO Qu. 7.]**

6c. And is that software program ... **[RESPONSE ORDER RANDOMIZED]**

Online over the internet	45
On your computer	54
DK/NS	1

7. Are your tax returns being filed electronically, or online, to the Internal Revenue Service, or are they being mailed in?

Filled electronically or online	54
Being mailed in	43
DK/NS	3

8. How SAFE do you think it is to file tax returns electronically or online?

Very safe	42
Somewhat safe	43
Not too safe	9
Not at all safe	4
DK/NS	2

8a. How CONVENIENT do you think it is to file tax returns electronically or online?

Very convenient	67
Somewhat convenient	22
Not too convenient	3
Not at all convenient	5
DK/NS	3

9. How organized are you when it comes to keeping your tax receipts? Would you say you are ...

Very organized	55
Somewhat organized	34
Not too organized	7
Not at all organized	3
DK/NS	1

**[IF ANYTHING BUT “Use a professional tax preparer” TO Qu. 6a OR 6b, ASK Qu. 10a.]**

10a. Overall, including time preparing your return and organizing your tax documents and receipts, about how many hours will you personally spend on your taxes this year? Just your best guess is fine.

**[IF “Use a professional tax preparer” TO Qu. 6a OR 6b, ASK Qu. 10b.]**

10b. Overall, including time preparing your return, organizing your tax documents and talking with your tax preparer, about how many hours will you personally spend on your taxes this year? Just your best guess is fine.

None	2
One	20
Two	18
Three	13
Four	8
Five	8
6-7	6
8-10	7
11-20	7
21 or more	8
DK/NS	2
Mean	8.3

**[QU. 11-12 ASKED OF ALL RESPONDENTS.]**

11. Did you receive a tax refund last year, or not?

Yes	67
No	31
DK/NS	2

12. Do you expect to receive a tax refund this year, or not?

Yes	66
No	31
DK/NS	3

**[IF “YES” TO Qu. 12, ASK Qu. 13a]**

13a. What do you expect to do with your tax refund this year? Will you ...

Save or invest it	36
Pay off bills	27
Pay down debt	21
Spend it	14
Use it as a down- payment for a home or car	3
(NOT READ) Home renovation	1
(NOT READ) Tuition	1
(NOT READ) Use it for next year's taxes	1
(NOT READ) Other	4
(DK/NS)	1

**[IF "Save or invest it" TO Qu. 13a, ASK Qu. 13b.]**

13b. How will you save or invest your refund? Will you ...

Deposit it in a savings account	60
Use it as a contribution to an IRA or other retirement savings plan	13
Buy stocks or bonds	8
Contribute to a college savings fund	7
Buy real estate	1
Invest in some other way (specify)	6
(DK/NS)	6

**[IF "Pay off bills" TO Qu. 13a, ASK Qu. 13c.]**

13c. What kind of bills will you pay off? **[FIRST THREE RESPONSE OPTIONS WERE RANDOMIZED]**

Credit card bills	42
Make your rent or mortgage payment	18
Utility bills	12
(NOT READ) Hospital/ doctor's bill	9
(NOT READ) Home/ car insurance	3
(NOT READ) Property tax	3
(NOT READ) Home improvement	1
Pay some other kind of bill (specify)	11
(DK/NS)	3

**[IF "Pay down debt" TO Qu. 13a, ASK Qu. 13d.]**

13d. What kind of debt will you pay down? **[FIRST 5 RESPONSE OPTIONS WERE RANDOMIZED]**

Credit card debt	58
Student loan debt	10
Home equity loans	8
Mortgage loans	7
Personal loans	5
(NOT READ) Property tax	2
Some other kind of debt (specify)	10
DK/NS	2

**[IF "Spend it" TO Qu. 13a, ASK Qu. 13e.]**

13e. And how will you spend your tax refund? Will you ... **[FIRST 3 RESPONSE OPTIONS WERE RANDOMIZED]**

Use it for everyday needs like food and clothing	36
Go on a vacation	19
Go on a shopping spree	15
(NOT READ) Home improvement	10
Spend it in some other way (Specify)	18
DK/NS	2

**[IF "Use it as a down-payment for a home or car" TO Qu. 13a, ASK Qu. 13f.]**

13f. And will you use it as a down-payment for ... **[ANSWER LIST RANDOMIZED]**

A car	55
A home	42
DK/NS	3

<b>DEMOGRAPHICS</b>
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**NOTE: Results for demographic questions represent all adults unless otherwise indicated.**

D1a. In what year were you born?

D1b. Have you already had a birthday this year?

**(IF RESPONDENT REFUSES Q.D1a OR Q.D1b, Q.D1c ASKED. RESULTS SHOWN IN SUMMARY BELOW.)**

D1c. Are you:

18-34	30%
35-49	28%
50-64	25%
65+	16%
(DK/NS)	1%

D2. Are you employed:

TOTAL EMPLOYED	62%
- Full time	52%
- Part time	10%
Not employed	17%
Retired	21%
(DK/NS)	-

D3. What is the last year of school you completed?

Grade school or some high school	7%
Completed high school	22%
Some community college or university, did not finish	23%
Completed technical school or a community college	12%
Completed a university or Bachelor's degree	20%
Completed a post-graduate degree such as a Master's or Ph.D.	16%
(DK/NS)	-

D4. Are you currently married?

Yes	54%
No	45%
(DK/NS)	1%

D5. Including yourself and any children, how many people are currently living in your household?

1	21%
2	30%
3	19%
4	19%
5	7%
6+	3%
(DK/NS)	1%

**(Q.D6a-c ASKED ONLY OF THOSE WHO SAY MORE THAN ONE PERSON IN HOUSEHOLD IN Q.D5.)**

D6a. How many children under 6 years are currently living in your household?

D6b. How many children ages 6 to 12 are currently living in your household?

D6c. How many children ages 13 to 17 are currently living in your household?

ANY CHILDREN (NET)	37%
Under 6	19%
6-12	20%
13-17	10%
NO CHILDREN	62%
(DK/NS)	1%
Summary	
Any children 12 or younger	32%
Any children 6 to 17	26%

D7. Do you currently own stocks, bonds, or mutual funds?

Yes	52%
No	46%
(DK/NS)	2%

D9a. Would you describe yourself as a born-again or evangelical Christian, or not?

Yes	39%
No	59%
(DK/NS)	2%

D9b. What is your religious preference? Is it Protestant, Catholic, Mormon, Jewish, Muslim, some other religion, or don't you belong to any religious denomination? **(IF "SOME OTHER RELIGION, ASK) Is that a Christian denomination, or not? (IF YES, CODED AS "PROTESTANT".)**

Protestant	49%
Catholic	23%
Mormon	1%
Jewish	1%
Muslim	-
Some other religion	3%
None	22%
(DK/NS)	1%

D12a. Are you of Hispanic ethnicity?

**(Q.D12c ASKED ONLY OF THOSE WHO DO NOT SAY THEY ARE HISPANIC IN Q.D12a.)**

D12b. Are you white, black, Asian, or some other race?

**(RESULTS SHOWN IN SUMMARY BELOW.)**

White	69%
Black	11%
Hispanic	13%
Asian	2%
(NOT READ) American	
Indian	1%
(NOT READ) Other	2%
(DK/NS)	2%

D13. Could you please tell me your household income from all sources in 2006?

Under \$15,000	13%
\$15,000 to less than \$20,000	5%
\$20,000 to less than \$25,000	6%
\$25,000 to less than \$30,000	5%
\$30,000 to less than \$40,000	10%
\$40,000 to less than \$50,000	8%
\$50,000 to less than \$75,000	16%
\$75,000 to less than \$100,000	10%
\$100,000 or more	14%
(DK/NS)	13%

**REGION:**

Northeast	19%
Midwest	22%
South	36%
West	23%

**METROPOLITAN STATUS:**

Urban	30%
Suburban	53%
Rural	17%

**GENDER:**

Male	48%
Female	52%

ZZ5b. How often do you attend religious services?

At least once a week (Net)	38%
More than once a week	13%
Once a week	25%
Less than once a week (Net)	37%
A few times a month	13%
A few times a year	24%
Never	24%
(DK/NS)	1%