



# 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Idaho Public Policy Survey

**Boise State University  
College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs  
Social Science Research Center**



**Social Science Research Center,  
College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs  
Boise State University**  
1910 University Dr., PAAW-124  
Boise, ID 83725 208-426-1835

<http://sspa.boisestate.edu/ssrc>

**Michael Blankenship, Ph.D.**  
Dean, College of Social Sciences & Public Affairs

**James B. Weatherby, Ph.D.**  
Chair, Department of Public Policy & Administration  
Director, Social Science Research Center

**Leslie A. Alm, Ph.D.**  
Oversight Committee Co-chair  
Director, Graduate Studies, Department of Public Policy & Administration

**Carole Nennich**  
SSRC Graduate Assistant  
Masters Student, Department of Public Policy & Administration

Annually, the SSRC conducts a survey of Idahoans to identify public policy opinions and concerns. The study is provided to public officials and interested citizens. 517 adults in Idaho households representing six geographic regions were surveyed via telephone between November 5 and December 1, 2003. The survey standard error is +/- 4.3% at a 95% Confidence Interval for the total population.

**The Methodology and Technical Report for the study are contained in Appendix I.**

## Executive Summary

### THE STATE OF THE STATE

- The majority of Idahoans, 63% believe that the state is headed in the right direction.
- Education, the economy and jobs, and the environment are Idahoans' top concerns (23%, 25% and 10% respectively).
- The top funding priorities for the state should be education and economic development (60% and 23% respectively).
- The property tax remains the least fair tax according to almost a third of Idahoans.

### ISSUES CONCERNING GOVERNANCE IN IDAHO

- The legislature's performance over the past year was judged to be a 'C' by citizens and the governor's performance received a 'B'.
- The legislature's top priority for the year should be education according to about a quarter of Idahoans. Other legislative priorities should be the economy, growth, jobs and the environment.
- Over 80% of citizens believe the state has a budget problem. When asked the cause, a variety of reasons were mentioned, with the state's spending increases mentioned most frequently at 30%, and only 10% attributing budget problems to the 2001 tax cuts.
- Idaho legislators should act as delegates according to over three-quarters of respondents.
- Almost two-thirds of Idahoans believe that most elected officials make policy decisions as a result of money they receive from major contributors.

### ISSUES CONCERNING TAXATION IN IDAHO

- Of respondents who believe the property tax to be the least fair tax, 50% believe it is not equitable and 31% say the property tax is too high.
- Overall, about three-quarters of the population feel their total tax burden is about right or lower than in other states.
- Most Idaho residents, about two-thirds, believe that they pay about the right amount of state sales tax, even after a 1 cent increase. However, over three-quarters would oppose extending the tax to include service and labor transactions.
- When asked about extending the 1-cent sales tax increase, 76% opposed extending the tax to services and labor. When further asked if the tax should be extended to services and labor if the state sales tax was lowered overall, 72% remain opposed.
- Most citizens, 56% oppose allowing a local option tax for transportation.
- 79% of those surveyed report being a 'homeowner'. Of those who are homeowners, 51% believe that the county assessor is responsible for setting the local property tax rate, while only slightly over a quarter correctly identified local taxing district officials. Over half of these homeowners think that the assessed value of their property is comparable to a fair selling price.
- Of the 16% who believe that the state's sales tax is too high, 32% reasoned that it is regressive or unfair to low income residents.

### OTHER ISSUES OF INTEREST TO IDAHOANS

- Local government is followed in the news more than the federal or state government (44%, vs. 33% and 18% respectively). The best news coverage about government was reported to be television at 44%, followed by newspapers at 34%.

- When asked about participation in political campaign, only 19% reported contributing money to a campaign, and 16% volunteered their time. However, 49% reported displaying support for a candidate or position while 51% said they had not.
- Respondents generally feel that some or many of the policy positions between the Republican and Democratic parties differ, 73%. Only 23% saw only a few differences or no differences at all between the platforms of the two parties.
- When asked the political ideology of *others* in the state, 67% think that Idahoans are predominantly 'Conservative', and one-fifth think others are 'Moderates'. As for their own political orientation, 42% of survey respondents identified themselves as 'Conservative' and 41% claimed to be Republican. 21% claim affiliation with the Democratic party, but only 13% claim to be 'Liberal' in ideology.
- The latest census data shows a majority of Idahoans living in urban areas. However, 53% of those surveyed believe they live in a rural area.
- Poor air quality is a significant issue for Idaho citizens, with 58% believing that it should be addressed at some level.
- 60% of Idaho citizens favor restoring salmon runs in Idaho. However, 45% oppose breaching dams on the Snake River to accomplish salmon restoration.
- When asked if they lived in a rural or urban area, a majority of respondents said they live in a rural area.

### SUMMARY PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

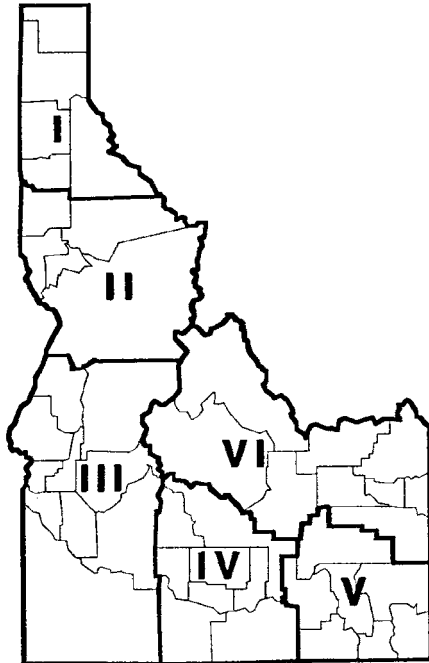
- **Gender:** 50.4% of those surveyed were female and 49.6% male.
- **Race/Ethnicity:** 92% of respondents identified themselves as 'White, Non-hispanic'; all other races and ethnicities polled accounted for less than 3% of all respondents.
- **Age:** respondents ranged from 18 to 90 years of age; the median age is 47.
- **Educational Level:** 2% hold less than a high school diploma; 22% have at least a 4 - year degree; 11% hold a master's degree or better, and 62% have a high school diploma, GED, vocational certificate, associate degree or some college.
- **Employment:** 53% of those surveyed are employed for wages; 15% are self-employed; and 14% are retired.
- **Household Income:** 22% of those polled reported household income of less than \$20,000 annually; 18% reported \$70,000 and over, 26% reported incomes between \$20,000 and \$40,000 per year, and 31% claimed income between \$40,000 and \$70,000 annually.
- **Religious Affiliation:** 29% of Idahoans claim to be Protestant; 23% Mormon; 14% Catholic; and 14% 'Christian'. 13% claim no religious affiliation.
- **Years in Idaho:** responses ranged from less than 1 to 84 years; the median number of years in Idaho is 29. Most who have lived in Idaho less than 1 year cited 'employment' (24%) or 'quality of life' (27%) as the reason for their move.
- **Number of Adults in Household:** 64% of households had two adults, 13% had three, and 12% were single adult households.
- **Political Orientation:** 42% of respondents said they were conservative; 13% liberal; and the balance of 42% claimed to be 'middle-of-the-road' in political orientation.
- **Political Affiliation:** 41% reported a Republican affiliation; 21% identified the Democratic Party; and 23% said they were independent of a party affiliation.

## Regional Representation

The survey is designed to identify differences across six geographic regions, which are comprised of counties in Idaho. See **Figure 1** below. A stratified sample across the regions allows for statistical comparison. The standard error for the sample of each region is identified in **Table 1**.

**Figure 1**  
**County Map of Idaho with Regional Boundaries & List of Counties within Region**

1—Panhandle	Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Benewah, Shoshone
2—North Central	Latah, Clearwater, Nez Perce, Lewis, Idaho
3—Southwest	Adams, Valley, Washington, Payette, Gem, Boise, Canyon, Ada, Elmore, Owyhee
4—South Central	Camas, Blaine, Gooding, Lincoln, Minidoka, Jerome, Twin Falls, Cassia
5—Southeast	Bingham, Power, Bannock, Oneida, Franklin, Bear Lake, Caribou
6—East Central	Lemhi, Custer, Butte, Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison, Teton, Bonneville



## Regional Response Statistics

**Table 1**

	N	Pct.	95% Conf. Interval Std. Error
1—Panhandle	84	16.3%	+/-10.7%
2—North Central	87	16.8%	+/-10.5%
3—Southwest	89	17.2%	+/-10.4%
4—South Central	81	15.7%	+/-10.9%
5—Southeast	85	16.4%	+/-10.6%
6—East Central	91	17.6%	+/-10.3%
Total	517	100.0%	+/-4.3%

For summaries of regional responses by question, see **Appendix II**.

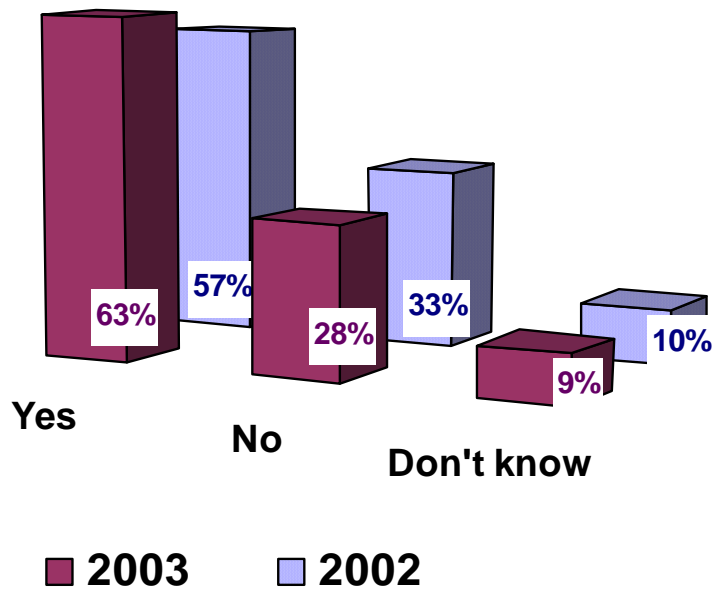
**Annual Public Policy Survey Questions**

Every year, several core questions are asked to gauge citizens' overall perception of the state of the state.

**In general terms, do you think the state is headed in the right direction?**

Almost two-thirds of those surveyed said that the state is headed in the right direction. This is consistent with past years.

For regional data see Appendix II. For trend data see Appendix III.

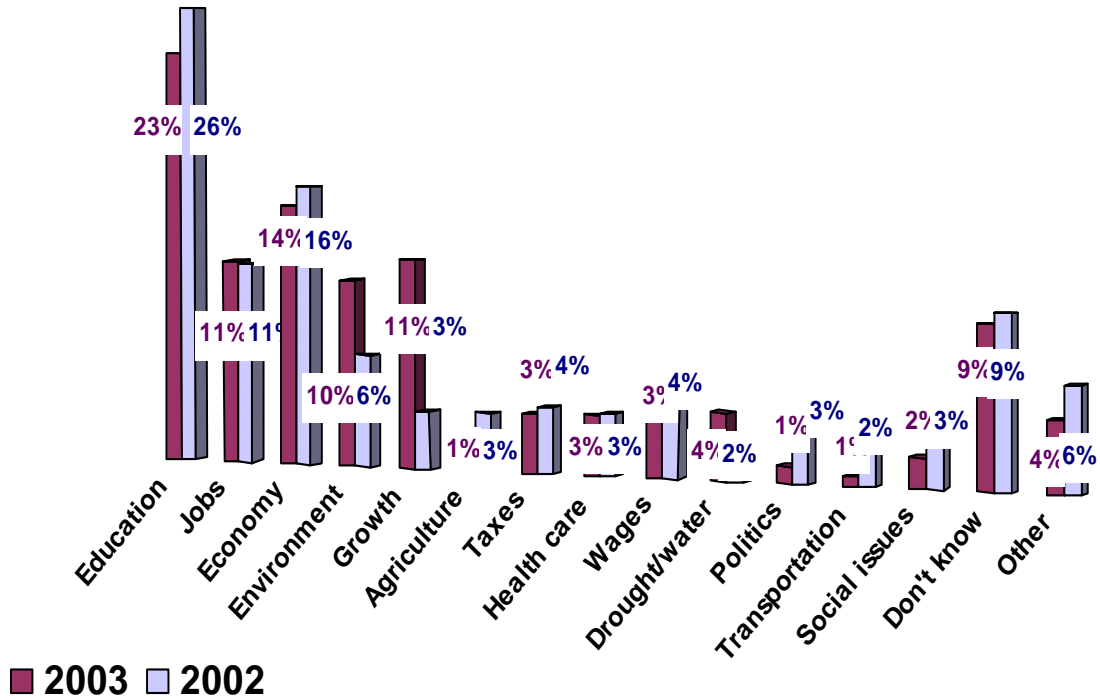


*Unless specified otherwise, all charts throughout this report represent data for 2003 where n=517, and for 2002 where n=522.*

**In your opinion what is the one MOST important problem facing Idaho today?**

This question has been asked every year since 1990. In this year's survey, education remains the most important issue. The economy, jobs, growth and the environment are also frequently mentioned as most important issues. These responses are consistent with past surveys. In 2002 and 2003 water and drought issues emerged as issues in Idaho.

For regional data see Appendix II. For trend data see Appendix III.

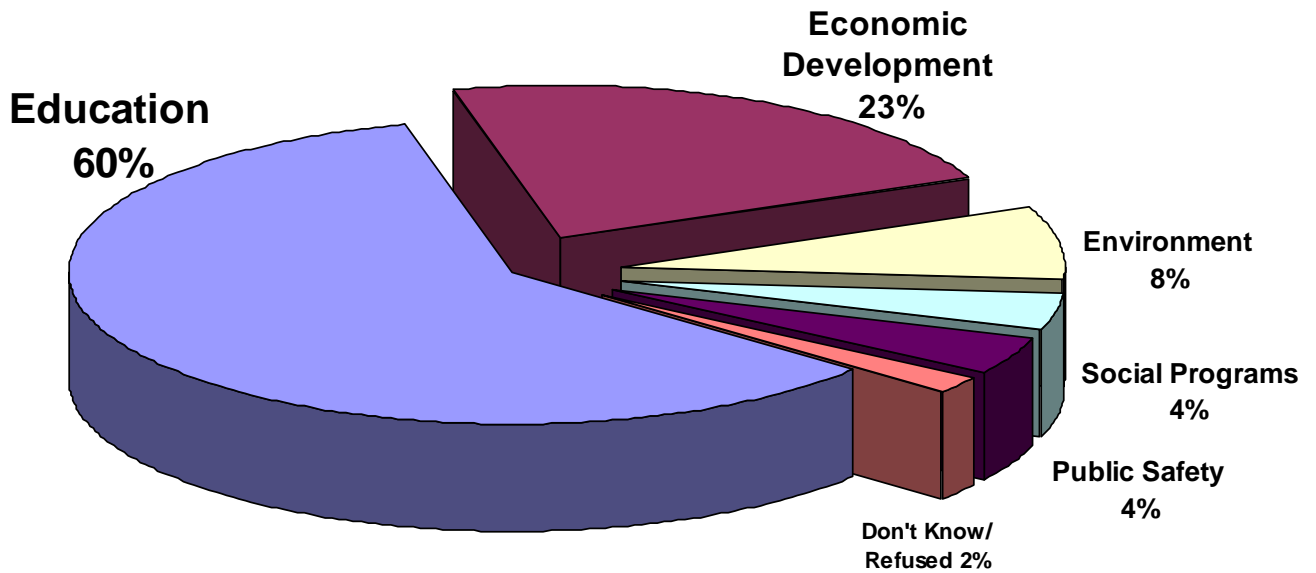


### Which one program area should be the top priority for the state to fund?

Education is overwhelmingly favored as the top spending priority for the state. This is consistent with Idaho citizen's most important issue in this survey, as well as the desired increases favored by a majority of citizens polled in past surveys.

See Appendix II for regional data.

*Note: A change in how the question was asked precludes an analysis on a year-to-year basis.*

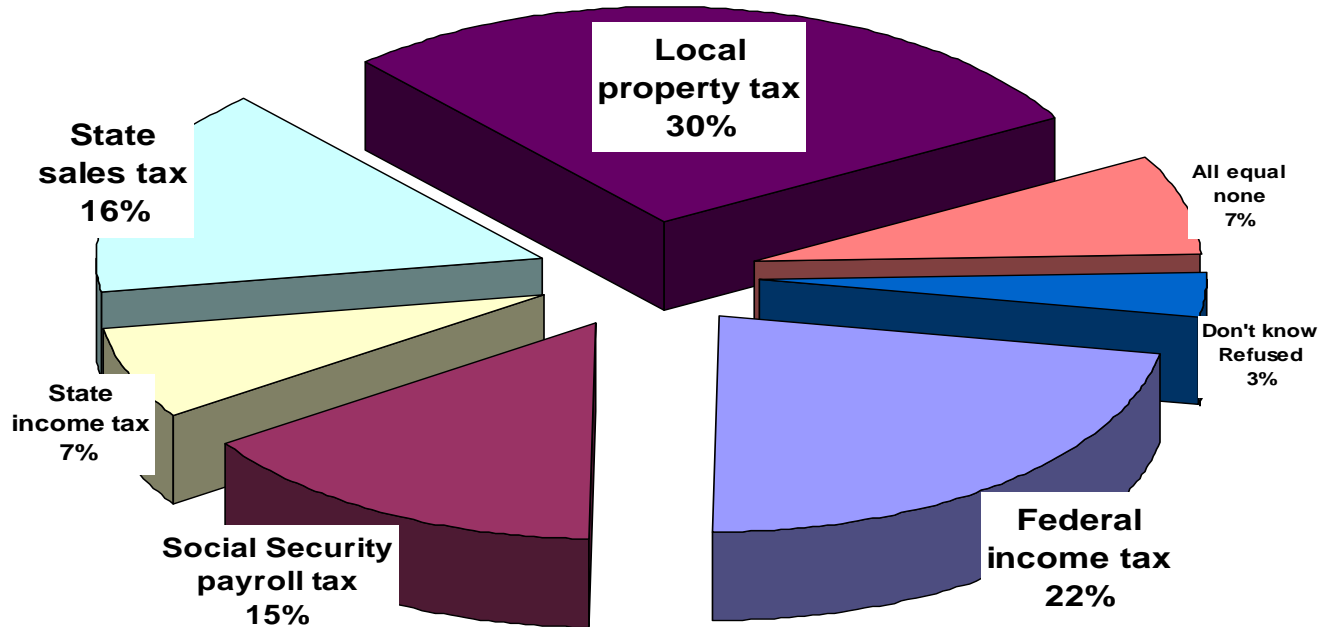




**Which tax do you think is the least fair?**

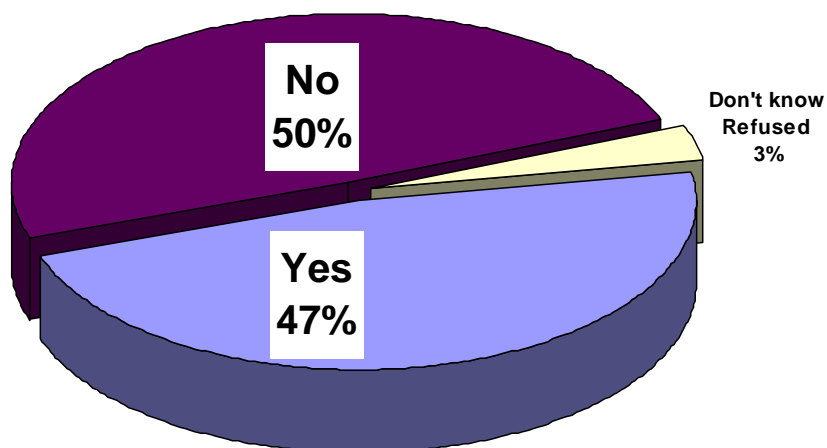
The property tax remains the least fair tax according to Idahoans. (The Social Security payroll tax was added this year.)

See Appendix II for regional responses. For trend data see Appendix III.



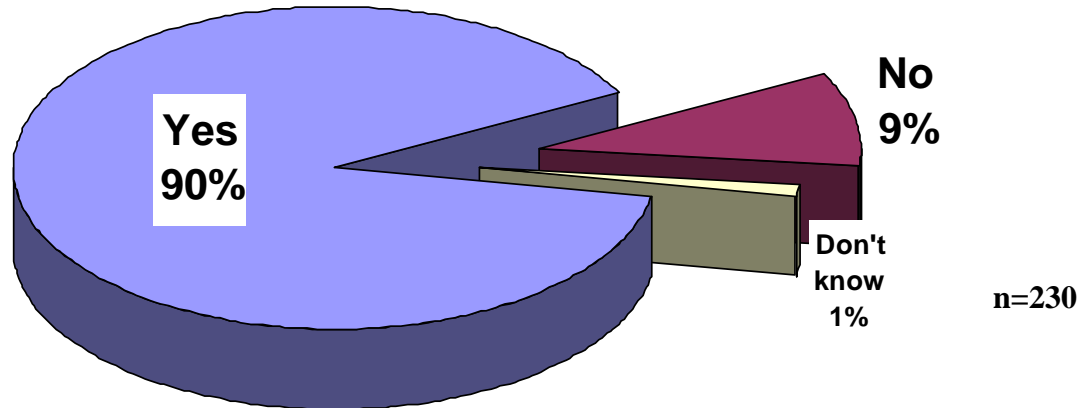
**Would you support the use of state funds to provide development assistance to private sector businesses in Idaho?**

Citizens are about evenly divided over the use of public funds for private sector development.



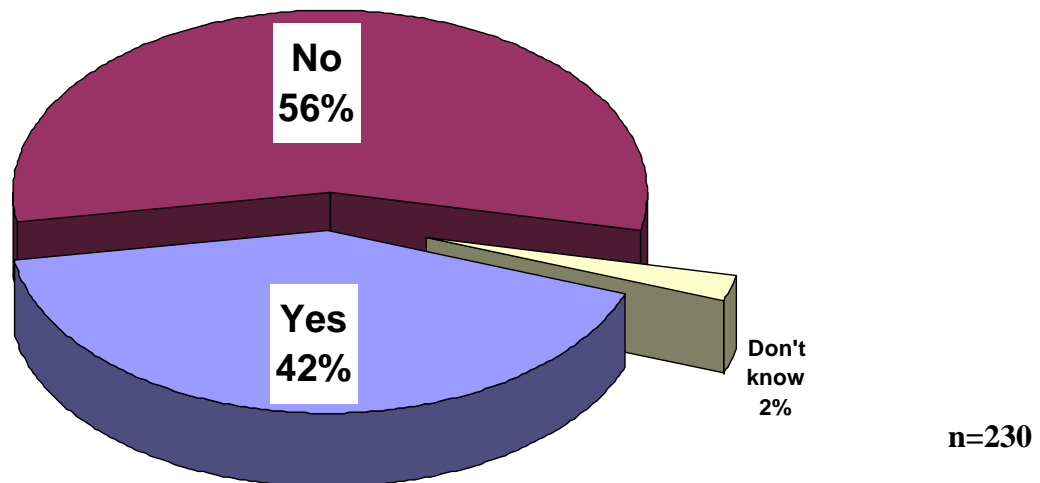
### Would you support the use of state funds to provide development assistance for technology development in Idaho?

Of the citizens who answered 'yes' to the use of public funds for private sector development, almost all would support technology development.



### Would you support the use of state funds to provide development assistance for nuclear energy development in Idaho?

Of the citizens who answered 'yes' to the use of public funds for private sector development, over half do not believe state public funds should be used for nuclear energy development.



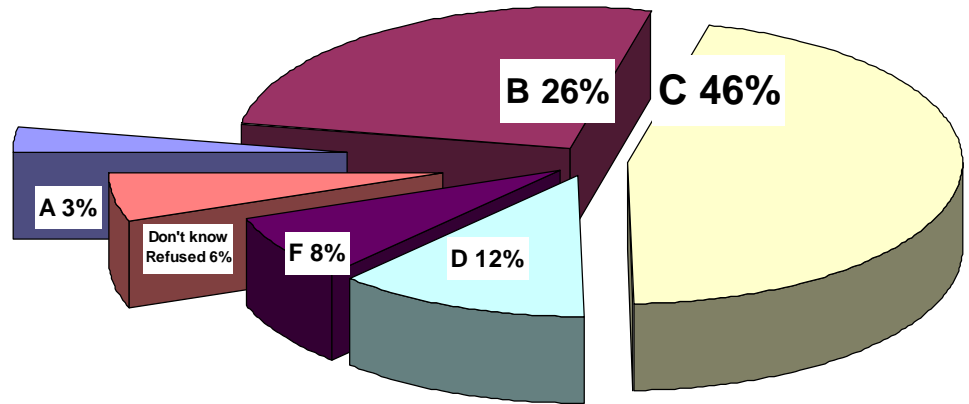
### Issues Concerning Governance in Idaho

The next series of questions ask citizens about their perceptions of government and governance issues.

Data by region appears in Appendix II.

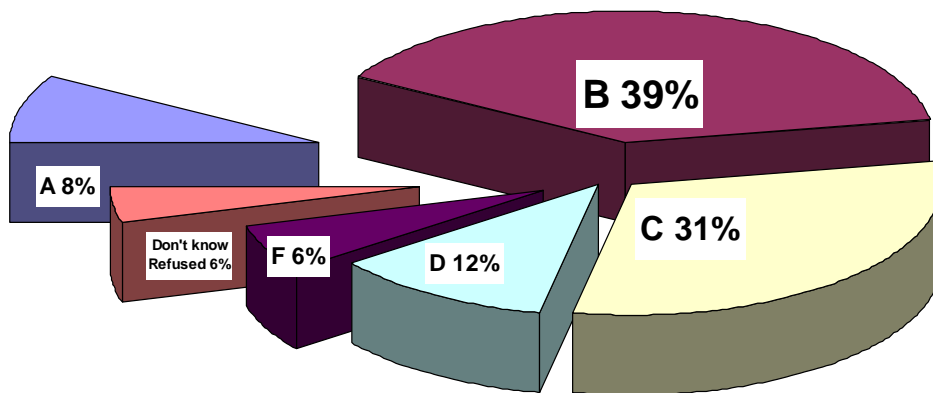
#### What grade would you give for the state legislature's performance over the past year?

Almost half of survey respondents gave the legislature a grade of 'C' for the past year's performance.



#### What grade would you give Governor Kempthorne for his performance over the past year?

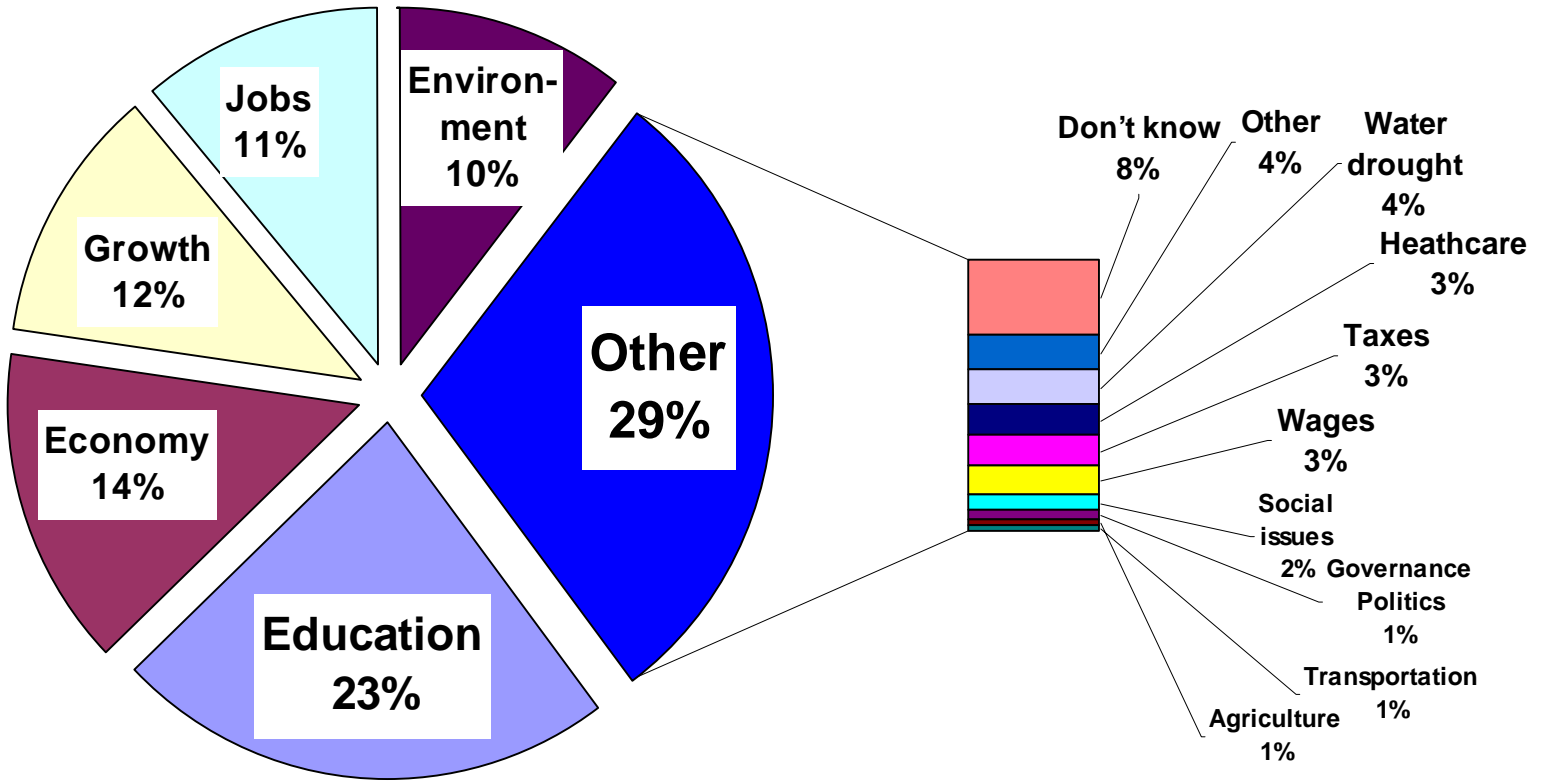
Governor Kempthorne received a higher grade for his performance than did the legislature.



### What do you think should be the first priority for the 2004 legislature?

Idahoan's priorities for the legislature closely align with their perceptions of the top funding priority for the state. Education, mentioned by almost a quarter of the respondents is clearly the top priority. The economy, growth, jobs and the environment are the next most frequently mentioned. Traditional areas of legislative concern, such as taxes, agriculture and transportation are the lowest priorities according to Idaho citizens.

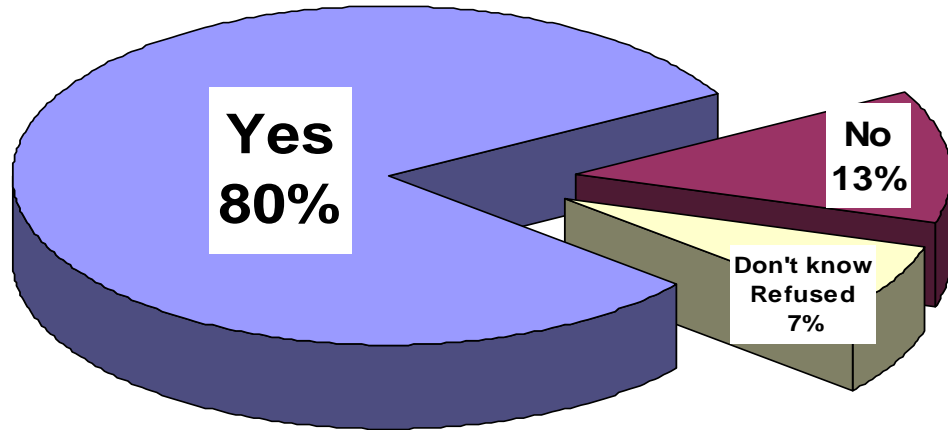
Data by region appears in Appendix II.



### In your opinion, does the State of Idaho have a budget problem?

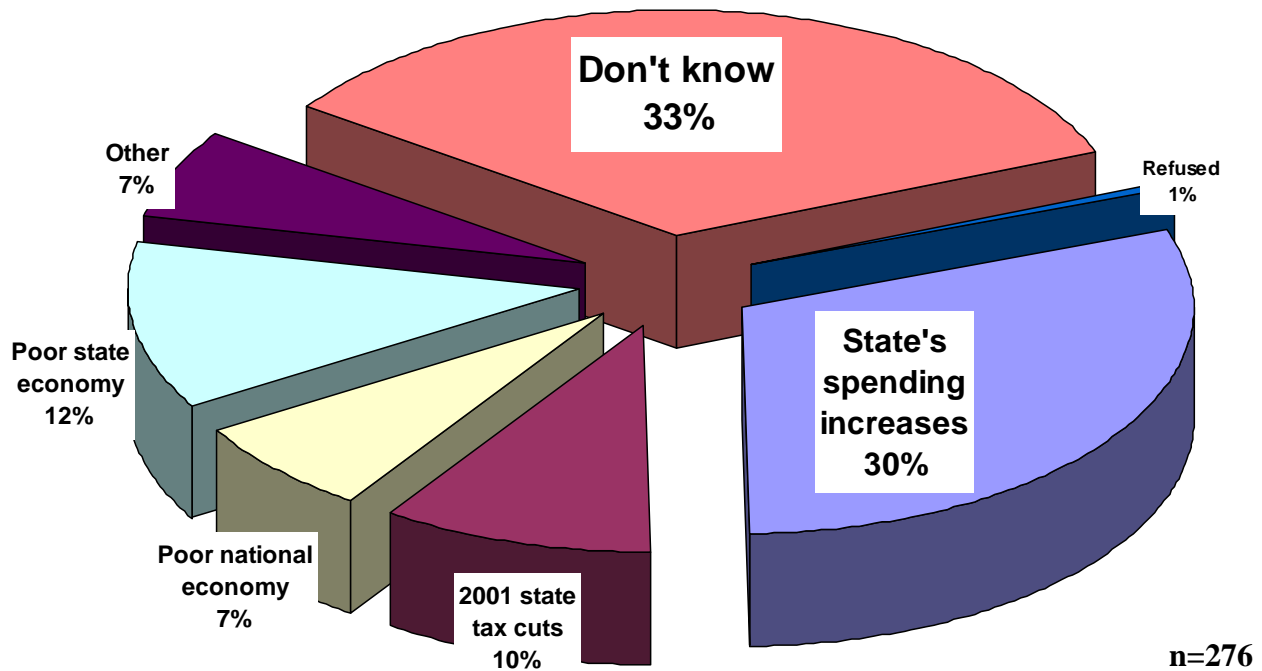
Respondents overwhelmingly agreed that the state has budget problems.

See Appendix II for regional responses.



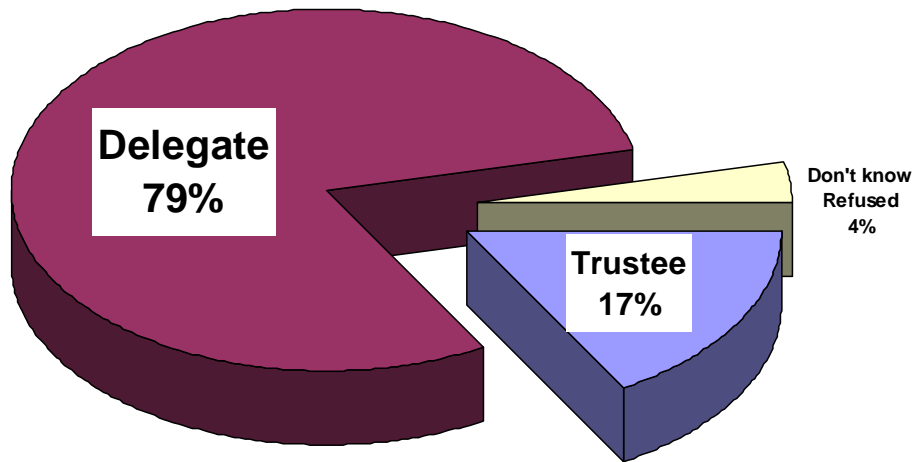
### What do you think is the principal cause of the State's budget problems?

While all regions strongly agreed, the reasons given varied. About half of respondents were asked the reason for the budget problems. One-third indicated that they didn't know, and almost one-third attributed the problems to Idaho's past spending increases.



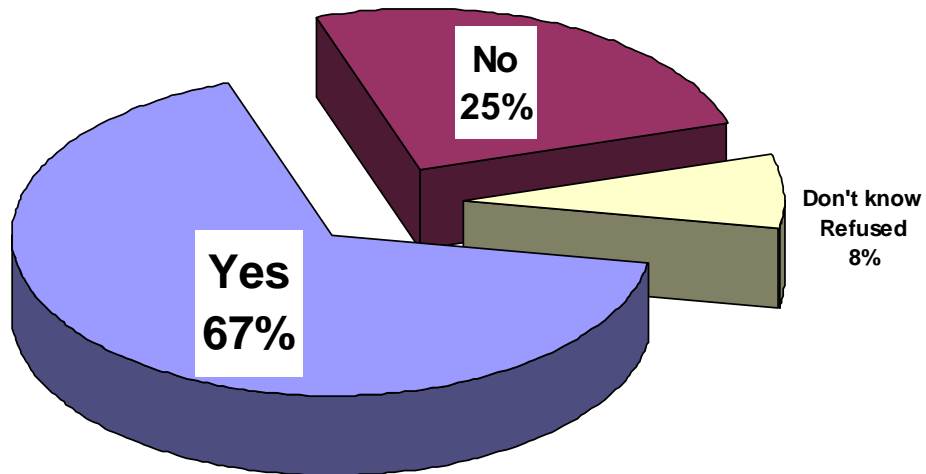
### Should legislators act as trustees or should they act as delegates?

Citizens believe the role of the legislator is to represent issues on behalf of the citizenry.



### Do you think elected officials make policy decisions as a direct result of money they receive from major campaign contributors?

The public perceives that campaign contributions do influence legislators' actions when setting policy.



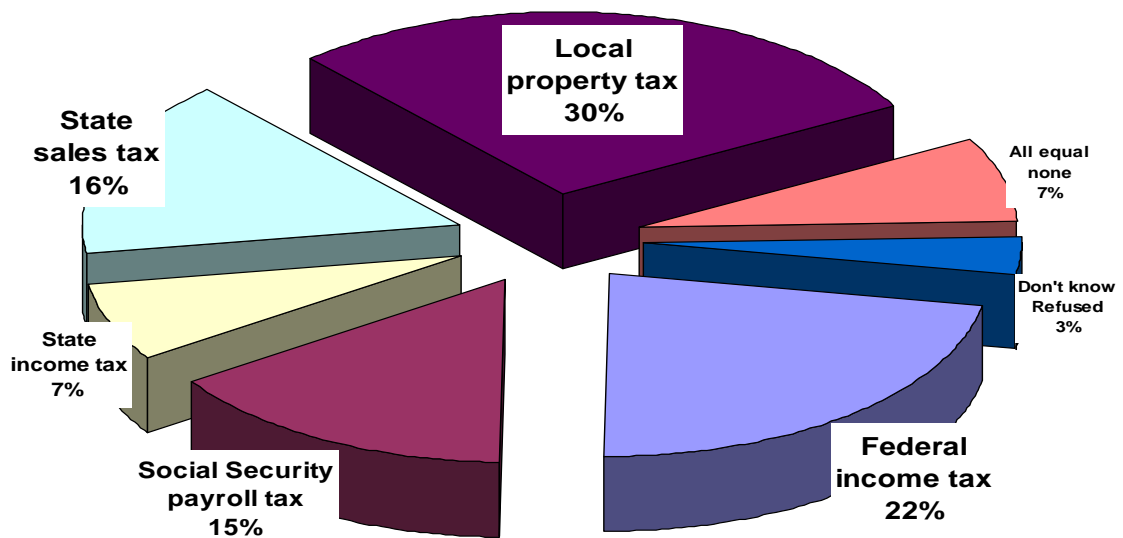
### Issues Concerning Taxation in Idaho

The next series of questions ask about citizen’s perceptions of taxation in Idaho.

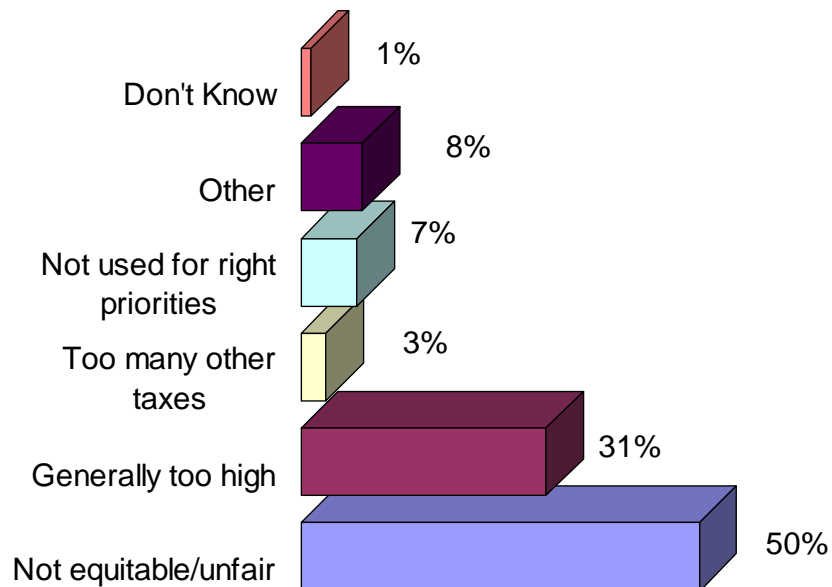
#### Which tax do you think is the least fair?

The property tax remains the least fair tax according to Idahoans. (The Social Security payroll tax was added to the answer set this year.)

See Appendix II for regional responses. For trend data, and a comparison without the Social Security tax, see Appendix III.

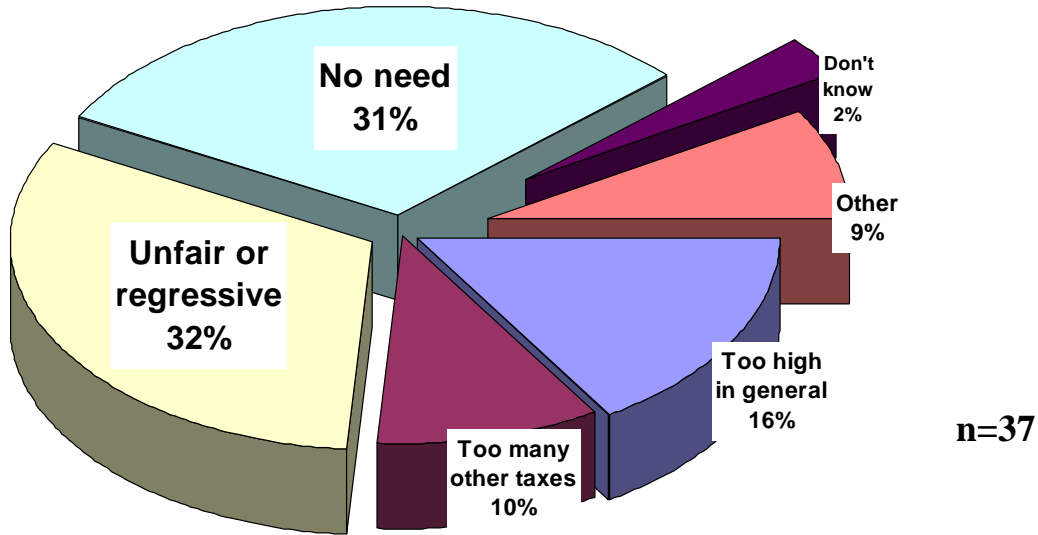


Survey respondents who believe that the property tax is the least fair tax provided a variety of reasons for their perception on an unaided basis. (Note: the small sample size precludes reliable projection of the results to the population.)



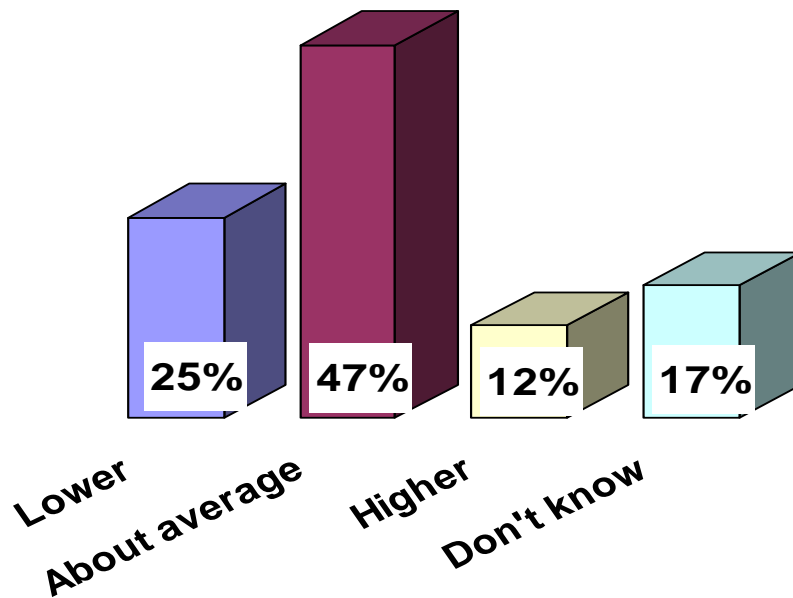
**n=156**

Survey respondents who believe that the state sales tax is most unfair provided several reasons. Responses are a very small sample and collected on an unaided basis. (Note: the small sample size precludes reliable projection of the results to the population.)



**Are your combined federal, state and local taxes in Idaho higher, about average, or lower than in other states?**

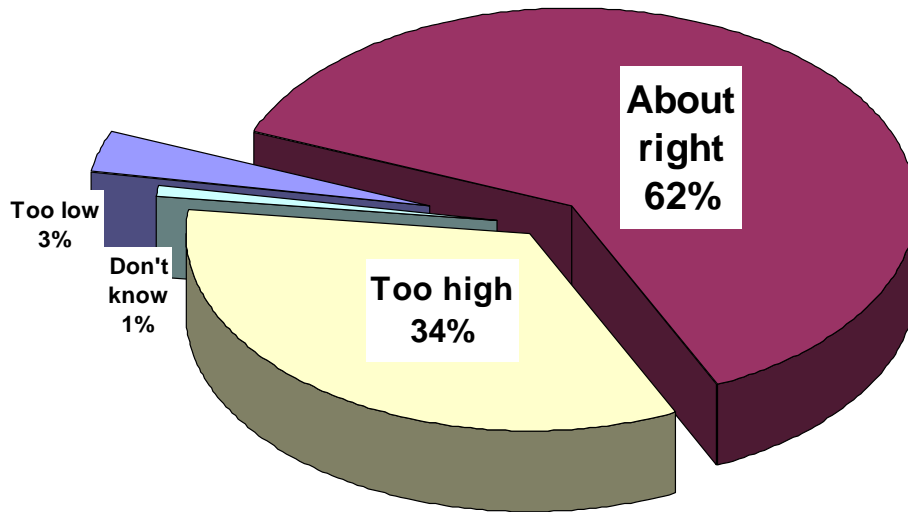
About three-quarters of respondents generally feel that their overall tax burden is about average or lower than in other states.





**Do you think the amount of state sales tax you have to pay in Idaho is too high, about right or too low?**

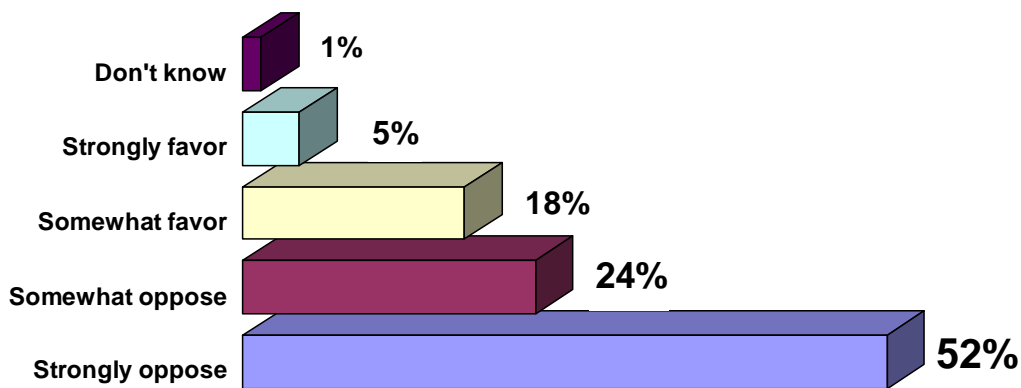
Following the state's 1-cent sales tax increase, only one-third of Idahoans think the sales tax is too high.



All survey respondents were asked about extending the state sales tax under different scenarios.

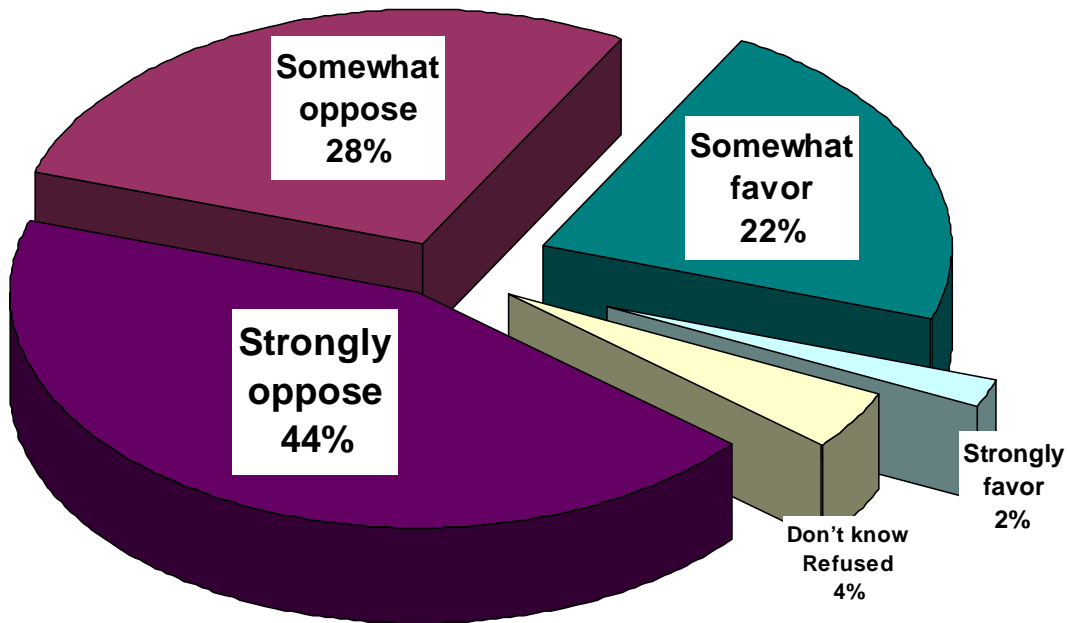
**How strongly would you favor extending the state sales tax to include service and labor transactions?**

Three-quarters of respondents said they oppose extending the sales tax to services and labor.



**How strongly would you favor extending the state sales tax to include service and labor transactions *IF the state sales tax was lowered overall?***

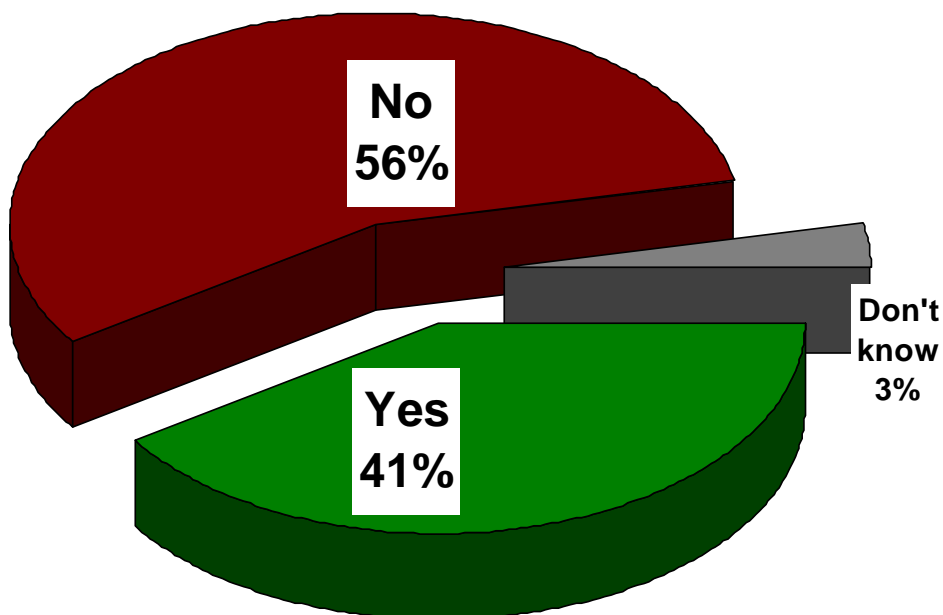
Opposition remains to extending the state sales tax to services even with the prospect of a lower overall tax rate.



n=394

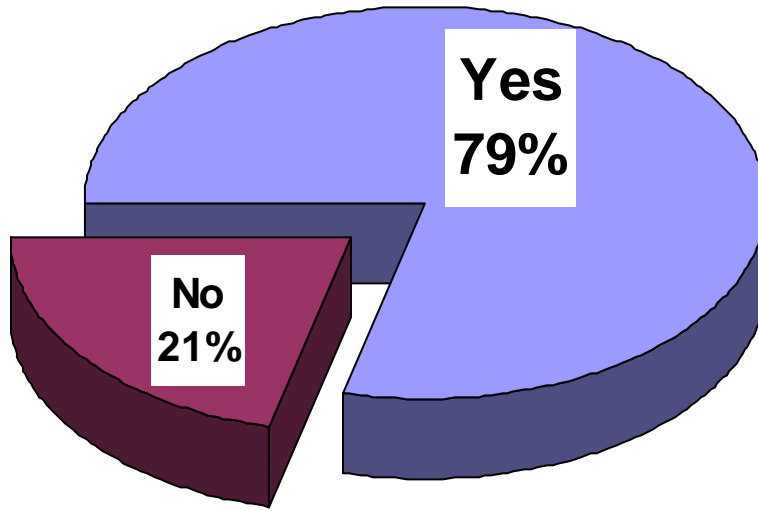
**Would you support a local option tax dedicated to transportation services?**

Local option taxes remain unpopular as a funding mechanism.



### Do you have personal ownership in any real estate or property?

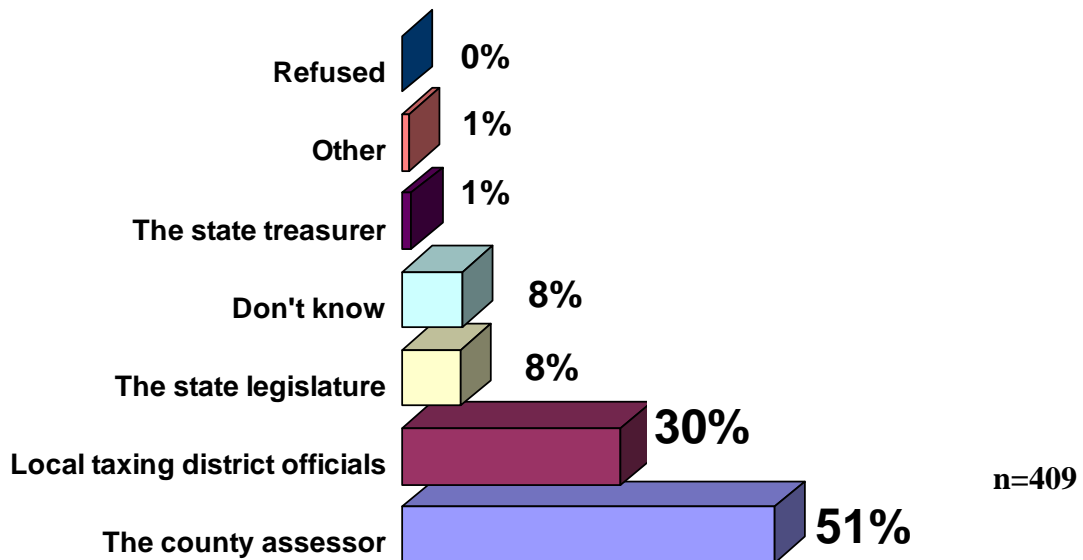
Survey respondents were asked about property ownership prior to asking questions about property taxes.



Only homeowners were asked the next two questions.

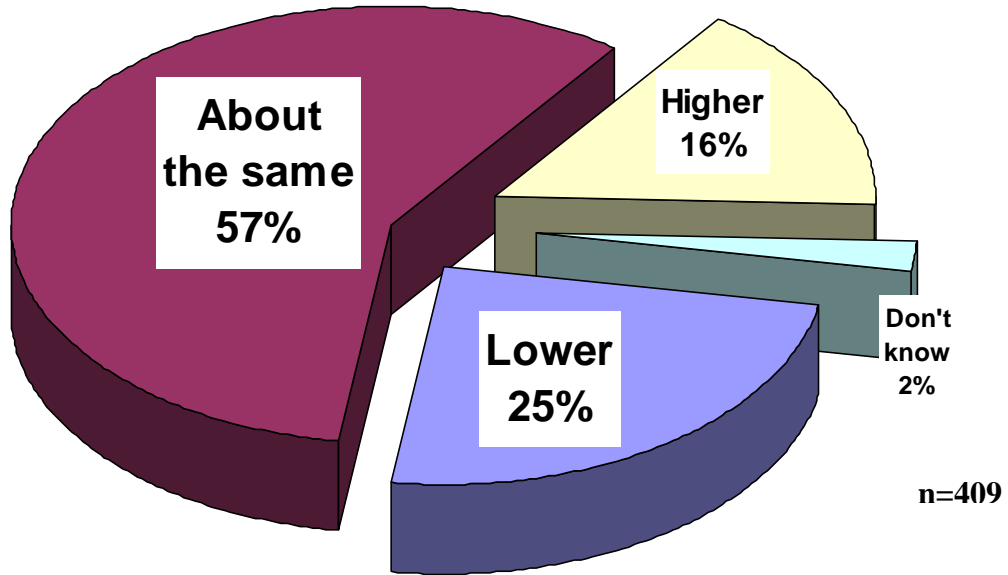
### Who do you believe is most responsible for setting your local property tax rate?

Most homeowners are unaware that the local property tax rate is set by the local taxing district officials.



**How does the assessed value of your property compare to what you think would be a fair selling price?**

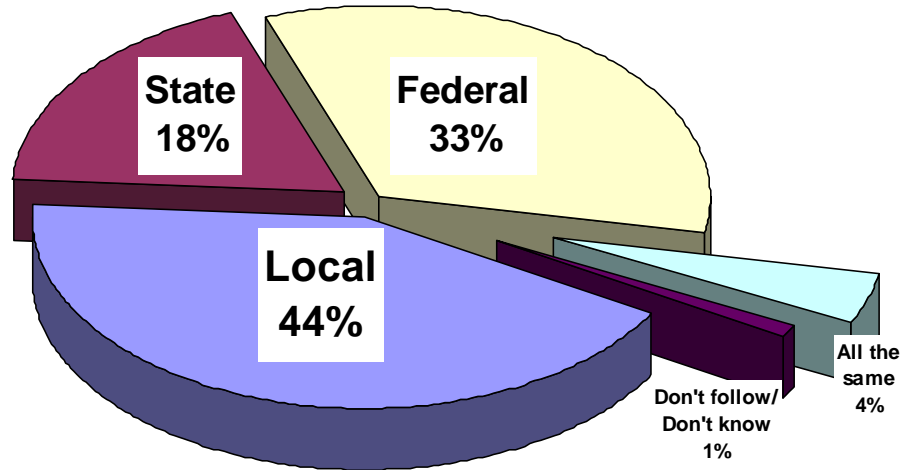
Most homeowners believe that their tax assessment is fairly accurate, and one-quarter also believes that their house would command a higher price than the assessment.



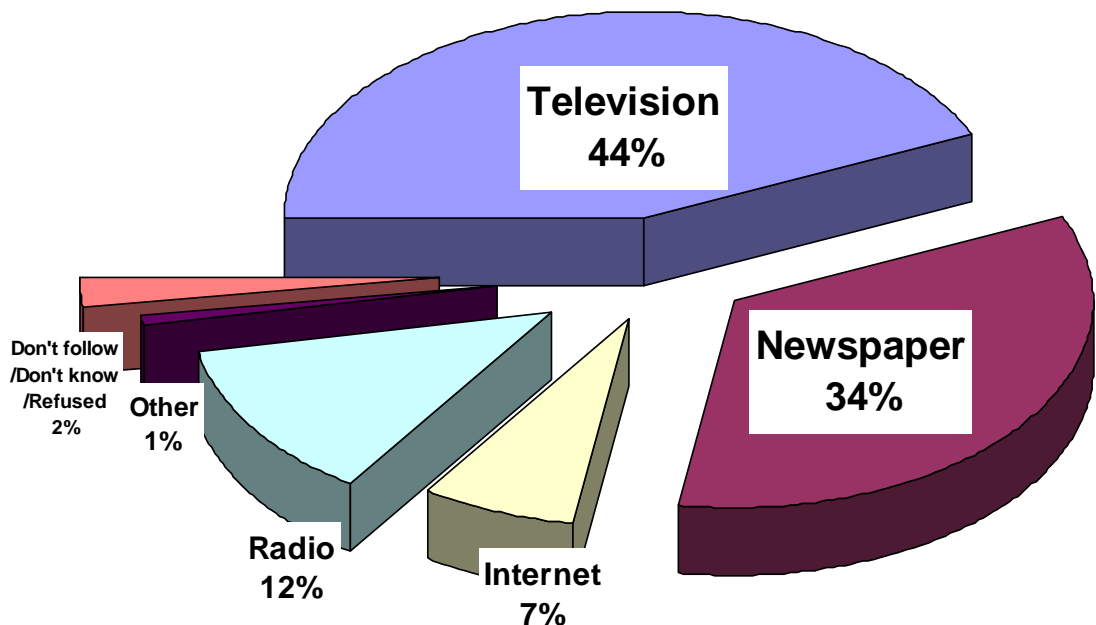
**Other Issues of Interest to Idahoans**

Respondents were asked their opinions on a variety of issues including media coverage of government, political campaign participation levels, party affiliation and perceptions, perception of living in a rural or urban area, and several environmental concerns.

**In your daily routine, which level of government are you most likely to follow in the news?**

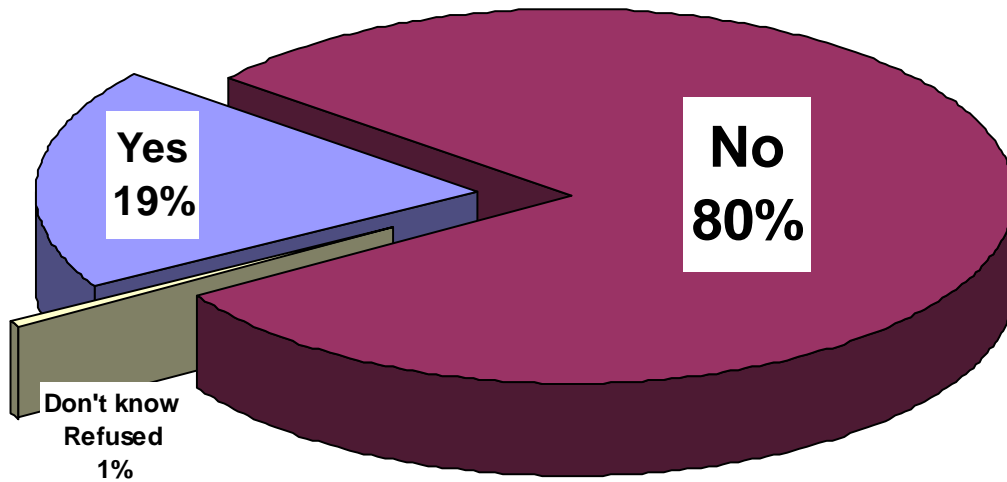


**Which media type provides the best news coverage about government in Idaho?**

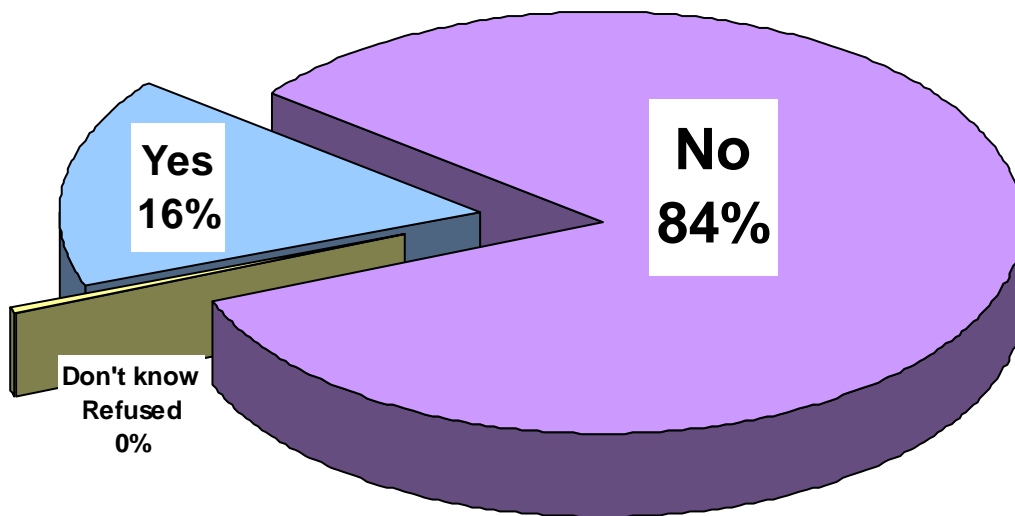


Citizen participation in the political process was asked as a series of questions.

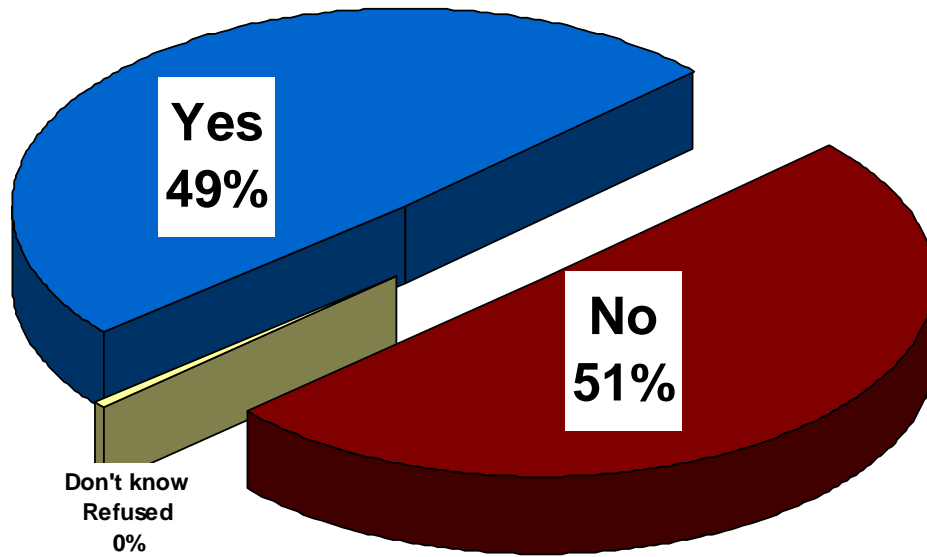
**Over the past two years, have you personally participated in a political campaign by contributing your money?**



**Over the past two years, have you personally participated in a political campaign by volunteering your time?**

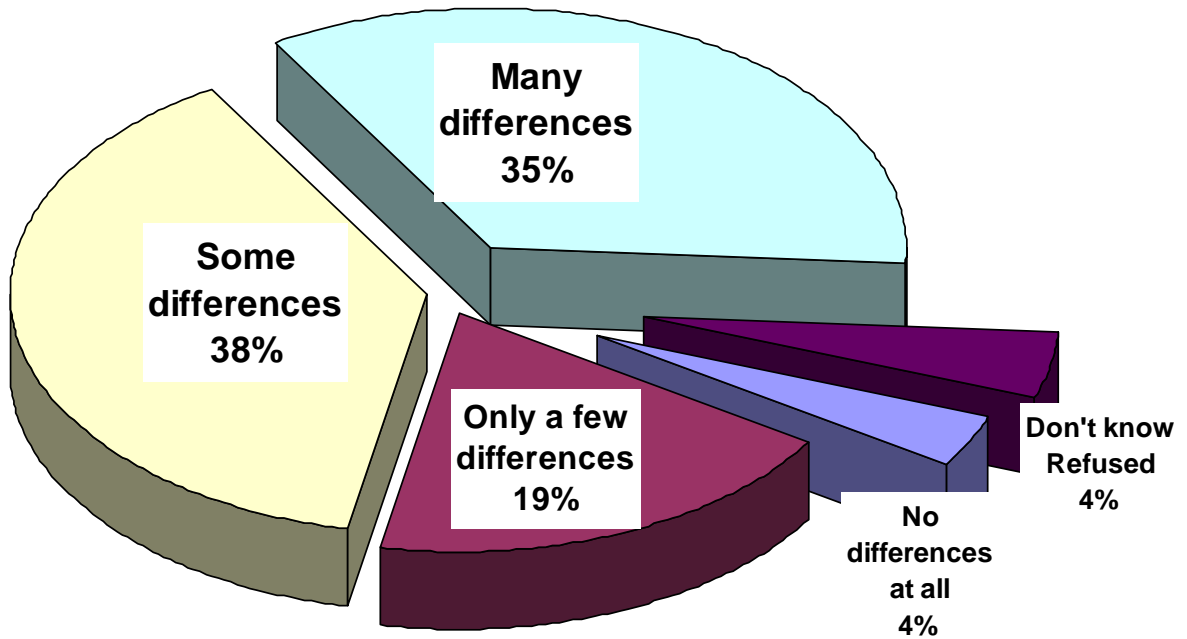


Over the past two years, have you personally participated in a political campaign by displaying your support?

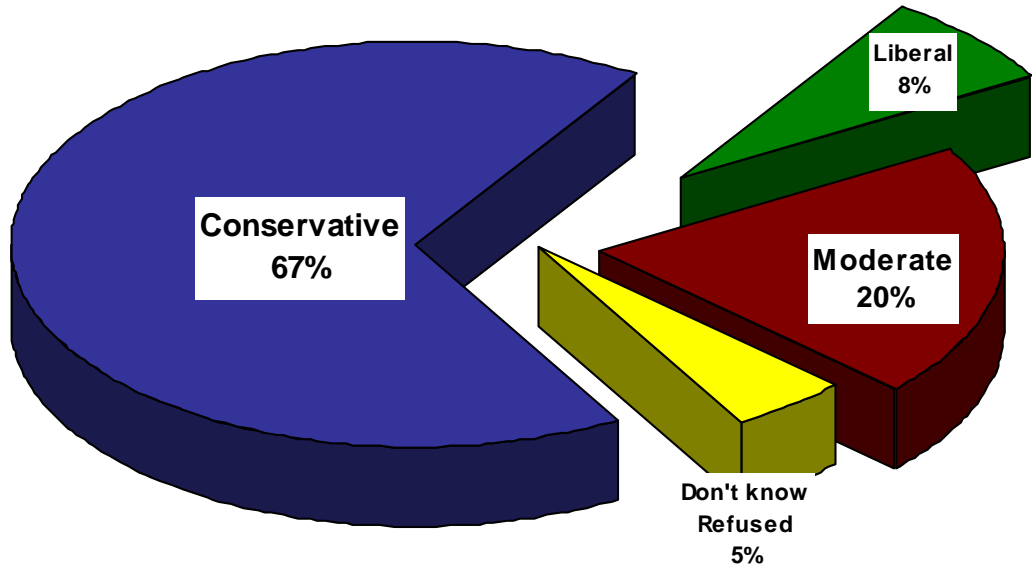


Perceptions of political parties and political ideology were also asked.

To what extent do the policy positions of the Democratic and Republican parties in Idaho differ?

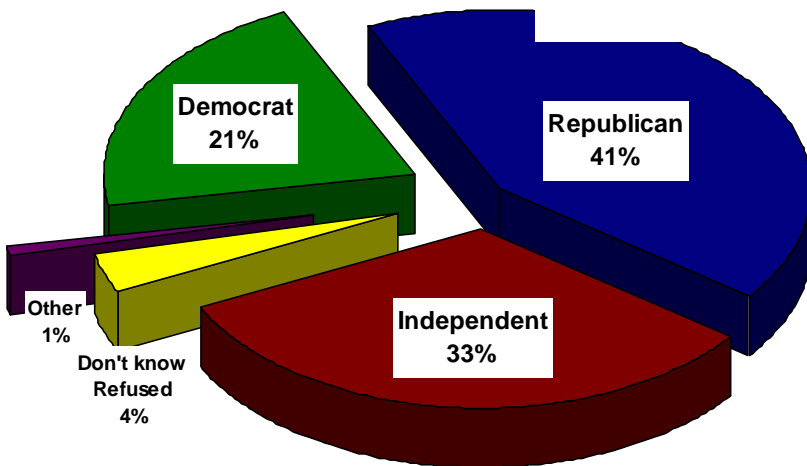
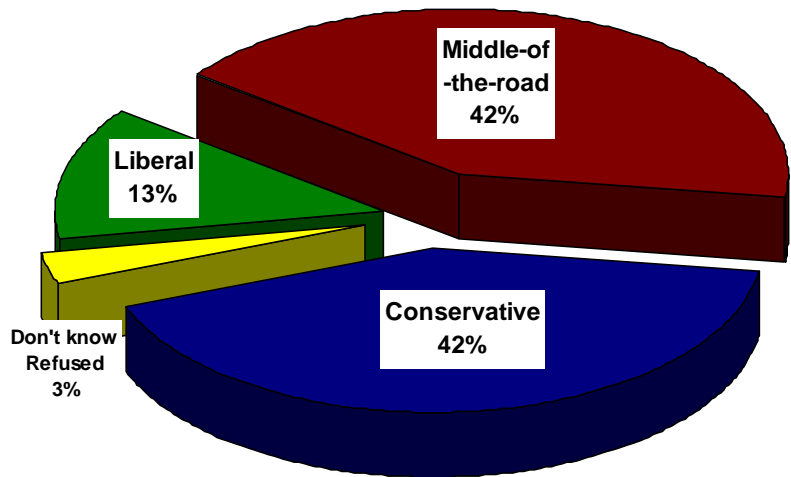


Would you say people in Idaho are politically conservative, liberal, or moderate?  
See Appendix II for regional responses.



What is your political orientation?

What is your political party affiliation?

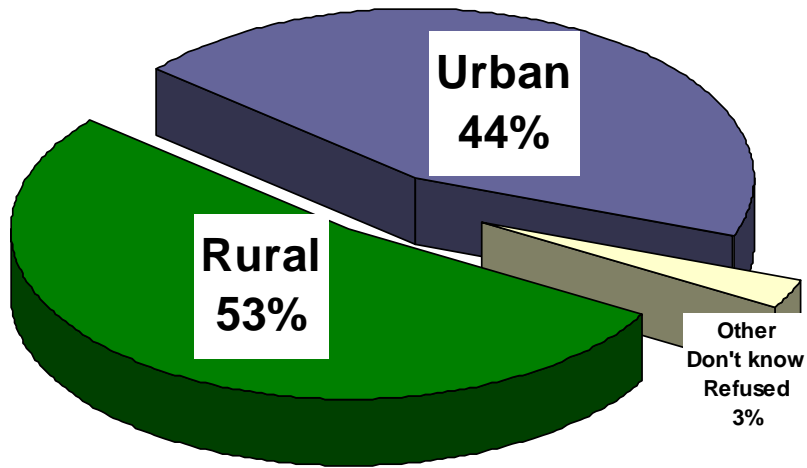


See Appendix III for demographic trend data.



### Do you consider yourself living in a rural or urban area?

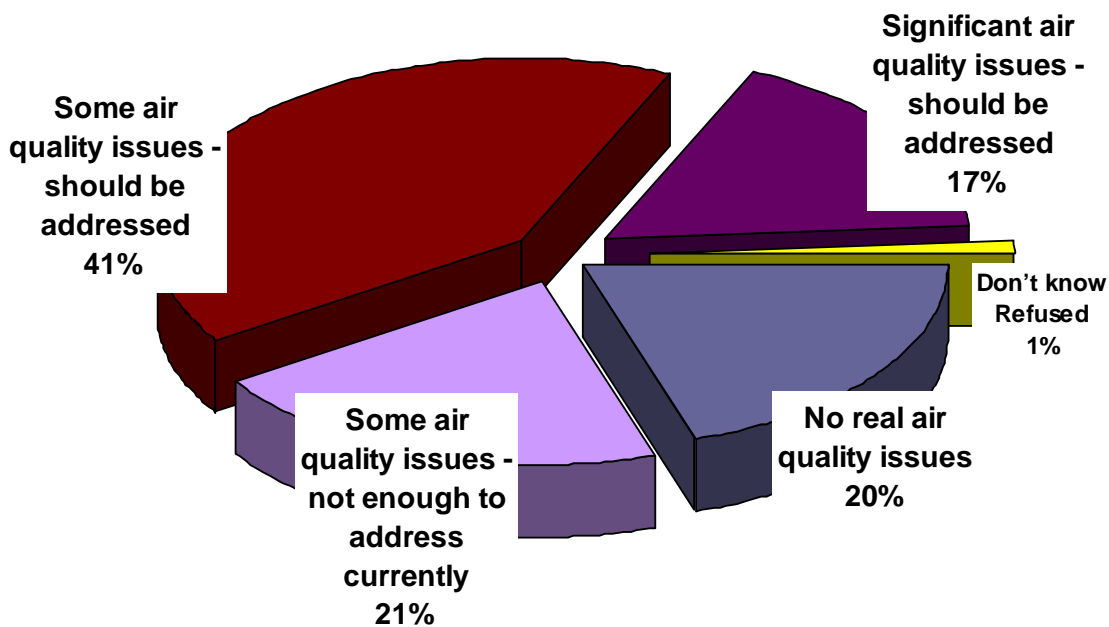
The latest census data shows that the majority of Idahoans live in urban areas.



### What do you think about air quality issues in Idaho?

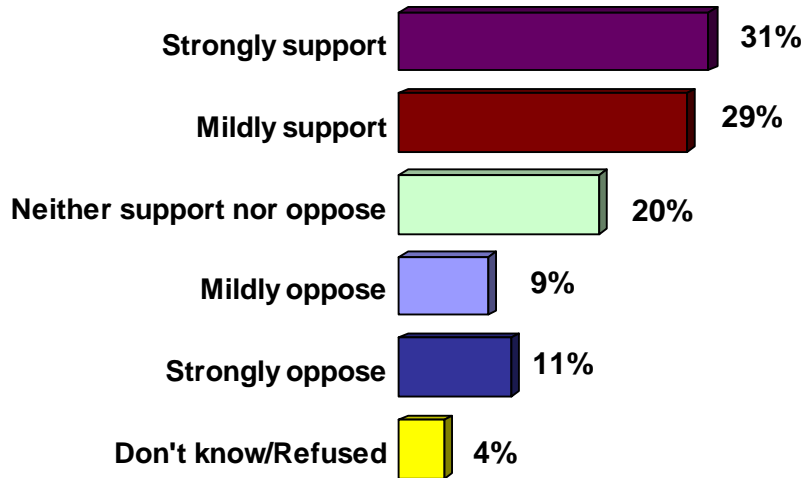
The majority of citizens from across the state believe that air quality in Idaho requires government action.

See Appendix II for regional data.

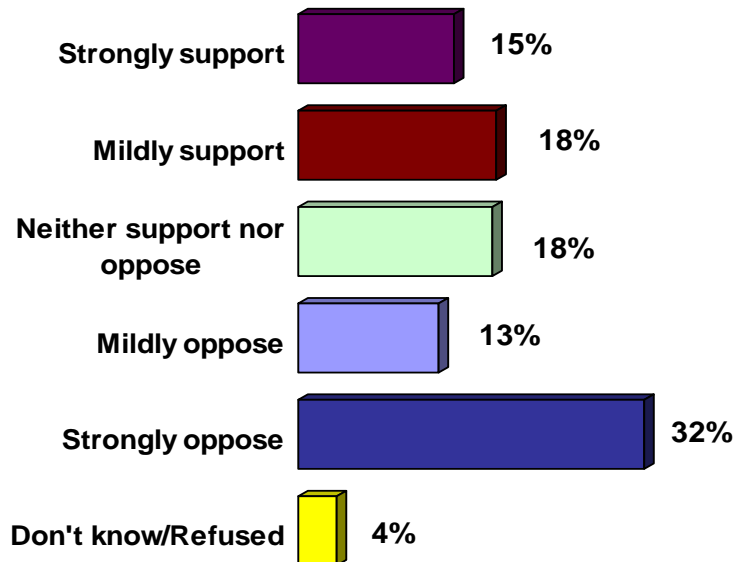


### How strongly do you support the restoration of salmon runs in Idaho?

Salmon restoration and dam breaching are topics that are addressed periodically.



### How strongly do you support the breaching of the lower four Snake River dams to restore salmon runs in Idaho?



### Demographic Profile of Idaho Survey Respondents

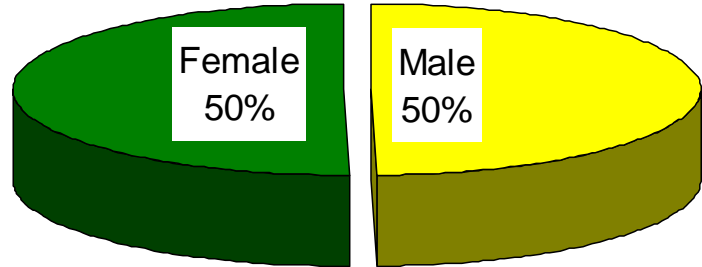
As in past years, demographic questions are asked to provide a profile of Idaho citizens. All respondent are adults (18 years of age or older), reside in Idaho, and are reached by telephone. All responses are self-reported.

#### Gender:

Female = 50.4%

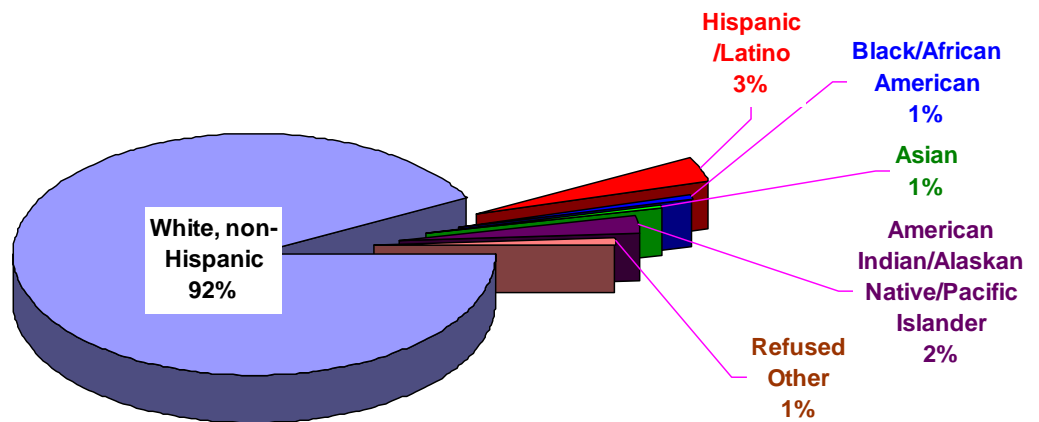
Male = 49.6%

On a weighted basis



#### Race/Ethnicity:

See Appendix II for trend data.



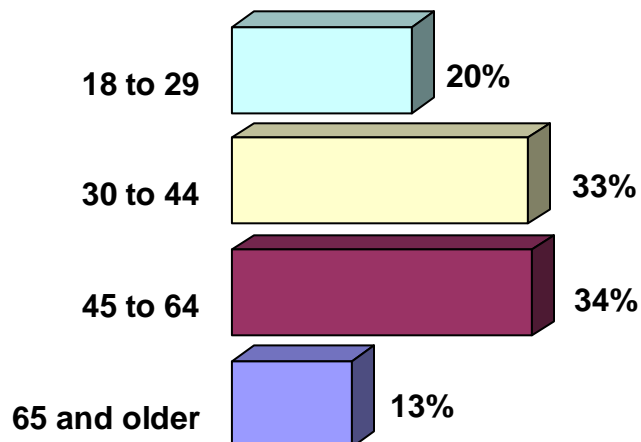
#### Age:

Mean: 47

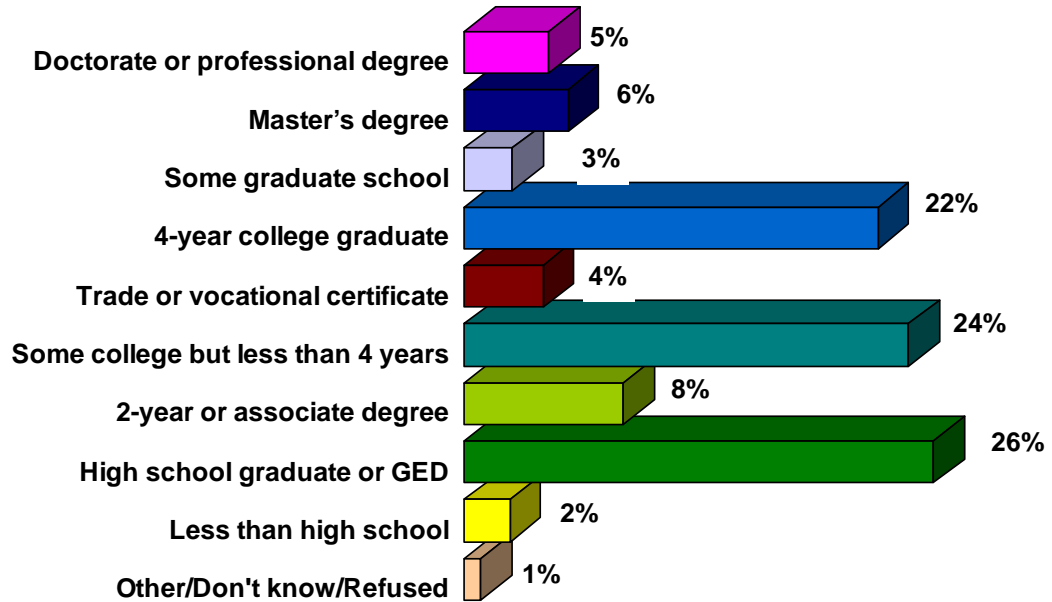
Median: 47

Mode: 32

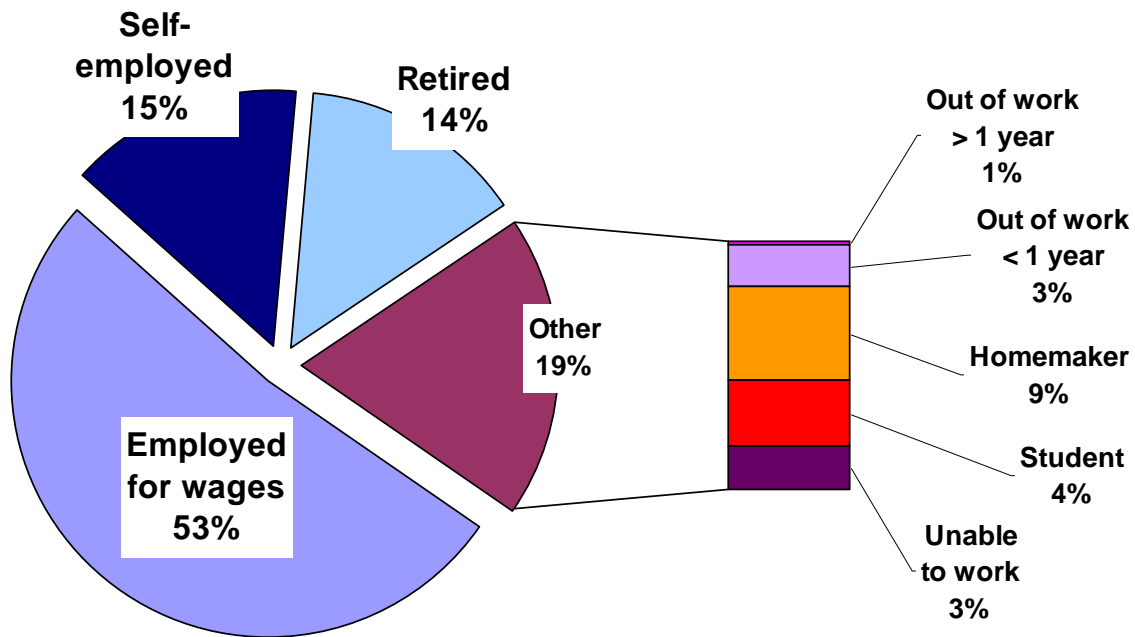
Range: 18-90



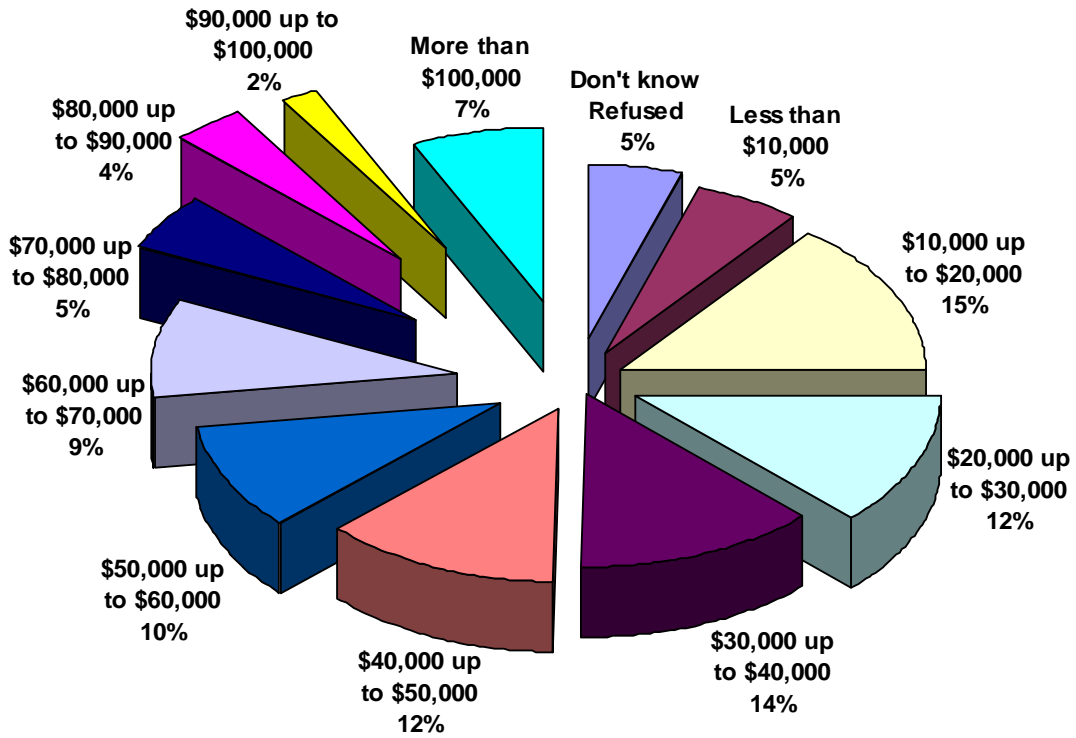
**Level of Education:**



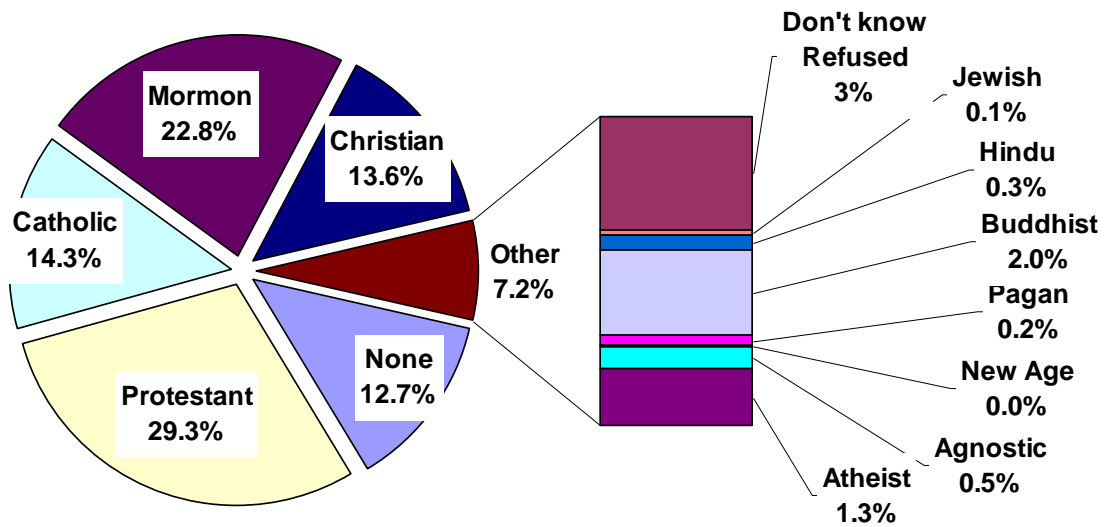
**Employment Status:**



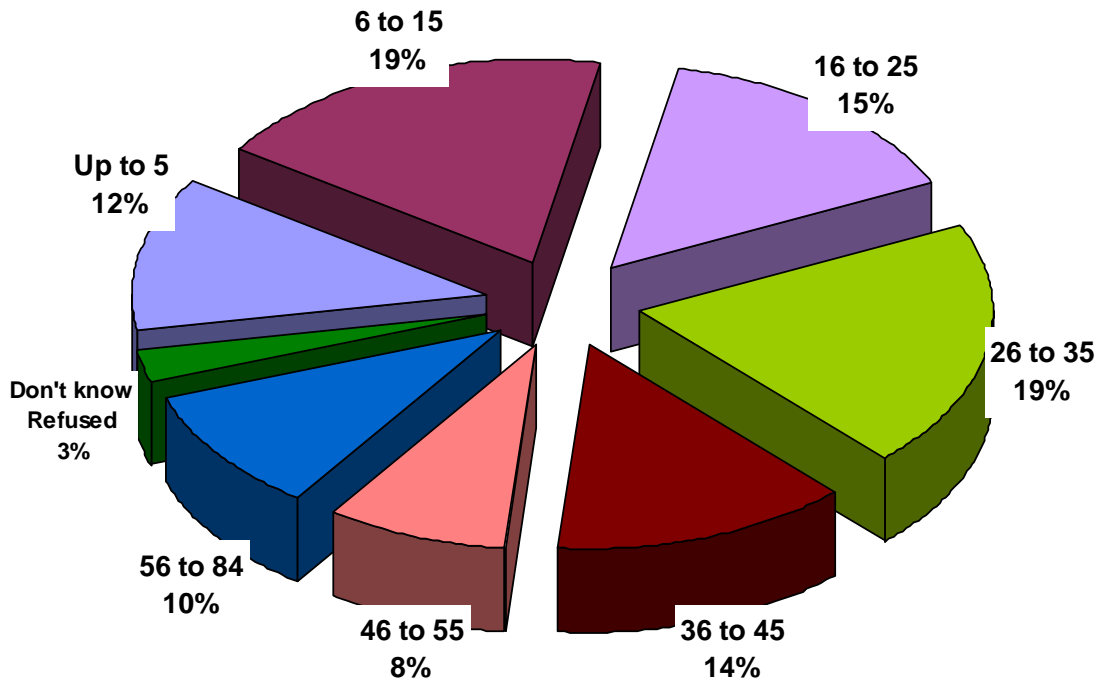
**Annual Income:**



**Religious Affiliation:**

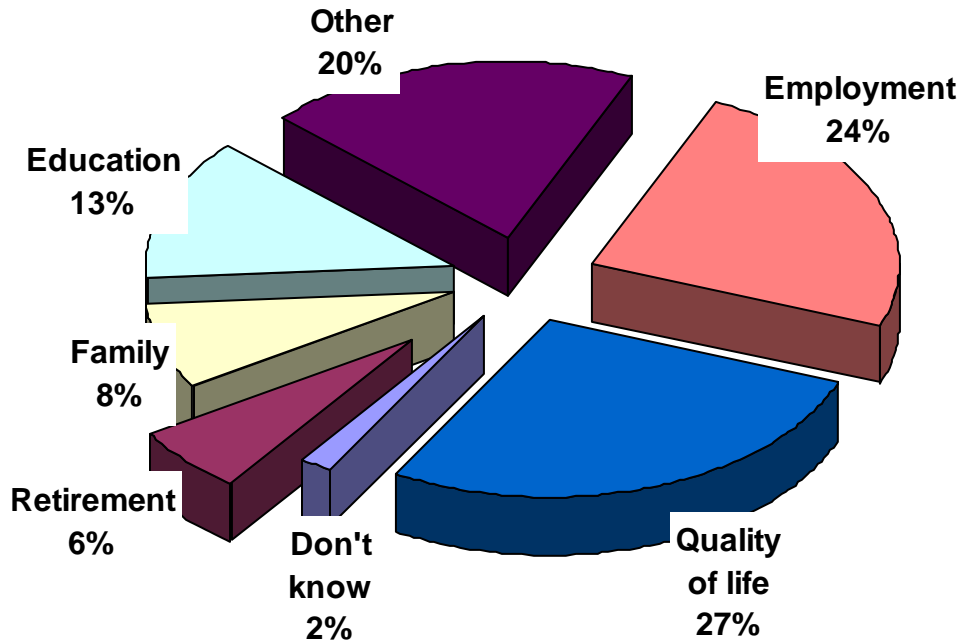


**Number of Years Lived in Idaho:**



Mean: 30  
Median: 29  
Mode: 30  
Range: 84

**If less than one year, reason for moving to Idaho.**



n=114

## **Appendix I**

### **ABOUT THE SURVEY**

Annually, the College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs, Social Science Research Center (SSRC) at Boise State University conducts a statewide survey of Idahoans to identify public policy opinions and concerns. The results of the survey are provided to policy makers and any interested citizen. This document is the full and final report of the survey findings. An executive summary was provided in January 2004 to legislators, state agencies, the press and public. No interpretation of the findings is included, although the results are reported in percentages for comparability with prior years.

Methodological note: To accurately reflect the population of the state, the survey data is weighted to assign proper proportional populations to each of the six survey regions. In past years, frequency data was used without weighting and regions were assigned a 'quota' to ensure adequate statewide representation. While the differences generally remain well within the acceptable error range, population weighted data more accurately portrays the statewide population. The difference in methodology is more apparent in the regional data where larger variation from the overall frequency data will be obvious. A note will alert the reader when data on a population-weighted basis is compared to data on an unweighted basis in year-to-year comparisons.

### **METHODOLOGY**

The survey was administered to 517 Idaho adults (+18 years old) by telephone in November 2003 and completed December 1, 2003. The overall statewide population is represented by the survey sample at a standard error estimated to be +/- 4.3% at the 95% confidence level.

Since its inception in 1990, the survey has included a set of "core questions" which have been asked each year. These core questions relate to the problems facing Idaho, perceptions of and confidence in government, opinions on taxes, and satisfaction with program and service areas. Additional questions are asked that attempt to identify or clarify issues that are of interest and concern to Idaho citizens.

Additionally, a stratified sample also allows for general comparisons across six geographic regions. (Statistically speaking, the survey results are representative of the population of each region.) **Figure I** on Page 5 maps the regions in the state, and **Table I** identifies the standard error of the sample for each region.

The survey instrument, technical requirements, reporting and analysis for the survey were prepared by the SSRC. The Institutional Review Board at BSU approved the research protocol and questionnaire for use with human subjects. Respondents to the survey are guaranteed anonymity and confidentiality, and they are allowed to refuse to answer the survey or any question within the survey.

Clearwater Research, Inc. of Boise, ID (208-658-0001 [www.clearwater-research.com](http://www.clearwater-research.com)) utilized their Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) system to collect the survey data and deliver a weighted sample to the SSRC for analysis.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

View the current survey online at <http://sspa.boisestate.edu/ssrc>

Several past surveys are currently available for download in .pdf format.

For questions regarding the data set, please call 1-208-426-1835.

Copies are also available to Idahoans upon request; and archive copies are available at the Albertsons Library at Boise State University, and at the State Reference Library in Boise, Idaho.

**Appendix II**

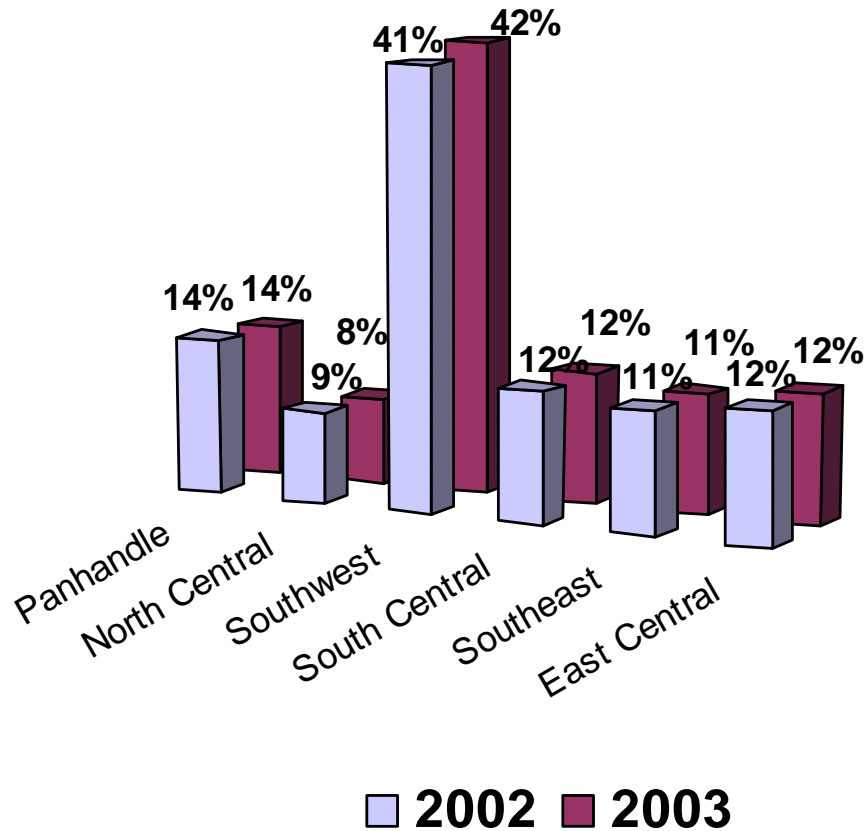
**Public Policy Survey Questions  
Statewide Summary Tables -- Regional Responses**

**Regions**

1—Panhandle	Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Benewah, Shoshone
2—North Central	Latah, Clearwater, Nez Perce, Lewis, Idaho
3—Southwest	Adams, Valley, Washington, Payette, Gem, Boise, Canyon, Ada, Elmore, Owyhee
4—South Central	Camas, Blaine, Gooding, Lincoln, Minidoka, Jerome, Twin Falls, Cassia
5—Southeast	Bingham, Power, Bannock, Oneida, Franklin, Bear Lake, Caribou
6—East Central	Lemhi, Custer, Butte, Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison, Teton, Bonneville

See Figure I, page 5 for Region and County Map.

**Regional Weighted Sample – 2002 Compared to 2003**



The regional weighted sample reflects the proportion of population (the weighted sample) found in the region. Counties with small populations may not necessarily be represented in the random regional sample



**Is the State Headed in the Right Direction -- Regional Responses**

%	1—Panhandle			2—North Central			3—Southwest			4—South Central			5—Southeast			6—East Central			Statewide		
	2003	2002	2001	2003	2002	2001	2003	2002	2001	2003	2002	2001	2003	2002	2001	2003	2002	2001	2003	2002	2001
<b>Yes</b>	<b>55.8</b>	52.9	65.0	<b>56.3</b>	62.2	60.7	<b>66.9</b>	54.1	67.5	<b>55.6</b>	64.6	67.4	<b>63.0</b>	66.5	66.2	<b>65.8</b>	55.9	68.8	<b>62.5</b>	57.5	66.6
<b>No</b>	<b>31.9</b>	36.3	27.9	<b>29.5</b>	25.0	32.2	<b>28.1</b>	35.4	23.9	<b>26.3</b>	26.4	27.7	<b>26.0</b>	29.4	27.6	<b>22.9</b>	35.1	25.4	<b>27.7</b>	32.8	26.3
<b>Don't Know /Refused</b>	<b>12.3</b>	10.9	7.1	<b>14.2</b>	12.7	7.1	<b>5.0</b>	10.5	8.6	<b>18.1</b>	9.0	4.9	<b>11.0</b>	4.2	6.2	<b>11.3</b>	9.1	5.7	<b>9.8</b>	9.7	7.1

\*Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

**Most Important Issue -- Regional Responses\***

%	1—Panhandle			2—North Central			3—Southwest			4—South Central			5—Southeast			6—East Central			Statewide		
	2003	2002 **	2001	2003	2002 **	2001	2003	2002 **	2001	2003	2002 **	2001	2003	2002 **	2001	2003	2002 **	2001	2003	2002 **	2001
Education	15.5	14.8	11.8	31.9	24.3	14.8	18.1	25.1	19.3	19.5	12.0	13.2	28.6	35.1	18.1	41.1	34.8	25.0	23.0	24.3	17.5
Economy	12.8	7.7	9.8	10.2	9.8	23.0	14.2	12.8	16.6	15.8	10.2	18.7	22.4	10.1	25.3	11.0	10.4	22.7	14.4	10.9	18.2
Jobs	25.6	9.0	21.6	17.5	8.0	16.4	8.5	5.6	9.2	12.1	11.3	6.6	6.4	14.8	14.5	3.8	15.3	5.7	11.3	8.0	11.3
Wages	5.4	7.8	2.0	2.4	1.2	0.0	3.4	2.3	2.0	1.6	2.6	2.2	4.2	0.9	1.2	.9	2.3	1.1	3.2	2.9	1.7
Environment***	4.7	5.3	9.8	6.4	3.8	8.2	13.3	3.7	4.1	32.7	1.2	6.6	11.3	0.9	8.4	15.3	0.0	12.5	13.9	2.9	7.3
Growth	8.3	0.0	3.9	2.7	1.7	3.3	21.2	2.9	10.5	6.2	5.5	5.5	0.0	0.0	1.2	3.0	2.2	1.1	11.5	2.3	6.0
Healthcare	4.7	3.8	2.0	2.9	1.5	1.6	5.0	0.7	4.1	.4	2.1	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.2	.9	5.8	1.1	3.3	2.1	2.6
Taxes	4.1	0.0	2.0	0.0	1.8	1.6	.9	2.3	4.4	2.0	1.7	3.3	7.0	6.4	2.4	10.6	4.6	2.3	3.3	2.6	3.3
Agriculture	0.0	0.0	2.9	1.0	1.2	3.3	0.0	0.8	2.0	1.1	11.2	6.6	5.0	2.3	3.6	0.0	2.3	5.7	.8	2.3	3.5
Other	6.6	46.6	21.6	8.9 <sub>u</sub>	34.3	16.3	7.3 <sub>v</sub>	34.4	23.0 <sub>q</sub>	5.6 <sub>w</sub>	24.1	28.6 <sub>r</sub>	8.2 <sub>x</sub>	17.4	16.9 <sub>s</sub>	4.4 <sub>y</sub>	24.6	11.3	6.9 <sub>z</sub>	31.7	15.4
Don't Know	12.2	5.2	12.7	13.9	12.6	11.5	8.2	9.4	4.4	3.0	18.2	7.7	5.8	10.9	7.2	7.6	7.6	11.4	8.3	10.1	7.7

\*Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding and exclusion of 'Refused' responses.

\*\*Weighted data; 2002 does not include recoded responses.

\*\*\*'Environment' includes 'Drought/Water' responses.

q. includes Crime 3.7%; Transportation 2.7%; and Politics 2.4%.

r. includes Politics 2.2%.

s. includes Crime 2.4%.

t. includes Politics .6%; Transportation 2.5%; and Social Issues .6%.

u. includes Politics .8%; Transportation 1.0%; and Social Issues 3.7%.

v. includes Politics 1.4%; and Social Issues 1.1%.

w. includes Politics 1.6%; Social Issues 2.2%; and INEEL .8%.

x. includes Transportation .9%; and Social Issues 4.5%.

y. includes Politics .6% and Social Issues .5%.

z. includes Politics .9%; Transportation .5%; Social Issues 1.6%; and INEEL .1%.

**State Funding Priority -- Regional Responses**

<b>Top Priority Funding Area*</b>							
<b>%</b>	<b>1—Panhandle</b>	<b>2—North Central</b>	<b>3—Southwest</b>	<b>4—South Central</b>	<b>5—Southeast</b>	<b>6—East Central</b>	<b>Statewide</b>
	<b>2003</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2003</b>
<b>Education</b>	<b>52.6</b>	<b>58.7</b>	<b>57.3</b>	<b>71.4</b>	<b>65.1</b>	<b>63.0</b>	<b>60.0</b>
<b>Economic Development</b>	<b>29.1</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>22.4</b>	<b>17.8</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>22.8</b>	<b>22.6</b>
<b>Environment</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>7.6</b>
<b>Social Programs</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>4.0</b>
<b>Public Safety</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>.5</b>	<b>4.0</b>
<b>Don't Know/ Unsure/Refused</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>.7</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>1.8</b>

\*Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

**Perceptions of Taxes -- Regional Responses**

Level of Government – <i>Least Fair Tax*</i>																						
%	1—Panhandle			2—North Central			3—Southwest			4—South Central			5—Southeast			6—East Central			Statewide			
	2003	2002	2001	2003	2002	2001	2003	2002	2001	2003	2002	2001	2003	2002	2001	2003	2002	2001	2003	2002	2001	
Federal Income	17.5	32.1	26.2	11.2	24.0	23.0	25.8	26.4	28.1	25.2	31.0	28.6	14.5	30.4	19.0	28.2	29.0	31.8	22.4	28.3	26.9	
Federal Social Security**	15.2	NA	NA	14.5	NA	NA	19.5	NA	NA	12.4	NA	NA	12.1	NA	NA	8.5	NA	NA	15.5	NA	NA	
State Income	9.3	13.3	19.4	8.2	17.4	4.9	7.3	13.5	7.8	3.2	5.5	9.9	1.9	4.0	6.0	9.6	12.0	6.8	6.8	11.6	9.1	
State Sales	14.0	16.0	10.7	18.3	10.0	13.1	16.1	13.5	18.6	14.1	11.9	12.1	16.8	12.9	14.3	17.3	16.0	11.4	16.0	13.6	14.8	
Local Property	38.0	24.4	33.0	34.5	41.5	47.5	19.8	31.3	33.9	29.7	36.5	39.6	44.1	45.6	45.2	28.6	33.3	38.6	28.5	33.7	37.5	
All Equal/None	3.7	11.7	7.7	9.2	6.5	9.9	6.5	13.4	10.1	13.7	11.8	6.6	9.1	5.9	13.1	6.3	7.0	4.6	7.5	10.7	9.0	
Don't Know	2.5	1.8	2.9	2.3	0.6	1.6	5.0	2.0	1.4	1.8	3.3	3.3	1.5	1.2	2.4	1.5	2.8	6.8	3.2	2.0	2.6	

\*May not add to 100% due to rounding and omission of 'Refused' data

\*\*Social Security payroll tax added in 2003.

**Grade for the Governor & Legislature -- Regional Responses**

%	1—Panhandle		2—North Central		3—Southwest		4—South Central		5—Southeast		6—East Central		Statewide	
	Governor	Legislature	Governor	Legislature	Governor	Legislature	Governor	Legislature	Governor	Legislature	Governor	Legislature	Governor	Legislature
<b>'A'</b>	8.2	1.3	4.0	5.1	9.3	3.6	6.0	0.0	9.7	4.6	9.5	.9	8.4	2.7
<b>'B'</b>	35.8	27.3	35.0	22.7	37.3	21.8	39.0	27.1	43.4	33.8	45.3	34.1	38.8	26.1
<b>'C'</b>	30.4	49.4	30.2	40.0	32.9	49.3	40.8	52.1	20.5	32.9	25.4	38.4	31.0	45.7
<b>'D'</b>	11.8	10.6	6.5	7.8	13.9	10.8	7.3	10.1	11.0	20.9	11.9	16.2	11.6	12.3
<b>'F'</b>	4.2	6.3	10.0	11.7	3.7	8.4	5.4	6.7	10.7	3.4	7.9	8.2	5.8	7.6
Don't Know /Refused	9.5	5.2	14.3	12.8	2.9	6.1	1.6	4.1	4.7	4.4	0.0	2.2	4.4	5.6

\*Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

**First Priority for the Legislature -- Regional Responses**

%	1—Panhandle	2—North Central	3—Southwest	4—South Central	5—Southeast	6—East Central	Statewide
Education	26.5	29.7	26.5	43.4	35.3	48.9	32.5
Jobs	13.8	8.5	4.6	7.7	9.5	3.2	7.0
Economy	14.2	13.3	18.0	11.9	13.5	7.8	14.6
Environment	1.0	5.1	3.0	3.9	3.1	2.7	3.0
Growth	3.5	0.0	.9	0.0	.9	0.0	1.0
Wages	4.7	5.0	3.5	2.9	1.3	0.0	3.1
Other	24.5	20.0	20.7	20.2	20.6	12.9	20.2
Drought/water	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.4	.2
Government/politics	0.0	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	.1
Taxes	0.0	0.0	1.6	0.0	4.3	.9	1.3
Healthcare	1.2	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	.3
Social issues or programs	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	.9	.3
Public safety	0.0	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	.1
Don't know/Refused	9.1	13.0	21.1	9.9	11.6	21.4	16.4

\*Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

**Does Idaho have Budget Problems-- Regional Responses**

%	1—Panhandle	2—North Central	3—Southwest	4—South Central	5—Southeast	6—East Central	Statewide
Yes	75.0	73.6	78.3	86.0	93.1	84.5	80.8
No	14.9	14.5	14.7	12.0	3.4	11.1	12.7
Don't know /Refused	10.1	11.9	7.0	2.0	3.5	4.4	6.6

**Other Idahoans' Political Ideology -- Regional Responses**

%	1—Panhandle	2—North Central	3—Southwest	4—South Central	5—Southeast	6—East Central	Statewide
Conservative	68.0	53.4	68.0	63.2	75.2	71.8	67.5
Liberal	5.8	16.6	8.1	6.9	5.7	5.0	7.7
Moderate	20.0	22.2	19.0	26.3	15.3	20.5	20.1
Don't know /Refused	6.2	7.8	4.9	3.6	3.9	2.7	4.8

**Appendix III****PUBLIC POLICY SURVEY QUESTIONS****Statewide Summary Tables - Trend Data for various questions****Is the State Headed in the Right Direction?**


---

	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002*</b>	<b>2003*</b>
%					
<b>Yes</b>	79.0	68.6	66.6	57.5	<b>62.5</b>
<b>No</b>	15.0	17.7	26.3	32.5	<b>27.7</b>
<u>Don't Know/Missing Data</u>	6.0	13.7	7.1	10.0	<b>9.8</b>
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	<b>100.0</b>

---

\*Percent on weighted population basis.



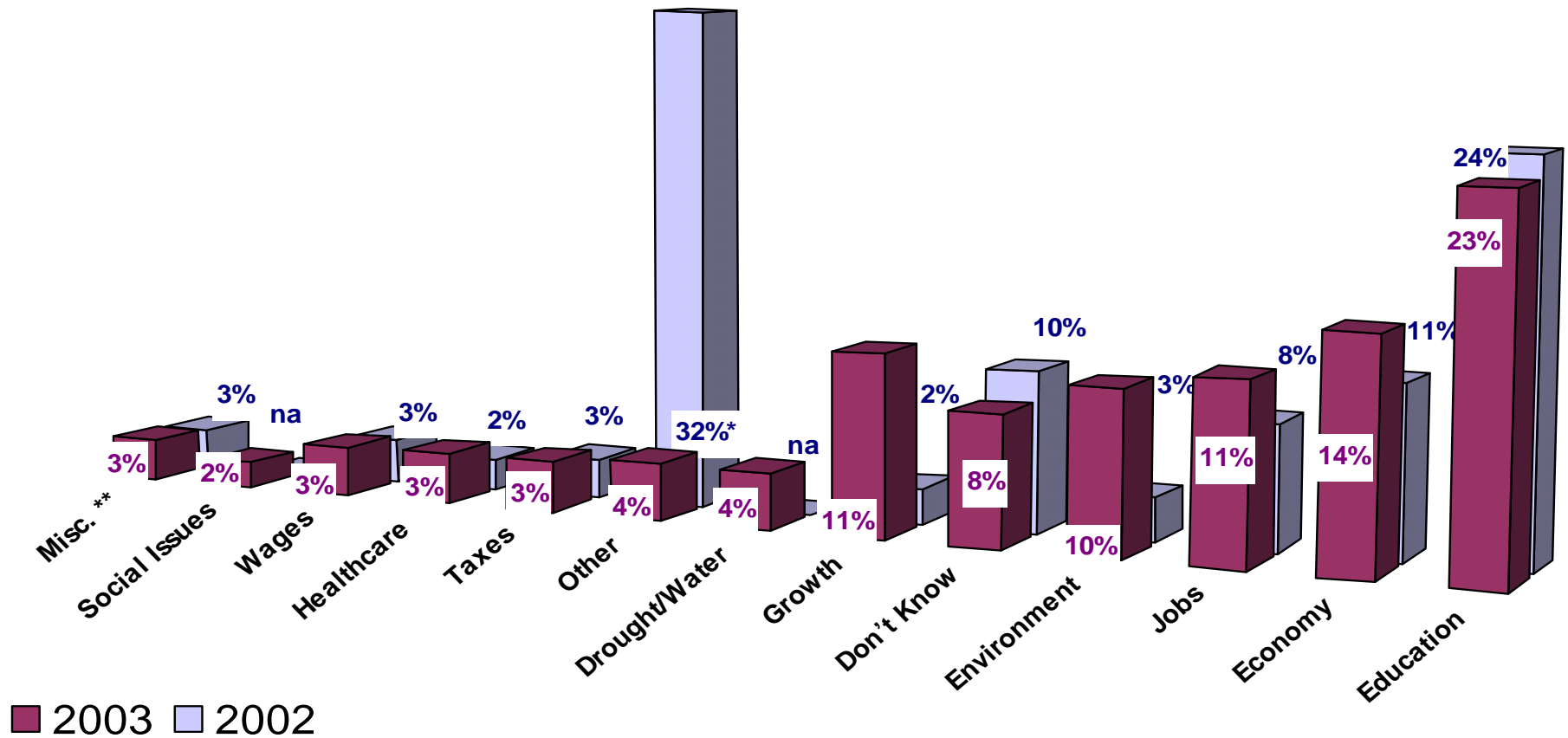
### The Five Most Important Issues Facing Idaho, 1990 to the Present

Note: The chart below is a comparison of 2003 and 2002 responses with population-weighted data for all responses. In 2003, all responses were ‘open-ended’ to reduce bias. The 2002 ‘other’ response data were not recoded prior to weighting by regional population. This methodology change precludes a precise year-to-year comparison.

	Education	Economy	Environment	Drugs	Taxes	Growth	Crime	Politics	Agriculture	Healthcare	Social Services
1990	1	2	3	4	5	.	.	.	.	.	.
1991	1	3	2	.	4	.	.	.	.	.	.
1992	3	2	1	.	4	.	.	.	.	.	.
1993	2	1	3	.	5	4	.	.	.	.	.
1994	3	2	4	.	5	1	.	.	.	.	.
1995	2	3	5	.	4	1	.	.	.	.	.
1996	2	3	.	.	5	1	4	.	.	.	.
1997	2	4	5	.	3	1	.	.	.	.	.
1998	2	.	3	.	4	1	5	.	.	.	.
1999	1	4	5	.	.	3	.	2	.	.	.
2000	1	.	3	.	.	2	5	.	4	.	.
2001	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
2002	2	<b>1*</b>	<b>3</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2003</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1*</b>	<b>3**</b>	.	.	<b>4</b>	.	.	.	<b>5</b>	.

\*Includes ‘Jobs’ & ‘Wages’  
 \*\*Includes ‘Drought & Water’

### Most Important Issues Facing Idaho – 2003 & 2002 Comparison



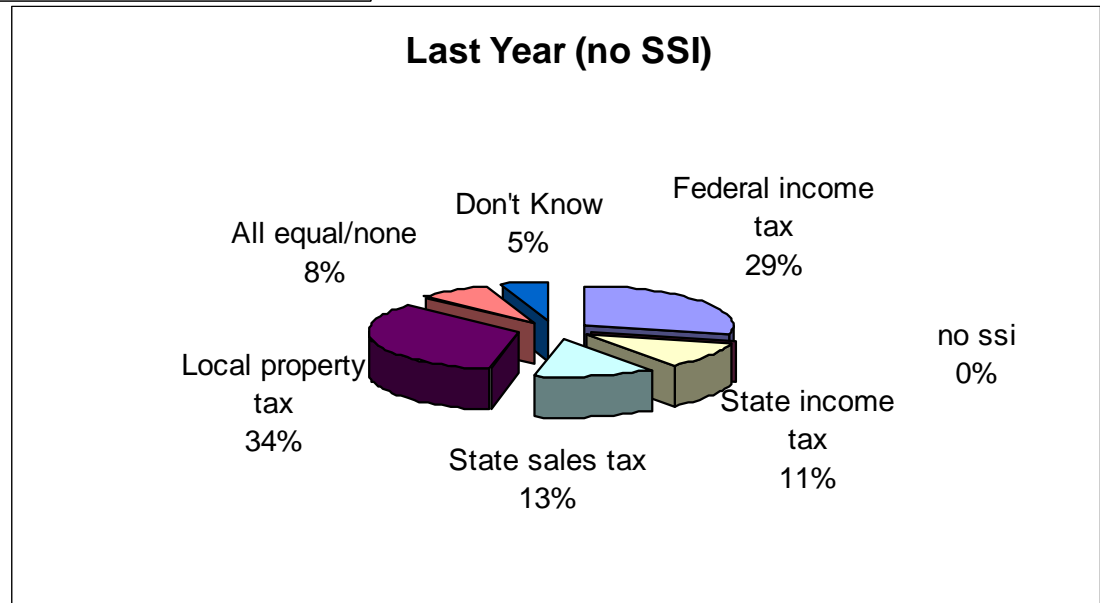
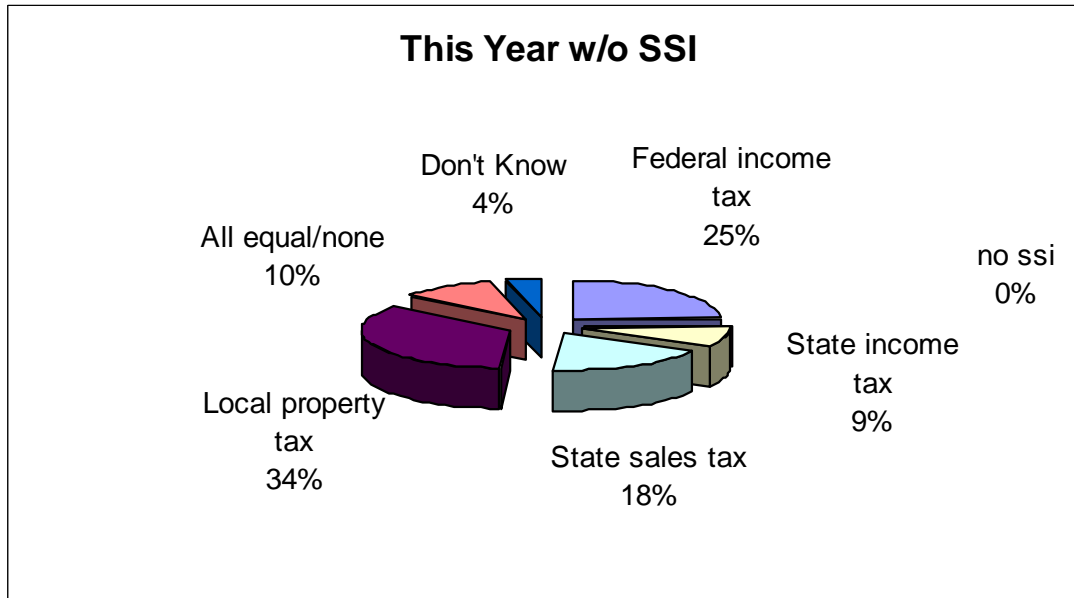
Note: No recoded answers available on a weighted bases.

**Perceptions of Least Fair Tax**

		<b>Federal*</b>	<b>State**</b>	<b>Local</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Total***</b>
	%						
<b>Level of government with <u>least</u> fair taxes</b>	1999	59.7	22.1	7.4	7.0	3.8	100%
	2000	33.4	18.8	38.7	7.0	2.1	100%
	2001	27.6	24.5	38.5	7.4	1.8	100%
	2002	28.6	24.8	34.0	7.8	2.7	100%
	<b>2003</b>	<b>37.9</b>	<b>22.8</b>	<b>28.5</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>***</b>	

\*Federal income tax and Social Security payroll tax are combined for presentation purposes.  
 \*\* State income tax and state sales tax are combined for presentation purposes.  
 \*\*\*Will not total 100%; Don't Know/No Response removed for year-to-year comparison.

**Least Fair Tax Comparison Without Social Security Tax – 2003 & 2002**



## **Appendix IV**

### **Summary Tables—Demographics**

#### **Political Affiliation**

	<b>2003</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>1999</b>
Democrat	21%	22%	22%	22%
Republican	42%	37%	41%	41%
Independent	33%	33%	28%	25%
Other	1%	5%	6%	10.0%
Refused/Don't Know	3%	3%	4%	2%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

#### **Political Ideology**

	<b>2003</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>1999</b>
Conservative	42%	44%	50%	51%
Middle-of-the-road	42%	37%	30%	34%
Liberal	13%	20%	19%	14%
Refused/Don't Know	3%	0%	1%	2%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

---

**Racial and Ethnic Background**


---

	<b>2003</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2001</b>
<b>% of Sample</b>			
<b>American Indian, Alaskan Native, Pacific Islander</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>Asian</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>Black or African American</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>Hispanic or Latino</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>White, non-Hispanic</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>92%</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>Refused</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Education**

	<b>2003</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2001</b>
<b>% of Sample</b>			
<b>Less than high school</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>6.7</b>
<b>High school graduate or (GED)</b>	<b>25.8</b>	<b>26.2</b>	<b>25.1</b>
<b>2 year or associate degree</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>4.5</b>
<b>Some college but less than 4 years</b>	<b>23.7</b>	<b>28.3</b>	<b>27.1</b>
<b>Trade or Vocational certificate</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>8.1</b>
<b>4 year college graduate</b>	<b>22.1</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>16.3</b>
<b>Some graduate school</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>3.0</b>
<b>Master's degree</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>5.8</b>
<b>Doctorate or professional degree</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>2.8</b>
<b>Something else</b>	<b>.5</b>	<b>.2</b>	<b>.1</b>
<b>Don't Know</b>	<b>.4</b>	<b>.1</b>	<b>na</b>
<b>Note: May not add to 100% due to rounding</b>			