Cato Institute 2025 Fiscal Policy Poll (Release II)

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MARGIN OF ERROR +/- 2.41%*. COLUMNS MAY NOT ADD UP TO 100% DUE TO ROUNDING.

[QUESTIONS 1-21 RELEASED SEPARATELY]

22. Do you regard the income tax which you will have to pay this year as fair?

■ Yes, fair	51%
■ No, not fair	49%
■ Total	100%

23. Do you consider the amount of federal income tax you have to pay as too high, about right or too low?

■ Too High	55%
■ About Right	44%
■ Too Low	1%
■ Total	100%

24. Considering what you get from the federal government, do you think you pay...?

■ More than your fair share	55%
■ Less than your fair share	9%
■ About the right amount of taxes	37%
■ Total	100%

25. Which of the following areas do you think lawmakers should prioritize when it comes to tax policy? (Select all that apply)

■ Reduce Taxes on the Poor	61%
■ Reduce Taxes on the Middle Class	59%
■ Reduce Your Taxes	48%
■ Encourage Savings	39%
■ Expand the Child Tax Credit	31%
■ Limit Access to Tax Credits to U.S. Citizens Only	30%
■ Encourage Investment	28%
■ Raise Money to Pay for Government Services and Programs	25%
■ Ensure People Don't Get Too Wealthy	14%
■ Other	9%

26. How much have you read or heard about the Tax Cuts & Jobs Act, a tax reform law passed by Congress in 2017?

■ A great deal	9%
■ A moderate amount	19%
■ Some	18%
■ A little	21%
■ Not at all	34%
■ Total	100%

27. From what you've read and heard, do you think many of the tax cuts from the 2017 tax reform law are permanent or temporary?

- Permanent   10%
- Temporary   45%
- Not sure   45%
- Total   100%

28. Most of the tax cuts from the 2017 tax reform law will expire at the end of 2025 unless Congress takes action. Would you rather make the 2017 tax cuts permanent, extend temporarily, or let them expire to allow tax rates to increase?

- Let the 2017 tax cuts expire, and taxes increase   13%
- Extend the 2017 tax cuts temporarily   17%
- Make the 2017 tax cuts permanent   36%
- Not sure   34%
- Total   100%

29. Would you favor or oppose making the tax cuts in the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act permanent?

- *Total favor*   49%
- *Total oppose*   17%
- Strongly favor   25%
- Somewhat favor   24%
- Somewhat oppose   7%
- Strongly oppose   10%
- Not sure   34%
- Total   100%

30. If Congress does not extend the tax cuts from the 2017 tax law, do you think your taxes will increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

- Expect my taxes to increase   45%
- Expect my taxes to stay the same   23%
- Expect my taxes to decrease   5%
- Not sure   26%
- Total   100%

31. If Congress does not extend the tax cuts from the 2017 tax law, do you believe the U.S. economy will be...

- Helped   11%
- Harmed   43%
- Not impacted much   17%
- Not sure   30%
- Total   100%

32. Do you think the U.S. can afford to make the tax cuts from the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act permanent?

- Yes, can afford to make the tax cuts permanent   45%
- No, cannot afford to make the tax cuts permanent   21%
- Not sure   34%
- Total   100%

33. Can you afford to pay higher taxes next year?

- Yes, can afford   19%
- No, cannot afford   81%
- Total   100%

34. Some estimate that taxes will increase about $1000-$2000 for the average American household next year if the 2017 tax cuts expire. Knowing this, do you think Congress should make the tax cuts from the 2017 tax law permanent, extend them temporarily, or let them expire this year?

- Make tax cuts permanent   57%
- Extend tax cuts temporarily   28%
- Let tax cuts expire and taxes increase   15%
- Total   100%

35. Making the 2017 tax cuts permanent will reduce revenue by about $5 trillion over the next ten years. Knowing this, do you think Congress should make the tax cuts from the 2017 tax law permanent, extend them temporarily, or let them expire this year?

- Make tax cuts permanent   50%
- Extend tax cuts temporarily   32%
- Let tax cuts expire and taxes increase   17%
- Total   100%

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36. Should Congress extend or eliminate the tax deduction for business research and development expenses?

- Extend   60%
- Eliminate   40%
- Total   100%

37. Should Congress extend or eliminate full capital expensing, which allows businesses to deduct the cost of new machinery and investments upfront?

- Extend   63%
- Eliminate   37%
- Total   100%

38. Should Congress extend or eliminate the qualified business income (QBI) deduction, which lowers the top marginal tax rate on pass-through business income, often for small businesses, from about 40% to 30%?

- Extend   71%
- Eliminate   29%
- Total   100%

39. Should Congress extend or eliminate the $10,000 cap on state and local tax (SALT) deductions?

- Extend   64%
- Eliminate   36%
- Total   100%

40. The 2017 tax law set a $10,000 limit on state and local tax (SALT) deductions. Which do you agree with more? We should...

- Keep the cap—It stops high-tax states from relying on federal taxes to support their spending.   43%
- Remove the cap—It avoids double-taxing people on both state and federal taxes.   57%
- Total   100%

41. Full capital expensing allows businesses to deduct the cost of new machinery and investments upfront. Some say we should allow this because it encourages business to invest and grow, while others say we should not allow it because it would reduce tax revenue and prevent them from paying their fair share of taxes. Which comes closer to your view?

- Full capital expensing should be allowed   57%
- Full capital expensing should not be allowed   43%
- Total   100%

42. Would you favor or oppose repealing the Inflation Reduction Act green energy subsidies which spends about $1 trillion over 10 years on energy and the environment in order to help keep the 2017 tax cuts?

- *Total favor*   59%
- *Total oppose*   41%
- Strongly favor   23%
- Somewhat favor   36%
- Somewhat oppose   22%
- Strongly oppose   19%
- Total   100%

43. Which comes closer to your own view?

- We should eliminate taxes paid on tips because it is important to cut taxes on servers, hairstylists, and other tipped workers.   61%
- We should not eliminate the tax on tips because it is unfair to only cut taxes for some workers, instead taxes should be cut for all workers   39%
- Total   100%

44. The 2017 tax law reduced the US corporate tax rate from 35% to 21%, placing the US at the average rate for developed countries. Do you think the US corporate tax rate should be increased, decreased, or kept at 21%?

- Increased   33%
- Decreased   20%
- Kept the same   46%
- Total   100%

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45. Would you favor or oppose lowering the corporate tax rate from 21% to 15%?

- *Total favor* — 42%
- *Total oppose* — 58%
- Strongly favor — 16%
- Somewhat favor — 26%
- Somewhat oppose — 29%
- Strongly oppose — 29%
- Total — 100%

46. Would you favor or oppose raising the corporate tax rate from 21% to 28%?

- *Total favor* — 57%
- *Total oppose* — 43%
- Strongly favor — 29%
- Somewhat favor — 28%
- Somewhat oppose — 24%
- Strongly oppose — 18%
- Total — 100%

47. Will increasing the corporate tax rate…

- Increase wages and jobs — 22%
- Lower wages and jobs — 38%
- Have no impact on wages and jobs — 39%
- Total — 100%

48. a) We should lower the corporate tax rate because it brings business and jobs back to the United States

- *Total agree* — 60%
- *Total disagree* — 40%
- Strongly agree — 25%
- Somewhat agree — 35%
- Somewhat disagree — 23%
- Strongly disagree — 17%
- Total — 100%

48. b) We should raise the corporate tax rate because businesses can afford to pay more

- *Total agree* — 57%
- *Total disagree* — 43%
- Strongly agree — 24%
- Somewhat agree — 34%
- Somewhat disagree — 26%
- Strongly disagree — 17%
- Total — 100%

48. c) The 2017 tax cuts should expire because it won't be worth the federal spending cuts necessary to make them permanent

- *Total agree* — 39%
- *Total disagree* — 61%
- Strongly agree — 14%
- Somewhat agree — 26%
- Somewhat disagree — 37%
- Strongly disagree — 24%
- Total — 100%

48. d) The 2017 tax cuts should be made permanent because taxes are already too high

- *Total agree* — 74%
- *Total disagree* — 26%
- Strongly agree — 38%
- Somewhat agree — 36%
- Somewhat disagree — 16%
- Strongly disagree — 11%
- Total — 100%

48. e) The U.S. corporate tax rate should stay where it is because it is similar to other developed countries

- *Total agree* — 51%
- *Total disagree* — 49%
- Strongly agree — 10%
- Somewhat agree — 41%
- Somewhat disagree — 31%
- Strongly disagree — 18%
- Total — 100%

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48. f) The 2017 tax cuts should be made permanent because businesses and families need stability of the tax code to plan for the future

- *Total agree* — 75%
- *Total disagree* — 25%
- Strongly agree — 33%
- Somewhat agree — 42%
- Somewhat disagree — 16%
- Strongly disagree — 9%
- Total — 100%

49. If you had to choose, would you rather...

- Keep most itemized deductions and tax credits but have overall higher tax rates — 26%
- Have lower overall tax rates but eliminate most tax deductions and tax credits — 74%
- Total — 100%

50. Do you support or oppose creating Universal Savings Accounts (USAs), which allow people to save and invest in an account where their money would grow tax-free and could be withdrawn anytime?

- *Total support* — 88%
- *Total oppose* — 12%
- Strongly support — 43%
- Somewhat support — 45%
- Somewhat oppose — 9%
- Strongly oppose — 3%
- Total — 100%

51. What best describes how you feel about the rich?

- Admiration — 54%
- Resentment — 46%
- Total — 100%

52. Do you think citizens taking violent action against the rich is ever justified?

- Yes, sometimes justified — 21%
- No, never justified — 79%
- Total — 100%

53. It's good to see very successful people fail occasionally

- *Total agree* — 32%
- *Total disagree* — 35%
- Strongly agree — 11%
- Somewhat agree — 20%
- Neither agree nor disagree — 34%
- Somewhat disagree — 15%
- Strongly disagree — 19%
- Total — 100%

54. People at the top usually deserve their high position

- *Total agree* — 33%
- *Total disagree* — 35%
- Strongly agree — 6%
- Somewhat agree — 27%
- Neither agree nor disagree — 32%
- Somewhat disagree — 24%
- Strongly disagree — 11%
- Total — 100%

55. Very successful people sometimes need to be brought down a peg or two, even if they have done nothing wrong

- *Total agree* — 21%
- *Total disagree* — 52%
- Strongly agree — 6%
- Somewhat agree — 15%
- Neither agree nor disagree — 27%
- Somewhat disagree — 24%
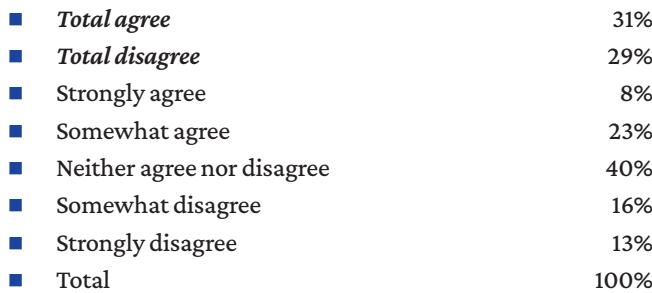- Strongly disagree — 27%
- Total — 100%

56. It's very important for society to support and encourage people who are very successful

- *Total agree* — 44%
- *Total disagree* — 19%
- Strongly agree — 15%
- Somewhat agree — 29%
- Neither agree nor disagree — 37%
- Somewhat disagree — 12%
- Strongly disagree — 7%
- Total — 100%

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57. People who always do a lot better than others need to learn what it's like to fail

- *Total agree* — 31%
- *Total disagree* — 36%
- Strongly agree — 9%
- Somewhat agree — 22%
- Neither agree nor disagree — 33%
- Somewhat disagree — 19%
- Strongly disagree — 18%
- Total — 100%
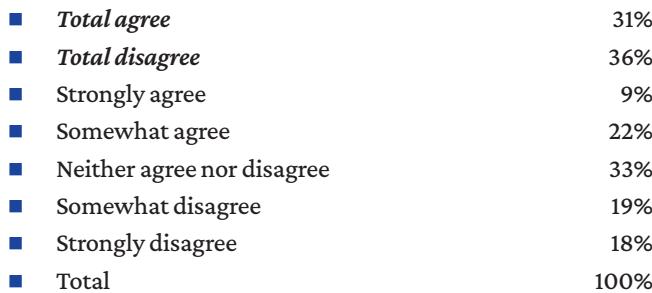
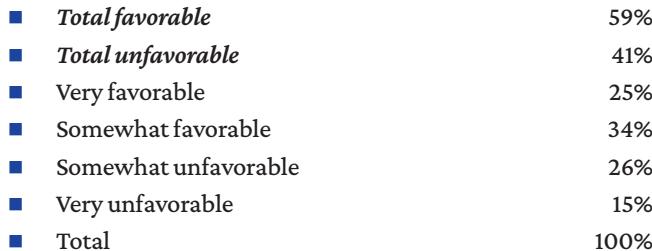**58. One ought to be sympathetic to very successful people when they experience failure and fall from very high positions**
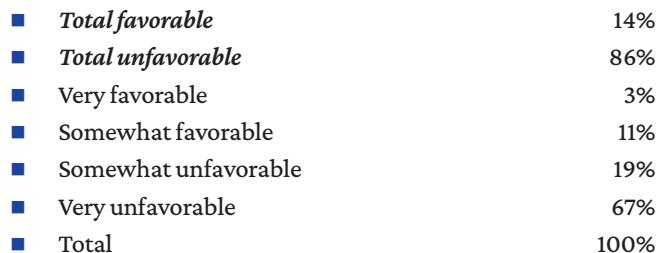
- *Total agree* — 31%
- *Total disagree* — 29%
- Strongly agree — 8%
- Somewhat agree — 23%
- Neither agree nor disagree — 40%
- Somewhat disagree — 16%
- Strongly disagree — 13%
- Total — 100%

59. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable view of Socialism?

- *Total favorable* — 43%
- *Total unfavorable* — 57%
- Very favorable — 11%
- Somewhat favorable — 33%
- Somewhat unfavorable — 21%
- Very unfavorable — 35%
- Total — 100%
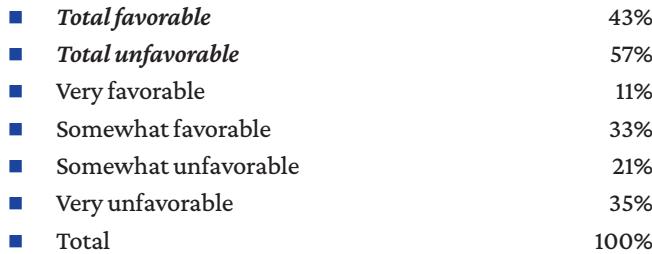
60. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable view of Capitalism?

- *Total favorable* — 59%
- *Total unfavorable* — 41%
- Very favorable — 25%
- Somewhat favorable — 34%
- Somewhat unfavorable — 26%
- Very unfavorable — 15%
- Total — 100%

61. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable view of Communism?

- *Total favorable* — 14%
- *Total unfavorable* — 86%
- Very favorable — 3%
- Somewhat favorable — 11%
- Somewhat unfavorable — 19%
- Very unfavorable — 67%
- Total — 100%

62. There is nothing wrong with a person trying to make as much money as they honestly can.

- *Total agree* — 90%
- *Total disagree* — 10%
- Strongly agree — 60%
- Somewhat agree — 30%
- Somewhat disagree — 7%
- Strongly disagree — 2%
- Total — 100%
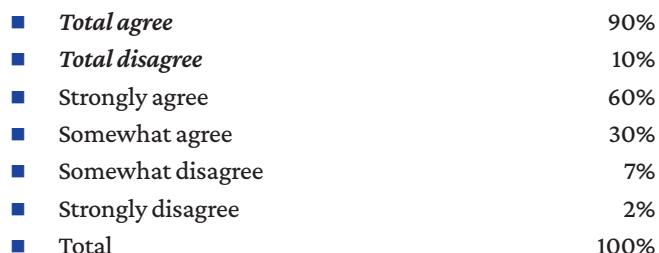
63. It's immoral for society to allow people to become billionaires

- *Total agree* — 29%
- *Total disagree* — 71%
- Strongly agree — 12%
- Somewhat agree — 17%
- Somewhat disagree — 32%
- Strongly disagree — 39%
- Total — 100%
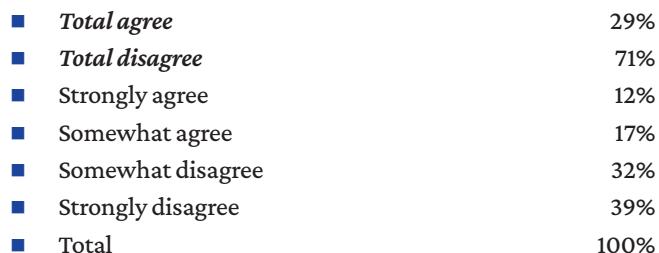
64. We shouldn't let people get too rich in this country because rich people have too much political power and threaten democracy.

- *Total agree* — 48%
- *Total disagree* — 52%
- Strongly agree — 21%
- Somewhat agree — 26%
- Somewhat disagree — 25%
- Strongly disagree — 27%
- Total — 100%

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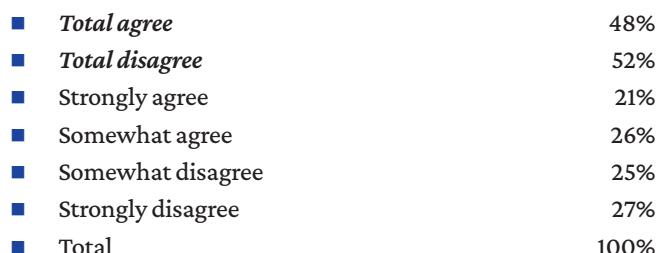
65. We are all better off when people get rich as because they invest their money in new businesses that create jobs and new technology.

- *Total agree*   62%
- *Total disagree*   38%
- Strongly agree   25%
- Somewhat agree   37%
- Somewhat disagree   22%
- Strongly disagree   16%
- Total   100%

66. Wealth should be taken from the rich and given to the poor

- *Total agree*   35%
- *Total disagree*   65%
- Strongly agree   12%
- Somewhat agree   23%
- Somewhat disagree   29%
- Strongly disagree   37%
- Total   100%

67. Voter registration status

- Registered Voter   86%
- Not Registered Voter   12%
- Don't know   2%

68. Party ID

- Democrat   33%
- Republican   29%
- Independent   27%
- Other   5%
- Not sure   5%

69. Political ideology

- Very conservative   11%
- Conservative   20%
- Moderate   34%
- Liberal   17%
- Very liberal   11%
- Not sure   7%

70. Recalled 2024 presidential vote

- Kamala Harris   37%
- Donald Trump   38%
- Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.   0%
- Jill Stein   0%
- Cornel West   0%
- Chase Oliver   0%
- Other   1%
- Did not vote for President   23%

71. Libertarian

- Yes   13%
- No   58%
- Not Sure   29%

72. Family income

- <30k   23%
- 30k–60k   19%
- 60k–90k   23%
- 90k–150k   15%
- >150k   10%
- Prefer not to say   9%

73. Age

- 18–29   19%
- 30–44   25%
- 45–54   14%
- 55–64   19%
- 65+   23%

74. Gender

- Male   49%
- Female   51%

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75. Race

- White   66%
- Black   12%
- Hispanic   11%
- Asian   3%
- Native American   1%
- Two or more races   4%
- Other   3%
- Middle Eastern   0%

76. Educational attainment

- No HS   6%
- High school graduate   32%
- Some college   18%
- 2-year   10%
- 4-year   22%
- Post-grad   12%

77. Marital status

- Married   44%
- Separated   2%
- Divorced   11%
- Widowed   5%
- Never married   32%
- Domestic/civil partnership   5%

78. Employment status

- Full-time   38%
- Part-time   12%
- Temporarily laid off   1%
- Unemployed   9%
- Retired   21%
- Permanently disabled   7%
- Homemaker   6%
- Student   5%
- Other   2%

79. Location demographic

- Big city   21%
- Smaller city   14%
- Suburban area   37%
- Small town   12%
- Rural area   16%

80. Attention to news

- Most of the time   45%
- Some of the time   30%
- Only now and then   14%
- Hardly at all   9%
- Don't know   2%

81. Religion

- Protestant   30%
- Roman Catholic   21%
- Mormon   1%
- Eastern or Greek Orthodox   0%
- Jewish   2%
- Muslim   1%
- Buddhist   1%
- Hindu   1%
- Atheist   6%
- Agnostic   6%
- Nothing in particular   23%
- Something else   8%

82. Importance of religion

- Very important   34%
- Somewhat important   27%
- Not too important   15%
- Not at all important   24%

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SURVEY METHODOLOGY

YouGov interviewed 2316 respondents who were then matched down to a sample of 2000 to produce the final dataset. The respondents were matched to a sampling frame on gender, age, race, and education. The sampling frame is a politically representative "modeled frame" of US adults, based upon the American Community Survey (ACS) public use microdata file, public voter file records, the 2020 Current Population Survey (CPS) Voting and Registration supplements, the 2020 National Election Pool (NEP) exit poll, and the 2020 CES surveys, including demographics and 2020 presidential vote

The matched cases were weighted to the sampling frame using propensity scores. The matched cases and the frame were combined and a logistic regression was estimated for inclusion in the frame. The propensity score function included age, gender, race/ethnicity, years of education, and region. The propensity scores were grouped into deciles of the estimated propensity score in the frame and post-stratified according to these deciles

The weights were then post-stratified on 2020 and 2024 presidential vote choice as well as a four-way stratification of gender, age (4-categories), race (4-categories), and education (4-categories), to produce the final weight.

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