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# QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY

## POLL

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### **AMERICAN VOTERS SAY 2-1 TAXES ARE TOO COMPLICATED, QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY NATIONAL POLL FINDS; BUT MOST SAY THEY PAY THEIR FAIR SHARE**

Almost two-thirds of American voters, 64 percent, have someone else prepare their federal income tax return and say 64 – 31 percent that the federal income tax system is too complicated, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today.

They personally pay their fair share of taxes, 57 percent of American voters tell the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University poll, while 36 percent say they pay more than their fair share and 3 percent say they pay less. Opinions about income groups are:

- 55 percent say the rich pay less than fair share, while 14 percent say more and 24 percent say the rich pay about the right amount;
- 35 percent say lower income people pay more than their fair share, while 19 percent say less and 39 percent say about right;
- 50 percent say middle-income people pay more than their fair share, while 4 percent say less and 42 percent say about right.

Eliminating most deductions and lowering overall tax rates would be a “good idea,” voters say 47 – 35 percent. This change would not affect their tax bill, 41 percent of voters say, while 29 percent say they would pay more and 20 percent say they would pay less.

“By 2-1 margins, American voters say the system is too complicated and that they get someone else to do their taxes,” said Peter Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute. “And while almost everyone gripes about paying taxes, most voters say they pay their fair share, while about a third say they pay too much.

“There is only a small gender difference on tax preparation, as 36 percent of men and 31 percent of women do it themselves.”

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“More than half of voters, 55 percent, say the rich pay less than their fair share of taxes, while 19 percent say those with lower incomes pay too little and only 4 percent say the middle class fails to hold up its obligations,” said Brown. “And only 3 percent say they personally pay too little.”

The strongest support for reforming the tax system to lower rates with fewer deductions is among Republicans, 56 – 27 percent, with independent voters supporting it 45 – 36 percent and Democrats divided 43 – 41 percent. Support for reform rises with income, from 43 – 40 percent among those making less than \$50,000 per year to 55 – 32 percent among those making more than \$100,000 per year.

There is a large gender gap as men support reform 56 – 31 percent, while women are divided 40 – 39 percent.

By a large 71 – 21 percent margin, including 62 – 28 percent among Republicans, American voters say Congress should close tax loopholes for people with higher incomes.

From March 26 – April 1, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,711 registered voters with a margin of error of +/- 2.4 percentage points. Live interviewers call land lines and cell phones.

The Quinnipiac University Poll, directed by Douglas Schwartz, Ph.D., conducts public opinion surveys in Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Florida, Ohio, Virginia and the nation as a public service and for research.

**For more information or RSS feed, visit <http://www.quinnipiac.edu/polling>, call (203) 582-5201, or follow us on [Twitter](#).**

30. Do you feel people with higher incomes pay more than their fair share in federal income taxes, less than their fair share, or is the amount they pay about right?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
More than fair share	14%	26%	5%	14%	16%	13%	16%	7%	11%
Less than fair share	55	32	74	55	52	58	54	64	48
About right	24	34	15	25	26	22	24	21	24
DK/NA	7	8	6	6	6	8	6	7	17

	COLLEGE DEG		ANNUAL	HSHOLD	INC	AGE IN YRS.....		
	Yes	No	<50K	50-100	>100K	18-34	35-54	55+
More than fair share	18%	13%	11%	12%	20%	11%	17%	15%
Less than fair share	54	55	59	57	48	57	55	54
About right	24	24	21	27	27	26	23	22
DK/NA	4	8	9	3	5	7	5	9

31. Do you feel people with lower incomes pay more than their fair share in federal income taxes, less than their fair share, or is the amount they pay about right?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
More than fair share	35%	20%	46%	35%	32%	38%	31%	57%	43%
Less than fair share	19	33	5	19	22	15	20	10	10
About right	39	40	42	40	40	39	43	24	37
DK/NA	7	7	6	6	6	8	6	9	10

	COLLEGE DEG		ANNUAL	HSHOLD	INC	AGE IN YRS.....		
	Yes	No	<50K	50-100	>100K	18-34	35-54	55+
More than fair share	28%	38%	45%	31%	21%	44%	32%	33%
Less than fair share	24	16	11	22	27	11	22	19
About right	42	38	38	41	47	41	42	37
DK/NA	6	8	6	5	5	4	5	10

32. Do you feel people with middle incomes pay more than their fair share in federal income taxes, less than their fair share, or is the amount they pay about right?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
More than fair share	50%	50%	50%	49%	46%	54%	49%	53%	43%
Less than fair share	4	3	4	4	6	2	3	3	7
About right	42	43	43	44	45	39	43	40	40
DK/NA	4	5	4	4	3	5	4	4	10

	COLLEGE DEG		ANNUAL	HSHOLD	INC	AGE IN YRS.....		
	Yes	No	<50K	50-100	>100K	18-34	35-54	55+
More than fair share	49%	51%	48%	52%	51%	38%	56%	51%
Less than fair share	4	4	4	4	4	6	3	3
About right	45	40	42	43	44	50	39	41
DK/NA	2	5	7	1	1	5	2	6

33. And how about you, do you feel you pay more than your fair share in federal income taxes, less than your fair share, or is the amount you pay about right?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
More than fair share	36%	39%	31%	37%	36%	36%	34%	46%	39%
Less than fair share	3	3	3	3	4	3	4	2	4
About right	57	55	63	56	57	56	58	50	50
DK/NA	4	3	3	4	2	5	4	2	7

	COLLEGE DEG Yes	DEG No	ANNUAL <50K	HSHOLD 50-100	INC >100K	AGE IN 18-34	YRS..... 35-54	55+
More than fair share	33%	38%	34%	36%	40%	33%	43%	32%
Less than fair share	5	3	3	5	3	3	4	3
About right	61	55	57	57	56	62	50	59
DK/NA	2	5	5	1	1	2	2	6

34. Who usually does your federal income tax return? Do you do it yourself or do you have someone do it for you?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Self	34%	29%	33%	38%	36%	31%	34%	25%	33%
Someone else	64	70	64	61	63	65	64	72	59
DK/NA	2	1	4	2	1	3	2	4	8

	COLLEGE DEG Yes	DEG No	ANNUAL <50K	HSHOLD 50-100	INC >100K	AGE IN 18-34	YRS..... 35-54	55+
Self	41%	30%	32%	37%	33%	40%	35%	28%
Someone else	58	67	63	63	66	59	64	68
DK/NA	1	3	4	-	-	1	1	4

35. Do you think the federal tax system is too complicated, or not?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Yes/too complicated	64%	73%	58%	63%	69%	60%	69%	52%	42%
No, not	31	24	35	33	28	34	27	40	47
DK/NA	5	3	7	4	3	6	3	9	10

	COLLEGE DEG Yes	DEG No	ANNUAL <50K	HSHOLD 50-100	INC >100K	AGE IN 18-34	YRS..... 35-54	55+
Yes/too complicated	72%	61%	56%	65%	78%	49%	66%	72%
No, not	25	34	38	31	20	47	31	22
DK/NA	3	6	6	4	2	4	3	7

PREPARES TAX RETURN Q34

Self SomeoneElse

Yes/too complicated	59%	68%
No, not	40	27
DK/NA	2	5

36. Suppose income tax rates were lowered and most deductions were eliminated. Do you think this change in the tax system would be a good idea or a bad idea?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Good idea	47%	56%	43%	45%	56%	40%	51%	36%	37%
Bad idea	35	27	41	36	31	39	32	49	43
DK/NA	18	17	16	18	14	21	17	15	20

	COLLEGE DEG Yes	COLLEGE DEG No	ANNUAL HSHOLD INC <50K	ANNUAL HSHOLD INC 50-100	ANNUAL HSHOLD INC >100K	AGE IN YRS..... 18-34	AGE IN YRS..... 35-54	AGE IN YRS..... 55+
Good idea	52%	45%	43%	54%	55%	46%	49%	47%
Bad idea	31	37	40	31	32	40	37	32
DK/NA	17	18	17	15	13	14	14	21

PREPARES TAX RETURN Q34  
Self SomeoneElse

Good idea	49%	47%
Bad idea	36	35
DK/NA	15	18

37. If tax rates were lowered and most deductions were eliminated, do you think you would pay more in taxes, pay less in taxes, or pay about the same as you pay now?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
More	29%	26%	28%	31%	27%	30%	29%	35%	25%
Less	20	17	21	22	21	19	18	22	31
About the same	41	48	41	36	43	39	43	35	35
DK/NA	10	9	11	11	9	12	10	8	10

	COLLEGE DEG Yes	COLLEGE DEG No	ANNUAL HSHOLD INC <50K	ANNUAL HSHOLD INC 50-100	ANNUAL HSHOLD INC >100K	AGE IN YRS..... 18-34	AGE IN YRS..... 35-54	AGE IN YRS..... 55+
More	26%	30%	29%	29%	31%	31%	34%	24%
Less	22	19	20	21	22	31	19	13
About the same	42	40	42	41	38	33	37	50
DK/NA	10	10	10	9	9	5	10	13

38. Do you think Congress should close tax loopholes for Americans with higher incomes or don't you think so?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Yes/Close loopholes	71%	62%	79%	70%	74%	67%	74%	59%	57%
No	21	28	14	22	20	22	18	32	28
DK/NA	9	9	7	8	6	11	7	8	15

	COLLEGE DEG Yes	COLLEGE DEG No	ANNUAL HSHOLD INC <50K	ANNUAL HSHOLD INC 50-100	ANNUAL HSHOLD INC >100K	AGE IN YRS..... 18-34	AGE IN YRS..... 35-54	AGE IN YRS..... 55+
Yes/Close loopholes	77%	67%	68%	72%	78%	64%	70%	75%
No	16	23	22	20	16	28	22	16
DK/NA	6	9	9	8	6	8	7	9