

PARCA Survey 2016

2016 PARCA Survey Toplines
 Conducted Jan. 4-21, 2016
 State-wide RDD sample, n=466
 Margin of error +/- 4.54%

Weighted by race and gender to match state demographics

1. I'm going to name four big investments the state makes with your tax dollars. If you had to choose just one of them as the most important service the state provides, which one of these would it be? [Randomized] which one of these services would you rank as the next most important?

	Mean Rank	Percent #1
Education	1.8	48.4
Healthcare for the poor and the elderly	2.2	30.1
Public safety, including prisons and law enforcement	2.8	12.6
Highways	3.2	8.3

2. Do you believe that [Randomized: INSERT ITEM] is adequately funded in Alabama?

	Yes	No	No opinion
Education	25	69.3	5.7
Healthcare for the poor and the elderly	20.8	63.7	15.5
Public safety, including prisons and law enforcement	30	54.5	15.5
Highways	28.8	61.2	10

3. Next two questions randomly assigned

A. Would you be willing to pay more state taxes to prevent budget cuts in [Randomized: INSERT ITEM]?

	Yes	No	No opinion
Education	57.2	34.4	8.4
Healthcare for the poor and the elderly	58.4	33.3	8.3
Public safety, including prisons and law enforcement	47.2	41.4	11.4
Highways	37.3	53.9	8.8

B. Would you be willing to pay more state taxes to maintain or achieve adequate funding in [Randomized: INSERT ITEM]?

	Yes	No	No opinion
Education	59.4	35.9	4.7
Healthcare for the poor and the elderly	53.8	40	6.2
Public safety, including prisons and law enforcement	45.9	48.9	5.2
Highways	41.6	53.3	5.1

4. Some people think the state has made so many budget cuts that additional revenue is needed to fund government services, while others think the state should make do with existing revenue. How about you? Do you think the state needs additional revenue or that no additional revenue is needed to fund state services?

Additional revenue needed	percentages
Need additional revenue	54.12
None needed	37.61
No opinion	8.271
Total	100

Key: percentages = cell percentages

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5. I'm going to list some ideas that have been suggested as ways to raise revenue for state government. Some proposals may raise more revenue than others. For each one tell me if you support or oppose the proposal.[Randomized] [ASK AFTER CHOICE] And would you say you strongly (support/oppose) or just somewhat (support/oppose)?

Revenue proposal	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	No opinion
Increase of property tax rates to make them comparable to other states in the region	16.38	21.25	13.68	45.53	3.161
Increasing income tax rates to make them comparable to other states in the region	10.82	23.41	13.63	43.62	8.519
Increasing state sales taxes	8.788	18.07	18.21	51.55	3.374
Removing the state income tax deduction for federal income taxes paid	11.02	17.47	16.92	37.35	17.24
Increasing the gasoline tax to pay for highway maintenance and improvement	17.96	28.53	11.84	36.91	4.755
Collecting sales taxes on internet purchases	19.82	23.62	12.95	36.14	7.462
Making income tax rates more progressive, so higher income residents pay higher rates	37.35	18.68	11.73	25.22	7.026

6. Thinking about how much you pay in state and local taxes here in Alabama, do you think people like you in neighboring states pay more, less, or about the same in state and local taxes?

	percentages
More	30.92
Same	36.78
Less	17.41
No opinion	14.88

7. Next, I want to ask you about how much different people in Alabama are paying in state and local taxes. For each group I name let me know if you think they are paying too much, too little, or about the right amount in state and local taxes? First, would you say that you and people like you in Alabama are paying too much, too little, or about the right amount in state and local taxes? [AFTER ANSWER: How about [NEXT ITEM]?]

	Too much	About the right amount	Too little	No opinion
You and people like you	27.04	56.79	10.42	5.748
People on the lower end of the income range	39.97	35.21	11.35	13.47
People in the middle of the income range	19.68	59.14	10.64	10.55
People on the upper end of the income range	9.649	25.4	54.56	10.39

8. We would like to ask you about some state services that have been in the news in the last year. For each one tell me if you think it is adequately funded. Do you believe that [Randomized: INSERT ITEM] are adequately funded in Alabama?

	Yes	No	No opinion
State Courts	46.95	30.38	22.68
State Parks	34.18	53.3	12.52
State Troopers	32.46	52.86	14.68
Drivers' License offices	46.02	41.46	12.53

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9. Next two questions randomly assigned

A. would you be willing to pay more state taxes to prevent budget cuts for [Randomized: INSERT ITEM]? [THEREAFTER: How about [NEXT ITEM]?]

	Yes	No	No opinion
State Courts	31.99	59.13	8.882
State Parks	42.88	48.56	8.566
State Troopers	48.53	43.32	8.145
Drivers' License offices	30.05	61.89	8.061

B. would you be willing to pay more state taxes to maintain or achieve adequate funding for [INSERT ITEM]? [THEREAFTER: How about [NEXT ITEM]?]

	Yes	No	No opinion
State Courts	26.56	62.95	10.49
State Parks	42.28	51.81	5.916
State Troopers	48.51	43.04	8.45
Drivers' License offices	28.72	63.03	8.249

10. Medicaid in Alabama provides health insurance to able-bodied adults in families with children only if their income is very low. Childless adults do not qualify at all. The federal government offers matching funds to states that expand coverage for low income adults. Do you think Alabama should accept the federal funds to expand health-care coverage under Medicaid or maintain its Medicaid program as is?

	percentages
Expand Medicaid	53.54
Maintain current program	38.96
No opinion	7.5
Total	100

11. In Alabama, alcohol can be bought through independent liquor stores or state-controlled ABC Stores. Some say the ABC stores allow for greater control of the distribution of alcohol. Others say that state government can save money by closing the stores. Do you believe the state should continue operating ABC Stores?

	percentages
Continue operating	36.99
Stop operating	50.18
No opinion	12.83
Total	100

12. Alabama's education programs are funded mostly through income and sales tax dollars collected by the state. Highways are maintained with gasoline and automobile tax dollars. These revenues are earmarked and can't be used for anything else. Do you think it is a good idea or a bad idea to earmark taxes to fund a particular kind of public service?

	percentages
Bad idea	27.2
It depends (Volunteered)	5.406
Good idea	60.13
No opinion	7.269
Total	100

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13. The State of Alabama has two separate budgets. The biggest budget is for education and is funded mostly by state income and sales tax dollars. Other state programs are funded from a smaller general fund budget. Some policy makers want to combine the two budgets, to give the legislature more control over state spending. [ROTATE] Do you favor combining the two state budgets into one, or keeping education dollars in a separate budget? [ALTERNATE WITH THIS TEXT] Do you favor keeping education dollars in a separate budget, or combining the two state budgets into one?

	percentages
Combine budgets	23.23
Keep education separate	69.01
No opinion	7.761
Total	100

14. Do you think there is too little, too much or enough money now being spent on education in Alabama?

	percentages
Too little	69.96
Enough	17.74
Too much	6.262
No opinion	6.038
Total	100

15. And do you think the money that goes to education is generally being spent properly or not properly?

	percentages
Properly	20.85
Not properly	65.21
No opinion	13.94
Total	100

16. Your local government, the state, and the national government are all involved in public education. On a scale of 1 to ten, where ten represents the highest level of trust and 1 represents the lowest level, indicate how much you trust each level of government to handle school funds properly. [PROMPT, IF NECESSARY: How much do you trust [ITEM] to handle school funds properly? How about [NEXT ITEM]??]

	Mean
Federal government	4.27
State Government	4.79
Local government	5.68

17. How well do you think Alabama public schools do compared to schools in other states? On average would you say public schools in our state perform worse than schools in most states, perform as well as schools in the average state, or do we have one of the better-performing school systems in the nation?

	percentages
worse than most	48.03
As well as average	38.02
One of best in the nation	7.702
No opinion	6.248
Total	100

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18. How well funded do you think Alabama public schools are compared to schools in other states? On average would you say public schools in our state are funded at lower levels than schools in most states, funded as well as schools in the average state, or do we have one of the better-funded school systems in the nation?

	percentages
Lower than most	56.73
As well as average	28.5
One of best funded in the nation	4.035
No opinion	10.73
Total	100

19. I'm going to list some ways we spend education dollars. For each one, please tell me whether you think the state of Alabama should spend more, less, or leave funding at the current level. [Randomized]

	Spend more	Fund at current level	Spend less	No opinion
Classroom supplies	66.11	21.97	5.98	5.941
Classroom technology	61.23	26.57	4.284	7.908
Teacher salaries	71.14	19.6	2.428	6.834
Hiring more teachers	65.98	20.05	4.382	9.591
School security	65.55	25.53	2.737	6.178
Prof. development for teachers	52.67	29.17	9.94	8.224
Textbooks	50.07	28.22	11.47	10.24
Music and the arts	55.48	31.45	7.084	5.99
Pre-k classes	52.47	30.35	9.395	7.778
School counselors	44.93	37.1	7.537	10.44
School buses & transportation	37.81	47.93	7.434	6.826
Technology and technology infrastructure	66.3	21.75	4.602	7.352

20. Do you think the level of school funding makes a difference in the quality of education?

	percentages
Yes	80.82
No	14.61
No opinion	4.564
Total	100

21. If a community is too poor to fund local schools adequately, should the state government make up the difference?

	percentages
Yes	85.99
No	7.294
No opinion	6.715
Total	100

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22. The State of Alabama makes sure that the combination of state and local funds going to schools reaches the minimum level that the state defines as adequate. Many communities collect additional taxes for schools, and as a result there are differences in the level of funding. The lowest funded system in 2015 was about one thousand five hundred dollars per student below the state average, which amounts to about thirty thousand fewer dollars for a classroom of 20 students. Some people think this gap is too big while others think it is not a problem. How about you? Do you think the funding gap is too big or is it not a problem?

	percentages
Funding gap is too big	64.72
Funding gap not a problem	25.03
No opinion	10.25
Total	100

23. Now I'm going to read some statements. Please indicate whether you strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, or strongly disagree with each statement.

A. Government officials in Montgomery do not especially care what people like me think.

	percentages
Strongly Disagree	1.913
Disagree	21.12
Neither Agree nor Disagree	7.978
Agree	39.4
Strongly Agree	27.82
No opinion	1.773
Total	100

B. People like me have no say in what the government in Montgomery does.

	percentages
Strongly Disagree	3.604
Disagree	29.38
Neither Agree nor Disagree	5.643
Agree	38.92
Strongly Agree	21.36
No opinion	1.095
Total	100