**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

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 |

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

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

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

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