
Survey and analysis conducted by:

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Alabamians want similar things... good schools, safe neighborhoods, a strong economy, freedom, equality, and opportunity, but we often disagree about the best way to achieve these goals. We resolve these disagreements through healthy debate and negotiation, which requires accurate and unbiased information. PARCA provides this information.

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- Sound public policy requires open, transparent and responsive government.
- Sound public policy is based on fact, pursues a clear goal, and is assessed honestly.

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government structure and performance, public education, public finance, workforce development.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Alabamians express high levels of agreement on critical issues facing the state.

Corrections

- 86% support expanded rehabilitation and re-entry programs for people in prison. See page 10.
- 83% support moving people with nonviolent convictions back to the community. See page 10.
- 58% oppose building new prisons to address overcrowding. See page 11.
- 54% believe only violent offenders should go to prison. See page 11.

Education

- 74% believe the state spends too little on education. See page 13.
- 69% support increasing taxes to support education, but no single option garners majority support. See page 15.

Taxes

- 45% say they pay the right amount of taxes. See page 8.
- 45% say lower-income earners pay too much. See page 8.
- 52% say upper-income earners pay too little. See page 8.

Despite expressed willingness to raise revenue for specific purposes, Alabamians mistrust state government.

Relationship with State Government

- 82% support keeping the General Fund and Education Trust Fund separate. See page 12.
- 69% believe state government officials do not care about their opinions. See page 21.
- 57% believe they have no say in state government. See page 22.

These are key findings from PARCA’s 2019 public opinion survey of 410 randomly selected Alabamians. The survey, conducted between January 28 and March 3, 2019, yields a margin of error of +/-4.8 percent.

Survey findings are discussed below. Survey toplines, which include exact question wording, are included in the appendix.
SURVEY FINDINGS

INTRODUCTION

PARCA surveyed 410 Alabamians between January 28 and March 3, 2019, for its 2019 public opinion survey. The survey includes questions featured in earlier surveys, as well as new questions to reflect current public policy concerns. The statewide random-digit-dialed survey included cell and landline phone numbers and yielded a margin of error of +/- 4.8 percent. Responses are weighted by race, gender, and age to reflect state demographics.

While media coverage of polling often highlights instances of dramatic changes of opinion, or polarization, where a majority of one group holds a position contrary to a majority of another group, 13 years of PARCA polling tells a different story.

For each question discussed below, extensive testing is conducted to assess if different demographic, political, or regional groups have different views. Often there are few measurable (statistically significant) differences across groups. When there are differences, they tend to be small differences in the size of a majority (50 percent or more) or plurality (the most popular response if none garners a majority) rather than polarization. When substantial differences are evident, they are discussed below.

On core issues, Alabamians are rarely polarized. Further, Alabamians tend to be consistent over time.

STATE BUDGET PRIORITIES

EDUCATION RANKED THE MOST IMPORTANT STATE SERVICE

We asked respondents to rank the importance of the four main areas of state spending: education, healthcare, highways, and public safety. We asked them to list the most important service as number one, the next as number two, and so on, with the services listed in random order. The average rank from 2014 to 2019 is presented in Figure 1. The question was not included in the 2018 survey.

Lower numbers represent greater importance, as the top priority is number one, next number two, next number three, and last number four. The figure indicates that
Alabamians are remarkably consistent in identifying education as the most important service the state provides. Similarly, healthcare is the next most important, followed by public safety and highways.

Some differences emerge in the way residents evaluate these priorities.

- A plurality (the most popular response when none garners a majority) of every age group rank education as the number one service.
- Pluralities in every three of four income levels rank education as number one.
- Respondents making less than $25,000 a year rank healthcare as number one.
- Republicans rank healthcare as less important.
- Majorities of Republicans give healthcare a rank of three or four.
- Two-thirds of others (independents, Democrats, and those without a party) rank healthcare one or two.
- Men and residents of North Alabama are slightly more likely to see highways as more important.

![Figure 1. Average rank of major budget areas, 2014–2019](image-url)
The average ranks have been very stable over the years, but there has been some variation in the percentage of respondents who rank education and healthcare as most important.

**EDUCATION RANKED AS MOST IMPORTANT FOR FIVE YEARS**

Figure 2 presents the percentage ranking each area number one from 2014 to 2019. A plurality of Alabamians rank education as the number one priority in each year the question was asked, sometimes with a substantial margin between it and second-place priority healthcare. While the relative position of the service areas is consistent over the years, healthcare surged in importance in 2016 and 2017. This is likely a response to the prominent role healthcare played in national politics during those years. Since 2017, education has regained some of its margin over healthcare but is still a few points below pre-2016 levels. The percentage identifying public safety as the top priority has increased by a few points in recent surveys.

![Figure 2. Percent ranking of each budget area #1, 2014-2019](image)
MAJORITY OF ALABAMIANS BELIEVE PEOPLE IN NEIGHBORING STATES PAY THE SAME OR LESS IN STATE AND LOCAL TAXES

We asked respondents in three recent surveys if they thought people like them in neighboring states paid more, less, or about the same in state and local taxes. About three-fifths (60 percent) say that those in neighboring states pay the same or less. See Figure 3.

In each year we have asked the question, a small plurality, just over a third, indicate that they think residents in neighboring states pay about the same amount in state and local taxes.

This year, there is a slight increase in the percentage of respondents who think residents of other states pay less in state and local taxes compared to earlier years.
PARCA regularly evaluates Alabama's tax collection compared to other states. The 2018 report *How Alabama Taxes Compare* ranks the state last in the nation in per capita tax collections.

While overall collections per capita are lower in Alabama than any other state, the structure of the tax system may make the taxes more keenly felt by the average resident.

**ALABAMIAN BELIEVE MIDDLE-INCOME EARNERS PAY THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF TAXES AND UPPER-INCOME EARNERS PAY TOO LITTLE.**

We asked respondents if different income groups in Alabama are paying too much, too little, or the right amount in state and local taxes. See Figure 4.

A plurality (45 percent) say people like them pay about the right amount in state and local taxes.
A plurality (also 45 percent) say low-income earners pay too much in state and local taxes.

A plurality (48 percent) say middle-income earners pay the right amount.

A small majority (52 percent) say upper-income earners pay too little in state and local taxes.

There are some differences across groups, but they are not very different from the overall pattern. Pluralities or majorities of every partisan stripe say middle-income earners pay about the right amount, and upper-income earners pay too little.

People with lower incomes are more likely to think those with higher incomes are paying too little, but a plurality of high-income respondents also think those with higher incomes are paying too little.

In no case do we see polarization, where a majority or one group holds a position contrary to the majority of another group.

SHARE OF ALABAMANS WHO BELIEVE THEY PAY TOO MUCH IS INCREASING

The 2019 results for this question are presented alongside the 2016 and 2017 results in Figure 5. The results are similar across all the years we have asked this question. However, the share of people who believe that they pay too much in taxes is increasing. Note the increasing size of the green bars in each population and every year below.
PRISON OVERCROWDING

ALABAMIANs OPPOSE BUILDING NEW PRISONS AND SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES TO OVERCROWDING.

Alabama prisons suffer from overcrowding and other problems summarized in “Alabama’s Prison System: A Crisis in Corrections,” the first in a series of briefs on corrections in Alabama. We asked respondents if they agreed or disagreed with possible steps to address overcrowding. The various options were presented in random order.

More than four-fifths of respondents (86 percent) agreed or strongly agreed that the state should “invest in programs to rehabilitate inmates so they don’t return to prison.” See Figure 6.

More than four-fifths (83 percent) agreed or strongly agreed that the state should “find safe ways to move more nonviolent inmates back to the community.”
A majority (54 percent) agreed or strongly agreed that the state should “sentence only violent offenders to prison; supervise others in the community.”

Just over two-fifths (42 percent) agreed or strongly agreed that the state should “build more prisons” to address overcrowding. A majority (52 percent) disagreed or strongly disagreed with this action.

There are some differences in support for these options across subpopulations of the state.

- A majority of those 65 years old and older agree or strongly agree with building prisons as a step to reduce overcrowding.

- Majorities of every other age group disagree or strongly disagree with building prisons as a step to reduce overcrowding.
White respondents are evenly divided over building prisons as a step to reduce overcrowding.

Substantial majorities of nonwhite respondents disagree or strongly disagree with building prisons as a step to reduce overcrowding.

Supermajorities of every partisan stripe agree or strongly agree with “find[ing] safe ways to move more nonviolent inmates back to the community” and “invest[ing] in programs to rehabilitate inmates so they don’t return to prison.”

PUBLIC EDUCATION

As part of PARCA’s commitment to understanding public education and in partnership with the Alabama Association of School Boards, we ask several questions addressing important themes in public education.

ALABAMIAN SUPPORT THE STATE’S TWO-BUDGET SYSTEM

Alabama divides its budget into two parts: the Education Trust Fund and the General Fund, for all non-education obligations. There are perennial calls to restructure the state budget process by combining the two budgets. We ask respondents if they support combining the two budgets into one.

As Figure 7 shows, large majorities say the education budget should be kept separate from the General Fund. At 82 percent, the percent of 2019 respondents saying the education budget should be kept separate represents a substantial increase from the typical figure in the low 70s. Supermajorities of all subpopulations agree that the education budget should not be combined with the General Fund.
ALABAMIANs BELIEVE TOO LITTLE IS SPENT ON EDUCATION

For several years we have asked if “too much, too little, or enough money is spent on education.” For many years, large majorities of Alabamians have said that too little is spent on education. The results from several recent years’ surveys are presented in Figure 8. Over the last seven years, there appears to be a gradual increase in the proportion of respondents holding this view, moving up from the upper 60s into the lower 70s. As is typically the case with a majority this large, majorities of every subpopulation say too little is spent on education.
ALABAMIANs SUPPORT HIGHER TAXES FOR EDUCATION BUT OPPOSE SPECIFIC TAX INCREASES

We asked respondents if they would be willing to increase education funding by paying higher amounts of three common taxes: property taxes, sales taxes, and taxes on internet purchases. The order in which the options were presented was randomized.

The results, presented in Figure 9, do not show great enthusiasm for higher taxes. About three-fifths oppose paying higher property or sales taxes. Respondents are evenly divided on their willingness to pay higher taxes on internet purchases, with about 47 percent saying yes to the proposition and about 46 percent saying no.
While none of these particular revenue options garners majority support, more than two-thirds (69 percent) express a willingness to pay more of at least one of these taxes, and about half of that number support two or more.

The challenge for policymakers wishing to address funding is to explain to the public why a particular funding proposal is the best way to address the problem.

ALABAMIANs Support earmarking lottery revenue for education.

Media reports indicate some renewed attention to a state lottery by leaders of both parties. We did not ask if respondents support a state lottery, but we did ask how potential lottery revenue should be spent.
More than two-thirds of Alabamians say the proceeds should go into the Education Trust Fund. There were no significant differences across demographic, political, or regional subpopulations.

Figure 10. Lottery proceeds should go to

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education Trust Fund</td>
<td>72.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Fund</td>
<td>13.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both</td>
<td>9.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No opinion</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ALABAMIAN BELIEVE TEACHER COMPENSATION IS TOP PRIORITY FOR NEW EDUCATION SPENDING**

We asked what the top priority for spending new education dollars would be and read a list of four randomly ordered items and then a fifth item, “or something else.” The four randomized responses are 1) hiring additional K-12 teachers, 2) increasing teacher salary and benefits, 3) hiring school counselors and providing mental health support, and 4) hiring additional school safety officers.

More than a third (36 percent) of respondents selected increasing teacher salary and benefits, and just over a fifth (23 percent) selected hiring additional teachers.

Taken together, more than half of respondents selected options directly related to classroom instruction. The remaining responses are fairly evenly divided between hiring more safety officers, hiring more counselors, or something else. Those with
higher levels of education were more likely to support increasing teacher salary and benefits than those with less education. Higher-income respondents were more likely to support hiring additional teachers than others.

**Figure 11. Top priority for new education funding**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teacher salary/benefits</td>
<td>36.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add K-12 teachers</td>
<td>22.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Something else</td>
<td>12.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add safety officers</td>
<td>12.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hire counselors</td>
<td>12.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No opinion</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ALABAMIANs BELIEVE POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION IS ESSENTIAL**

We asked if high school graduates who have not attended college or post-secondary school are prepared to enter the workforce. See Figure 12.

About half of respondents said high school graduates without post-secondary education are not prepared for the workforce. Just over a third (38 percent) said high school graduates are prepared for work.

Respondents aged 45 and up were more likely to say high school graduates were not prepared to enter the workforce, while those younger than 45 were more likely to say they were prepared.
We asked if every child should plan to complete a four-year college degree. Nearly two-thirds of respondents (65 percent) said no.

Interestingly, the percentage giving a negative response increased with the respondent’s level of education. One might think that responses to this question would be related to the respondent’s assessment of the adequacy of the high school preparation discussed in the previous paragraph, but there is not a statistically significant relationship between the two questions.
ALABAMIANs BELIEVE LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS ARE BEST EQUIPPED TO MAKE SPENDING DECISIONS

We asked, “Which level of government is best equipped to make decisions about spending for public schools in your area?” respondents were given options ranging from the federal government to the local board of education.

Figure 14 shows that a majority (55 percent) say the local school board is best equipped to make spending decisions. Just over a quarter (28.5 percent) say the state board of education is best equipped to make spending decisions.

At first glance, it might seem that the pattern of responses reflects a preference for decisions made at the lowest level of government. While a majority do indicate that the local school board should make spending decisions, there are some exceptions.
The state legislature is seen as less capable than the federal government. Second, the state board of education is also a state-level institution and is not a lower level of government than the legislature. There appears to be a clear preference for local decision-making on spending followed by a preference for expertise, or least specialization on the part of the state board of education. Majorities or pluralities of every partisan stripe support local spending decisions, although Republicans are more supportive of the local school boards than others.

Figure 14. Best level of government to decide school spending

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of Government</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal gov’t</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Legislature</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State BOE</td>
<td>28.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local BOE</td>
<td>55.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No opinion</td>
<td>6.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Relationship with State Government**

Every year since 2007, we have asked about Alabamians’ relationship with state government by asking respondents if they agree or disagree with two statements, both of which measure how responsive they believe state government to be.
ALABAMIANs BELIEVE STATE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALs DO NOT CARE WHAT THEY THINK

The first statement is, “Government officials in Montgomery do not especially care what people like me think.” The percentage agreeing or strongly agreeing with the statement is presented in Figure 15. While there have been some ups and downs in the series, for the past several years the percent agreeing officials do not care what they think has been in the mid to upper sixties.

In 2019, more than two-thirds (69 percent) agreed or strongly agreed with the statement. While large majorities of nearly every subpopulation agree with the statement, there are a few noteworthy details.

First, the poorest respondents, those reporting incomes of less than $25,000 a year, were more likely to agree with the statement than those of any other income category. Every other income category reported similar levels of agreement in substantial majorities.

The only subpopulation to have a substantially lower level of agreement with the statement were those who had lived in the state for fewer than 10 years. Only these relative newcomers to the state have more people disagreeing than agreeing that officials in Montgomery do not care what they think.
ALABAMIANS BELIEVE THEY HAVE NO SAY IN STATE GOVERNMENT

The second statement used to assess respondents’ relationship with state government is, “People like me have no say in what the government in Montgomery does.” The percentage agreeing or strongly agreeing with the statement is presented in Figure 16.

In most recent years, majorities in the upper fifties have agreed with the statement, although the 2018 figure dropped to a mere 50% agreeing. We believe the 2018 dip was a function of timing. PARCA surveys are usually conducted in the winter months. However, the 2018 survey was conducted in the summer months, concurrent with state primaries in June and runoffs in July. We project the elections had a short-term effect on responses to these questions.

Overall, majorities consistently agree that they have no say in Montgomery. In 2019, we see about 57 percent agreeing with the statement. Majorities of most
subpopulations agree with only a couple of exceptions. As with the previous question, the poorest respondents are substantially more likely to agree with the statement than those in other income categories.

Only among the income categories $75,000 and above do we see something less than a majority agreeing with the statement. Also similar to the preceding question, it is only among those who have lived in the state fewer than 10 years that we see majorities disagreeing with the statement.

Figure 16. Percentage agreeing or strongly agreeing with the statement, “People like me have no say in what the government in Montgomery does.”
CONCLUSION

The 2019 PARCA survey reinforces many findings from previous years. Alabamians value education, rating it a top priority among major state services. State residents say education investment should be increased, as too little is now spent on education. While not agreeing on a particular revenue mechanism, a majority of residents is willing to pay more in taxes to increase funding for education. There is some evidence that the current tax system is seen as regressive: majorities of residents say low-income residents pay too much, and those with higher incomes pay too little.

There are continued signs of a strained relationship with state government. For example, there is continued opposition to streamlining state budgets and continued evidence of support for earmarking (represented in 2019 by majority support for earmarking potential lottery proceeds). These examples suggest a lack of trust between citizens and policymakers. The consistently high percentages of respondents who feel that they have no say in Montgomery or that state officials do not care what they think suggests that Alabamians do not believe state government is responsive to their policy preferences. This is not to suggest that it is easy to respond to every public preference.

Policymakers face a dilemma when the public sees education as underfunded, while no traditional revenue mechanism to fund education garners majority support. Whether the solution to these contradictory preferences involves new revenue, increased efficiency, or both, leaders need to engage and educate the public to build trust between citizens and their government.
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Dr. Randolph Horn, Professor of Political Science and Director of Strategic and Applied Analysis at Samford directed the survey.

PARCA engaged Samford University students to conduct telephone surveys, providing valuable work experience and an opportunity to contribute to public policy in Alabama.

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- Lauren Ducote
- Kelsey Farris
- Jamond Glass
- Alice Hunt
- Antrenique Jones
- Leonard Kawell
- Regan Maples
- Moriah Mason
- Taylore Miller
- Riley Morrow
- Sarah Ramthun
- Isabella Segala
- Evan Szostak
- Tatiana Taylor
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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Mean rank</th>
<th>Percent #1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>1.95</td>
<td>41.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare</td>
<td>2.30</td>
<td>28.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highways</td>
<td>3.14</td>
<td>7.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety</td>
<td>2.61</td>
<td>18.10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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        | 27.84      |
| Same        | 34.86      |
| Less        | 25.52      |
| No opinion  | 11.78      |
| Total       | 100        |

Key: percentages = cell percentages

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]?]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>You and people like you</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Too much</td>
<td>41.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right amount</td>
<td>45.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too little</td>
<td>8.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No opinion</td>
<td>5.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
People w/lower income | Percentages
-----------------------+------------
Too much                | 44.70      
Right amount            | 27.38      
Too little              | 13.03      
No opinion              | 14.89      
Total                   | 100        

People w/middle income | Percentages
-----------------------+------------
Too much                | 29.81      
Right amount            | 47.86      
Too little              | 13.31      
No opinion              | 9.02       
Total                   | 100        

People w/upper income  | Percentages
-----------------------+------------
Too much                | 16.01      
Right amount            | 22.83      
Too little              | 51.81      
No opinion              | 9.35       
Total                   | 100        

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 policymakers 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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Combine budgets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keep education separate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No opinion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Too little</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too much</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

P.O. BOX 293931 · 800 LAKESHORE DRIVE · BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35229 · 205 726 2482
PARCALABAMA.ORG
I’m going to list some ways to increase funding for education. Would you be willing to increase funding for education by paying higher [Items randomized]? How about [next item]? How about [next item]?

### Pay more sales tax for education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percentages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>38.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>57.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No opinion</td>
<td>3.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Pay more internet tax for ed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percentages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>46.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>45.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No opinion</td>
<td>7.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Pay more property tax for ed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percentages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>33.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>61.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No opinion</td>
<td>4.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Willing to pay 1 of these taxes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percentages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>68.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>31.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No opinion</td>
<td>0.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If the state legislature approves a state lottery, should the proceeds go to fund public education in the Education Trust Fund or general government services in the General Fund?

### Lottery proceeds should go to

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percentages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education Trust Fund</td>
<td>71.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both</td>
<td>9.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Fund</td>
<td>12.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No opinion</td>
<td>5.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What would be your top priority for spending NEW education dollars? [Randomized]
Top priority for new dollars | Percentages
---------------------------------+------------
Hiring additional K-12 teachers | 22.47
Increasing teacher salary | 36.09
Hiring counselors/providing mental health | 12.33
Hiring additional school safety | 12.59
Something else | 12.78
No opinion | 3.74
Total | 100

Do you think Alabama high school graduates who do not attend college or post-secondary school are prepared to enter the workforce?

High school grads prepared | Percentages
---------------------------------+------------
Yes | 38.16
No | 50.06
No opinion | 11.78
Total | 100

Do you think every child should plan to complete a 4-year college degree?

| Percentages
---------------------------------+------------
Yes | 32.67
No | 65.00
No opinion | 2.33
Total | 100

Which level of government is best equipped to make decisions about spending for public schools in your area? Would you say it is the federal government, the state legislature, the state board of education, or the local board of education?

| Percentages
---------------------------------+------------
Federal government | 6.51
State Legislature | 3.62
State BOE | 28.52
Local BOE | 55.15
No opinion | 6.20
Total | 100

Alabama has one of the highest imprisonment rates in the United States. Our state prisons are among the most overcrowded. Staffing ratios for prison guards and for officers who supervise offenders on
probation and parole are far below the national average. I’m going to read some possible steps the state might take to reduce overcrowding. For each one, tell me if you strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree or strongly disagree with the action. [Randomized]

**Build more prisons**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paragraphs</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Disagree</td>
<td>15.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>36.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither Agree nor Disagree</td>
<td>5.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>33.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree</td>
<td>9.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>N 100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Move nonviolent back to community**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paragraphs</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Disagree</td>
<td>1.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>12.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither Agree nor Disagree</td>
<td>3.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>57.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree</td>
<td>25.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Invest to rehabilitate inmates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paragraphs</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Disagree</td>
<td>3.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>6.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither Agree nor Disagree</td>
<td>3.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>46.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree</td>
<td>40.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Only violent to prison**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paragraphs</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Disagree</td>
<td>8.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>30.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither Agree nor Disagree</td>
<td>7.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>40.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree</td>
<td>13.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Disagree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither Agree nor Disagree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No opinion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Disagree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither Agree nor Disagree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No opinion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>