

The Washington Post/
Kaiser Family Foundation/
Harvard University Survey Project
1996

-- Why Don't Americans Trust The Government? --

Methodology

This survey is the second in a series from a joint project by *The Washington Post*, the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation and Harvard University. The survey was designed and analyzed by all three partners and conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates. Telephone interviews of 1,514 random-sample adults were conducted nationwide from November 28 through December 4, 1995. The margin error in the nationwide sample is plus or minus 3 percentage points.

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The *Washington Post*/Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard University Survey Project is a three-way partnership and an experiment in combining survey research and reporting to better inform the public. The *Post*, Kaiser, and Harvard jointly design and analyze surveys examining public knowledge, perceptions, and misperceptions on major issues. The *Post* then reports the results as well as the facts to dispel myths and correct misperceptions. We hope this project contributes to a better understanding of public knowledge on major issues facing the country, and to more effective efforts by the media to educate, inform, and engage citizens in national debates.

The first report released by the Kaiser Family Foundation, *The Four Americas: Government and Social Policy Through the Eye's of America's Multi-racial and Multi-ethnic Society*, expands on coverage in *The Washington Post* of the first survey focusing on the perspectives of different racial and ethnic groups with regard to social policy and the role of government in America. The findings show the different perceptions that America's racial and ethnic groups have of the social and economic standing of the other groups. It also shows how white American's misperceptions about the social and economic realities facing African Americans relate directly to their views and opinions on public policies and aid to minorities. Copies of this report are available through the Kaiser Family Foundation publications request line at 1-800-656-4KFF.

This second survey, released by *The Washington Post* on Sunday, January 28, 1996 examines public understanding, perceptions and attitudes about the role of government. It aims to shed light on why Americans are so distrustful and cynical about the federal government and its abilities to act effectively. The following is a report of the actual questions and national topline data from this survey. A full, analytical report with narrative describing the main findings from this survey will be available shortly through the Kaiser Family Foundation publications request line.

The Kaiser Family Foundation, based in Menlo Park, California, is a non-profit, independent national health care philanthropy and is not associated with Kaiser Permanente or Kaiser Industries. The Foundation's work is focused on four main areas: health policy, reproductive health, HIV policy and health and development in South Africa.

Why Don't Americans Trust The Government?

Questionnaire and National Toplines

Conducted for the Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard University
and *The Washington Post* by Princeton Survey Research Associates

N=	1514 adults age 18 or older
Margin of Error:	Plus or minus 3 percentage points for total sample Plus or minus 4 percentage points for Form A; n= 718 Plus or minus 4 percentage points for Form B; n=796
Field Period:	November 28, 1995 - December 4, 1995

1. To begin, do you think the nation's economy is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

16	Better
39	Worse
43	Staying about the same
<u>2</u>	Don't know
100	

2. Is your personal financial situation getting better, getting worse or staying about the same?

21	Getting better
24	Getting worse
54	Staying about the same
<u>1</u>	Don't know
100	

3. Now I'm going to read you the names of some institutions in American society. Please tell me how much confidence you, yourself, have in each one -- a great deal, quite a lot, some, or very little. [First, how much confidence do you have in.../ Next, how about . .].
(ROTATE)

	A great deal	Quite a lot	Some	Very little	None (VOL.)	DK	
a. The military	32	38	22	7	*	1	=100
b. The U.S. Supreme Court	13	26	41	16	2	2	=100
c. The Clinton Administration	9	16	36	33	5	1	=100
d. Congress	4	10	41	41	3	1	=100
e. Large business corporations	6	15	45	30	2	2	=100
f. Medicine	24	37	27	10	1	1	=100
g. The news media	6	14	40	37	2	1	=100

* = Less than .5%

- 3h. Generally speaking, how interested are you in politics and government: Very interested, fairly interested, not very interested, or not interested at all?

28 Very interested
 47 Fairly interested
 17 Not very interested
 8 Not interested at all
 * Don't know
100

4. How much of the time do you trust the government in Washington to do the right thing? Just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time?

4 Just about always
 21 Most of the time
 71 Only some of the time
 4 None of the time (VOL.)
 * Don't know
100

5. How much of the time do you trust your STATE government to do the right thing? Just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time?

5 Just about always

30 Most of the time
 62 Only some of the time
 2 None of the time (VOL.)
1 Don't know
 100

6. On another topic... Compared with 10 years ago, do you think the threat of a major war like World War II has increased, decreased, or stayed about the same?

23 Increased
 41 Decreased
 33 Stayed about the same
3 Don't know
 100

7. Do you think it will be best for the future of this country if we take an active part in world affairs, or if we stay out of world affairs?

57 Take an active part
 37 Stay out
6 Don't know
 100

QUESTIONS 8 THROUGH 12 ROTATED

Now I'd like you to compare some things in this country TODAY with the way they were 20 years ago....

8. Compared with 20 years ago, do you think the quality of the air we breathe TODAY is better than it was, worse, or about the same?

18 Better
 57 Worse
 24 About the same
1 Don't know
 100

9. Compared with 20 years ago, do you think the share of Americans over 65 who live in poverty has increased, decreased or stayed about the same?
- | | |
|----------|-----------------------|
| 59 | Increased |
| 15 | Decreased |
| 23 | Stayed about the same |
| <u>3</u> | Don't know |
| 100 | |
10. Compared with 20 years ago, do you think the difference in income between wealthy and middle-class Americans TODAY is wider, not as wide, or about the same?
- | | |
|----------|----------------|
| 65 | Wider |
| 11 | Not as wide |
| 22 | About the same |
| <u>2</u> | Don't know |
| 100 | |
11. Compared with 20 years ago, do you think children in this country TODAY are more likely to grow up in single-parent families, less likely, or about as likely to grow up in single-parent families?
- | | |
|----------|-----------------|
| 89 | More likely |
| 3 | Less likely |
| 7 | About as likely |
| <u>1</u> | Don't know |
| 100 | |
12. Compared with 20 years ago, do you think the rate of violent crime in this country has increased, decreased, or stayed about the same?
- | | |
|----------|----------------------|
| 91 | Increased |
| 2 | Decreased |
| 7 | Stayed bout the same |
| <u>*</u> | Don't know |
| 100 | |

BASED ON FORM A; n=718

13. Now I'd like to ask you what effect, if any, you think the federal government's programs have had in each of the areas I just asked you about. By federal government, I mean the government in Washington. How do you think the federal government's programs have affected...**[INSERT ITEM/ ROTATE]** ? Have federal programs helped to make things better, made things worse, or have they not had much effect either way?

	Helped make things better	Made things worse	Not had much effect either way	DK	
a. The quality of the air we breathe.	44	15	38	3	=100
b. The share of Americans over 65 who live in poverty.	23	32	39	6	=100
c. The difference in income between wealthy and middle-class Americans.	11	49	36	4	=100
d. The chances that children will grow up in single-parent families.	11	37	48	4	=100
e. The rate of violent crime.	10	34	54	2	=100

BASED ON FORM B; n=796

14. Suppose the federal government put more money and effort into the areas I just asked you about. By federal government, I mean the government in Washington. What effect, if any, do you think more effort and spending by the federal government would have on...**[INSERT ITEM / ROTATE]** ? Would it help make things better, would it make things worse, or would it not have much effect either way?

Question 14 continued:

	Would help make <u>things better</u>	Would make things worse	Would not have much effect either way	DK
a. The quality of the air we breathe.	48	6	43	3 =100
b. The share of Americans over 65 who live in poverty.	55	10	32	3 =100
c. The difference in income between wealthy and middle-class Americans.	26	17	52	5 =100
d. The chances that children will grow up in single-parent families.	23	14	58	5 =100
e. The rate of violent crime.	44	9	43	4 =100

15. When the government in Washington decides to solve a problem, how much confidence do you have that the problem will actually be solved a lot, some, just a little, or none at all?

4	A lot
35	Some
38	Just a little
23	None at all
<u>*</u>	Don't know
100	

16. On another topic... During the past three years, do you think the size of the annual federal budget deficit has increased, decreased, or stayed about the same?

69	Increased
10	Decreased
19	Stayed about the same
<u>2</u>	Don't know
100	

BASED ON FORM B; n=796

17. In order to lower the federal budget deficit, in which of the following areas, if any, do you think future government spending should be reduced? [First,] do you think federal spending for...**[INSERT ITEM. ROTATE START]** should be reduced, or not?

	<u>Yes, should be reduced</u>	<u>No, should not be reduced</u>	<u>DK</u>	
a. The environment	26	71	3	=100
b. Foreign aid	81	18	1	=100
c. Defense	41	57	2	=100
d. Medicare, which is the government program for the elderly	15	84	1	=100
e. Welfare, or public assistance for poor people	47	51	2	=100

Now I have some questions about politics and the government. Not everyone will have heard about all the issues and people I'm asking about. Please answer each question to the best of your knowledge, but if you're not sure about an answer, just say so.

18. Can you tell me which party, the Democrats or the Republicans, has the most members in...? **(ROTATE)**

	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>NS</u>	
a. The U.S. House of Representatives	11	61	28	=100
b. The U.S. Senate	11	62	27	=100

19. As far as you know, is there a limit on the number of terms in office a president of the United States can serve, or not?

81 Yes
11 No
8 Not Sure
100

20. How many years is a single term in office for a U.S. Senator?

26	Correct answer (six years)
42	Incorrect answer
<u>32</u>	Not sure
100	

21. At the national level, would you say that one of the major political parties is more conservative than the other major party, or not?

22. Which party do you think is more conservative... **(ROTATE)** the Republican Party or the Democratic Party?

70	Yes
17	The Democratic Party
52	The Republican Party
1	Not sure

18 No

<u>12</u>	Not sure
100	

23. Can you tell me who was President when the Watergate scandal took place?

86	Correct answer (Richard Nixon, Nixon)
4	Incorrect answer
<u>10</u>	Not sure
100	

24. Now I'd like to ask if you happen to know the names of some people who now hold different titles. Can you tell me the name of the current...(ROTATE) ?

	Correct <u>Answer</u> ¹	Incorrect		
			c. Newt Gingrich, Gingrich	b. Al G
			d. William Rehnquist, Rehnquist	<u>Answer</u>
a. Majority leader of the U.S. Senate	34	10	56	=100
b. Vice President of the United States	60	4	36	=100
c. Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives	53	4	43	=100
d. The Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court	6	8	86	=100

25. I'm going to read you some major legislation that the Congress in Washington has debated over the last three years. As I read each one, please tell me whether you think it was passed by Congress, or not. [First/Next, how about. .(ROTATE)]

	<u>Passed</u>	<u>Not passed</u>	<u>NS</u>	
a. Legislation providing for a national health insurance plan.	20	67	13	=100
b. Legislation limiting the number of terms members of Congress can serve	24	55	21	=100
c. Legislation providing for family leaves that require businesses to give employees time off after the birth of a child or for an illness in the family.	79	9	12	=100

26. Can you tell me which party -- the Democrats or the Republicans -- favors making greater reductions in future Medicare and Medicaid spending?

15 Democrats
69 Republicans
16 Not sure
100

27. As far as you know, is more of the federal budget now spent on Medicare, or is more spent on foreign aid?

27 Medicare

¹ Correct Answers: a. Robert Dole, Bob Dole, Dole, Senator Dole

58 Foreign aid
15 Not sure
 100

28. During the past three years, do you think the number of people employed by the federal government has increased, decreased, or stayed about the same?

34 Increased
 28 Decreased
 35 Stayed about the same
3 Not sure
 100

29. As far as you know, who has the FINAL responsibility to decide if a law is constitutional or not? Is it...?(ROTATE)

24 The President
 19 The Congress
 54 The Supreme Court
 * Other (VOL.)
3 Not sure
 100

BASED ON FORM A; n=718

30. [Earlier in this interview, you said you could trust the government in Washington (just about always/most of the time/only some of the time/none of the time)] What is the MAIN reason you [often / sometimes] don't trust the federal government? (OPEN-END)

35 Honesty/integrity (net)
 9 Lack of honesty/distrust politicians
 17 Promises are made and not kept/politicians lie all the time
 5 Politicians don't give all the facts/withhold information
 6 Politicians are corrupt/crooked/cheats
 1 Lack of morality
 0 A/O Honesty/integrity mentions

Question 30 continued:

- 6 Special interest groups (net)
 - 4 Lobbyists/lobbyists have too much power
 - 4 Politicians work on behalf of special interest groups/interest groups have too much power
 - 0 A/O Special interest groups mentions
- 28 Public interest (net)
 - 10 Politicians don't represent the interest of the people
 - 2 Politicians don't listen to the public
 - 1 Politicians don't care about the middle class
 - 3 Politicians are influenced by money/campaign funders/favor the rich
 - 16 Disagree with their decisions/judgements
 - 0 A/O Public interest mentions
- 24 Self interest (net)
 - 23 Politicians are concerned with themselves/ only interest in being re-elected
 - 1 Politicians are only concerned with their own states
 - 0 A/O self interest mentions
- 11 Issues (net)
 - 1 Bosnian situation/war/we are headed to war
 - 2 Foreign affairs/policy
 - 2 Decision on Medicaid/whether or not to cut Medicaid
 - 1 Welfare abuse
 - 1 Favor capitalism/big business
 - 1 Taxes/tax increases
 - 5 A/O Issues mentions
- 10 Inefficient/wasteful (net)
 - 4 Politicians don't accomplish anything/nothing gets done
 - 2 Takes too long to accomplish anything
 - 3 Government spending/wasting money/unnecessary spending
 - 1 A/O Inefficient/wasteful mentions
- 3 Miscellaneous (net)
 - 2 History/the past
 - 1 A/O Miscellaneous mentions
- 11 Don't know

BASED ON FORM A; n=718

31. People have different reasons for not trusting the government. I'm going to read you a list of some of those reasons. Please tell me if each one is a major reason, a minor reason, or not a reason at all why YOU [often/sometimes] don't trust the federal government.

(First,) how about... **(ROTATE)**

	Major reason	Minor reason	Not a reason at all	DK	
a. The federal government's taxes are too high.	55	29	15	1	=100
b. The federal government is inefficient and wastes too much money.	80	15	4	1	=100
c. The policies of the federal government don't reflect your own beliefs and values.	37	42	19	2	=100
d. When the federal government makes a decision, it usually ends up hurting more people than it helps.	46	34	17	3	=100
e. The federal government interferes too much in people's lives.	41	36	21	2	=100
f. The problems it is trying to solve cannot be solved by the federal government.	40	37	20	3	=100
g. Special interests have too much influence on the federal government.	65	22	10	3	=100
h. Elected officials lack honesty and integrity.	62	27	8	3	=100
i. The federal government spends too much on the wrong things.	79	16	4	1	=100
j. The federal government doesn't do enough to help people who really need it.	59	26	13	2	=100

32. [Earlier in this interview, you said you could trust the government in Washington (just about always/most of the time/only some of the time/none of the time)] Which of the following was most important in giving you the impression you have of the federal government? Was it your own personal experience with a government agency or program, what you learned from friends and family, or what you saw, heard or read in television, newspapers or other media?

18	Personal experience
8	Friends and family
72	TV/newspapers/other media
<u>2</u>	Don't know
100	

33. Generally speaking, which do you trust to do a better job running things--**(ROTATE)** the federal government or your state government?

24	Federal government
61	State government
11	Neither/Both equally (VOL.)
<u>4</u>	Don't know
100	

BASED ON FORM B RESPONDENTS WHO TRUST THEIR STATE GOVERNMENT MORE THAN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT; n=476

34. I'm going to read you a list of reasons people sometimes give for why they trust their own state government. For each one, please tell me if it is a major reason, a minor reason, or not a reason at all why you feel your state government does a better job running things than the federal government? Your state government ...**(ROTATE)**

	Major reason	Minor reason	Not a reason at all	DK	
a. Wastes less money because it is better managed.	51	30	17	2	=100
b. Can solve problems more quickly.	64	24	10	2	=100
c. Is more likely to spend money on the right things.	56	31	12	1	=100
d. Is less dominated by special interests.	44	36	17	3	=100
e. Is more likely to have effective solutions to problems.	51	38	10	1	=100
f. Is more responsive to the needs of people like you.	65	26	9	*	=100
g. Better reflects your own beliefs and values.	49	32	18	1	=100

BASED ON FORM B RESPONDENTS WHO TRUST THEIR OWN STATE GOVERNMENT MORE THAN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT; n=476

35. [You mentioned **(READ ITEMS)** as major reasons.] Which ONE of these would you say is the MOST IMPORTANT REASON?

- 11 Wastes less money because it is better managed.
- 10 Can solve problems more quickly.
- 10 Is more likely to spend money on the right things.
- 10 Is less dominated by special interests.
- 8 Is more likely to have effective solutions to problems.
- 23 Is more responsive to the needs of people like you.
- 16 Better reflects your own beliefs and values.
- 7 None are major reasons
- 5 Don't know

100

36. Do you think the federal government threatens your own personal rights and freedoms, or not?

37. Is this a MAJOR threat or a MINOR threat?

- 42 Yes
- 20 Major

21 Minor
 1 Don't know
 54 No
4 Don't know
 100

38. Do you think the federal government threatens your own personal financial well-being, or not?

39. Is this a MAJOR threat or a MINOR threat?

52 Yes
 31 Major
 21 Minor
 * Don't know
 44 No
4 Don't know
 100

40. Now I'm going to read you some statements that may or may not describe your own feelings about politics and government. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with each one. The first statement is. . . **[ROTATE]** Do you agree/disagree STRONGLY or only somewhat?

	Agree Strongly	Agree Somewhat	Disagree Somewhat	Disagree Strongly	DK	
a. I don't think public officials care much what people like me think.	40	28	23	8	1	=100
b. People like me don't have any say about what the government does.	29	23	28	19	1	=100
c. Politics and government are so complicated that a person like me can't really understand what's going on.	29	25	22	23	1	=100
d. Politicians tell voters what they want to hear, not what they will actually try to do if elected.	67	22	7	3	1	=100

BASED ON RESPONDENTS WHO SAY THE NATION'S ECONOMY IS GETTING WORSE OR STAYING THE SAME; n=1211

41. Earlier in this interview, you said you didn't think the nation's economy was getting better.... What do you think is the MAIN reason why the economy is not getting better? Is it mainly because of something the federal government HAS DONE, mainly because of something the federal government has NOT done, or mainly for other reasons that don't have much to do with government?

29	Something the federal government has done
34	Something the federal government has not done
30	Other reasons
<u>7</u>	Don't know
100	

BASED ON FORM A RESPONDENTS WHO SAY THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS MAINLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE NATION'S ECONOMY NOT GETTING BETTER; n=346

42. What is the main thing the federal government (has done/has not done) to keep the economy from getting better? (**OPEN-END**)

<u>Total</u>		<u>Has done</u>	<u>Has not done</u>
80	Economy/policy (net)	86	76
10	Taxes/high taxes	11	8
4	Taxing the rich/rich have tax breaks	3	5
9	Effects on business	14	5
5	Imports/Exports	7	3
3	Welfare/controlling welfare	2	5
12	Unemployment /loss of jobs	8	15
4	Not helping poor people	1	5
40	Government spending (sub-net)	50	33
15	Foreign aid/too much spending on foreign countries	23	9
9	National debt/not paying off national debt	8	10
18	Too much spending/wasteful spending	20	17
1	Military spending	3	*
0	A/O Government spending mentions	0	0
9	A/O Economy/policy mentions	8	10
8	Miscellaneous (net)	6	10
15	Don't know	11	18

BASED ON FORM A RESPONDENTS WHO SAY THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS MAINLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE NATION'S ECONOMY NOT GETTING BETTER; n=346

43. I'm going to read you a list of things some people think the federal government has done -- or has not done -- to keep the economy from getting better. For each one, please tell me if you think it is a major reason the economy hasn't gotten better, a minor reason, or not a reason at all? (**ROTATE**)

	<u>Major reason</u>	<u>Minor reason</u>	<u>Not a reason at all</u>	<u>DK</u>
a. They took away or reduced government	35	39	24	2 =100

benefits people used to receive.

b. They raised taxes.	56	31	12	1 =100
c. They didn't reduce the federal budget deficit fast enough.	67	26	6	1 =100
d. They did too much for the poor and minorities.	23	39	36	2 =100
e. They did too much for the wealthy.	60	22	17	1 =100
f. Government regulations hurt the economy.	51	40	7	2 =100
g. They didn't do enough to keep jobs from going overseas.	70	18	10	2 =100
h. They didn't do enough to make the economy grow.	62	28	10	* =100
i. They didn't tax the wealthy enough and use the money to help people who needed it.	60	23	15	2 =100
j. They didn't do enough to create new and better jobs.	68	22	10	* =100

BASED ON RESPONDENTS WHO SAY THEIR PERSONAL FINANCIAL SITUATION IS GETTING WORSE OR STAYING THE SAME; n=1177

44. Earlier in this interview, you said your personal financial situation was not getting better. What do you think is the MAIN reason that your financial situation is not getting better? Do you think it is mainly because of something the federal government HAS DONE, mainly because of something the federal government has NOT done, or mainly for other reasons that don't have much to do with government?

23 Something the federal government has done
 17 Something the federal government has not done
 54 Other reasons
 6 Don't know
 100

BASED ON FORM B RESPONDENTS WHO SAY THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS MAINLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR PERSONAL FINANCIAL SITUATION NOT GETTING BETTER; n=257

45. What is the main thing the federal government (has done/has not done) to keep your personal financial situation from getting better? (OPEN-END)

<u>Total</u>		<u>Has done</u>	<u>Has not done</u>
85	Economy/policy (net)	86	83
8	High cost of living	8	9
2	High inflation	2	1
3	Interest rates too low	4	2
5	Unemployment/lost jobs	3	7
5	Jobs have gone out of U.S./NAFTA treaty	5	6
4	Create job security/ maintain employment	3	6
23	Tax increases/taxes are too high/raise in taxes	31	13
3	Tax change/tax structure	5	0
4	Minimum wage is too low	3	5
5	Lack of educational support/Cut funding for education	2	10
3	Slow economy (unspecified)	3	2
3	Caps on wages/wage freeze	2	3
2	Haven't helped the middle class	3	1
4	Health insurance/made health care affordable	3	5
3	Bureaucratic/too much red-tape	2	3
28	Government spending (sub-net)	27	30
14	More spending/wasteful spending	13	15
4	Too much foreign aid	4	3
6	Too much debt/deficit is too big	5	7
2	Spending on welfare/haven't cut welfare	2	2
6	A/O Government spending mentions	6	5
1	A/O Economy/policy mentions	2	1

Question 45 continued:

1	Miscellaneous (net)	1	0
15	Don't know	13	17

BASED ON FORM B RESPONDENTS WHO SAY THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS MAINLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR PERSONAL FINANCIAL SITUATION NOT GETTING BETTER; n=257

46. I'm going to read you a list of things that some people say the federal government has done -- or has not done -- to keep their financial situation from getting better. For each one, please tell me if you think it is a major reason your financial situation hasn't gotten better, a minor reason, or not a reason at all? **(ROTATE)**

	Major reason	Minor reason	Not a reason at all	DK	
a. They took away or reduced government benefits you used to receive.	27	21	51	1	=100
b. They raised your taxes.	66	25	9	*	=100
c. They didn't reduce the federal budget deficit fast enough.	51	29	19	1	=100
d. You lost out because the federal government did too much for the poor and minorities.	21	33	44	2	=100
e. You lost out because the federal government did too much for the wealthy.	44	30	24	2	=100
f. Government regulations kept you from getting ahead.	34	34	31	1	=100
g. They didn't do enough to keep jobs from going overseas.	53	23	22	2	=100
h. They didn't do enough to make the economy grow.	47	35	15	3	=100
i. They didn't tax the wealthy enough and use the money to help people like you who needed it.	41	32	25	2	=100
j. They didn't do enough to create new and better jobs.	51	28	20	1	=100

47. Now I have some more questions about how things are going in your own life... What is your employment status? Are you employed for pay full-time, part-time, retired, or not employed for pay?

52 Full-time
14 Part-time
18 Retired
12 Not employed

2	Disabled (VOL.)
1	Student (VOL.)
<u>1</u>	Don't know
100	

47a. Given the chance, would you like to work full-time, or do you prefer to work part-time?

7	Would prefer full-time
7	Prefer part-time
86	Not applicable
<u>0</u>	Don't know
100	

BASED ONLY ON RESPONDENTS WHO WORK PART-TIME; n=196

48	Would prefer full-time
52	Prefer part-time
<u>0</u>	Don't know
100	

48. How worried are you, if at all, that you might lose your job during the next two years?
Would you say you are very worried, somewhat worried, not too worried, or not worried at all?

6	Very worried
12	Somewhat worried
16	Not too worried
32	Not worried at all
34	Not currently working
<u>*</u>	Don't know
100	

49. Has there been any time in the past two years when you were unemployed, but wanted to work?

15	Yes
51	No
34	Not currently working
<u>*</u>	Don't know
100	

50. Do you feel very confident, only fairly confident, or not at all confident that life for our children will be better than it has been for us?

10	Very confident
34	Fairly confident
54	Not at all confident
<u>2</u>	Don't know
100	

51. Have you ever been a victim of a violent crime involving a physical assault or robbery of you personally?

19	Yes
81	No
<u>*</u>	Don't know
100	

52. Have you ever been a victim of a property crime involving theft or burglary of your money or property?

47	Yes
53	No
<u>*</u>	Don't know
100	

53. How worried are you, if at all, that you might become a victim of violent crime during the coming year? Would you say you are very worried, somewhat worried, not too worried or not worried at all?

14	Very worried
34	Somewhat worried
33	Not too worried
19	Not worried at all
<u> *</u>	Don't know
100	

54. Now I have some more general questions . . . Do you think most people would try to take advantage of you if they got a chance, or would they try to be fair?

55. Do you feel strongly about that, or not?

48	Would take advantage
39	Feel strongly
9	Do not feel strongly
<u> *</u>	Don't know
50	Would try to be fair
36	Feel strongly
13	Do not feel strongly
1	Don't know
<u> 2</u>	Don't know
100	

56. Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people?

57. Do you feel strongly about that, or not?

35	Most people can be trusted
28	Feel strongly
7	Do not feel strongly
<u> *</u>	Don't know
63	Can't be too careful
54	Feel strongly
9	Do not feel strongly
<u> *</u>	Don't know
<u> 2</u>	Don't know
100	

58. Would you say that most of the time people try to be helpful, or that they are mostly just looking out for themselves?

59. Do you feel strongly about that, or not?

49	Try to be helpful
38	Feel strongly
11	Do not feel strongly
*	Don't know
48	Looking out for themselves
39	Feel strongly
9	Do not feel strongly
*	Don't know
<u>3</u>	Don't know
100	

60. Where do you usually get MOST of your news and information about national politics and government? Is it from: Television, radio, newspapers, news magazines like Time and Newsweek, from family, friends or co-workers, or someplace else?

58	Television
8	Radio
24	Newspapers
3	News magazines
1	Family
2	Friends or co-workers
3	Someplace else
<u>1</u>	Don't know
100	

61. In a typical week, on how many days, if any, do you read a daily newspaper?

13	One day
9	Two days
10	Three days
5	Four days
6	Five days
3	Six days
43	Seven days
11	None
<u>*</u>	Don't know
100	

62. How much attention do you usually pay to news about politics and government in the newspaper? A great deal, quite a lot, some, or not much at all?

13	A great deal
22	Quite a lot
38	Some
16	Not much at all
11	Non-newspaper readers
<u> *</u>	Don't know
100	

63. Last month, how often did you read a weekly news magazine such as Time, Newsweek, U.S. News or some other news magazine: Every week, two or three times, once or not at all?

12	Every week
14	Two or three times
20	Once
54	Not at all
<u> *</u>	Don't know
100	

64. On a typical weekday, about how many hours do you personally watch television?

19	One hour or less
25	Two hours
19	Three hours
14	Four hours
16	Five to nine hours
6	Ten hours or more
<u> 1</u>	Don't know
100	

65. In a typical week, on how many days, if any, do you watch national network TV news on ABC, CBS, NBC, PBS or CNN?

5	One day
8	Two days
8	Three days
8	Four days
15	Five days
5	Six days
42	Seven days
8	None
<u>1</u>	Don't know
100	

66. How much attention do you usually pay to news about politics and government on national network TV news? A great deal, quite a lot, some, or not much at all?

18	A great deal
25	Quite a lot
37	Some
11	Not much at all
9	Non-network TV news viewer
<u>*</u>	Don't know
100	

67. On a typical day, about how many hours do you listen to talk radio shows that invite listeners to call in to discuss current events, public issues and politics?

72	None ²
13	One hour
6	Two hours
6	Three or more hours
<u>3</u>	Don't know
100	

² Includes respondents who listen for an half hour or less

68. How often, if ever, do you listen to Rush Limbaugh's RADIO program regularly, sometimes, hardly ever or never?

6	Regularly
12	Sometimes
16	Hardly ever
66	Never
<u>*</u>	Don't know
100	

THERE IS NO QUESTION 69

70. Do you regularly attend or participate in a civic organization or service club, like the Chamber of Commerce, The Kiwanis Club, or the PTA?

20	Yes, attend or participate
80	No, do not
<u>*</u>	Don't know
100	

71. How often do you feel you don't have enough time to get everything done you really need to do? Do you feel this way all the time, most of the time, some of the time, every once in a while, or never?

26	All the time
26	Most of the time
28	Some of the time
15	Every once in a while
5	Never
<u>*</u>	Don't know
100	

72. How many years have you lived in your present community or city?

12	Two years or less
11	Three to five years
14	Six to ten years
18	Eleven to twenty years
17	Twenty-one to thirty years
28	More than 30 years
<u>*</u>	Don't Know
100	

73. Are you now married, living as married, widowed, divorced, separated, or have you never been married?

56	Married
----	---------

3	Living as married
8	Widowed
11	Divorced
3	Separated
19	Never married
<u>*</u>	Don't know
100	

74. Have you ever been divorced?

26	Yes, have been divorced/are divorced
74	No, never been divorced/Never married
<u>*</u>	Don't know
100	

75. Did you grow up in a family in which your parents were divorced?

76. Did you grow up in a family in which your parents never married?

20	Yes, parents divorced
2	Yes, parents never married
78	No, neither
<u>*</u>	Don't know
100	

77. Do you have any children who are under the age of 18?

38	Yes
62	No
<u>*</u>	Don't know
100	

78. What is your religious preference? Are you Protestant, Roman Catholic, Jewish, or some other religion?

79. Do you consider yourself a Christian?

80. Would you describe yourself as a born-again or evangelical Christian, or not?

60	Protestant/Christian
34	Evangelical
24	Non-Evangelical
2	Don't know
27	Roman Catholic
2	Jewish
6	Other religion
5	No religion (VOL.)
*	Don't know
*	Refused
<u>100</u>	

81. In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat or Independent?

29	Republican
32	Democrat
34	Independent
<u>5</u>	All others
100	

82. As of today, do you LEAN more to the Republican Party or the Democratic Party?

41	Republican/Lean Republican
45	Democrat/Lean Democrat
<u>14</u>	All others
100	

83. Are you NOW registered to vote in your precinct or election district, or haven't you had a chance to register yet?

77	Yes
22	No
1	Don't have to register (VOL.)
*	Don't know
<u>100</u>	

84. Thinking back to the 1992 Presidential election, when Clinton ran against Bush and Perot, did things come up that kept you from voting, or did you happen to vote?

85. Did you vote for Clinton, Bush or Perot?

73	Yes, voted
31	Clinton
25	Bush
11	Perot
1	Other candidate (VOL.)
1	Don't remember / Not sure
4	Refused
26	No, did not vote/Too young (VOL.)
1	Don't remember / Not sure
<u>*</u>	Refused
100	

86. Did you happen to vote in the 1994 election for U.S. Congress, or didn't you get a chance to vote?

87. Did you vote for the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate for Congress in your district?

45	Yes, voted
21	Democratic candidate
20	Republican candidate
*	Other candidate (VOL.)
3	Don't remember / Not sure
1	Refused
51	No, did not vote
4	Don't remember / Not sure
<u>*</u>	Refused
100	

88. Would you say your views in most political matters are very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

6	Very liberal
19	Somewhat liberal
32	Moderate
27	Somewhat conservative
12	Very conservative
<u>4</u>	Don't know
100	

89. What is the last grade or class that you COMPLETED in school?

5	None, or grade 1 to 8
12	High school incomplete (grade 9-11)
36	High School graduate
2	Business, technical or vocational school after high school
23	Some college, but no four-year degree
14	College graduate, four-year degree

8	Post-graduate or professional schooling after college
<u>*</u>	Don't know
100	

90. How old are you?

21	18-29
44	30-49
17	50-64
16	65+
0	Don't know
<u>2</u>	Refused
100	

91. Are you of Hispanic or Latino background, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Spanish background?

5	Yes
94	No
0	Don't know
<u>1</u>	Refused
100	

92. What is your race? Are you white, black, Asian, or some other race?

85	White
10	Black or African-American
1	Asian
3	Other/Mixed race
*	Don't Know
<u>1</u>	Refused
100	

93. Last year, that is in 1994, what was your total family income from all sources, BEFORE taxes? Just stop me when I get to the right category.

10	Less than \$10,000
15	\$10,000 to under \$20,000
18	\$20,000 to under \$30,000
24	\$30,000 to under \$50,000
14	\$50,000 to under \$75,000
5	\$75,000 to under \$100,000
4	\$100,000 or more
4	Don't know
<u>6</u>	Refused
100	

BASED ON FORM A; n=718

- 93A. As you may know there was a recent shutdown of the federal government that resulted from a budget disagreement between President Clinton and the Republicans in Congress. Which of the following two statements comes closer to your own view of President Clinton's role in the shutdown ? **(ROTATE)**

- a. President Clinton was trying to gain political advantage by creating a crisis when he could have reached a reasonable compromise with the Republicans, OR
- b. President Clinton was standing up for what he believes are important national priorities

36	Statement a.
57	Statement b.
2	Neither (VOL.)
0	Haven't heard about (VOL.)
<u>5</u>	Don't know
100	

BASED ON FORM B; n=796

93B. As you may know there was a recent shutdown of the federal government that resulted from a budget disagreement between President Clinton and the Republicans in Congress. Which of the following two statements comes closer to your own view of the Congressional Republican's role in the shutdown ? **(ROTATE)**

a. The Republicans in Congress were trying to gain political advantage by creating a crisis when they could have reached a reasonable compromise with the President

b. The Republicans in Congress were standing up for what they believe are important national priorities

52	Statement a.
38	Statement b.
2	Neither (VOL.)
1	Haven't heard about (VOL.)
<u>7</u>	Don't know
100	

94. Respondent's gender:

47	Male
<u>53</u>	Female
100	

95. Finally, in the coming weeks, *Washington Post* reporters will be calling back some survey participants to talk more about the survey topics. Would you be willing to talk with a reporter by phone sometime in the near future?

70	Yes, willing
<u>30</u>	No, not willing
100	

96. Reporters may receive some brief background information about you and your opinions before they call. May I have your name, so it will be easier for a reporter to reach you?

Thank you for taking the time to answer my questions.