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IDAHO STATEWIDE SURVEY

SCHEDULED DECEMBER 4-10, 2016

N = 1,000 Idaho Adults

Margin of Error: +/- 3.1%



**INTRODUCTION (3 QUESTIONS)**

Good evening. My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I'm calling from RTB Research, a national public opinion firm. This evening we're conducting a survey on issues in Idaho and we'd like to get your opinions. All answers are anonymous, and you can skip questions or end the interview at any time.

First, to make sure we get a representative sample, can you please tell me your current age? [**RECORD EXACT AGE]**

1. Under 18 **(TERM)** 2. 18-24 3. 25-29 4. 30-34

5. 35-39 6. 40-44 7. 45-49 8. 50-54

9. 55-59 10. 60-64 11. 65-69 12. 70-74

13. 75-79 14. 80+ 15. DK/Refused **(TERM)**

And before we begin, please tell me, do you currently live in Idaho – yes or no?

1. Yes **(CONT)**  2. No **(TERM)**  3. DK/REF **(TERM)**

Not everyone votes in every election, but in general, when there is an election for President of the United States, do you always vote, almost always vote, vote most of the time, vote some of the time, hardly ever vote or never vote?

1. Always 2. Almost always 3. Most of time

4. Sometimes 5. Hardly ever 6. Never

**STATE OF IDAHO OVERVIEW (19 QUESTIONS)**

Which of the following best describes you?

1. I was born in Idaho and have lived here my whole life
2. I was born in Idaho but then moved away and came back
3. I was born outside of Idaho and moved here
4. DK/Refused

**IF ANSWER 2 or 3, ASK:**

What state did you most recently live in before Idaho?

**CONTINUE ASKING ALL:**

Why do you live in Idaho? **CODED OPEN END**

1. Work

2. Family

3. Outdoors/Recreation/Weather

4. Crime/Safety

5. Taxes

6. Immigration

7. Religious freedom

8. Overcrowding

9. Privacy

10. Quality of life

11. Other

12. DK/Refused

What is the most important issue facing Idaho today?

On a scale of 1-10, with 1 being not at all important and 10 being extremely important, how important would you say it is for the Idaho State Legislature to address each of the following issues? If you have no opinion, just say so.

**[READ/ROTATE]**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | No Opinion | DK/  Refused |
|  | Jobs and the economy | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
|  | Education | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
|  | Transportation | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
|  | Healthcare | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
|  | Taxes | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
|  | Natural Resources | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |

Do you think things in Idaho are generally headed in the right direction, or do you feel that things are off on the wrong track?

1. Right Direction

2. Wrong Track

3. DK/Refused

Over the next 2 years do you think Idaho’s economy is going to get better, get worse or stay about the same?

1. Better

2. Worse

3. Stay the same

4. DK/Refused

How would you rate the quality of education in Idaho’s K-12 public schools? **READ**

1. Excellent
2. Good
3. Fair
4. Poor
5. DK/Refused (Don’t Read)

And thinking specifically about your school district, how would you rate the quality of K-12 public schools in your area? **READ**

1. Excellent
2. Good
3. Fair
4. Poor
5. DK/Refused (Don’t Read)

**BUDGET/SPENDING/TAX/SURPLUS (8 QUESTIONS)**

Now, moving on to another issue, do you think the Idaho state budget should be increased, should be decreased, or should stay about the same?

1. Increased
2. Decreased
3. Stay about the same
4. DK/Refused

In general, would you say that taxes in Idaho are too high, too low or about right?

1. Too high
2. About right
3. Too low
4. DK/Refused

How would you rate the condition of state roads, highways, and bridges in Idaho? **READ**

1. Excellent
2. Good
3. Fair
4. Poor
5. DK/Refused (Don’t Read)

Do you favor or oppose increasing registration fees and gas taxes to improve roads, highways, and bridges in Idaho? **PROBE IF STRONGLY OR SOMEWHAT: Is that strongly or somewhat?**

1. Strongly favor
2. Somewhat favor
3. Somewhat oppose
4. Strongly oppose
5. DK/Refused

An alternative to increasing registration fees and gas taxes in order to fund road, highway, and bridge improvements would be to begin funding these projects through the state’s general fund, which also pays for programs related to education, public safety, and catastrophic health care. Would you favor or oppose funding road, highway, and bridge improvements through the general fund if it potentially meant reducing funds spent on these other areas? **PROBE IF FAVOR OR OPPOSE: Is that strongly or somewhat?**

1. Strongly favor
2. Somewhat favor
3. Somewhat oppose
4. Strongly oppose
5. DK/Refused (Don’t Read)

Another proposed solution to funding transportation projects would be to use Idaho state lottery money as a dedicated fund for road, highway and bridge improvements. Currently, lottery funds are used to fund K-12 education. Knowing this, would you favor or oppose funding road, highway, and bridge improvements with lottery funds? **PROBE IF FAVOR OR OPPOSE: Is that strongly or somewhat?**

1. Strongly favor
2. Somewhat favor
3. Somewhat oppose
4. Strongly oppose
5. DK/Refused (Don’t Read)

Which of the following comes closest to your own opinion?

1. Idaho should fund transportation projects on a pay as you go basis to avoid taking on debt, even if it is more expensive
2. Idaho should fund transportation projects through bonding because it will be cheaper despite requiring debt
3. DK/Refused (Don’t Read)

Idaho is currently projected to have a $130 million budget surplus at the end of this budget year. What do you think should be done with this additional revenue? **READ/ROTATE**

1. Fund public education in Idaho
2. Provide tax relief for Idahoans
3. Invest in road and bridge improvements in Idaho
4. Deposit the surplus in a rainy day savings account
5. DK/Refused (Don’t Read)

In 2015, the state legislature authorized a ‘surplus eliminator’ program. Under this program, any surplus revenue gets split between spending on roads and deposits in the state rainy day savings account. This allows extra funding for transportation projects without raising additional taxes or using the state’s general fund. This program expires in 2017. Do you think the state legislature should reauthorize it or let it expire?

1. Reauthorize it
2. Let it expire
3. DK/Refused (Don’t Read)

**EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES (5 QUESTIONS)**

Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements about education in your area: **PROBE IF AGREE OR DISAGREE: Is that strongly or somewhat?**

**DON’T ROTATE**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Strongly**  **Agree** | **S’What**  **Agree** | **S’What**  **Disagree** | **Strongly**  **Disagree** | **DK/**  **Refused** |
|  | The public library in my community creates educational opportunities for people of all ages. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|  | The public library in my community is a good resource for access to information and other technological resource | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|  | My school district should raise additional tax revenue to increase education funding. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|  | Access to high-quality, affordable preschool for children enhances their educational performance in elementary school. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

Currently, Idaho does not provide early childhood education for 3 and 4 year olds. Would you favor or oppose dedicating state funding to establish preschool and early education programs in Idaho? **PROBE IF FAVOR OR OPPOSE: Is that strongly or somewhat?**

1. Strongly favor
2. Somewhat favor
3. Somewhat oppose
4. Strongly oppose
5. DK/Refused (Don’t Read)

**HEALTH CARE (5 QUESTIONS)**

President-elect Trump and some members of Congress have suggested they may take action to replace the Affordable Care Act. Please tell me whether you favor or oppose keeping the following aspects of the current law? **PROBE IF FAVOR OR OPPOSE: Is that strongly or somewhat?**

**READ/ROTATE:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Strongly**  **Favor** | **S’What**  **Favor** | **S’What**  **Oppose** | **Strongly**  **Oppose** | **DK/**  **Refused** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Guaranteed health insurance coverage for people with preexisting conditions | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|  | Allowing children to stay on their parents’ health insurance until they turn 26. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

As part of the Affordable Care Act, health insurance ‘Exchanges’ were created for every state. In Idaho, the state exchange is called Your Health Idaho. Regardless of how you feel about the Affordable Care Act, do you favor or oppose continuing Your Health Idaho? **PROBE IF FAVOR OR OPPOSE: Is that strongly or somewhat?**

1. Strongly favor
2. Somewhat favor
3. Somewhat oppose
4. Strongly oppose
5. DK/Refused (Don’t Read)

In Idaho, there are currently 78,000 low income Idahoans who lack affordable comprehensive health coverage. Would you favor or oppose the governor and state legislature taking action to provide them with access to quality health care? **PROBE IF FAVOR OR OPPOSE: Is that strongly or somewhat?**

1. Strongly favor
2. Somewhat favor
3. Somewhat oppose
4. Strongly oppose
5. DK/Refused

**REFUGEES (12\* QUESTIONS)**

Do you favor or oppose allowing refugees from other countries to resettle in Idaho? **PROBE IF FAVOR OR OPPOSE: Is that strongly or somewhat?**

1. Strongly favor
2. Somewhat favor
3. Somewhat oppose
4. Strongly oppose
5. DK/Refused

In your opinion are refugees more likely to be a benefit or a burden to Idaho’s economy?

1. Benefit
2. Burden
3. DK/Refused

How much contact have you personally had with refugees living in your community?

1. I am unaware of any refugees living in my community
2. There are refugees living in my community but I have not had personal contact with any of them
3. I have had some contact with refugees living in my community.
4. I have had significant contact with refugees living in my community
5. DK/Refused

**IF RESPONDENT SAYS OPTION 3 OR 4 to Q38, ASK:**

Has your personal contact with refugees living in your community been positive or negative?

1. Very positive
2. Somewhat positive
3. Somewhat negative
4. Very negative
5. Neither positive nor negative
6. DK/Refused

**CONTINUE ASKING ALL:**

**CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY (14 QUESTIONS)**

When it comes to your views about global climate change, do you believe it is happening, or do you not believe it is happening?

1. It is happening
2. It is not happening
3. DK/Refused

**IF 1 in Q40 ASK:**

When it comes to global climate change, would you say that you are very concerned, somewhat concerned, or not at all concerned?

1. Very concerned
2. Somewhat concerned
3. Not at all concerned
4. DK/Refused

Do you believe global climate change is more likely to be caused by mostly natural changes in the atmosphere, mostly because of human activity, or equally because of human activity and natural changes?

1. Mostly because of natural changes in the atmosphere
2. Mostly because of human activity
3. Equally because of human activity and natural changes
4. DK/Refused

**CONTINUE ASKING ALL:**

Thinking about the energy sources we use to make electricity, how important is it to maintain a diversity of energy sources to supply Idaho’s electricity?

1. Very important
2. Somewhat important
3. Not too important
4. Not important at all
5. DK/Refused

Which of the following is more important to you? **READ/ROTATE**

1. Increasing Idaho’s use of renewable energy like wind and solar even if it increases your rates

OR

1. Keeping Idaho’s current energy mix in order to keep rates steady
2. DK/Refused (Don’t Read)

**SPLIT SAMPLE:**

A Do you favor or oppose the use of nuclear energy as one of the ways to provide electricity in Idaho? **PROBE IF FAVOR OR OPPOSE**: Is that strongly or somewhat?

1. Strongly favor
2. Somewhat favor
3. Somewhat oppose
4. Strongly oppose
5. DK/Refused

45.B Advocates of nuclear energy argue that nuclear energy is among the best sources of energy when it comes to preventing additional global climate change because nuclear energy facilities produce no air pollution or carbon dioxide. Do you favor or oppose the use of nuclear energy as one of the ways to provide electricity in Idaho? **PROBE IF FAVOR OR OPPOSE: Is that strongly or somewhat?**

1. Strongly favor
2. Somewhat favor
3. Somewhat oppose
4. Strongly oppose
5. DK/Refused

**CONTINUE ASKING ALL:**

Now I would like to ask you a few questions on land use. On a scale of 1-10, with 1 being not at all concerned and 10 being extremely concerned, how concerned are you about rural farmland in Idaho being developed into housing? If you have no opinion, just say so.

1. 1 2.2 3.3 4.4 5.5 6.6 7.7 8.8 9.9 10.10 11. DK/Refused

On a scale of 1-10, with 1 being not at all important and 10 being extremely important, how important are the following values related to farmland? If you have no opinion, just say so.

**[READ/ROTATE]**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | No Opinion | DK/  Refused |
|  | Scenic value | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
|  | Environmental Quality | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
|  | Historic Value | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
|  | Economic Value | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
|  | Saving farmland for future food production | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |

Farmland preservation refers to efforts communities or governments undertake to ensure that farmland does not get converted to suburban development. Would you favor or oppose the Idaho state government funding a farmland preservation program in Idaho? **PROBE IF FAVOR OR OPPOSE: Is that strongly or somewhat?**

1. Strongly favor
2. Somewhat favor
3. Somewhat oppose
4. Strongly oppose
5. Neither agree nor disagree (Don’t Read)
6. DK/Refused (Don’t Read)

How much would you personally be willing to pay each year over the next 20 years to support a farmland preservation program in Idaho?

1. Less than $25 per year
2. $25 to $50 per year
3. $50 to $100 per year
4. More than $100 per year
5. I am not willing to pay to support a farmland preservation program in Idaho.
6. DK/Refused

**DEMOGRAPHICS (10 QUESTIONS)**

We hear a lot of talk these days about liberals and conservatives. Here is a seven-point scale on which the political views that people might hold are arranged from very liberal to very conservative. Where would you place yourself on this scale, or haven't you thought much about this? **READ:**

1. Very Liberal
2. Liberal
3. Somewhat liberal
4. Moderate
5. Somewhat conservative
6. Conservative
7. Very Conservative
8. DK/Refused (Don’t Read)

Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or what?

**PROBE IF REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRAT: Would you call yourself a strong Republican/Democrat or a not very strong Republican/Democrat?**

**PROBE IF INDEPENDENT: Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican or Democratic party?**

1. Strong Republican
2. Not very strong Republican
3. Strong Democrat
4. Not very strong Democrat
5. Independent lean Republican
6. Independent lean Democrat
7. Pure Independent
8. Other
9. DK/Refused

What racial or ethnic group best describes you? **CODED OPEN END**

1. White
2. Latino or Hispanic
3. Black
4. Asian
5. Native American
6. Other
7. Two or more
8. DK/Refused

What is the highest level of education or training you have completed?

1. Some high school 2. High school degree or equivalent

3. Some college 4. Associate’s Degree

5. Bachelor’s Degree 6. Some graduate school

7. Graduate degree 8. DK/Refused

What is your religion?

* + - 1. Catholic
      2. Mainstream Protestant, like Presbyterian, Lutheran, Methodist, or Episcopalian
      3. Mormon
      4. Non-denominational Christian
      5. Jewish
      6. Atheist/Agnostic
      7. Other
      8. No Religion
      9. DK/Refused

Do you currently have any children under the age of 18?

1. Yes

2. No

3. DK/Refused (Don’t Read)

Which of the following best describes your annual household income before taxes?

1. Under $25,000 2. $25,001-$50,000 3. $50,001 to $75,000

4. $75,001 to $100,000 5. Over $100,000 6. DK/Refused

Gender: 1. Male 2. Female

County: **CODED FROM LIST**