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Boise State University Statewide Survey

SCHEDULED December 2-6

N = 1,000 Adults in ID; 60% Cell Phones

Margin of Error: +/- 3.1%



**INTRODUCTION (2 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)**

**STATE OF IDAHO OVERVIEW (10 QUESTIONS)**

What is the most important issue facing Idaho today?

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

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 |
|  | Immigration | 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 |
|  | The Environment | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |

**STATE OF IDAHO ECONOMY (5 QUESTIONS)**

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

Which of the following statements comes closest to your own opinion? **READ/ROTATE:**

1. The Idaho economy of the future should focus on growing new industries like technology and computer sciences, encouraging innovation and an entrepreneurial culture

OR

1. The Idaho economy of the future should focus on its historical strengths in natural resources, like agriculture, timber and mining.
2. DK/Refused (Don’t Read)

How important are natural resources like agriculture, mining and timber to Idaho’s economy – extremely, very, somewhat, or not at all important?

1. Extremely 2. Very 3. Somewhat

4. Not at all 5. DK/Refused

Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: Mining in Idaho can be done in an environmentally responsible manner. **PROBE: IS THAT STRONGLY OR SOMEWHAT?**

1. Strongly agree
2. Somewhat agree
3. Somewhat disagree
4. Strongly disagree
5. DK/Refused

Currently, the US must rely on China for a majority of its supply of many critical minerals that are used in fire prevention, national defense, batteries and everyday electronics. Knowing this, which of the following comes closer to your opinion? **READ/ROTATE**

1. Idaho should lead the way by mining for critical minerals here at home, putting America first and reducing our reliance on foreign products

OR

1. Global trade is important to the American economy and it’s okay to import critical minerals from countries like China
2. DK/Refused (Don’t Read)

**EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT (12 QUESTIONS)**

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)

When it comes to preparing students to further their education beyond high school, do you think Idaho is doing an excellent, good, fair, or poor job?

1. Excellent
2. Good
3. Fair
4. Poor
5. Don’t know/no opinion

On a scale of 1-10, with 1 meaning you disagree completely and 10 meaning you agree completely, how much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? If you have no opinion, just say so.

**READ/ROTATE**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | No Opinion | DK/  Refused |
|  | Idaho’s colleges and universities are providing Idaho with an excellent workforce | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
|  | High School Students and Parents have a clear understanding of opportunities for university programs in Idaho | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
|  | High School Students and Parents have a clear understanding of technical or trade school opportunities in Idaho | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
|  | There are enough opportunities for either your school-age child or children you know to stay in Idaho | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |

Which of the following resources would provide the most help to a worker in Idaho looking to develop a new skill for a different job? **READ/ROTATE**

1. A local community college or technical school
2. A four-year college or university
3. The Idaho Department of Commerce
4. The Idaho Department of Labor
5. A local business
6. The local Chamber of Commerce
7. A friend or family member
8. DK/Refused (Don’t Read)

Have you recently seen, read or heard about any marketing information regarding workforce education and training opportunities in your area – yes or no?

1. Yes
2. No
3. DK/Refused

**IF YES IN Q26 ASK:**

What, specifically did you hear about?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**CONTINUE ASKING ALL:**

A recent executive order from the Governor created a new, more powerful committee to oversee Idaho’s workforce education efforts. From the following list of proposals, please tell me which should be the top priority. **READ/ROTATE**

1. Increasing awareness and access to career education and training opportunities
2. Improving the effectiveness of workforce development programs and services
3. Ensuring efficient use of federal, state, and local workforce development resources
4. Developing performance measures to track the effectiveness of workforce training funds
5. DK/Refused (Don’t Read)

And which should be the second priority? **READ IF NECESSARY**

1. Increasing awareness and access to career education and training opportunities
2. Improving the effectiveness of workforce development programs and services
3. Ensuring efficient use of federal, state, and local workforce development resources
4. Developing performance measures to track the effectiveness of workforce training funds
5. DK/Refused (Don’t Read)

**BUDGET/SPENDING/TAXES (12 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

Which of the following statements comes closest to your own opinion? **READ/ROTATE:**

1. I’d rather pay higher taxes and have a state government that provides more services

OR

1. I’d rather pay lower taxes and have a state government that provides fewer services
2. DK/Refused (Don’t Read)

Thinking about Idaho’s current tax system, would you say: **READ**

1. The current tax system works fairly well as it is now
2. Some changes are needed, but it should stay basically the same
3. Major changes are needed
4. A complete overhaul of the current system is needed
5. DK/Refused (Don’t Read)

When it comes to personal income taxes in Idaho, which is the bigger problem? **READ/ROTATE**

1. The tax rate is too high
2. It is too complex and difficult to understand
3. Neither (Don’t Rotate)
4. DK/Refused (Don’t Read)

When it comes to corporate income taxes in Idaho, which is the bigger problem? **READ/ROTATE**

1. The tax rate is too high
2. It has too many loopholes and tax breaks for special interests
3. Neither (Don’t Rotate)
4. DK/Refused (Don’t Read)

The result of lower taxes often means fewer resources to pay for state and some local government services. Knowing this, would you support or oppose lowering taxes in Idaho?

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

Currently, only a few Idaho resort cities have a local sales tax in addition to the state sales tax. These local sales taxes are sometimes also referred to as local "option" taxes because the taxes are decided by the voters in the community affected. These funds go to support infrastructure and other projects in the community. Would you favor or oppose giving every city in Idaho the ability to vote on a local option tax? **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)

**SPLIT SAMPLE**

A And if your town or city were to propose a local option tax, would you favor or oppose that plan? **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)

38.B And if your town or city were to propose a local option tax to build a library or sports stadium or support the local transportation system, would you favor or oppose that plan? **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)

**CONTINUE ASKING ALL:**

**SPLIT SAMPLE:**

A Some people are debating different kinds of tax reductions that could be implemented in Idaho. If you had your choice of eliminating either Idaho’s sales tax on food or reducing the state income tax, which would you prefer?

1. Reduce income tax
2. Eliminate tax on food
3. Neither should be eliminated
4. DK/Refused

39.B Some people are debating different kinds of tax reductions that could be implemented in Idaho. Reducing Idaho’s income tax would save the average family significantly more money than eliminating the sales tax on food, but would also create larger reductions in state revenues meaning that some services may have to be reduced. If you had your choice of eliminating either Idaho’s sales tax on food or reducing the state income tax, which would you prefer?

1. Reduce income tax
2. Eliminate tax on food
3. Neither should be eliminated
4. DK/Refused

**SPLIT SAMPLE C**

39.C Some are debating different kinds of tax reductions that could be implemented in Idaho. Reducing Idaho’s income tax would save the average family significantly more money than eliminating the sales tax on food, but would also create larger reductions in state revenues meaning that some services may have to be reduced. This lost state revenue may be made up for down the road through economic growth, but this is not guaranteed. If you had your choice of eliminating either Idaho’s sales tax on food or reducing the state income tax, which would you prefer?

1. Reduce income tax
2. Eliminate tax on food
3. Neither should be eliminated
4. DK/Refused

**CONTINUE ASKING ALL**

Currently a homebuyer buying an existing home that did not have a homeowners’ exemption prior to purchase would not qualify for the homeowners exemption if the home is purchased after April 15th. Would you support or oppose removing this deadline to allow new owners this exemption, the same as all other owner-occupied homes?

1. Support
2. Oppose
3. DK/Refused (Don’t Read)

**IF SUPPORT IN Q40, ASK:**

Would you continue to support removing this deadline if you knew that there would be a slight reduction in property tax to local government and schools – yes or no?

1. Yes
2. No
3. DK/Refused (Don’t Read)

**CONTINUE ASKING ALL:**

**HEALTH CARE (10 QUESTIONS)**

Over the past year, have your health insurance rates gone up, gone down or stayed about the same?

1. Up
2. Down
3. Stayed Same
4. DK/Refused

Where do you and your family currently get health insurance? **READ**

1. Through you or your spouse’s employer
2. Medicare
3. Medicaid
4. Purchased privately through a health exchange, or
5. You don’t have health insurance
6. DK/Refused (Don’t Read)

Do you generally approve or disapprove of the 2010 Affordable Care Act, often referred to as Obamacare, that restructured the U.S. healthcare system?

1. Strongly approve
2. Somewhat approve
3. Somewhat disapprove
4. Strongly disapprove
5. DK/Refused

Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: Our state’s elected officials need to create an Idaho solution regarding affordable health insurance plans? **PROBE IF AGREE/DISAGREE: Is that strongly or somewhat?**

1. Strongly agree
2. Somewhat agree
3. Somewhat disagree
4. Strongly disagree
5. DK/Refused

When it comes to choosing your health insurance, what is more important: **READ/ROTATE**

1. An affordable plan with limited benefits
2. A higher cost plan with many benefits
3. DK/Refused

As insurance premiums continue to increase, some in our state legislature are working on a coverage solution that makes changes to existing benefits to provide more affordable plans. After hearing each proposed change, please tell if you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose them. If you aren’t sure, just say so.

**READ/ROTATE**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | Strong Support | S’what Support | S’what Oppose | Strong Oppose | DK/  Ref |
|  | Healthy individuals would be charged less | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|  | People with pre-existing conditions would be charged more | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|  | Maternity coverage would be optional and an additional cost for those who need it | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|  | Chiropractic coverage would be optional and an additional cost for those who need it | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

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

**CONTINUE ASKING ALL:**

**DEMOGRAPHICS (9 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

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

1. Yes

2. No

3. DK/Refused (Don’t Read)

Do you currently rent or own your home?

1. Rent
2. Own
3. Other (Don’t Read)
4. 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**

DMA: **CODED FROM LIST**