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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**

Good evening. My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I'm calling from , a national public opinion firm. This evening we're conducting a survey on issues in Idaho for research purposes and we'd like to get your opinions. Participation is voluntary, 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)**

What Idaho county do you currently live in?

CODED OPEN ENDED

1. Ada  
2. Adams  
3. Bannock  
4. Bear Lake  
5. Benewah  
6. Bingham  
7. Blaine  
8. Boise  
9. Bonner  
10. Bonneville  
11. Boundary  
12. Butte  
13. Camas  
14. Canyon  
15. Caribou  
16. Cassia  
17. Clark  
18. Clearwater  
19. Custer  
20. Elmore  
21. Franklin  
22. Fremont  
23. Gem  
24. Gooding  
25. Idaho  
26. Jefferson  
27. Jerome  
28. Kootenai  
29. Latah  
30. Lemhi  
31. Lewis  
32. Lincoln  
33. Madison  
34. Minidoka  
35. Nez Perce  
36. Oneida  
37. Owyhee  
38. Payette  
39. Power  
40. Shoshone  
41. Teton  
42. Twin Falls  
43. Valley  
44. Washington

**STATE OF IDAHO OVERVIEW**

What is the most important issue facing Idaho today?

1. Education

2. Economy

3. Health Care

4. Taxes

5. Growth

6. Public Lands

7. Transportation

8. Environment

9. Federal Regulations

10. Immigration

11. Gun laws

12. Crime

13. Affordable housing

14. Other

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**

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

**EDUCATION**

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)

**SPLIT SAMPLE:**

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

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

17.B When it comes to preparing students to further their education beyond high school, do you think schools in your area are doing an excellent, good, fair, or poor job?

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

**CONTINUE ASKING ALL:**

18. Should Idaho increase funding for early childhood education [preschool?]?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don’t know/no opinion

**SPLIT SAMPLE (3 way split):**

19.A Would you support Idaho increasing funding for early childhood education if it meant paying more in taxes?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don’t know/no opinion

19.B Would you support Idaho increasing funding for early childhood education if it meant reducing the amount of money spent on other educational programs?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don’t know/no opinion

19.C Would you support Idaho increasing funding for early childhood education in order to give local school districts the flexibility to fund programs designed to ensure children are reading proficiently by the 3rd grade?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don’t know/no opinion

**CONTINUE ASKING ALL:**

**BUDGET/SPENDING/TAXES**

20. 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

21. 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

22. 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)

23. 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:**

24.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)

24.B And if your town or city were to propose a local option tax to 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:**

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

Next, I am going to read you a series of statements regarding the best means to sentence people who have been convicted of crimes.After hearing each statement, please tell if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with them. If you aren’t sure, just say so.

**READ/ROTATE 33-36**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | Strong Agree | S’what Agree | S’what Disagree | Strong Disagree | DK/  Ref |
| 33. | Judges should have complete discretion to sentence people convicted of a crime. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 34. | Judges should be given minimum and maximum limits on how long they can sentence people to jail or prison. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 35. | An individual’s past crimes should be used in determining an appropriate sentence for a new crime conviction. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 36. | Individuals who commit crimes can change their behavior. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

37. Overall, how would you rate the appropriateness of criminal punishments in Idaho?

1. Much too lenient
2. A bit too lenient
3. Appropriate
4. A bit too harsh
5. Much too harsh
6. DK/Refused

38. How familiar are you with mandatory minimum criminal sentences?

1. Not at all familiar
2. Slightly familiar
3. Somewhat familiar
4. Very familiar
5. DK/Refused

39. Idaho has mandatory minimum sentences in place for several illegal substances. A person convicted of possessing 7 grams of heroin or more faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in prison.  On average, a very heavy user of heroin may use up to 2 grams per day. How would you rate the appropriateness of this mandatory sentence?

1. Much too lenient
2. A bit too lenient
3. Appropriate
4. A bit too harsh
5. Much too harsh
6. DK/Refused

**ENVIRONMENT/ENERGY/WATER**

40. Moving on, I want to ask you about some issues facing the northwest region.  Wild salmon and steelhead are those fish that reproduce naturally in rivers and are not raised in hatcheries.  In Idaho, wild salmon and steelhead are currently listed as threatened or endangered.   How important is it to you that we prevent the extinction of wild Idaho salmon and steelhead?

1. Extremely important
2. Very important
3. Somewhat important
4. Not important
5. DK/Refused

41. Four federal dams on the lower Snake River are under scrutiny in ongoing federal studies.  Some argue that they should be removed to help salmon recovery, since the dams do not supply much of the area's power.  Others argue that the dams should not be removed since salmon recovery is not guaranteed, and they allow shipping to occur.  Do you support or oppose removing these four dams to aid Idaho salmon?

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

**SPLIT SAMPLE:**

42.A Currently, a majority of the energy developed in Idaho comes from clean sources, such as renewable energy, that do not use fossil-fuels. Would you support or oppose having the state transition to 100% clean energy by the year 2050?

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

42.B Currently, a majority of the energy developed in Idaho comes from clean sources, such as renewable energy, that do not use fossil-fuels. Would you support or oppose having the state transition to 100% clean energy by the year 2050 if it meant an increase in your power bill?

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

**CONTINUE ASKING ALL:**

If Idaho increases its use of local, renewable energy, there are a variety of possible sources of this energy. I am going to read you a list of different kinds of renewable energy sources, please tell me whether you favor or oppose increasing our use of the following sources: **[ROTATE 43-46]**

43. Solar power

1. Favor
2. Oppose
3. DK/Refused

44. Wind power

1. Favor
2. Oppose
3. DK/Refused

45. Hydro power

1. Favor
2. Oppose
3. DK/Refused

46. Geothermal power

1. Favor
2. Oppose
3. DK/Refused

47. Solar energy generation sometimes results in energy being added back to the power grid. Do you favor or oppose people who own solar energy systems on their homes receiving a credit on their electricity bill for this energy that they add back to the grid?

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

**MEDICINE DISPOSAL**

48. Moving on, some governments have been trying to change the way that drugs are disposed of. If you had any prescription or over-the-counter medications that you wanted to dispose of in the last two years, which of the following methods of disposal did you use? **[ROTATE] [CHECK ALL THAT APPLY]**

1. Take to a police station
2. Take to a pharmacy
3. Take to a drug take-back event
4. Flush down the toilet or rinse down the sink
5. Throw in the garbage
6. Other
7. I did not have any medications to dispose of
8. DK/Refused

**DEMOGRAPHICS**

49. 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)

50. 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

51. 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

52. 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

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

1. Yes

2. No

3. DK/Refused (Don’t Read)

54. Do you currently rent or own your home?

1. Rent
2. Own
3. Other (Don’t Read)
4. DK/Refused (Don’t Read)

55. 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

56. Gender: 1. Male 2. Female

Thank you for completing the survey. If you have questions or concerns about this survey, you can contact Jeffrey Lyons at jeffreylyons@boisestate.edu or (208) 426-1458, or the Boise State University Institutional Review Board at Humansubjects@boisestate.edu or (208) 426-5401.