

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
DECEMBER 2011 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
December 7-11, 2011
N=1521

QUESTIONS 1-2, 12-13, 15, 18-19, PARTY, 25-36, 41-46 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

NO QUESTIONS 3, 10-11, 14, 16-17, 20-24, 37-40, 47

QUESTIONS 4-9, 48 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

Now thinking about taxes...

ASK ALL:

Q.49 How fair do you think our present federal tax system is? Overall would you say that our tax system is **[READ IN ORDER]**

	<u>Very fair</u>	Moderately <u>fair</u>	Not too <u>fair</u>	Not fair <u>at all</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Dec 7-11, 2011	3	40	31	24	3
CNN: Apr 9-11, 2011	4	45	30	20	1
NPR/Kaiser/Harvard: March 2003	4	47	32	16	1
Time/CNN: March 1997	3	42	31	23	2
Time/CNN: May 1985	2	41	31	24	2

ASK ALL:

Q.50 Considering what you get from the federal government, do you think you pay more than your fair share of taxes, less than your fair share, or about the right amount?

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

NPR/Kaiser/Harvard

Dec 7-11 <u>2011</u>		Mar 11-21 <u>2010</u>	May <u>2000</u> ¹	Feb <u>2000</u>	Oct <u>1997</u>
38	More than fair share	43	55	55	52
5	Less than fair share	3	2	1	2
52	About the right amount	50	42	41	45
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	3	1	3	1

ASK ALL:

Q.51 Which of the following statements comes closest to expressing your overall view of the federal tax system in this country **[READ]**

Dec 7-11 <u>2011</u>		<i>NPR/Kaiser/Harvard</i> March <u>2003</u>
34	On the whole, the federal tax system works pretty well and Congress should make only minor changes to make it work better	44
59	There is so much wrong with the federal tax system that Congress should completely change it	52
7	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	3

¹ May 2000 survey by National Public Radio, Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. The question read, "Considering what you get from the FEDERAL government, do you think you pay more than your fair share of federal taxes, less than your fair share, or about your fair share?"

ASK ALL:Q.52 Which of the following bothers you most about taxes **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

Dec 7-11 <u>2011</u>		<i>NPR/Kaiser/Harvard</i> March <u>2003</u>
11	The large amount you pay in taxes	14
28	The complexity of the tax system	32
57	The feeling that some wealthy people get away not paying their fair share	51
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2