Presentation of the 20th Idaho Public Policy Survey - Statewide Results

Boise State University
College of Social Sciences & Public Affairs
Public Policy Center
The Public Policy Center has conducted a statewide, survey of Idaho citizens for 20 years. This survey is meant to identify opinions about a variety of public policy concerns. The study is provided to the public – including officials and interested citizens - to facilitate policy discussion and education.

Adults in 525 Idaho households representing three geographic regions were surveyed between November 18th, 2010 and January 8th, 2011. This is a random sample survey (RDD) to landline telephones and cell phones. Telephone calls, interviews, data collection and data preparation were contracted to Clearwater Research. Analysis and reporting are conducted by Boise State University.

The survey standard error is +/- 5% at a 95% confidence-level for the total population.
Regions covered in the survey

I. Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Benewah, Shoshone, Latah, Clearwater, Nez Perce, Lewis, Idaho

II. Adams, Valley, Washington, Payette, Gem, Boise, Canyon, Ada, Elmore, Owyhee, Camas, Blaine, Gooding, Lincoln, Minidoka, Jerome, Twin Falls, Cassia

III. Bingham, Power, Bannock, Oneida, Franklin, Bear Lake, Caribou, Lemhi, Custer, Butte, Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison, Teton, Bonneville
Do you think the State is headed in the right direction?

- Yes, 49%
- No, 35%
- Don't know/Not sure, 16%
Five year trend – Is the state headed in the right direction?

Year: 2004 2005 2006 2007 2010
Yes: 70% 64% 60% 66% 49%
No: 15% 26% 30% 21% 35%
Don't Know/Not Sure: 15% 10% 9% 13% 16%
Most important issue facing Idaho today?

- Education: 24%
- Jobs: 33%
- Economy: 17%
- Environment: 3%
- Growth: 2%
- Wages: 1%
- Other: 0%
- Health Care: 10%
- Social Issues: 4%
- Don’t know/Not sure: 2%

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20th Public Policy Survey
Five year trend—Most important issue facing Idaho today?

- **Education**: 21% in 2004, 25% in 2005, 27% in 2006, 20% in 2007, 24% in 2010
- **Jobs/Economy/Wages**: 51% in 2010
- **Growth**: 21% in 2010

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My household has been personally impacted by cuts in State programs and services

- **Strongly agree**: 30%
- **Somewhat agree**: 26%
- **Neither agree nor disagree**: 12%
- **Somewhat disagree**: 20%
- **Strongly disagree**: 10%
- **Don't know/Not sure**: 2%
Budget cuts have affected the quality of children’s education

- Strongly agree: 56%
- Somewhat agree: 19%
- Neither agree or disagree: 4%
- Somewhat disagree: 8%
- Strongly disagree: 9%
- Don’t know/Not sure: 4%
The State is investing enough in higher education in Idaho

- Strongly agree: 14%
- Somewhat agree: 18%
- Neither agree or disagree: 5%
- Somewhat disagree: 20%
- Strongly disagree: 39%
- Don't know/Not sure: 4%
Idaho should raise sales tax to support the K-12 public school budget

- **Strongly agree**: 30%
- **Somewhat agree**: 23%
- **Neither agree or disagree**: 4%
- **Somewhat disagree**: 13%
- **Strongly disagree**: 29%
- **Don't know/Not sure**: 1%
Idaho should raise the sales tax by $0.01 to help close the budget gap

- Strongly agree: 16%
- Somewhat agree: 23%
- Neither agree or disagree: 4%
- Somewhat disagree: 15%
- Strongly disagree: 41%
- Don't know/Not sure: 1%
The State is doing enough to encourage economic development in your area of the State

- Strongly agree: 7.8%
- Somewhat agree: 27.6%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 10.7%
- Somewhat disagree: 23.6%
- Strongly disagree: 26.1%
- Don't know/Not sure: 3.6%
- Refused Question: 0.6%
Immigration is a problem in Idaho

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>Somewhat agree</th>
<th>Neither agree or disagree</th>
<th>Somewhat disagree</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
<th>Don't know/Not sure</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>47%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>3%</td>
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</table>
Counties should deny indigent health services to undocumented workers

- Strongly agree: 43%
- Somewhat agree: 19%
- Neither agree or disagree: 4%
- Somewhat disagree: 15%
- Strongly disagree: 16%
- Don't know/Not sure: 2%
- Refused Question: 1%
Idaho should pass a law concerning illegal immigrants similar to the law Arizona recently passed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Strongly agree</td>
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<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not familiar with Arizona law</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know/Not sure</td>
<td>1%</td>
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</table>
A law similar to Arizona’s new immigration law will reduce illegal immigration

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<td>Strongly agree</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Somewhat agree</td>
<td>25.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Somewhat disagree</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know/Not sure</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not familiar with Arizona law</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refused Question</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A program should be created that would allow illegal immigrants to stay in this country permanently

- Strongly agree: 42.9%
- Somewhat agree: 29.9%
- Neither agree or disagree: 3.8%
- Somewhat disagree: 6.7%
- Strongly disagree: 16%
- Don't know/Not sure: 0.8%

*Percentages do not add to 100% due to rounding*
Idaho should be able to opt out of the 2010 health care bill

46% Strongly agree
12% Somewhat agree
5% Neither agree or disagree
7% Somewhat disagree
22% Strongly disagree
7% Don't know/Not sure
1% Refused Question
Public funds should be used to help provide health insurance to people who cannot afford it

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
<td>31.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Somewhat agree</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither agree or disagree</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat disagree</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>13.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know/Not sure</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
</tr>
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Questions and Answers

• You will find additional slides with information included in the handout.
• A convenient on-line presentation for your use can be found on the web at:
  http://sspa.boisestate.edu/publicpolicycenter/
Have you/someone in your household lost a job in the last year?

- Yes: 26.1%
- No: 73.7%
- Don't know/Not sure: 0.2%
Did you change a health care plan or reduce benefits in the past year in order to lower your own spending?

- Yes: 26%
- No: 72%
- Don't know/Not sure: 2%
Have you/someone in your household deferred retirement due to the economy?

- Yes: 16%
- No: 83%
- Don't know/Not sure: 1%
Have you/someone in your household delayed making a major purchase?

- Yes: 65%
- No: 34%
- Don't know/Not sure: 1%
Is everyone in your household currently covered by health insurance?

- Yes: 76.5%
- No: 23.3%
- Don't know/Not sure: 0.2%
Did anyone in your household lose their health insurance this last year?

- Yes: 13%
- No: 86%
- Don't know/Not sure: 1%
Sales and use tax exemptions should be entirely eliminated in Idaho
The State should collect sales tax on goods purchased via the internet

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>Somewhat agree</th>
<th>Neither agree or disagree</th>
<th>Somewhat disagree</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
<th>Don’t know/Not sure</th>
<th>Refused Question</th>
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<td>19.2%</td>
<td>20.4%</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>31.4%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Percentages do not add to 100% due to rounding*
The sales tax exemption should be eliminated from services

- Strongly agree: 20%
- Somewhat agree: 21%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 11%
- Somewhat disagree: 22%
- Strongly disagree: 19%
- Don't know/Not sure: 7%
Political Orientation

- Very conservative: 16.2%
- Somewhat conservative: 29.7%
- Middle-of-the-road: 31%
- Somewhat liberal: 13.5%
- Very liberal: 6.1%
- Don’t know/not sure: 1.5%
- Refused Question: 1.9%

*Percentages do not add to 100% due to rounding*
Political Affiliation

- Democrat: 21%
- Republican: 33%
- Independent: 37%
- Other/Multiple: 1%
- None/No Affiliation: 2%
- Don’t know/Not sure: 2%
- Refused Question: 4%
Political Affiliation - 10 Year trend

- Democrat
- Republican
- Independent

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Which level of government do you most trust?

- Federal: 16%
- State: 25%
- Local: 42%
- None: 14%
- Don't know/Not sure: 3%
Which level of government best responds to your needs?

- Local: 43%
- State: 27%
- Federal: 15%
- None: 10%
- Don't know/Not sure: 5%
From which level of government do you think you get the most from your tax money?

- Federal: 24%
- State: 32%
- Local: 31%
- None: 7%
- Don't know/Not sure: 6%
Land use planning in your area

- Strongly satisfied: 7%
- Somewhat satisfied: 34%
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied: 15%
- Somewhat dissatisfied: 21%
- Strongly dissatisfied: 16%
- Don't know/Not sure: 6%
- Refused Question: 1%

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Level of environmental protection in your area

- Strongly satisfied: 25.1%
- Somewhat satisfied: 42.3%
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied: 5.9%
- Somewhat dissatisfied: 13.1%
- Strongly dissatisfied: 12%
- Don't know/Not sure: 1.1%
- Refused Question: 0.4%

*Percentages do not add to 100% due to rounding*
Have you or someone in your household filed for bankruptcy in the last year?

- No: 95%
- Yes: 5%
Have you or someone in your household experienced foreclosure in the last year?

Yes: 5%
No: 95%
County commissioners should make location siting decisions for CAFOs

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<tr>
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<td>21.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Somewhat agree</td>
<td>25.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neither agree or disagree</td>
<td>19.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Somewhat disagree</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>13.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Don't know/Not sure</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Refused Question</td>
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*Percentages do not add to 100% due to rounding*
County commissioners should make location siting decisions for power generation plants

<table>
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<th>Somewhat agree</th>
<th>Neither agree or disagree</th>
<th>Somewhat disagree</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
<th>Don't know/Not sure</th>
<th>Refused Question</th>
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<tr>
<td>26.3%</td>
<td>29.3%</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
<td>13.1%</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
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</table>
County commissioners should make location siting decisions for electricity transmission lines/underground fuel pipelines

- Strongly agree: 23%
- Somewhat agree: 32%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 11%
- Somewhat disagree: 13%
- Strongly disagree: 16%
- Don't know/Not sure: 5%
Businesses who knowingly hire undocumented workers should be penalized

- Strongly agree: 63%
- Somewhat agree: 17%
- Neither agree or disagree: 5%
- Somewhat disagree: 8%
- Strongly disagree: 6%
- Don't know/Not sure: 1%
Idaho should allow the sale and manufacture of marijuana for medical purposes

- Strongly agree: 21.5%
- Somewhat agree: 19.6%
- Neither agree or disagree: 6.9%
- Somewhat disagree: 8.2%
- Strongly disagree: 41.9%
- Don’t know/Not sure: 1.7%
- Refused Question: 0.2%

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Do you support changing Idaho law to allow terminally and seriously ill patients to use and purchase marijuana for medical purposes?

Yes 74%

No 23%

Don't know/Not sure 3%
Idaho should raise the sales tax to support the higher education budget

17.9% Strongly agree
21% Somewhat agree
4.2% Neither agree or disagree
19.8% Somewhat disagree
35.6% Strongly disagree
1.5% Don't know/Not sure
Public funds should be used to provide health insurance for children of families who cannot afford insurance

- **Strongly agree**: 47.8%
- **Somewhat agree**: 31%
- **Neither agree nor disagree**: 4.8%
- **Somewhat disagree**: 8.6%
- **Strongly disagree**: 5.9%
- **Don't know/Not sure**: 1.5%
- **Refused Question**: 0.4%
When it comes to health care coverage in the future, which are you most concerned about?

- Quality of service: 36%
- Cost of service: 40%
- Choice of doctors: 17%
- Don't know/Not sure: 1%
- All of the above: 5%
- Other: 1%
Undocumented immigrants have negatively affected the overall quality of children’s education
Idaho should fund pre-K education

Strongly agree: 24%
Somewhat agree: 20%
Neither agree or disagree: 9%
Somewhat disagree: 23%
Strongly disagree: 23%
Don't know/Not sure: 1%
What is the highest level of school or college that you have completed?

- Less than high school: 4.8%
- High school graduate or GED: 24%
- Some college but less than 4 years: 14.3%
- Trade or vocational certificate: 20.2%
- 4-year college graduate: 3.4%
- Some graduate school: 19.8%
- Master's degree: 1.7%
- Doctorate or professional degree (PhD,...): 7.6%
- Something else: 1.9%
- Refused Question: 0.6%
- Other: 1.7%
Income Range

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than $10,000</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>$10,000 up to $20,000</td>
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<td>9%</td>
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<td>More than $100,000</td>
<td>11%</td>
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<td>Don't know/Not sure</td>
<td>11%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Refused Question</td>
<td>11%</td>
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</table>
What is your age?

- 18 to 24: 5%
- 25 to 29: 7%
- 30 to 34: 6%
- 35 to 44: 15%
- 45 to 54: 19%
- 55 to 64: 25%
- 65 to 74: 15%
- 75 or older: 7%
- Refused: 1%
Do you own your home, rent, or live in some other type of housing?

- Own: 75%
- Rent: 20%
- Living with Parents or Relatives: 1%
- Other: 4%
Do you have K-12 school-age children?

Yes 31%

No 69%
Racial/Ethnic Group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Racial/Ethnic Group</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>88.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian or Alaskan Native</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mixed/More than one</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
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<tr>
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