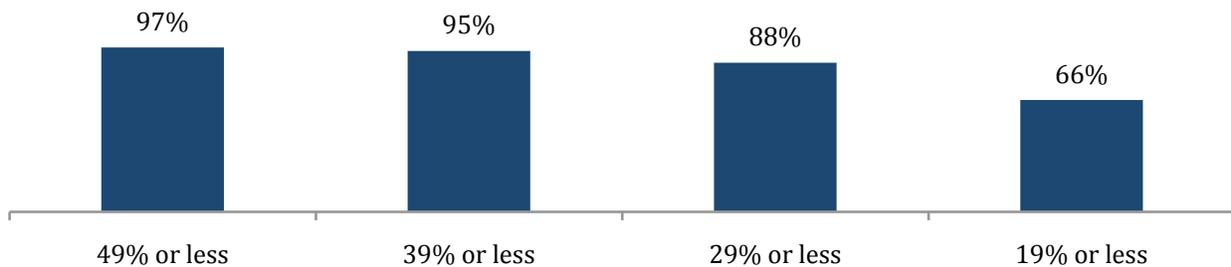


Polling News & Notes

Overlooked Recent Polling and Insights • April 16, 2009

Americans' Views on Taxes: Thousands of Americans participated in spontaneous “tea parties” Wednesday on Tax Day to protest President Obama’s tax and spending plans. How widespread are their views on the government’s ability to tax the individual? A new survey from the Tax Foundation, conducted February 18-27 by Harris Interactive, suggests they may be in good company. While President Obama plans to raise the top marginal federal income tax rate to 39.6%, the survey found that 88% of Americans believe the maximum amount of someone’s income that government should be able to take is less than 30 percent. Two-thirds of Americans (66%) believe government should be limited to 19% or less of someone’s income. Already, the average taxpayer pays more—the Tax Foundation estimates the average total tax burden is 28.2% of income.

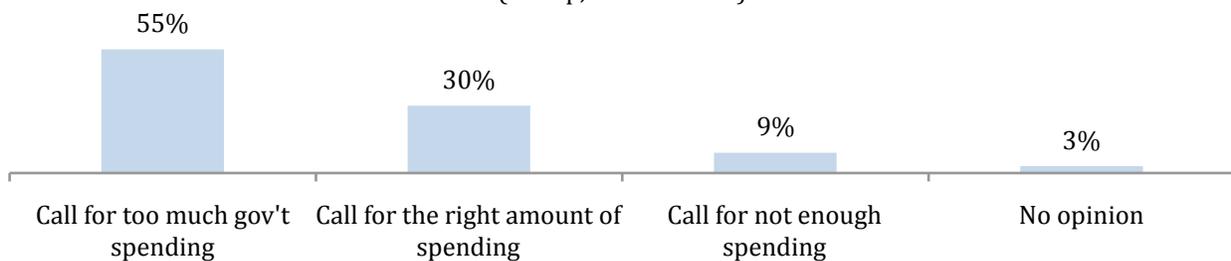
Percent of Americans Saying the Maximum % of a Person's Income That Should Go to Taxes Is ... or Less
(2009 Tax Foundation Survey)



Americans are also unhappy with the complexity of the current federal tax code. 82% believe it either needs to be completely overhauled or requires major changes, compared to just 15% who think it only needs minor changes or is fine the way it is. By a 2 to 1 margin (44% to 22%), Americans say they would be willing to give up some popular tax deductions, like the home mortgage interest deduction, in exchange for an across-the-board cut in federal income tax rates and a simpler code.

However, the Tea Parties weren’t just concerned with taxes—they represent an intense worry about the level of government spending. A recent Gallup poll (March 27-29) also found that despite President Obama’s personal popularity, his spending proposals are widely seen as too expensive. 55% of Americans think his proposals call for too much government spending, while only 33% think they call for the right amount.

Do you think President Obama's proposals to address the economic problems in this country...
(Gallup, March 27-29)



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