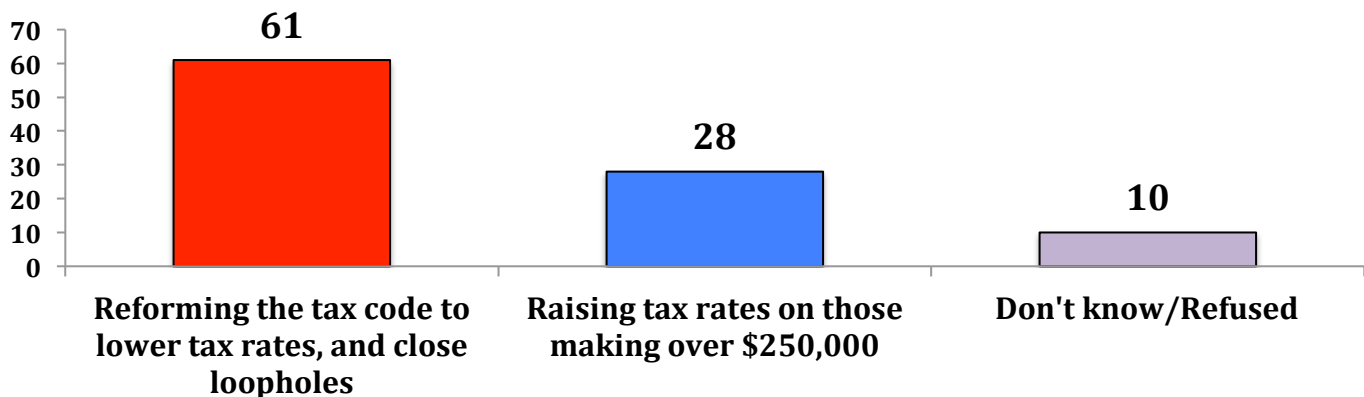


Americans Prefer Tax Reform to Raising Tax Rates; Even Obama Voters Favor Spending Cuts Over Tax Increases: Tax reform and deficit reduction are at the front of the debate between the parties on how best to avoid the fiscal cliff before it hits December 31. Many Democrats argue President Barack Obama's reelection was a mandate to raise tax rates on wealthier Americans, but post-election surveys from the [Winston Group](#) and [Third Way](#) found public sentiment is more complicated. These polls revealed more Americans – including those who voted for Mr. Obama – favor tax reform and/or spending cuts instead of just raising taxes on the rich.

According to the Winston Group, 61% of Americans said “reforming the tax code to close lower tax rates and close loopholes” is a better way to raise tax revenue, compared to 28% who said “raising tax rates on those making over \$250,000” was the right way to do so.

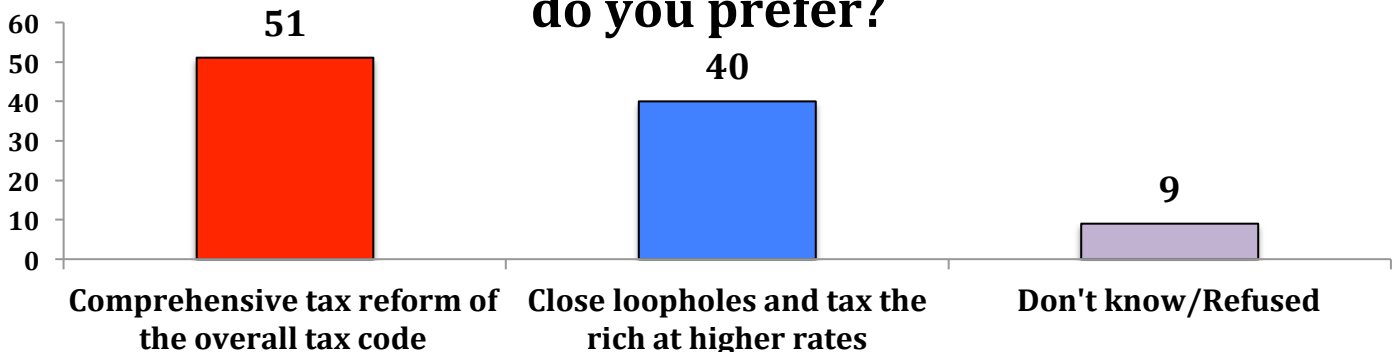
Which is the better way to raise tax revenue?



Source: The Winston Group, November 19-20, 2012

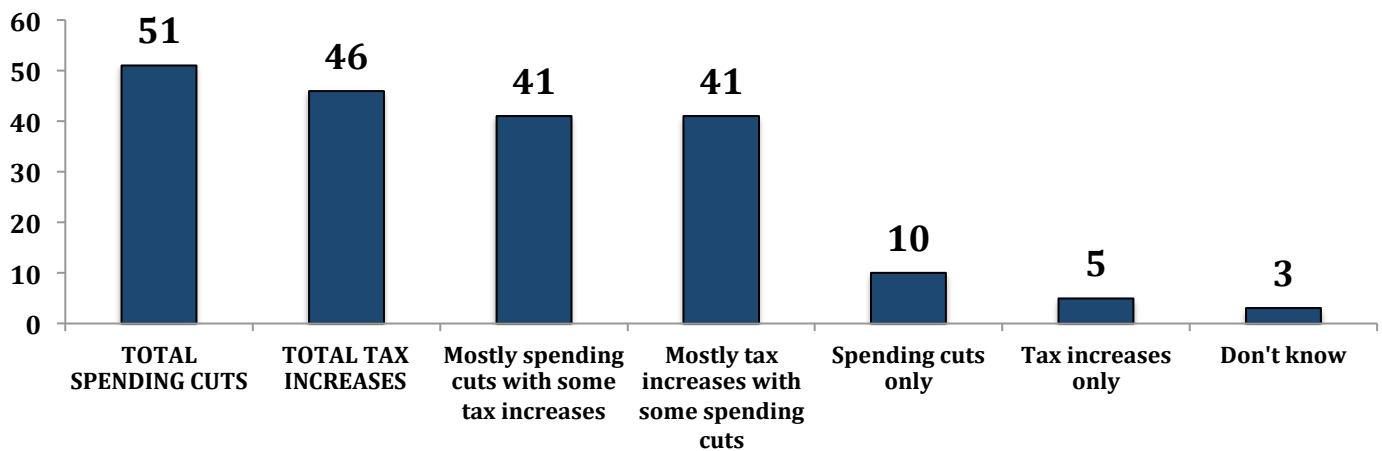
Regarding tax reform, 51% thought “comprehensive tax reform of the overall tax code” is the right approach, compared to 40% who said it would be better to “close loopholes and tax the rich at higher rates.”

In thinking about tax reform, which approach do you prefer?



Third Way’s survey of 2012 Obama voters found even the president’s supporters favor spending cuts over tax increases when it comes to fixing the federal deficit. Fifty-one percent of those who voted for Mr. Obama said a plan largely based on spending cuts was the best approach to reducing the deficit (41% said they would agree with a plan consisting of “mostly spending cuts increases with some tax increases” and 10% said they would favor one of just spending cuts). Forty-six percent said they would prefer an approach consisting of tax increases (41% said the best approach would contain “mostly tax increases with some spending cuts,” and five percent said they would favor a plan comprised of only tax increases).

Which approach do you prefer to reduce the deficit?



Source: "Post-Election Survey of 2012 Obama Voters," Third Way, November 7-9, 2012

The proposal the White House sent House Republicans last week requested over \$900 billion in immediate tax increases, yet provided little or no details on proposed spending cuts. According to the Third Way survey, only five percent of Mr. Obama’s own voters would favor of this plan, not exactly a “mandate.” It would be benefit the president’s standing, as well the country’s well-being, if the White House actually tried to work with Republicans on finding a solution, rather than relying on his recent election victory to jam his tax and spending plan through.