

# FISCAL CLIFF NATIONAL ONLINE SURVEY

Core Interview Schedule



**PUBLIC OPINION  
STRATEGIES**

turning questions into answers

September 5-9, 2024

Project #: 240395

N=1,000 Registered Voters

Credibility Interval:  $\pm 3.53\%$

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\* Denotes result under 0.5%.

^ Denotes rounding. Due to rounding, some figures may be higher or lower by less than one-half of one percent.

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A. In which state do you live? **[SHOW DROP DOWN WITH 50 STATES + D.C.] (USE STATE FIPS CODES)**

**21%**    **NORTHEAST**  
5%    NEW ENGLAND  
16%    MID ATLANTIC  
**21%**    **MIDWEST**  
16%    GREAT LAKES  
5%    FARM BELT  
**35%**    **SOUTH**  
16%    DEEP SOUTH  
19%    OUTER SOUTH  
**24%**    **WEST**  
7%    MOUNTAIN  
16%    PACIFIC

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C. Are you registered to vote in **[survey state]**?

100%    Yes **(CONTINUE)**

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D2. Please record your gender.

48%    Male  
52%    Female

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E. Are you, or is anyone in your household, employed by a newspaper, television or radio station, or by a political party or a candidate for office?

100%    No **(CONTINUE)**

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D1. In what year were you born? \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ (9999 = REFUSED)

6%	18 - 24
21%	25 - 34
16%	35 - 44
15%	45 - 54
19%	55 - 64
24%	65 AND ABOVE

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D6A. What is your main racial or ethnic heritage? Is it... (RANDOMIZE :1-5/8)

70%	Caucasian or White
12%	African American or Black
12%	Hispanic, Latino or some other Spanish speaking background
4%	Asian or Pacific Islander
1%	American Indian or Alaskan Native
*	Other/Mixed Race (SPECIFY: _____)

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Now turning to issues...

1. Which of the following issues is most important to you? **(RANDOMIZE) (RECORD FIRST CHOICE, THEN SECOND CHOICE, REMOVE FIRST CHOICE AND RE-RANDOMIZE)**

<b><u>1st</u></b>	<b><u>2nd</u></b>	<b><u>Comb</u></b>	
32%	20%	53%	Inflation and the price of items like groceries and gas
13%	13%	25%	Immigration and border security
11%	13%	23%	Jobs and economy
8%	8%	16%	Social Security and Medicare
8%	7%	15%	Threats to American democracy
8%	5%	14%	Abortion
4%	9%	13%	Healthcare
5%	5%	10%	Climate change
3%	5%	8%	Crime and drugs
3%	5%	7%	Government spending and debt
2%	4%	7%	National security and foreign affairs
1%	4%	5%	Taxes
2%	2%	4%	Education
*	*	*	Other ( <b>SPECIFY: _____</b> )

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2. Thinking now about the economy... Would you say the economy is... **(ROTATE :1-2)**

18%	Getting Better
59%	Getting Worse
	...or...
23%	Staying about the same

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3. Thinking now about the amount you pay in taxes... Would you say the amount you pay in taxes is... **(ROTATE :1-2)**

- 75% Too High
  - 2% Too Low
  - ...or...
  - 23% About the right amount
- 

**(IF Q3:1, ASK:) (N=750, RESULTS SHOWN OFF TOTAL BASE)**

4. And, is the amount you pay in taxes... **(ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)**

- 37% Way too high
  - 32% Somewhat too high
  - ...or...
  - 6% Just a little too high
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5. Thinking now about America today and specifically the state of the economy, would you say that right now is... **(ROTATE :1-2)**

- 5% A good time to increase taxes
  - 76% A bad time to increase taxes
  - ...or...
  - 18% Is it neither a good time or a bad time to increase taxes
-

Thinking about the deficit... There are three ways to reduce the deficit - raise taxes, cut government spending, or grow the economy. Now, there will be some questions about those three ways.

**(SPLIT SAMPLE A, N=500)**

6. Thinking just about two of those options, which do you think does LESS harm to the economy...  
**(ROTATE)**

- 15% Raising taxes  
...or...
  - 85% Cutting government spending?
- 

**(SPLIT SAMPLE B, N=500)**

7. Thinking just about two of those options, which do you think does MORE harm to the economy...  
**(ROTATE)**

- 52% Raising taxes  
...or...
  - 48% Cutting government spending?
-

8. And, of the three ways to reduce the deficit, which do you think is the most effective way to cut the deficit... **(RANDOMIZE)**

- 50% Growing the economy
  - 46% Cutting government spending
  - 5% Raising taxes
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9. If your taxes are cut, **(ROTATE)** does it mean you are keeping more of your own money, or does it mean you are taking money away from the government?

- 88% Keeping more of your own money
  - 12% Taking money away from the government
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10. How much have you seen, read, or heard about portions of Tax Cuts and Jobs Act expiring at the end of the year 2025? **(ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)**

- 6% A lot
  - 34% Some
  - 37% Not much
  - ...or...
  - 23% Nothing at all
  
  - 40% TOTAL A LOT/SOME**
  - 60% TOTAL NOT MUCH/NOTHING**
-

**(SPLIT SAMPLE A, N=500)**

11. As you may know, tax cuts that were passed in 2017 will fully expire at the end of 2025 if the President and Congress do not extend them. If you were in Congress and you had a choice between voting to keep current tax rates or raise taxes, would you vote to **(ROTATE)** keep current tax rates or to raise taxes?

91% Keep current tax rates  
9% Raise taxes

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**(SPLIT SAMPLE B, N=500)**

12. As you may know, tax cuts that were passed in 2017 will fully expire at the end of 2025 if the President and Congress do not extend them. If Congress does not take any action, 62% of American households will see their taxes increase in 2026. If you were in Congress and you had a choice between voting to keep current tax rates or raise taxes, would you vote to **(ROTATE)** keep current tax rates or to raise taxes?

89% Keep current tax rates  
11% Raise taxes

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13. And, if Congress does nothing and the tax cuts are not extended, would you consider that to be a tax increase?

72% Yes  
28% No

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Now, please indicate if you think that allowing taxes to increase by not extending the 2017 tax cuts will **(ROTATE)** help or hurt the following... **(RANDOMIZE)**

	<b>HELP</b>	<b>HURT</b>	<b>NOT MUCH IMPACT</b>
14. The economy	15%	68%	18%
15. Small businesses	10%	77%	12%
16. American consumers	11%	77%	12%
17. Middle-class families	10%	79%	11%

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Now please read a series of statements and indicate if you agree or disagree with that statement.  
**(RANDOMIZE)**

	<b>STRG AGREE</b>	<b>SMWT AGREE</b>	<b>SMWT DISAGREE</b>	<b>STRG DISAGREE</b>
18. The country is in a cost of living crisis. Now is not the time to raise taxes.	65%	22%	8%	5%
	<b>86%^</b>		<b>14%^</b>	
19. The American Dream is falling further out of reach for many American families. Raising taxes will only add to this problem and make it harder for many Americans to achieve the American Dream.	61%	28%	8%	2%
	<b>89%</b>		<b>11%^</b>	
20. The country just experienced the worst inflation in more than forty years. It makes no sense to raise taxes when prices are as high as they are.	65%	22%	10%	3%
	<b>87%</b>		<b>13%</b>	
21. Too many Americans are unable to afford to buy a home or even pay their rent. Increasing taxes at this time will just make paying for housing even harder for too many American families.	69%	24%	6%	1%
	<b>92%^</b>		<b>8%^</b>	
22. We should eliminate some of the tax credits that were passed as part of President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act as one way to prevent taxes from increasing.	27%	38%	24%	11%
	<b>65%</b>		<b>35%</b>	

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**(SPLIT SAMPLE A, N=500)**

23. Now please read some of the taxes that were cut in 2017. Please indicate which of these tax cuts you think did the MOST to grow the economy? **(RANDOMIZE) (RECORD FIRST CHOICE, SECOND CHOICE, REMOVE FIRST CHOICE AND RE-RANDOMIZE)**

<b><u>1st</u></b>	<b><u>2nd</u></b>	<b><u>Comb</u></b>	
43%	25%	67%	Cutting taxes for American families
13%	24%	37%	Cutting taxes for small businesses
16%	20%	36%	Increasing the standard tax deduction
14%	13%	27%	Cutting global business taxes to allow America to better compete with China
11%	11%	22%	Increasing the child tax credit
3%	6%	10%	Cutting taxes for research and development projects

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**(SPLIT SAMPLE B, N=500)**

24. Now please read some of the taxes that were cut in 2017. Please indicate which of these tax cuts you think did the MOST to help American families? **(RANDOMIZE) (RECORD FIRST CHOICE, SECOND CHOICE, REMOVE FIRST CHOICE AND RE-RANDOMIZE)**

<b><u>1st</u></b>	<b><u>2nd</u></b>	<b><u>Comb</u></b>	
36%	25%	61%	Increasing the standard tax deduction
32%	24%	55%	Increasing the child tax credit
16%	25%	42%	Cutting taxes for small businesses
11%	16%	27%	Cutting global business taxes to allow America to better compete with China
5%	10%	14%	Cutting taxes for research and development projects

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As you may know, the 2017 tax cuts include many provisions that would change if Congress does not extend them. Please read a list of the provisions that would change. For each one that would change, please indicate if you favor or oppose that change. **(RANDOMIZE)**

	<b>STRG FAV</b>	<b>SMWT FAV</b>	<b>SMWT OPP</b>	<b>STRG OPP</b>
25. Individual tax rates will increase.	3%	9%	35%	53%
	<b>12%</b>		<b>88%</b>	

**(SPLIT SAMPLE A, N=500)**

26. The standard tax deduction that is taken by 90% of taxpayers will be reduced, meaning families will not be able to deduct as much from their taxes.	6%	17%	34%	43%
	<b>23%</b>		<b>77%</b>	

**(SPLIT SAMPLE B, N=500)**

27. The standard tax deduction that is taken by 90% of taxpayers will be reduced, meaning families will either not be able to deduct as much from their taxes, or will need to do a significant amount of itemization and bookkeeping in order to be able to take the same deduction they do now.	7%	17%	31%	45%
	<b>24%</b>		<b>76%</b>	
28. The estate tax will increase.	8%	19%	36%	37%
	<b>27%</b>		<b>73%</b>	
29. The tax deductions that help small businesses grow and create jobs will be eliminated.	8%	17%	32%	43%
	<b>25%</b>		<b>75%</b>	

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**(SPLIT SAMPLE A, N=500)**

30. Now that you have read some more information about the tax cuts that were passed in 2017... If you were in Congress and you had a choice between voting to keep current tax rates or raise taxes, would you vote to **(ROTATE)** keep current tax rates or to raise taxes?

<b>Q20</b>	<b>Q39</b>	
<b><u>INT</u></b>	<b><u>INF</u></b>	
91%	94%	Keep current tax rates
9%	6%	Raise taxes

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**(SPLIT SAMPLE B, N=500)**

31. Now that you have read some more information about the tax cuts that were passed in 2017... If Congress does not take any action, 62% of American households will see their taxes increase in 2026. If you were in Congress and you had a choice between voting to keep current tax rates or raise taxes, would you vote to **(ROTATE)** keep current tax rates or to raise taxes?

<b>Q21</b>	<b>Q40</b>	
<b><u>INT</u></b>	<b><u>INF</u></b>	
89%	89%	Keep current tax rates
11%	11%	Raise taxes

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Thinking now about taxes on businesses...

32. Would you favor or oppose increasing the tax rate on American corporations from 21% to 28%?

26%	Strongly Favor
26%	Somewhat Favor
20%	Somewhat Oppose
28%	Strongly Oppose

<b>52%</b>	<b>TOTAL FAVOR</b>
<b>48%</b>	<b>TOTAL OPPOSE</b>

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Now please indicate if you think that increasing the corporate tax rate to 28% will **(ROTATE)** help or hurt the following... **(RANDOMIZE)**

	<b>HELP</b>	<b>HURT</b>	<b>NOT MUCH IMPACT</b>
33. The economy	39%	49%	12%
34. Small businesses	25%	56%	19%
35. American consumers	30%	55%	15%
36. Middle-class families	31%	53%	15%
37. Large corporations	12%	44%	44%

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**(IF Q46:2, ASK:) (N=437, RESULTS SHOWN OFF TOTAL BASE)**

38. Is hurting large corporation **(ROTATE)** a good thing or a bad thing for American consumers?

13% Good thing  
31% Bad thing

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39. And, if the corporate tax rate is increased, which of the following do you think is MOST likely to happen... **(RANDOMIZE :1-4)**

- 35% Corporations will increase prices
  - 11% Corporations will cut jobs
  - 6% Corporations will move their headquarters to another country
  - 4% Corporations will halt any expansion plans
  
  - 14% None of these things will happen
  - 31% All of these things will happen
- 

40. If the corporate tax rate is increased, do you think that will make it **(ROTATE)** easier or harder for America to compete with China, or will it make no difference?

- 7% Easier
  - 53% Harder
  - 40% No Difference
-

Now, please read some statements you might hear about increasing taxes on American corporations. After you read each one, please indicate if you agree or disagree with that statement. **(RANDOMIZE)**

	<b>STRG AGREE</b>	<b>SMWT AGREE</b>	<b>SMWT DISAGREE</b>	<b>STRG DISAGREE</b>
41.	Increasing taxes on corporations will just mean further increases on the price of everyday goods.			
	42%	36%	18%	4%
	<b>78%</b>		<b>22%</b>	
42.	Increasing taxes on corporations only helps China, who is already catching up to America on Artificial Intelligence, high-tech manufacturing, and other technologies.			
	28%	33%	27%	12%
	<b>61%</b>		<b>39%</b>	
43.	Raising the corporate tax rate to 28% would mean the United States has a higher corporate tax rate than China, Russia, Canada, France, the United Kingdom, and many other countries that we compete with on the global stage.			
	27%	42%	24%	6%
	<b>70%^</b>		<b>30%</b>	
44.	Increasing the corporate tax rate would discourage innovation and job creation and make it harder for the United States to compete with China and other global powers.			
	27%	33%	29%	10%
	<b>61%^</b>		<b>39%</b>	
45.	The Communist Chinese party has a Made in China 2025 program whose goal is to overtake the United States in every facet of global high-tech manufacturing by the year 2025. If the corporate tax rate is increased, we would be playing right into the hands of the Communist Chinese by making it easier for them to achieve their goal and overtake the United States.			
	29%	32%	28%	11%
	<b>61%</b>		<b>39%</b>	
46.	Increasing taxes on companies may sound good, but taxes were increased on some corporations as part of the Inflation Reduction Act and instead of helping stop inflation, the cost of everyday goods and services just went up even more.			
	35%	39%	20%	6%
	<b>74%</b>		<b>26%</b>	

Continued...

	<b>STRG AGREE</b>	<b>SMWT AGREE</b>	<b>SMWT DISAGREE</b>	<b>STRG DISAGREE</b>
47. Supporters of the tax breaks in the Inflation Reduction Act that benefit ONLY certain companies are just supporting crony capitalism that picks economic winners and losers and does nothing to help American consumers and workers.	27%	41%	25%	7%
	<b>68%</b>		<b>32%</b>	
48. Increasing the corporate tax rate would discourage the type of opportunity, innovation, and job creation that has made the American economy the strongest in the world.	28%	34%	27%	11%
	<b>62%</b>		<b>38%</b>	

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49. Now that you have read some more information... Would you favor or oppose increasing the tax rate on American corporations from 21% to 28%?

<b>Q41</b>	<b>Q58</b>	
<b><u>INT</u></b>	<b><u>INF</u></b>	
26%	15%	Strongly Favor
26%	27%	Somewhat Favor
20%	25%	Somewhat Oppose
28%	33%	Strongly Oppose
<b>52%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>TOTAL FAVOR</b>
<b>48%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>TOTAL OPPOSE</b>

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Now, in this section, we are collecting general data for statistical purposes only. As a reminder, the data are anonymous and your responses will be kept completely confidential. Thinking some more about you...

D3A. And, what is the last grade you completed in school?

- \* Some grade school (Grades 1-8)
  - 2% Some high school (Grades 9-11)
  - 22% Graduated high school (Grade 12)
  - 7% Technical/vocational school
  - 28% Some college
  - 29% Graduated college (e.g. Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science)
  - 11% Graduate/professional school (e.g. PhD, MD, JD, MA)
  
  - 24% HIGH SCHOOL OR LESS**
  - 36%^ SOME COLLEGE**
  - 40% COLLEGE+**
- 

D4A. In politics today, do you consider yourself a... **(ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)**

- 21% Strong Republican
  - 11% Not-so-strong Republican
  - 10% Lean towards the Republicans
  
  - 17% Something else/Independent
  
  - 12% Lean towards the Democrats
  - 8% Not-so-strong Democrat
  - 21% Strong Democrat
  
  - 41%^ TOTAL REPUBLICAN**
  - 42%^ TOTAL DEMOCRAT**
-

D5A. In politics today, do you consider yourself to be... **(ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM/BOTTOM TO TOP)**

15% Very conservative  
20% Somewhat conservative  
37% Moderate  
16% Somewhat liberal  
11% Very liberal

**36%^ TOTAL CONSERVATIVE**

**27% TOTAL LIBERAL**

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D8A. Regardless of how you feel now, for whom did you vote in the 2020 Presidential election...  
**(ROTATE 1-2)**

42% Donald Trump  
45% Joe Biden  
...or...  
3% Someone else?  
  
10% Did not vote

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D9A. And for statistical purposes only, what is your total annual household income?

10% Under \$20,000  
21% Between \$20,000 - \$40,000  
16% Between \$40,000 - \$60,000  
17% Between \$60,000 - \$80,000  
11% Between \$80,000 - \$100,000  
15% Between \$100,000 and \$150,000  
5% Between \$150,000 and \$200,000  
2% Between \$200,000 and \$250,000  
...or....  
2% Over \$250,000

**31% UNDER \$40K**

**34%^ \$40K-\$80K**

**26% \$80K-\$150K**

**10%^ \$150K+**

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