

## **Considering the U.S. national debt is approaching \$15 trillion, should taxes be raised?**

### **YES – 49%**

“Tax only Congress and the rich not the poor or middle class!”

“With unemployment being so high, taxes should be raised on those of us still working.”

“Close known loopholes that benefit the wealthy as well as raise their tax level.”

“ONLY under the condition that the increased taxes be used for the express purpose of paying down the debt. I am not in favor of a general tax increase, but sacrifices must be made in order to become debt-free.”

“I consider living in America is the best bargain on earth. Even considering all of the government waste, I still think we get a lot for our money. Citizens of other industrialized countries pay a lot more for a lot less.

“I would be happy to pay higher taxes to support education and health care of the least fortunate.”

“But everyone should pay the same percentage.”

“...but only with corresponding spending cuts.”

“Only a small part. SPENDING NEEDS TO BE CUT AND CUT NOW!!! Every American home knows it has to live within its BUDGET!!! What's wrong with our Government that it doesn't seem to understand this!!!! CUT THE SPENDING!!!!”

“Yes, along with backing away from the current wars and taxing the more fortunate.”

“The rich and corporations should pay their fair share. They say they are paying a higher rate but how much of their income is taxable. Middle and low income have to pay on close to 100% of their income.”

### **NO – 51%**

“Reduce spending, particularly on foreign aid.”

“Congress should take a pay cut.”

“The leaders-elected should have to pay up for their inept policies and money squandering!”

“NO! Uncle Sam already gets too much of my money and he doesn't use it wisely!”

“Reduce federal spending!!”

“We have seen repeatedly that raising taxes actually reduces the amount that government takes in, because it depresses the overall economy. When taxes are reduced, jobs are created, productivity increases, and there is more revenue for both business and the government.”

“Giving more money to the government just means they will have more money to waste. Perhaps the government should try cutting back a little instead of taking more money from people who have already cut back.”

“Borrow less and spend less in general, but definitely eliminate the wasteful spending which occurs.”

“If we give more money, they will spend it!”

“The national debt needs to be managed better. My bank doesn't let me continue to overdraw. I have to manage my money. There are other ways to control the rising debt.”

“Reduce spending first - get out of Iraq and Afghanistan”

“No matter who the tax is raised on, everyone will lose.”

“Stop social programs.”

**YES – 49%**

“On the upper 1%. There is no evidence that "they" are creating new jobs in the United States so that argument needs to be tabled. Spending needs to be trimmed as well, but not in the "welfare" programs. Here's how it works: upper 1% pays more = more jobs created by public works, etc. = more people with money to spend = upper 1% gets more money = the circle of economic growth.”

“Tax rates should remain lower for families earning less than \$200K, but add higher brackets for those making more than this. Change tax break rules for corporations and eliminate deductions for foreign revenue. GE should pay some taxes!”

“The only way to lower the debt is to immediately stop the stupid wars that kill the poor and make the rich only richer.”

“Since they seem to include eliminating the kick backs currently being paid out to oil companies and others who are already making money hand over fist off of us as 'raising taxes', by all means RAISE AWAY. Congress: Stop giving my tax dollars away to your buddies and leave it in my paycheck instead.”

“As individuals, we all expect services from our government. If we want to keep those services intact, they need to be paid for. We need accountability in spending, but we also need to have the services available. I like driving on well-maintained roads, knowing that if I have an emergency, I can dial 911 and get help, and knowing that the next generation is getting an adequate education. I'm willing to pay for that.”

“Taxes should be raised on the rich. Also, dead people should not be able to fund dynasties of decadent rich people.”

**NO – 51%**

“Do not waste so much money and make every penny count. Reform Medicare and cut on its waste. Reward those senior citizens who have retired and are not on Medicare instead of punishing them for being on their spouse's healthcare.”

“Absolutely not. When government spends less and reduces taxes then our economy will become healthy and this debt will start to decline. We need to build our economy and shrink government if our children are to have the same opportunities afforded our generation.”

“It's NOT a revenue issue-It's a SPENDING issue. The government continues to reach for the revenue solution and it's NOT working. What did Einstein quote about employing the same solutions and expecting different results?”

“Unless, I can get unlimited credit so I can keep charging on my card till I die then leave the debt to my progeny, I say Washington needs to grow up and live within its means like everyone else.”

“Stop sending money abroad and stop paying for people to sit at home to wait for a check. Disabled is one thing, but laziness (and in some instances pride) is intolerable.”

“The outflow of money should be seriously reviewed prior to raising taxes. The excessive and expensive government funded programs and foreign aid should be reviewed by a nongovernment agency to assert in their importance. Anything that does not meet the qualifications as something hugely beneficial to our society should be canceled until our country's finances are back under control.”

“Spending should be drastically cut along with Obamacare.”

“It is time for the government to become fiscally responsible.”