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Interviews: 1,001 likely 2020 voters nationwide
Dates: October 1-6, 2019

FINAL

Study #12697
ATF Surtax Survey
October 2019

46 Male
54 Female
[109]

Please note: all results are shown as percentages unless otherwise stated.

S1a. Are you currently registered to vote?

Registered to vote.....	100	CONTINUE	
Not registered to vote.....	-	TERMINATE	
Not sure about registration status	-		

[109]

S3. How would you describe your overall point of view in terms of the political parties?

Mostly Democratic.....	23	
Leaning Democratic.....	20	[117]
Completely independent	20	
Leaning Republican.....	15	
Mostly Republican	22	
Total Democratic	43	
Total Republican	37	

S4. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?

Employed for pay, full time	56	
Employed for pay, part time	12	[118]
Unemployed but looking for work	3	
Student	1	
Stay-at-home mom or dad.....	4	
Retired.....	23	
Other	1	

S5. For statistical purposes only, please indicate how old you are.

18-24.....	5	
25-29.....	7	[119-120]
30-34.....	9	
35-39.....	8	
40-44.....	9	
45-49.....	8	
50-54.....	7	
55-59.....	10	
60-64.....	11	
65-69.....	13	
70-74.....	7	
75 and over.....	6	

S6. What is the last grade that you completed in school?

Grade school.....	-	
Some high school.....	2	[121-122]
High school graduate	29	
Some college, no degree	18	
Vocational training.....	5	
2-year college degree	7	
4-year college/bachelor's degree	23	
Some postgraduate work, no degree	1	
2 or 3 years' postgraduate work/master's degree.....	10	
PhD or professional degree (MD, JD, MBA)	5	

S7ab. Are you from a Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish-speaking background? **(IF RESPONDENT DOES NOT SAY "YES," ASK:)** And again, for statistical purposes only, please indicate your race.

White	73	[123-124]
Black/African American	11	
Hispanic.....	10	
Asian	5	
Other	1	
Prefer not to say	-	

S8. For whom did you vote in the November 2016 election for president?

Donald Trump (Republican)	42	[125]
Hillary Clinton (Democrat)	43	
Gary Johnson (Libertarian).....	4	
Jill Stein (Green Party)	2	
Did not vote in this election.....	9	

1. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Donald Trump is doing as president?

Approve--strongly	21	[126]
Approve--somewhat	22	
Disapprove--somewhat	14	
Disapprove--strongly	43	
Total Approve	43	
Total Disapprove	57	

Now we have some questions on federal tax issues...

2. From what you know about it now, do you support or oppose the tax reform plan passed by Congress and signed into law by President Trump in 2017?

Strongly support	17	[127]
Somewhat support	25	
Somewhat oppose	19	
Strongly oppose	27	
No opinion	12	
Total Support	42	
Total Oppose	46	

3. Please indicate which of these candidates you would be more likely to support.

Candidate A, who opposes any increase in taxes, OR Candidate B, who favors raising taxes on the wealthy and corporations.

Candidate A--much more likely	18	[128]
Candidate A--somewhat more likely .	17	
Candidate B--somewhat more likely .	29	
Candidate B--much more likely	36	
Total Candidate A	35	
Total Candidate B	65	

4. Below are descriptions of different groups of people and institutions, and for each one please indicate whether you feel this group should be paying more in taxes than it does today, should be paying less in taxes than it does today, or is paying about the right amount today.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY SHOULD PAY A LOT OR SOMEWHAT MORE IN TAXES

	<u>Total Pay More</u>	<u>Total Pay Less</u>	<u>A Lot More</u>	<u>Some-what More</u>	<u>Paying The Right Amount</u>	<u>Some-what Less</u>	<u>A Lot Less</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	
The richest 1%									[141]
October 2019 **	86	2	61	25	12	2	-	NA	
The richest 5%									[136]
October 2019 *	84	3	59	25	13	2	1	NA	
Wealthy people									[137]
October 2019 **	82	1	39	43	17	1	-	NA	
Millionaires									[129]
October 2019.....	81	3	47	34	16	2	1	NA	
Wealthy investors									[138]
October 2019 **	81	3	45	36	16	2	1	NA	
People with incomes over \$1,000,000									[132]
October 2019 *	80	3	45	35	17	2	1	NA	
April 2012 ¹	69	4	41	28	17	2	2	10	
Corporations									[131]
October 2019.....	79	4	42	37	17	3	1	NA	
People with incomes over \$500,000									[139]
October 2019 **	73	3	28	45	24	3	-	NA	
People with incomes over \$250,000									[134]
October 2019 *	52	7	15	37	41	6	1	NA	
April 2012 ²	50	7	12	38	33	5	2	10	
Investors									[133]
October 2019 *	49	9	14	35	42	7	2	NA	
Small businesses									[140]
October 2019 **	7	51	1	6	42	36	15	NA	
April 2012	7	45	1	6	40	32	13	8	
The middle class									[130]
October 2019.....	5	59	2	3	36	42	17	NA	
April 2012	7	34	1	6	55	24	10	4	
Senior citizens									[135]
October 2019 *	3	84	1	2	13	30	54	NA	
April 2012	2	60	-	2	30	27	33	8	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS A/C).

¹In April 2012 the item was phrased, "Families with incomes over one million dollars."

²In April 2012 the item was phrased, "Families with incomes over two hundred fifty thousand dollars."

5. Here are some goals that Congress might try to achieve regarding the federal tax system. Please rate how important each one of these goals is to you, using a scale from 0 to 10, on which a 0 means it is not important and a 10 means it should be an extremely important goal for tax reform. You may use any number from 0 to 10, depending on how strongly you feel.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY EXTREMELY IMPORTANT (RATING "9-10")

	Total 8-10	Extremely Important		Not Important		
		9-10	7-8	5-6	0-4	
Make sure the wealthy pay their fair share of taxes						[168-169]
October 2019 **	80	68	20	9	3	
March 2018 ¹	NA	56	24	15	5	
June 2017	71	57	23	12	8	
Close the loophole that allows the wealthy to postpone paying taxes on their investment gains for years or decades						[150-151]
October 2019	74	62	22	9	7	
Make sure the wealthy pay taxes as they profit each year from their investment gains, just as workers pay taxes each year on their wages and salaries						[174-175]
October 2019 **	74	61	23	11	5	
Close tax loopholes that benefit large corporations						[166-167]
October 2019 **	77	61	22	11	6	
Close tax loopholes that benefit the wealthy						[154-155]
October 2019 *	74	61	20	11	8	
Make sure the wealthy pay taxes each year on their investment gains, just as workers pay taxes each year on their wages and salaries						[162-163]
October 2019 *	71	57	24	10	9	
Simplify the tax system						[142-143]
October 2019	69	51	29	16	4	
June 2017	59	43	28	23	6	
Make sure corporations pay more in taxes						[170-171]
October 2019 **	65	51	26	13	10	
June 2017 ²	53	40	23	21	16	
Make sure the wealthy pay more in taxes						[156-157]
October 2019 *	63	49	24	16	11	
June 2017	56	46	18	18	18	
Reduce taxes on the middle class						[158-159]
October 2019 *	62	47	28	18	7	
March 2018 ¹	NA	47	33	17	3	
June 2017	63	50	25	20	5	
Increase tax revenue to strengthen funding for Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare						[164-165]
October 2019 **	56	38	32	18	12	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS A/B).

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS C/D).

¹In March 2018 the question was phrased, "Here are some priorities that Congress might try to achieve. Please rate how high a priority you think each one should be, using a scale from 0 to 10, on which lower numbers closer to 0 mean a lower priority and higher numbers closer to 10 mean a higher priority. You may use any number from 0 to 10, depending on how strongly you feel. "

²In June 2017 the item was phrased, "Make sure big corporations pay more in taxes."

Q.5 (cont'd)

	Total 8-10	Extremely Important		Not Important		
		9-10	7-8	5-6	0-4	
Reduce taxes on small business						[146-147]
October 2019.....	47	32	30	25	13	
Increase tax revenue to fund priorities such as education, infrastructure, and healthcare						[152-153]
October 2019 *	47	32	30	24	14	
Make sure income from investments is taxed at a rate as high as income from work						[172-173]
October 2019 **	48	31	29	21	19	
Make sure income from investments is taxed at a rate as high as income from wages and salaries						[160-161]
October 2019 *	44	31	26	24	19	
Reduce tax rates for individuals across the board						[144-145]
October 2019.....	34	22	24	29	25	
June 2017.....	47	32	28	27	13	
Increase tax revenue to reduce the national debt						[148-149]
October 2019.....	31	17	27	29	27	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS A/B).
** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS C/D).

6. In general, do you think the tax rate on investment income that people receive from stocks and other investments should be higher, the same, or lower than the tax rate on income that people receive from wages and salaries?

Tax rate on investment income should be higher.....	29	[176]
Tax rate on investment income should be the same.....	54	
Tax rate on investment income should be lower.....	17	

7. The following are some positions on tax issues that a candidate for Congress might take. For each one, please indicate whether this position would make you more likely or less likely to vote for the candidate.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY MUCH OR SOMEWHAT MORE LIKELY TO VOTE FOR CANDIDATE

	Total More Likely	Total Less Likely	<u>Much More Likely</u>	<u>Some- what More Likely</u>	<u>No Effect On Vote Either Way</u>	<u>Some- what Less Likely</u>	<u>Much Less Likely</u>	
Apply a 2% tax on an individual's wealth above \$50 million, and 3% on wealth above \$1 billion *	75	12	51	24	13	4	8	[179]
(SURTAX) Raise the tax rate by five percentage points on income over \$1 million per year *	70	14	40	30	16	7	7	[178]
(SURTAX) Raise the tax rate by five percentage points on income over \$2 million per year ++	69	16	37	32	15	9	7	[218]
Repeal the rules that allow American corporations to pay lower taxes on their offshore profits than they pay on profits earned in the United States ++	67	15	44	23	18	7	8	[220]
(CAPITAL GAINS AT DEATH) Close the loophole that allows wealthy families to avoid paying income taxes on capital gains when they inherit assets ++	67	19	40	27	14	12	7	[225]
(SURTAX) Raise the tax rate by 10 percentage points on income over \$2 million per year +	67	16	38	29	17	7	9	[216]
(SURTAX) Place a 10% surtax on income over \$2 million per year **	67	16	36	31	17	8	8	[214]
Increase the estate tax for estates worth over \$3.5 million for an individual or over \$7 million for a married couple *	64	16	36	28	20	8	8	[208]
(SURTAX) Raise the tax rate by 10 percentage points on income over \$1 million per year **	64	18	35	29	18	10	8	[215]
(SURTAX) Place a 10% surtax on income over \$1 million per year +	63	19	30	33	18	10	9	[217]
Raise the corporate tax rate to 28% from the current 21% rate *	62	17	32	30	21	8	9	[209]
Restore the corporate tax rate to 35%, from the current 21% rate ++	58	25	32	26	17	13	12	[222]
Raise the top income tax rate to 70% on income above \$10 million per year ++	55	27	33	22	18	13	14	[219]
Repeal the loophole that taxes stock dividends and capital gains at lower rates than workers pay on their wages and salaries *	55	21	30	25	24	12	9	[213]
Raise the top tax rate on income from dividends and capital gains, so it is equal to the top tax rate on wages and salaries ++	55	21	26	29	24	11	10	[226]

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS A/C).
 ** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS A/D).
 + Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS B/C).
 ++ Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS B/D).

Q.7 (cont'd)

	Total More Likely	Total Less Likely	<u>Much More Likely</u>	<u>Some- what More Likely</u>	<u>No Effect On Vote Either Way</u>	<u>Some- what Less Likely</u>	<u>Much Less Likely</u>	
Increase the estate tax to 45% for estates worth over \$3.5 million for an individual or over \$7 million for a married couple ++.....	53	25	26	27	22	11	14	[221]
Repeal the 2017 tax cuts for corporations and the wealthy passed by Republicans and signed by President Trump ++.....	52	26	35	17	22	9	17	[223]
(MARK-TO-MARKET) For people with a net worth above \$5 million, tax any increase in the value of a person's financial assets each year, regardless of whether they sell the asset ++.....	51	25	25	26	24	14	11	[224]
Repeal the 2017 tax law passed by Republicans and signed by President Trump *	43	31	25	18	26	11	20	[210]
(CAPITAL GAINS AT DEATH) Close the loophole that allows families to avoid paying income taxes on capital gains when they inherit assets *	43	28	19	24	29	14	14	[212]
Make permanent the 2017 tax cuts for individuals passed by Congress and signed by President Trump	40	34	19	21	26	14	20	[177]
(MARK-TO-MARKET) Tax any increase in the value of a person's financial assets each year, regardless of whether they sell the asset *.....	23	42	8	15	35	21	21	[211]

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS A/C).
** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS A/D).
+ Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS B/C).
++ Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS B/D).

Now we have some questions about capital gains taxes and other taxes on investment income...

8. As you may know, when an asset like stocks is sold, people pay federal income tax on capital gains, which is the amount that the asset increased in value since it was purchased. From what you know, are income taxes on these kinds of investment gains generally higher than they should be, about right, or lower than they should be?

Higher than they should be.....	20	[227]
About right.....	53	
Lower than they should be	27	

(MARK TO MARKET)

9a. Today, income taxes for capital gains on an asset such as stock that increases in value are owed in the year that an asset is sold. As long as a person continues to own the asset, no taxes are owed. For families with a net worth of more than \$5 million, would you favor or oppose changing the law so that capital gains are taxed each year when assets increase in value, whether or not the asset is sold? *

Strongly favor	20	[228]
Somewhat favor	42	
Somewhat oppose.....	24	
Strongly oppose	14	
Total Favor	62	
Total Oppose	38	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS A/B).

(MARK TO MARKET)

9b. Today, income taxes for capital gains on an asset such as stock that increases in value are owed in the year that an asset is sold. As long as a person continues to own the asset, no taxes are owed. Would you favor or oppose changing the law so that capital gains are taxed each year when assets increase in value, whether or not the asset is sold? **

Strongly favor	14	[229]
Somewhat favor	34	
Somewhat oppose.....	30	
Strongly oppose	22	
Total Favor	48	
Total Oppose	52	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS C/D).

(MARK TO MARKET)

10. You will now see a pair of short statements about this proposal to tax capital gains on all assets each year, and please indicate which statement you agree with more. **

Supporters say: The loophole allowing the rich to delay or avoid paying taxes on income from stock portfolios and other pricey assets should be closed. Every year, teachers, factory workers, and other average Americans pay income taxes on their wages and salaries without delay. The wealthy should also pay as they profit every year. It's time to end this rigged arrangement that favors wealth over wages.

OR Opponents say: Taxing someone's investments every year, even when they do not sell their assets, is a radical change from the way our tax system works now. It will prevent job creators from starting businesses and stifle risk taking, which means a lot fewer jobs will be created. It will also force families to sell off family-owned property and businesses to pay taxes on assets they didn't want to sell.

Supporters much more	26	[230]
Supporters somewhat more	33	
Opponents somewhat more	25	
Opponents much more	16	
Total Supporters	59	
Total Opponents	41	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS B/D).

(CAPITAL GAINS AT DEATH)

11a. As you may know, when an asset like stock, real estate, or a business is sold, people pay income taxes on the capital gains, which is the amount that the asset increased in value since it was purchased. However, if a person dies before selling an asset, the asset is passed on to their heirs with no capital gains taxes owed. Would you favor or oppose changing the law so that taxes on capital gains must be paid before the asset is passed on to heirs? *

Strongly favor	19	[231]
Somewhat favor	36	
Somewhat oppose.....	26	
Strongly oppose	19	
Total Favor	55	
Total Oppose	45	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS A/D).

(CAPITAL GAINS AT DEATH)

11b. As you may know, when an asset like stock, real estate, or a business is sold, people pay income taxes on the capital gains, which is the amount that the asset increased in value since it was purchased. However, if a person dies before selling an asset, the asset is passed on to their heirs with no capital gains taxes owed. Would you favor or oppose changing the law so that taxes on capital gains of \$200,000 or more must be paid before the asset is passed on to heirs? **

Strongly favor	18	[232]
Somewhat favor	36	
Somewhat oppose.....	27	
Strongly oppose	19	
<hr/>		
Total Favor	54	
Total Oppose	46	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS B/C).

Now turning to some related tax issues...

13. We would like to get your reaction to a tax proposal by Democrats. The proposal would apply a new 10% surtax to incomes above \$2 million for married couples or above \$1 million for individuals, including capital gains income. This would mean increasing their top tax rate by 10 percentage points. Do you support or oppose this tax proposal?

Strongly support	36	[234]
Somewhat support	37	
Somewhat oppose	15	
Strongly oppose	12	
<hr/>		
Total Support	73	
Total Oppose	27	

14. If a candidate for Congress supported this proposed 10% surtax on incomes over \$2 million, would you be more likely or less likely to vote for the candidate?

Much more likely to vote for.....	29	[235]
Somewhat more likely to vote for	31	
No effect on vote either way	20	
Somewhat less likely to vote for	9	
Much less likely to vote for	11	
<hr/>		
Total More Likely To Vote For	60	
Total Less Likely To Vote For	20	

15. Following are some additional facts about this Democratic surtax plan. For each one, please indicate whether this specific fact makes you feel more favorable or less favorable about the tax plan.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY MUCH OR SOMEWHAT MORE FAVORABLE ABOUT TAX PLAN

	Total More Fav	Total Less Fav	Much More Fav	Some- what More Fav	No Effect Either Way	Some- what Less Fav	Much Less Fav	
The surtax will increase federal revenue by more than \$600 billion over 10 years	64	15	33	31	21	7	8	[236]
It does not increase taxes for 99.8% of taxpayers **	64	14	37	27	22	6	8	[241]
The surtax applies to all income above \$2 million, including income from capital gains and other investments	63	20	31	32	17	10	10	[237]
It raises taxes only on a small fraction of the richest 1% of taxpayers *	50	30	24	26	20	15	15	[239]
The surtax raises the top tax rate on capital gains and other investment income from 24% to 34% **	50	29	23	27	21	17	12	[240]
The surtax raises the top tax rate on wage and salary income from 37% to 47% *	48	31	22	26	21	17	14	[238]

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS A/B).
** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS C/D).

Q.16a AND Q.16b ARE ROTATED.

16a. Which of these, if any, do you think is the best reason to consider supporting the Democratic surtax plan?

It will increase revenue to help fund national priorities	26	[242]
It will make the tax system more fair	29	
It will reduce income inequality	20	
None of these.....	25	

16b. Which one of these, if any, is your biggest concern about the Democratic surtax plan?

Raising taxes will hurt the economy and destroy jobs.....	29	[243]
It makes the tax code more complicated and adds another tax bracket	16	
It raises the top tax rate to about 50%, which is just too high.	23	
None of these are concerns	32	

Q.17a/17b and Q.18a/18b ARE ROTATED.

17a. Please read the following statements made by people who oppose this Democratic tax proposal. For each one, please indicate how strong a reason you feel it is to oppose the proposal.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY VERY OR FAIRLY STRONG REASON

	Total Strong Reason	<u>Very Strong Reason</u>	<u>Fairly Strong Reason</u>	<u>Just A Somewhat Strong Reason</u>	<u>Not A Strong Reason</u>	
Raising investment taxes will hurt many seniors who have saved for many years and now own a home, stocks, or a family business and have 401(k) retirement accounts.	66	37	29	20	14	[250]
This will increase taxes on America's small businesses by tens of billions of dollars, which will weaken our communities, discourage innovation, and undermine job creation.	65	33	32	21	14	[248]
Raising the top tax rate to about 50% just goes too far--no one should have to give half their income to the federal government.	61	35	26	19	20	[245]
This plan will increase federal government spending by hundreds of billions of dollars. It's better to allow Americans to keep their money than give it to politicians and bureaucrats in Washington.	56	32	24	21	23	[249]
Raising tax rates on investment income will hurt job creators and stifle risk-taking, which means a lot fewer new businesses and jobs will be created.	54	24	30	27	19	[244]
This will just increase the double taxation of investment income. Investment income is already taxed once through corporate taxes, and it is unfair to tax it a second time.	50	24	26	28	22	[247]
Raising capital gains tax rates will ensure that investors will hold onto their investments even when they are performing poorly, which will hurt job creation and innovation.	47	19	28	29	24	[251]
Adding another tax bracket and new tax rates will make the tax code even more complicated.	44	20	24	23	33	[246]

17b. Here is that list of statements again. This time, please select the THREE that you think are the strongest reasons to oppose the tax proposal.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF THE TOP THREE STRONGEST REASONS

	<u>Strongest Reason</u>	<u>Combined Top Two Strongest Reasons</u>	<u>Combined Top Three Strongest Reasons</u>	
Raising investment taxes will hurt many seniors who have saved for many years and now own a home, stocks, or a family business and have 401(k) retirement accounts.	28	46	63	[252/ 323-324]
This will increase taxes on America's small businesses by tens of billions of dollars, which will weaken our communities, discourage innovation, and undermine job creation.	15	35	51	>
Raising the top tax rate to about 50% just goes too far--no one should have to give half their income to the federal government.	14	27	41	
This plan will increase federal government spending by hundreds of billions of dollars. It's better to allow Americans to keep their money than give it to politicians and bureaucrats in Washington.	14	27	39	
Raising tax rates on investment income will hurt job creators and stifle risk-taking, which means a lot fewer new businesses and jobs will be created.	10	20	33	
This will just increase the double taxation of investment income. Investment income is already taxed once through corporate taxes, and it is unfair to tax it a second time.	6	17	26	
Adding another tax bracket and new tax rates will make the tax code even more complicated.	7	14	24	
Raising capital gains tax rates will ensure that investors will hold onto their investments even when they are performing poorly, which will hurt job creation and innovation.	6	14	24	

18a. Please read the following statements made by people who support this Democratic tax proposal. For each one, please indicate how strong a reason you feel it is to support the proposal.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY VERY OR FAIRLY STRONG REASON TO SUPPORT

	Total Strong Reason	Very Strong Reason	Fairly Strong Reason	Just A Somewhat Strong Reason	Not A Strong Reason	
The surtax raises more than \$600 billion in revenue, which will help reduce the budget deficit and protect Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.	72	48	24	15	13	[253]
The surtax applies to income from wealth and income from wages. All forms of income above \$2 million would be taxed, including sky-high CEO salaries and dividends from Wall Street investments.	71	42	29	16	13	[257]
The surtax will help make the wealthy pay their fair share of taxes. It's time the rich stopped gaming the system, while the rest of us pick up the tab.	70	45	25	15	15	[258]
The millionaires who will pay the surtax have an income of at least \$2 million, and they got huge tax breaks in the 2017 tax law. It's time to stop giving the rich handouts, and ask them to pay their fair share.	69	46	23	15	16	[254]
The surtax will improve the lives of working families, by increasing funding for key priorities like education, food assistance, affordable housing, opioid treatments, and affordable college.	68	40	28	16	16	[260]
The surtax will strengthen our economy and create jobs by funding essential investments in healthcare, education, improved infrastructure, and clean energy. ...	68	39	29	17	15	[259]
The surtax is paid only by a small fraction of the richest 1%, which has more wealth than the bottom 80% of Americans. And it will fund investments that benefit everyday Americans, like education, infrastructure, and healthcare.	67	41	26	19	14	[256]
The surtax is easy to implement and enforce, because it is simply added onto existing tax rates. It does not require a major tax overhaul of the existing tax system or the creation of a new system.	63	31	32	21	16	[255]

18b. Here is that list of statements again. This time select the THREE that you think are the most convincing reasons to support the Democratic tax proposal.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF THE TOP THREE CONVINCING REASONS

	<u>Top Convincing Reason</u>	<u>Combined Top Two Convincing Reasons</u>	<u>Combined Top Three Convincing Reasons</u>	
The surtax raises more than \$600 billion in revenue, which will help reduce the budget deficit and protect Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.	21	39	53	[261/ 325-326]
The surtax is paid only by a small fraction of the richest 1%, which has more wealth than the bottom 80% of Americans. And it will fund investments that benefit everyday Americans, like education, infrastructure, and healthcare.	14	29	43	>
The surtax will improve the lives of working families, by increasing funding for key priorities like education, food assistance, affordable housing, opioid treatments, and affordable college.	12	25	41	
The millionaires who will pay the surtax have an income of at least \$2 million, and they got huge tax breaks in the 2017 tax law. It's time to stop giving the rich handouts, and ask them to pay their fair share. .	13	27	39	
The surtax will strengthen our economy and create jobs by funding essential investments in healthcare, education, improved infrastructure, and clean energy.	10	22	37	
The surtax will help make the wealthy pay their fair share of taxes. It's time the rich stopped gaming the system, while the rest of us pick up the tab.	13	24	35	
The surtax applies to income from wealth and income from wages. All forms of income above \$2 million would be taxed, including sky-high CEO salaries and dividends from Wall Street investments.	9	17	30	
The surtax is easy to implement and enforce, because it is simply added onto existing tax rates. It does not require a major tax overhaul of the existing tax system or the creation of a new system. ...	8	16	23	

19. You will now see some pairs of short statements about this tax plan made by Democrats and Republicans. For each pair, please indicate which statement you feel is more convincing on that particular issue.

Democratic Statement:	Democratic Statement: More Convincing			Republican Statement More Convincing			Republican Statement:
	Total Dem	Much More	Some- what More	Some- what More	Much More	Total Rep	
The surtax will strengthen our economy by funding essential investments in healthcare, education, housing, clean energy, and infrastructure *.....	62	30	32	19	19	38	Raising taxes will weaken our economy by punishing job creators who invest and increasing government spending by hundreds of billions of dollars * [333/334]
The surtax will help create an economy that works for all Americans by making the rich pay their fair share and not have the rest of us pick up their tab **.	60	32	28	21	19	40	Raising taxes will weaken our economy by punishing job creators who invest and increasing government spending by hundreds of billions of dollars ** [337/338]
The surtax helps make the wealthy pay their fair share, and only raises taxes on the richest Americans who make over \$2 million *.....	54	32	22	23	23	46	Raising the top tax rate to about 50% goes too far--no one should have to give half their income to the federal government * [335/336]
The surtax only raises taxes on the very rich, and it will help reduce the budget deficit and protect Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid **.....	58	29	29	17	25	42	Raising the top tax rate to about 50% goes too far--no one should have to give half their income to the federal government ** [339/340]

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS A/D).
** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS B/C).

20. Below are some ways that revenue from this surtax proposal could be used. Please indicate which FOUR, if any, you feel should be the highest priorities for receiving funding.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE

Protect Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid from cuts.....	70	
Make health insurance more affordable for people who need to purchase private health insurance	55	[266-267/ 327-331]
Rebuild infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, water systems, mass transit, high-speed Internet	51	>
Reduce the federal debt.....	45	
Invest in clean renewable energy sources like wind and solar	34	
Make affordable housing available to more working families	33	
Expand working-family tax credits like the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit	26	
Expand financial aid to make college more affordable and provide relief from student debt	23	
Make affordable childcare available to more working families.....	20	
Allow more needy families to qualify for food stamps and other nutrition assistance	19	
Increase funding for Head Start and other early childhood education programs	14	
None of these is a priority.....	3	

Now that you have read a lot about the surtax proposal, we have a few final questions on that issue...

21. We would like to get your reaction to a tax proposal by Democrats. The proposal would apply a new 10% surtax to incomes above \$2 million for married couples or above \$1 million for individuals, including capital gains income. This would mean increasing their top tax rate by 10 percentage points. Do you support or oppose this tax proposal?

	<u>Q.21</u>	<i>Initial Reaction (Q.13)</i>	
Strongly support	34	36	[268]
Somewhat support	38	37	
Somewhat oppose	13	15	
Strongly oppose	15	12	
Total Support	72	73	
Total Oppose	28	27	

22. If a candidate for Congress supported this proposed 10% surtax on incomes over \$2 million, would you be more likely or less likely to vote for the candidate?

	<u>Q.22</u>	<i>Initial Vote (Q.14)</i>	
Much more likely to vote for	29	29	[269]
Somewhat more likely to vote for.....	31	31	
No effect on vote either way	19	20	
Somewhat less likely to vote for.....	8	9	
Much less likely to vote for.....	13	11	
Total More Likely	60	60	
Total Less Likely	21	20	

FACTUALS: These last few questions are for statistical purposes only.

F1. Thinking about your general approach to issues, do you consider yourself to be conservative, moderate, or liberal?

Very conservative	15	[280]
Somewhat conservative	22	
Moderate	34	
Somewhat liberal	18	
Very liberal	11	
Total Conservative	37	
Total Liberal	29	

F2. How would you describe the area in which you live?

Urban.....	25	[308]
Suburban.....	51	
Small town.....	7	
Rural.....	17	

F3. Are you currently single and never married, married, separated, widowed, or divorced?

Single	24	[309]
Married	56	
Separated.....	2	
Widowed.....	6	
Divorced	12	

F4. How active would you say you are in politics?

Very active	14	[310]
Fairly active	33	
Just somewhat active	29	
Not too active	24	

F6. Thinking about all the different elections in which you have been eligible to vote over the past several years--local, state, and national--how many of these elections would you say you voted in?

Voted in nearly all of these elections.....	63	[311]
Voted in most of these elections	21	
Voted in about half of these elections	8	
Voted in fewer than half of these elections	4	
Voted in hardly any of these elections	4	

F7. Are you a member of a labor union or is anyone else in your household a member of a labor union?

Yes, I am a union member.....	8	[312]
I am not a union member, but another person in my household is a union member.....	9	
No one in my household is a union member.....	83	
Total Union Household	17	

F8. If you added together the yearly income of all the members of your family who were living at home last year, what would the total be?

Less than \$10,000	2	[313]
Between \$10,000 and \$19,999.....	5	
Between \$20,000 and \$29,999.....	10	
Between \$30,000 and \$39,999.....	10	
Between \$40,000 and \$49,999.....	8	
Between \$50,000 and \$74,999.....	21	
Between \$75,000 and \$99,999.....	12	
Between \$100,000 and \$149,999.....	20	
\$150,000 or more	12	