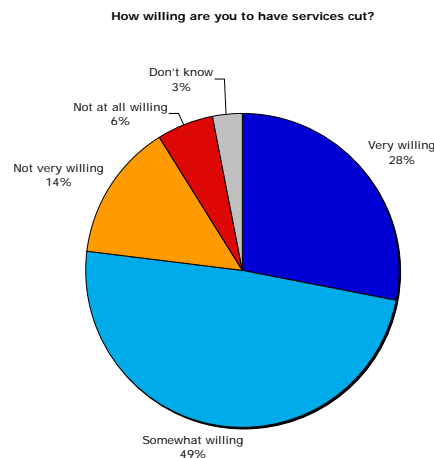


Introduction

The Center for Public Policy & Administration at The University of Utah is pleased to present the 2009 State of the State Survey. The survey measures the public's attitudes and opinions about many of the issues facing the state this year. More than 1,000 Utahns were surveyed by phone about a wide range of topics, with a focus on budgetary concerns. Specific questions about cutting services, increasing taxes, and using the rainy day fund were included. The survey also delves into specific policy issues, including transportation, health care, and education.

Budget

This year the state budget will be heavily impacted by the economic conditions. The survey asked about willingness to cut state services, to increase taxes, and to use the rainy day fund. Utahns appear to be willing to have services cut: 28% are very willing to have services cut; 49% are somewhat willing; 14% are not very willing; just 6% are not at all willing to have services cut.



Following up on this question, respondents were asked about cutting services in numerous program areas. On a scale of 1-5 (1 being not at all willing, 5 being very willing), we asked how willing are you have cuts in the following areas: transportation, higher education, public education, health care, human services, public safety, corrections, energy/natural resources, and parks and recreation?

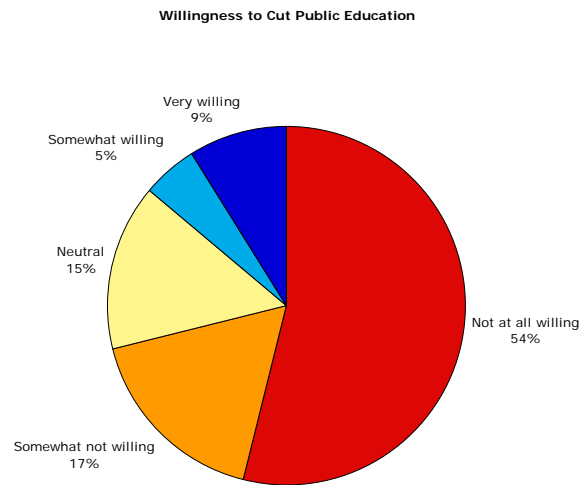
The results indicate the public’s willingness to cut services in these nine areas (see Table 1). The comparison below shows the unwillingness of the public to cut the public education budget (mean score of 1.97).

Table 1: Public’s Willingness to Cut Services

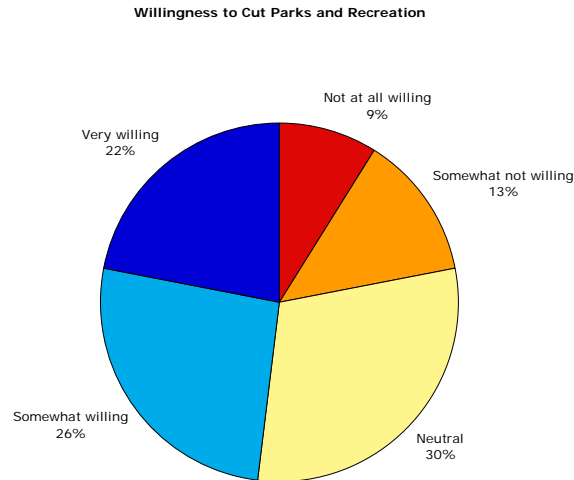
Service Area	Mean Score Comparison (scale 1-5)
Public Education	1.97
Health care	2.33
Public safety	2.46
Higher education	2.52
Corrections	2.64
Human services	2.78
Energy/Natural Resources	2.81
Transportation	2.99
Parks and Recreation	3.39

Note: the figures represent a mean (average) score on a scale of 1-5. 1 indicates not at all willing; 5 indicates very willing

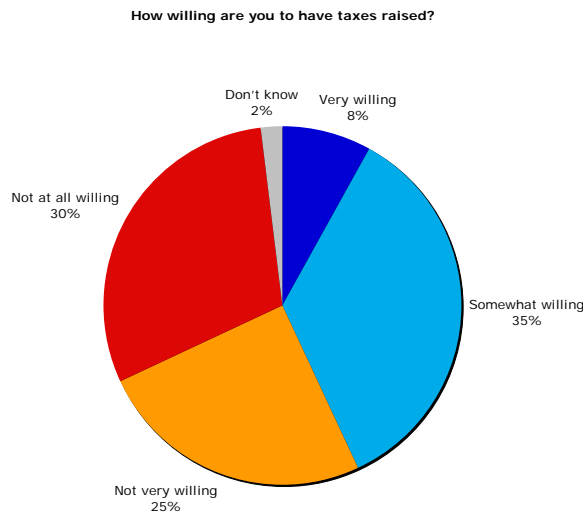
Utahns are very opposed (or unwilling) to have services cut in public education. Indeed, 54% are not at all willing to have public education cut; only 9% are very willing to have cuts in public education.



Parks and recreation is the area that Utahns are most willing to have cuts. Our results show that 22% of Utahns are very willing to have cuts in parks and recreation, 26% are somewhat willing, 30% are neutral, 13% are not very willing, and 9% are not at all willing to have cuts in parks and recreation.



With the difficult economic situation facing the state this year, it is important to gauge the willingness of Utahns to have their taxes increased. We asked: How willing are you to have your taxes increased? Only 8% of Utahns are very willing to have taxes raised, 35% are somewhat willing, 25% are not very willing, and 30% are not at all willing.



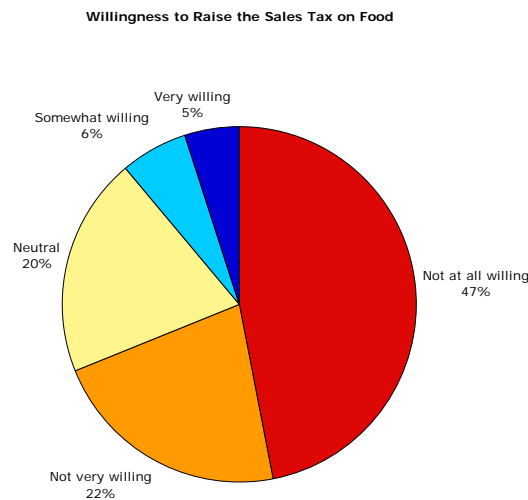
The survey results indicate a difference in willingness to have an increase in certain taxes: gas tax, cigarette tax, sales tax on food, income tax, property tax, user fees, and toll roads. Respondents were asked to rank their willingness using a scale of 1-5, 1 indicates not at all willing; 5 indicates very willing.

Table 2: Public's Willingness to Raise Taxes

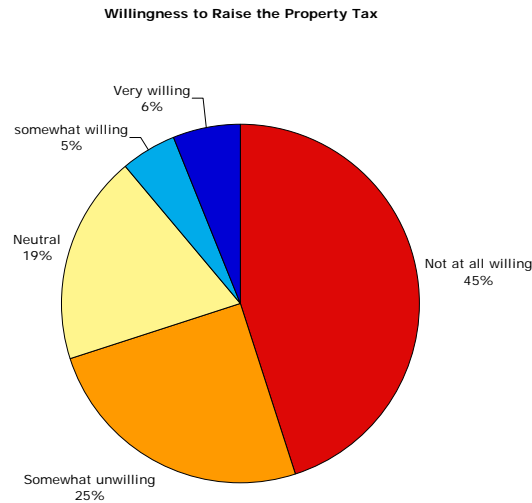
Tax	Mean Score Comparison (scale 1-5)
Sales tax on food	2.00
Property tax	2.02
Income tax	2.16
Gas tax	2.39
Toll roads	3.06
User fees	3.36
Cigarette taxes	4.19

Note: the figures represent a mean (average) score on a scale of 1-5. 1 indicates not at all willing; 5 indicates very willing

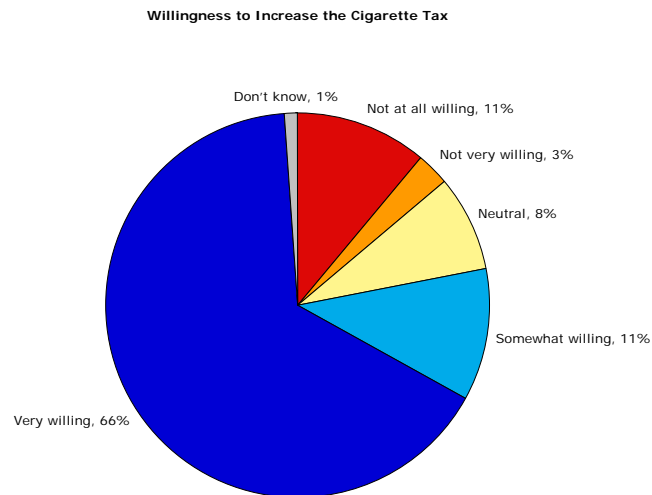
Of all the taxes we asked about in the survey, Utahns are most unwilling to increase the tax on food. Forty-seven percent of Utahns in this survey are not at all willing to have this tax raised, 22% are somewhat not willing, 20% are neutral, 6% are somewhat willing, and only 5% are very willing to raise the sales tax on food.



Utahns are also very unwilling to increase the property tax. Forty-five percent of those sampled are not at all willing to increase the property tax, 25% are somewhat unwilling, 19% are neutral, just 5% are somewhat willing, and only 6% are very willing to increase the property tax.

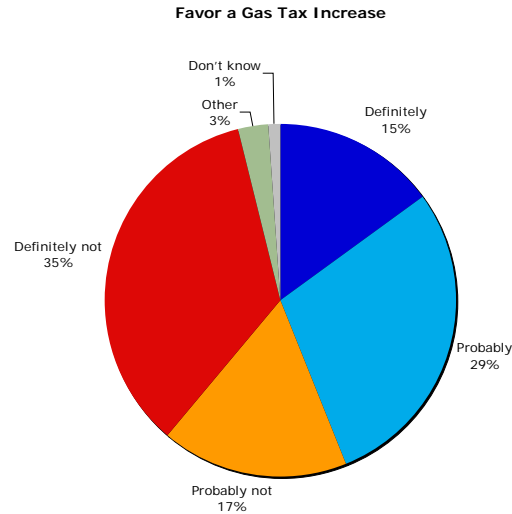


Of these taxes, Utahns are most willing to have the cigarette tax raised: 77% are somewhat or very willing to have the cigarette tax raised, 8% are neutral, and just 14% are not very willing or not at all willing to have the cigarette tax raised, 1% responded that they do not know.

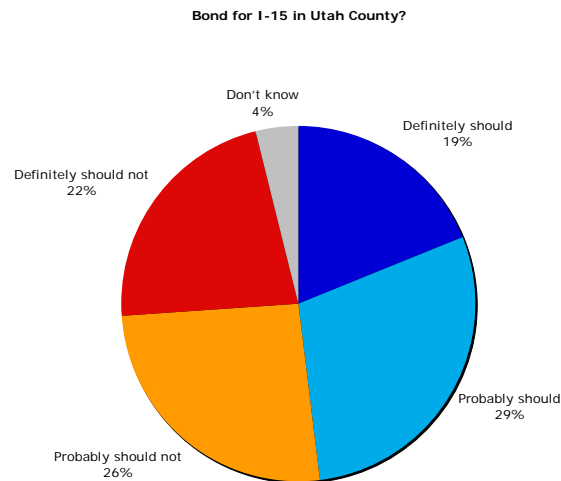


Transportation

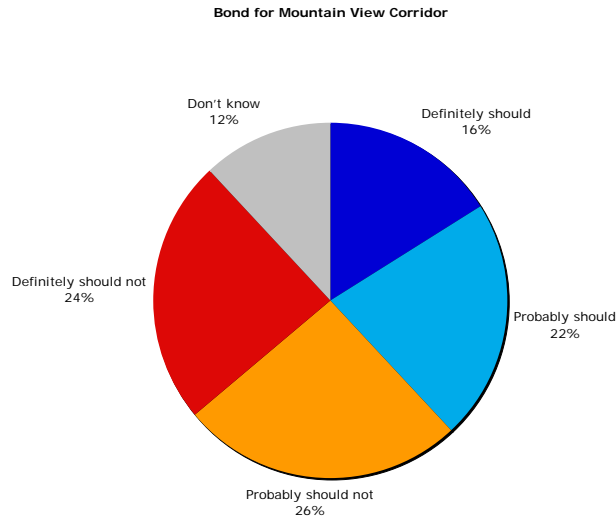
The survey gauged the public's willingness to increase the state gas tax which is currently 24.5 cents per gallon. Fifteen percent said they would definitely favor an increase in the gasoline tax, 29% said they probably would favor, 17% said they probably would not favor, and 35% said they definitely would not favor an increase in the gas tax (4% responded "other" or "don't know").



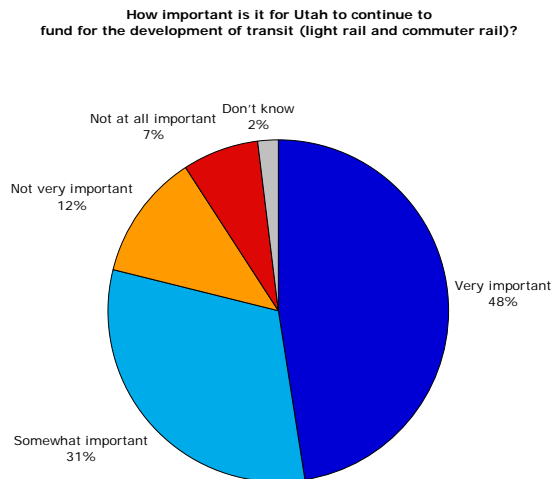
Utahns, based upon the survey, appear to be split on whether the state should bond for reconstruction of I-15 in Utah County. Forty-eight percent of those surveyed said the state should bond for monies to reconstruct I-15 through Utah County, and forty-eight percent said the state should not. Four percent answered "don't know" to this question.



Half of those surveyed also expressed opposition to bonding for the Mountain View Corridor along the west side of Salt Lake County. Twenty-four percent said the state definitely should not bond, and 26% said the state probably should not bond for the Mountain View Corridor. Twenty-two percent said the state probably should bond, and 16% said the state should definitely bond; 12% said they didn't know.



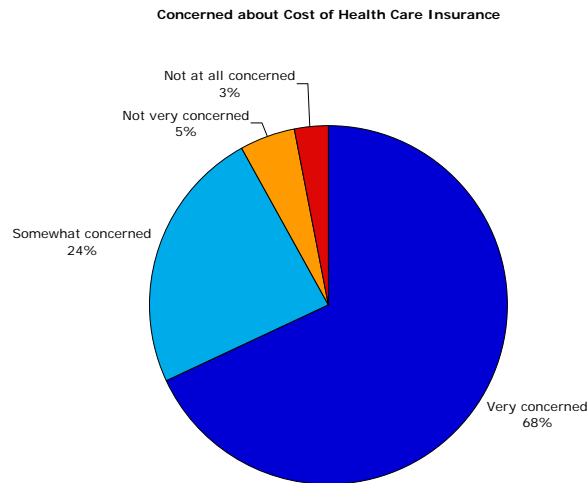
Within the past ten years, Utah has developed a light rail system through Salt Lake County. Additionally, the Frontrunner commuter train was recently finished and runs from Weber County to Salt Lake. We asked how important is it that Utah continue to fund for development of transit like light rail and commuter rail? Respondents were supportive of continuing these projects. Forty-seven percent said that continuing to fund these transit projects is very important; 31% said it was somewhat important; just 12% said it was not very important; and only 7% said it was not at all important.



Health Care

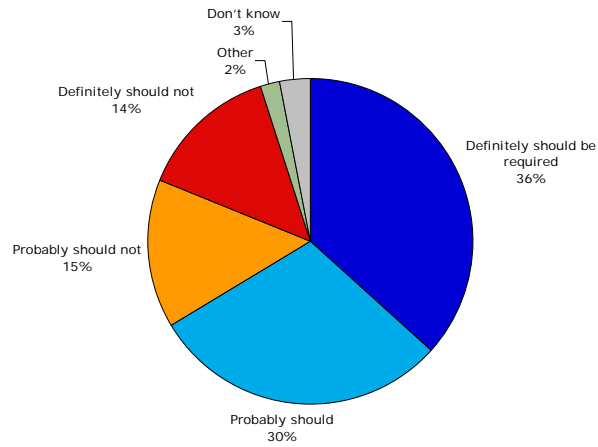
In our sample of 1,002 people, 55% had insurance through their employer, 11% had insurance through a private policy, 20% had Medicaid or Medicare, 8% answered that they did not have insurance, and 6% responded “other.” The 860 who had insurance in our survey were asked a follow up question: “How concerned are you about losing your insurance coverage?” Thirty-one percent were very concerned, 20% were somewhat concerned, 26% were not very concerned, 22% were not at all concerned, and 1% answered “don’t know.”

We asked all respondents several questions about their concern over the cost of health care insurance. Sixty-eight percent were “very concerned” about the costs of insurance, only 3% were not at all concerned (see the graph below). We also asked “If you were in the market for a job or wanted a new job, which would be the highest priority to you – the amount of wage or the insurance benefits? Seventeen percent said “definitely the insurance benefit” would be the highest priority. Twenty-seven percent said “definitely the wage” and 19% said both the wage and the insurance benefit would be of equal concern to them.



Several states have implemented requirements for employers to provide insurance coverage to their employees. We asked Utahns, “In your opinion, should Utah employers with 25 or more employees be required to provide medical insurance to their employees?” Sixty-six percent said that employers definitely should or probably should be required to do so. Twenty-nine percent said probably should not or definitely should not be required. Five percent answered “don’t know” or “other.”

Should employers be required to provide medical insurance?



Conclusion

The Center for Public Policy & Administration's 2009 State of the State Survey provides a clear picture of the priorities of Utahns during this challenging economic period for our state.

Appendix A

Methods

The Center for Public Policy and Administration (CPPA) at the University of Utah commissioned Dan Jones & Associates, Inc., a full-service, independent, public opinion and market research firm located in Salt Lake City, Utah, to conduct and compile an opinion survey of Utah residents.

To meet the research objectives 1,002 individuals were interviewed by telephone from January 29 to February 7, 2009, during evening hours on weekdays and during daytime hours on Saturdays. All interviews were conducted in the Dan Jones & Associates Data Collection Center, where interviewers are supervised and monitored.

Questionnaire

Dan Jones & Associates developed the questionnaire in conjunction with representatives of the CPPA. In-depth interviews of twelve legislators from both the Utah Senate and House of Representatives provided information that helped in the development of a questionnaire for the general public survey. Before any fieldwork began, the survey instrument was thoroughly pretested on individuals selected at random from the sample universe. The pretest is designed to detect discrepancies that might exist in the instrument in terms of clarity, completeness, level of shared language, and appropriateness of questions. The Center for Public Policy & Administration approved all changes made to the questionnaire as a result of the pretest.

Sample

In order to provide data that could be analyzed using four key geographic areas of Utah, Dan Jones & Associates created an over-sample of those areas. Each area is able to stand alone as an independent survey and can also be combined with the others into one statewide data set. This statewide data set is weighted by county to represent the actual population of Utah.

Dan Jones & Associates utilized a random sampling procedure, giving each household in Utah an equal opportunity of being selected for an interview. The margin of error for the statewide survey (1002 interviews) is $\pm 3.1\%$ for total data. The margin of error increases for the responses of subgroups within the data and for each of the geographical survey areas. This study has a 95% confidence level, meaning that no more than one time in twenty should chance variations in the sample cause the results to vary by more than the margin of error ($\pm 3.1\%$) from the answers that would be obtained if all people in the survey universe were polled.

Area	Counties included in Area	Interviews	Error
Total Sample*	All counties – by population	1002	+/- 3.1%
Rural Utah	Box Elder, Cache, Rich, Duchesne, Daggett, Uintah, Carbon, Emery, Grand, San Juan, Garfield, Beaver, Iron, Kane, Juab, Millard, Piute, Wayne, Sanpete, Sevier	202	+/- 6.9%
Washington Co.	Washington County	200	+/- 6.9%
Wasatch Front	Davis, Salt Lake, Weber, Tooele, Morgan	334	+/- 5.4%
Mountainland	Utah Co., Wasatch, Summit	250	+/- 6.2%

* *Weighted*

Fieldwork

Dan Jones & Associates employs professional, experienced interviewers who have worked on numerous surveys to date and have proven to be reliable, thorough, and able to develop excellent rapport with respondents. Interviewers were cautioned to limit their interaction with respondents concerning individual responses to the questionnaire. To assure consistency in reciting the questions and in recording the responses, the project director carefully briefed each interviewer.

Both structured and unstructured questions were used to measure intensity of opinions and to assess the perceptions of respondents. Demographic questions were asked to provide opinions of subgroups.

Data Analysis

The staff of Dan Jones & Associates prepared statistical results. Each question has a response distribution, as well as a series of demographic cross-tabulations, which organize responses by various groupings and allow for detection of differences that may exist between opinions of subgroups.

