

USA TODAY/GALLUP POLL

STATE BUDGET CRISES AND PUBLIC UNION BARAGAINING RIGHTS

Results are based on telephone interviews conducted February 21, 2011, on the Gallup Daily tracking survey, with a random sample of ~1,000—adults, aged 18+, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia, selected using random-digit dial sampling.

For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the margin of error is ± 4 percentage points.

Interviews are conducted with respondents on landline telephones and cellular phones, with interviews conducted in Spanish for respondents who are primarily Spanish-speaking. Each daily sample of 1,000 national adults includes a minimum quota of 200 cell phone respondents and 800 landline respondents, with additional minimum quotas among landline respondents for gender within region. Landline respondents are chosen at random within each household on the basis of which member had the most recent birthday.

Samples are weighted by gender, age, race, Hispanic ethnicity, education, region, adults in the household, cell phone only status, cell phone mostly status and phone lines. Demographic weighting targets are based on the March 2010 Current Population Survey figures for the age 18+ non-institutionalized population living in U.S. telephone households. All reported margins of sampling error include the computed design effects for weighting and sample design.

In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls.

Polls conducted entirely in one day, such as this one, are subject to additional error or bias not found in polls conducted over several days.

1. As you may know, many U.S. state governments are facing large budget deficits this year. Please say whether you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose each of the following ways state officials could reduce their budget deficits. How about – [RANDOM ORDER]?

<i>2011 Feb 21</i> <i>(sorted by "total favor")</i>	Total favor	Total oppose
Reducing or eliminating certain state programs	47	48
Reducing pay or benefits the state provides for government workers	44	53
Increasing state sales, income or other taxes	27	71

FULL RESULTS:

A. Increasing state sales, income or other taxes

	<u>Strongly favor</u>	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Strongly oppose</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2011 Feb 21	4	23	44	27	2

B. Reducing or eliminating certain state programs

	<u>Strongly favor</u>	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Strongly oppose</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2011 Feb 21	15	32	36	12	5

C. Reducing pay or benefits the state provides for government workers

	<u>Strongly favor</u>	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Strongly oppose</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2011 Feb 21	15	29	39	14	3

2. As you may know, one way the legislature in Wisconsin is seeking to reduce its budget deficit is by passing a bill that would take away some of the collective bargaining rights of most public unions, including the state teachers' union. Would you favor or oppose such a bill in your state?

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2011 Feb 21	33	61	6

3. In states in which government workers belong to unions, do you think those unions are generally more helpful or more harmful to those states?

	<u>More helpful</u>	<u>More harmful</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2011 Feb 21	45	46	9

4. Based on what you know or have read, is your state facing a budget crisis this year, is it not facing a budget crisis, or are you unsure?

	<u>Yes, is facing</u>	<u>No, is not</u>	<u>Unsure</u>	<u>No answer</u>
2011 Feb 21	64	5	31	*