



# The Gallup Poll

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## Fear of Higher Taxes Dampens Public Acceptance of Tax Bill

By George Gallup, Jr.

PRINCETON, N.J. — Despite assurances from Washington that the tax reform bill now moving through

as the old, while roughly equal percentages feel it will be less complex (10%) and more complex (17%)

benefit. This, together with the widespread perception that the proposed tax program is no fairer than the old, undoubtedly is the greatest impediment to greater public acceptance of the new plan.

The prevailing opinion (cited by 41%) is that the new tax bill won't have much effect on the nation's economy. Those who disagree lean to the view that it will have a positive (28%) rather than a negative (15%)

decided. Opinion is slightly more favorable, 48% to 35%, among the 6 in 10 who say they have followed the tax reform discussions very (16%) or fairly (43%) closely.

**Political Dimension**  
As expected, Americans' political convictions have a bearing on their assessments of the tax reform bill. Republicans and Republican-leaning Independents, for example, approve of the bill by a 2-to-1 margin while

Three surveys conducted since the broad outlines

identical overall assessments.

By shifting some of the present tax burden from individuals to corporations and by eliminating many preferential deductions, the new tax program is expected to remove some six million working poor from the federal income tax rolls altogether and to lower tax rates for the vast majority of other taxpayers.

and 51% of Republicans think the new system will be no fairer than the old; 70% of Democrats and 65% of

their taxes would increase — either a little (30%) or a

cated as the present one; and 24% of Democrats and 36% of Republicans believe tax reform will have a positive effect on the economy.

foresees lower taxes under the new system.

you say that you approve or disapprove of the tax reform

36% feel it would not be much different and 20% think the new tax code would not be as fair as the present one

### Overall Assessments of Tax Bill

movement — seems to have fallen by the wayside, a fact acknowledged by the public. A 51% majority believes the new tax bill will be about as complicated

Approve	39%	40%	38%
Disapprove	33	34	36
No opinion	28	26	26
	100%	100%	100%

Do you think the new tax bill will make it less complicated for you to pay your taxes, more complicated

or about the same as the current law?

	2007	2012	2007
	100%	100%	100%
<b>Effect on Own Taxes:</b>			
Will go down	18%	17%	22%
Stay the same	30	28	31
Will go up	41	44	37
No opinion	11	11	10
	100%	100%	100%

**Perceived Fairness:**

No opinion	17	17	14
	100%	100%	100%

**Simplification:**

Less complicated	19%	18%	22%
About the same	51	48	55
More complicated	17	22	10
No opinion	13	12	13
	100%	100%	100%

**Effect on U.S. Economy:**

Positive	28%	24%	36%
Neutral	41	43	39
Negative	15	18	11
No opinion	16	15	14
	100%	100%	100%

\*Includes Independents who lean toward each party.

These findings are based on telephone interviews with 978 adults, 18 and older, conducted in

to sampling and other random errors could be 1 percentage points in either direction. The survey also reported that question wording and method difficulties in conducting

*If the new tax bill is passed, do you think the amount of taxes you now pay will go down a lot, go down a little, go up a little, go up a lot, or stay about the same?*

**Expectations Under New Tax Bill**

	September 1986	August 1986	June** 1986	August* 1985	June* 1985
My taxes would:					
Go down	18%	25%	22%	11%	25%
Go up	41	38	34	18	32
No opinion	11	10	14	13	14
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

\*Administration's proposal.

\*\*Senate Finance Committee's proposal.

*Do you think the new tax bill will make for a fairer distribution of the tax load among all taxpayers, one that's less fair, or won't it be much different from the present system?*

**Perceived Fairness**

	September 1986	August 1986	June** 1986	August* 1985	June* 1985
Fairer than old	27%	33%	25%	25%	29%
Not much different	36	30	40	40	34
Not as fair	20	24	17	20	22
No opinion	17	13	18	15	15
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

\*Administration's proposal.

\*\*Senate Finance Committee's proposal.