

2008 SURVEY RESULTS 15th Senatorial District

In late October 2008, a district survey was included in our Legislative Update (newsletter) to our community. As of November 14, 2008 we received 37 responses. See the results below:

How to proceed with working out the budget challenges was addressed first.

Most respondents think that we **should reduce selected government services and reduce the number of state employees**; while another group feels that reforming the tax structure, reducing taxes for middle income levels and raising taxes for higher income levels makes sense.

The overall survey results show the following:

Reduce some government services	24.1%
Reduce cost of government by cutting the number of state workers	19.3%
Reform the tax system, reducing taxes for middle income (and spending) levels raise taxes for higher income (and spending) levels	19.2%
Raise fees for services and increase fines and penalties	15.9%
Reduce all government services by the same percentage	11.0%
Increase taxes	2.4%
Other	9.6%

For those that prioritized which government services **to protect and not reduce, the top three areas were Education K-12 (32%), Health Care (26%), and Human and Social Services (20%)**. This was followed by Higher Education-University System (14%) and Other (8%).

When asked if the **Weighted Student Formula (WSF), a provision of the Reinventing Education Act of 2004 which allows principals and school community councils for authority and control of spending is moving in the right direction, sixty percent (60%) responded yes**. Many had no opinion (24.2%) and 15.2% said it was moving in the wrong direction.

Most felt that moving funding for athletic directors salaries and pregnant teen/parenting programs to the weighted student formula was the wrong direction (44.1%). Also 33.2% said right direction and 23.5% had no opinion.

A vast majority of the respondents felt that limiting campaign signs was a good idea (85.2%). Only 14.7% said no.

Most of the community members obtain the majority of their news from the television and newspapers. A small segment indicated the internet as their major source.