

Capital Survey Research Center

Alabama 08 Legislative Issues (08010)
599 Likely Voters
March 10-12, 17-18, 2008
SME +/-4.0%

1. Overall, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in Alabama at this time?

	Frequency	Percent
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Satisfied	330	55.1%
Dissatisfied	212	35.4%
Don't Know / No Reply / Other	57	9.5%
Total Qualified	599	100.0%

2. Why are you dissatisfied? (open end)

Economy / Jobs / Low Wages	14%
No Change / Nothing getting done	11%
Can't agree / Argue too much	7%
Gas prices	6%
Education	6%
Legislator pay raise	5%
Taxes too high	4%
Wasteful spending of tax dollars	4%
Healthcare for all citizens	3%
Corruption in government	3%
Double dipping / Two year college scandal	3%
Politics	2%
Immigration	2%
Not representing citizens	2%
Crime / Drugs / Violence / Murders	2%
Roads	2%
War	2%
Constitution vote	2%
Wasting time in session	1%
Big business / Big lobby interest	1%
Property taxes	1%
Food cost too high	1%
Children not getting an education	1%
Cater to rich only	1%
Medicaid	1%
Cost of insurance	1%
Responsible leadership	1%
Clean house / Elect all new Legislature	1%
Don't show up to vote	1%
Housing	1%
Honest elected officials	1%
Don't Know / No Reply / Other	7%
Total	303

3. Overall, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in the Alabama Legislature at this time?

	Frequency	Percent
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Satisfied	225	37.6%
Dissatisfied	235	39.2%
Don't Know / No Reply / Other	139	23.2%
Total Qualified	599	100.0%

4. Why are you dissatisfied? (open end)

Can't get anything done / No change	13%
Fighting / Arguing	12%
Legislature only looks out for itself	7%
Economy / Jobs	6%
Wasteful spending of tax dollars	6%
Funding: Education / Schools	4%
Double dipping / Two year college scandal	4%
Corruption in government	3%
Politics / Politicians	3%
Gas prices	3%
Governor Riley	3%
Taxes too high	3%
Need new constitution	2%
Low wages	2%
Not helping the poor	2%
Property taxes	2%
Insurance costs	1%
Way behind the times	1%
No morals / values	1%
Clean house / Elect new Legislature	1%
Crime	1%
Immigration	1%
Not representing citizens / Lost touch	1%
NCLB	1%
New Governor	1%
Water bill too high	1%
Republican corruption	1%
Funding for road repairs	1%
Food cost too high	1%
Don't Know / No Reply / Other	9%
Total	313

I now have some questions about state taxes in Alabama.

Some legislators believe Alabama taxes are unfair because the poorest Alabamians pay a higher percentage of their total income in taxes than do wealthy Alabamians. Other legislators believe the tax structure is fair because it does not penalize those who are successful by making them pay more taxes.

In order for the Legislature to make sound tax policy, it is important that members of the Legislature know how citizens and voters feel about taxes in Alabama.

5. Do you believe Alabama has fair or unfair state taxes?

Fair	169	28.2%
Unfair	374	62.4%
Don't Know / No Reply / Other	56	9.3%
Total Qualified	599	

6. Do you believe the state taxes you pay are:

Fair	302	50.4%
Unfair	259	43.2%
Don't Know / No Reply / Other	38	6.3%
Total Qualified	599	

7. Do you support or oppose what is called a progressive or graduated income tax? That means the higher your income the higher your tax rate is so that all income levels would pay generally the same age of their Total income in taxes. Do you:

Support a graduated income tax	356	59.4%
Oppose a graduated income tax	176	29.4%
Don't Know / No Reply / Other	67	11.2%
Total Qualified	599	

8. Do you support or oppose the state sales taxes on food items or groceries? Do you:

Support	129	21.5%
Oppose	444	74.1%
Don't Know / No Reply / Other	26	4.3%
Total Qualified	599	

2008 Alabama Legislative Issues

9.-25. Please tell me if you want your legislator to Vote For (VF) or Vote Against (VA) each of the following proposals?	VF	VA	DNK
Label origin of foreign food products	83.3%	12.0%	4.7%
Require public disclosure of the original source of all political campaign funds	82.1%	9.7%	8.2%
Property tax appraisal every four years	80.8%	14.2%	5.0%
Environmental impact tax on industries to fund state programs	79.5%	15.2%	5.3%
Fine businesses that hire illegal immigrants	77.6%	16.4%	6.0%
Ban smoking in most public places	73.6%	23.0%	3.3%
Extend bingo to Mobile and Birmingham race tracks and tax it to fund the state Medicaid program	65.6%	29.0%	5.3%
Establish an Alabama Rural Development Commission for economic and recreation development	65.4%	23.4%	11.2%
Voluntary, state funded, public, early childhood education program	64.3%	28.2%	7.5%
Allow vote on whether or not to have a constitutional convention	63.9%	24.4%	11.7%
Non-partisan election of Alabama judges	61.6%	17.2%	21.2%
Increase state taxes on oil, pharmaceutical and other big corporations to fund state programs	54.8%	36.1%	9.2%
Create a separate State Education Board to govern Community and Technical Colleges	49.9%	32.1%	18.0%
Increase taxes on automobile tags to hire troopers	44.4%	50.8%	4.8%
Prohibit public education employees from running for the Legislature	39.7%	49.6%	10.7%
Build and pay for new Alabama roads by making them toll roads	37.7%	53.4%	8.8%
Increase gasoline taxes to fund construction and maintenance of roads and bridges	27.2%	67.6%	5.2%
Change the state tax on gasoline from a set amount per gallon to a percentage of the price of gasoline	28.0%	47.4%	24.5%

Demographics

Regions		Party I. D.		Weighted
North	46.4%	Democrat	35.1%	38.5%
Middle	29.2%	Republican	36.2%	33.9%
South	24.4%	Independent	24.0%	22.8%
		Other	4.7%	4.8%

Church Attendance		Income	
None	12.9%	< \$25,000	19.4%
< Once month	7.2%	\$25-\$50,000	24.5%
Once month	9.8%	\$50-\$75,000	17.9%
Once week	35.7%	\$75-\$100,000	12.5%
> Once week	29.9%	>\$100,000	15.0%
Other	4.5%	Other	10.7%

Gender		Race		Weighted
Male	44.6%	Black A-A	17.7%	24%
Female	55.4%	White	78.1%	74%
		Other	4.2%	2%

Age		Residence	
18-21	0.8%	Rural county	21.2%
22-34	7.8%	Rural community	18.2%
35-45	13.5%	Small city (5-25,000)	24.0%
46-55	19.2%	Medium city (25-100,000)	14.4%
56-65	24.5%	Large city (over 100,000)	18.0%
> 65	33.7%	Other	4.2%

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