



UTAH FOUNDATION

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Taxation was an Important Issue to Voters in the 2024 Utah Priorities Project

Taxation preferences varied by gender, income, and political affiliation. For instance, women prefer to fund education and health care with hypothetical windfall funds. In another question, conservatives and liberals have drastically different views regarding the effectiveness of government.

SALT LAKE CITY (October 3, 2024) – Today, the Utah Foundation announces the release of a research brief focused on taxation. Several survey questions help us understand where Utah voters stand on taxation.

They were first asked how they might allocate funds if the state received an additional \$200 million to address issues such as education, roads, or homelessness. Education and tax cuts topped the list of preferred options, receiving nearly 47% of total responses. Roads, health care, and homelessness were at the bottom of voters’ lists of issues to address.

When asked in 2020 which taxes should be cut, property and income taxes were voters’ top choices

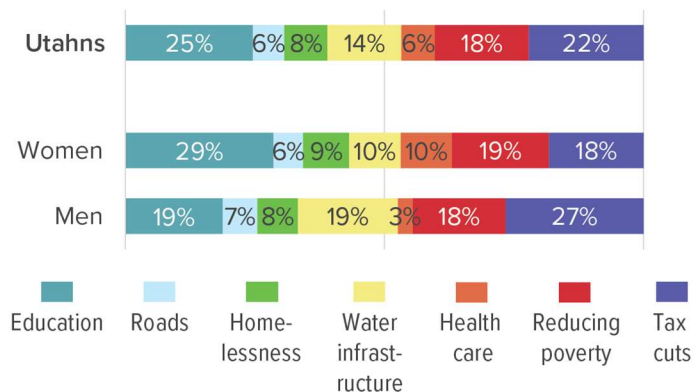
In addition, half of Utahns disagreed that Utah should reduce taxes, even if it results in lower quality service or fewer services from the state. Liberals were more likely to disagree and those who noted taxation at the top of their priorities were more likely to agree. 66% of very liberal respondents strongly disagreed while 33% of very conservative respondents strongly agreed.

These findings are in the *Taxes and Government Services* research brief to be released today.

“The Utah Foundation’s recent tax burden report illustrated that Utahns’ tax burden is the 19th highest in the country,” said John Salevurakis, Utah Foundation Research Analyst. “Nonetheless, only 32% of Utahns are willing to accept worse or fewer services to lower it further.”

Women prefer increased funding for health care and education.

Figure 1: “If the state had an extra \$200 million, where would you spend it?”



Source: Utah Foundation survey.

The Utah Priorities Project examines what matters most to Utah voters. The project also clarifies more detailed facts and demographic characteristics pertaining to what matters most, thus helping voters understand the complexities of important issues. Utahns are then empowered to undertake informed discussions and vote in a way that more accurately reflects this deeper understanding.

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About the Utah Foundation:

Since 1945, leaders, legislators, and community members have relied upon the illuminating, independent, and nonpartisan public-policy research produced by the Utah Foundation to support informed decision-making on topics that matter most. As a 501(c)3 with broad community support and a 60-member board, the Utah Foundation exists to empower civic engagement as the foundation for enhanced quality of life for Utahns.

Known for its signature products such as the Quality of Life Index, Utah Priorities Project, and Social Capital Index, the Utah Foundation has released more than 50 reports since 2020 on topics ranging from energy and education to taxation and transportation. Access all research, podcasts, videos, statistics, and more at utahfoundation.org.

UTAH PRIORITIES PROJECT 
20 YEARS OF WHAT MATTERS MOST