

48% Say Best Thing Government Can Do for Economy is Get Out of the Way

While the economy has emerged as the top issue of Election 2008, politicians are still scrambling to find out how to address the topic. The challenge is highlighted by a new nationwide telephone survey showing that 48% of voters say the best thing the government can do is get out of the way by reducing taxes and regulations. The Rasmussen Reports poll found that 36% disagree with that approach while 16% are not sure.

Republicans agree that government should get out of the way by a 64% to 24% margin.

Democrats disagree by a 48% to 35% margin.

Forty-nine percent (49%) of unaffiliated voters agree that the best thing the government can do is get out of the way. Thirty-four percent (34%) disagree.

This is consistent with another recent survey showing that [53% do not want the federal government who are struggling to pay their mortgage](#). However, another recent survey offers a different perspective-- just [23% believe that adequate safeguards are in place to prevent another 1930's style Depression](#). Earlier this year, the much-hyped [economic stimulus package](#) was given a lukewarm reception by voters.

Thirty-eight percent (38%) of Likely Voters nationwide rate the economy as the top voting issue of Election 2008. The national telephone survey found that 19% consider the War in Iraq as the top issue, 12% name National Security, 10% say Immigration, and 9% believe Health Care is the highest priority. [These results are broadly similar to the priorities expressed in January.](#)

Forty-five percent (45%) of Democrats name the economy as the top issue along with 29% of Republicans and 37% of unaffiliated voters. A separate survey found that 42% believe there is a conflict between [economic growth and another high-profile priority?protecting the environment](#)

Fifty-nine percent (59%) of all voters believe it is more important to create economic growth than to reduce the income gap between rich and poor. Thirty-five percent (35%) hold the opposite view and believe that reducing the income gap should be a higher priority. Democrats are evenly divided while Republicans and unaffiliated voters place a higher priority on economic growth.

While economists and politicians talk of economic stimulus in terms of new government spending or tax cuts, 49% of voters now say the best policy approach would be for the government to cut spending. Twenty-four percent (24%) say that tax cuts are the best policy prescription while 12% prefer interest rate cuts. Only 5% favor an increase in government spending.

Fifty percent (50%) of voters say that the Chairman of the Federal Reserve has more control over the economy than the President of the United States. Thirty-two percent (32%) believe the President has more control.

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