



POLL MUST BE SOURCED:

McClatchy-Marist Poll*

**The Tax Man Cometh...
Nearly One in Four Waits to File Tax Returns**

*** Complete Tables for Poll Appended ***

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This McClatchy-Marist Poll Reports:

The clock is counting down for Americans to file their taxes. But, how many adults nationally wait until the April 15th deadline to submit their returns? While 76% of residents file their tax returns before the deadline, 24% wait until the very end to submit them.

“People who are expecting to get money back are more eager to file earlier,” says Dr. Lee M. Miringoff, Director of The Marist College Institute for Public Opinion. “Those who have to write another check for their tax bill are more likely to wait until the last minute.”

Regardless of when they submit their taxes, a majority of adults -- 56% -- thinks they pay about the right amount in federal income taxes. 42% believe they pay more than their fair share, and only 1% reports they tender less than their fair share.

There is a partisan divide. Half of Republicans -- 50% -- think they pay more than they should while 48% say they write a check for about the right amount. Among Democrats, 40% report they pay the federal government more than their fair share, and 59% say they pay what they should. Looking at independents, 43% think they pay too much in federal taxes while 56% think they pay an appropriate amount.

Do Americans expect to receive a refund this year? 61% think they will be sent a check while 36% do not anticipate getting money back. Three percent are unsure.

There is a gender gap. Nearly seven in ten men -- 69% -- report they will get money back from the government. This compares with 54% of women who say the same. There are

*All references to the survey must be sourced as “McClatchy-Marist Poll”

also age differences. While 64% of residents 18 to 29, 71% of those 30 to 44, and 63% of Americans 45 to 59 think they will receive a refund, 51% of those 60 and older say the same.

Leave it to the Pros, Say Half of Americans

Most Americans receive some type of assistance when it comes to doing their taxes. 50% turn to a tax specialist to do their taxes. 17% have a family member or friend help them while 15% use a software package. However, 18% compute their taxes on their own.

Americans under 30 years old -- 36% -- are the least likely, compared with their older counterparts, to pay a tax professional to do their taxes. However, 51% of adults 30 to 44, 47% of those 45 to 59, and 62% of residents 60 and older to turn to a tax specialist to fill out their taxes.

When it comes to the method by which they file their tax returns, three in four Americans -- 75% -- send them electronically while 25% mail them.

How the Survey was Conducted

Nature of the Sample: McClatchy-Marist National Poll of 1,212 Adults

This survey of 1,212 adults was conducted April 7th through April 10th, 2014 by The Marist Poll sponsored in partnership with the McClatchy News Service. Adults 18 years of age and older residing in the continental United States were interviewed by telephone using live interviewers. Landline telephone numbers were randomly selected based upon a list of telephone exchanges from throughout the nation from ASDE Survey Sampler, Inc. The exchanges were selected to ensure that each region was represented in proportion to its population. To increase coverage, this landline sample was supplemented by respondents reached through random dialing of cell phone numbers from Survey Sampling International. The two samples were then combined and balanced to reflect the 2010 Census results for age, gender, income, race, and region. Respondents in the household were selected by asking for the youngest male. Results are statistically significant within ± 2.8 percentage points. There are 1,036 registered voters. The results for this subset are statistically significant within ± 3.0 percentage points. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.

Nature of the Sample

		National Adults	National Registered Voters	
		Col %	Col %	
National Adults		100%		
National Registered Voters		86%	100%	
Party Identification	Democrat	n/a	32%	
	Republican	n/a	26%	
	Independent	n/a	41%	
	Other	n/a	1%	
Party Identification	Strong Democrats	n/a	19%	
	Not strong Democrats	n/a	13%	
	Democratic leaning independents	n/a	17%	
	Just Independents	n/a	8%	
	Republican leaning independents	n/a	15%	
	Not strong Republicans	n/a	11%	
	Strong Republicans	n/a	15%	
	Other	n/a	1%	
	Political Ideology	Very liberal	n/a	5%
		Liberal	n/a	21%
Moderate		n/a	35%	
Conservative		n/a	29%	
Very conservative		n/a	10%	
Tea Party Supporters		n/a	29%	
Gender	Men	49%	47%	
	Women	51%	53%	
Age	Under 45	45%	39%	
	45 or older	55%	61%	
Age	18 to 29	23%	18%	
	30 to 44	22%	22%	
	45 to 59	29%	31%	
	60 or older	27%	30%	
Race	White	67%	69%	
	African American	11%	12%	
	Latino	14%	13%	
	Other	7%	6%	
Region	Northeast	18%	18%	
	Midwest	22%	23%	
	South	37%	38%	
	West	23%	22%	
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	50%	48%	
	\$50,000 or more	50%	52%	
Education	Not college graduate	63%	61%	
	College graduate	37%	39%	
Marital Status	Married	48%	51%	
	Not married	52%	49%	
Interview Type	Landline	59%	63%	
	Cell phone	41%	37%	

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Adults. Interviews conducted April 7th through April 10th, 2014, n=1212 MOE +/- 2.8 percentage points. National Registered Voters: n=1036 MOE +/- 3.0 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

McClatchy-Marist Poll Taxes Tables

		National Adults	
		Do you wait until April 15th to file your taxes?	
		Yes	No
		Row %	Row %
National Adults		24%	76%
Expect to Get a Tax Refund	Yes	15%	85%
	No	40%	60%
National Registered Voters		24%	76%
Party Identification	Democrat	22%	78%
	Republican	24%	76%
	Independent	26%	74%
Political Ideology	Very liberal-Liberal	13%	87%
	Moderate	28%	72%
	Conservative-Very conservative	28%	72%
Region	Northeast	13%	87%
	Midwest	24%	76%
	South	26%	74%
	West	28%	72%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	22%	78%
	\$50,000 or more	25%	75%
Education	Not college graduate	22%	78%
	College graduate	26%	74%
Race	White	22%	78%
	Non-white	24%	76%
Age	18 to 29	20%	80%
	30 to 44	20%	80%
	45 to 59	28%	72%
	60 or older	26%	74%
Age	Under 45	20%	80%
	45 or older	27%	73%
Gender	Men	22%	78%
	Women	25%	75%
Marital Status	Married	23%	77%
	Not married	23%	77%
Interview Type	Landline	27%	73%
	Cell phone	18%	82%

Marist Poll National Adults Split Sample. Interviews conducted April 7th through April 10th, 2014, n=601 MOE +/- 4.0 percentage points.

^National Registered Voters Split Sample: n=514 MOE +/- 4.3 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

McClatchy-Marist Poll Taxes Tables

		National Adults		
		Do you feel you pay more than your fair share in federal income taxes, less than your fair share, or is the amount you pay about right?		
		More than your fair share	Less than your fair share	About right
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		42%	1%	56%
National Registered Voters		44%	1%	55%
Party Identification	Democrat	40%	0%	59%
	Republican	50%	3%	48%
	Independent	43%	1%	56%
Political Ideology	Very liberal-Liberal	35%	0%	65%
	Moderate	47%	2%	51%
	Conservative-Very conservative	47%	1%	52%
Region	Northeast	45%	0%	55%
	Midwest	54%	2%	45%
	South	40%	0%	60%
	West	33%	3%	64%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	40%	2%	59%
	\$50,000 or more	45%	1%	54%
Education	Not college graduate	42%	0%	58%
	College graduate	42%	3%	55%
Race	White	42%	1%	57%
	Non-white	44%	1%	56%
Age	18 to 29	40%	2%	57%
	30 to 44	46%	1%	53%
	45 to 59	46%	1%	53%
	60 or older	39%	0%	61%
Age	Under 45	43%	2%	55%
	45 or older	42%	1%	57%
Gender	Men	43%	1%	56%
	Women	42%	1%	57%
Marital Status	Married	42%	2%	56%
	Not married	42%	0%	57%
Interview Type	Landline	41%	1%	58%
	Cell phone	44%	1%	54%

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McClatchy-Marist Poll Taxes Tables

		National Adults		
		Do you expect to get a refund this year, or not?		
		Yes	No	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		61%	36%	3%
National Registered Voters		60%	37%	3%
Party Identification	Democrat	66%	30%	4%
	Republican	61%	37%	3%
	Independent	57%	42%	2%
Political Ideology	Very liberal-Liberal	60%	35%	5%
	Moderate	63%	35%	2%
	Conservative-Very conservative	59%	40%	2%
Region	Northeast	65%	29%	6%
	Midwest	64%	35%	1%
	South	59%	38%	3%
	West	60%	38%	2%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	60%	38%	2%
	\$50,000 or more	67%	30%	2%
Education	Not college graduate	65%	33%	2%
	College graduate	57%	38%	4%
Race	White	62%	36%	3%
	Non-white	62%	35%	3%
Age	18 to 29	64%	35%	2%
	30 to 44	71%	26%	4%
	45 to 59	63%	36%	2%
	60 or older	51%	45%	4%
Age	Under 45	67%	30%	3%
	45 or older	57%	40%	3%
Gender	Men	69%	29%	1%
	Women	54%	42%	4%
Marital Status	Married	63%	33%	4%
	Not married	60%	38%	1%
Interview Type	Landline	58%	38%	4%
	Cell phone	67%	32%	1%

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McClatchy-Marist Poll Taxes Tables

		National Adults			
		Do you pay an outside tax specialist to do your taxes, have a friend or family member do them, use a software package, or do your taxes yourself?			
		Pay an outside tax specialist	Have a friend or family member do them	Use a software package	Do them yourself
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		50%	17%	15%	18%
National Registered Voters		50%	17%	17%	17%
Party Identification	Democrat	55%	15%	13%	17%
	Republican	48%	19%	18%	16%
	Independent	48%	17%	19%	16%
Political Ideology	Very liberal-Liberal	42%	24%	21%	13%
	Moderate	52%	9%	17%	21%
	Conservative-Very conservative	52%	19%	14%	15%
Region	Northeast	51%	17%	16%	15%
	Midwest	42%	25%	17%	15%
	South	51%	14%	16%	19%
	West	53%	15%	12%	20%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	48%	23%	11%	18%
	\$50,000 or more	48%	13%	21%	18%
Education	Not college graduate	53%	22%	8%	17%
	College graduate	46%	11%	25%	18%
Race	White	49%	18%	17%	16%
	Non-white	53%	17%	11%	20%
Age	18 to 29	36%	29%	18%	17%
	30 to 44	51%	12%	12%	25%
	45 to 59	47%	14%	21%	18%
	60 or older	62%	16%	10%	12%
Age	Under 45	44%	20%	15%	21%
	45 or older	54%	15%	16%	15%
Gender	Men	47%	18%	15%	20%
	Women	52%	16%	16%	15%
Marital Status	Married	55%	11%	19%	15%
	Not married	44%	23%	12%	21%
Interview Type	Landline	55%	13%	14%	17%
	Cell phone	40%	24%	17%	18%

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McClatchy-Marist Poll Taxes Tables

		National Adults	
		Do you file your tax returns electronically or do you send your tax returns through the mail?	
		Electronically	Through the mail
		Row %	Row %
National Adults		75%	25%
National Registered Voters		74%	26%
Party Identification	Democrat	74%	26%
	Republican	76%	24%
	Independent	72%	28%
Political Ideology	Very liberal-Liberal	73%	27%
	Moderate	72%	28%
	Conservative-Very conservative	74%	26%
Region	Northeast	82%	18%
	Midwest	73%	27%
	South	72%	28%
	West	76%	24%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	71%	29%
	\$50,000 or more	80%	20%
Education	Not college graduate	72%	28%
	College graduate	79%	21%
Race	White	77%	23%
	Non-white	70%	30%
Age	18 to 29	65%	35%
	30 to 44	83%	17%
	45 to 59	81%	19%
	60 or older	68%	32%
Age	Under 45	74%	26%
	45 or older	75%	25%
Gender	Men	75%	25%
	Women	74%	26%
Marital Status	Married	82%	18%
	Not married	68%	32%
Interview Type	Landline	75%	25%
	Cell phone	75%	25%

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