

**Proposed Oklahoma State Budget Plans - Statewide Survey  
 May 20-21, 2006**

Sample: Likely voters registered to vote in the State of Oklahoma (n=500)  
 Margin of Error: 4.4%

**Introduction:**

Hello, I'm \_\_\_\_\_, and I'm calling from Sooner Poll. Thank you for taking the time to talk with me this evening. Please be assured that we are not trying to sell you anything and your individual responses are confidential.

1.	With which political party are you registered?		
	1. Republican	205	40.2
	2. Democrat	282	55.3
	3. Independent	23	4.5
	4. Not registered [DNR] [TERMINATE]	0	0.0
	5. DK/Refused [DNR] [TERMINATE]	0	0.0

*Oklahoma is experiencing one of the largest tax receipt surplus' in state history due in large part to increases in the price and consumption of energy, which is one of Oklahoma's main exports. All of the following questions relate to what to do with the state's surplus.*

2.	Which of the following proposals should have TOP PRIORITY in deciding what to do with the state's surplus? [READ AND ROTATE]		
	1. Cutting taxes	182	35.7
	2. Increase state government spending/new spending	9	1.8
	3. Teacher pay raise	206	40.4
	4. Increased funding for higher education	47	9.2
	5. State employee pay raise	44	8.6
	6. DK/Refused [DNR]	22	4.3
3.	Republicans in the state house and senate, as well as Governor Henry, have proposed cutting taxes. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal of cutting taxes? [PROBE: STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT]		
	1. Strongly agree	198	38.8
	2. Somewhat agree	139	27.3
	3. Somewhat disagree	66	12.9
	4. Strongly disagree	91	17.8
	5. DK/Refused [DNR]	16	3.1

4.	Increased state spending, including new spending on government programs, has been proposed. Do you agree or disagree in increasing state spending?		
	1. Strongly agree	46	9.0
	2. Somewhat agree	105	20.6
	3. Somewhat disagree	99	19.4
	4. Strongly disagree	195	38.2
	5. DK/Refused [DNR]	65	12.7
5.	If the state's spending included meeting all current financial obligations, how much of the remaining state surplus should be returned to taxpayers?		
	1. All remaining state surplus	117	22.9
	2. 1 out of every 2 dollars in the state surplus	118	23.1
	3. 1 out of every 3 dollars in the state surplus	58	11.4
	4. 1 out of every 4 dollars in the state surplus	55	10.8
	5. None of the remaining state surplus	134	26.3
	6. DK/Refused [DNR]	28	5.5
6.	Senate Democrats have contended that a key element of improving safety conditions in the state is an 8-percent across-the-board pay raise for state employees. Do you agree or disagree with giving an 8-percent across-the-board pay raise for state employees?		
	1. Strongly agree	100	19.6
	2. Somewhat agree	119	23.3
	3. Somewhat disagree	104	20.4
	4. Strongly disagree	155	30.4
	5. DK/Refused [DNR]	32	6.3
7.	Senate Democrats have also proposed increasing funding to Oklahoma's state universities to \$130 million, which exceeds the \$123 million that higher education officials had originally sought. Do you agree or disagree with this proposal?		
	1. Strongly agree	90	17.6
	2. Somewhat agree	94	18.4
	3. Somewhat disagree	122	23.9
	4. Strongly disagree	184	36.1
	5. DK/Refused [DNR]	20	3.9

8.	With less than a week before the end of the legislative session, there's a stalemate over the budget. There are two plans on the table. Which of the following two plans do you support?		
	1. The plan promoted by Governor Henry and House Republicans would reduce the income tax rate from 6.25% to 5.5%, increase annual teacher pay by \$2400, eliminate the estate tax, and provide a record investment in common and higher education.	297	58.2
	2. The plan by senate Democrats would increase teacher pay by \$3000, increase state employee salaries by 5%, eliminate estate taxes, increase the standard tax deduction helping low income Oklahomans, offer even more dollars for common and higher education, but offers no reduction in the state income tax rate.	189	37.1
	3. DK/Refused [DNR]	24	4.7
	<i>Now for a few questions for classification purposes only.</i>		
9.	What is the highest level of education you had the opportunity to complete?		
	1. 8 <sup>th</sup> grade or less	8	1.6
	2. Some high school	13	2.5
	3. High school graduate	131	25.7
	4. Some college	145	28.4
	5. College graduate	119	23.3
	6. Some post-graduate study	11	2.2
	7. Post-graduate degree	78	15.3
	8. Refused [DNR]	5	1.0
10.	Into which of the following age groups do you fall?		
	1. 18-24	2	0.4
	2. 25-34	26	5.1
	3. 35-44	61	12.0
	4. 45-54	132	25.9
	5. 55-64	112	22.0
	6. 65 and over	177	34.7
	7. Refused [DNR]	0	0.0
11.	Do you consider yourself a liberal, a moderate or a conservative in your political beliefs? [PROBE: VERY/SOMEWHAT]		
	1. Very liberal	23	4.5
	2. Somewhat liberal	40	7.8
	3. Moderate	196	38.4
	4. Somewhat conservative	124	24.3
	5. Very conservative	100	19.6
	6. DK/Refused [DNR]	27	5.3

12.	For classification purposes, which of the following best describes your ethnic background?		
	1. White/Caucasian	434	85.1
	2. Black/African American	13	2.5
	3. Hispanic	7	1.4
	4. Native American	46	9.0
	5. Other [DNR]	5	1.0
	6. Refused [DNR]	5	1.0
13.	Which of the following groups does the total annual income of your household fall?		
	1. Under \$15,000	32	6.3
	2. \$15,000 to \$24,999	59	11.6
	3. \$25,000 to \$34,999	60	11.8
	4. \$35,000 to \$49,999	85	16.7
	5. \$50,000 to \$74,999	105	20.6
	6. \$75,000 to \$99,999	76	14.9
	7. \$100,000 to \$124,999	27	5.3
	8. Over \$125,000	15	2.9
	9. Refused [DNR]	51	10.0
14.	[BY OBSERVATION] Sex of respondent		
	1. Male	235	46.1
	2. Female	275	53.9
15.	Voter Score [PRE-CODE]		
	1. Less than 80	205	40.2
	2. 80-150	183	35.9
	3. 151-220	76	14.9
	4. 221-290	30	5.9
	5. 291 and higher	16	3.1
16.	Congressional District [PRE-CODE]		
	1. CD1	115	22.5
	2. CD2	101	19.8
	3. CD3	105	20.6
	4. CD4	96	18.8
	5. CD5	93	18.2