

About the Survey:

AARP's Alaska State Office, in its commitment to enhance quality of life for all as people age, commissioned this survey to explore the views of registered voters in Alaska on how the permanent oil trust fund should be used now and in the future.

The results presented are based on 801 random-digit dial telephone interviews, completed between November 10, 2008 and November 25, 2008, among residents of Alaska age 18 and older, who identified themselves as registered voters. The overall response rate for this survey is 43 percent with a cooperation rate of 92 percent. The sampling error for this survey is ± 3.5 percent.

Survey in Brief:

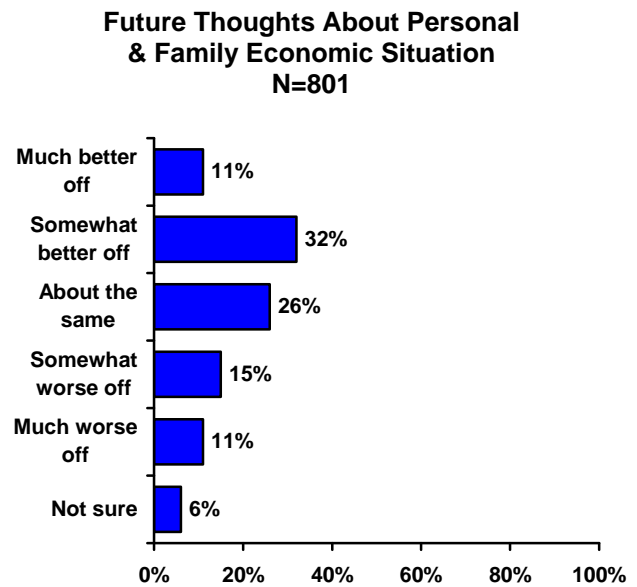
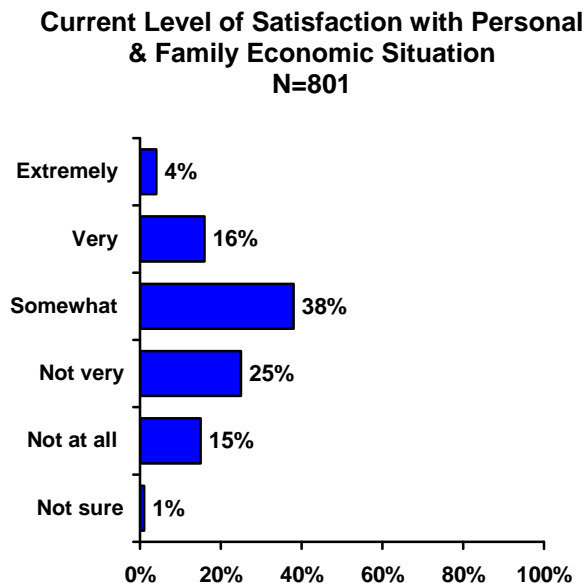
- **More than half of Alaska voters would prefer to pay a state tax, such as a sales or income tax, to pay for government services.**
 - ✓ Residents are more likely to prefer paying a tax for government services if they are 45 to 64, White, Alaska Native, or American Indian.
- **Half of Alaska voters say the Permanent Fund should only be used for individual dividends. Another four in ten residents say the Fund should be used for both individual dividends and to fund government services.**
 - ✓ Residents are more likely to think the Permanent Fund should only be used for individual dividends if they are 18 to 24, Alaska Native or American Indian, have less than four years of college, have an income under \$75,000 annually, are unmarried, or Republican.
- **Half of Alaska voters would support using the Permanent Trust Fund for both state and local government services.**
 - ✓ Those who support using the Permanent Fund for both state and local government services are more likely to be women or have at least two years of college education.
- **More than three-fifths of Alaska voters are not worried about people coming to Alaska just for the dividend money.**
 - ✓ Residents are more likely not to worry about people coming to Alaska just for the dividend money if they have an income above \$75,000, have at least two years of college education, are married, Democratic, or are not Alaska Native or American Indian.

INTRODUCTION: What role, if any, should the Permanent Fund¹ play in the current and expected state budget shortfalls? AARP's Alaska State Office, in its commitment to enhance quality of life for all as people age, commissioned this survey to explore the views of registered voters in Alaska on how the Permanent Oil Trust Fund should be used now and in the future. This survey examines Alaskans' views about their personal and family economic situation as well as their levels of satisfaction with both their local communities and their state.

METHODOLOGY: 801 random-digit dial telephone interviews were completed between November 10, 2008 and November 25, 2008 among residents of Alaska age 18 and older who identified themselves as registered voters. The overall response rate for this survey is 43 percent with a cooperation rate of 92 percent. The sampling error for this survey is ± 3.5 percent. Data were weighted to represent the actual distribution of age and gender among registered voters in Alaska.

- **Four in ten Alaskans currently are not satisfied with their personal and family economic situation; however, more than four in ten residents think they will be better off in two years.**

Thinking about their personal and family economic situation, 40 percent of Alaskans are not very or not at all satisfied with the way things are right now. Only one in five residents is satisfied right now. When asked to consider their situation prospectively, 43 percent of Alaskans think they will be better off in two years, while 26 percent expect to be worse off.

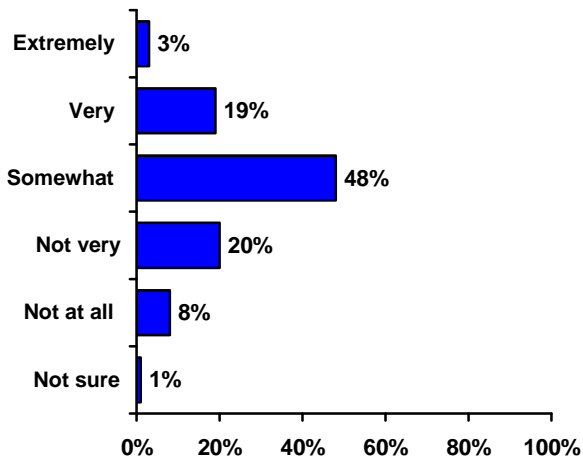


¹ The Alaska Permanent Fund, approved in 1976 as a constitutional amendment, establishes a dedicated fund. The Fund is comprised of at least 25 percent of all mineral lease rentals, royalties, royalty sales proceeds, federal mineral revenue-sharing payments and bonuses received by the state, the principal of which may only be used for income-producing investments. The Alaska Legislature may spend realized Fund investment earnings. Most spending from the Fund has been for dividends to qualified Alaska residents. From <http://www.apfc.org/home/Content/permFund/aboutPermFund.cfm>

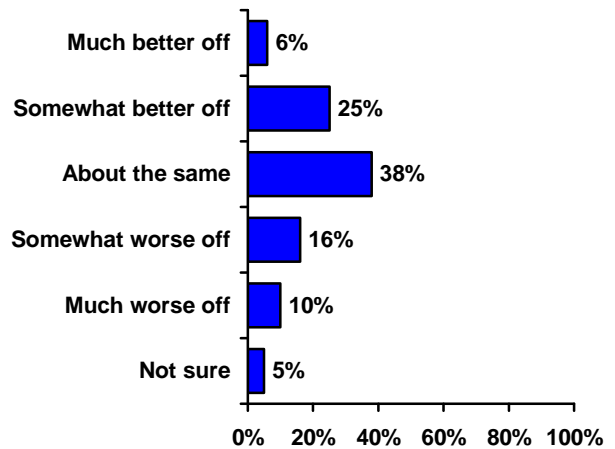
- **Almost three in ten Alaskans currently are not satisfied with their community economically, politically, and socially; however, more than three in ten residents think their community will be better off in two years.**

Thinking about their community, including economically, politically, and socially, 28 percent of Alaskans are not very or not at all satisfied with the way things are right now. Twenty-two percent of residents are satisfied right now. Over three in ten residents think their community will be better off economically, politically, and socially in two years, while 26 percent expect their community to be worse off.

Current Level of Satisfaction with Community Economically, Politically, & Socially
N=801



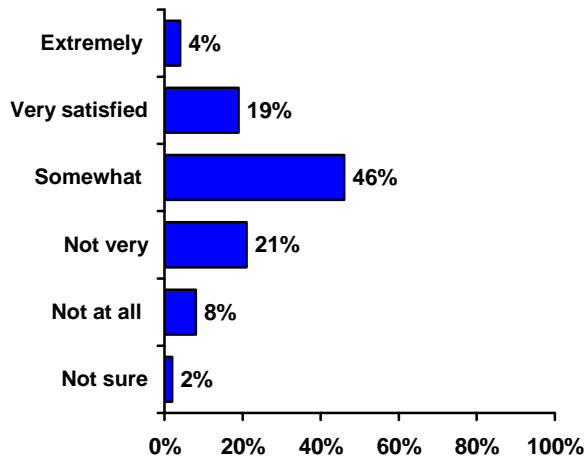
Future Thoughts About Your Community Economically, Politically, & Socially
N=801



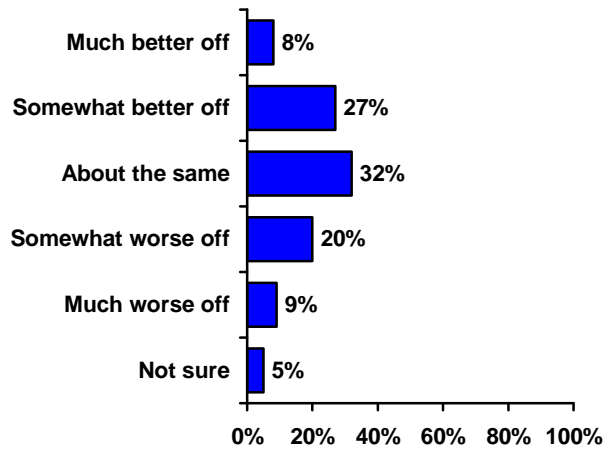
- **Almost three in ten residents currently are not satisfied with the way things are in the state of Alaska, economically, politically, and socially; however, more than a third of residents think the state will be better off in two years.**

Thinking about the entire state of Alaska, including economically, politically, and socially, 29 percent of Alaskans are not very or not at all satisfied with the way things are right now. Twenty-three percent of residents are satisfied right now. When asked to consider the future, over a third of residents think the entire state will be better off economically, politically, and socially in two years, while 29 percent expect the state to be worse off. This pattern is similar to the results above regarding how Alaskans feel about their communities.

Current Level of Satisfaction with State Economically, Politically, & Socially
N=801

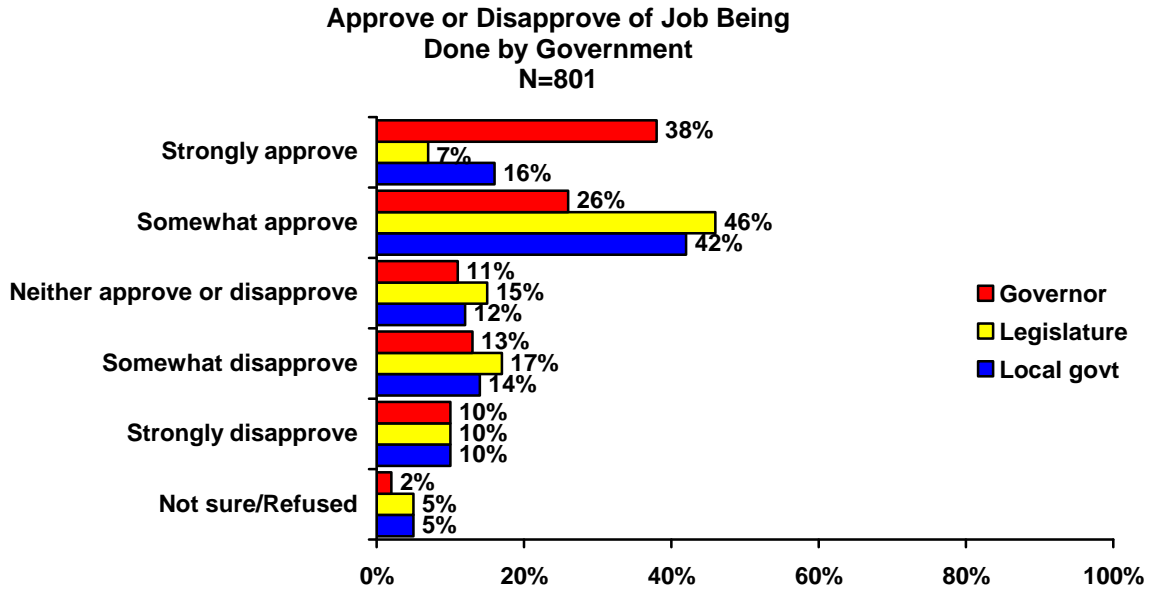


Future Thoughts About the State Economically, Politically, & Socially
N=801



- **At least half of Alaskans approve of the job being done by the Governor, Legislature, and their local government. More than six in ten residents approve of the job being done by the Governor; at least six in ten approve of the job being done by their local government; and more than one in two approve of the job being done by the Legislature of Alaska.**

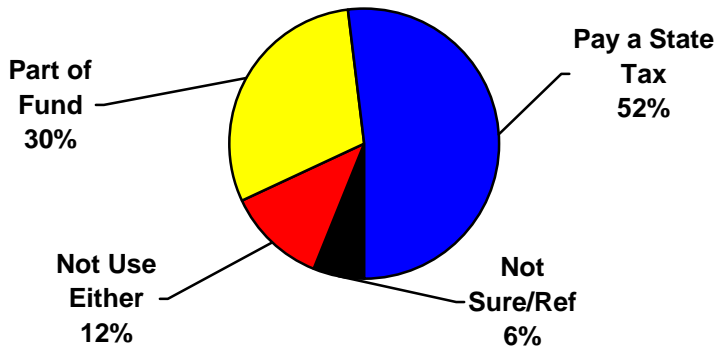
Overall, residents approve of the job being done of Alaska state government – the Governor, the state Legislature, and their local government including mayor, town or city manager, and the assembly, city council, and/or tribal council.



- **More than half of Alaska voters would prefer to pay a state tax, such as a sales or income tax, to pay for government services.**

Fifty-two percent of respondents prefer paying for government services with a state tax, such as a sales and or income tax. When asked to choose between two options, most Alaskans prefer paying a state tax. Residents are more likely to prefer paying a tax for government services if they are 45 to 64, White, Alaska Native, or American Indian.

To Pay for Government Services in Alaska, if You Had to Choose Between Using Part of the Alaska Permanent Fund or Paying a State Tax, Such as a Sales and or Income Tax, Which Would You Prefer?
N=801



- **Half of Alaska voters say the Permanent Fund should only be used for individual dividends. Another four in ten residents say the Fund should be used for both individual dividends and to fund government services.**

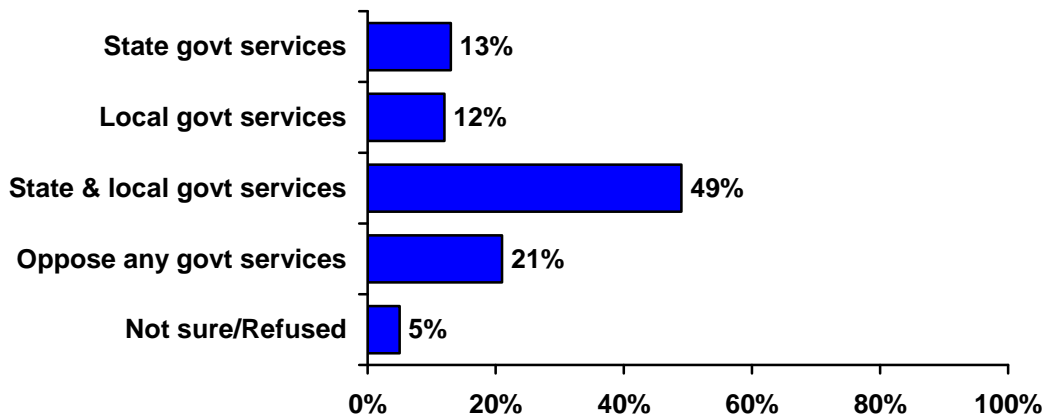
Residents are more likely to think the Permanent Fund should only be used for individual dividends if they are 18 to 24, Alaska Native, American Indian, have four years of college or less, incomes below \$75,000 annually, are unmarried, or are Republican.

Those who say the Fund should be used for both individual dividend and to fund government services are more likely to be 25 or older, have income above \$75,000 annually, are White, married, and have at least two years of college education.

- **Half of Alaska voters would support using the Permanent Trust Fund for both state and local government services.**

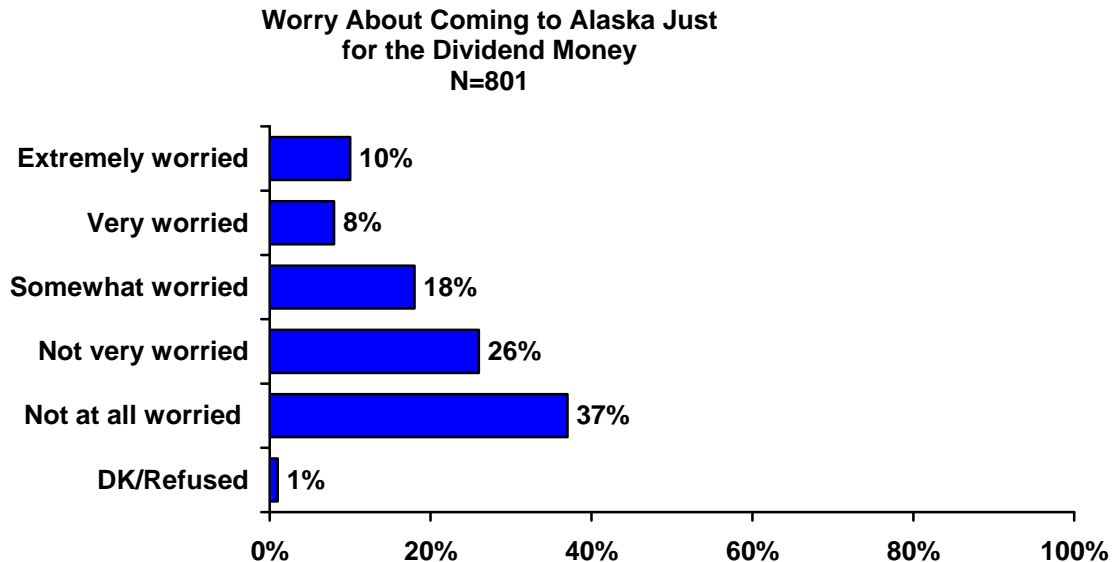
Those more likely to support using the Permanent Fund for both state and local government services are women or have at least two years of college education. Those opposing using the Fund for any government services are more likely between the ages of 45 and 64, male, with four years of college or less, or are Republican or Independent.

Support Using the Alaska Permanent Fund for Government Services
N=801

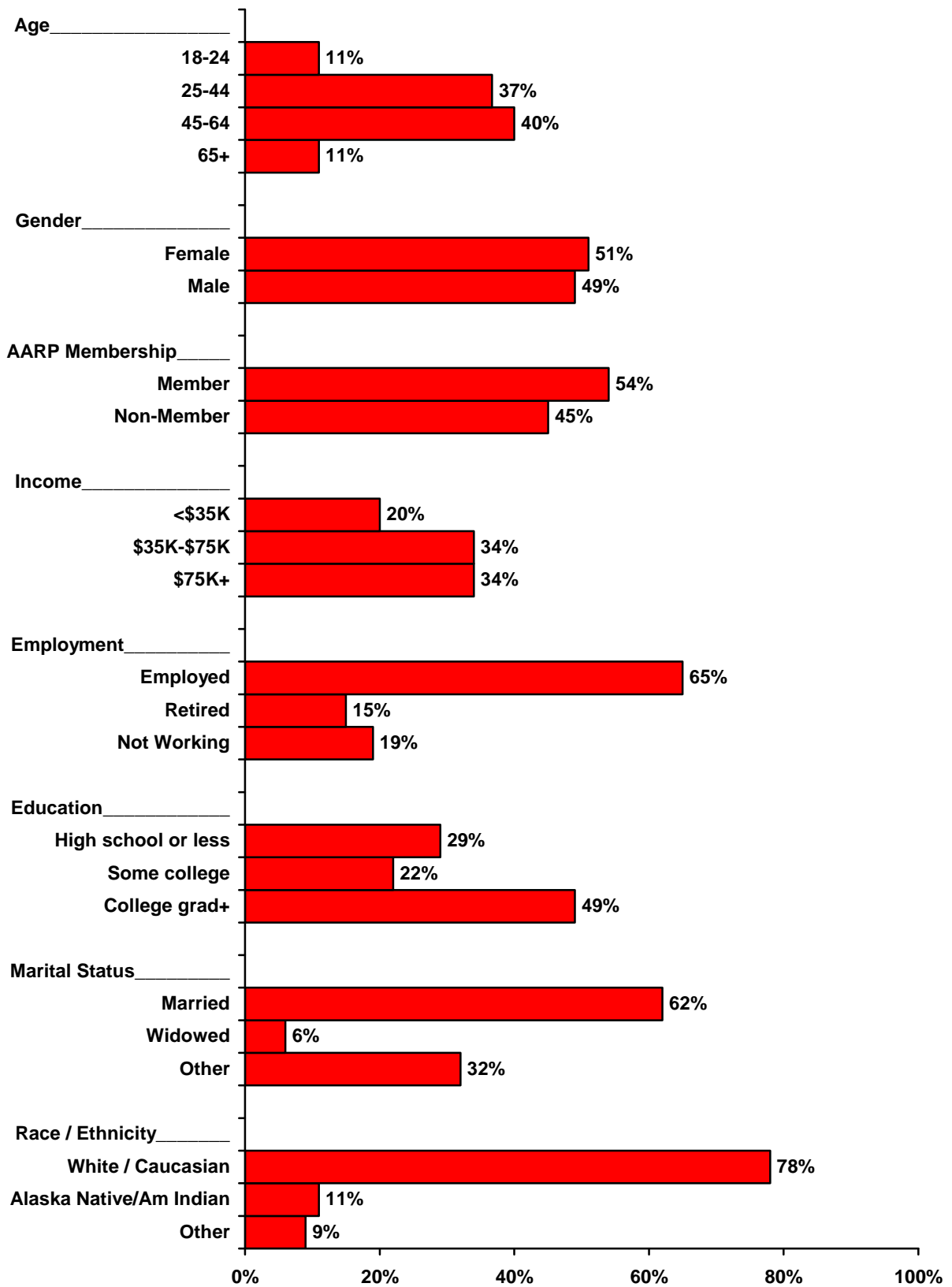


- **More than three-fifths of Alaska voters are not worried about people coming to Alaska just for the dividend money.**

Those who are more likely to not worry about people coming to Alaska just for the dividend money have incomes above \$75,000, have at least two years of college, are married, Democratic, or are not Alaska Native or American Indian.



Respondent Demographics



ANNOTATED QUESTIONNAIRE

**Alaska's Permanent Fund & the Future:
A 2008 Survey of Alaskans Age 18+
(Survey Sample: N=801, 18+ Registered Voters)
Sampling error = +/- 3.5%**

1. Thinking about your personal and family economic situation, what is your level of satisfaction with the way things are right now? Are you...

Base: Total Respondents	N=801
	%
Extremely satisfied	4
Very satisfied	16
Somewhat satisfied	38
Not very satisfied	25
Not at all satisfied	15
Not sure [DO NOT READ]	1
Refused [DO NOT READ]	<0.5

2. Thinking about your community, including economically, politically, and socially, what is your level of satisfaction with the way things are right now? Are you....

Base: Total Respondents	N=801
	%
Extremely satisfied	3
Very satisfied	19
Somewhat satisfied	48
Not very satisfied	20
Not at all satisfied	8
Not sure [DO NOT READ]	1
Refused [DO NOT READ]	<0.5

3. Thinking about the entire state of Alaska, including economically, politically, and socially, what is your level of satisfaction with the way things are right now? Are you....

Base: Total Respondents	N=801
	%
Extremely satisfied	4
Very satisfied	19
Somewhat satisfied	46
Not very satisfied	21
Not at all satisfied	8
Not sure [DO NOT READ]	2
Refused [DO NOT READ]	<0.5

4. Thinking about your personal and family economic situation, do you think that in two years things will be much better off, somewhat better off, about the same, somewhat worse off, or much worse off?

Base: Total Respondents	N=801
	%
Much better off	11
Somewhat better off	32
Stay about the same	26
Somewhat worse off	15
Much worse off	11
Not sure [DO NOT READ]	6
Refused [DO NOT READ]	<0.5

5. Thinking about your community, including economically, politically, and socially, do you think that in two years things will be much better off, somewhat better off, about the same, somewhat worse off, or much worse off?

Base: Total Respondents	N=801
	%
Much better off	6
Somewhat better off	25
Stay about the same	38
Somewhat worse off	16
Much worse off	10
Not sure [DO NOT READ]	5
Refused [DO NOT READ]	<0.5

6. Thinking about the entire state of Alaska, including economically, politically, and socially, do you think that in two years things will be much better off, somewhat better off, about the same, somewhat worse off, or much worse off?

Base: Total Respondents	N=801
	%
Much better off	8
Somewhat better off	27
Stay about the same	32
Somewhat worse off	20
Much worse off	9
Not sure [DO NOT READ]	5
Refused [DO NOT READ]	<0.5

7. Do you approve or disapprove of the job the Governor of the State of Alaska is doing? Is that strongly approve, somewhat approve, neither approve nor disapprove, somewhat disapprove, or strongly disapprove?

Base: Total Respondents	N=801
	%
Strongly approve	38
Somewhat approve	26
Neither approve nor disapprove	11
Somewhat disapprove	13
Strongly disapprove	10
Not sure [DO NOT READ]	1
Refused [DO NOT READ]	1

8. Do you approve or disapprove of the job the Legislature of Alaska is doing? Is that strongly approve, somewhat approve, neither approve nor disapprove, somewhat disapprove, or strongly disapprove?

Base: Total Respondents	N=801
	%
Strongly approve	7
Somewhat approve	46
Neither approve nor disapprove	15
Somewhat disapprove	17
Strongly disapprove	10
Not sure [DO NOT READ]	4
Refused [DO NOT READ]	1

9. Do you approve or disapprove of the job your local government, that is the mayor, town or city manager, and the assembly, city council, and or tribal council is doing? Is that strongly approve, somewhat approve, neither approve nor disapprove, somewhat disapprove, or strongly disapprove?

Base: Total Respondents	N=801
	%
Strongly approve	16
Somewhat approve	42
Neither approve nor disapprove	12
Somewhat disapprove	14
Strongly disapprove	10
Not sure [DO NOT READ]	4
Refused [DO NOT READ]	1

10. How do you think the Alaska Permanent Fund should be used? I am going to read you four choices, please tell me which one of the four options you prefer. [READ FULL LIST OF FOUR. ACCEPT ONLY ONE OPTION AS ANSWER]. [ROTATE ANSWERS ONE AND TWO] Do you think

Base: Total Respondents	N=801
	%
a) One, the Alaska Permanent Fund should only be used for individual dividends, or	49
b) Two, the Alaska Permanent Fund should only be used to fund government services, or	4
c) Three, the Alaska Permanent Fund should be used for BOTH individual dividends and to fund government services, or	38
d) Four, the Alaska Permanent Fund should be used for something else.	5
Not sure [DO NOT READ]	3
Refused [DO NOT READ]	1

11. To pay for government services in Alaska, if you had to choose between using part of the Alaska Permanent Fund or paying a state tax such as a sales and or income tax, which would you prefer? [READ ANSWERS AND ROTATE ANSWERS A AND B]

Base: Total Respondents	N=801
	%
a) I would prefer using part of the Alaska Permanent Fund to pay for government services	30
b) I would prefer paying a state tax such as a sales or income tax to pay for government services	52
c) I would prefer not to use either of the above options [DO NOT READ]	12
Not sure [DO NOT READ]	4
Refused [DO NOT READ]	2

12. If Alaska's Permanent Fund is used for government services, would you support using it for state government services, local government services, or both state and local government services? [ROTATE ANSWERS A AND B]

Base: Total Respondents	N=801
	%
a) I would support using Alaska's Permanent Fund for <u>state</u> government services	13
b) I would support using Alaska's Permanent Fund for <u>local</u> government services	12
c) I would support using Alaska's Permanent Fund for BOTH state and local government services	49
d) I would oppose using Alaska's Permanent Fund for any government services. [DO NOT READ]	21
Not sure [DO NOT READ]	4
Refused [DO NOT READ]	1

13. How worried are you about people coming to Alaska just for the dividend money?

Base: Total Respondents	N=801
	%
Extremely worried	10
Very worried	8
Somewhat worried	18
Not very worried	26
Not at all worried	37
Not sure [DO NOT READ]	1
Refused [DO NOT READ]	<0.5

Demographics

My last few questions are for classification purposes only!

D0. RECORD RESPONDENT GENDER [IF NECESSARY SAY: "To ensure it is recorded accurately, could you please state your gender?"]

Base: Total Respondents	N=801
	%
Male	49
Female	51

D1. What is your age as of your last birthday? [RECORD IN YEARS]

Base: Total Respondents	N=801
	%
18-24	11
25-44	37
45-64	40
65+	11
Refused	3

D2. What is your marital status? Are you currently.....

Base: Total Respondents	N=801
	%
Married	62
Not married, but living with your partner	5
Separated	1
Divorced	9
Widowed	6
Currently single and never been married	17
Not sure [DO NOT READ]	<0.5
Refused [DO NOT READ]	1

D3. [IF D2 = 1 ASK: “Are you or your spouse currently a member of A-A-R-P?” IF D2 = 2 ASK: “Are you or your partner currently a member of A-A-R-P?” OTHERWISE ASK: “Are you currently a member of A-A-R-P?”] [Only ask this question of those respondents who are age 45 and over]

Base: 45+ Respondents	N=421
	%
Yes	54
No	45
Not sure [DO NOT READ]	1
Refused [DO NOT READ]	<0.5

D4. What are your general feelings towards AARP? Are your feelings positive or negative? [READ LIST]

Base: Total Respondents	N=801
	%
Very positive	20
Somewhat positive	31
Neither positive nor negative	27
Somewhat negative	5
Very negative	4
Not sure [DO NOT READ]	12
Refused [DO NOT READ]	<0.5

D5. Thinking about state elections for Alaska Governor and Legislators in the last ten years, which of the following best describes your voting behavior? Would you say you vote...

Base: Total Respondents	N=801
	%
Always	64
Most of the time	19
About half the time	7
Seldom	7
Never vote	3
Don't know [DO NOT READ]	<0.5
Refused [DO NOT READ]	1

D6. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself to be a...

[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF 1-3]

Base: Total Respondents	N=801
	%
Republican	31
Democrat	18
Independent	34
Something else	14
Don't know [DO NOT READ]	2
Refused [DO NOT READ]	2

D7. In general, how often do you go online to access the Internet or World Wide Web or to send and receive email? Would you say several times a day, about once a day, 3-5 days a week, 1-2 days a week, once every few weeks, less often than every few weeks, or do you never go online to use the Internet or check email?

Base: Total Respondents	N=801
	%
Several times a day	47
About once a day	23
3-5 days a week	7
1-2 days a week	6
Once every few weeks	2
Once a month or less	3
Never go online	12
Don't know [DO NOT READ]	<0.5
Refused [DO NOT READ]	<0.5

D8. What is the highest level of education that you completed? (READ LIST)

Base: Total Respondents	N=801
	%
0 to 12 th grade, but with no diploma	5
High school graduate or equivalent	24
Post high school education, but with no degree	22
2 year college degree	17
4 year college degree	16
Post-graduate study, but with no degree	5
Graduate or professional degree	11
Don't know [DO NOT READ]	<0.5
Refused [DO NOT READ]	1

D9. Which of the following best describes your current employment status? Are you currently....

Base: Total Respondents	N=801
	%
Self-employed full-time	15
Self-employed part-time	6
Employed full-time	35
Employed part-time	9
Retired and not working at all	15
Unemployed but looking for work	7
Not in the labor force for other reasons	12
Don't know [DO NOT READ]	<0.5
Refused [DO NOT READ]	2

D10. And which of the following best describes your race?

Base: Total Respondents	N=801
	%
White/Caucasian	78
Black/African American	1
Asian	2
Alaskan Native/American Indian	11
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	1
Or are you some other race [Specify:_____]	5
Don't know [DO NOT READ]	<0.5
Refused [DO NOT READ]	2

D11. We realize income is a private matter and so rather than ask anything specific about your income, I'd like to ask you to please stop me when I get to the category that includes your household's income before taxes in 2007. Was it... [READ]

Base: Total Respondents	N=801
	%
Less than \$10,000	5
\$10,000 but less than \$20,000	6
\$20,000 but less than \$35,000	9
\$35,000 but less than \$50,000	16
\$50,000 but less than \$60,000	8
\$60,000 but less than \$75,000	11
\$75,000 or more	34
Don't know [DO NOT READ]	2
Refused [DO NOT READ]	10

D12. What is your 5-digit zip code?

— — — — —

DON'T KNOW = 99998

REFUSED = 99999

THANKS AND HAVE A GOOD DAY / NIGHT!

AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization that helps people 50+ have independence, choice and control in ways that are beneficial and affordable to them and society as a whole. AARP does not endorse candidates for public office or make contributions to either political campaigns or candidates. We produce AARP The Magazine, the definitive voice for 50+ Americans and the world's largest-circulation magazine with over 34.5 million readers; AARP Bulletin, the go-to news source for AARP's 40 million members and Americans 50+; AARP Segunda Juventud, the only bilingual U.S. publication dedicated exclusively to the 50+ Hispanic community; and our website, AARP.org. AARP Foundation is an affiliated charity that provides security, protection, and empowerment to older persons in need with support from thousands of volunteers, donors, and sponsors. We have staffed offices in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.



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AARP

Knowledge Management

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