

A decorative graphic is present on the page. It features a large, thin, light-brown arc that starts near the top right and curves down towards the bottom right. A horizontal line and a vertical line intersect at the end of this arc, with a small yellow square at the intersection point. Another small yellow square is located at the bottom left corner of the page, near the green header area.

Property Tax in Pennsylvania: Findings from a Study of AARP Members

January 2006



Property Tax in Pennsylvania: Findings from a Study of AARP Members

**Data Collected and Prepared by Woelfel Research, Inc.
Report Prepared by Katherine Bridges**

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Acknowledgements

This report was prepared for the Pennsylvania State Office. Special thanks to Fred Griesbach and Ray Landis, AARP Pennsylvania; Clare Hushbeck, State Affairs; and Gretchen Straw and Anita Ritter, Knowledge Management for their assistance with survey design and report development. Jennifer Leslie provided technical support for the report preparation. For more information, contact Katherine Bridges, at (202) 434-6329.

Background

At the present time, Pennsylvania's school funding system is divided between local funding, through property taxes and a small local occupation tax, and state funding. The state funding system is determined through a complex formula which takes into consideration many factors, including wage base and number of children on free and reduced price lunch. The end result is that some school district budgets consist of over 60 percent state funding while others get less than 20 percent of their budgets from the state. Because of economic conditions, education funding in the cities of Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Scranton relies more heavily on occupational taxes than in other municipalities in Pennsylvania. Also, a "commuter" tax on workers in Philadelphia who live elsewhere contributes to the school budget there.

The issue of how to limit property tax increases while properly funding education has been hotly debated in Pennsylvania since the mid-1980s. In 1988, a special commission recommended a plan to substitute increased sales and personal income taxes for property taxes. The plan was presented to Pennsylvania voters, who rejected it by a large margin. At that time, opponents stressed that no mechanisms were included to limit future property tax increases, which contributed to the referendum's defeat.

The last two property tax reform plans passed by the General Assembly have placed decision-making in the hands of local school boards. Act 50, approved in the mid-1990s, allowed local school boards to implement a local earned income tax as a substitute for local property taxes, and promised increased state subsidies in return for a promise to limit future local tax increases. Only 4 school districts opted into this plan. In 2003, the General Assembly approved Act 72, which permitted local school districts to acquire a share of funds from newly legalized slot machines, if the school districts then agreed to submit future budget increases above the rate of inflation to a local referendum. Around 100 of Pennsylvania's 501 school districts opted into this plan.

The General Assembly has returned to the issue after Governor Ed Rendell called for the second special session on property tax reform in the past 3 years. Both chambers have debated plans calling for property tax reductions through various means, including increased and/or expanded sales taxes, increased personal and/or earned income taxes, and use of gambling revenue. Also at play is the property tax and rent rebate program, which uses lottery funds to give residents ages 65 and older whose incomes are below \$15,000 a year a rebate (currently \$500) on their taxes or rent.¹

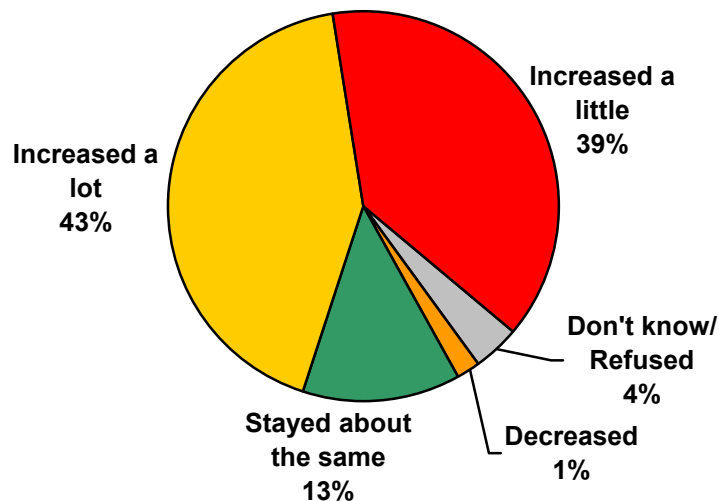
AARP Pennsylvania commissioned this study to explore the opinions of Pennsylvania members on the issue of property taxes and to assess their support for or opposition to property tax reduction proposals, such as those outlined above. This report includes telephone survey data from 801 randomly-selected AARP Pennsylvania members that was collected between October 21 and October 27, 2005 by Woelfel Research, Inc. The sampling error for this study is +/- 3.5 percent.

¹ Only half of an individual's Social Security income is used to calculate their yearly income for this program.

Findings

Ninety-five percent of AARP members surveyed reported being homeowners; the remainder currently rent their homes. When asked whether their property tax has increased, decreased, or stayed the same in the past two years, more than eight in ten say it has increased either a lot or little. Renters, however, report relative stability in their rental prices during this time.²

Change in Property Tax Amounts
(n=756 homeowners)

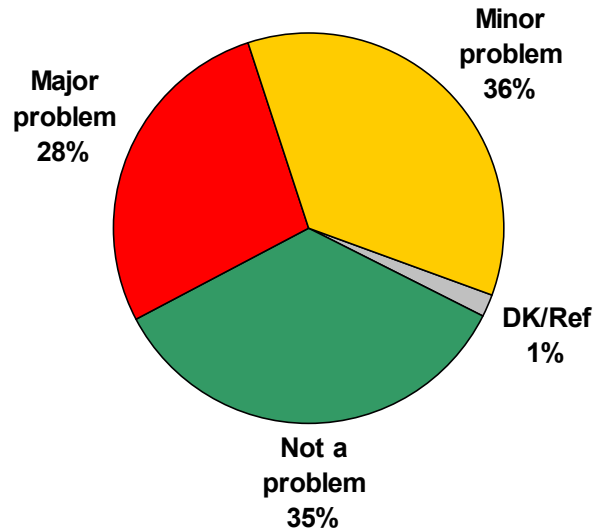


Member homeowners ages 60-74 more often report their property taxes have increased a lot in the past two years compared to younger or older homeowners (48% vs. 36% 50-59 and 38% 75+). Similarly, homeowners with incomes below \$30,000 are more likely than homeowners with higher incomes to report their taxes have increased a lot in the past two years (50% <\$30,000 vs. 38% \$30,000+).

² With only 41 renters included in the survey, these findings are not statistically robust enough to be projected to a larger population and should only be considered as suggestive of the opinions of members who rent in Pennsylvania.

Nearly two-thirds of homeowners say paying for their property tax is either a major or minor problem for them. Conversely, most renters say paying their rent is not a problem.³

Level of Problem Paying for Property Tax
(n=756 homeowners)

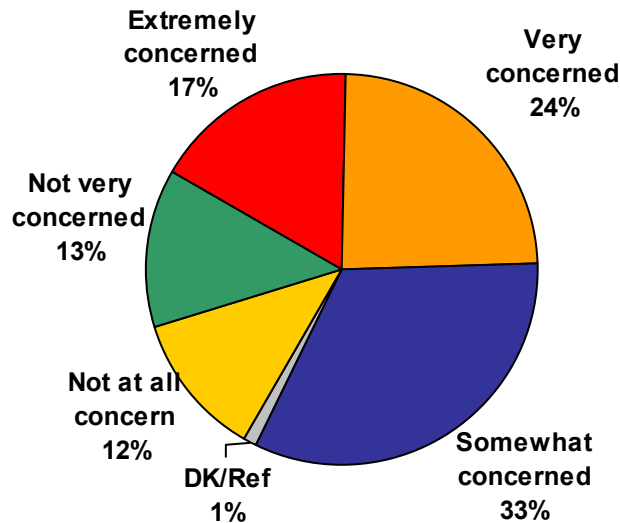


Not surprisingly, the burden for paying property taxes is related to income: homeowners with incomes below \$30,000 are more likely to report the burden as being a major problem while homeowners with incomes \$75,000 and above are more likely to say it is not a problem for them (major problem: 42% <\$30,000, 23% \$30,000-\$74,999, 13% \$75,000+; not a problem: 62% \$75,000+, 39% \$30,000-\$74,999, 21%<\$30,000).

³ With only 41 renters included in the survey, these findings are not statistically robust enough to be projected to a larger population and should only be considered as suggestive of the opinions of members who rent in Pennsylvania.

Nearly three-quarters of AARP Pennsylvania members that own their homes express some level of concern about their ability to pay property taxes over the next three years. Over half (56%) of renters are at least somewhat concerned about their ability to pay their rent in the next three years.⁴

Level of Concern about Paying Taxes in Next 3 Years
(n=756 homeowners)



Interestingly, younger homeowners are more likely to be extremely concerned about paying their property taxes as compared to homeowners age 75 or older. Not surprisingly, however, the lower income homeowners are most likely to be concerned, as are homeowners who view paying property taxes as a major problem.

Differences in Concern about Paying Property Taxes
(n=756 homeowners)

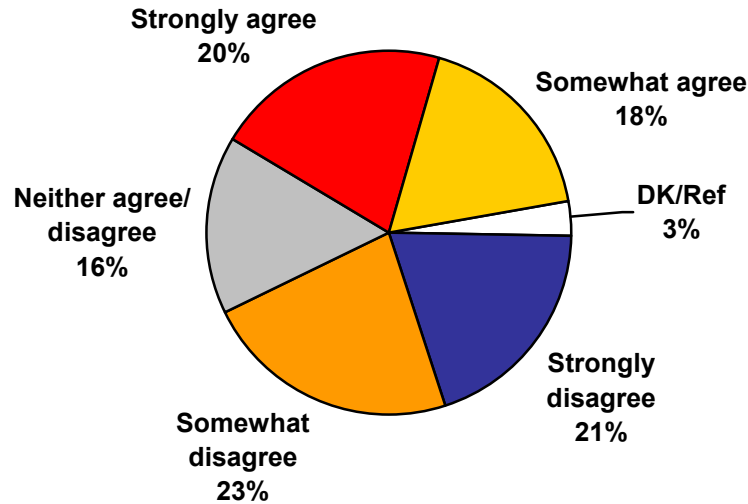
	Age		
	50-59	60-74	75+
Extremely concerned	17%	22%	10%
Very concerned	22%	24%	27%
	Income		
	<\$30,000	\$30,000-\$74,999	\$75,000+
Extremely concerned	22%	16%	11%
Very concerned	30%	22%	12%
	Property tax burden		
	Major problem	Minor problem	Not a problem
Extremely concerned	41%	11%	3%
Very concerned	41%	27%	8%

NOTE: Boldface indicates percentages that are significantly higher statistically.

⁴ With only 41 renters included in the survey, these findings are not statistically robust enough to be projected to a larger population and should only be considered as suggestive of the opinions of members who rent in Pennsylvania.

Nearly four in ten homeowners say they are worried that the increase in property tax rates in Pennsylvania will force them to move from their homes in the near future. Just over 25 percent of renters are worried that rent increases will force them from their homes in the near future.⁵

Agreement/Disagreement with Statement:
”I am worried that the increase in property tax rates in Pennsylvania will force me to move from my home in the near future.”
 (n=756 homeowners)



Again, lower income homeowners and those who view paying property taxes as a problem for them are most likely to feel they are at risk for being displaced. Homeowners age 60-74 are also more likely to feel this way compared to younger and older homeowners.

Differences in Agreement That Property Tax Increases Will Force Homeowners from Their Homes
 (n=756 homeowners)

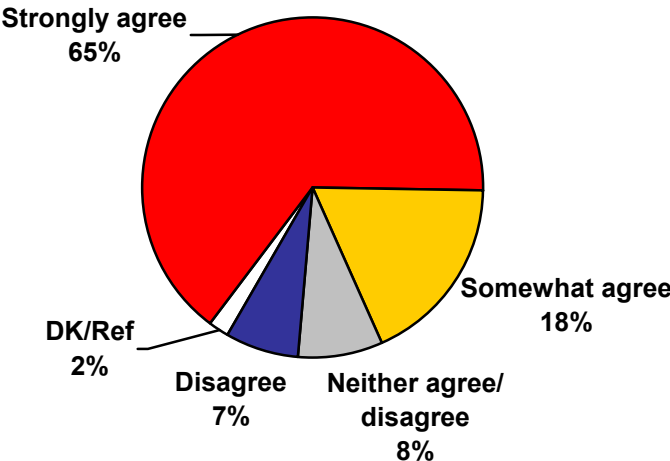
	Age		
	50-59	60-74	75+
Strongly agree	17%	25%	16%
Somewhat agree	16%	19%	18%
	Income		
	<\$30,000	\$30,000-\$74,999	\$75,000+
Strongly agree	27%	19%	11%
Somewhat agree	24%	17%	7%
	Property tax burden		
	Major problem	Minor problem	Not a problem
Strongly agree	47%	15%	5%
Somewhat agree	23%	21%	11%

NOTE: Boldface indicates percentages that are significantly higher statistically.

⁵ With only 41 renters included in the survey, these findings are not statistically robust enough to be projected to a larger population and should only be considered as suggestive of the opinions of members who rent in Pennsylvania.

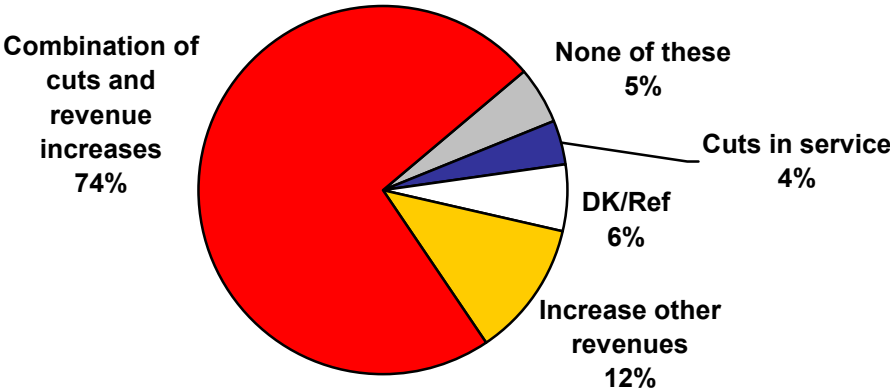
More than eight in ten AARP Pennsylvania members agree that property taxes should be reduced, with members making less than \$30,000 a year being the most likely to express strong agreement in comparison to those with higher incomes (72% <\$30,000 vs. 64% \$30,000-\$74,999 and 53% \$75,000+). Additionally, more members who feel paying for property taxes is problematic for them tend to strongly agree that this tax should be reduced compared to those who do not feel paying this tax is a problem (strongly agree: 87% major problem, 64% minor problem vs. 48% not a problem).

Agreement/Disagreement That Property Taxes Should Be Reduced
(N=801)



With the majority of members in agreement that property taxes should be reduced, most members say they would prefer to see a reduction in property taxes achieved through a combination of cuts to services and increases in other revenue sources, rather than just one or the other.

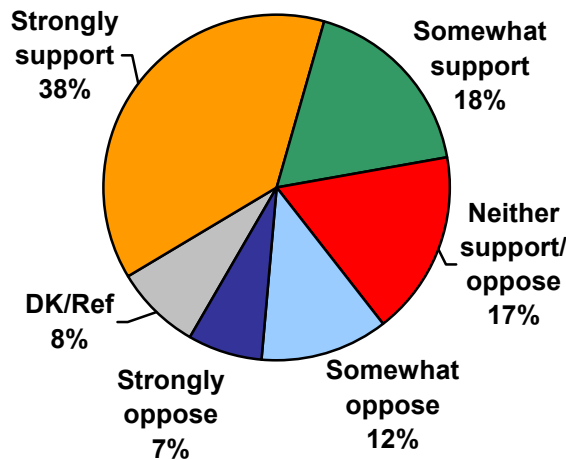
Preferred Approaches to Reducing Property Taxes
(N=801)



Members are similar demographically in their preference for reducing property taxes through a combination of cuts in services and increases in other revenues. However, younger members, those with higher incomes, and those with higher education are more apt to say property taxes should be reduced by increasing other revenue sources (see Appendix A-Table1).

While support for reducing property taxes in Pennsylvania is widespread among members, fewer believe the tax should be eliminated entirely. Just over half of members say they would support total elimination of the tax, and that support diminishes substantially when members are faced with reductions in services or reduced funding for education as the trade-off.

Support for and Opposition to Entirely Eliminating Property Taxes
(N=801)



Specifically, out of the 56 percent who said they would support eliminating the property tax, nearly two-thirds changed their mind when told it would mean a substantial reduction in local services, such as firefighting and trash removal. Nearly as many members who supported property tax elimination also rejected the proposal to totally eliminate property taxes at the cost of cuts to education funding.

Whether Support is Sustained Even if it Means a Substantial Reduction in Local Services (n=444, supporters of property tax elimination)	Whether Support is Sustained Even if it Means a Severe Cut to Education Funding (n=444, supporters of property tax elimination)																
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Response</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>65%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>27%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DK/Ref</td> <td>8%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Response	Percentage	No	65%	Yes	27%	DK/Ref	8%	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Response</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>59%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>32%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DK/Ref</td> <td>9%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Response	Percentage	No	59%	Yes	32%	DK/Ref	9%
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Again, members age 60-74, those with lower incomes, and those who report property taxes as the greatest burden are the most likely to support total elimination of the property tax.

Differences among Those Strongly Supporting Elimination of Property Taxes
(N=801)

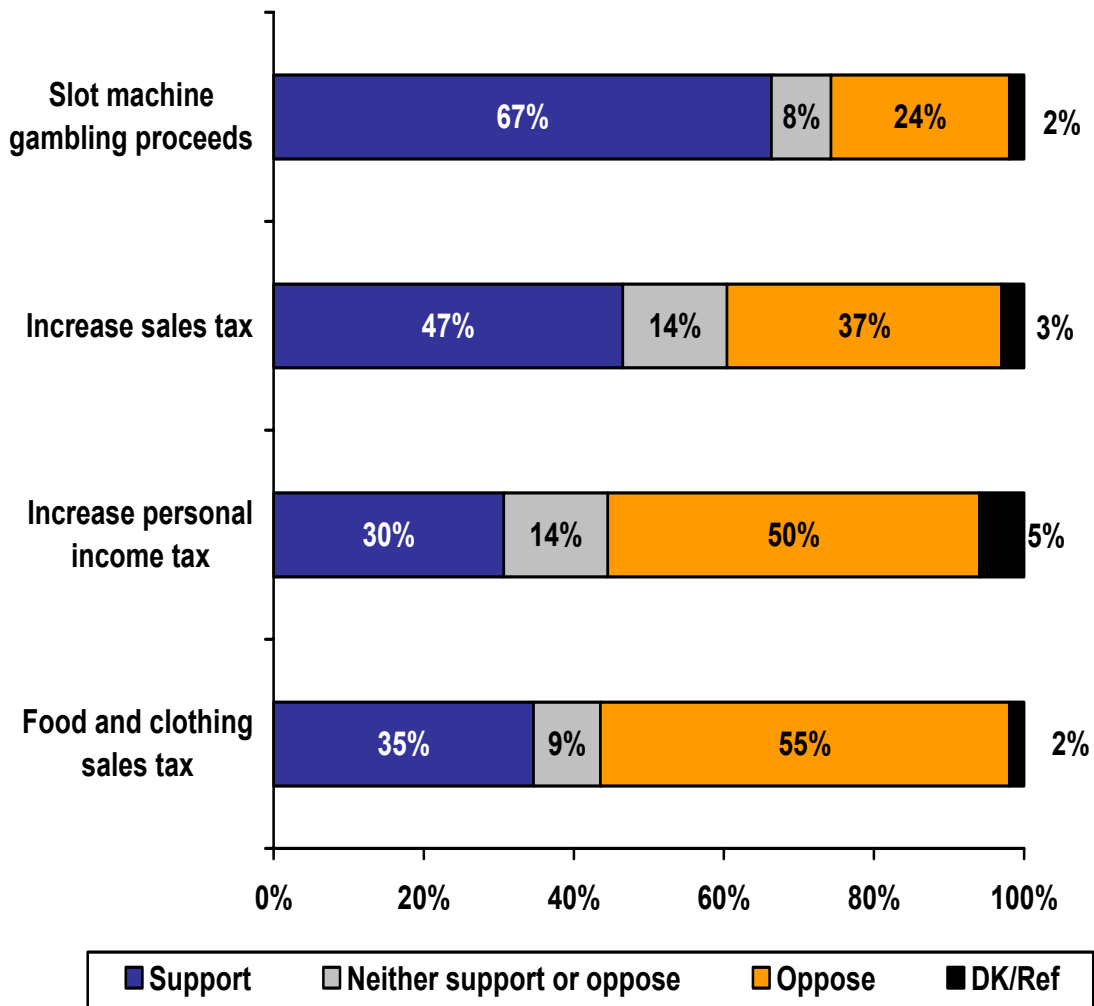
Age		
50-59	60-74	75+
35%	42%	34%
Income		
<\$30,000	\$30,000-\$74,999	\$75,000+
44%	38%	27%
Property tax burden		
Major problem	Minor problem	Not a problem
51%	37%	29%

NOTE: Boldface indicates percentages that are significantly higher statistically.

Those who perceive their property taxes as a major problem are more likely to continue to support its elimination regardless of the potential costs to local services (37% major problem, 33% minor problem, 25% not a problem) or education (37% major problem, 29% minor problem, 17% not a problem).

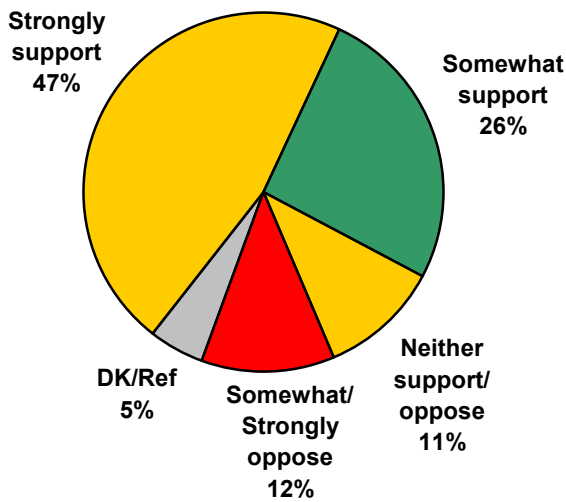
Members were presented with several proposals for reducing property taxes through increases in other revenue sources. Of these, there is greatest support for the state contributing more towards education funding and using the proceeds from slot machines. However, half or more would oppose increasing personal income tax or introducing a tax on food and clothing as a way to reduce the property tax. Members are more evenly divided on whether to increase the sales tax on items currently taxed in order to reduce state property taxes. Support and opposition to each of these proposals vary by age, income, gender, education, and property tax burden (see Appendix A-Table 2).

**Support and Opposition to Revenue Enhancement
Proposals to Reduce Property Taxes
(N=801)**

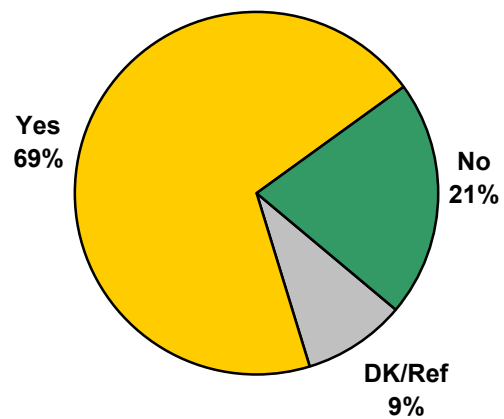


In order to reduce property taxes, seven in ten members say they would support the state providing additional funding to local governments to help pay for public education. When asked whether they would still support the state providing additional funding for public education if it required tax increases or spending cuts at the state level, seven in ten supporters maintained their position.

Support and Opposition to State Providing Additional Funding to Local Governments to Pay for Local Education (N=801)



Whether Members Would Still Support the State Contributing More Towards Education, Even if it Required Tax Increases or Spending Cuts (n=580, supporters of add'l state education funding)



Younger members, members with incomes greater than \$30,000, and members who are college graduates are more likely to maintain their support for an increase in state funding for education in order to reduce property taxes at the local level, even if it would require an increase in taxes or spending cuts at the state level.

Differences in Support for Increasing State Funding for Education Even if it Requires an Increase in State Taxes or Spending Cuts

(n=580, supporters of state providing additional funding for education)

Age		
50-59	60-74	75+
78%	69%	64%
Income		
<\$30,000	\$30,000-\$74,999	\$75,000+
65%	75%	81%
Education		
HS or less	Some college	College graduate
66%	70%	75%

NOTE: Boldface indicates percentages that are significantly higher statistically.

Conclusions

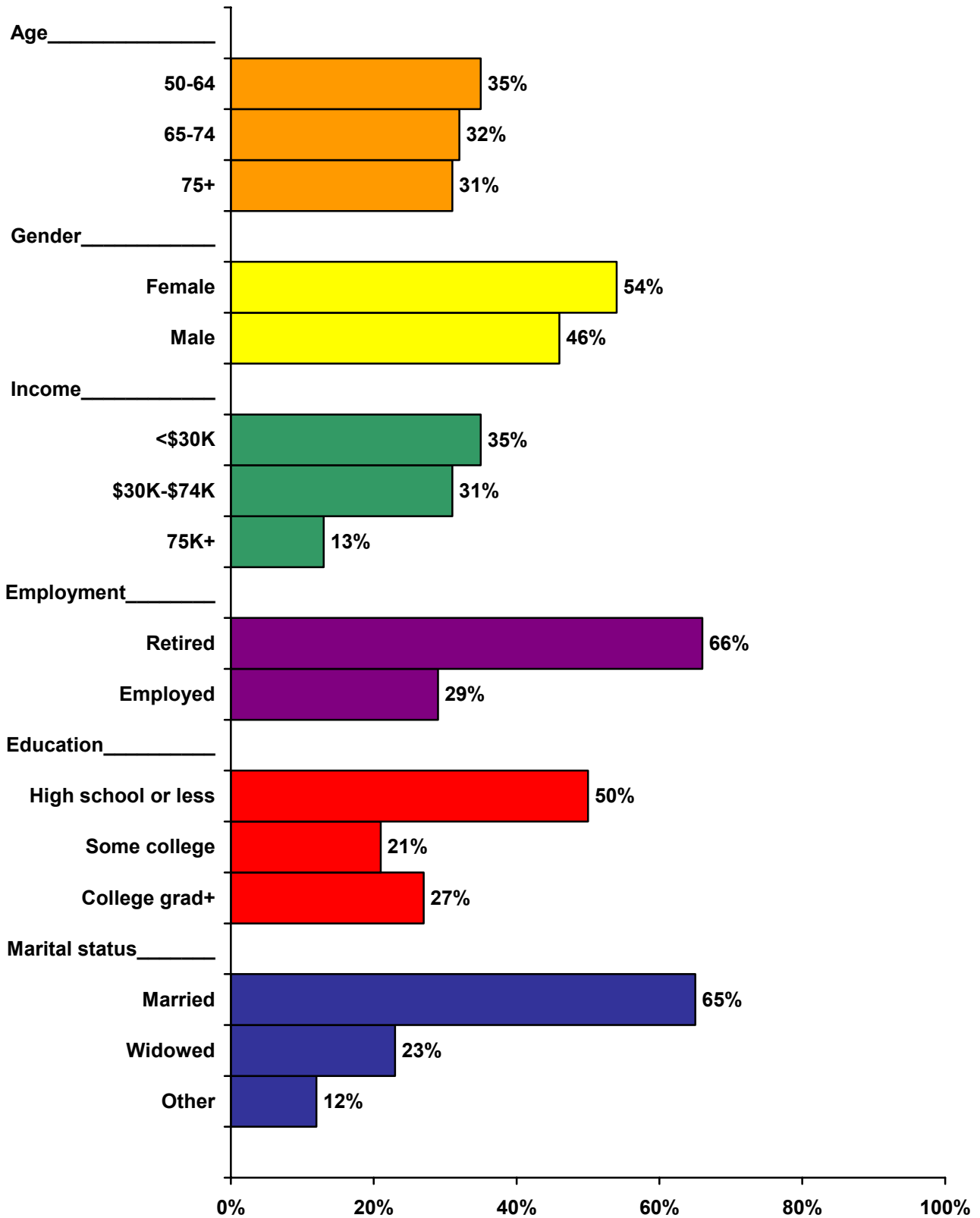
Most AARP members in Pennsylvania who own their homes report their property taxes have increased over the past two years. At least half of these homeowners say paying for these taxes is at least a minor problem for them—more than a quarter consider it to be a major problem. With three-quarters of these members expressing concern about their ability to pay property taxes in the next few years, it is not surprising that a considerable number say they are worried that the increases in property taxes will force them to move from their homes in the near future.

The current concern about the burdensome property tax undoubtedly contributes to the high level of support among members for a reduction, or even elimination, of the property tax. However, despite the concern about its affordability, members by and large seem to understand the need to maintain this tax. While many would support eliminating the tax, few would do so at the cost of losing local services, such as public safety and education. Even with proposals to reduce property taxes, members will only go so far to do so: most would not support increasing personal income tax or a sales tax on food and clothing in order to reduce property taxes. There is, however, significant support for having the State pay for a larger share of the public education bill in order to reduce property taxes, even if this would require increases in other taxes or cuts in services at the state level.

Regardless of the support found among members for reductions in property taxes through increases in other revenue sources, the majority of members in Pennsylvania believe in taking a balanced approach to reducing property taxes: more than seven in ten say such reductions should be achieved through a combination of cuts in services and increases in alternative revenues as opposed to only increases in revenues or cuts alone.

The data in the study show that lower income homeowners are disproportionately affected by the issue of property taxes. These individuals are more likely to feel that paying property tax is a major problem, and they more often express concern about their ability to pay these taxes in the future. As such, an expansion of the property tax rebate program may one way to reduce the anxiety many of these older adults feel about possibly being forced to leave their homes in the near future due to the rising cost of property taxes.

Demographic Characteristics (N = 801)



APPENDIX A

Table 1

Differences in Preferred Approach to Property Tax Reduction (N=801)

	Age		
	50-59	60-74	75+
Cuts in services	3%	4%	3%
Increases in other revenues	17%	12%	9%
Combination of both	76%	76	21
	Income		
	<\$30,000	\$30,000-\$74,999	\$75,000+
Cuts in services	3%	3%	4%
Increases in other revenues	7%	12%	21%
Combination of both	77%	78%	72%
	Education		
	HS or less	Some college	College graduate
Cuts in services	3%	2%	5%
Increases in other revenues	10%	10%	18%
Combination of both	75%	78%	70%
	Property tax burden		
	Major problem	Minor problem	Not a problem
Cuts in services	2%	4%	5%
Increases in other revenues	11%	10%	16%
Combination of both	72%	78%	70%

NOTE: Boldface indicates percentages that are significantly higher statistically.

Table 2

**Support and Opposition for Revenue Enhancement Proposals to Reduce
Property Taxes by Demographic Variables
(N=801)**

State providing additional funds to local government to pay for public education			
	Age		
	50-59	60-74	75+
Strongly/somewhat support	80%	73%	68%
Strongly/somewhat oppose	6%	12%	14%
	Education		
	HS or less	Some college	4 yr college+
Strongly/somewhat support	69%	74%	79%
Strongly/somewhat oppose	14%	10%	10%
Using money raised through slot machine gambling			
	Age		
	50-59	60-74	75+
Strongly/somewhat support	72%	71%	57%
Strongly/somewhat oppose	18%	21%	31%
	Education		
	HS or less	Some college	4 yr college+
Strongly/somewhat support	70%	67%	62%
Strongly/somewhat oppose	21%	22%	27%
	Property tax burden		
	Major amount	Minor amount	Not a problem
Strongly/somewhat support	74%	68%	60%
Strongly/somewhat oppose	21%	24%	26%
Increasing sales tax on items currently taxed			
	Household income		
	<\$30,000	\$30,000-\$74,999	\$75,000+
Strongly/somewhat support	41%	54%	53%
Strongly/somewhat oppose	39%	32%	39%
	Property tax burden		
	Major amount	Minor amount	Not a problem
Strongly/somewhat support	59%	44%	43%
Strongly/somewhat oppose	29%	39%	41%

NOTE: Boldface indicates percentages that are significantly higher statistically.

Table 2
(cont'd)

**Support and Opposition for Revenue Enhancement Proposals to Reduce
Property Taxes by Demographic Variables
(N=801)**

Increasing personal income tax rate			
	Gender		
	Male	Female	
Strongly/somewhat support	37%	25%	
Strongly/somewhat oppose	47%	52%	
	Marital status		
	Married	Not married	
Strongly/somewhat support	34%	25%	
Strongly/somewhat oppose	48%	52%	
	Household income		
	<\$30,000	\$30,000-\$74,999	\$75,000+
Strongly/somewhat support	26%	46%	37%
Strongly/somewhat oppose	50%	37%	49%
Introducing a sales tax on food and clothing			
	Age		
	50-59	60-74	75+
Strongly/somewhat support	44%	35%	30%
Strongly/somewhat oppose	45%	55%	61%
	Education		
	HS or less	Some college	4 yr college+
Strongly/somewhat oppose	37%	38%	29%
Strongly/somewhat oppose	52%	51%	64%
	Property tax burden		
	Major amount	Minor amount	Not a problem
Strongly/somewhat oppose	42%	35%	30%
Strongly/somewhat oppose	46%	56%	62%

NOTE: Boldface indicates percentages that are significantly higher statistically.

Appendix B
ANNOTATED QUESTIONNAIRE

Pennsylvania Property Tax Survey
N=801 AARP Pennsylvania Members

Introduction/Screenener

Hello, my name is _____. I'm calling on behalf of Woelfel Research, a national opinion research firm. Tonight we are calling Pennsylvania residents to find out their opinions on local property taxes. It is important to us that you know we are NOT telemarketers. This is NOT a sales call and you will NOT be asked to buy anything either now or later.

The survey should only take a few minutes (10 minutes) of your time depending on your answers.

Respondent Selection:

S1. RECORD GENDER OF PERSON WHO ANSWERED PHONE:

	<u>%</u>
Male	46
Female	54

S2. What county do you live in?

	<u>%</u>		<u>%</u>		<u>%</u>
Adams	1	Fayette	1	Schuylkill	2
Allegheny	11	Forest	1	Somerset	*
Armstrong	1	Franklin	1	Susquehanna	1
Beaver	2	Greene	*	Tioga	*
Bedford	*	Huntingdon	1	Union	*
Berks	5	Indiana	1	Venango	*
Blair	1	Jefferson	1	Warren	1
Bradford	1	Juniata	1	Washington	2
Bucks	3	Lackawanna	2	Wayne	1
Butler	1	Lancaster	5	Westmoreland	3
Cambria	2	Lawrence	*	Wyoming	*
Carbon	*	Lebanon	1	York	6
Center	1	Lehigh	3	Other	1
Chester	4	Luzerne	2		
Clarion	*	Lycoming	2		
Clearfield	1	Mercer	2		
Clinton	*	Mifflin	*		
Columbia	1	Monroe	1		
Crawford	*	Montgomery	5		
Cumberland	3	North Hampton	3		
Dauphin	2	Northumberland	1		
Delaware	3	Perry	1		
Elk	*	Philadelphia	5		
Erie	3	Pike	1		

Main Questionnaire

Q1. First, do you rent or own the home you live in?

	<u>%</u>
Rent	5
Own	94
Don't know/Not sure (DO NOT READ)	*
Refused (DO NOT READ)	*

Q2. IF OWN: In the past 2 years, has your property tax.....

(n=756)	<u>%</u>
Increased a lot	43
Increased a little	39
Stayed about the same	13
Decreased a little	1
Decreased a lot	*
Don't know/Not sure (DO NOT READ)	4
Refused (DO NOT READ)	*

Q2a. IF RENT: In the past 2 years, has your rent.....

(n=41)*	<u>%</u>
Increased a lot	10
Increased a little	29
Stayed about the same	51
Decreased a little	2
Decreased a lot	-
Don't know/Not sure (DO NOT READ)	7

Q3. IF OWN: How much of a problem is it for you to pay the property taxes on your home? Is it a major problem, minor problem, or not a problem?

(READ EACH OPTION) (n=756)	<u>%</u>
Major problem	28
Minor problem	36
Not a problem	35
Don't know/Not sure (DO NOT READ)	1
Refused (DO NOT READ)	*

Q3a. IF RENT: How much of a problem is it for you to pay the rent for your home? Is it a major problem, minor problem, or not a problem?

(READ EACH OPTION) (n=41)*	<u>%</u>
Major problem	12
Minor problem	22
Not a problem	56
Don't know/Not sure (DO NOT READ)	10

Q4. IF OWN: How concerned are you about your ability to pay the property tax on your home over the next three years? Are you extremely concerned, very concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned, or not at all concerned?

(n=756)	<u>%</u>
Extremely concerned	17
Very concerned	24
Somewhat concerned	33
Not very concerned	13
Not at all concerned	12
Don't know/Not sure (DO NOT READ)	1
Refused (DO NOT READ)	*

Q4a. IF RENT: How concerned are you about your ability to pay the rent for your home over the next three years? Are you extremely concerned, very concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned, or not at all concerned?

(n=41)*	<u>%</u>
Extremely concerned	10
Very concerned	17
Somewhat concerned	29
Not very concerned	17
Not at all concerned	22
Don't know/Not sure (DO NOT READ)	5

Q5. IF OWN: How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement: “I am worried that the increase in property tax rates in Pennsylvania will force me to move from my home in the near future.” Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, neither agree nor disagree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with this statement? (REPEAT STATEMENT IF

NEEDED) (n=756)	<u>%</u>
Strongly agree	21
Somewhat agree	18
Neither agree nor disagree	16
Somewhat disagree	23
Strongly disagree	20
Don't know/Not sure (DO NOT READ)	3
Refused (DO NOT READ)	*

Q5a. IF RENT: How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement: “I am worried that the increase in rent prices in Pennsylvania will force me to move from my home in the near future.” Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, neither agree nor disagree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with this statement? (REPEAT

(n=41)*	<u>%</u>
Strongly agree	12
Somewhat agree	15
Neither agree nor disagree	20
Somewhat disagree	32
Strongly disagree	15
Don't know/Not sure (DO NOT READ)	7

READ: Property tax revenues are used by local governments to pay for education and other public services for residents, such as policing and trash removal. Increases in this tax may be difficult for homeowners, but they can also be burdensome for renters since property tax increases are passed on to renters in the form of rent increases.

Q5. How strongly do you agree or disagree that property taxes should be reduced? Do you.....(READ EACH OPTION)

	<u>%</u>
Strongly agree	65
Somewhat agree	18
Neither agree nor disagree	8
Somewhat disagree	4
Strongly disagree	3
Don't know/not sure (DO NOT READ)	2
Refused (DO NOT READ)	*

Q6. How strongly would you support or oppose entirely eliminating property taxes?

Would you.....

(READ EACH OPTION)

	<u>%</u>
Strongly support	38
Somewhat support	18
Neither support nor oppose GO TO Q8	17
Somewhat oppose GO TO Q8	12
Strongly oppose GO TO Q8	7
Don't know/not sure (DO NOT READ)	8
Refused (DO NOT READ)	*

ROTATE Q7a AND Q7b:

Q7a. Would you still support entirely eliminating property taxes even if it meant a substantial reduction in local services, such as fire fighting and policing, trash removal, and road repair? (n=444)

	<u>%</u>
Yes	27
No	65
Don't know/Not sure (DO NOT READ)	7
Refused (DO NOT READ)	1

Q7b. Would you still support entirely eliminating property taxes even if it meant severe cuts to education funding? (n=444)

	<u>%</u>
Yes	32
No	59
Don't know/Not sure (DO NOT READ)	9
Refused (DO NOT READ)	1

Questions 8 a-d READ: There are a number of revenue sources that could be increased to close revenue gaps created by reducing or eliminating property taxes. I would like to get your opinion on each of these possibilities.

ROTATE QUESTIONS 8A THROUGH 8D

Q8a. In order to reduce property taxes, how strongly would you support or oppose introducing a sales taxes on food and clothing, which are not currently taxed? Would you.....

(READ EACH OPTION)	<u>%</u>
Strongly support	18
Somewhat support	17
Neither support nor oppose	9
Somewhat oppose	11
Strongly oppose	44
Don't know/not sure (DO NOT READ)	2

Q8b. In order to reduce property taxes, how strongly would you support or oppose increasing the personal income tax rate? Would you.....

(READ EACH OPTION)	<u>%</u>
Strongly support	11
Somewhat support	19
Neither support nor oppose	14
Somewhat oppose	16
Strongly oppose	34
Don't know/not sure (DO NOT READ)	5
Refused (DO NOT READ)	*

Q8c. In order to reduce property taxes, how strongly would you support or oppose increasing the state sales tax on items that are currently taxed, such as appliances, automobiles, books, and tools. Would you...

(READ EACH OPTION)	<u>%</u>
Strongly support	19
Somewhat support	28
Neither support nor oppose	14
Somewhat oppose	14
Strongly oppose	23
Don't know/not sure (DO NOT READ)	3

Q8d. In order to reduce property taxes, how strongly would you support or oppose the state using money raised through slot machine gambling. Would you...

(READ EACH OPTION)	<u>%</u>
Strongly support	49
Somewhat support	18
Neither support nor oppose	8
Somewhat oppose	6
Strongly oppose	18
Don't know/not sure (DO NOT READ)	2
Refused (DO NOT READ)	*

Q9. As mentioned earlier, local governments heavily depend on property tax revenue to fund public schools. In order to reduce property taxes, how strongly would you support or oppose the state providing additional funding to local governments to help pay for public education?

	<u>%</u>
Strongly support	47
Somewhat support	26
Neither support nor oppose GO TO Q10	11
Somewhat oppose GO TO Q10	6
Strongly oppose GO TO Q10	6
Don't know/not sure (DO NOT READ)	5

Q9a. Would you still support the state providing additional funding to local governments to help pay for public education even if it required tax increases or spending cuts at the state level? (n=580)

	<u>%</u>
Yes	69
No	21
Don't know/Not sure (DO NOT READ)	9
Refused (DO NOT READ)	*

Q10. Property tax reduction can be achieved through cuts to services, increases in other revenue sources, or a combination of both. Which of the approaches would you support in order to reduce property taxes?

	<u>%</u>
Cuts in services	4
Increases in other revenue sources	12
Or, some combination of both	74
Would not support any of these (VOLUNTEERED)	5
Don't know/Not sure (DO NOT READ)	5
Refused (DO NOT READ)	1

Finally, the following few questions are for classification purposes only and will be kept entirely confidential.

D1. What is your age as of your last birthday? (IN YEARS) _____

Age	<u>%</u>
50-64	35
65-74	32
75+	31
Refused	3

D2. What is your marital status? Are you currently..... (READ LIST)

	<u>%</u>
Now married	65
Not married, living with partner	1
Widowed	23
Divorced	6
Separated	1
Never married	4
Refused (DO NOT READ)	1

D3. What is the highest level of education you have completed? (READ ANSWER CATEGORIES)

	<u>%</u>
0-12 th grade (no diploma)	11
High school graduate (or equivalent)	39
Post-high school education (no degree)	10
2-year college degree	11
4-year college degree	12
Post-graduate study (no degree)	4
Graduate or professional degree (s)	11
Don't know/Not sure (DO NOT READ)	*
Refused (DO NOT READ)	1

D4. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?

Are you currently....	<u>%</u>
Self-employed, part-time	3
Self-employed, full-time	4
Employed, part-time	7
Employed, full-time	15
Retired, not working at all	66
Not in labor force for other reasons	3
Unemployed but looking for work	1
Disabled (VOLUNTEERED)	1
Something else [Specify: _____]	-
Refused (DO NOT READ)	*

D5. Sometimes things come up and people are not able to vote. In the recent 2004 election for President, were you able to vote?

	<u>%</u>
Yes	90
No	10
Refused (DO NOT READ)	*

D6. Thinking about your state elections for Pennsylvania Governor and Legislators in the last ten years, which of the following best describes your voting behavior? Would you say you always vote, vote most of the time, vote about half of the time, seldom vote, never vote, or were you not eligible to vote in the last ten years? %

Always	61
Most of the time	23
About half of the time	5
Seldom	5
Never	4
Not eligible to vote in the last ten years	1
Don't know/Not sure (DO NOT READ)	*
Refused (DO NOT READ)	1
Depends (VOLUNTEERED)	*

D7. Now, for statistical purposes only, please stop me when I get to the category that includes your household's income before taxes in 2004. Was it...

(READ ANSWER CATEGORIES) %

Less than \$10,000	4
\$10,000 but less than \$20,000	16
\$20,000 but less than \$30,000	16
\$30,000 but less than \$40,000	12
\$40,000 but less than \$50,000	8
\$50,000 but less than \$75,000	12
\$75,000 but less than \$100,000	9
Or was your income \$100,000 or more	5
Don't know/Not sure (DO NOT READ)	3
Refused (DO NOT READ)	18

D8. Are you of Spanish, Latino, or Hispanic origin? %

Yes	2
No	97
Don't know (DO NOT READ)	*
Refused (DO NOT READ)	1

D9. What race do you consider yourself? %

White or Caucasian	93
Black or African American	4
Asian	1
American Indian or Alaskan Native	*
Other	*
Don't know/Not sure (DO NOT READ)	*
Refused (DO NOT READ)	2

D10. And, finally, may I verify that I reached you at: () _____

Thank you for participating!

AARP
Knowledge Management
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