



## **Spur Our Economic Recovery by Asking the Wealthy to Do More**

### Survey Findings<sup>1</sup>

*Washingtonians strongly support taxing the most wealthy to invest in our economic well-being, to speed up recovery, and to address the structural injustice in the tax code.*

*Voters are intensely concerned about the economic impacts caused by the COVID-19 crisis. Topping the list of COVID concerns are the impact on small businesses (91% concerned, 71% very concerned) and the impact on families due to loss of income (90% concerned, 70% very concerned). One in three (33%) Washingtonians report that their own personal financial situation has gotten worse, with BIPOC and lower income voters most impacted.*

*With economic well-being top-of-mind, voters want a recovery that will improve the economic outlook for everybody—and they want these investments funded by taxing wealthy individuals and corporations. When asked how to address the revenue shortfall, only about 1 in 4 prefer to cut funding, while more than 7-in-10 would increase taxes. When provided the option to increase taxes specifically on wealthy individuals and corporations, an overwhelming 76% support increasing taxes and nearly half (49%) support raising taxes enough to both prevent funding cuts and provide new investments to kickstart the economy. Support for increasing taxes on the wealthy is nearly universal among Democrats (96%), solid among Independents (71%), and is even significant among Republicans (47%).*

*Voters support increasing taxes on the wealthy in part because they know the current state tax code is unjust, relying far too much on low- and middle-income families. Three out of four voters (76%) feel that “the wealthiest should pitch in a little more in taxes,” with more than half (54%) agreeing strongly with this statement. A large majority of voters (77%) understand that “low- and middle-income families in Washington pay a greater share of their income in taxes than high income families,” and more than half (53%) recognize that “Washington's tax system is the most upside down in the country.”*

There is broad support for reforming Washington's tax code both to ensure we have the resources needed (73%) and to address the current upside-down nature of the code (77%). Again, Democrats are near universal in believing it is important to reform the tax code in a manner that ensures the wealthy pay their share (94% important, 75% very important). Meanwhile, Independents concur (70% important, 49% very important), and even Republicans express support (59% important, 35% very important).

These findings, combined with earlier rounds of revenue research, provide further indication that Washington voters have high expectations when it comes to healthcare, schools, the

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<sup>1</sup> The findings are based on an online survey of 500 Washington state voters plus an oversample of 238 BIPOC voters conducted December 20-31, 2020. In total, the n=738 sample includes white non-Hispanic (n=455) Asian American (n=90), Latinx (n=64), Black (n=64), Native American (n=28) and other self-described people of color (n=37). The results have been weighted to reflect the demographics of Washington voters. The survey builds on qualitative research with a diverse group of 50 Washingtonians. [team@topospartnership.com](mailto:team@topospartnership.com)

environment, and providing the basic foundations of equity and opportunity. While the specifics differ, broadly, economic concerns cross demographic and ideological divides providing an opportunity for a broad-based, unifying conversation.

***It is clear that revenue measures that both address the imbalance in the tax code and help people and small businesses recover economically will be welcomed by Washingtonians, and that solutions that provide lasting improvements on both fronts will be well-received.***