

## **DEATH TAX**

*Arkansas, Louisiana, Oregon, Montana, Rhode Island & Washington*

Public Opinion Strategies

Field Dates: June 22-23, 2005

Proj #:05264

N=1,500

Margin of error  $\pm 2.53\%$

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Hello, I'm \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, a national research firm. We're talking with people around the country today, and would like to ask you a few questions on a confidential basis. We are not calling to sell anything nor will this call result in any future sales calls. We are simply speaking to people for research purposes only. **(DO NOT PAUSE)**

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B. Although the next federal election is not for a while....How likely is it that you will vote in the 2006 federal and state elections? Is it very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely, or not at all likely?

91% VERY LIKELY  
7% SOMEWHAT LIKELY  
1% NOT TOO LIKELY

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1. Now, generally speaking, would you say that things in the COUNTRY are going in the right direction, or have they pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track?

33% RIGHT DIRECTION  
59% WRONG TRACK  
  
7% DON'T KNOW **(DO NOT READ)**  
1% REFUSED **(DO NOT READ)**

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2. Do you approve or disapprove of the job George W. Bush is doing as President?

**(IF APPROVE/DISAPPROVE, ASK:)** And would you say you **STRONGLY** (approve/disapprove) or just **SOMEWHAT** (approve/disapprove)?

**46% TOTAL APPROVE**  
**52% TOTAL DISAPPROVE**

25% STRONGLY APPROVE  
21% SOMEWHAT APPROVE  
14% SOMEWHAT DISAPPROVE  
38% STRONGLY DISAPPROVE

2% DON'T KNOW (**DO NOT READ**)  
\* REFUSED (**DO NOT READ**)

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3. And thinking ahead to the next U.S. Senate election...If the election were held today, for whom would you vote... (**ROTATE**)

\_\_\_\_\_ the Republican candidate  
... or ...  
\_\_\_\_\_ the Democratic candidate

**(IF UNDECIDED, ASK:)** Which way do you lean as of today? Do you lean toward the Democratic or Republican candidate?

**39% TOTAL REPUBLICAN**  
**43% TOTAL DEMOCRAT**

32% REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE  
7% LEAN REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE  
7% LEAN DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE  
36% DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE

18% UNDECIDED (**DO NOT READ**)  
1% REFUSED (**DO NOT READ**)

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4. And, do you think Senator (INSERT NAME) has performed (INSERT PRONOUN) job as US Senator well enough to deserve re-election, or do you think it's time to give a new person a chance to do a better job?

**(IF RE-ELECT/NEW PERSON, ASK:)** And would you say DEFINITELY (RE-ELECT/NEW PERSON) or just PROBABLY (RE-ELECT/NEW PERSON)?

**49% TOTAL RE-ELECT**  
**35% TOTAL NEW PERSON**

24% DEFINITELY RE-ELECT  
 25% PROBABLY RE-ELECT  
 13% PROBABLY NEW PERSON  
 22% DEFINITELY NEW PERSON

16% DON'T KNOW/DEPENDS (**DO NOT READ**)  
 1% REFUSED (**DO NOT READ**)

Changing topics and talking some more about some issues that are being debated in the United States Senate and I would like you to rate the importance of each one. That is to say, should it be an absolute top priority, a high but not top priority, a medium priority, a lower priority, or not a priority at all. As you respond, please keep in mind that not every goal can be a top priority of the United States Senate.

The (FIRST/NEXT) one is... (**RANDOMIZE ALL EXCEPT Q17**)

	<b>TOP PRIORITY</b>	<b>HIGH PRIORITY</b>	<b>MEDIUM PRIORITY</b>	<b>LOWER PRIORITY</b>	<b>NOT PRIORITY</b>	<b>DK (DNR)</b>	<b>REF. (DNR)</b>
5. Making quality health care and prescription drugs more affordable	40%	41%	15%	3%	1%	*	--
6. Stopping wasteful government spending	42%	38%	15%	3%	1%	1%	*
7. Cutting taxes	18%	25%	37%	13%	6%	1%	*
8. Improving the economic and job situation	32%	42%	22%	2%	1%	*	--
9. Fighting crime	29%	39%	27%	4%	1%	*	*

	<b>TOP PRIORITY</b>	<b>HIGH PRIORITY</b>	<b>MEDIUM PRIORITY</b>	<b>LOWER PRIORITY</b>	<b>NOT PRIORITY</b>	<b>DK (DNR)</b>	<b>REF. (DNR)</b>
10. Protecting Americans from terrorism	47%	36%	13%	2%	1%	*	*
11. Lowering gasoline prices	27%	27%	31%	10%	4%	*	*
12. Reforming Social Security	26%	29%	27%	9%	5%	2%	*
13. Making sure the senate retains the right to filibuster federal judges	14%	21%	31%	18%	10%	6%	*
14. Deciding who will be the next ambassador to the United Nations.	14%	23%	38%	17%	5%	4%	*
15. Resolving the situation in Iraq	48%	38%	9%	2%	1%	1%	1%
16. Making sure good judges are appointed to the Supreme Court	35%	40%	20%	3%	1%	1%	*
<b>(ALWAYS READ LAST)</b>							
17. Permanently repealing the estate or death tax, that is to say the 47% tax that some families must pay the federal government on anything of value they inherit from a deceased relative.	24%	25%	28%	15%	7%	2%	*

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18. And what about you personally, do you support or oppose repealing the estate, or death tax, that is to say the 47% tax that some families must pay the federal government on anything of value they inherit from a deceased relative?

**(IF SUPPORT/OPPOSE, ASK:)** And would you say you STRONGLY (support/oppose) or just SOMEWHAT (support/oppose) repealing the inheritance or death tax?

**58% TOTAL SUPPORT**  
**35% TOTAL OPPOSE**

41% STRONGLY SUPPORT  
17% SOMEWHAT SUPPORT  
13% SOMEWHAT OPPOSE  
23% STRONGLY OPPOSE

6% DON'T KNOW (**DO NOT READ**)  
\* REFUSED (**DO NOT READ**)

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- X1. And as you may know, from time to time, Washington voters have the opportunity to vote on different ballot issues...

Would you vote YES or NO on an initiative that would repeal Washington State's new estate tax?

**(IF YES OR NO, ASK)** And would that be definitely (yes/no) or just probably (yes/no)?

**WA ONLY**

**60% TOTAL YES**  
**24% TOTAL NO**

35% DEFINITELY YES  
25% PROBABLY YES  
10% PROBABLY NO  
14% DEFINITELY NO

16% DON'T KNOW/UNDECIDED (**DNR**)  
-- REFUSED (**DNR**)

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19. (SOME PEOPLE/OTHER PEOPLE) say that...(ROTATE)

50% We should permanently repeal the 47% estate or death tax entirely and eliminate it from the tax code.

...while...

44% We should keep the estate or death tax, but change the rules under which it applies and lower the rate.

...which is closest to how you feel?

5% DON'T KNOW (DO NOT READ)

1% REFUSED (DO NOT READ)

Thinking more about the permanently repealing the 47% estate or death tax...

I would like to read what people are saying on both sides of this issue and after I read each statement, please tell me if knowing that makes you more likely to SUPPORT repealing the 47% estate or death tax, more likely to OPPOSE repealing the 47% estate or death tax or if it makes no difference in your how you feel? (RANDOMIZE)

(IF SUPPORT/OPPOSE, ASK:) And, would that be much more likely to (support/oppose) or just somewhat more likely to (support/oppose)?

<b>TOT MORE LIKELY SUPPORT</b>	<b>TOT MORE LIKELY OPPOSE</b>	<b>MUCH MORE LIKELY SUPPORT</b>	<b>SMWHT/ MORE LIKELY SUPPORT</b>	<b>SMWHT/ MORE LIKELY OPPOSE</b>	<b>MUCH MORE LIKELY OPPOSE</b>	<b>(DNR) NO DIFF</b>	<b>(DNR) DON'T KNOW/ REFUSED</b>
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20. Repealing the 47% estate or death tax, will give the largest single tax break in history to the wealthiest Americans – people like Paris Hilton who inherited their wealth rather than worked for it, will save millions in taxes.

<b>30%</b>	<b>45%</b>	18%	12%	13%	32%	21%	4%
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21. Repealing the 47% estate or death tax will save thousands of small family businesses – children who work in the family business are often forced to sell all or part of the business just to pay the taxes when their parents pass away.

<b>67%</b>	<b>17%</b>	50%	17%	7%	10%	13%	3%
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TOT MORE LIKELY SUPPORT	TOT MORE LIKELY OPPOSE	MUCH MORE LIKELY SUPPORT	SMWHT/ MORE LIKELY SUPPORT	SMWHT/ MORE LIKELY OPPOSE	MUCH MORE LIKELY OPPOSE	(DNR) NO DIFF	(DNR) DON'T KNOW/ REFUSED
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22. Repealing the 47% estate or death tax will save thousands of family farms – children who work on the farm are often forced to sell all or part of the business just to pay the taxes on the property when their parents pass away.

<b>69%</b>	<b>17%</b>	51%	18%	6%	11%	11%	3%
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23. African American, Hispanic and woman-owned small businesses are among the fastest growing parts of the U.S. economy; repealing the 47% estate or inheritance tax will allow these families to pass their success on to their children and not turn the clock back.

<b>67%</b>	<b>13%</b>	41%	26%	6%	7%	17%	3%
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24. The 47% estate or death tax is fair because it only affects the wealthiest Americans who pass on more than one million dollars in wealth to their families.

<b>39%</b>	<b>36%</b>	22%	17%	16%	19%	20%	5%
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25. The 47% estate or death tax hurts the middle-class the most; the wealthiest Americans can afford lawyers and accountants to find loopholes, shelters and other accounting tricks that hide their wealth and avoid paying the tax.

<b>52%</b>	<b>26%</b>	33%	19%	11%	15%	18%	3%
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26. Every day, 1500 members of our World War Two veterans are dying; permanently repealing the 47% estate or death tax will allow those of the greatest generation who built legacies to pass them on to their children and grand children.

<b>66%</b>	<b>13%</b>	45%	21%	7%	7%	17%	3%
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27. Permanently repealing the 47% estate or death tax will keep billions of job-creating investment dollars in the American economy and encourage the creation of good jobs and economic growth.

<b>64%</b>	<b>14%</b>	41%	24%	7%	7%	18%	3%
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Now that you have heard more about this issue...

28. Do you support or oppose repealing the inheritance or death tax, that is to say the 47% tax that relatives must pay the federal government on anything of value they inherit from a deceased relative?

**(IF SUPPORT/OPPOSE, ASK:)** And would you say you STRONGLY (support/oppose) or just SOMEWHAT (support/oppose) repealing the inheritance or death tax?

**68% TOTAL SUPPORT**

**27% TOTAL OPPOSE**

49% STRONGLY SUPPORT

19% SOMEWHAT SUPPORT

10% SOMEWHAT OPPOSE

17% STRONGLY OPPOSE

5% DON'T KNOW (**DO NOT READ**)

1% REFUSED (**DO NOT READ**)

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**(ROTATE Q29 & Q30)**

29. And would you be more likely to vote for your U.S. Senator, less likely or would it make no difference in your vote if you knew that he SUPPORTED permanently repealing the 47% estate or death tax?

**(IF MORE/LESS LIKELY, ASK:)** And, would that be MUCH (more/less) likely or SOMEWHAT (more/less) likely?

**48% TOTAL MORE LIKELY**

**15% TOTAL LESS LIKELY**

27% MUCH MORE LIKELY

21% SOMEWHAT MORE LIKELY

8% SOMEWHAT LESS LIKELY

7% MUCH LESS LIKELY

34% MAKES NO DIFFERENCE

4% DON'T KNOW/REFUSED

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30. And would you be more likely to vote for your U.S. Senator, less likely or would it make no difference in your vote if you knew that he OPPOSED permanently repealing the 47% estate or death tax?

**(IF MORE/LESS LIKELY, ASK:)** And, would that be MUCH (more/less) likely or SOMEWHAT (more/less) likely?

**20% TOTAL MORE LIKELY**  
**39% TOTAL LESS LIKELY**

10% MUCH MORE LIKELY  
10% SOMEWHAT MORE LIKELY  
17% SOMEWHAT LESS LIKELY  
22% MUCH LESS LIKELY

36% MAKES NO DIFFERENCE  
5% DON'T KNOW/REFUSED

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And now, I have just a few more questions for statistical purposes only...

- D1. First, in what year were you born?

5% 18 - 24  
10% 25 - 34  
17% 35 - 44  
21% 45 - 54  
21% 55 - 64  
25% 65 AND ABOVE

1% REFUSED

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D2. Income.

**38% LESS THAN \$40K**  
**30% \$40-\$80K**  
**21% \$80K+**

15% UNDER \$20,000  
23% BETWEEN \$20,000 - \$40,000  
18% BETWEEN \$40,000 - \$60,000  
12% BETWEEN \$60,000 - \$80,000  
11% BETWEEN \$80,000 - \$100,000  
11% OVER \$100,000

11% REFUSED (**DO NOT READ**)

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D3. And in politics today, do you consider yourself... (**ROTATE**)

\_\_\_\_\_ a Republican,  
\_\_\_\_\_ a Democrat,  
\_\_\_\_\_ or something else?

**(IF REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRAT, ASK:)** Would you call yourself a STRONG (REPUBLICAN/DEMOCRAT) or a NOT-SO-STRONG (REPUBLICAN/ DEMOCRAT)?

**(IF SOMETHING ELSE, ASK:)** Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican or to the Democratic party?

**29% TOTAL REPUBLICAN**  
**33% TOTAL DEMOCRAT**  
**36% TOTAL LEAN/INDEPENDENT**

19% STRONG REPUBLICAN  
10% NOT-SO-STRONG REPUBLICAN

10% LEAN TO REPUBLICANS  
19% SOMETHING ELSE/INDEPENDENT  
7% LEAN TO DEMOCRATS

10% NOT-SO-STRONG DEMOCRAT  
23% STRONG DEMOCRAT

1% DONT KNOW (**DO NOT READ**)  
1% REFUSED (**DO NOT READ**)

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D4. And do you consider yourself to be...(ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)

\_\_\_ conservative,  
moderate  
...or...  
\_\_\_ liberal

**(IF CONSERVATIVE/LIBERAL, ASK:)** And would you consider yourself to be VERY (CONSERVATIVE/LIBERAL), or just SOMEWHAT (CONSERVATIVE/LIBERAL)?

**41% TOTAL CONSERVATIVE**

**54% TOTAL MODERATE/LIBERAL**

20% VERY CONSERVATIVE

21% SOMEWHAT CONSERVATIVE

36% MODERATE

11% SOMEWHAT LIBERAL

7% VERY LIBERAL

4% UNDECIDED/NOT SURE **(DO NOT READ)**

1% REFUSED **(DO NOT READ)**

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D5. Other than being an American, what is your main ethnic or racial heritage? **(READ CHOICES)**

7% AFRICAN AMERICAN OR BLACK

85% WHITE

1% HISPANIC AMERICAN OR LATINO

1% ASIAN AMERICAN

3% OTHER **(DO NOT READ)**

2% REFUSED **(DO NOT READ)**

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D6. And which cable station would you say you watch the most? **(DO NOT READ)**

3% ABC  
5% NBC  
4% CBS  
10% FOX  
8% CNN  
1% MSNBC  
3% PBS  
\* COMCAST CN8  
\* QVC  
\* WB  
1% HBO  
-- SHOWTIME  
\* UPN  
\* PAX  
-- CINEMAX  
-- WGN  
2% TNT  
1% USA  
4% ESPN  
\* WEATHER CHANNEL  
\* C-SPAN  
1% MTV  
3% DISNEY  
1% DISCOVERY  
2% A & E  
\* LIFETIME  
\* TNN  
\* FX  
\* NICKELODEON  
1% ABC FAMILY CHANNEL  
\* TBS SUPERSTATION  
\* TCM - TURNER CLASSIC MOVIES  
1% AMC - AMERICAN MOVIE CLASSICS  
\* ESPN 2  
\* BET  
1% C-SPAN 2  
\* COMEDY CENTRAL  
\* EWTN  
\* CMT - COUNTRY MUSIC TELEVISION  
\* CNBC

-- VH1  
\* GAME SHOW NETWORK  
1% ANIMAL PLANET  
4% TLC - THE LEARNING CHANNEL  
2% HISTORY CHANNEL  
1% HGTV - HOME AND GARDEN TELEVISION  
-- SCI-FI CHANNEL  
\* TV GUIDE CHANNEL  
\* CARTOON NETWORK  
1% SPEED CHANNEL  
1% FOOD NETWORK  
\* COURT TV  
\* GOLF CHANNEL  
\* OUTDOOR LIFE NETWORK  
\* TECH TV  
-- BRAVO  
\* STYLE  
\* E! ENTERTAINMENT TELEVISION  
3% TMC - THE MOVIE CHANNEL  
9% FOX NEWS  
3% FOX SPORTS  
1% OTHER (SPECIFY: \_\_\_\_\_)  
13% DON'T KNOW  
3% REFUSED  
3% DON'T HAVE/WATCH CABLE

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D7. Which television station do you watch the most for local news? (**RANDOMIZE**)

19% ABC  
26% NBC  
19% CBS  
9% FOX

12% SOMETHING ELSE (SPECIFY: \_\_\_\_\_) (**DO NOT READ**)  
11% DON'T KNOW (**DO NOT READ**)  
4% REFUSED (**DO NOT READ**)

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D9. Gender.

**48% MALE**  
**52% FEMALE**

26% FEMALE/EMPLOYED  
7% FEMALE/HOMEMAKER  
16% FEMALE/RETIRED  
2% FEMALE/NOT IN LABOR FORCE  
\* (**DO NOT READ**) FEMALE REFUSED

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