

Public Topline Results for National Survey
 A National Survey of Adults 18 and older
 On Community Issues

12 minute survey of 2,400 Americans
 (800 nationwide; 200 oversamples in eight states)
 Margin of error: ±3.5 percentage points
 Field dates: December 14th – 22nd, 2005
 Weighted slightly by gender, age, race, and region
 * denotes less than one percent

1. In general, how satisfied are you with the way things are going in your own community these days? Very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, not too satisfied, or not at all satisfied?

Very satisfied	29	78
Somewhat satisfied.....	49	
Not too satisfied.....	13	
Not at all satisfied.....	8	21
(don't know/refuse).....	1	

Please tell me how high of a priority you think each of these things should be for local elected officials in your community. By locally elected, I mean your mayor, city council, county commissioners, tribal officials, or the state representative who represents your community. The first one is _____. In your own opinion, should this be a top priority, a high priority but not top, a middle priority, low priority, or not a priority at all for local elected officials?

RANDOMIZE 2-5

	Top	High, Not top	Middle	Low	Not at All	DK/ REF	Top/ High	Middle Low
2. Improving public transportation.....	16	24	32	15	10	2	41	47
3. Improving access to health care and dealing with health care costs..	43	31	16	4	4	1	74	20
4. Creating more affordable housing.....	27	28	26	11	5	3	55	37
5. Keeping and attracting more businesses that have good-paying jobs.....	39	38	15	4	3	1	77	19

6. Overall, how often can you trust your local government to do what is right? Always, most of the time, sometimes, or rarely?

Always	5	39
Most of the time	34	
Sometimes.....	41	
Rarely	17	
Never (VOLUNTEER)	3	61
(don't know/refuse).....*		

7. In your own community, would you say there are a lot, some or not many people who are struggling to make ends meet?

A lot.....	51
Some.....	34
Not many	13
(don't know/refuse).....	2

8. How many people in your community are working full-time jobs but are still struggling to make ends meet – would you say there are a lot of people like that, some, or not many?

A lot.....	41
Some.....	41
Not many	13
(don't know/refuse).....	6

9. Do you personally know anyone in your community who is working two or more jobs and still struggling to make ends meet?

Yes	51
No.....	47
(don't know/refuse).....	1

10. How much income would you say a family of four needs to earn in a year in order to make ends meet in your community? Do you think they need an income of...READ CATEGORIES:

At least \$10,000.....	1
At least \$20,000.....	8
At least \$30,000.....	23
At least \$40,000, or	25
More than that?.....	39
(don't know/refuse).....	3

11. Think about Hurricane Katrina just for a moment and the people who were in the city of New Orleans during the hurricane. If there were a natural disaster in your own community like a hurricane, flood, tornado, or something else, who would be hardest hit? What types or groups of people do you think would be hardest hit?
OPEN END. PROBE: Any others? MULTIPLE RESPONSE

Poor/low income/less fortunate	53
Everyone/anyone	15
Elderly.....	14
Middle class/income	7
Minorities	4
Enviro factors/low-lying areas/in path of storm	4
Families/children	3
People without insurance.....	3
People without solid homes/mobile homes.....	3
Disabled/sick.....	2
Farmers/ranchers.....	1
Rural areas	1
No one.....	1
Other.....	6
Don't know/refused.....	8

12. Thinking about all of the concerns you personally have about your community, is helping people struggling to make ends meet a top concern, a middle concern, or a low concern?

Top concern	49
Middle concern	38
Low concern.....	12
(don't know/refuse).....	2

13. How important is it that your local elected officials work to help people struggling to make ends meet– very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

Very important.....	61	91
Somewhat important.....	30	
Not too important.....	5	
Not at all important.....	3	8
(don't know/refuse).....	1	

Now I want to ask a little more about local elected officials in your community.

14. Would you say your local officials are working very hard, somewhat hard, not too hard, or not at all to help people struggling to make ends meet in your community?

Very hard.....	9	56
Somewhat hard	47	
Not too hard.....	25	
Not at all.....	10	35
(don't know/refuse).....	9	

15. How knowledgeable do you think your local elected officials are about the struggles people have trying to make ends meet in your community – very knowledgeable, somewhat knowledgeable, not very, or not knowledgeable at all?

Very knowledgeable.....	22	69
Somewhat knowledgeable.....	47	
Not very knowledgeable.....	19	
Not knowledgeable at all.....	7	26
(don't know/refuse).....	5	

16. If you had an idea or solution to help people struggling in your community, do you think your local officials would be willing to talk with you about it, or would they be unwilling to talk to you about it? (Is that very or somewhat willing/unwilling?)

Very willing.....	24	66
Somewhat willing.....	42	
Somewhat unwilling	17	
Very unwilling.....	11	27
(don't know/refuse).....	6	

17. Do you think the number of people struggling to make ends meet could be reduced in your own community? IF YES: Do you think it could be reduced a lot, some, or just a little?

Yes – reduced a lot.....	25	88
Yes – reduced some.....	51	
Yes – reduced a little.....	12	
No – could not be reduced.....	6	
(don't know/refuse).....	6	

18. When you vote in an election, do you think about how well a candidate would help those struggling to make ends meet?

Yes	70
No.....	26
(don't know/refuse).....	3

Now I'm going to read some statements. Please tell me if you agree or disagree with each: [Is that strongly or somewhat agree/disagree?]

RANDOMIZE 19-22

	Strngly <u>Agree.</u>	Smwt <u>Agree</u>	Smwt <u>Dis.</u>	Strngly <u>Dis.</u>	DO NOT PROBE <u>DK/Ref</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Dis.</u>
19. There are many skilled and capable people in my community.....	57	30	5	3	4	87	9
20. Most people in my community are willing to help their neighbors.....	48	37	8	5	2	86	13
21. There are people in my community who are willing to help those who are struggling	45	43	7	3	3	88	10
22. I would like to do more to help people struggling in my community	52	38	5	3	3	90	8

23. How often do you feel that your community can do something effective about its community problems? Always, most of the time, sometimes, or rarely?

Always.....	12	51
Most of the time.....	39	
Sometimes.....	39	
Rarely.....	8	
Never (VOLUNTEERED).....	*	47
(don't know/refuse).....	2	

24. Do you think it would be a good idea or bad idea if people in your community got together to discuss ways to help those struggling to make ends meet? (Very or somewhat good/bad idea?)

Very good idea.....	61	92
Somewhat good idea.....	31	
Somewhat bad idea.....	2	
Very bad idea.....	2	4
(don't know/refuse).....	4	

Thinking realistically, how likely would you be to: (Would you be very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely, or not at all likely)

	<u>Very Likely</u>	<u>Smwt Likely</u>	<u>Not too Likely</u>	<u>Not at all Likely</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>	<u>Likely</u>	<u>Not Likely</u>
25. Attend this type of discussion?.....	30	46	13	10	1	76	23
How about: RANDOMIZE 26-29							
26. Take part in a church project to help people struggling to make ends meet?.....	48	30	10	11	1	78	21
27. Adopt a family in need to help them from time to time?.....	23	41	18	16	2	64	34
28. Pay 50 dollars more a year in taxes if it would go to programs in your own community that help people struggling to make ends meet?.....	36	31	12	17	3	68	29
29. Talk to elected officials in your community about people's struggle to make ends meet?	27	42	18	11	1	70	29

For each of the following, please tell me if your local elected officials should have a great deal of responsibility for doing each of these, some responsibility, not much responsibility, or no responsibility at all: The first one is:

RANDOMIZE 30-35

	<u>Great Deal</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Not Much</u>	<u>No Resp.</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>	<u>Great/ Some</u>	<u>Not Much/no</u>
30. Making health care more affordable and accessible to everyone in the community.....	59	29	6	4	1	88	11
31. Creating more affordable housing..	48	39	7	4	1	87	11
32. Providing better social services.....	54	36	6	2	2	90	8
33. Keeping and attracting more businesses that have good-paying jobs.....	68	27	3	1	1	95	4
34. Setting up ways so that everyone in the community can get involved in helping people struggling to make ends meet	43	46	6	3	1	90	9
35. Getting churches, businesses, schools, and other local groups to work together to help people struggling to make ends meet.....	46	42	6	5	1	88	11

36. In the past 12 months, have you joined with other people to work to fix or improve something in your community?

Yes 49
No 51
(don't know/refuse)..... *

37. Finally, in your community, do you think an income of \$10,000 for a single adult is enough to make ends meet?

Yes 11
No 86
(don't know/refuse).....3