Everyone is wrong about taxes (including me)

Catherine Rampell
The Washington Post
FIGURE 2
Percentage of Tax Units with Tax Increase, 2018

Americans' Opinions of the Federal Income Taxes They Pay

Do you consider the amount of federal income tax you have to pay as too high, about right or too low?

- % Too high
- % About right
- % Too low

Get the data • Download image
### Most Americans say they pay “more than” their fair share of taxes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>More than fair share</th>
<th>About the right amount</th>
<th>Less than fair share</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>All respondents</strong></td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Upper-income</strong></td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Middle-income</strong></td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lower-income</strong></td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Republican/Lean R</strong></td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Democrat/Lean D</strong></td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age 18-29</strong></td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age 30-49</strong></td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age 50-64</strong></td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age 65+</strong></td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chart shows percent who say, considering what they get from the federal government, they pay ___ in taxes. No answer responses not shown. Survey conducted March 27-April 2, 2023.

Source: Pew Research Center
Poll Reveals Most Americans Don't Know They Got a Tax Cut

BY ROBERT HENDIN
FEBRUARY 12, 2010 / 1:18 PM / CBS NEWS

Do You Think The Obama Administration Has Already...

Kept taxes same 53%
Lowered taxes 12%
Raised taxes 24%
Don't Know 11%

Updated 1:50 p.m. ET

Of all the very information that came out of the recent CBS News/New York Times poll, one question stuck out, that of taxes.

Here's the poll question: "In general, do you think the Obama Administration has increased taxes for most Americans, decreased taxes for most Americans or have they kept taxes the same for most Americans?"
THE 2004 CAMPAIGN: THE POLL; Poll Bolsters Bush on Terrorism But Finds Doubts on Economy

By Robin Toner and Janet Elder
Jan. 18, 2004

President Bush begins his campaign year with Americans voicing strong support for his handling of the war against terrorism, but many doubt his economic and domestic policies, according to the latest New York Times/CBS News poll.

Fewer than one in five people said their tax burden had been eased by Mr. Bush, who has made tax cuts the centerpiece of his economic program. His latest domestic initiatives, unveiled in the
For each dollar spent on auditing...
In-person audits, 2010-2014

For the top 0.1 percent
$6.29

For the top 1 percent
$3.18

IRS's return on investment for the bottom 50 percent
$0.96

How much the IRS gets back for each additional dollar spent on auditing, by individuals’ income percentile

Initial audit revenue  Expected revenue in the next 14 years

$10

$5

Fixed overhead costs are excluded when estimating the marginal cost of audits.

Percentage of Income Tax Returns Audited With No Change

No-Change Rate

Year

Source: Internal Revenue Service Data Book, various years.