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FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:
 Questionnaire No.: _____
 Card No.: _____

HA_TX TAX STUDY_MASTER QUESTIONNAIRE_050505

HA
 VOTERS
 MAY, 05

SAMPLE:

n=800

NO CODE/ASK ALL QUESTIONS

INTRODUCTION: Good evening. My name is _____ and I'm calling from Wilson Research Strategies, a national public opinion firm. This evening we're conducting a short scientific survey on this issue of taxes in Texas and we'd like to get your opinions. We're not selling anything and your responses will be completely confidential.

1. Many economists agree that business taxes are not actually paid by the business, but by employees, business owners and consumers. Who do you believe bears the greatest burden when a business is taxed?

READ AND ROTATE LIST:

- | | | |
|----|---|-----|
| 1. | The business itself..... | 13% |
| 2. | The business owner..... | 14% |
| 3. | The employees..... | 11% |
| 4. | The consumer or customer..... | 52% |
| 5. | DK/Refused <input type="checkbox"/> DNR | 10% |

2. Recently, you may have read some media coverage regarding the Texas legislature's plan to cut some school property taxes and replacing those with state dollars. This would result in a tax shift. More state dollars would be needed to replace the local property tax money going to schools. How much would you say you know about the legislature's tax plan? Would you say you know a great deal about the plan, you know a little bit about the plan, or would you say you know almost nothing about the plan? If you've not heard anything regarding the legislature's plan, please say so.

- | | | |
|----|---|------------|
| | COMBO INFORMED..... | 46% |
| 1. | Know a great deal..... | 8% |
| 2. | Know a little bit..... | 38% |
| 3. | Know almost nothing..... | 30% |
| 4. | Heard nothing about it..... | 23% |
| | COMBO UNINFORMED..... | 53% |
| 5. | DK/Refused <input type="checkbox"/> DNR | 1% |

3. From everything you have seen, read or heard, no matter how much or how little, would you say you favor or oppose the legislature's plan to cut property taxes by increasing other taxes?

PROBE: STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT

- | | | |
|----|---|------------|
| | COMBO SUPPORT | 38% |
| 1. | Strongly favor..... | 18% |
| 2. | Somewhat favor..... | 20% |
| 3. | Somewhat oppose..... | 21% |
| 4. | Strongly oppose..... | 22% |
| | COMBO OPPOSE..... | 43% |
| 5. | DK/Refused <input type="checkbox"/> DNR | 19% |





4. If the legislature’s tax plan becomes law and the property tax cuts actually go into effect, which of the following statements most represents what you believe will be the ultimate effect on you personally and the taxes you pay:
- 1. My property tax cut will be permanent if this tax plan passes..... 8%
 - 2. My property tax cut will be temporary if this tax plan passes because appraisal rates will go up or the legislature will ultimately increase property taxes again in the future..... 45%
 - 3. I believe I will probably end up paying more in taxes if this tax plan passes..... 38%
 - 4. DK/Refused DNR 10%
5. The legislature’s tax plan includes expanding the franchise tax to personal partnerships, like doctors and accountants, and the income the individual partners earn. Many say that this expanded franchise tax is actually a tax on income and is the first step toward a personal income tax in Texas. Those who support the plan argue that these partnerships are actually businesses and it’s only fair that they also pay the franchise tax. Do you agree that expanding the franchise tax to include individual partners is the first step toward a personal income tax in Texas or do you agree it is only fair that partnerships pay the franchise tax?
- 1. The first step toward a personal income tax in Texas..... 31%
 - 2. It is only fair that partnerships pay the franchise tax..... 50%
 - 3. DK/Refused DNR 19%
6. Many critics of this property tax cut plan have suggested that the Texas state government should simply cut spending by 3 percent across the board to cut property taxes *rather than* increasing any taxes. Those who support the tax plan have responded that spending has been cut all it can be and taxes must be increased in certain areas to provide for a property tax cut. What about you? Would you rather see state spending cut by 3 percent across the board to provide for property tax cuts or do you agree that spending has been cut all it can be?
- 1. Cut spending rather than increasing any taxes 60%
 - 2. Spending has been cut all it can be 29%
 - 3. DK/Refused DNR 12%
7. Another option being considered is that, rather than create new taxes on businesses, the Texas legislature could tax punitive damage awards. As you may be aware, punitive damage awards are those awards given during the course of a lawsuit to cover things like pain and suffering. On average, trial lawyers keep between one-third to one-half of this award. Which do you think is a better idea, put new taxes on Texas businesses or tax lawyers through a tax on punitive damage awards?
- 1. New tax on Texas businesses..... 15%
 - 2. Tax punitive damage awards 68%
 - 3. Both DNR 4%
 - 4. Neither DNR..... 6%
 - 5. DK/Refused DNR 8%
8. The Texas House recently passed legislation to make it easier for taxpayers to call for an election to rollback property taxes as appraised values rise—which causes tax bills to increase. Do you believe this legislation should be passed by the senate and signed by the governor?
- 1. Yes 51%
 - 2. No 33%
 - 3. DK/Refused DNR 17%



9. The Texas legislature is likely to increase two-year government spending by twenty percent before they conclude their business at the end of the month. Would you support or oppose a constitutional amendment that strictly limits the growth in government spending to inflation plus population growth, which would currently be approximately ten percent over two years?

	COMBO SUPPORT	58%
1.	Strongly support.....	32%
2.	Somewhat support	26%
3.	Somewhat oppose.....	13%
4.	Strongly oppose	16%
	COMBO OPPOSE	29%
5.	DK/Refused <input type="checkbox"/> DNR	13%

10. School finance legislation that would trim property taxes, raise teacher salaries, increase state oversight of charter schools and launch a merit pay program for teachers was passed last Friday by the Texas Senate Education Committee. The measure, which would boost funding for public schools by about \$2.8 billion over two years would expand the current business tax and also institute a state-wide property tax. To institute a state-wide property tax, voters would need to approve a constitutional amendment. From what you know, if a vote were held on this constitutional amendment to institute a statewide property tax today, would you vote for or against it?

1.	Vote for	30%
2.	Vote against	57%
3.	Undecided/DK/Refused <input type="checkbox"/> DNR	13%

Now, just a few more questions for demographic purposes.

11. With which political party are you affiliated?

1.	Republican	34%
2.	Democrat.....	34%
3.	Independent.....	23%
4.	Other (specify)	2%
5.	DK/Refused <input type="checkbox"/> DNR	7%

12. Thinking about issues and politics, do you consider yourself to be (ROTATE) conservative, moderate or liberal in your political beliefs?

PROBE: VERY/SOMEWHAT

	COMBO CONSERVATIVE	48%
1.	Very conservative.....	20%
2.	Somewhat conservative	28%
3.	Moderate.....	33%
4.	Somewhat liberal.....	7%
5.	Very liberal	5%
	COMBO LIBERAL	12%
6.	DK/Refused <input type="checkbox"/> DNR	6%

13. What is your annual family income? Is it (READ LIST)

1.	Under \$20,000	12%
2.	Between \$20,001 & \$40,000.....	20%
3.	Between \$40,001 & \$60,000.....	16%
4.	Between \$60,001 & \$75,000.....	10%
5.	Over \$75,000	25%
6.	DK/Refused <input type="checkbox"/> DNR	18%



14. In your current place of residence, do you own your home or do you rent?

- 1. Own home 83%
- 2. Rent 12%
- 3. Neither 1%
- 4. DK/Refused 4%

15. What is your race?

- 1. Hispanic 15%
- 2. African-American 10%
- 3. Asiatic 1%
- 4. White 70%
- 5. Other (specify) 2%
- 6. Refused 3%

16. AGE PRE-CODE FROM FILE

- 1. 18-25 6%
- 2. 26-40 18%
- 3. 41-55 29%
- 4. 56-65 20%
- 5. Over 65 24%
- 6. Refused 4%

17. Gender BY OBSERVATION/PRE-CODE

- 1. Male 48%
- 2. Female 52%

18. Media Market PRE-CODE

- 1. Dallas/Ft. Worth 18%
- 2. Houston 19%
- 3. Austin/Waco-Temple 9%
- 4. San Antonio 7%
- 5. Lrdo/ Crp Ch/ Mcaln-Brw 8%
- 6. Shrvpt/Txrkna/Tyler 12%
- 7. El Paso/Ods-Md/Sn Agl 7%
- 8. Lbck/Amrlllo 8%
- 9. Beaumont-Pt. Arthur 12%

19. Geographic Break: PRE-CODE

- 1. East Texas 20%
- 2. Houston/Galveston 20%
- 3. Dallas 18%
- 4. Central Texas 23%
- 5. South Texas 8%
- 6. North Texas 8%
- 7. West Texas 4%