Facing Facts:

Public Attitudes and Fiscal Realities in Five Stressed States

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
Dates	June 9–15	June 16-20	June 9–15	June 3–9	June 3–9
Number of adults interviewed	1,003	1,002	1,003	1,001	1,001

Interviews in English and Spanish.

Margin of error taking the design effect from weighting into consideration is $\pm 4\%$ at the 95% confidence level for total sample in each state

1. First, thinking about the state as a whole, what do you think is the most important issue facing people in [state name] today? [code, don't read]

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
crime, gangs, drugs	1%	2%	1%	5%	3%
economy	17	30	20	17	25
education, schools	4	5	5	10	4
environment, pollution	_	1	7	1	_
government regulations	2	1	_	_	1
health care, health costs	2	1	2	3	3
housing crisis, housing costs	_	1	3	_	3
immigration, illegal immigration	47	7	1	1	2
jobs, unemployment	12	29	32	26	24
oil spill	_	_	15	_	_
political corruption	_	1	_	3	_
race relations, racial/ethnic issues	2	_	_	_	_
state budget, deficit	3	8	1	17	7
taxes	1	3	2	7	14
other	7	8	8	7	10
don't know	2	3	3	3	4

2. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that [governor's name] is handling his/her job as Governor of [state name]?

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
approve	51%	23%	53%	31%	26%
disapprove	38	64	32	49	58
don't know	11	13	15	20	16

3. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that *[governor's name]* is handling the issue of the state budget and taxes?

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
approve	43%	21%	49%	24%	26%
disapprove	44	65	36	63	61
don't know	13	14	15	13	13

4. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that the *[state name]* legislature is handling its job?

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
approve	36%	15%	40%	20%	20%
disapprove	54	72	44	68	65
don't know	10	13	16	12	15

5. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that the *[state name]* legislature is handling the issue of the state budget and taxes?

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
approve	33%	9%	33%	13%	12%
disapprove	57	80	52	80	74
don't know	10	11	15	7	14

6. Do you think things in *[state name]* are generally going in the right direction or the wrong direction?

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
right direction	44%	15%	34%	21%	21%
wrong direction	50	78	57	72	71
don't know	6	7	9	7	8

7. Turning to economic conditions in *[state name]*, do you think that during the next 12 months we will have good times financially or bad times?

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
good times	29%	29%	28%	25%	31%
bad times	63	62	64	69	59
don't know	8	9	8	6	10

8. Would you say that *[state name]* is in an economic recession, or not? (*if yes:* Do you think it is in a serious, a moderate, or a mild recession?)

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
yes, serious recession	47%	54%	45%	48%	37%
yes, moderate recession	32	29	34	32	36
yes, mild recession	8	7	7	8	9
no	10	9	10	8	14
don't know	3	1	4	4	4

9. Changing topics, how much of the time do you think you can trust the state government in *[capital city name]* to do what is right—just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time?

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
just about always	4%	3%	4%	2%	3%
most of the time	29	15	27	17	16
only some of the time	60	70	59	71	67
none of the time (volunteered)	6	10	8	9	12
don't know	1	2	2	1	2

10. Would you say the state government is pretty much run by a few big interests looking out for themselves, or that it is run for the benefit of all of the people?

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
a few big interests	59%	76%	66%	81%	75%
benefit of all of the people	33	18	27	13	17
don't know	8	6	7	6	8

11. Do you think the people in state government waste a lot of the money we pay in taxes, waste some of it, or don't waste very much of it?

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
a lot	48%	65%	51%	64%	65%
some	41	26	37	31	29
don't waste very much	8	6	7	4	4
don't know	3	3	5	1	2

12. On another topic, in general, how much would you say you know about how your state and local governments spend and raise money—a lot, some, very little, or nothing?

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
a lot	21%	16%	18%	21%	18%
some	52	55	49	53	47
very little	24	21	25	23	27
nothing	3	7	6	3	6
don't know	_	1	2	_	2

13. In general, do you think the state government could spend less and still provide the same level of services, or not?

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
yes, could [ask q13a]	63%	67%	64%	67%	67%
no, could not [skip to q14]	31	27	28	28	26
don't know [skip to q14]	6	6	8	5	7

13a. How much could the state government cut its spending without reducing services—under 10 percent, 10 percent to under 20 percent, 20 percent to under 30 percent, 30 percent or more?

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
under 10 percent	16%	16%	15%	13%	15%
10 percent to under 20 percent	42	37	38	41	40
20 percent to under 30 percent	19	21	24	22	20
30 percent or more	14	17	17	17	15
don't know	9	9	6	7	10

[rotate questions 14 and 15]

14. I'm going to name some of the largest areas for overall state spending. Please tell me the one that represents the most spending in the *[state name]* state budget. *[rotate]* (1) K–12 public education, (2) Medicaid health insurance for lower-income households, (3) higher education, *[or]* (4) transportation?

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
K–12 public education	23%	20%	19%	25%	16%
Medicaid health insurance for	36	46	52	44	50
lower-income households					
higher education	9	6	6	5	6
transportation	21	15	15	18	20
don't know	11	13	8	8	8

15. I'm going to name some of the largest areas for state revenues. Please tell me the one that represents the most revenue for the *[state name]* state budget. *[rotate]* (1) personal income tax, (2) sales tax, *[or]* (3) corporate tax?

	Arizona	California	Illinois	New York
personal income tax	24%	35%	31%	39%
sales tax	47	36	44	27
corporate tax	21	21	19	26
don't know	8	8	6	8

Florida:

I'm going to name some of the largest areas for state revenues. Please tell me the one that represents the most revenue for the Florida state budget. *[rotate]* (1) highway safety licenses and fees, (2) sales tax, *[or]* (3) corporate tax?

- 31% highway safety licenses and fees
- 42 sales tax
- 20 corporate tax
- 7 don't know
- 16. Do you think the state budget situation in [state name]—that is, the balance between government spending and revenues—is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem for the people of [state name] today?

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
big problem	56%	67%	45%	68%	66%
somewhat of a problem	40	30	47	32	30
not a problem	2	2	5	_	3
don't know	2	1	3	_	1

17. Overall, how concerned are you about the effects of state spending reductions on government services—are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned?

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
very concerned	40%	46%	40%	47%	45%
somewhat concerned	43	38	41	41	41
not too concerned	11	10	11	8	9
not at all concerned	5	4	7	4	4
don't know	1	2	1	_	1

18. As you may know, projections indicate that the state government will face a multibillion dollar gap between spending and revenues. If the state chooses to cut spending to help balance its budget, is it better to make across-the-board cuts or is it better to cut some areas more than others?

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
across-the-board cuts	29%	30%	28%	29%	30%
better to cut some areas	66	65	66	68	65
more than others					
don't know	5	5	6	3	5

Some of the largest areas for overall state spending in *[state name]* are: *[rotate]* (1) K–12 public education, (2) Medicaid health insurance for lower-income households, (3) higher education, *[and]* (4) transportation.

19. Thinking about these four areas of overall state spending, I'd like you to name the one that you **most** want to **protect** from state spending cuts.

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
K–12 public education	57%	50%	54%	53%	48%
Medicaid health insurance for	23	26	26	28	26
lower-income households					
higher education	12	15	12	12	14
transportation	5	5	6	5	8
don't know	3	4	2	2	4

20. Thinking about these four areas of overall state spending, I'd like you to name the one that you <u>least</u> want to <u>protect</u> from state spending cuts.

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
K–12 public education	4%	5%	5%	7%	7%
Medicaid health insurance for	17	22	20	17	22
lower-income households					
higher education	21	16	18	17	17
transportation	52	51	51	55	46
don't know	6	6	6	4	8

Tax increases could be used to help address the state budget situation. For each of the following, please indicate whether you would be willing to pay higher taxes for this purpose, or not.

[rotate questions 21 to 25]

21. What if the state government said it needed more money just to maintain current funding for K–12 public education? Would you be willing to pay higher taxes for this purpose, or not?

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
yes	71%	66%	70%	70%	63%
no	28	32	28	29	35
don't know	1	2	2	1	2

22. What if the state government said it needed more money just to maintain current funding for higher education? Would you be willing to pay higher taxes for this purpose, or not?

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
yes	42%	47%	49%	46%	44%
no	57	51	50	53	53
don't know	1	2	1	1	3

23. What if the state government said it needed more money just to maintain current funding for health and human services? Would you be willing to pay higher taxes for this purpose, or not?

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
yes	56%	56%	54%	57%	52%
no	41	42	43	41	45
don't know	3	2	3	2	3

24. What if the state government said it needed more money just to maintain current funding for prisons and corrections? Would you be willing to pay higher taxes for this purpose, or not?

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
yes	26%	20%	23%	21%	16%
no	73	80	75	77	82
don't know	1	_	2	2	2

25. What if the state government said it needed more money just to maintain current funding for transportation? Would you be willing to pay higher taxes for this purpose, or not?

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
yes	20%	20%	24%	20%	22%
no	78	78	74	78	77
don't know	2	2	2	2	1

New revenue sources have been proposed to address the state budget situation. For each of the following, please indicate whether you favor or oppose the proposal.

[rotate questions 26 to 31]

26. How about raising personal income taxes? (*In Florida*: How about creating a personal state income tax?)

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
favor	20%	22%	23%	26%	20%
oppose	79	76	73	73	79
don't know	1	2	4	1	1

27. How about raising corporate taxes?

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
favor	55%	63%	58%	60%	65%
oppose	42	34	38	38	33
don't know	3	3	4	2	2

28. How about raising the state sales tax on all purchases? (*In Arizona*: How about making the recent state sales tax increase permanent?)

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
favor	29%	21%	32%	23%	16%
oppose	69	76	66	76	82
don't know	2	3	2	1	2

29. How about extending the state sales tax to services that are currently not taxed?

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
favor	34%	40%	39%	43%	31%
oppose	60	55	54	51	62
don't know	6	5	7	6	7

30. How about raising taxes on alcohol and cigarettes?

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
favor	66%	74%	69%	66%	73%
oppose	34	25	30	33	26
don't know	_	1	1	1	1

31. How about expanding gambling to raise state revenues?

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
favor	51%	51%	57%	54%	58%
oppose	46	47	40	44	40
don't know	3	2	3	2	2

32. Several proposals have been made to find new revenue sources to address the state's budget situation. Which one of the following would you most prefer—

Arizona: [rotate] (1) allowing casino gambling at racetracks, (2) extending the state sales taxes to services not currently taxed, (3) transferring money mandated by voters for a specific purpose and using it for other purposes, [or] (4) raising the per-gallon gasoline tax?

- 54% allowing casino gambling at racetracks
- 16 extending the state sales taxes to services not currently taxed
- transferring money mandated by voters for a specific purpose and using it for other purposes
- 7 raising the per-gallon gasoline tax
- 9 don't know

California: *[rotate]* (1) raising corporate taxes, (2) maintaining the temporary increase in the state sales tax for a longer period, *[or]* (3) borrowing against future revenue generated from a new tax on the extraction of oil in California?

- 42% raising corporate taxes
- 29 maintaining the temporary increase in the state sales tax for a longer period
- borrowing against future revenue generated from a new tax on the extraction of oil in California
- 8 don't know

Florida: [rotate] (1) raising corporate taxes, (2) collecting a state sales tax on all Internet purchases, [or] (3) increasing the number of products subject to the state sales tax?

- 42% raising corporate taxes
- 27 collecting a state sales tax on all Internet purchases
- 22 increasing the number of products subject to the state sales tax
- 9 don't know

Illinois: [rotate] (1) raising income taxes on the wealthy, (2) borrowing money to make ends meet, [or] (3) expanding gambling, such as adding a casino in Chicago?

- 44% raising income taxes on the wealthy
- 6 borrowing money to make ends meet
- 44 expanding gambling, such as adding a casino in Chicago
- 6 don't know

[asked of respondents who were recontacted between June 15 and 20] [rotate] (1) raising income taxes on everyone, (2) borrowing money to make ends meet, [or] (3) expanding gambling, such as adding a casino in Chicago?

- 24% raising income taxes on everyone
- 10 borrowing money to make ends meet
- 57 expanding gambling, such as adding a casino in Chicago
 - 9 don't know

New York: *[rotate]* (1) raising income taxes again on the wealthy, (2) borrowing money to make ends meet for the next three years, *[or]* (3) taxing sugary soft drinks?

- 56% raising income taxes again on the wealthy
- 5 borrowing money to make ends meet for the next three years
- 31 taxing sugary soft drinks
- 8 don't know
- 33. If the state had to raise taxes on individuals to keep the same level of services, which one of the following would you most prefer—

Arizona: *[rotate]* (1) raising income taxes, (2) extending the state sales taxes to services not currently taxed, (3) collecting a state sales tax on all Internet purchases, (4) reinstating a state property tax, *[or]* (5) making the recent state sales tax increase permanent?

- 7% raising income taxes
- 23 extending the state sales taxes to services not currently taxed
- 28 collecting a state sales tax on all Internet purchases
- 7 reinstating a state property tax
- 20 making the recent state sales tax increase permanent
- 15 don't know

California: *[rotate]* (1) extending the state sales taxes to services not currently taxed, (2) raising income taxes on everyone, *[or]* (3) raising the vehicle license fee?

- 45% extending the state sales taxes to services not currently taxed
- 21 raising income taxes on everyone
- 24 raising the vehicle license fee
- 10 don't know

Florida: [rotate] (1) creating a personal state income tax, (2) extending the state sales taxes to services not currently taxed, (3) collecting a state sales tax on Internet purchases, [or] (4) raising the state sales tax on all purchases?

- 10% creating a personal state income tax
- 27 extending the state sales taxes to services not currently taxed
- 35 collecting a state sales tax on Internet purchases
- 18 raising the state sales tax on all purchases
- 10 don't know

Illinois: *[rotate]* (1) raising income taxes on everyone, (2) raising income taxes on the wealthy, (3) raising the state sales taxes on all purchases, *[or]* (4) extending the state sales taxes to services not currently taxed?

- 18% raising income taxes on everyone
- 48 raising income taxes on wealthy
- raising the state sales taxes on all purchases
- 18 extending the state sales taxes to services not currently taxed
- 4 don't know

New York: [rotate] (1) raising income taxes on everyone, (2) raising the state sales taxes on all purchases, [or] (3) extending the state sales taxes to services not currently taxed?

- 22% raising income taxes on everyone
- 21 raising the state sales taxes on all purchases
- 45 extending the state sales taxes to services not currently taxed
- 12 don't know

34. State government can balance the budget in a number of ways including—[rotate] (1) cutting spending, (2) raising taxes and fees, [and] (3) borrowing. Thinking about these three ways to balance the state budget, which approach would be your first choice?

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
cutting spending [ask q34a]	77%	67%	71%	73%	71%
raising taxes and fees [skip to q34b]	14	17	15	19	13
borrowing [skip to q34c]	5	10	10	6	11
don't know [skip to q35]	4	6	4	2	5

34a.[of those who said "cutting spending" in q34] And which approach would be your second choice? [rotate] (1) raising taxes and fees, [or] (2) borrowing?

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
raising taxes and fees	53%	55%	58%	60%	55%
borrowing	38	35	32	35	38
don't know	9	10	10	5	7

34b.[sample size too small to report]

34c.[sample size too small to report]

35. As you may know, the state government has had to make significant spending cuts in the last few years. Which of these views best represents your opinion of [state name] state government? [rotate] (1) state government is too small and is not doing enough to serve its residents; it needs more money; [or] (2) state government is about the right size and is doing enough to serve its residents; it should continue to operate with the same amount of money; [or] (3) state government is too big and is trying to do too much to serve its residents; it could make do with less money.

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
too small and not doing enough	19%	16%	20%	20%	18%
about the right size and doing enoug	gh 31	24	28	24	21
too big and trying to do too much	43	53	45	50	57
don't know	7	7	7	6	4

36. In general, which of the following statements do you agree with more—[rotate] (1) I'd rather pay higher taxes and have a state government that provides more services, [or] (2) I'd rather pay lower taxes and have a state government that provides fewer services?

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
higher taxes and more services	43%	46%	46%	44%	46%
lower taxes and fewer services	52	49	48	51	48
don't know	5	5	6	5	6

37. When it comes to the tough choices involved in the state budget, both in deciding how much [state name residents] should pay in taxes and how to fund state programs, whose approach do you most prefer—[rotate] (1) Governor [governor's name], (2) the Democrats' in the legislature, [or] (3) the Republicans' in the legislature?

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
Governor's approach	22%	9%	22%	12%	12%
Democrats' approach	31	42	29	32	41
Republicans' approach	29	30	31	33	22
other (specify)	1	1	1	1	2
none (volunteered)	9	8	8	8	12
don't know	8	10	9	14	11

38. And when it comes to long-term issues of reforming the state budget process, both in terms of changing the way the state taxes and spends money, which approach do you most prefer—[rotate] (1) the governor and legislature should pass new laws, [or] (2) the state voters should decide at the ballot box?

[question 38 not asked in New York]

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois
governor and legislature should	18%	22%	19%	20%
pass new laws				
state voters should decide	78	75	78	76
at the ballot box				
don't know	4	3	3	4

39. Overall, do you think the state budget process in *[state name]*, in terms of both revenues and spending, is in need of major changes, minor changes, or do you think it is fine the way it is?

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
major changes	63%	77%	53%	75%	72%
minor changes	29	16	36	20	21
fine the way it is	6	5	8	4	4
don't know	2	2	3	1	3

40. When it comes to the long-term issues of reforming the state budget process, should the people in state government *[rotate]* (1) take action now, *[or should they]* (2) wait until the state economy improves to take action?

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
take action now	81%	83%	76%	86%	80%
wait until state economy improves	17	14	21	12	18
don't know	2	3	3	2	2

41. At this time, how much of a problem for state and local government budgets is the amount of money that is being spent on their public employee pension or retirement systems? Is this a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem in [state name] today?

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
big problem	27%	44%	36%	47%	47%
somewhat of a problem	41	32	36	36	32
not a problem	19	13	18	10	15
don't know	13	11	10	7	6

42. On another topic, overall, do you think the state and local tax system is in need of major changes, minor changes, or do you think it is fine the way it is?

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
major changes	43%	60%	42%	55%	59%
minor changes	40	27	42	36	30
fine the way it is	15	10	13	7	9
don't know	2	3	3	2	2

43. Overall, how fair do you think the present state and local tax system is—would you say it is very fair, moderately fair, not too fair, or not at all fair?

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
very fair	7%	4%	8%	5%	2%
moderately fair	61	55	60	55	54
not too fair	19	23	19	24	22
not at all fair	11	16	9	15	19
don't know	2	2	4	1	3

44. When you combine all of the taxes you pay to state and local government, do you feel that you pay much more than you should, somewhat more than you should, about the right amount, or less than you should?

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
much more	20%	25%	23%	28%	38%
somewhat more	28	29	27	29	30
about the right amount	43	40	42	37	27
less	8	3	7	6	3
don't know	1	3	1	_	2

45. On another topic, do you think that the federal government is doing more than enough, just enough, or not enough to provide financial aid to state governments facing budget deficits?

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
more than enough	13%	11%	13%	12%	10%
just enough	25	30	26	31	30
not enough	55	51	53	48	52
don't know	7	8	8	9	8

46. Do you favor or oppose the federal government providing a second round of economic stimulus funds to the state of *[state name]*, even if it adds to the federal deficit?

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
favor	35%	39%	41%	37%	42%
oppose	61	54	54	57	52
don't know	4	7	5	6	6

47. Next, some people are registered to vote and others are not. Are you absolutely certain that you are registered to vote in *[state name]*?

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
yes [ask q47a]	86%	78%	84%	89%	85%
no [skip to q48b]	14	21	14	10	14
don't know [skip to q48b]	_	1	2	1	1

47a.

Arizona: Are you registered as a Democrat, a Republican, another party, or are you not registered

with a party?

California: Are you registered as a Democrat, a Republican, another party, or as an independent?

Florida: Are you registered as a Democrat, a Republican, a minor party, or are you not registered

with a party?

Illinois: Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Democrat, a Republican, an

independent, or what?

New York: Are you enrolled as a Democrat, a Republican, another party, or are you not enrolled

with a party?

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
Democrat [ask q48]	34%	44%	43%	42%	45%
Republican [skip to q48a]	39	31	34	25	24
another/minor party (specify)	1	1	_	3	2
[skip to q49]					
independent; not registered/enrolled with a party [skip to q48b]	26	24	23	30	29

48. Would you call yourself a strong Democrat or not a very strong Democrat?

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
strong	45%	47%	53%	58%	52%
not very strong	53	50	44	41	45
don't know	2	3	3	1	3
[skip to q49]					

48a. Would you call yourself a strong Republican or not a very strong Republican?

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
strong	57%	49%	59%	52%	49%
not very strong	42	47	39	47	50
don't know	1	4	2	1	1
[skip to q49]					

48b.Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or Democratic Party?

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
Republican Party	25%	32%	18%	42%	17%
Democratic Party	40	44	53	35	51
neither (volunteered)	30	49	26	20	28
don't know	5	5	3	3	4

49. Next, would you consider yourself to be politically: [read list, rotate order top to bottom]

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
very liberal	8%	8%	10%	6%	12%
somewhat liberal	19	19	16	17	15
middle-of-the-road	26	29	32	32	36
somewhat conservative	25	25	22	30	21
very conservative	19	15	18	13	13
don't know	3	4	2	2	3

50. Generally speaking, how much interest would you say you have in politics—a great deal, a fair amount, only a little, or none?

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
great deal	26%	20%	28%	23%	22%
fair amount	42	43	38	48	43
only a little	24	27	26	24	27
none	7	9	8	5	8
don't know	1	1	_	_	_

51. How closely are you following news about candidates for the 2010 governor's election—very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?

	Arizona	California	Florida	Illinois	New York
very closely	23%	22%	25%	16%	20%
fairly closely	38	40	35	41	35
not too closely	25	26	26	26	29
not at all closely	13	10	13	16	15
don't know	1	2	1	1	1

[d1 to d16: demographic questions]