



CBS NEWS POLL  
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### AMERICANS AND THEIR INCOME TAXES

April 6-9, 2006

It's tax time again and most Americans say they have already filed their 2005 income taxes; few have applied for an extension. But in a shift of opinion from nine years ago a majority now thinks the amount of federal income taxes they pay is fair. Still, a third says they pay more than their fair share.

70% had already filed their income taxes when this poll was conducted a week ago, and another 16% planned to get them done by the deadline of April 17<sup>th</sup>. 4% had applied for an extension and the same number are just not thinking about it.

#### HAVE YOU FILED YOUR 2005 INCOME TAXES?

Already filed	70%
Will get them done	16
Applied for extension	4
Not thinking about it	4
Don't file (vol.)	5

58% of Americans think the amount of taxes they pay is fair, but 34% think they pay more than their fair share. As expected, a very small number (1%) believes they are paying less than their fair share. In 1997 Americans viewed the amount of taxes they paid as less fair. Back then, 49% said they were paying more than their fair share of federal income taxes, while 47% said they paid the right amount.

#### DO YOU PAY YOUR FAIR SHARE OF INCOME TAXES?

	Now	4/1997
More than fair share	34%	49%
Less than fair share	1	2
About right amount	58	47

Those earning the highest incomes are more likely to say they pay more than their fair share. Age matters too. Those ages 30-64 are more likely than seniors and those under 30 to think they pay more than their fair share.

**DO YOU PAY YOUR FAIR SHARE OF INCOME TAXES?**  
(Demographics)

	<u>More</u>	<u>Less</u>	<u>Right amount</u>
Age 18-29	25%	0	62
30-44	40%	2	56
45-64	42%	2	51
65+	19%	1	70
Income			
<\$30K	26%	1	65
\$30K-\$50K	39%	2	54
\$50K-\$75K	33%	1	64
\$75K-\$100K	41%	4	53
Over \$100K	46%	1	49
Northeast			
Midwest	38%	1	56
South	35%	1	55
West	31%	1	61
West			
Republicans	33%	3	58
Democrats	30%	1	65
Independents	34%	2	58
	37%	1	52

Republicans, strong supporters of the tax cuts passed during President Bush's first term, think the amount of income taxes they pay is fair -- 65% of them think they pay about the right amount. This is a turnaround from 1997 when Bill Clinton was in office. Back then, just 44% of Republicans said they paid the right amount of taxes, while 52% said they paid more than their fair share.

**SHARE OF INCOME TAXES**  
(Party ID)

	<u>Now</u>		<u>4/1997</u>	
	Rep.	Dem.	Rep.	Dem.
More than fair share	30%	34%	52%	42%
Less than fair share	1	2	1	3
About right amount	65	58	44	52

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This poll was conducted among a nationwide random sample of 899 adults, interviewed by telephone April 6-9, 2006. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus three percentage points. Error for subgroups may be higher.

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**Americans and Their Income Taxes**  
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q58 Income taxes for 2005 are due on April 17th. Have you already filed your income taxes, will you get your taxes done in the next week or so, did you apply for an extension, or are you just not thinking about it?

	*** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ***			
	Total	**** Party ID ****		
	Rep	Dem	Ind	
	%	%	%	%
Already filed	70	69	72	68
Will get them done in the week	16	18	14	17
Applied for extension	4	5	4	3
Just not thinking about it	4	2	5	5
Don't file/Don't earn enough (Vol.)	5	5	5	6
Don't know/No answer	1	1	0	1

q59 Do you feel you pay more than your fair share in federal income taxes, less than your fair share, or is the amount you pay about right?

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					%
More than fair share	34	30	34	37	49
Less than fair share	1	1	2	1	2
About right	58	65	58	52	47
Don't file taxes (Vol.)	4	3	3	7	1
Don't know/No answer	3	1	3	3	1

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	899	
Total Republicans	298	277
Total Democrats	288	292
Total Independents	313	330