

Stockton Poll: N.J. Residents Want Balanced Federal Budget, but Balk at Spending Cuts

For immediate release: with video

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Galloway, N.J. - Half of New Jersey residents would support a Constitutional

But those polled do not agree where cuts should be made, and overall a majority balk at making spending cuts in key programs to balance federal revenues and spending.

The poll of 709 adult state residents found that 78 percent say the national debt is a major problem, and 16 percent consider it a minor problem. Four percent say it is not a problem at all, and 2 percent are unsure.

Exactly half would support a Constitutional amendment requiring a balanced federal budget that required spending cuts. Thirty-eight percent would oppose a balanced-budget amendment, and 12 percent are unsure.

Those who support such an amendment were asked how they feel about spending cuts in three areas: the military; entitlement programs such as Social Security and Medicare; and safety net programs such as welfare and Medicaid. While none of the three proposed cuts were supported by a majority, close to half the respondents would choose to cut programs to help poor people. Results include:

59 percent oppose cuts to the military, while 40 percent would support them
74 percent are against cutting Social Security or Medicare, while 24 percent would support it and 2 percent are unsure, and
50 percent oppose cuts to welfare or Medicaid, and 48 percent support such cuts with 2 percent unsure.

-old question about public policy: how much are residents

Office has estimated that the federal deficit will top \$1 trillion in 2020, in part from revenue lost under the recent federal tax overhaul and spending increases under the

The Stockton Polling Institute of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy interviewed 709 New Jersey adults from April 5-14, 2018. Interviewers working from the

margin of error is +/- 3.7 percentage points.

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named for William J. Hughes, whose distinguished career includes service in the U.S. House of Representatives, Ambassador to Panama and as a Distinguished Visiting Professor at Stockton. The Hughes Center can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/StocktonHughesCenter> and can be followed on Twitter @hughescenter.

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