

# **OPPOSITION BUILDS TO THE DEATH TAX**

## ***Poll Shows Death Tax “Among the Most Hated Avenues for Government Revenue Today” Opposition Grows Among All Ages, Both Sexes and Every Income Group***

**WASHINGTON (March 2)** – Opposition to the Death Tax continues to grow, with nearly two-thirds of voters seeking complete abolition of the tax, and a plurality of every age group, income level, and both sexes seeking repeal regardless of regional or other political differences, according to a new bipartisan poll of voters from states in all regions of the country conducted by Global Strategy Group and The Luntz Research Companies.

“Whatever you call it—the estate tax, inheritance tax, or the death tax—it is clear that a large percentage of voters we spoke to, both Democrats and Republicans, believe the tax is inherently unfair,” said Jef Pollock, a Democratic pollster and president of Global Strategy Group. “Democrats in Congress would be wise to revisit the death tax, if for no other reason than to ensure it is mended, if not ended.”

According to the results of the survey, 85 percent of Americans in the six states surveyed want the Death Tax either completely repealed or significantly reduced. Opposition to the tax extends to a plurality of every age and income group, both sexes and across both political parties.

“Americans are divided politically on almost every subject, but when it comes to the Death Tax, they speak with one voice,” said GOP pollster Dr. Frank Luntz of The Luntz Research Companies. “The Death Tax has become one of the most hated avenues for government revenue in America today.”

The Pollock-Luntz Poll shows for the first time that the Death Tax is regarded as one of the most “completely unfair” forms of revenue, second only to taxes on Social Security benefits. Only 5 percent believe the Death Tax to be “completely fair,” while 58 percent believe it to be “completely unfair.” By contrast, only 15% regard income taxes as “completely unfair.”

“What’s most remarkable to me is that even after being told that the tax only impacts estates of \$1.5 million or more, only 34 percent want to see it maintained in its current form,” Luntz noted.

The poll also shows that the lower the income level of the respondent, the greater the belief that the Death Tax is unfair, with respondents earning less than \$30,000 being slightly more likely to believe the tax is “completely unfair” than those with higher incomes.

Among the other findings in the Pollock-Luntz Poll:

- 81 percent of American voters agree that the Death Tax rate of 47 percent (much higher than the highest marginal tax rate on incomes) is unfair;
- 80 believe that inheritance taxes represent double- and triple-taxation, agreeing that it’s “unfair” for people to pay taxes on their income, then more taxes on the portion they save, and again on the same assets when they die;
- Democrats are just as likely as Republicans to believe that the Death Tax is too high, that it represents double- or triple-taxation and that it punishes those who have been successful.

The Pollock-Luntz survey was based on telephone interviews with 1,900 registered voters in six states (Maine, North Dakota, South Dakota, Indiana, Colorado and Arkansas), and has a margin of error of plus or minus 2 percent.