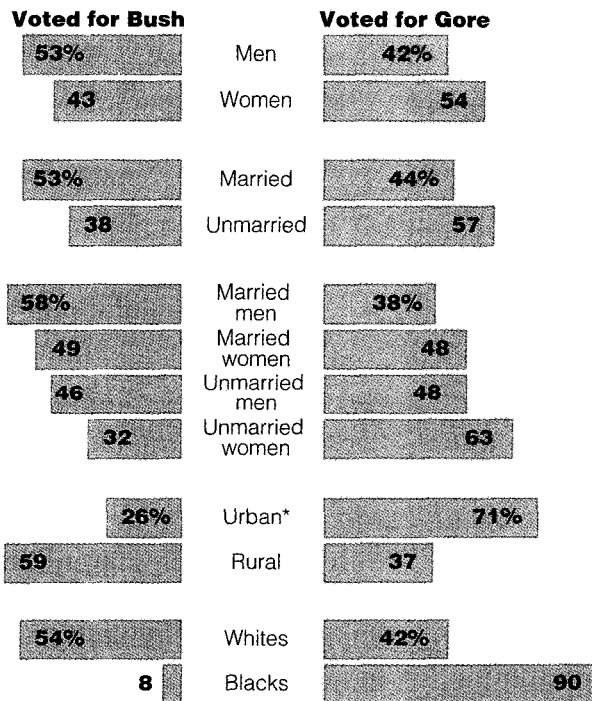
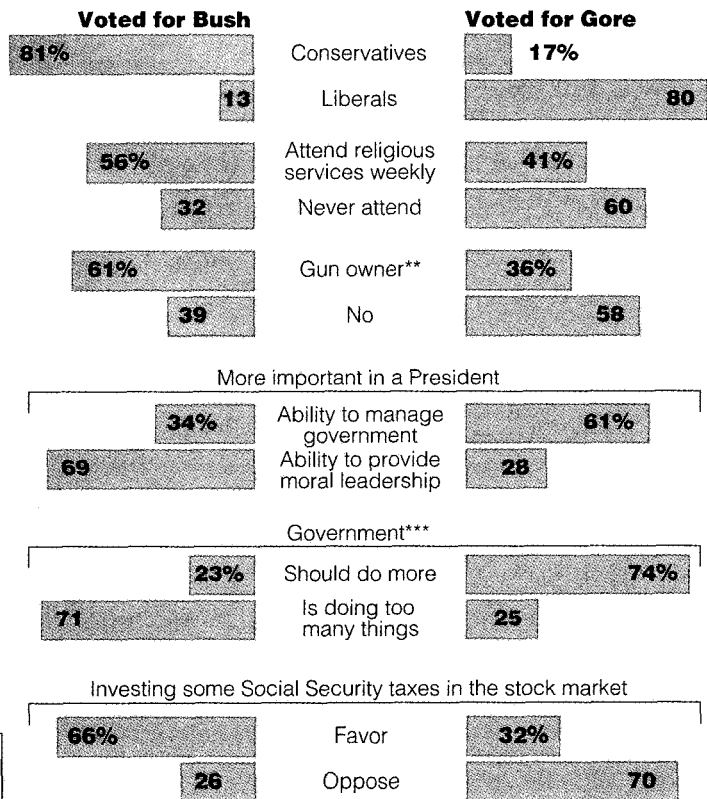


## The Voters Speak

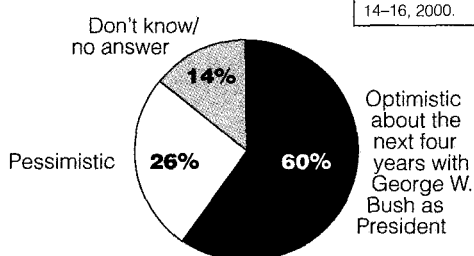
On Election Day, Voter News Service surveyed more than 13,000 voters as they left the polls. The data below show how different demographic groups voted and also how Gore and Bush supporters felt about some key issues. To take one example, a majority of women supported Al Gore; a majority of men, George W. Bush. Seventy-one percent of Bush voters (but only 25 percent of Gore's supporters) said government is doing too many things. Despite these differences, Americans are mostly optimistic about the Bush presidency and believe that he should push ahead with the agenda he outlined in the campaign.



Note: "Urban" = population over 500,000. \*\* In household. \*\*\*Government should do more to solve problems OR Government is doing too many things better left to businesses and individuals.  
Source: Survey of 13,279 voters leaving the polls by Voters News Service, November 7, 2000.

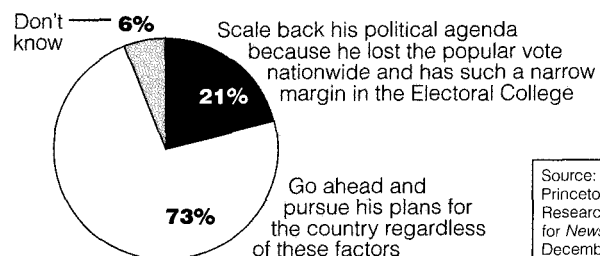


Question: Are you generally...?



Source: Survey by CBS News, December 14-16, 2000.

Question: Do you think President-elect Bush should...?



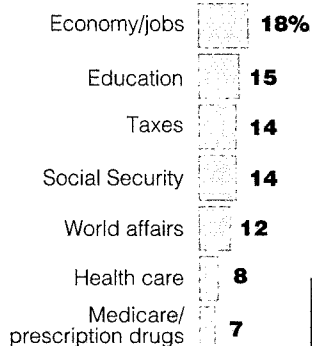
Source: Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for Newsweek, December 14-15, 2000.

# Tax Cuts Matter

When asked to choose from a list of issues that mattered most to them in casting their ballots, voters placed taxes close to the top. In another question in the exit poll, they said they preferred a larger, across-the-board cut to a smaller, targeted one. Most Americans consider the amount of federal income taxes they pay to be too high, and nearly three-quarters favor a cut in federal income taxes. They're skeptical, however, about whether George W. Bush can deliver a cut for all Americans. Majorities say death to the estate tax.

**Question:** Which one issue mattered most in deciding how you voted for President?

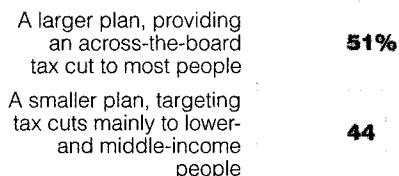
## Voters' responses



Source: Survey of 13,279 voters leaving the polls by Voter News Service, November 7, 2000.

**Question:** Which tax cut plan do you prefer...?

## Voters' responses

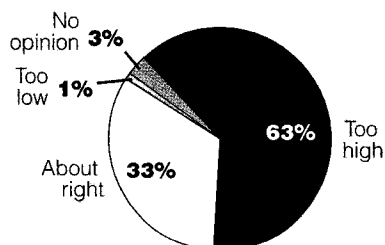


Note: Voters who cast their ballots for Bush favored the larger plan over the smaller plan by 69 to 26 percent. Voters who supported Gore favored the smaller plan, by 63 to 31 percent. In another question in the exit poll, 30 percent said education reform should be the top priority for the new President, followed by a tax cut (26 percent), Social Security (23 percent) and prescription drugs (11 percent). For Bush voters, a tax cut was the top priority (cited by 39 percent) for the new President. For Gore's supporters, it was the third on the list (cited by 14 percent).

Source: Survey of 13,279 voters leaving the polls by Voter News Service, November 7, 2000.

**Question:** Do you...?

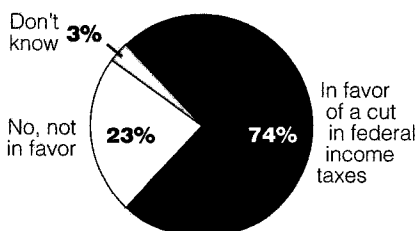
## Consider the amount of federal income tax you have to pay as...



Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, April 2000.

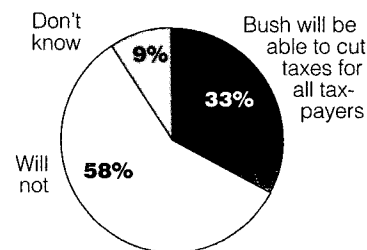
**Question:** Are you...?

## In favor of a cut in federal income taxes



Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, September 2000.

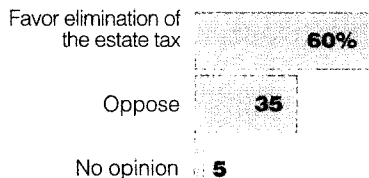
**Question:** Do you think...?



Source: Survey by CBS News, December, 2000.

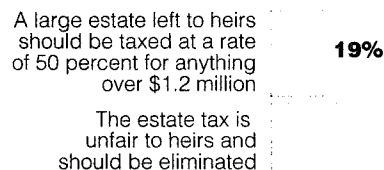
# The Estate Tax

**Question:** Now I would like to ask you a couple of questions about taxes that are paid on money and assets which are inherited when someone dies. As you may know, federal inheritance taxes currently apply to estates valued at more than \$1 million. A new proposal would eliminate all inheritance taxes on estates over \$1 million as well. Would you...?



Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, April 2000.

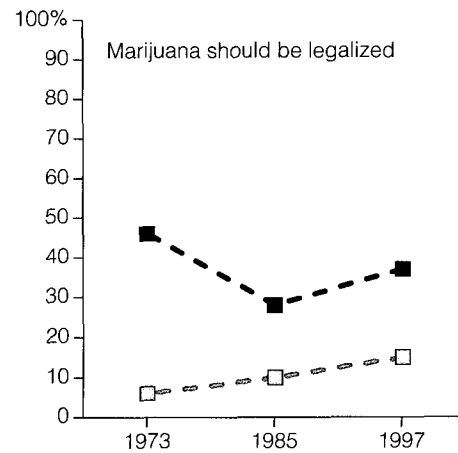
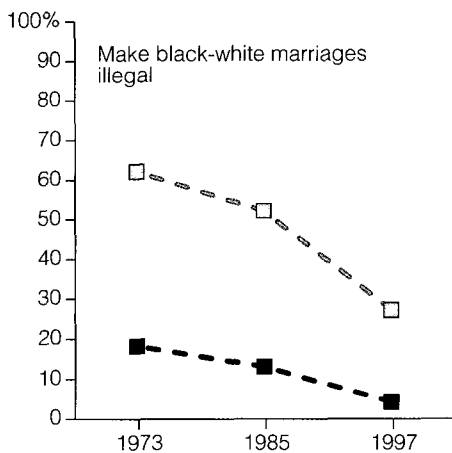
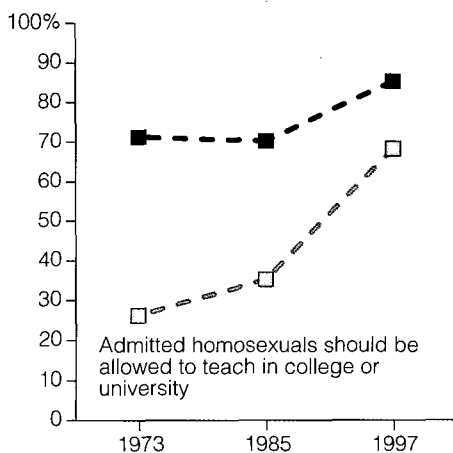
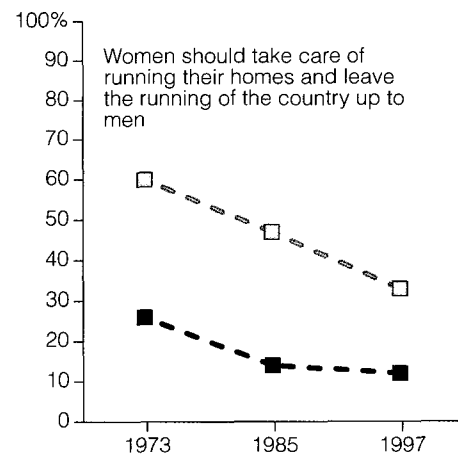
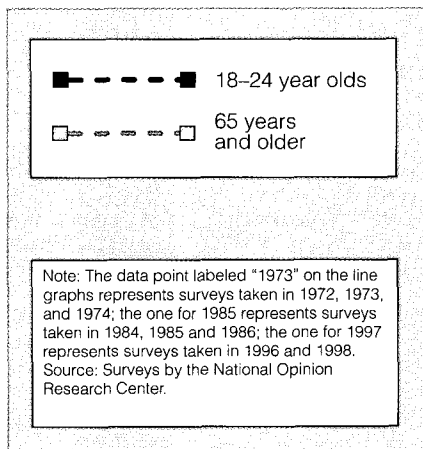
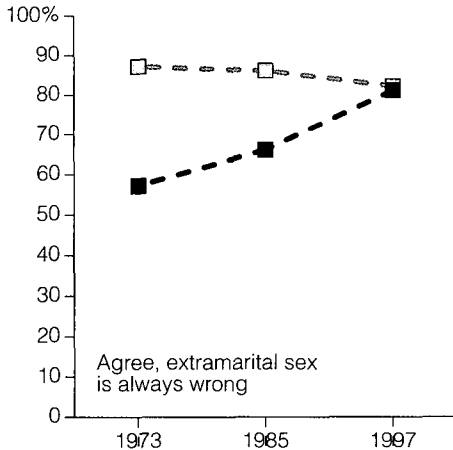
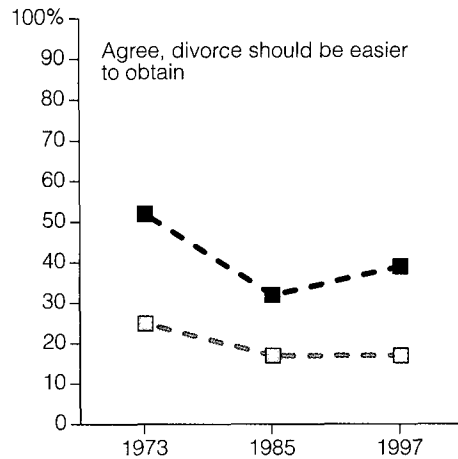
**Question:** Please tell me which statement comes closer to your view...?

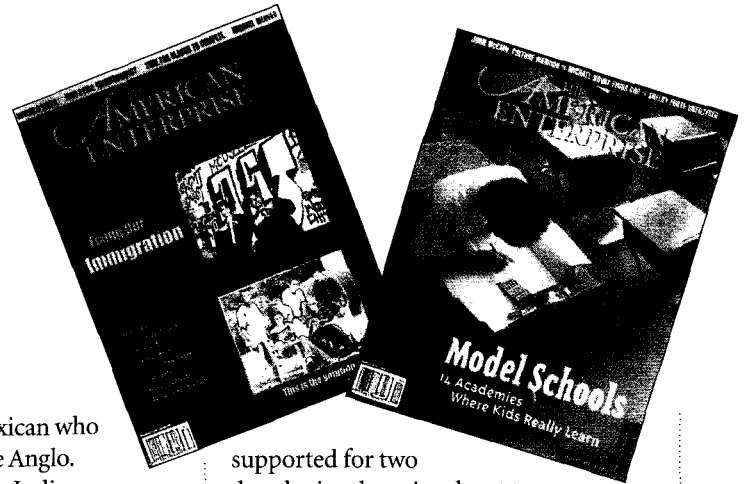


Note: Sample is likely voters. Source: Survey by Zogby International, December 2000.

# The Generation Gap

The National Opinion Research Center recently examined how the views of different age groups have changed over the past quarter century. We show below the views of the youngest and oldest groups. In the early 1970s, 48 percent of 18 to 24-year-olds favored the death penalty for murder; in the late 1990s, 75 percent did. Majorities of older voters supported the death penalty all along. Young people find divorce less acceptable than they did 25 years ago. Older people have changed much more than the young in terms of their views about women's roles, homosexuality, and interracial marriage.





In his review of my book *Shows About Nothing* (September), Paul Cantor makes two misleading assertions. First, that I, yearning nostalgically for a more innocent America, make “highly selective” use of evidence such as the optimistic films of Frank Capra while neglecting darker visions of America. But I spend more time talking about film *noir* than Capra, and where I praise contemporary film for suggesting ways beyond nihilism, I celebrate not a return to Capra but a recovery of the motifs of *noir*.

Second, Cantor identifies me as a “right-wing” critic of pop culture. To make this tag stick, he must depict me as a defender of so-called traditional values and claim, for example, that I wish comedy would return to the America of “I Love Lucy.” But Cantor ignores my fundamental thesis, stated at the outset and restated in each subsequent chapter (it’s even on the dust jacket), that Hollywood’s target is not, as critics like Michael Medved think, traditional values, but rather Enlightenment suppositions about freedom, reason, and the dignity of the individual, suppositions that are in large measure shared by the Right and the Left. Cantor never sees the need to so much as mention this thesis.

Thomas Hibbs  
Boston College

Samuel Huntington and Georgie Anne Geyer (“The Special Case of Mexican Immigration,” December) did the usual imperialist thing—they assumed that people migrating north from Mexico were immigrants. After the War of U.S. Imperialism and Colonization (taught in the U.S. as the Mexican War) Anglo-Americans migrated to the northern frontier of Mexico and the Spanish Empire in the

Americas. It isn’t the Mexican who is the immigrant. It is the Anglo.

Native New Mexicans, Indio or Hispano, have been there since the early 1600s. So why shouldn’t they be allowed to live there and to speak their own language? Why shouldn’t they be allowed to continue living their lives outside of the “Americanization” (read “McDonaldizing” or “Wal-Martization”) that other U.S. citizens suffer from?

R. H. Gaylor  
Kishwaukee College

Many thanks for Karl Zinsmeister’s overview of immigration (BIRD’S EYE, December). One vital aspect he didn’t touch on: the political implications. Seeing the demographic handwriting on the wall, the GOP has been trying to match the Democrats in currying the favor of immigrants. The recent elections show that policy’s bankruptcy: about three-quarters of immigrants voted Democratic, the deciding factor in many elections. Republicans lost three House seats in California alone, due principally to “demographic shifts”—immigrants moving in, long-term residents moving out.

Yet some Republicans are now joining an effort to grant amnesty to still another group of illegals—three-quarters or more of whom, along with their children, will likely vote Democratic. These immigrant voters will assign the Republican Party to minority status for the foreseeable future. The alternative: rein in immigration to a level that does not distort our political system.

The Republicans have one or at most two election cycles to address this situation. After that, a just fate will consign them to the political oblivion to which the immigration policy they have

supported for two decades is otherwise about to assign them.

John H. Tanton  
Federation for American Immigration Reform

Re the January/February issue on model schools: Home-educated students (approximately 1.5 million in the U.S. alone) score higher on standardized tests than those from institutional environments. Yet education bureaucrats, though they should have the students’ best interests at heart, remain hostile to home-schooling.

It is the parent-teachers who home-school who have the deepest interest in the results of their children’s education, not the public school system.

William and Daisy Little  
Miami, Florida

Your reporting on 14 model schools did an excellent job presenting the marvelous variety in worthwhile approaches. The underlying lesson: a school needs freedom from outside control, so innovators can work their magic. Unfortunately, the perverse logic of politics guarantees that tax-funded schools will not be given this freedom. Voter “concern” about education propels politicians to vie with each other to invent ways to “help” schools. The result is further layers of deadening regulations and contorting subsidies that stifle innovation and repel creative, idealistic reformers.

Paradoxical as it seems, the best thing an “education President” could do for the schools would be to leave them alone!

Jim Payne  
Sandpoint, Idaho