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Statewide Poll Release Majority of West Virginians Support Revenue Measures

(Charleston, WV) Seventy percent of West Virginians are willing to pay more in taxes to maintain funding for public schools, police protection, and roads, according to a new statewide poll released today. West Virginia voters largely place the blame for the state's budget crisis on tax breaks for large corporations and the wealthy.

"When lawmakers address our state's looming budget crisis next year, they should know that a large majority of West Virginia voters prefer tax increases over more cuts to schools, colleges, and other important programs and services," West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy Executive Director Ted Boettner said. "While the majority of citizens think the wealthy are not paying their fair share, they are ready to raise their own taxes to protect schools, public safety, and roads."

The WVCBP engaged with Anzalone Liszt Grove Research to conduct this survey to gauge public opinion and attitudes on West Virginia tax and budget issues. Unlike many other states, West Virginia's universities and colleges rarely survey state residents on public policy issues. The WVCBP selected ALG because of its experience in conducting surveys on tax and budget issues in more than 10 states and how accurately they have been regarded.

West Virginia's budget problems over the last several years have been front and center on the state's policy agenda. As recently announced by Revenue Secretary Bob Kiss, the state is currently about \$92 million behind in the current budget year and the gap is estimated to grow 'north of \$400 million' for the next budget year that begins in July 2017.

"Given our ongoing budget crisis, it is imperative that lawmakers know where the citizens of West Virginia stand on paying for important priorities like schools and higher education for their families," Boettner said.

View the poll's key findings [here](#).