



May 29, 2008

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Bob Moore & Hans Kaiser

RE: U.S. Voters and the Role of Government

Although U.S. voters are concerned about a number of domestic issues today including the economy, health care and education, these concerns do not appear to translate into support for expanding the federal government in efforts to remedy them. In fact, U.S. voters are more likely to consider the federal government too big and in need of a diet than they are to agree that government is not doing enough. Following are specific findings from our recent national survey.

The Role of the Federal Government

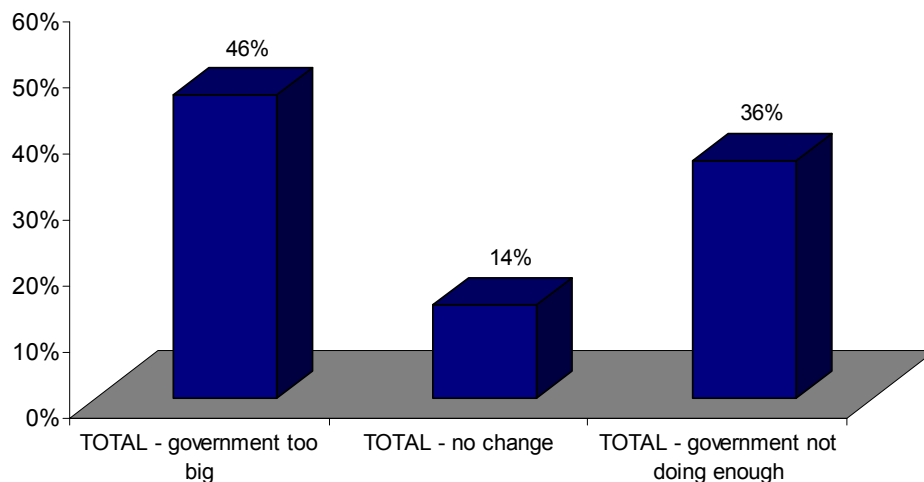
Voters are more likely to agree with the statement "the federal government is too big today and controls too much and we need to scale back its size and scope" (46%), than the statement "the federal government is not doing enough and needs to take on more responsibilities to help people" (36%). Only 14% say there should be no change in the way the federal government operates. Here's the question:

"Which of the following statements comes closest to your view when it comes to the role of the federal government?"

The federal government is too big and controls too much and we need to scale back its size and scope.

The federal government should not change in size or scope from the way it operates today.

The federal government is not doing enough and needs to take on more responsibilities to help people."



Looking at how this breaks down by subgroup, we find several interesting differences. By age, voters 18-29 are more likely to agree government is not doing enough, while voters age 30+ are more likely to agree the federal government is too big. By party, majorities of Republicans and Independent voters agree government is too big and should be scaled back, with Republican men and Republicans age 55 and older the most likely to agree. On the other hand, Democrats are more likely to agree with the statement that government is not doing enough and should be doing more to help people, with Democrat men among the most likely to share this sentiment. By income, voters earning less than \$30,000 a year are divided over the role of government, while agreement that “government is too big” increases along with voter income increases. Interestingly, education plays a role in perceptions of government: voters with a college degree or less education agree government is too big, while voters with post graduate educations are divided between government being too big and government not doing enough. Lastly, ethnicity also plays a role in perceptions of the federal government, with Caucasian voters agreeing government is too big and non-Caucasian voters agreeing government needs to do more. The following table illustrates these findings:

Role of Government: Key Subgroups

Subgroup	Government is too big/scale back	Government should not change	Government is not doing enough to help people
Age 18-29 30+	33% 48%	24% 12%	39% 35%
Party Republicans Independents Democrats	60% 53% 32%	17% 10% 14%	21% 33% 49%
Income Less than \$50,000 \$50,000-\$74,999 \$75,000-\$99,999 \$100,000 or more	44% 48% 43% 50%	11% 12% 15% 18%	41% 36% 38% 28%
Education 0-12 years 13-15 years 16 years 17+ years	47% 50% 46% 38%	10% 14% 16% 17%	39% 33% 35% 35%
Ethnicity Caucasians Non-Caucasians	51% 31%	14% 14%	31% 52%

Please feel free to call or email with any questions:

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These data are from a telephone survey conducted by Moore Information, Inc. April 23-27, 2008 among a representative sample of 800 voters nationwide. The potential sampling error is plus or minus 3% at the 95% confidence level.

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