



Opinion Research  
Strategic Communication

# National Low Income Housing Coalition New York Voter Survey

Conducted by Mason-Dixon Polling & Research; telephone interviewing June 1 to June 5, 2015; n=625 registered New York voters; margin of sampling error is  $\pm 4$  percentage points for a probability sample of this size; percents may add to 99% or 101% due to rounding; \* indicates less than 1%.

As you may know, homeowners can claim a deduction on their federal income taxes for interest payments on mortgages up to one million dollars for their primary or second homes. This is called the mortgage interest deduction, which lowers income taxes for some homeowners. The amount that the mortgage interest deduction lowers a homeowner's income tax depends on how much interest the homeowner paid over the year and the homeowner's tax bracket.

Q1. Overall, do you think the mortgage interest deduction, as it is now, is a very good idea, somewhat good, not very good, or a poor idea?	Very good	33%
	Somewhat good	44
	Not very good	11
	Poor idea	7
	Not sure	6

Q2. Do you think the mortgage interest deduction, as it is now, helps you, hurts you, or has no effect on you?	Helps	38%
	Hurts	8
	No effect	51
	Not sure	3

Now I am going to read you some proposals people have made for changing the mortgage interest deduction. Please tell me if you favor or oppose each proposal. (Is that strongly favor/oppose or somewhat favor/oppose?)

	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Not sure
Q3. Cap the maximum mortgage for which someone can claim a deduction at 500,000 dollars, meaning a taxpayer could claim the deduction for the first 500,000 dollars he or she borrows.	31%	27	16	17	9

(continued)	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Not sure
Q4. Replace the deduction that now depends on a person's tax bracket with a flat 15 percent tax credit that is the same for all homeowners with a mortgage.	24%	25	17	23	11

Making these two changes to the mortgage interest deduction would save the federal government an average of 30 billion dollars a year over ten years. There are a number of things the government could do with this money. Please tell me how high a priority each of the following would be for you personally as a way to use the money saved: top priority, high priority, middle priority, low priority, or not a priority at all.

	Top priority	High priority	Middle priority	Low priority	Not a priority	Not sure
Q5. Reduce the federal deficit.	12%	41	26	9	10	2
Q6. End homelessness in New York and the United States.	18%	33	24	17	8	1
Q7. Lower federal income tax rates.	10%	31	25	18	14	2
Q8. Build more affordable housing for low income people in New York.	13%	32	26	17	10	2

Q9. Would you favor or oppose increasing federal funding for affordable housing to help end homelessness in New York and the United States? (Is that strongly favor/oppose or somewhat favor/oppose?)	Strongly favor	31%
	Somewhat favor	37
	Somewhat oppose	18
	Strongly oppose	11
	Not sure	3

Q10. Would you support or oppose the state government partnering with your local government to create permanent housing with support services for homeless people with disabilities in your community? (Is that strongly favor/oppose or somewhat favor/oppose?)	Strongly favor	40%
	Somewhat favor	32
	Somewhat oppose	18
	Strongly oppose	6
	Not sure	3

D1. PARTY REGISTRATION	Democrat	49%
	Republican	25
	Independent or Other	26
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D2. AGE	18-34	19%
	35-49	28
	50-64	28
	65+	24
	Refused	1
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16D3. RACE/ETHNICITY	White/Caucasian	60%
	Black/African American	16
	Hispanic/Latino(a)	15
	Asian or Other	7
	Refused	2
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D4. HOME	Own	55%
	Rent	31
	Other	10
	Refused	3
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D5. INCOME	<\$25,000	18%
	\$25,000-\$49,999	20
	\$50,000-\$74,999	17
	\$75,000-\$99,000	14
	\$100,000-\$199,999	12
	\$200,000+	9
	Refused	13
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D6. SEX	Male	48%
	Female	52
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D7. REGION	New York City	37%
	Long Island/New York Suburbs	24
	Upstate New York	39

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