

Alaska Statewide Voter Telephone Survey – March 2017

Hello, may I speak with [FIRST NAME ONLY] please?

My name is ______. First, I'm not selling anything or asking for money. I'm calling from Harstad Research, the national public opinion research firm. We are doing a survey here in Alaska and would like to ask your opinion on some local issues and interesting topics.

	S	CREENE	R]			
A.	Sex [Do not ask]						
	Male Female				1 2		
1.	How many years have you been a reside two or more periods in Alaska, just record				/ed here y	our entire	life? [If
	Entire life Enter number of years: DK/NS						
2.	Now, I'm going to read you the names of I'd like you to rate your feelings toward ea somewhat negative, or very negative. If [Probe to Distinguish Between "Neutral"	ach one a you don't	is very pos know the	sitive, son	newhat po	sitive, neu	tral,
			• • •		• • •		
		Very <u>Positive</u>	Smwht <u>Positive</u>	Neutral	Smwht <u>Negative</u>	Very <u>Negative</u>	DK/NS
	a. Bill Walker			<u>Neutral</u> 3			<u>DK/NS</u> 6
	a. Bill Walker b. Donald Trump	Positive	Positive		Negative	<u>Negative</u>	
		<u>Positive</u> 1	Positive 2	3	<u>Negative</u> 4	<u>Negative</u> 5	6
3.	 b. Donald Trump c. The Permanent Fund Thinking about your approach to political somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat c top-to-bottom / bottom-to-top] 	Positive 1 1 1 issues, w onservati	Positive 2 2 2 vould you o ive, or very	3 3 describe y conserv	Negative 4 4 4 yourself as ative? [Re	<u>Negative</u> 5 5 5 s very liber	6 6 6 al,
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ECONOMIC SITUATION

4a. Which one of the following three statements best sums up your own personal economic situation these days? [Rotate Top to Bottom and Bottom to Top]

Living comfortably	1
Getting by	2
Barely surviving	3
DK/NS	4

4b. And which one of the following best sums up your savings or debt these days? [Rotate 3 Choices Top to Bottom and Bottom to Top]

I'm able to save money	1
Not able to save but not going further into debt	2
Getting further into debt	3
Both saving and going into debt [Do not read]	4
Paying debt down [Do not read]	5
DK/NS	6

[Ask on Form A, 1/2 of the total sample]

5. Do you feel that the distribution of money and wealth in Alaska is fair, or do you feel that the money and wealth in Alaska should be more evenly distributed among more people?

Distribution is fair	1
Should be more evenly distributed	2
DK/NS	3

[Ask on Form B, ½ of the total sample]

6. Over the past 15 years or so, do you think the gap between the rich and the poor in Alaska is getting larger, getting smaller, or has stayed the same?

Gap is getting larger	1
Gap is getting smaller	2
Gap has stayed the same	3
DK/NS	4

PFD BASIC QUESTIONS AND USAGE

7. Honestly speaking, how much of a difference have the yearly PFD dividends made in your life over the past five years or so – a great deal of difference, quite a bit, a fair amount, only some, just a little, or none at all? *[If respondent says it depends on the amount, or refers just to last year, say:]* Well, say generalize over the past five years.

A great deal of difference	1
Quite a bit	2
A fair amount	
Only some	4
Just a little	5
None at all	
DK/NS	7

[Ask on Form A, ½ of the total sample]

8. Do you think of the Permanent Fund PRINCIPAL MONEY *[Rotate]* as a kind of rainy-day fund for Alaska to tap into during a crisis or really hard times – OR, do you think of the Permanent Fund PRINCIPAL as something that should NEVER be touched – and only the earnings on it can be used?

Rainy-day fund for a crisis or really hard times	1
Principal should never be touched	2
DK/NS	3

9. Honestly speaking, most years when you have gotten the Permanent Fund dividend, which one of the following best describes how you have dealt with it?

[Rotate <u>first five</u> from top to bottom and bottom to top – and then read sixth item] [IF RESPONDENT SAYS, IT DEPENDS, ASK:] Well if you had to generalize over the years, which best applies?

I save nearly all of it I save most of it but spend some I save about half and spend about half I spend most of it but save some I spend nearly all of it	
READ LAST: Or I mostly pay off credit cards and debt DK/NS	6 7

[Ask on Form B if SAVE half, most or all:]

10. And what specific purpose do you have in mind when you save money from your PFD?

[Do not read]

Appliances / big purchases / computers	1
Children / family	2
Car repairs / replacement	3
College	4
Debt pay-off / pay-off credit cards	5
Future	6
Heating fuel / fuel oil / propane / wood	7
Home improvements / maintenance	8
Investments / stock market	9
Long term savings	10
Medical / health care	11
Retirement	23
Savings generally	14
Trip / vacation	15
Trip / vacation	14
Unexpected expenses / unknown	15
Other [specify]	16

[Ask everyone on ¼ Form:]

11. And to the extent that you spend your dividend, what specifically do you tend to spend it on? [Multiple response ok]

[Ask on Form A, ½ of the total sample]

12. And compared to your neighbors generally, do you think you SAVE more than your neighbors, do you SPEND more than your neighbors, or do you spend and save about like your neighbors? *[IF RESPONDENT SAYS, IT DEPENDS, ASK:]* Well if you had to generalize about several of your neighbors.

Respondent saves more than neighbors	1
Respondent spends more than neighbors	2
Spend and save about like neighbors	3
DK/NS	4

[Ask on Form A, ½ of the total sample]

13. Let me ask you about the possible impact of the Permanent Fund Dividends on various factors. For each one, please tell me you think the PFD dividends *[ROTATE]* help a lot, help a little, have no real impact, harm a little, or harm a lot. *[RANDOMIZE AFTER THE FIRST ONE]*

		Help <u>A Lot</u>	Help <u>A Little</u>	No Real <u>Impact</u>	Harm <u>A Little</u>	Harm <u>A Lot</u>	DK/NS
a.	Your quality of life	1	2	3	4	5	6
b.	Your household budget	1	2	3	4	5	6
C.	Alaska's economy	1	2	3	4	5	6
d.	The level of poverty in Alaska	1	2	3	4	5	6
e.	Conditions for those living in the Bush	1	2	3	4	5	6
f.	People's work incentive or willingness to work	1	2	3	4	5	6
g.	Savings for college	1	2	3	4	5	6
h.	Your sense of security	1	2	3	4	5	6
i.	The income gap between the rich and the poor	1	2	3	4	5	6
j.	Savings for retirement	1	2	3	4	5	6
k.	Conditions for Alaska Natives	1	2	3	4	5	6

[Ask on Form B, ½ of the total sample]

14. Let me read you a few features of the Permanent Fund dividends. For each one, please tell me if this is something you [ROTATE] strongly favor, mildly favor, mildly oppose, or strongly oppose? [RANDOMIZE AFTER THE FIRST ONE]

	Strongly <u>Favor</u>	Mildly Favor		Strongly Oppose	DK/NS
a. Everyone who is basically a full-time resident of Alaska gets it	1	2	3	4	5

b.	Children from infants to teenagers living in Alaska get it	1	2	3	4	5
C.	Newer residents who have lived in Alaska for the past year-and-a-half get it	1	2	3	4	5
d.	Millionaires and multi-millionaires living in Alaska get it	1	2	3	4	5

PROTECTING THE PFD & TAX ALTERNATIVES

[Form A – ½ sample]

15. To pay for government services in Alaska, if you HAD TO CHOOSE between [ROTATE] – using part of the Alaska Permanent Fund – OR paying a state tax such as a sales or income tax, which would you prefer?

Prefer using part of the Alaska Permanent Fund	1
Prefer paying a state tax such as a sales or income tax	2
Prefer not to use either of the above options [Do not read]	3
DK/NS	4

[Form $B - \frac{1}{2}$ sample]

16. <u>Some people believe that by about 2020</u>, Alaska will not have enough money for the current level of state government services. If that happened, would you prefer to have the state keep the dividend program and collect income taxes, or end the dividend program and not collect income taxes?

Keep program and collect taxes	1
End program, do not collect taxes	2
DK/NS	3

[Ask on Form A, ¹/₂ of the total sample]

17. Largely due to lower oil prices and low oil production, the state government is facing an ongoing budget deficit. To help solve this budget deficit, I'm going to read you a few pairs of policy choices and see which one you prefer.

If it came to a choice between: (*READ FIRST OPTION*) and (*READ SECOND OPTION*), which would you choose: [*RANDOMIZE AFTER THE FIRST ONE*]

a.	Start a state income tax for households making over 100 thousand dollars a year – OR, Cutting the normal PFD yearly dividend amounts in half DK/NS	1 2 3
b.	Scale back the one billion in tax credits that were given to oil and gas companies several years ago – OR, Cutting the normal PFD yearly dividend amounts in half DK/NS.	1 2 3
C.	Start a state income tax for higher income households in Alaska – like those families making over half a million dollars a year – OR, Cutting the normal PFD yearly dividend amounts in half DK/NS	1 2 3
d.	Raise the state tax on gasoline and diesel – OR, Cutting the normal PFD yearly dividend amounts in half DK/NS	1 2 3

1 2 3

1 2 3

1 2 3

e.	Start a statewide sales tax on purchases except for food and prescription drugs – OR, Cutting the normal PFD dividend amounts in half DK/NS
[Fo	$rm A1 - \frac{1}{4}$ of the sample]
f.	Raise the state tax on power plants that burn coal, oil or natural gas which would raise the cost of electricity and would encourage wind and solar power – OR Cutting the normal PFD yearly dividend amounts in halfDK/NS
[Fo	$rm A2 - \frac{1}{4}$ of the sample]
g.	Raise the state tax on power plants that burn coal, oil or natural gas which would raise the cost of electricity, would encourage wind and solar power, reduce air pollution, and help slow down global warming of ice fields in Alaska and the Arctic – OR Cutting the normal PFD yearly dividend amounts in halfDK/NS.

WORK AND RISK INCENTIVES

[Ask everyone]

18. Not counting any roommates, how many people in your household living with you got the P.F. dividend payment last year – counting yourself?

Enter number of people: _____

19. Which one of the following best describes your work situation -- are you employed, retired, disabled, unemployed, a student, or a homemaker? [If employed ask:] And are you employed full-time or part-time? [If two part-time jobs, count as full-time]

Employed full-time	1
Employed part-time	2
Retired, disabled	3
Unemployed	
Student	5
Homemaker	6
DK/NS/Refused	7

19a. *[Ask only of those who are employed or unemployed]* Are you normally paid mostly by salary, by an hourly wage, by commission, by profit, by project, or by tips?

Salary	1
Hourly wage	2
Commission/bonus	3
Profit	4
Project/job	5
Tips	6
Other [Do not read]	7
Refused/DK/NS	8

19b. *[Ask only of those who are employed]* And is your job more of a blue collar, trade, outdoor, or plant type job – OR more of a white collar, office, sales or professional type job?

Blue collar, trade, outdoor, or plant type job 1

White collar, office, sales or professional type job2Other [Do not read]3Refused/DK/NS4

[Ask Work Incentives Q on Form A, only if employed]

20. At some different amounts the Permanent Fund dividend might prompt some people to WORK LESS – like working fewer hours, cutting back to a part-time job, letting go of a part-time job, not moonlighting, or not taking on odd jobs. Take into account the number of dividend checks your immediate family would get. So would a regular yearly dividend amount of [Read top amount] make you work less, or not? [If 'no, would not work less, ask:] Well, would a regular yearly dividend amount of [Read next amount] make you work less, or not? [Stop this question once respondent says 'Yes.'] [Continue to ask if 'No' or DK/NS]

		Yes, Would Work <u>Less</u>	No, Would Not Work <u>Less</u>	<u>DK/NS</u>
a.	Two thousand dollars per person	1	2	3
b.	Three thousand dollars per person	1	2	3
C.	Six thousand dollars per person	1	2	3
d.	Twelve thousand dollars per person	1	2	3

[Ask Work Incentives Q on Form A – only if retired, unemployed, homemakers, disabled, or student]

21. <u>Thinking about those who are employed</u>, at some different amounts the Permanent Fund dividend might prompt some people to WORK LESS – like working fewer hours, cutting back to a part-time job, letting go of a part-time job, not moonlighting, or not taking on odd jobs. Take into account the number of dividend checks a family would get. So would a regular yearly dividend amount of *[Read top amount]* make most people work less, or not? *[If 'no, would not work less, ask:]* Well, would a regular yearly dividend amount of *[Read next amount]* make most people work less, or not? *[Stop this question once respondent says 'Yes.']* [Continue to ask if 'No' or DK/NS]

		Yes, Would Work <u>Less</u>	No, Would Not Work <u>Less</u>	DK/NS
a.	Two thousand dollars per person	1	2	3
b.	Three thousand dollars per person	1	2	3
C.	Six thousand dollars per person	1	2	3
d.	Twelve thousand dollars per person	1	2	3

[Ask Financial Risk Q on Form B, only if employed]

22. Depending on the amount, getting a Permanent Fund dividend might cause some people to take a financial risk or choice – things like quitting a job you don't like, quitting a job to care for a child or relative, starting a business, pursuing a different career, going back to college, or retiring sooner. Take into account the number of dividend checks your immediate family would get. So would a regular yearly dividend amount of *[Read top amount]* prompt you to take a financial risk, or not? *[If 'no, would not prompt taking a risk, ask:]* Well, would a regular yearly dividend amount of *[Read next amount]* make you take a financial risk, or not? *[Stop this question once respondent says 'Yes.']* [Continue to ask if 'No' or DK/NS]

		Yes, Would Take <u>Risk</u>	No, Would Not Take <u>Risk</u>	<u>DK/NS</u>	
a.	Two thousand dollars per person	1	2	3	
	7				

Draft

D	ra	ft

b.	Three thousand dollars per person	1	2	3
C.	Six thousand dollars per person	1	2	3
d.	Twelve thousand dollars per person	1	2	3

[Ask Financial Risk Q on Form B – only if retired, unemployed, homemakers, disabled, or student]

23. Thinking about those who are employed, depending on the amount, getting a Permanent Fund dividend might cause some people to take a financial risk or choice – things like quitting a job you don't like, quitting a job to care for a child or relative, starting a business, pursuing a different career, going back to college, or retiring sooner. Take into account the number of dividend checks a family would get. So would a regular yearly dividend amount of *[Read top amount]* prompt most people to take a financial risk, or not? *[If 'no, would not prompt taking a risk, ask:]* Well, would a regular yearly dividend amount of *[Read next amount]* make most people take a financial risk, or not? *[Stop this question once respondent says 'Yes.']* [Continue to ask if 'No' or DK/NS]

		Yes, Would Take <u>Risk</u>	No, Would Not Take <u>Risk</u>	<u>DK/NS</u>
a.	Two thousand dollars per person	1	2	3
b.	Three thousand dollars per person	1	2	3
C.	Six thousand dollars per person	1	2	3
d.	Twelve thousand dollars per person	1	2	3

IMPACT OF CHANGING ECONOMY

[Ask Questions 24 to 28 of 1/2 the sample on Form X]

24. Compared to 25 years ago, how much do you think the economy has changed – a great deal, quite a bit, just somewhat, or not much at all?

A great deal	1
Quite a bit	
Just somewhat	
Not much at all	4
DK/NS	5

[Form X]

25. And how much impact do you think the changing economy has had on you – has it affected you a lot, some, a little, or hardly any?

A lot	1
Some	2
A little	3
Hardly any	4
DK/NS	5
Divide	U

[Ask this open-end of 1/5 of the respondents on Form X:]

26a. In what specific ways do you think the changing economy has affected you for the BETTER – or in favorable ways. [Probe for specifics.] Any other favorable ways?

[Ask this open-end of 1/5 of the respondents on Form X:]

26b. And in what specific ways do you think the changing economy has affected you for the WORSE -

or in unfavorable ways. [Probe for specifics.] Any other unfavorable ways?

[Form X]

27. When children today in our country grow up, do you think they will be better off or worse off financially than their parents?

Better off	1
Worse off	2
The same [Do not read]	3
DK/NS	4

[Form X]

28. A changing economy has altered some things for the better, some things for the worse, and not altered some things. I'm going to read you various aspects and, for each one, please tell me if you think things have gotten a lot better, a little better, a little worse, a lot worse, or not really changed either way. [Randomize]

		A Lot <u>Better</u>	A Little <u>Better</u>	A Little <u>Worse</u>	A Lot <u>Worse</u>	Not Really <u>Changed</u>	DK/NS
a.	Having job security	1	2	3	4	5	6
b.	Making ends meet	1	2	3	4	5	6
C.	Finding a good-paying job.	1	2	3	4	5	6
d.	Being able to afford college	1	2	3	4	5	6
e.	Having retirement security	1	2	3	4	5	6
f.	Having the opportunity to get ahead	1	2	3	4	5	6
g.	Being able to afford consumer items	1	2	3	4	5	6
h.	Keeping up with technology at your job	1	2	3	4	5	6
i.	The way employers treat their employees	1	2	3	4	5	6
j.	Having leisure time	1	2	3	4	5	6
k.	Being productive at work	1	2	3	4	5	6

SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PFD

[Ask on Form B, ½ of the total sample]

29. Now I would like to know the extent to which you agree or dis agree with the following statements. If you agree with a statement, please tell me whether you strongly agree or mildly agree. If you disagree with a statement, please tell me if you strongly disagree or mildly disagree. If you have mixed feelings, just say "mixed."

		<u>Agree</u>	Dis- <u>agree</u>	Strongly <u>Agree</u>	<u>Smwht</u> Agree	Smwht <u>Disagree</u>	Strongly Disagree	<u>Mixed</u>
a.	Considering the possible uses of the money spent on the Permanent Fund dividend program, the dividend program is the best use of the money.	60	24	38%	22%	11%	13%	14%
b.	As owners of the Alaska Permanent Fund, Alaska residents are entitled to an equal share of the earnings of the Fund	78	12	54%	24%	6%	6%	8%
C.	Giving money directly to Alaska residents is better than letting the Alaska legislature decide how to spend it.	75	16	59%	16%	9%	7%	9%
d.	The Permanent Fund dividend checks are an important source of income for people in my community	48	47	31%	17%	21%	25%	6%
e.	Many people have wasted a large part of their Permanent Fund checks on such things as liquor or drugs	45	41	24%	21%	17%	24%	14%
f.	How people spent their Permanent Fund checks should not determine whether or not the dividend program continues.	87	10	71%	16%	5%	5%	3%
g.	Many people spend a large part of their Permanent Fund dividends on basic needs			1	2	3	4	5
h.	To help ensure that most Alaskans continue to get a full PFD amount in the coming years, we should no longer pay it to those households with incomes over half a million dollars a year			1	2	3	4	5
i.	Rather than have the PFD amount VARY from about one to two thousand dollars a year, I would prefer it if the dividend were always kept at a FIXED amount every year – like one							
	thousand five hundred dollars			1	2	3	4	5

[Ask everyone]

30. Now, let me read you some reasons people have given for protecting the Permanent Fund dividend from ANY future reductions in the dividend amount. After I read each one, please tell me how persuasive a reason it is to protect against any dividend reductions. Use a zero to 10 scale, where a "9" or "10" would be extremely persuasive, a "5" is medium persuasive, and a "zero" or "1" isn't persuasive at all. You can use any number between zero and 10 depending on how persuasive it is. [DK/NS=11] [Randomize after 'a' and 'b']

[*Read item*] On a scale of zero to 10, how persuasive a reason is this to protect against any reductions in the dividends?

[FORM X – ASK OT 1/2]	
a. The best thing is every Alaskan gets it	
[Form Y – Ask of ½]	
b. The best thing is it's something we can count on every year	
[Form X – Ask of ½]	
c. The best thing is it reimburses us Alaskans for oil that's rightfully ours	
[Form Y – Ask of ½]	
d. The best thing is the funds basically come from the oil companies	
[Form X – Ask of ½]	
e. The best thing is it helps the poor and needy the MOST	
[Form Y – Ask of ½]	
 f. The best thing is it helps struggling families – whether its with kids, setbacks, or retirement 	
[Form $X - Ask$ of $\frac{1}{2}$]	
g. The best thing is it is the fairest way to distribute earnings from the Permanent Fund	
[Form Y – Ask of ½]	
h. The best thing is it partly levels the growing income gap between rich and poor	
[Form Y – Ask of ½]	
i. The best thing is it is the PFD treats all of us Alaskans equally	

[Open-ended question asked of a 1/5th of the sample]

31. Now based on everything we've discussed, what do you think are the best reasons to pro-actively protect the PFD systems and the dividends from ANY future reductions in amount? [Probe fully for specifics] Any other reasons to protect the dividend from being reduced?

DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS

Our last few questions are about you and your family and are for statistical purposes only.

[Ask if AGECD=14]

D1.	May I ask how old you are?	
	18 to 24 years 25 to 29 years	1 2

30 to 34 years	3
35 to 39 years	2
40 to 44 years	5
45 to 49 years	6
50 to 54 years	7
55 to 59 years	8
60 to 64 years	ç
65 to 69 years	10
70 to 74 years	11
75 to 79 years	12
80 years or over	13
Refused/DK/NS	14

D2. Are you married, single but living with a partner, separated, divorced, widowed, or have you never been married?

Married	1
Single, but living with a partner	2
Separated / divorced	
Widowed	4
Never married / single	5
Refused	6

D3. What is the last grade or level of school you have completed? [Read list if necessary]

Less than high school degree	1
High school graduate	2
Some college – but less than two years of college	3
Some college – two years or more/AA degree	4
College graduate/bachelors degree/BA/BS	5
Postgraduate courses	6
Masters degree	7
MBA or Law degree	8
PhD or MD	9
DK/NS	10

[Ask if education is less than BA:]

D4a. Thinking about the neighborhood where you live, would you tend to describe it as lower-income, working class, middle income, upper middle income, or wealthy?

Lower-income	1
Working class	
Middle income	3
Upper middle income	
Wealthy	
DK/NS	6

[Ask if education is BA or more:]

D4b. Thinking about the neighborhood where you live, would you tend to describe it as wealthy, upper middle class, middle class, working class, or lower-income?

Wealthy	1
Upper middle class	2
Middle class	3
Working class	4
Lower-income	
DK/NS	6

[Ask everyone]

D5. Do you happen to live with any children age 18 or younger, or not? [Include kids at home part-time / weekends / partial custody]

Yes, live with kids age 18 or younger	1
No, do not live with kids 18 or younger	2
DK/NS	3

D6. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent, or something else? *[If Democrat, ask:]* Would you call yourself a strong Democrat, or a not very strong Democrat? *[If Republican, ask:]* Would you call yourself a strong Republican, or a not very strong Republican? *[If Independent, ask:]* Do you think of yourself as closer to the Democratic Party, closer to the Republican Party, or do you think of yourself as strictly Independent?

Strong Democrat	1
Not strong Democrat	2
Independent / lean Democrat	3
Strictly Independent	4
Independent / lean Republican	5
Not strong Republican	6
Strong Republican	7
Other party [Specify]	8
DK/NS / Refused	9

D7. Do you – or does anyone in your immediate family – happen to come from an Inuit, Alaska Native, American Indian, Hispanic, African American, or Asian background? [If 'no,' ask:] Just to be sure we're representing everybody, may I ask your race? [DO NOT READ CHOICES]

Alaska Native / Inuit / Yupik	1
American Indian / Native American	
Hispanic, Spanish-speaking, Latino	3
Asian / Hawaiian	
African-American / Black	5
White / Anglo / Caucasian	6
Other / mixed [Specify]	7
Refused	8
DK/NS	9

D8. For statistical purposes only, could you please tell me whether YOUR total family income before taxes for last year was under or over 100 thousand dollars?

[If respondent says under \$100,000, Ask:] And finally, was your total family income for last year under 50 thousand dollars, between 50 and 75 thousand, or between 75 and 100 thousand dollars?

[If respondent says over \$100,000, Ask:] And finally, was your total family income for last year under 150 thousand, between 150 and 200 thousand, or over 200 thousand dollars?

Under \$50,000	1
\$50,000 - \$75,000	2
\$75,000 - \$100,000	3
\$100,000 - \$150,000	4
\$150,000 - \$200,000	5
Over \$200,000	6
Under \$100,000, refused 2nd question	7
Over \$100,000, refused 2nd question	8
Refused	9
DK/NS	10

Thank you for taking our survey, your answers have been extremely helpful.