



Just 23% Believe Elected Leaders Will Positively Impact Finances

Taxes expected to have the most influence, both positive and negative

NEW YORK – December 21, 2017 – Just under a quarter of Americans (23%) think the current leadership in Washington, DC will have a positive impact on their finances, according to a new Bankrate.com report. Confidence among Americans has decreased since last year when only 28% expected to see an improvement. 40% of Americans expect to see a negative impact (up from 26% last year) and 30% say Washington won't have an impact on their finances either way. Click here for more information:

<http://www.bankrate.com/personal-finance/smart-money/financial-security-1221/>

Americans who claim to feel optimistic about the administration's impact on their finances say they'll benefit from paying less in taxes (38%), will see increasing value of their investments (18%), rising income (9%) and decreasing expenses (6%). Just 5% expect their assets to benefit from all of these circumstances.

Coincidentally, taxes are the key issue for those expecting a negative impact, as well. About half (46%) are concerned they'll pay more in taxes. Others foreseeing an adverse effect have concerns about higher expenses (15%), lower income (9%) and decreasing value of their investments (4%). Additionally, 10% say they will be impacted by all of these factors.

“Americans remain sharply divided over how Washington affects their personal finances and taxes are certainly a key issue,” said Bankrate.com senior economic analyst, Mark Hamrick. “Although the tax legislation has potentially negative impacts for many individuals with shrinking tax brackets and eliminated deductions, others will benefit from a boost in take-home pay – allowing for more money to be put toward savings for emergencies and retirement.”

Among age groups, older Boomers (ages 63-71), Gen X (ages 37-52), and the Silent Generation (ages 72+) were more inclined to cite a positive impact, while Millennials (ages 18-36) were more likely than other age groups to say it wouldn't have an impact either way. Millennials' top answer was negative impact, with no impact close behind.

It's clear that expectations break down along political lines with 57% of Republicans expecting a positive impact, 68% of Democrats expecting a negative impact, and Independents divided between a negative impact (42%) and no impact (38%).

Residents of the Northeast and the West were more likely to cite a negative impact. Of course, potential tax changes impacting deductibility of mortgage interest, property taxes, and state and local income taxes are most impactful to states in those regions.

This study was conducted for Bankrate via landline and cell phone by SSRS on its Omnibus survey platform. Interviews were conducted from December 6 - 10, 2017 among a sample of 1,007 respondents. The margin of error for total respondents is +/- 3.65% at the 95% confidence level. SSRS Omnibus is a national, weekly, dual-frame bilingual telephone survey. All SSRS Omnibus data are weighted to represent the target population.

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